

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



Edition No. 8 • 12 October 2011

RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Poor Communication Leads To Bus Chaos At La Perouse

The La Perouse terminus has been closed and replaced with a new turning circle and lay up area.

Staff have encountered a number of problems that have arisen from this the first of which was a lack of information from the STA - work on the roadway started with no traffic plan or information about the start and finish date of the changes.

The members driving the 14.5m buses also discovered that in order to access the lay up and bus stop, they have to perform a three-point turn over the new roundabout.

The Port Botany delegate Philip Cooksey and first relief delegate Michael De Meo have been in discussions with STA management over three days to try and find a solution.

As a result the 14.5m buses were kept in the depot over the weekend and it has been agreed this will continue until a solution can be found.

Philip and Michael, along with STA management tested every 14.5m bus to see which of the buses could make the turn safely. Those buses that cannot make the turn will not be used on La Perouse services.

The STA will also see Michael assist drivers in making this turn and STA management have mechanics trying to find a solution to the problem of differences in the turning circles of the Scania buses.

This issue will be closely monitored every step of the way by RTBU delegates.



The new turning circle



A tight squeeze



Helping out: Philip Cooksey and Michael De Meo

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Bussies reach Brissie

Thirty triumphant bussies rode into Brisbane over the long weekend, after nine days riding an average of 100km per day and with \$35,000 in funds raised for charity.

The ride had its challenging moments including the steep climb over the Border Ranges and a close encounter with a mini-hurricane near Port Macquarie.



Ride organiser **Narelle Sinclair** said, however, that the challenges brought about some of the best moments in the journey.



The mini-hurricane hit when the group reached Blackman's Point and they had to quickly find alternative accommodation for five of the riders.

They called around and managed to find somewhere to stay and before they knew it the town had rallied around them with the local RSL putting on a baked dinner and sending around a donation basket for the ride, raising \$200.

NSW Divisional Secretary **Chris Preston** and Divisional President **Gary Way** got together with QLD Divisional President **Peter Neville** to put on a well deserved welcome BBQ on for the exhausted riders as they arrived at Manly foreshore.

Congratulations to everyone that was involved in the ride!



Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way

Journey Beyond Road Trauma

We were all saddened by the tragic death of a nine-year old boy last week who ran into the path of an oncoming bus on the Central Coast.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of the boy, and to the driver who is devastated by the incident. It reminds us how difficult bus driving can be. There are times when all of us need help and support.

As it happens, two SES volunteers are currently on a massive motorbike ride between Pakenham in Victoria and Toowoomba to raise awareness of road safety, and to promote a community initiative called Journey Beyond Road Trauma (JBRT).

JBRT is an online social network for all those affected by road trauma. It is a valuable network for family and friends of accident victims, emergency service workers, and anyone else who has been affected.

Know Your Rights With Brett Peters

Section 26. Making Reports

26.1 An employee shall be allowed fifteen minutes at ordinary rates for making an accident report in their own time.

26.2 15 minutes shall be allowed for the completion of an accident report when the report is completed in the employer's time.



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