

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



RTBU Joins Community Demanding Change

The Sydney Town Hall was packed to the rafters last Thursday as 2000 people gathered for the founding assembly of a new community activist organisation, the Sydney Alliance.

Taking the lead from its hugely successful sister organisations in London and New York, the Alliance brings together community groups to work towards a shared goal of promoting issues that contribute to the common good.

At the assembly the Alliance launched The Agenda for the Common Good – a new vision for community care and health, transport and social inclusion

The RTBU is proud to be a founding member of the Alliance and contributed a sizeable group to the assembly, with delegates from all depots and members from across every division of the union attending.



“It was a fantastic night,” said Division President Gary Way. “We are extremely optimistic about the possibilities of the Alliance to influence government to build a better community – including a better transport system. People have had a gutful of political parties pursuing their own political agenda and ignoring community concerns. The Alliance will make the politicians and bureaucrats finally stop and listen.”

The event has already captured the State Government’s attention, with Charles Casuscelli, Liberal Member for Strathfield, and Dr Geoff Lee, Liberal Member for Parramatta agreeing, under pressure, to attend a transport assembly in Penrith to discuss customer service standards.

From Bus To Bike..



Narelle Sinclair is an RTBU delegate at Brookvale and a powerhouse when it comes to raising money for charity.

Narelle’s epic bi-annual fundraising bike tours have raised \$261,000 and this year funds will be shared between CanTeen and Building Futures, raising money to rebuild an orphanage in Haiti destroyed by the earthquake of 2010.

This time 30 participants will be cycling about 95km a day, for 10 days, from Newcastle through to Brisbane.

STA, the RTBU and Avante Plus bicycle centre are sponsors. To sponsor a rider, contact Trish van Yzendoorn: 0412 658 322

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Transport Forum Addresses The New Political Environment

Over 100 delegates attended a forum at Trades Hall on Thursday 15 September, which aimed to prepare transport workers for their new political and working environment following the recent change of government.

Delegates came from all the major public service unions involved in the transport sector, including the RTBU, PSA, ASU, MUA, APESMA, AMWU, AMOU, AWU, CEPU, AIMPE, TWU and CFMEU.



A highlight of the day was a talk from the RTBU Vic Secretary Trevor Dobbyn, who explained how the Victorian union survived through a very difficult period when public transport services were privatised.

In the afternoon delegates broke into groups to discuss ideas for cross union campaigning on transport issues. This is the first step in making sure unions work together cooperatively on transport issues as we collectively face the challenges of possible privatisation, job losses and attacks on pay and conditions.

This includes the State Government's plans to create a new integrated transport authority, privatise Sydney Ferries, cap public sector wages and castrate the Industrial Relations Commission.

We'll keep members up to date on actions coming out of the forum.

Know your rights with Brett Peters

Section 35. Shift Penalties

35.1 All time worked on a broken shift on Mondays to Fridays after a spread of 9.5 hours shall be paid at the following rates:

- **Time and a half** - Between a spread of 9.5 and 10.5 hours
- **Double time** - After 10.5 hours



Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way

Tram News: Workplace Visit



Chris Preston and Gary Way recently visited Veolia light rail (tram) staff to introduce themselves, to discuss the upcoming Log of Claims and to sign up any staff who wanted to become RTBU members.

The meeting was a huge success and RTBU officials will be going back to Veolia in about two weeks to report on the progress of the Log of Claims.

The workers are a great bunch and were really pleased to have the opportunity to lift their profile as important members of the Tram and Bus Division.

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