



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

2025 was a year of significant transition for WEA Sydney.

Among the significant events was the recruitment of our new Executive Director, Tiffany Roos. Tiffany's commitment to WEA is clear to everyone, with the experience, ability and drive to lead the organisation in the modern world.

I take this opportunity to thank WEA staff for the care and attention they show students and tutors, and their commitment to looking at new ways of delivering our services.

We are always looking at ways to broaden our base of students, tutors and courses. We are making more effective use of data to track enrolments and the effectiveness of our advertising and promotion strategies.



Our membership numbers are strong, and our finances are turning around after a year of major change and expenditure.

We have rolled out new and improved facilities: moving the WEA office to the Ground Floor so that it is more visible and accessible, as well as delivering a new Art Room on Level 1, a new Tutor Room on the Ground Floor, and modernising technology in our classrooms. Building maintenance and facilities are an ongoing priority for WEA.

I also express my thanks to the members of the WEA Board and Council, who voluntarily devote their energies and numerous hours of their time because they love what WEA stands for and want it to succeed. They have supported changes to WEA's constitution to better reflect current governance practice. It is also pleasing to see increased engagement from members, students and tutors in WEA's affairs.

This year has been a busy and often challenging one, during which we put in place measures that will equip us for the future. I look forward to working with you in 2026.

BILL STEENSON
PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

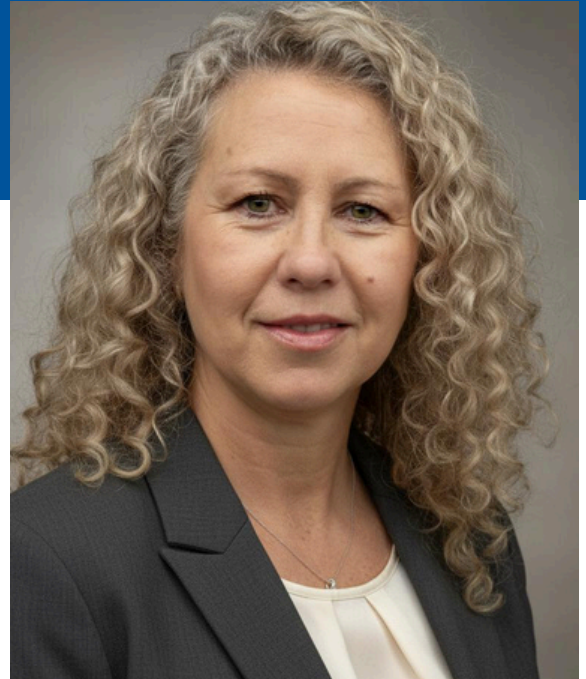
This year has been one of consolidation, care, and steady momentum for WEA Sydney.

Across 2025, WEA has continued to fulfil its long-standing purpose: creating opportunities for adults to learn, connect, and participate fully in community life. At a time when many people are experiencing economic pressure, social isolation, and rapid change, WEA Sydney has remained a trusted and welcoming place for lifelong learning.

Supporting access, connection and wellbeing

Demand for accessible, affordable adult education remains strong. Throughout the year, thousands of learners engaged in courses that supported not only skills and knowledge development, but also wellbeing, confidence, and social connection. Our seniors concession program continues to play a vital role in reducing financial barriers, ensuring that learning remains within reach for older adults and people on lower incomes.

Beyond the classroom, programs and groups that foster connection, including walking groups and discussion-based courses, continue to highlight the broader social value of WEA Sydney's work. These initiatives reinforce what we know to be true: learning is not only about content but about belonging.



Tiffany Roos, Executive Director

A diverse and committed teaching community

Our tutors are central to WEA Sydney's success. This year, we were again privileged to work with an exceptional group of educators who bring deep subject knowledge, generosity of spirit, and a strong commitment to adult learners. Their ability to create inclusive, engaging learning environments is a defining strength of WEA.

My sincere thanks to our tutors for their professionalism, flexibility, and care, and to our staff for their dedication and responsiveness in supporting our community throughout the year.

Key achievements

This year has seen important progress across WEA Sydney's work. We successfully expanded our course offerings, introduced new topics that attracted a broader range of learners, and maintained strong enrolment numbers despite ongoing economic challenges.



We celebrated creativity and community through a well-received member art exhibition and events that fostered connection and enriched the WEA experience.

We also deepened partnerships with community organisations, enabling more outreach and inclusivity in our programs. Importantly, our concession program was strengthened, helping even more people overcome financial barriers to education. These accomplishments reflect the resilience, creativity, and dedication of everyone involved in WEA Sydney's mission.

Governance, stewardship and sustainability

The Board of Directors and Council continue to provide thoughtful and steady governance, particularly during a period where not-for-profit organisations are facing increasing complexity and scrutiny. Their oversight, commitment, and willingness to engage deeply with both opportunity and risk are greatly appreciated.

