

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Unions must fight new workers' compensation laws

Following catastrophic changes to workers' compensation laws the Tram and Bus Division of the RTBU would support a statewide stoppage (general strike) if and when Unions NSW calls for such action, says Divisional President Gary Way.

This is an issue that affects every worker in the state and a general strike together with a fierce political campaign is the appropriate response from the union movement.



We believe the worst aspect of this legislation is that work cover will no longer pay legal costs, that is, when the self-insured STA reject your claim and you go to the solicitors for help you will have to pay the legal expenses - win or lose.

Quite simply very few, if any, bus or tram drivers will be able to afford to run their claim. It's a disaster for our members who are hurt at work.

We believe nothing would be achieved if our union attempted this fight alone. The union movement must work together to fight this attack on workers rights.

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Meet your Delegate: Mark Delohery

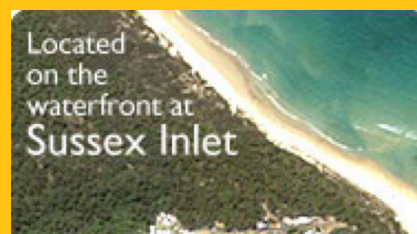


Every month we feature a delegate on the Bus Express website and ask them a few questions about themselves.

This month it's Mark Delohery from Burwood. Check out the website now to find out more about your delegate!

RTBU Holiday Park

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Driver makes right moves after bus safety alerts fail

A driver acted to ensure no further risk was taken to his passengers' safety when the bus he was driving failed to alert him after several school students fell from the bus when they leaned too hard on the back doors, forcing them open.

The students fell out of the bus near the corner of Blaxland Road and Victoria Road in Top Ryde, when their mucking around on the bus got out of hand. Normally when an incident like that happens the emergency breaks are immediately engaged and the driver is alerted.

In this instance no alert was given and the driver was not aware of the problem until his next stop. Once the driver was alerted, however, he ensured all students were removed from the bus and alternative transport was arranged.

RTBU Assistant Secretary David Woollams says the bus driver is to be commended on his actions in a difficult situation.



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



**Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights**

New OHS training available

New training will soon be available for Health and Safety Representatives (HSR) at STA following changes to Occupational Health and Safety laws.

Paperwork will be sent out shortly to members elected to the OHS committee regarding the training, asking members to select an OHS training provider as part of this process. The training will bring reps in line with new standards under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

It is important that all members involved in this process understand that they are free to choose the training provider they think is best.

STA will have a preferred provider and will no doubt pass on information about its training opportunities in due course.

HOSTA, Health and Occupational Safety Training Australia has an excellent track record in OHS training and runs a number of different courses.

While it is understood some committee members have already attended management's preferred training course, the RTBU strongly recommends committee members choose HOSTA for any future training that is required.

For more information visit www.busexpress.com.au

55 Annual Leave

55.5 Any employee who has completed at least one year's service, who is regularly on shift work and/or public holidays, when proceeding on annual leave shall be paid a loading at the rate of 20% of the appropriate weekly wage rate prescribed under Part B, Table 1 of this Award, in addition to payment for such leave of absence.

55.6 Any other employee who has completed at least one year's service when proceeding on annual leave shall be paid a loading at the rate of 17.5% of the appropriate weekly wage rate under Part B, Table 1 of this Award, in addition to payment for such leave of absence.



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