

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Election notice and thank you

The Tram and Bus Division would like to thank all members who took part in the union's recent election. Your participation is appreciated by the union and helped the smooth-running of the ballot.

Please be advised that the results of the union's recent election will be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances interstate and out of the union's control. Due to a delay in Victoria, the results of the election can not collated and made public until later this month.

Changing of the guard at Willoughby

The RTBU is pleased to announce a changing of the guard at the Willoughby bus depot. Popular delegate Alan Bourke has unfortunately been forced to resign his post due to ill health but has handed the baton to Andy West.

Understanding Alan's situation, the RTBU had called for nominations at the depot. Andy put forward his name and was elected unopposed.

"Unfortunately I couldn't put in as much as I thought the position required," Alan said. "So instead of letting people down I thought I'd focus on getting on top of my health."

"I'll still offer any assistance I can in trying to progress the interests of the Willoughby members."

Andy said: "I'm really looking forward to the challenge as more things come up with the State Government or with STA."

"Willoughby has one of the highest compliance rates when it comes to membership and it's a tremendous honour to be elected unopposed and to represent the members ahead of the EA."

The RTBU would like to thank Alan – whose father was delegate before him – for his dedicated as dedicated delegate and looks forward to him adding to his nine years of being involved with the union.

Unions rise up to defend rights



Unions NSW Secretary Mark Lennon has written a stirring account in the Daily Telegraph of the role for our state's unions in holding the O'Farrell Government to account.

"Well-informed working people making their voices heard will be the key to ensuring that the second half of the state government's term is not as painful and destructive as the first," Mark wrote.

Read the full article here:

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/opinion/unions-will-rise-to-defend-the-rights-of-workers/story-e6frezz0-1226605717424>

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Gladys' double decker debate – Tell us what you think

Transport Minister Gladys Berejikian has announced more double decker buses will begin service in coming weeks, run by private companies.

Two will run on route 270 between Terrey Hills and the CBD. Another five will run on routes M61 and 610X from Castle Hill and Rouse Hill via the M2 to the city.

The Minister is claiming feedback from drivers has been positive.

Whilst the RTBU can proudly confirm that our members are the most skilled bus drivers in Sydney and Newcastle and can drive anything, the Union has made it known that the speed of loading double deckers in the CBD and effect on running times will have to be taken into consideration if double deckers return to the STA fleet.

Have any thoughts about the double-decker plan. Tell us what you think here: info@busexpress.com.au



Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights

41.4. Critical Peak Period Times – Monday to Friday

41.4.1

A minimum of six minutes rest time is to be taken on all major city based trunk routes and strategic cross regional routes.

These critical peak periods are for approximately one hour and are based on timetable commitments for each depot as identified by the local manager and RTBU delegate.

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New laptops, new emails for depots

The Tram and Bus Division is always aiming to have the best communication with our members. To realise this, we now have new email addresses for convenient access to your local delegates if you're unable to contact them directly for any reason.

Please talk to your local delegate to get details of email address. It should be noted that this email access is independent of the STA system, which will ensure members privacy.

Union fights for tram drivers' shoes

The Tram and Bus Division is standing up for shoes to be issued to Sydney tram drivers. The union has taken Veolia Transport Sydney to the Fair Work Commission claiming the company is obligated to offer appropriate footwear as part of the uniform.

The matter is ongoing and the union will notify members of the outcome.

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