This year also highlighted the importance of strong internal systems, clear processes,

and careful stewardship. Work undertaken to strengthen data accuracy, reporting, and operational practices reflects our commitment to transparency and continuous improvement. These foundations are essential as we look to the future sustainability of WEA Sydney.

Looking ahead

As we move forward, WEA Sydney remains focused on balancing tradition with renewal, honouring our long history while responding to contemporary learner needs and expectations. Priorities for the coming period include strengthening our articulation of impact, continuing to improve systems and processes, and ensuring that our learning environments remain welcoming, inclusive, and fit for purpose.

I would like to thank our learners, tutors, staff, Board and Council members for their contribution to WEA Sydney this year. It is a privilege to work alongside such a committed community, and I look forward to what we will continue to build together.

Tiffany Roos

Executive Director

2025 At a Glance

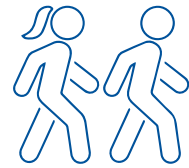
1,086
WEA Sydney
Members



11
Life
Members



251
WEA Ramblers
Members



10,051
Enrolments



121
Tutors



972
Individual Courses



\$59,114
Concession and
Discounts



2025 At a Glance

Financial Snapshot - A year of strong learning demand, alongside structural financial challenges



\$2.23M
Total Income



-\$63K Net Result
(after BenQ donation)



\$1.74M
Total Fee Revenue



\$470K
WEA House Income

Where our income comes from

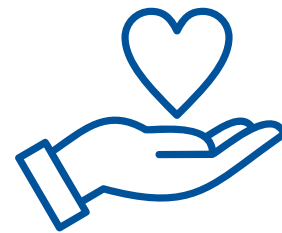
Course Fees — \$1.64M

WEA House — \$470K

Donations & Grants — \$26.8K

Memberships & Other — \$76K

Interest — \$20.5K



Course fees remain the backbone of WEA's sustainability

Our largest program

Languages Program

\$985K revenue

~60% of all course fee income



All figures FY2025. Rounded for clarity.

2025 At a Glance

Where the money goes

Staff — \$846.7K

Tutors — \$727.8K

Building — \$334K

Marketing — \$163.1K

Other Operations — \$346K

People are at the heart of WEA with staffing and tutors making up the majority of costs



Year-on-year shifts



↑ +\$122K Course Fee Income



↓ -\$30K Interest Income



↓ -\$77K Staff Costs



↓ -\$278K WEA House Income

Key Takeaways

Learning demand is strong

Costs are stabilising

Property rental income declined significantly

Financial sustainability remains a priority



WEA Sydney continues to deliver impactful learning experiences while navigating a changing financial landscape.

OUR PURPOSE AND VALUES

Our Mission and Vision

At WEA Sydney, our purpose is grounded in a long-standing commitment to education as a public good. Our mission is to provide accessible, high-quality learning opportunities for adults, fostering curiosity, critical thinking and personal growth across the lifespan.

Our vision is a vibrant, inclusive community where lifelong learning empowers individuals to participate fully in society, build meaningful connections and continue to grow intellectually, socially and creatively at every stage of life.

For more than a century, WEA Sydney has championed the idea that education should not end with formal schooling. Instead, it should remain a lifelong endeavour that enriches individuals, strengthens communities and supports an engaged, informed society.

Commitment to Lifelong Learning and Inclusion

Lifelong learning sits at the heart of everything we do. WEA Sydney provides a welcoming environment where people of

all ages, backgrounds and levels of experience can explore new interests, develop skills and connect with others who share a love of learning.

Our programs are designed to be accessible, supportive and intellectually stimulating. They reflect the diversity of our community and respond to the evolving interests and needs of adult learners. From arts and humanities to languages, technology and personal development, our courses encourage curiosity and create opportunities for people to learn in ways that are both meaningful and practical.

Inclusion is central to our approach. We are committed to creating learning experiences that are welcoming to all members of the community, including older learners, people returning to education later in life and individuals seeking opportunities for connection and personal enrichment. By fostering an inclusive learning environment, WEA Sydney contributes to social participation, wellbeing and community cohesion.



OUR PURPOSE AND VALUES

WEA Sydney's Role in the Adult Education Ecosystem

WEA Sydney plays an important role within the broader adult and community education ecosystem in New South Wales. As a long-established provider of adult education, we complement the work of universities, vocational education providers and community organisations by offering flexible, interest-driven learning opportunities that are open to everyone.

Our focus on non-formal education enables learners to pursue knowledge for personal fulfilment, intellectual engagement and social connection.

This approach supports the broader education landscape by creating pathways into learning for those who may not otherwise participate in formal education settings.

Beyond the classroom, WEA Sydney contributes to the cultural and intellectual life of the community by creating spaces where ideas can be explored, experiences shared and lifelong learning celebrated. Through partnerships, community engagement and a diverse program of courses and events, we continue to advance the founding principles of the Workers' Educational Association: education that is accessible, democratic and transformative.



