

# BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



## Welcome to Bus Express

We've hit the ground running since taking on our new roles, visiting work places and preparing for the STA Award negotiations, but we also know it's important that we let members know what is going on.

That's why the Division has decided to introduce the **Bus Express** web site. You'll be able to subscribe to receive weekly news updates in your email inbox, or search for stories about your depot. We'll also be distributing a printed version every fortnight.

We'll be updating **Bus Express** each week and, importantly, ensuring our members can access up-to-the-minute information on the progress of the Award negotiation and any other relevant news.

In the meantime have a read of the stories, sign up to the web site for updates and let your workmates know – **Bus Express** is here!



Chris Preston and Gary Way

## Elections

The AEC has conducted a vote for the Delegate position at Tempe, with Ashish Sarker elected to the position. Congratulations go to Ashish.

At Burwood, a secret ballot was conducted to elect a replacement for Russell Pullen, who has resigned as the Burwood Delegate. Brendan Spilsted was elected as the caretaker Delegate, and an AEC ballot to elect a permanent delegate will be held in the coming months. Our thanks go to Russell for his service and efforts, and we welcome Brendan to the role.

Another important ballot is coming up on Thursday 7 July for position of Vice President. Remember to cast your vote at your depot!

## Conciliation Win

The RTBU is pleased to announce a successful outcome in a conciliation case at the NSW Industrial Relations Commission on 22 June.

The RTBU member involved is now back on the job after several months off work.

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# The Magnificent Seven

Community anger has been mounting over the NSW Government's unfair state sector Industrial Relations laws, and Tram & Bus Division members have been front and centre at the public protests.

A snap rally was held outside Parliament House at lunchtime on Thursday 9 June – with the highlight of the rally being the arrival of seven STA buses and several fire engines which then proceeded to block Macquarie Street. It was a courageous act under fire by the Magnificent Seven drivers - who took their buses on a "detour" along Macquarie Street for the occasion. The presence of the buses and the 50 bus drivers who turned up with one hour's notice was a coup, and drew attention to the impact the State Government's laws will have on hard-working bus drivers.

Just days later, bus drivers were again in the thick of it at the mass rally on Wednesday 15 June. Hundreds of drivers flew the flag for the RTBU, and Brookvale Delegate Narelle Sinclair gave a great speech to the 12,000-strong crowd.

It's going to be a long and difficult fight, but we can't afford to let Barry O'Farrell steam-roll our rights.



## STA Negotiations

Our Log of Claims for the new Award has been lodged with STA. Now that our current agreement has expired, STA is able to provide a formal response and intensive negotiations over the Log of Claims have begun.

We will be focusing on getting a long-term agreement for members with improvements to rostering, leave arrangements and workplace conditions.

As part of the new State IR laws, however, the Government has offered a standard 2.5% pay rise to drivers. In order to negotiate a higher pay rise the RTBU needs to demonstrate "employee-related cost offsets".

The Government has indicated it will clarify the parameters for negotiations for cost offsets by Friday 8 July..

In the meantime, sign up to **Bus Express** for regular updates on progress.

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