

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



Edition No. 3 • 3 August 2011

RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Initial pay increase delivered as negotiations continue

Union members have voted overwhelmingly in favour of an initial 2.5% pay increase back dated to the 12th of June, as the Bus Division gears up for further negotiations.

Members were asked in a secret ballot on the 1st of August whether they would accept the interim wage offer of 2.5% for now whilst the RTBU continues to negotiate for employee related cost savings above and beyond the 2.5%.

This decision will see back pay delivered while the Union continues its negotiations for a better deal in the new industrial relations landscape.

Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way said that STA have agreed in writing to participate in weekly meetings to negotiate further increases focusing on our Log of Claims and the following dates have already been locked in 11th, 18th, and 25th August, 2011.

"We will continue to negotiate for the best possible deal for members, but we didn't want to see a situation where our members were waiting, as they have in previous negotiations, for months and months," Chris said.

"This way we could deliver something for our members, whilst recognising that there is still work to do in order to deliver a final outcome."

The Division will provide regular updates as negotiations continue.

New Hamilton Office



To celebrate the opening of the new union office at Hamilton Depot the union threw a barbie for members.

The Divisional Secretary, Chris Preston did the hard yards over the hotplate with the help of Assistant Branch Secretary David Woollams and also driver Steve Warren.

Relocating from an office across the road that was shared with the Loco and Rail Divisions, the new office is at the depot so delegates don't have to leave the depot to do their union work.

www.busexpress.com.au
Sign up now, and get your news as it happens!



Union watchdog created to monitor Transport for NSW

The creation of a centralised transport authority, Transport for NSW, is the most significant reform in decades and has huge implications for all RTBU members.

Headed by Les Wielinga, the new authority will have control of policy, procurement and planning for roads, rail, freight and ferries.

State Transport Minister, Gladys Berejiklian, has said that in order to deliver better bus, train and ferry services overall the number of front-line employees would increase.

The RTBU welcomes a more streamlined approach to transport planning and delivery but is concerned that despite political promises jobs could be lost, workers could be demoted or have their jobs downgraded.

Another concern is that business units could be stripped back ready for privatisation and that the new structure will make it easier to privatise service delivery via franchise contracts – as per the Victorian model.

The RTBU believes it's critical to closely monitor the transition to the new structure in order to assess how the changes will affect members.

However, since the restructure announcement in April, the RTBU has been sidelined by Transport for NSW. Despite requests, information about the restructure is not being communicated directly to the union, excluding it from the process of change.

As a result the union has decided to create a Transition Watchdog comprising of members of the Locomotive and Bus Divisions, Rail Operations, Administration, Infrastructure and Workshops.

The teams will keep a close watch on developments to highlight waste, mismanagement and any negative effects on members and will be reporting back to members on important workplace issues.

If you'd like to be involved in this campaign please send your contact details (email and phone numbers) to nswbus2@bigpond.com.

Regular updates on this issue will be posted on Bus Express.

Congratulations Brett



Brett Peters from Hamilton Depot has been elected to the position of Branch Divisional Vice President.

Divisional President Gary Way and Divisional Secretary Chris Preston would like to thank all three candidates, Brett, Frank Kocsis and Raul Baonza, both from Tempe, for all their efforts during the campaign.

A driver at Hamilton for almost 11 years and a relief delegate for four years, Brett says he became involved in the union because he's always been a driver and has always been keen to keep an eye out for driver's rights. The new role he says is a chance to get even more involved in the important work of the union.

www.busexpress.com.au
Sign up now, and get your news as it happens!