OUR EDUCATION PROGRAM

WEA Sydney continues to fulfil its mission as a voluntary, independent, not-for-profit organisation committed to providing accessible, engaging adult education opportunities. With approximately 1,500 courses delivered annually to around 10,000 students, our 2025 program demonstrated the breadth and depth of our commitment to lifelong learning.

Educational Philosophy

Our program design reflects the principle that learning enriches every stage of life. Courses require no special qualifications or exams, emphasising engagement, knowledge expansion, and active participation rather than formal assessment. This approach aligns with our founding principle that adult education should be participatory, accessible, and focused on personal and community enrichment.

By creating a vibrant community for curious and engaged learners in the

heart of Sydney, WEA continues to demonstrate that lifelong learning transforms not just what people know, but how they live.

Program Structure and Delivery

Our education program spans eight core areas: Arts and Crafts, Business and Finance, History, Humanities, Languages, Leisure and Wellbeing, Music, and Technology and Vocational Education. This diverse offering reflects our dedication to intellectual enrichment across disciplines while maintaining accessibility for adult learners of all backgrounds.

2025 featured flexible delivery modes to meet diverse learner needs: face-to-face classes at our historic WEA House in the Sydney CBD, online courses via Microsoft Teams, and hybrid formats combining both approaches. This multi-modal delivery ensured our programs remain accessible to students across metropolitan Sydney and beyond.



KEY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Languages Program: As a cornerstone of our offerings, the languages program provides courses in 14 languages, from Ancient Greek and Latin to contemporary languages including Mandarin, Korean, and Portuguese. Courses span beginner through advanced levels, with specialised offerings including conversation practice, literature studies, and intensive travel-focused programs.

Humanities and History: Our program explores ancient civilisations, Australian history, world events, philosophy, and contemporary political issues through courses ranging from single-day sessions to extended eight-week studies. The *Politics at Lunchtime* series and *Philosophy Club* represent innovative formats for community engagement with complex ideas.

Visual and Performing Arts: From music appreciation and singing to drawing, painting, photography, and calligraphy, our arts program nurtures creative expression while building technical skills. Courses accommodate beginners through to advanced practitioners.

Technology and Innovation: The WEA AI Series demonstrates our commitment to contemporary learning needs, offering both theoretical understanding and practical training in artificial intelligence tools. Our Tech Savvy Seniors program, delivered in partnership with the NSW Government and Telstra, provides essential digital literacy training for older Australians.

Vocational Training: As an accredited Registered Training Organisation (RTO 90194) WEA delivers nationally recognised in-demand industry training. Students gain practical, job-aligned skills and credentials focused on employment, upskilling and professional development. All courses are

offered online designed for maximum learner flexibility. In addition to current Training and Assessment qualifications we will be expanding offerings in Business Entrepreneurship to tap into the skills required for the digital economy.

Accessibility and Community Engagement

Course pricing maintains our commitment to affordability, with member discounts available across the program. Our membership structure, priced at just \$25 annually or \$65 for three years, provides 10 percent discount on courses while supporting the organisation's democratic governance through the WEA Council.

We maintain step-free access, accessible facilities, and inclusive support for students with disability and diverse learning needs, ensuring our programs serve the full diversity of Sydney's adult learning community.

