

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Union Forces State Transit to Install Signage on Slow Bendy Buses

STA has written to the RTBU committing to put signage in place on the inside and outside of buses by COB Friday that explains the speed limits recently imposed on bendy buses.

As you will be aware, STA imposed a 50km/h speed limit on approximately 150 three-door Volvo bendy buses – mainly metro buses – after Volvo notified them of a fault with a diode in the bus turntable.

Although the RTBU was assured that the fault is of no risk to driver or passenger safety, drivers have since expressed concern about the risk a lack of awareness of the speed limit poses on Sydney roads.



Drivers have reported difficulty in merging traffic and worry about sticking to a 50 km/h speed limit on roads such as the Warringah freeway where speed limits are significantly higher.

We have been monitoring any flow on safety impacts and took these concerns straight to STA management.

The union requested immediate action from STA to better inform the public about the issue.

Unfortunately STA ignored this request, refusing to take the issue seriously and forcing the union to lodge a complaint in the Industrial Relation Commission.

Only then did STA move to properly address the legitimate concerns of drivers and ensure the safety of bus drivers, passengers and the drivers of other vehicles on our roads.

The union is pleased to see this matter finally resolved and will be keeping a close eye on STA to ensure the promised signage is in place as promised by Friday.

Meet your Delegate: Neville Trinder

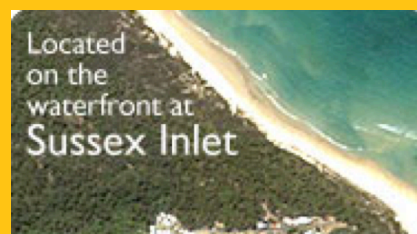


Every month we feature a delegate on the Bus Express website and ask them a few questions about themselves.

This month it's Neville Trinder from Bonnyrigg. Check out the website now to find out more about your delegate!

RTBU Holiday Park

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Executive Steel for Strong Worker Conditions

Once again the Steel City put on a fabulous day for the second meeting of the full Executive on 21 May 2012.

A particular focus was the ongoing uniform allowance dispute, which has seen STA deny drivers reimbursement for money spent on uniforms for over a year now. Despite STA's stonewalling workers on this up until now the Division hopes to have a solution to put to members in the coming weeks.



The Executive also discussed the Transport Minister's recent announcement to put metropolitan private bus contracts out to competitive tendering. Sydney Buses were not affected by the decision but it's important that we stay on top of this issue and look at what it might mean for the future of the bus industry, particularly in outer metropolitan areas such as Newcastle.

All delegates who attended should be congratulated on their excellent input on the day. The Division would also like to thank the Hamilton and Belmont institute committees for their wonderful hospitality on the day.

Officials Bring the Sizzle to Depots

Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way are currently on a tour of BBQ duty to introduce new Assistant Branch Secretary David Woollams to members and give drivers the opportunity to meet with them face to face.

The boys hit Kingsgrove on Monday, cooking up a storm and answering questions from drivers. Dave said it was great to get out to chat with drivers in person, hear how the job is treating them and any concerns they have.



The next BBQ stop is Willoughby depot on 6 June – make sure you come along for some lunch and a chat.



Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way



Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights

62. Bereavement Leave

62.1 An employee is entitled to up to 2 days paid leave on each occasion if a member of the immediate family or household in Australia dies.

62.2 Each day or part day used under 62.1 is deducted from the amount of personal/carer leave under sub-clause 59.1.

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