



Rally against O'Farrell government's IR laws scheduled for Sept 8

Thousands are expected to rally on Thursday September 8 to send a strong message to the NSW government that they will not accept its unfair industrial relations laws.

The Sydney rally will be the last in a series held around the state demanding fairer wages and the return of an independent umpire to preside over industrial relations matters.

RTBU members made up the largest delegation to attend the recent Newcastle rally, joining hundreds of other union members proudly hammering home the message that workers will relentlessly continue to protest this legislation.

The key speaker at the rally, Unions NSW Secretary Mark Lennon demanded that the member for Newcastle Tim Owen make his constituents' concerns heard inside the government. A petition was later presented to Mr Owen's office.

Divisional President, Gary Way also spoke, and Hamilton depot delegate Kelly Budden gave a stirring speech to the huge crowd.

Every regional centre in the state has now participated in these rallies and now it is time to take the message straight to the government's doorstep this September 8.

Check out more photos from the rally at busexpress.com.au.



Kelly Budden



Chris Preston, David Woollams and John Rose



Gary Way

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Historic divisional executive meeting in Newcastle

For many decades Newcastle delegates from the Tram and Bus Division have been getting up well before dawn to travel (usually by train) to divisional executive meetings at union headquarters in Redfern.

On Friday July 29, for the first time, all delegates from Sydney depots travelled north to the "old steel city" where they made history attending the first divisional executive meeting to be held in Newcastle. Rank and file members in Newcastle were aware of this meeting and the feedback has been excellent.



Uniform dispute update

Union solicitors Slater & Gordon appeared in the Chief Industrial Magistrates Court again on July 30, where STA were forced to hand over documents relevant to the uniform dispute which had been subpoenaed by the union.

The next court date to progress the claim is listed for the end of August. The time it takes to complete these proceedings will be a matter for the court. The union will keep members updated.

Burwood obstacles finally removed

Drivers have long been swerving around, and knocking off mirrors on the monster trees along Burwood routes. After a decade of petitioning from the union, the council has agreed to remove the trees.

Fence panels placed on the edge of the gutter at bus stops on Burwood Road preventing passengers getting on and off safely have also been removed.

Attend Sydney Alliance launch

The RTBU is pleased to announce the launch of the Sydney Alliance which was established to give the average community member a voice on issues that affect Sydney such as health, transport and community services.

The union is a founding member of the Alliance, which also includes religious, ethnic, health and community groups.

We encourage members to get involved and add their voice to discussion of these issues. After all, who knows transport better than us?

Members are invited to come to the Founding Assembly on the 15th of September at Sydney Town Hall. To be part of the RTBU delegation attending the event email us at nswbus2@bigpond.com or you can download the invitation from busexpress.com.au.

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