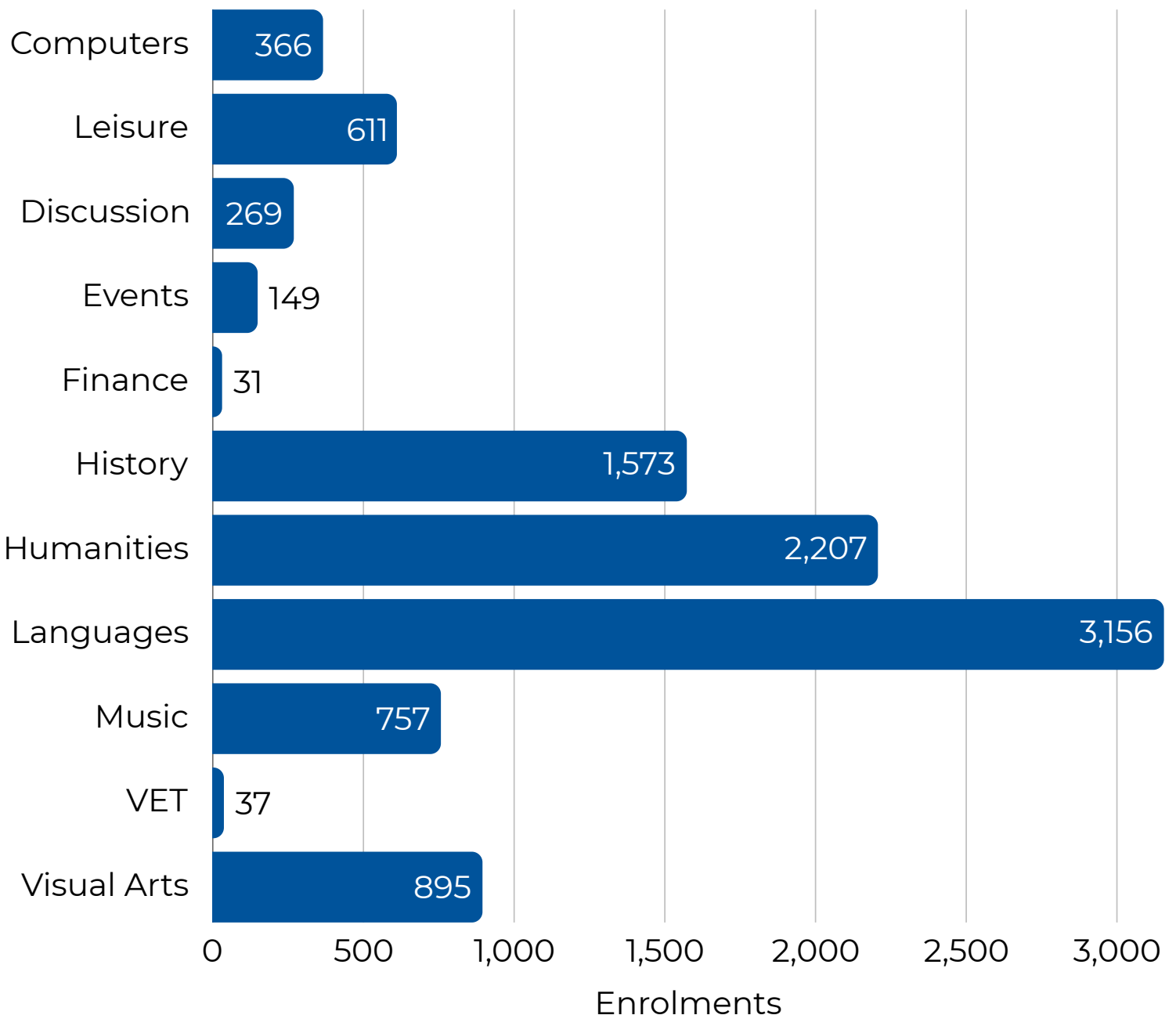


KEY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

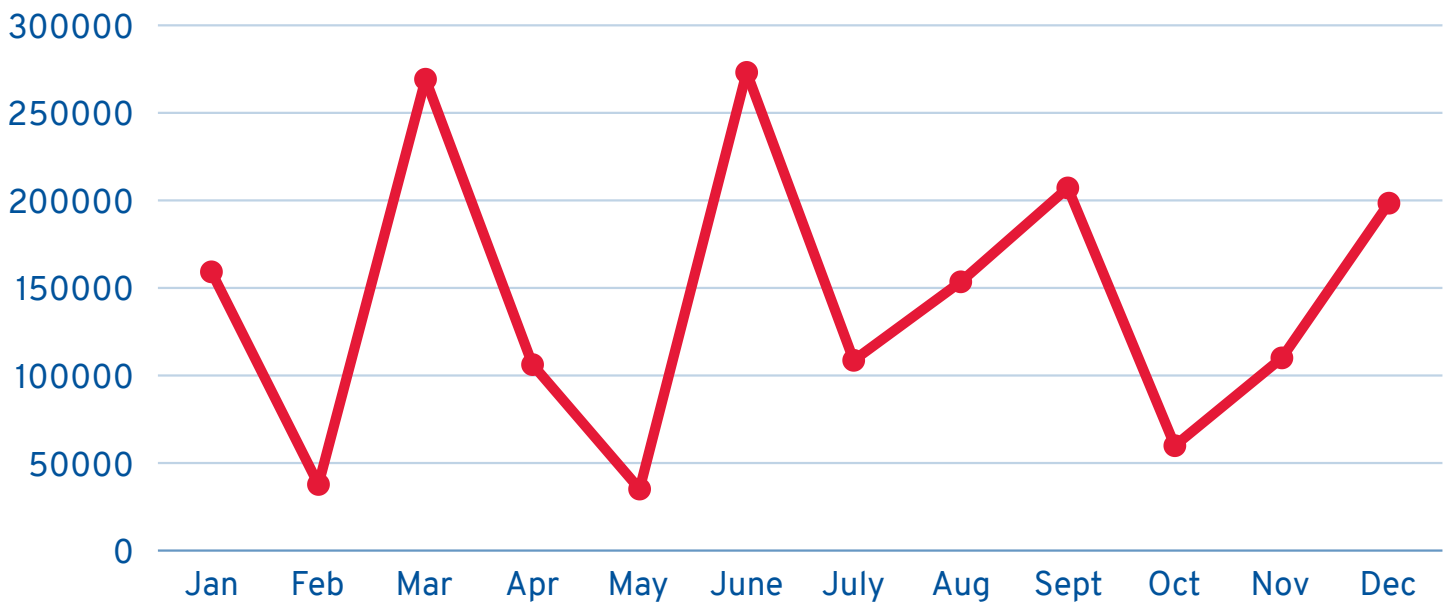
In 2025, WEA Sydney engaged learners across a wide range of programs. Languages accounted for the highest enrolments (3,156), followed by Humanities (2,207) and History (1,573), with strong participation in Visual Arts (895), Music (757), and Leisure (611). Smaller but notable enrolments were recorded in Computers (366), Finance (31), and VET (37). The Discussion Group format attracted 269 enrolments; however, due to declining interest, this offering was phased out in early 2025.

