

## From the President

As WEA Sydney moves towards the celebration of its centenary in 2013, let us reflect on our role as part of the history of Sydney. We have seen the building of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Sydney Opera House. We have seen Sydney develop into one of the world's memorable cities. WEA Sydney and its unique offering of courses has played a significant role in the development of Sydney's intellectual and cultural life, and this participation should be honoured.

Let us be proud of our achievements, adhering to the mission to provide first class tutoring and services to our loyal body of students. WEA Sydney could not achieve this without the dedication of our voluntary members of Council and our Board of Directors, who ensure the governance of WEA Sydney is carried out appropriately and that due process is always followed.

WEA Sydney could not exist without the dedication of our excellent tutors. During the year our long-serving tutors were rewarded with a certificate of service and a gift for their loyal service, fitting recognition for their valued contribution.

Also I thank WEA Sydney's management and staff, who never fail to attend to tutor and student enquiries with courtesy and enthusiasm. Thanks are also due to our loyal students, quite a number of whom come back term after term to enhance their learning skills and who have given considerable praise to WEA in the Student Survey that was carried out in 2011.

Our strength also lies in our affiliation with other organisations, with these including the Royal Australian Historical Society and the Australian Maritime Museum. Let me also note the invitation that WEA Sydney received from the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Union (NSW Branch) to set up a booth at its delegates conference. This is a great opportunity to let delegates know the work we do, and is a good marketing strategy. I look forward to further developments in strengthening our relationships with unions and with other leading Sydney cultural institutions in the coming year.

WEA Sydney has other achievements that we often do not realise. When one of our managers attended a Seniors' Week function, a lady advised her that she met her future husband whilst attending a WEA course!

Even though the last couple of years have been very difficult for WEA Sydney with falling student numbers and financial constraints, I am sure that if we keep to our mission and continue to provide the quality, service and value that we are renowned for, then WEA Sydney can be confident of planning for its bicentenary.



**Ann Wilson**  
Vice-President



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