

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Overcrowded buses are an accident waiting to happen

Many of Sydney's buses are overloaded in peak times and more services combined with stronger regulations are urgently needed.

It's clear that the problem needs to be addressed before a serious accident occurs.

All it would take is for the driver to have to brake suddenly when driving an overloaded bus and the consequences could be fatal.

At least when we had the standing sticker visible, bus drivers had some power to limit the number of people who board the bus.

The RTBU is calling for more services on overloaded routes and a return of the 15 standing sticker so drivers have some power to limit the number of passengers that board the bus.

Read more and watch Channel 7's news report at www.busexpress.com.au



Channel 7 news reports RTBU concerns



Union executive tours Belmont depot

The entire executive committee of the RTBU Tram and Bus division toured Belmont depot last week.

Belmont is our smallest depot and sits near the city of Newcastle. It was unprecedented to have the entire twenty-odd executive team do a tour and it was great for both members and the executive to meet face to face and discuss local issues.

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Thank you and farewell to Divisional President Gary Way

Divisional President Gary Way will be leaving the RTBU in early October.

Gary and his wife Anne both grew up in the countryside and they have decided it's time to move back. They will be taking on a very different challenge – managing a motel in Bourke. This is a great opportunity for them and we'd like to wish Gary a fond farewell.

1. What drove you to get involved in the union?

I grew up in the Hunter Valley coalfields, and came from a strong union background. Since I can remember I've been driven by a desire to help people on wages to get better conditions. I think it was bred into me.

2. What are you most proud of achieving?

I think our biggest achievement was when we won the dispute around gas buses. We told STA that members would refuse to drive gas buses until we got our safety concerns addressed. After a long fight we got what we wanted and after that our members were safer on the road.

3. Which other moments stand out?

We called a snap blockage of Macquarie Street after the NSW Parliament introduced draconian workers compensation legislation. It was bad for all workers but it was especially bad for our members. RTBU members parked their buses in front of Parliament House and blocked the street. We certainly let the Government know that we weren't going to let them walk all over us.



Gary Way

4. What will you miss the most?

I'll miss the mateship and the comradarie, and the satisfaction I get every time I help a member having a difficult time at work.

I'd like to thank my colleagues as well as all the delegates and members for the many good moments I have had as part of the RTBU.



Divisional Secretary Chris Preston
and Divisional President Gary Way



Vice President Brett Peters

Know your Rights

Attending office

26.1 An employee who is instructed to attend elsewhere to answer complaints, furnish reports, supply statements or affidavits or to submit to medical examination or eyesight or hearing tests (except in the case of an employee on leave on account of ill health or injury) shall be paid for the time occupied at ordinary rates.