

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Dude, This Is What's Up With Your Bus

Last week we asked you to let us know the things you would like to see fixed on STA buses.

Following revelations of mould growing on the back seats of buses, we knew that must only be the beginning. And we were right.

We have had a number of great responses:

"The blind spots on the new B7 buses are enormous, did anyone drive them before we spent millions on them?"

"...the volume of the radio had been altered to a fixed level and the volume control knob does nothing. These radios are now too loud and transmit potentially confidential messages..."

"Since the adverse publicity regarding the 0500LE gas bus fire I have noticed most of these buses based at Waverley have had their turbos either wound down or cut out..."

Do you have something to add?

Go to the Hot Topic on www.busexpress.com.au and comment now!

Tram Workers Vote 'Yes' For Industrial Action

Sydney LightRail workers delivered an overwhelming 'yes' vote to have the right to take protected industrial action after a breakdown in negotiations over wages and conditions.

Division President Gary Way said NSW tram workers at the Light Rail service made the decision after reasonable requests for a fair wage were continually ignored by their employer.

"NSW tram workers are the worst paid in the country.

"They currently earn at least \$5 less than their Victorian counterparts.

"Workers have now said yes to standing up to this unacceptable gap and have demanded to be paid a fair wage."

David Woollams Joins The Division

The Bus and Tram Division has a recent recruit to the fold – Assistant Branch Secretary David Woollams.



Dave has been with the Division since January when he was appointed as an organiser.

Dave is currently doing a tour of duty to all the depots, along with Chris Preston and Gary Way (and let's not forget the BBQ) to meet members and have a chat.

"Dealing with hearings at the appeals board will be one of my main priorities within the division," said Dave.

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Fine Farce Finished At Tempe

Drivers at Tempe depot had a big win recently when fines dealt out to a bus driver waiting in a STA marked vehicle to start this shift were revoked by the local council.

The trouble began when an over-eager ranger issued a parking fine to a driver in a State Transit staff car, clearly marked as METROBUS, specifically rostered to be used by that particular driver on that day, to carry out a relief of another driver at that location.

Despite explaining the situation to the ranger – the driver was fined. Further, despite the driver having done nothing wrong the council refused to revoke the fine.

STA management also refused to intervene until a court notice was issued nine months later to the driver, Colin Campbell, who then turned to the RTBU for assistance.

It was not until the union intervened that finally STA took action to resolve the situation.

Frank Kocsis, who handled the situation while RTBU rep Ashish Sarker was on leave, said the situation was absolutely ridiculous.

“This driver was simply doing their job and got wacked with a fine. We should have seen intervention on behalf of STA management much earlier in this process.

“The union, however, is glad that they finally saw the light and the matter is now resolved.”



*Divisional Secretary Chris Preston
and Divisional President Gary Way*



Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights

77. Fatigue Management

77.2 No employee will be permitted to work more than 12 hours in any 24-hour period.

77.3 An employee must have a total of 12 hours rest in every 24-hour period, of which 10 hours must be

Meet Your Delegate: Phil Cooksey, Port Botany Depot

Why did you become involved in the union?

I became involved with the union to help members with issues and to try protect members' rights.

What are your hobbies and interests?

I'm a massive Footy fan – Go Sydney Roosters, other interests include fast cars, fishing, boating and beer.

Where do you live and why do you like it?

I live in Riverwood. I like it because it's close enough to work for myself and my partner but far enough away from the parents and in-laws.

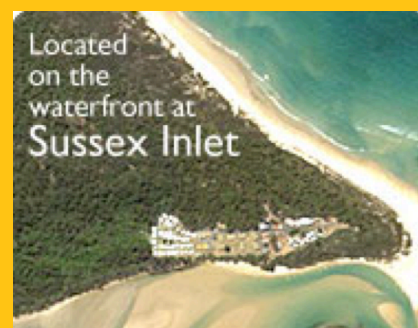
Who would you like to have dinner with (dead or alive) and why?

2010 WINNING ashes Cricket team - Team of Champions.



RTBU Holiday Park

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