

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Union slams STA accident policy

How dare State Transit penalise us when someone crashes into our bus!!

If you are being hassled by management for NOT RESPONSIBLE ACCIDENTS, the union needs to know.

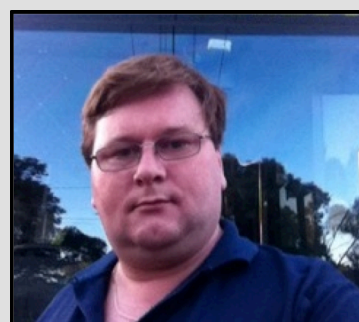
Tram & Bus Division President Gary Way says, "We will not tolerate State Transit's policy of penalising bus drivers for not responsible accidents".

Members who can provide an example of this practice are asked to advise their local delegate who will forward the details to the Union Office in Redfern. If suitable examples are obtained, it is anticipated that officials will be well positioned to instigate a "State Transit-Wide" dispute.

"This is the most unfair policy ever written," said Mr Way, "and enough is enough, we will fight State Transit to the bitter end on this."

If you have had an experience with this, go to the Hot Topic at www.busexpress.com.au to tell us about it and contact your local delegate straight away.

Meet your delegate: Alan Burke



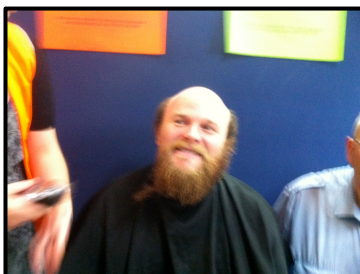
Every month we feature a delegate on the Bus Express website and ask them a few questions about themselves.

This month it's Alan from Willoughby. Check out the website now - you might find out something you didn't know!

Clip go the shears at Willoughby

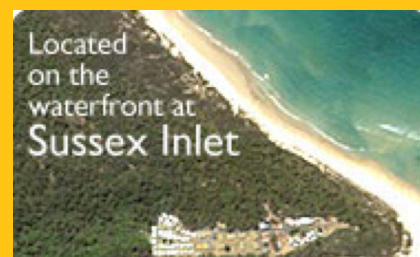
Over the last five years driver instructors at the Willoughby Depot have placed themselves at the sharp end of scissors and razors to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation.

Darek Florczak (picture right) stepped up for a hair cut and sacrificed not only his hair but also his luxurious beard and John Melville opted for a trim and tidy-up. Sponsored by colleagues at the depot, the trio contributed more than \$580 to the World's Greatest Shave fundraiser. To read more and check out the before and after pictures go to www.busexpress.com.au.



RTBU Holiday Park

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Boss for a day: The results

Bus drivers were recently asked to submit their ideas to Bus Express for how to improve STA bus services in Sydney.

Drivers were asked what they would do if they were the “boss for the day” and we were flooded with excellent, practical ideas.

The key things that drivers focused on in their responses were easing city congestion, improving the use of transit lanes, simplifying fares, improving buses and bus stops, increasing services and consulting more effectively with drivers.

A summary of these suggestions is now up on the Bus Express website and will form the basis of a submission in the RTBU’s latest policy document and contribution to the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan.

Go to www.busexpress.com.au to read the complete summary of drivers’ ideas.



**Divisional Secretary Chris Preston
and Divisional President Gary Way**



**Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights**

Red light camera at Mayfield goes troppo

Drivers at the Belmont depot are becoming increasingly frustrated and angry as they continue to receive infringement notices for a legal left-hand turn in Mayfield.

A safety camera at the corner of Maitland and Maud Street is clocking buses as they move forward on the green arrow from the shared lane to turn left and is fining them as if they are running the red light and travelling straight ahead.

Delegate Peter Daniel said that the depot approached the RTA to get the camera investigated but has yet to receive a response.

“Drivers who are in the traffic fund have the fine paid for them but even so they have to wear the demerit points,” says Peter.

About half a dozen drivers have been affected at Belmont and one operator, Mark Robinson, challenged the infringement notice through the State Debt Recovery Office and won.

He made is application for review online but warns that he did not receive any official notification of the cancellation and advises if you are going to challenge to check the website or call the SDRO after you have made the application to find out whether it has been successful.

If you want to challenge your fine you can call the State Debt Recovery Office on 1300 138 118 or visit their website www.sdronsw.gov.au.

65. Parental Leave

65.2 An employee who is not eligible for maternity leave or adoption leave may, in special circumstances, be granted parental leave to care for a child who is under two years of age at the time the leave commences.

65.4 Parental leave is for a period of not more than 52 weeks from the date the leave commenced.

65.5 Parental leave is unpaid leave, and can consist of solely parental leave (unpaid), or a combination of parental, annual and/or long service leave, if the employee has accrued such leave.

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Tram and Bus Division



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