



MEDIA RELEASE

BusNSW Launches Book to Commemorate 75 Years

Embargoed until 25 July 2017

On 24 July, Mark Coure MP, NSW Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Infrastructure, launched a 224-page book titled “*The Private Bus Industry in New South Wales - A Mirror of Our Times*” to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the NSW Bus and Coach Association (BusNSW).

BusNSW Executive Director, Darryl Mellish, said he was very proud to be publishing the book which, for the first time, would capture over 100 years of amazing transport history.

“The private bus industry in NSW has a rich history full of great achievements, hardships and friendships, and this book captures these decade by decade with commentary, photographs and stories”, Mellish said.

“It has been prepared to recognise and celebrate seventy-five years of service by association members, that is characterised by entrepreneurial spirit through cooperation and goodwill to serve their communities”, he said.

BusNSW evolved from bus proprietor pioneers recognising the need to have a united and respected voice to grow bus and coach services in New South Wales.

“The history of the private bus industry stretches back to the 1840s when enterprising individuals introduced horse bus services to Sydney Town and its infant suburbs”, Mellish said.

“In the early years of the twentieth century experimentation occurred with motor buses, but it was not until after World War One – almost one hundred years ago – that the foundations were laid for today’s private bus industry”, he said.

“The social, regulatory, economic, environmental and political environments that shape the industry continue to change, often going through cycles influenced by community expectations and changing technology”, Mellish said.

“New technology, network integration and demand responsive opportunities are shaping the outlook for the next twenty years”, he said.

Many people and organisations contributed to the book, including BusNSW staff, and members past and present.

“I would especially like to thank the author, John Birchmeier, and his wife Eileen, for their research, writing and compilation”, Mellish said.

“Collections such as those held by BusNSW (Ken Magor Collection) and the Sydney Bus Museum (Arthur Hall Collection) have been an invaluable resource for accessing information on the history of the industry”, he said.

The book was partially funded by the Transport Heritage Grants Program, a NSW Government funded program, administered by the Royal Australian Historical Society, with the support of Transport Heritage NSW.

“BusNSW will be providing each member with a copy of the publication”, Mellish said.

BusNSW President, John King, thanked all those involved with producing the book, which will provide an important record of industry achievements for many years to come.

“As we look to future opportunities for the industry it is important to recognise where we have come from and the challenges that have been overcome in the past” said King.

It was timely that the book launch also coincided with Executive Director, Darryl Mellish, stepping down to take on a part time advisory role, after 18 years’ service to the industry.

Incoming BusNSW Executive Director, Matt Threlkeld, said the book was a fitting legacy for Mellish, who has played a significant role for the association over almost two decades.

“We were pleased to have current, past and life members, industry suppliers, government representatives and key stakeholders present to recognise the book launch and Darryl’s contribution to the industry”, Threlkeld said.

Copies of the book can be purchased via the Bus Signs + online shop on the BusNSW website www.busnsw.com.au

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