These enrolment figures reflect the breadth and depth of WEA Sydney's impact across the community.

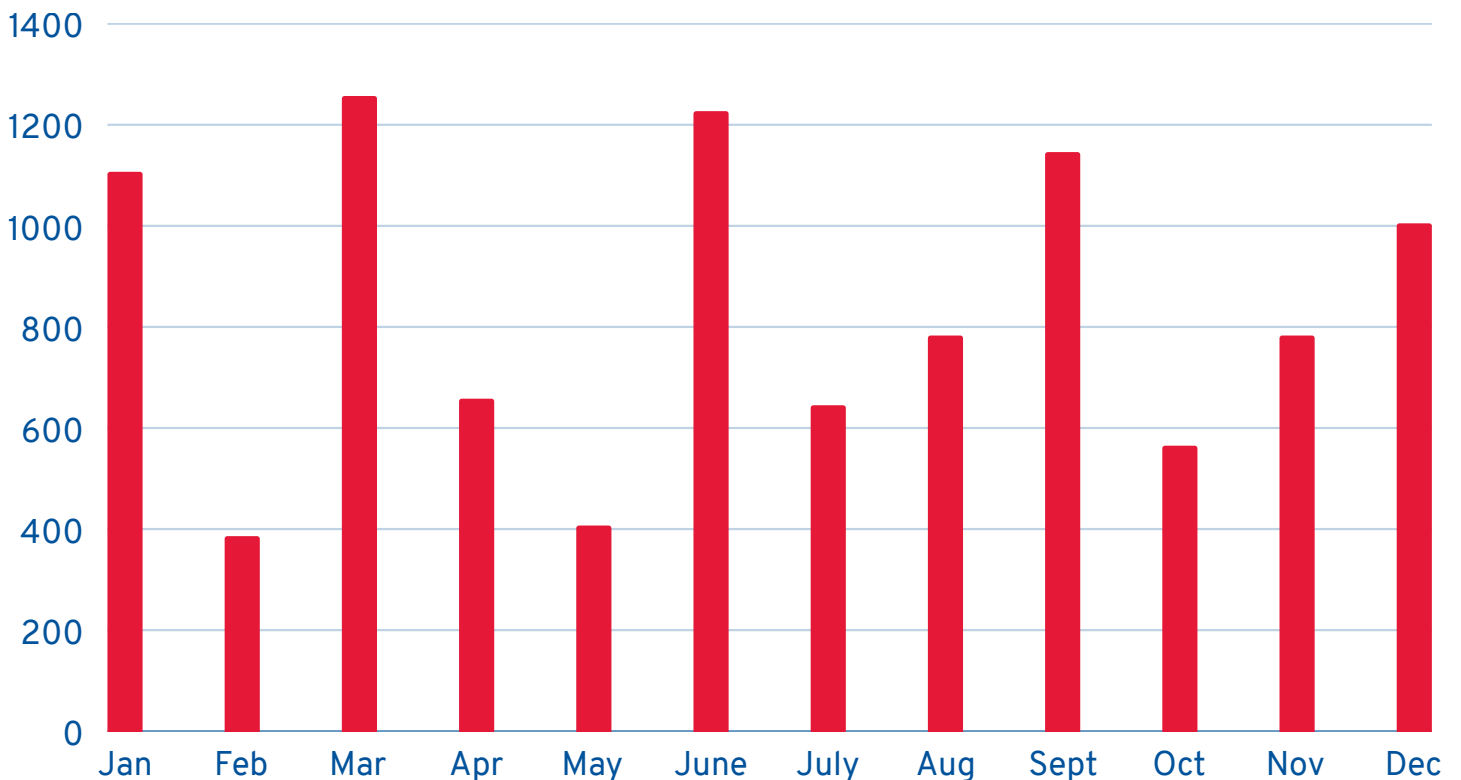
Enrolments by Course Category



Course income by month



Enrolments by month



Enrolments at WEA Sydney in 2025 showed strong peaks in March and June, with notable increases in September and December, reflecting seasonal demand and program scheduling throughout the year.

LEARNERS AT THE CENTRE

Who Our Learners Are

At WEA Sydney, learners are at the heart of everything we do. Our community is made up of adults who share a commitment to curiosity, connection and lifelong learning. They come to WEA Sydney to explore new ideas, develop skills and engage with others in a supportive and intellectually stimulating environment.

Our learners bring diverse life experiences and motivations. Many are long-standing members of the WEA community who value thoughtful teaching and the opportunity to explore topics in depth. Others join us for the first time seeking creative, practical or intellectually engaging learning experiences.

