Dear Member

**Contestability = Privatisation**

The RTBU have been very busy with the *Fight Against Privatisation* over the last month with support coming from all areas against the “Newman Government” plan to make Council compete with Private operators for its current work. This motion was carried by the Labor Party’s Delegates at the recent State Labor Party Conference.

“Labor condemns the Newman Government for moving to outsource and privatise bus services in the Brisbane City Council area by opening up services provided by Brisbane Transport, to contestability”. “Labor reaffirms its commitment to retaining Brisbane Transport as a publicly owned provider of public transport services for Brisbane City Council”.

The RTBU have also been involved in the last few weeks at Acacia Ridge, Paddington and participated in the ‘jobs’ rally held in George Street in the City on Monday the 8th of September. *(see picture to right)*

Meanwhile the petitions keep coming in and are forwarded on to both Newman and the Lord Mayor, Mr Quirk. The RTBU will again continue with its campaign this coming week at Enoggera and Browns Plains. We need your assistance with fighting to keep your job. Please see your Depot Delegate for times and locations over the next few weeks.

**Award Modernisation**

The new “Brisbane City Council Bus Transport Employees Award” is in its final stages of development after a Special Divisional meeting took place on Monday the 8th of September to work through the remaining points. The document has been adjusted and given to the Legal department who will commence the process of negotiations with Council to secure the best outcome for members. Your Depot delegate has a copy at your Depot if you want to have a look at what issues are being raised.

**RTBU Services**

*I would like to remind members that there are a number of services available to members of the union.*

**Free Will Kits** for the member and their partner through Maurice Blackburn Lawyers.

**Free Legal Consultation** is also available through the Union.

**Retirement Benefit** - thinking of retiring? The Union has a fund in place to allow you to receive some money when you decide to retire. You have to be a financial member of the Union for 6 years to make a claim.

The RTBU welcomes all of the new members that are joining or have joined this month.
Mortality Benefit - a total payment of:
- $4000 in the event of the death of a financial member.
- $2000 in the event of the death of a financial member’s partner.

Sickness & Accident Benefit - this fund is available when you are no longer receiving income from Brisbane Transport. It is available to top up Centrelink and Work cover benefits and will pay usually around $500 towards a Medical report which leads to you being able to return to work after an injury or illness. Members who leave Brisbane Transport and have not made a claim are also entitled to receive a refund for part of their Sickness & Accident component fees paid while they were financial members.

Student Bursary - Six (6) $1000 Bursary amounts are available to outstanding students to assist them with their Education.

HRP130 - Poor Performance & Misconduct Procedure Review
This process has been completed and came about because of changes made to Legislation. You will know this process as it starts with a slip of paper which turns up in your locker about “Customer Feedback”. Always remember, this is the start of the process that can lead to your termination. So the basic principles apply:

On receiving one of these Customer feedback forms, see your Depot Delegate who will make enquiries on your behalf. The Delegate has been trained and knows your rights which are written down in the HRP130 Document.

Do not, do not go in and ask what this is about and then tell your story as your story will be taken down and used against you.

Do not, do not write it all down and hand it over unless you have to respond to a “Please Explain” Notice and always show your delegate before you hand it in.

HRP146 - Grievance Procedure Review
This process has been completed and came about because of changes to Legislation. It relates to bullying and harassment in the workplace, its intention is to provide a harmonious and equitable work environment, dealing with any issues between employees whether it be from an administrative/management level or from fellow workers.

Any issues should be discussed with your Depot Delegate who will provide guidance on ‘best case scenario’ for any problems to be dealt with.

REMEMBER: IF IN DOUBT ALWAYS ASK YOUR DELEGATE.
CCTV Agreement
Work has been underway to finalise the CCTV agreement between Brisbane Transport and the RTBU. This has become a very important area in recent times with the use of CCTV footage in complaints handling. It is hoped to have this agreement finalised ASAP.

Picnic Day
The Picnic for 2014 will be Sunday, 12th October at the Rocklea show grounds. There will be free rides for the kids plus food and drinks and all the usual extras.

Golf Day - Union Shield
This year this event is on Sunday the 19th of October at the Gailes Golf Course. See your Delegate for the details and sign up for a bash.

Tram & Bus Division Policies
One of the projects Acting Organiser Terry McAuley was busy on, while in that roll recently was to develop a Policy handbook for the Division. It will set out the basic rules ensuring that Policies are set down and maintained including, payment for delegates for union related work, union official holiday coverage procedure, resignation from the union process, conduct and meeting processes, etc. By this being done, everybody knows and understands the required important standards for Divisional Meetings and matters affecting the Division.

Remembering Trams from the Past

![Queen Street (April 1969)](Photo: Radschool Association)

![Clem Jones at the working end of a tram](Photo: Courier-Mail)
HOW AN INFERNO CHANGED PADDINGTON

For almost half a century, one particular structure dominated the Paddington landscape and significantly influenced life in the suburb.

The two-storey, galvanised iron and timber Paddington Tram Depot was built on Latrobe Terrace in 1915, on the site where Paddington Central Shopping Centre now stands.

Local identity Rita St Ledger, whose father worked on the trams, recalled the influence of the tram depot on the area: “The streets were always busy with 'Trammies' in their distinctive navy blue uniforms and white Foreign Legion-style caps coming and going to work.

“Tram travel was central to Paddington’s existence and reflected the social structure.

“The front cabin was for women only, the back cabin for men who could smoke and possibly swear.

“Latecomers sat in the middle. There they could mix with the opposite sex and maintain cheerful, loud conversation.

“Social mores were strictly observed. In a crowded tram, men offered their seats to women, children to adults.

“After work, people read the daily papers in the tram on the way home. Paperboys leapt agilely on and off the trams, sometimes travelling a stop for free.

“To demonstrate their strength and agility, young men exiting the tram stood in a line on the running board and jumped off just before the tram stopped and, in a line, they kept running.”

On 28th September, 1962 a fire broke out in the tram depot. The Courier-Mail the next day reported:

“A £500,000 [$1 million] fire destroyed the Paddington tram depot last night in Brisbane’s biggest and most spectacular fire.

“A towering column of smoke, flames and sparks billowed hundreds of feet into the air. Sparks were showered over Ithaca, Red Hill and parts of Herston as the heat and gusty winds swirled them through the air.

“The fire destroyed 67 trams – almost 20 percent of the City Council’s tram fleet.”

Buses were already starting to replace trams and this event hastened the process. The last tram ran in 1969.

Today, the era of the Trammies is commemorated by Trammies Corner, a pocket park on the corner of Latrobe Terrace and Prince Street.

Rita St Ledger took part in the park's opening ceremony, performed by Lord Mayor Jim Soorley.

Rita commented further: “The Tram Depot was the first major employer to disappear in this caring, working class suburb.

“Paddington has withstood many changes since then, including the loss of many corner stores.

“However, it is still a caring, inclusive suburb – a salute to the people of Paddington!”