

# BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



Edition No. 12 • 7 December 2011

RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



## A message from Chris and Gary

Welcome to the final edition of Bus Express for 2011.

It has been a big year for everyone in the Bus and Tram Division.

We took up our new positions as President and Secretary at an important time for members. With a change of State Government, and a new Award to negotiate, we had to hit the ground running.

The new State Government immediately capped wages at 2.5 per cent, and removed our right to appeal to an independent umpire.

This presented a number of challenges, but members were determined to defend their rights.

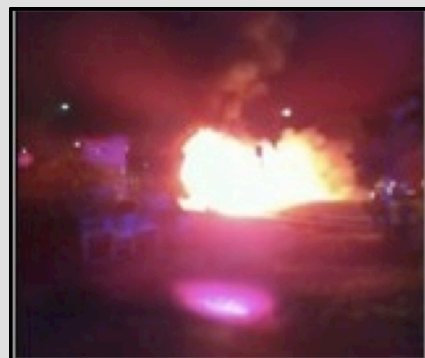
We were highly visible at a number of public sector rallies - sending a strong message to the Government and the public.

Members took swift action to take gas buses out of operation after footage of a gas bus exploding came to light. The action saw a number of safety upgrades to Mercedes OC 500 gas buses - protecting the safety of drivers and the travelling public.

The same determination saw the successful negotiation of a 3.25 per cent annual pay rise in the new Award - the only rise above 2.5 per cent that has been negotiated under the new State laws.

With over 2,500 drivers turning out to vote on the new Award, the Division proved it is stronger than ever. We would like to thank everyone for their support and for their continuing involvement with our union.

Finally, we both wish you a safe and merry Christmas, and look forward to a great year ahead in 2012.



*This exploding bus saw bus drivers take all gas buses out of operation*



*The RTBU rallied for fairer pay and conditions*



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## Date set for conciliation on uniform allowance dispute

A date has been set for conciliation on the Bus Division's long running dispute with STA over uniform allowance.

Drivers continue to be denied the allowance they are owed for their uniforms needs by STA. This issue will now come before the Chief Industrial Magistrates Court on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January.

The key point of the dispute is establishing exactly how much the allowance should be and how much the drivers are owed.

A statement outlining the union's position on this matter has been submitted and we are currently waiting on a statement from STA in response.

Drivers will be kept up to date on this dispute as it progresses.



*Divisional Secretary Chris Preston  
and Divisional President Gary Way*

## Christmas and New Year penalty payment rates released

STA have released a memo outlining the penalty payments drivers will receive over the Christmas and New Year period.

These rates apply to the period 24 – 27 December and from 31 December – 2 January.

If you are working on these public holidays make sure you check [www.busexpress.com.au](http://www.busexpress.com.au) for full details of what you are entitled to. The rates and conditions vary from day to day and to be eligible you must **start** your shift on the public holiday itself.

If you are taking time off over this period rates have been set depending on whether you are full time or part time staff. More details are available on the website.

## Sign Up to *Bus Express* website and Win!

Readers of *Bus Express* are still in the running to win a dream holiday.

The first 500 people who sign up will go into the draw for a free week's holiday at the RTBU's beachside retreat at Sussex Inlet. Second prize will be a weekend at Sussex Inlet.

You have to be in it to win it – so sign up now!

## Know your Rights



*With Brett Peters....*

### Section 61. Personal Carers' Leave

61.1 An employee with responsibilities in relation to either members of their immediate family or household or who need their care and support is entitled to use up to ten days per annum of their personal/carers' leave entitlements to provide care and support for such persons when they are ill. It may be taken for part of a single day.

61.2 The entitlement to use personal/carers' leave is subject to the employee being responsible for the care of the person concerned.

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