

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Tram & Bus Division takes on Veolia in Fair Work Commission

When one of our members at VTS (Monorail) contacted the Union claiming that his redundancy payout was an amount well below what it should be, Tram and Bus Divisional Secretary Chris Preston quickly agreed with our member and when negotiations with Management failed, filed a dispute at Fair Work Australia.

After hearing submissions from both sides, the Judge conciliated the dispute resulting in our members payout being increased by more than double. Chris described the result as a great victory for the Union and our member.

Union BBQ comes to Ryde depot

Chris and Gary were just getting things cranked up when the heavens opened and the rain poured down right on top of the RTBU BBQ trailer.

Fortunately, the rain didn't last long, and with the help of Assistant Branch Secretary David Woollams and local Bus Operator Volunteer Alex, Ryde members were soon enjoying a menu of steak, sausage and vegetable burgers and ice cold drinks. Ryde is the biggest depot within STA which can present a challenge (Especially with rain interruptions), Gary, Chris and David thanked members for their excellent company and their patience.



Bus Express TV Check out the latest edition online



The latest episode of the RTBU Bus Express TV has been uploaded to the web.

This week Chris and Gary discuss the latest happenings from the Division, including the ongoing safety dispute at the Mona Vale depot.

Also on the agenda are the latest Union wins, industry news and feedback from the recent staff training day.

Check out the full episode at:
<http://busexpress.com.au/chris-and-gary-on-bus-express-tv/>

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An interesting lesson from A Current Affair

Another media story about a racist passenger on a Sydney bus has again highlighted the challenges bus drivers face every day.

Last night Channel Nine's A Current Affair program ran a story about a female passenger who racially abused other passengers on the M41.

According to the report the driver stopped the bus twice, telling the passengers to calm down. Watch the ACA story at:

<http://aca.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=8669090>



The story shows how hard the driver's lot can be – do they intervene in a dispute and risk themselves and other passengers by inflaming a situation, or do they focus on driving and be blamed for inaction?

Here at *Bus Express*, we think the driver handled the situation perfectly. He calmed the situation while finding out where the abusive passenger was getting off, while avoiding inflaming the situation further.

It's hard for drivers to know exactly what to do in every situation but one thing is for certain, it's not a driver's job to be security guard or police officer. Another definite lesson for all of us is that, with smartphone technology, drivers can depend on their every move being filmed or photographed by passengers, whether for good or for ill.

Cars in bus lanes not the solution to traffic

The Tram & Bus Division has today slammed an idea to open up bus lanes to traffic to ease congestion. The NRMA is pushing to allow cars with four occupants to drive in the bus lanes as a way to free up Sydney's infamous traffic. Read the Daily Telegraph story:

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/drive-to-open-sydneys-bus-lanes-for-packed-cars/story-fni0cx4q-1226650930845>

The RTBU has criticised the idea, saying bus lanes are congested enough and that the proposal would only add to the city's congestion woes. Divisional Secretary Chris Preston this morning took to early morning news radio to put forward the union's position. The union also released a media statement, check it out here:



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



**Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights**

Section 27.

Attending office

27.1

An employee who is instructed to attend elsewhere to answer complaints, furnish reports, supply statements or affidavits or to submit to medical examination or eyesight or hearing tests (except in the case of an employee on leave on account of ill health or injury) shall be paid for the time occupied at ordinary rates.

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