

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Bus And Tram Workers Exempt From New Levy

Gary Way and Chris Preston say NO to NSW Branch Levy on members of the Tram and Bus Division.

Members may have read in the latest edition of the Rail and Road, that the Union will be applying a fortnightly Levy of \$1.50 on members for the purposes of a Legal/Industrial Fund.

Please note: This Levy will not apply to members in the Tram and Bus Division.

Tram and Bus Divisional Finances are in excellent shape and we already have Legal/Industrial Fund capabilities if required.

Handbrake Incident Not Driver Error

The RTBU has rejected claims that an accident caused when a bus handbrake released was due to "human error".

The incident last week involved the handbrake of a bus releasing 22 seconds after the driver left the bus. It rolled forward hitting another bus in front, smashing the windscreen.

The union became involved in the investigation as soon as the accident in Loftus Street happened last week and says that the driver was not at fault and would not be disciplined.

Reports in the Sun Herald quoted the Office of Transport Safety Investigation (OTSI) spokesman saying that the event could have been prevented "with a little more care".

However this is not the first time handbrakes have failed with a bus rolling onto railway tracks in 2008.

The handbrakes of all buses are now being checked by the STA, which indicates they suspect mechanical rather than human error is the cause.

Meet your delegate: Narelle Sinclair

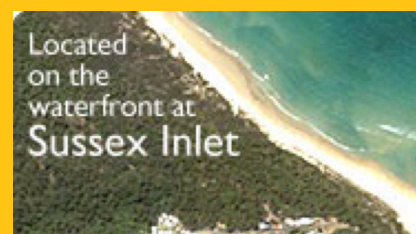


Every month we feature a delegate on the Bus Express website and ask them a few questions about themselves.

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

RTBU Holiday Park

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Randwick Depot's Proud ANZAC Day Tradition

More than one hundred staff and visitors turned out to pay their respects on ANZAC Day at the Randwick Bus Depot, which this year marks its 64th consecutive commemorative service.

The ceremony was presided over by Bill McKay, president of the Randwick Institute & Ex-Servicemen's Committee, followed by a fitting sermon and benediction from local Reverend Greg Job from St Jude's Anglican Church.



The mayor of Randwick City Council and executive members of local RSL Clubs laid wreaths to commemorate all conflicts. The Depot Manager, Shelley de Courcy Lys also laid a wreath on behalf of all State Transit Fallen.

The NSW Railways Band played the national anthem at the service and provided a lively Waltzing Matilda as the marchers paraded down King Street.

The Ode was recited by Bill Clements, former Randwick employee, and a moving rendition of The Last Post and the Rouse was provided by a bugler from the Australian Army.



* Thanks to Debra Schoer from Randwick for her excellent rundown of events on the day.

Bondi meal room leaves a bad taste

In what Divisional President Gary Way called a "victory for drivers' health", the STA has finally acknowledged that the meal room at Bondi Junction Interchange is not fit for human habitation.

The meal rooms are in a disgusting condition and the issue has been a serious safety concern for the Union as well as a stomach-turning inconvenience for drivers.

The RTBU issued a dispute notice to the STA, which was forced to concede the problem. The STA says that the tendering process to renovate the room is now complete and work will begin immediately.



Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way



Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights

54. Charter Work

54.1 The maximum shift portions on Charter Work are to be of five hours duration, with extended standing time to be a paid break, and treated for all purposes as crib time. Such crib time is to be of 30 minutes duration.

54.2 Timetabled peak work may be included in shifts. Where the total timetabled roadwork is to be in excess of eight and a half hours in a given shift, the circumstances are to be discussed with RTBU.

54.3 Wherever possible an unpaid meal break will be provided. However, where a continuous charter involves a full shift, 30 minute crib time is to apply.

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