

# BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



Edition No. 44 • 14 August 2013

RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



## PAYMENT FOR PUBLIC HOLIDAYS THAT FALL ON A SATURDAY

The Union has been running a dispute in the Industrial Relations Commission about STA's intention to put a figure on the number of Saturdays needed to work in a year to qualify for payment when a public holiday falls on a Saturday.

The STA gave formal notice to the Union that all bus operators would now have to work 23 Saturdays a year to qualify for the Public Holiday that falls on a Saturday.

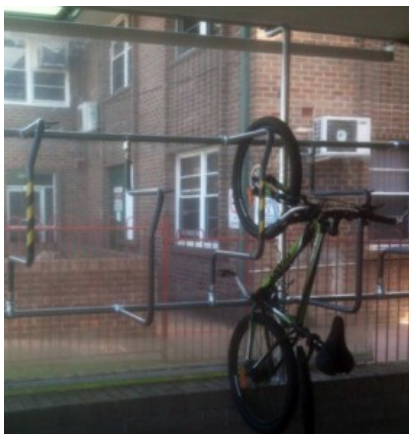
Your Union with the assistance of the IRC was able to negotiate this number down to 10 Saturdays a year to qualify for a Public Holiday payment that falls on a Saturday.

The STA in their wisdom tried to apply these restrictions to the Easter Saturday of 2013 which resulted in some 360 members not getting paid for Easter Saturday 2013. Your Union was able to have all of the 360 members paid for the 2013 Easter Saturday.

## VIC WINS MARATHON RIDE

Members at the Ryde depot have recently unveiled their long awaited "Bike Wall" which was installed in an effort to ease parking strain on employees.

In recent times it has become increasingly difficult for employees to find a parking spot that is close to work. With already limited parking and the introduction of timed spaces, some members at Ryde were arriving hours early just to get a decent spot.



In response to the problem the depot's own Vic Sophios pushed hard for the bike rack which he has wanted installed for the last couple of years.

We hope that members enjoy their new bike storage and congratulate them on finding and negotiating workable solutions to problem affecting their work/ life balance. Perhaps with the Ryde depot

becoming fit and healthy as a result of their new solution other depots will be looking for their own bike storage.

## Cancellations, Collisions & Soaring Prices

A recent *Sydney Morning Herald* report has revealed that since Sydney's ferries were privatised over a year ago:



- Ferry cancellations rose by 25% and by 50% when bad weather was excluded.
- There have been five ferry collisions in the last year - there were none in 2011-12
- Fares for all ferry passengers will rise by at least 25% from September.

Privatisation has never been, and never will be, in the interests of the travelling public. Read more:

<http://busexpress.com.au/cancellations-collisions-and-soaring-prices-this-is-privatisation/>

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## DISPUTE UPDATE:

### PART TIME BROKEN SHIFTS AND WIDESPREAD USE OF CASUAL EMPLOYEES.

STA have advised the RTBU that they will not back down on their crusade to implement part time broken shifts and to use casuals in the first instance to cover any absences.

Members would be aware that the Union has placed these issues in dispute.

Union Officials and Senior STA Management have met as required in the dispute settlement procedure and the matter remains unresolved.

Unions NSW will now attempt to mediate, this will take place on 19th August, 2013, if this fails then the Union will refer the matter to the NSW Industrial Relations Commission.

The RTBU has asked STA to respect the status quo clause in the Award, and will do whatever is required to have this clause enforced until the dispute is resolved.

**These matters are very serious and will have a detrimental affect on rosters and overtime opportunities.**

The Union will keep members informed as the dispute now enters the critical stages.



*Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way*



*Vice President Brett Peters*  
**Know your Rights**

## Section 65.

### Career Break

#### 65.2

The terms and conditions under which an employee may take a career break are as follows:

- (i) The minimum period for a career break is 6 months. The max period is 12 months.
- (ii) An employee must provide 3 months notice of a request to take a career break.
- (iii) An employee who takes a career break must utilise any accrued annual leave as part of this break.

## BURWOOD DRIVER'S ACTIONS STOPS OUT-OF-CONTROL CAR

Burwood driver Kevin Gray has earned praise from local police after he prevented an out-of-control car from careening into a possible accident with pedestrians.

After stopping at a set of lights, Kevin noticed the female driver of a car alongside his bus appeared to have fainted.

As her car accelerated, Kevin took decisive action. Passing her slowly, he confirmed that something was wrong and continued to cautiously merge in front of her now out-of-control car.

The resulting collision was minor, and Kevin's risk assessment was bang on the money; the female driver had actually suffered a seizure.

Police commended Kevin for his actions figuring that the runaway car could've caused a much more serious accident.

The Union congratulates Kevin on his quick thinking and keen awareness.

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