

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Status quo to remain in all depots until IRC disputes are finalised

On Tuesday 27th August the RTBU and STA appeared before Justice Staff in the NSW Industrial Relations Commission after the Union filed notifications disputing the introduction of **part time broken shifts** and the STA proposal to commence **using casual staff in the first instance to cover any absenteeism**.

In what was officially a conciliation hearing, the Unions main focus was to secure a commitment from the STA not to make any changes until the dispute is finalised. After a lengthy session, the STA eventually provided the appropriate undertakings, which, not only included maintaining the status quo, but also to fill vacant lines on broken rosters in the interim.



In a magnificent display of Union solidarity, the small courtroom could not hold the large number of members wishing to sit in the gallery. His Honour adjourned proceedings and relocated the hearing to a larger courtroom.

Justice Staff arrived at the conclusion that the parties could not agree on any aspect of the matters in dispute and officially declared the conciliation "Failed" They subsequently set aside the *14th and 15th November for a full hearing*.

All members are encouraged to attend this hearing in their own time to demonstrate the importance of this issue to members.

The "Area 51" of Sydney's transport mess



The Government is keeping the route 400 bus from Bondi a mystery as it's a cheaper option to get to the airport rather than taking the train, the Daily Telegraph reported recently.

The route doesn't show up on the Government's trip planner, instead it urges commuters to travel on the Airport Link train line that stings commuters with a \$12 station access charge, blowing the total charge out to \$16.40. Route 400, on the other hand costs just \$4.60.

Another reason we think that Government should steer clear of privatising public transport services.

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Assaults on bus drivers on the rise – the Union speaks out

Assaults on bus drivers have increased leading to calls for greater driver security.

Channel 10 aired a report featuring new statistics on driver assaults gleaned from Freedom of Information figures.

A worrying part of the report included the disgusting rise in spitting assaults, adding to physical and verbal attacks.

One way to boost driver security includes the installing three quarter screens in all buses, similar to those currently operating in Newcastle after dark.

The Union says these screens now need to be extended to the rest of the Sydney and Newcastle fleet.

You can find a link to the full report on our website.

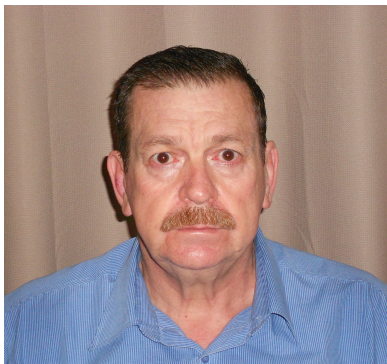


**Divisional Secretary Chris Preston
and Divisional President Gary Way**



**Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights**

New Faces



The Leichhardt depot have elected Leon Barnard to be their union delegate off the back of his years of service as a relief delegate.

Leon has been a member for six years, and joined thanks to a strong union history in his native South Africa.

Since moving to Australia, Leon has been troubled by the "it won't be the end of the world" attitude that some of his co-workers seem to take in regards to their work conditions.

Dave Grant, at the Belmont depot has also been recently elected as a delegate, and jokes that he drew the short straw. He's been a driver for 11 years, in both Sydney and Newcastle. Dave has always felt that he was well informed by the union, and is very keen to ensure that all the members in Belmont are getting a fair go.

Both new delegates expressed their desire to keep their members well informed, and were keen to participate in the upcoming EA negotiations.



Section 58.

Sick Leave

58.2

An employee is entitled to the following amount of paid leave for absence due to personal illness or injury.

- (i) 15 working days for all employees except those nominated in 58.2 (ii); or
- (ii) Employees who commenced on or after 1 February 1995:
 - (a) 8 working days per year for up to five years' service;
 - (b) 10 working days per year from five years to seven years service; and
 - (c) 15 working days per year for over seven years service.

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