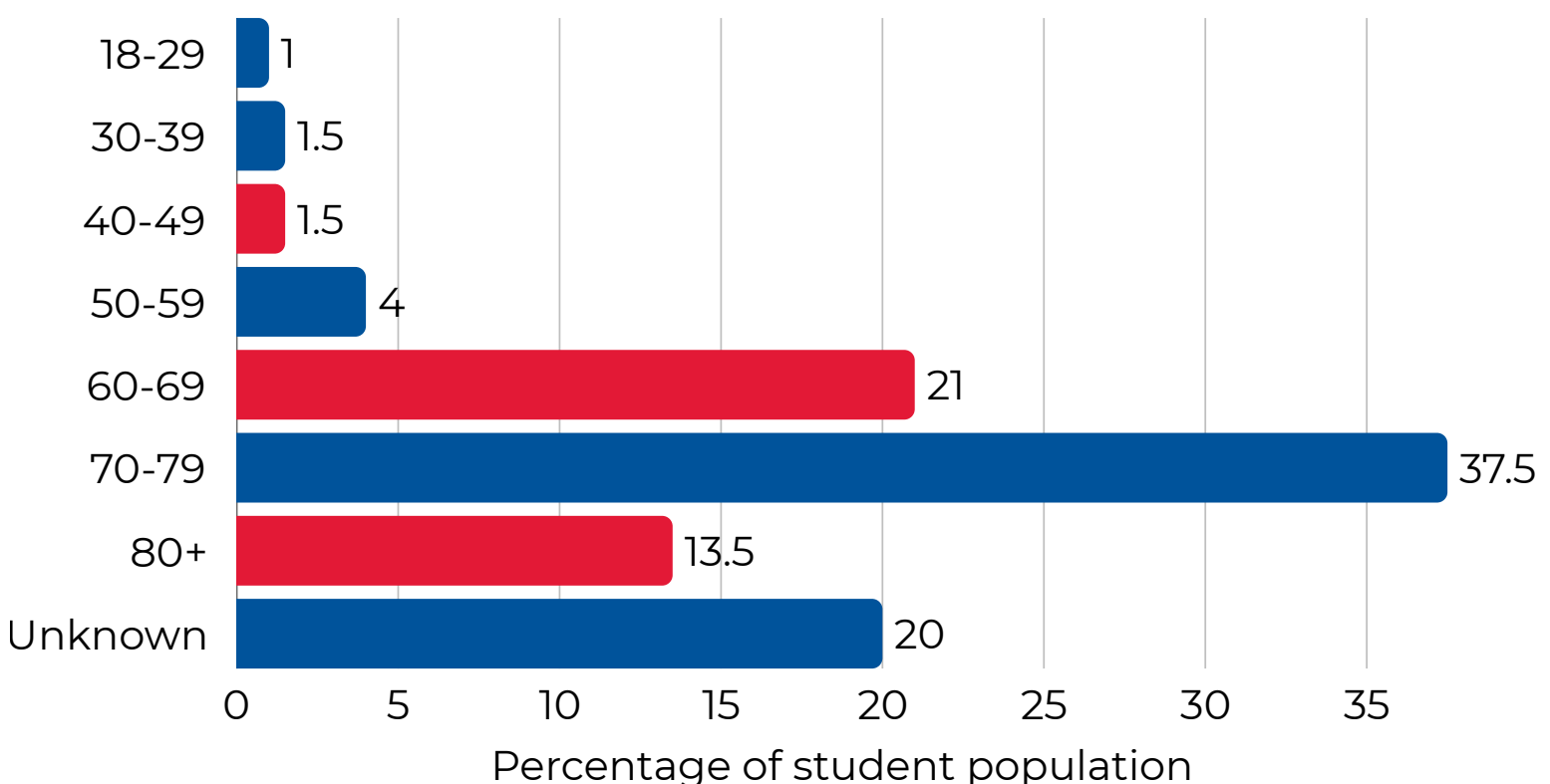
The WEA Sydney community reflects a rich mix of professional backgrounds, cultural perspectives and educational experiences.

Some learners are retired professionals pursuing long-held intellectual interests, while others are working adults, creatives or community members exploring new skills, languages and ideas for personal enrichment.

For many students, WEA Sydney is more than a place to attend classes. It is a place to stay connected with ideas, people and the wider community through shared learning.

While our programs attract participants across the adult lifespan, WEA Sydney is particularly valued by older learners who wish to remain active, curious and intellectually engaged. Many students continue learning with us for years, forming lasting relationships with tutors and fellow learners and contributing to the strong sense of community that defines WEA Sydney.

WEA Sydney Age Distribution



28%

Male enrolments in 2025,
reflecting a smaller but
important segment of WEA
Sydney's learning community

72%

Female enrolments in 2025,
highlighting strong
engagement in lifelong
learning across our
programs



LEARNERS AT THE CENTRE

Equity, Access and Affordability

The Workers' Educational Association was founded on the principle that education should be accessible to everyone. That commitment continues to guide WEA Sydney's work today.

