



Drivers Bring the Christmas Spirit

It's time of the year again when STA employees volunteer to spend many hours decking out buses with beautiful decorations, in the name of bringing Christmas cheer to the travelling public.

Hamilton bus driver, Margaret Pannell, says the response from the community has always been incredibly positive. In fact, it was positive feedback from passengers that got STA on board to support the initiative.

"Before the depot started receiving calls of support for my bus, my manager used to say, 'you are here to drive a bus Margaret, not make people happy.'"

Helen Flory from Willoughby depot says drivers who have never experienced driving a Christmas bus are always pleasantly surprised. "They tell me they have driven my bus and everyone loved it. Kids are always so happy to see you and people wave and smile"



But it's not just about the passengers. Competition between depots for the best decorated bus is deadly serious. Last year the winner was Diane Taylor from Kingsgrove depot who set a standard that is going to be hard to surpass this year.

Redheads Unite!

At a recent Unions NSW meeting at Sydney's Trades Hall, RTBU Officials James Buckley, Gary Way and Chris Preston bumped into a fellow redhead who had dropped in to say a few words.



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BBQ tour: Next stop Waverley



Waverley drivers were the next to taste the tucker from the now well known RTBU BBQ.

Members said it was the first time the union had held a BBQ at the depot and were pleased to have the chance talk about their concerns.

The main thing on their mind was refusing any variations to the current Award. Chefs for the day, David Woollams, Chris Preston and Gary Way assured them they would stand firm.

It was a great day all round and the union thanks members for getting involved.



Drivers Make the Pledge

Bus drivers have shown their support for White Ribbon Day, recording pledges to end violence against women once and for all.

The vast majority of bus drivers at STA are men and with White Ribbon day coming up on 25 November the National Women's Committee has asked drivers RTBU workplaces to take the pledge in support of their female co-workers.



The initiative has been a great success with members at bus depots across NSW filming their pledges.

You can watch the pledges on the Bus Express website now.

All members are encouraged to get involved in the day. You can go to whiteribbon.org.au for more information.



Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way



Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights

Drivers Left Exposed As Late Night Abuse Continues

Two more drivers have come under attack on the job in the past few weeks.

Ryde member, Warren Graves – known to everyone as Barney – was abused by a disgruntled passenger in the early hours of a Sunday morning and spat on.

This came on the same night that another driver was assaulted whilst driving along Anzac Parade in Kingsford. The driver was punched in the face before three passengers came to his assistance.

More must be done to stop these incidents happening in the first place. The union is taking every opportunity to demand STA management and the Government increase security presence on the network to ensure drivers' and passengers' safety.

36. Meal breaks

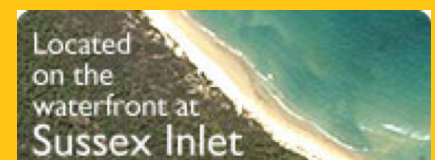
36.1 Employees shall not be rostered to work for more than five hours without an unpaid meal break.

36.2 A minimum of 40 minutes and a maximum of 50 minutes shall be allowed for an unpaid meal break.

36.5 Meal breaks shall be provided at a time when an employee has access to meal facilities.

RTBU Holiday Park

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