

# BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



## Looking back on 2012:



### ***A Christmas message from Chris and Gary***

We can hardly believe it but here we are at the final edition of Bus Express for 2012.

This year has proved that we have to be ever vigilant when it comes to protecting our rights at work.

We have seen the Government enact wholesale cuts and outsourcing of services across the board.

After fighting hard last year to secure a fair Agreement with State Transit, drivers were outraged by attempts by STA CEO Peter Rowley to vary the Agreement not one year after it was made.

Drivers responded to this by sending a message, loud and clear, to STA and to the NSW Government that an Agreement is an Agreement and they will not be held to ransom by threats of privatisation.

But we've also seen some great wins for members this year. The uniforms allowance dispute was finally resolved and the Government has come under pressure to introduce fire suppression systems in all buses after we bought a series of bus fires to public attention.

We've also thoroughly enjoyed our BBQ tour of duty and the opportunity this has given us to speak directly with members about their work and what we can do together to make it better.

Finally, we both wish all members and their families a safe and happy holiday season, and look forward to seeing you all in 2013.

## BBQ tour round up



*Cooking Masterchef style in Tempe*



*Bacon brekkie in Belmont*



*BBQs go Novocastrian*

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## Taking action to protect workers exposed to Asbestos

State Transit management has agreed to implement a program of testing members employed at the organisation during the 80s and 90s for asbestos related diseases after learning about asbestos brakes used in this period.

The union questioned State Transit about its planned response to the discovery, saying that it had to take responsibility for the impact this could have on its employees now and into the future.

The program is a good news from State Transit, but should only be the first step. The union will continue to advocate for the organisation to take appropriate actions take responsibility for work practices that put employees at risk all those years ago.

The problem is not only how asbestos was used back then, but how it is now safely removed from every part of our work environment. This cannot be put off because the risk won't go away.

The union will now be calling for management to implement an asbestos audit committee to investigate and be responsible for looking at all work practices, buildings and prior removal of asbestos from buildings. The committee should also look at air measurements that were taken then and compare how they measure up today.

Ultimately we should all have access to testing so the union encourages members to tell their stories and experiences about working in and around asbestos.

## Light Rail wins in 2012

Light Rail workers have stood strongly together to negotiate a new Enterprise Agreement that will see 18% pay rises over 4 years with no losses to working conditions.

Members have long argued for pay rises that would bring wages in line with those of their counterparts in other cities and this outcome will go some way to closing that gap without affecting conditions.

This result also comes with overdue recognition of the important role that Pyrmont Depot has within the Division, by giving Sydney Light Rail workers their rightful voice.

Through tough bargaining from the union, backed by strong support from local delegates, members have had some great wins this year.

It is when we stand together that we achieve the best outcomes.

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## Season's Greetings



*From Brett Peters....*

I would like to wish all RTBU Bus and Tram Division members and their families a safe, happy and prosperous holiday season and New Year.

Your membership and input is what makes our union strong.

Brett Peters  
Vice President

## Know your rights

### Section 42. Rosters

42.3 Employees shall be rostered off on two clear days in each rostered week.

42.4 Employees shall sign off at the depots at which they signed on, except where an Employee and the Employer agree to other arrangements.