As a not-for-profit adult education provider, we aim to ensure that cost is not a barrier to participation. Our courses are designed to be affordable while maintaining high-quality teaching and meaningful learning experiences. Flexible short courses and membership benefits help create accessible entry points for adults seeking to engage in learning.

Accessibility also means creating welcoming environments where learners feel comfortable participating regardless of their background or previous educational experience. Our programs are designed to support participation by people returning to learning later in life, those exploring new interests, and individuals seeking opportunities for intellectual and social engagement.

WEA Sydney also works to ensure our learning spaces, communications and teaching practices are inclusive and accessible so that learners with diverse needs can participate fully in our programs.



LEARNERS AT THE CENTRE

Supporting Adult Learners Across Life Stages

Adult learning is rarely linear. People return to learning at different points in their lives and for different reasons. WEA Sydney's programs reflect this diversity of motivations.

Some learners join WEA courses to build practical skills that support their work, creative practice or personal projects. Others come to deepen their knowledge in areas such as history, philosophy, literature or languages. For many, learning is also a powerful way to maintain wellbeing, stimulate curiosity and build social connections.

For older learners in particular, WEA Sydney offers an important space for continued intellectual engagement and community participation. At the same time, we are working to broaden participation and reach new audiences, including younger adults and people seeking flexible opportunities to learn alongside work and family commitments.

By supporting adults to engage in learning throughout their lives, WEA Sydney contributes to a culture in which education remains a lifelong pursuit rather than a single stage of life.



TUTORS AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Our Tutor Community

Tutors are central to the WEA Sydney learning experience. Our teaching community brings together educators, industry professionals, artists, writers, researchers and practitioners who share a passion for adult learning and a commitment to sharing their knowledge with others.

Many of our tutors are recognised experts in their fields, while others bring valuable professional or creative experience that enriches the learning environment. What unites them is a belief in the value of lifelong learning and the ability to engage adult learners with curiosity, respect and enthusiasm.

Tutors play a vital role in shaping the welcoming and intellectually stimulating atmosphere that defines WEA Sydney. Through thoughtful teaching and a learner-centred approach, they create spaces where adults feel confident to ask questions, exchange ideas and explore new areas of knowledge.

Recruitment, Development and Support

WEA Sydney is committed to attracting and supporting high-quality tutors who can deliver engaging and inclusive learning experiences. Tutors are recruited based on their subject expertise, teaching capability and alignment with WEA Sydney's values of accessibility, curiosity and community learning.

To support teaching excellence, tutors are provided with clear guidance, resources and professional learning opportunities. This includes orientation materials, access to teaching resources, technical support and opportunities to participate in professional development.

Our approach emphasises continuous improvement and reflective practice. Student feedback is shared constructively with tutors to support professional growth and ensure that courses remain engaging, relevant and responsive to learner needs.

By investing in our tutor community, WEA Sydney strengthens the quality of its programs and continues its long tradition of delivering meaningful and inspiring adult education.



MEET OUR TUTORS 2025

The following Tutors presented WEA classes during 2025

Shaila Akhter	Christine Gietz	Patricia Noefer
Pilar Alejandro	Carolina Gonzalez	Leonie Norton
Frank Amati	Christine Graff	Lindsay Nunez Lopez
Kailash Awati	Joakim Groesvik	Nahla O'Waisha
Sharon Baker	Anne Harbers	James Paul
Malabi Banerji	Christelle Hart	Giorgia Pempinello
Andrew Banks	Michael Hauptman	Roberto Pettini
Juan Carlos Barreno	Marie Heinrich	Christopher Puplick
Inez Bennecke	Johanna Henwood	Moana Purzel
Lanning Bennett	David Hirsch	Michael Pyne
Payal Bhargava	Arafat Hosen	Eva-Britt Rogerson
Robert Binning	Anna Imbernon Pijuan	Sajal Roy
Tatiana Bonch-Osmolovskaya	Nazrul Islam	Diletta Rusca
Michael Box	Irene Jimenez Calderon	Kerry Sanders
Giorgia Bresciani	Lu Jin	Rebecca Scott
Andy Bromberger	Sigrid Kaly	Almis Simans
Ian Burnet	Hanna-Rikka Kavasto	Beatrice Siragusa
Priscilla Campbell	Georgina Kenyon	Judith Sleijpen
Leigh Caprile	Sandy Killick	Brendan Smith
Perry Celestino	Judith King	Bill Steenson
Chi Lik Cheung	Daniele Konrad	Keith Suter
Michaela Clarkson	Alan Krell	Erica Tamm
Byron Comninos	Lawrence Lam	Magdalena Tausch
William Coombs	Diana Levy	Michael Taylor
David Crawford	Nan Li	Maria Teixeira-Alves
Isabella Croce	Ying Liu	Pernilla Thakur-Lundqvist
Blandine Crouch	Suzanne MacAlister	Sonya Thompson
Liliane Cunliffe	Silvia Martinez Jimeno	John Tidmarsh
Jacqueline Curry	Tania Mason	Graziella Trafeli
Olivia De Bergerac	Virginia McGill	Hugh Tranter
Alison Dean	Andrea Mendivil	Wai (Vivian) Tse
Susan Deas	Blandine Midy Boutry	Mia Tsikrikas
Yvette Debergue	Marco Migotto	Silvia Tullio
Racho Donef	Dominique Millar	Penelope Vakalopoulos
Vicki Dwyer	Linda Moctezuma	Jenni-Lee Williams
Robert Forgacs	David Morgan	Elaine Witton
Rahmatul Furqan	Sally Morris	Terence Wong
Michael Gal	Adrian Muir	Jun Wu
Roy Gerente	Masafumi Naito	Xin Mei (Alice) Xu
	Shinobu Narimatsu	Raymond Younis
	Helen Neale	

