

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Mona Vale Depot Safety Dispute – Members Dig In

As soon as STA announced that our members at Mona Vale were losing a relief point staff bus, RTBU Delegate Matthew Compton arranged rank-and-file depot meetings and the proposal was rejected unanimously.



Under the new arrangements, drivers would be required to walk to the Darley Road relief point instead of using staff buses.

Members quickly pointed out that, the reason staff buses were introduced initially was because it was unsafe to walk from the relief point back to the depot with very large amounts of money (usually from route L90) and various old incidents were quoted.

Members said the actual walking isn't a problem but the well-documented security problems in the area means it is simply "unsafe".

Matt Compton asked WorkCover for assistance and the WorkCover Inspector has issued a provisional improvement notice (P.I.N) banning the walk to the relief point.

This was a huge blow to Mona Vale management and great news for Union members.

STA can appeal the WorkCover decision, but to knowingly put employees in danger would be a foolish move and the Union would make sure that STA is held accountable.

Member benefits: What you need to know



Tram & Bus Division officials want all members to be aware of the benefits available to them.

To realise this the Bus Express team have uploaded a complete guide to members benefits and what it means for you.

It includes details for the union's Traffic Fund, the RTBU Loyalty Rewards Program, the Mortality Fund and the annual union picnic.

Check out the full document [here](http://busexpress.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/MEMBERS-BENEFITS.pdf) or at <http://busexpress.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/MEMBERS-BENEFITS.pdf> and feel free to contact your local delegate if you have any further questions.

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Bonnyrigg 'Played' Out Of Full-Time Work

STA has cruelly shafted 55 members at the Bonnyrigg depot out of full-time work. Members are furious after the Government wrote a contract specifically writing those 55 drivers out of any employment offer with the new contractor. The depot was formed just over 10 years ago when the Government introduced the T-way service and STA started the operation with around 50 members.

The bus operators who went to the new depot went with the belief they were being offered a job with any new contract operator for Region Three. After almost a decade the Government has finally announced a new successfully contractor, Transit Systems – Perth. The union has been in discussions with STA, Transport for NSW and the Transport Director General but we've received no clear answers.

It's become apparent that Bonnyrigg members have been played, some of them for the last decade during the T-way operation. Divisional Secretary Chris Preston said this was done by the new contractor only offering a job to the current private operators in Region Three.

"This is solely designed to eliminate our members' rights to be offered a job," Chris said. "This is a disgrace and if this is how the private contract operators are going to treat the state's bus workers then the union says, 'shame on you, Gladys'. It has now become a hostile workplace and the only solution would be for the Government to step in and demand that the 55 loyal bus operators be offered full time employment at Bonnyrigg."

Attendees see value in Union training day

Nineteen members of Union Committees from a large cross section of Sydney and Newcastle Depots recently attended a one day training course at Redfern, and here are some examples of feedback that was received at the end of the day. The course is structured to equip new and relief delegates with the skills required to make representations for members in their depots. Training such as this ensures our Union stays strong at depot level.

- ✓"Very Informative Course, I learned so much in such a short time thanks to all."
- ✓"Always learn something new and to make it better I found this course very useful." Thank you.
- ✓"Very informative, learned a lot of information that I was not aware of, would like to attend more classes to learn more on Union Training to help myself and our members. Thank you."
- ✓"Very informative by specialists/experts in the field. Thank you."
- ✓"Information, delegate handbook is a very good resource tool that I can use in a day to day usage not only me but my fellow members and new drivers."
- ✓"Was good to learn some new things plus meet the higher ups."
- ✓"Good Introduction/Familiarisation of basic principles to get bearings. Good information/education session."
- ✓"Great work, Good place to learn in all departments of communication, would love to attend more workshops. Thanks."
- ✓"It was really good boys and girls."
- ✓"Learned new things about members rights and use the code of conduct manual and roster manual and benefits and communications."
- ✓"Thanks Guys and Ladies, very well conducted, friendly and informative."
- ✓"Thank you for your time, we loved the training."



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



**Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights**

Section 75.

Fatigue management

75.1 Fatigue management principles apply to all employees covered by this Award.

75.2 No employees will be permitted to work more than 12 hours in any 24-hour period.

75.3 An employee must have a total of 12 hours rest in every 24-hour period, of which 10 hours must be consecutive between shifts.

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