

# BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



## Strong Delegate Support for Pay Deal

At a recent special meeting of the Divisional Executive where every depot was represented, it was decided unanimously to endorse the 3.25% wage deal negotiated between the Union and State Transit.

As you would be aware the Division has been in talks with STA for some months now to finalise the EA after an interim agreement was reached in August.

At that time members voted overwhelmingly in favour of an initial 2.5% pay increase back dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> of June while the Division continued its work for a more reasonable offer.

Your union was determined to deliver a fairer outcome for members after the 2.5% wages cap was imposed on all NSW public sector workers by the new state government.

The offer of a 3.25% pay increase delivers an increase well above this wage cap.

This has now been put into a Letter of Offer, which the Executive has endorsed as worthy of your consideration.

A series of meetings are now underway to present the offer and give members the chance to ask any questions they might have.

For more information contact the union at [info@busexpress.com.au](mailto:info@busexpress.com.au)

## Sign Up to *Bus Express* and Win!

Readers of *Bus Express* are still in the running to win a dream holiday.

The first 500 people who sign up will go into the draw for a free week's holiday at the RTBU's beachside retreat at Sussex Inlet. Second prize will be a weekend at Sussex Inlet.

You have to be in it to win it – so sign up now!

[www.busexpress.com.au](http://www.busexpress.com.au)

Sign up now, and get your news as it happens!

## Happiness Is A Safe Bus

Swift action taken by drivers over safety issues associated with gas-powered buses has forced STA to acknowledge the problem and take the necessary steps to fix it.

The Bus Division appeared before the Industrial Relations Commission this week to bring an end to drivers' dispute with STA over these safety issues.

Your union requested four safety upgrades to the buses and STA agreed to implement all four.

It is shame we had to take drastic measures to get STA to take this issue seriously, but a good outcome has been achieved.

STA still can not say what caused the explosion in July but we are now satisfied that these safety upgrades will ensure an incident on a gas bus should never get to that stage again.



## Get On Board The Pink Bus

*From Margaret Panell*

When one of our female bus operators, Kylee Stewart, was diagnosed with breast cancer in March 2011 her friends and colleagues from Newcastle Buses were in shock.

Kylee is 41 years old and has 2 small children, the youngest was only 10 months old. Staff from both depots rallied to help Kylee and her partner Mick Jurd (also a bus operator) in whatever way they could.

One bus operator, Karen Liston accompanied Kylee to appointments when Mick could not be there. Karen even stayed at the house to allow Mick to visit Kylee in Hospital.

Kylee underwent a mastectomy, followed by intensive chemotherapy. Kylee lost her hair but managed to keep her sense of humour, always has a ready smile and a positive attitude.



We thought the worst was over but there was more to come. Karen Liston, was herself diagnosed with breast cancer in July 2011. Thankfully, after 2 operations, Karen was given the all clear but needs to undergo radiation therapy to ensure the cancer does not return. Both ladies were fit, strong and otherwise healthy women.

For Breast Cancer Awareness month we decided to hold a "Pink Day" to raise money for breast cancer research.

It was a fun day with pink cakes, lollies, toffees, drinks and pink ribbon merchandise on sale. \$860 was raised between the 2 depots.



Nerida Walker from Hunter Breast Screen attended Pink Day to promote women over 40 having regular breast screenings. On Monday 24 October, 11 Newcastle female bus operators made appointments to have mammograms and decorated a "pink bus" for the journey there. For 8 of these women this was their first mammogram so going as a group was less daunting for them.

Kylee's and Karen's attitude during their illness has been an inspiration to all the staff at Newcastle Buses.

We urge all women to book in for a mammogram as soon as they turn 40. Just FREECALL 13 20 50 - it may save your life.



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

## Know your Rights



*With Brett Peters....*

### Section 77. Fatigue Management

77.4 No employee will work more than 24 days in a 28 day period.

77.5 No employee will work more than 12 days straight.

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