COMMUNITY, PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT

Community Role and Outreach

WEA Sydney has long played an important role in Sydney's adult education and cultural landscape. Since its founding, the organisation has provided a welcoming place where adults can come together to explore ideas, share knowledge and participate in meaningful learning.

Beyond the classroom, WEA Sydney contributes to community life by creating opportunities for intellectual engagement, cultural discussion and social connection. Our programs encourage curiosity and dialogue, helping people remain connected to learning and to one another throughout their lives.

Through lectures, short courses, discussion groups and special events, WEA Sydney continues its tradition of making education accessible, engaging and relevant for the wider community.

Partnerships

Collaboration with cultural and community organisations strengthens WEA Sydney's programs and extends the reach of adult learning across Sydney.

WEA Sydney works in partnership with the Royal Australian Historical Society to promote public engagement with history. Through this collaboration, historical scholarship is shared in ways that are accessible, engaging and relevant to the wider community.

Our partnership with the Sydney Bridge Club supports high-quality bridge education, providing opportunities for both new and experienced players to develop their skills in a welcoming environment.

WEA Sydney also collaborates with Woollahra Municipal Council to deliver Philosophy Clubs in local community spaces. These programs create opportunities for participants to explore philosophical ideas through discussion and shared inquiry, demonstrating the enduring relevance of philosophy in contemporary life.

Through partnerships such as these, WEA Sydney connects learners with respected cultural institutions and community organisations, strengthening the broader ecosystem of adult education and public learning in Sydney.





Member Events and Collaborations

Membership has long been central to the WEA Sydney community. Throughout the year, members are invited to participate in special events that celebrate learning, encourage discussion and strengthen connections across the organisation.

Key events included activities associated with History Week, which bring members together to engage with historical topics and speakers. The annual George Shipp Memorial Lecture honours the legacy of a significant figure in WEA's history and provides an opportunity for

members to hear from distinguished speakers on topics of intellectual and public interest.

The year concluded with a Christmas gathering for members and staff, offering a chance to reflect on the year's achievements and celebrate the vibrant community that continues to sustain WEA Sydney.

Together, these events foster a strong sense of belonging and reinforce WEA Sydney's role as not only a place of learning, but also a community of shared ideas and lifelong curiosity.

GOVERNANCE – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WEA Sydney is governed by a Board of Directors comprising elected honorary office bearers and the Executive Director (non-voting), reflecting the organisation’s longstanding commitment to democratic governance. The Board meets regularly and works closely with management and staff to ensure the effective stewardship of the organisation and the achievement of its mission.

The Board is responsible for providing strategic direction, overseeing financial sustainability, and ensuring strong governance, risk management, and compliance frameworks. Key areas of focus during the year included strategic planning, financial oversight, program performance, risk management, and organisational sustainability.

In addition to its formal responsibilities, the Board plays an active role in supporting organisational development, including strengthening partnerships, monitoring educational offerings, and guiding initiatives to enhance membership, marketing, and long-term viability. Board sub-committees, including the Finance Sub-Committee, provide more detailed oversight of specific areas, ensuring rigorous review and informed decision-making.

Through its collaborative approach with Council, management, and the broader WEA Sydney community, the Board continues to uphold the organisation’s values while positioning it for a sustainable and responsive future in adult education.

BOARD MEMBERS

President - William Steenson

Vice-President - Sandra Harpley

ORDINARY BOARD MEMBERS

Angelo Arulanandam

Sandra Berridge

Louisa Denniss

Helen Falconer

Anne Krickler

Allison Lenard

Kimberley Robinson

David Zhang

Tiffany Roos (Executive Director)

Caroline Evans (Interim Executive Director
- June 2025)

WEA SYDNEY COUNCIL

The WEA Sydney Council embodies the organisation's commitment to democratic governance and community participation in adult education.

Comprising representatives of students, tutors, affiliated organisations and life members, the Council serves as the vital link between WEA Sydney's diverse stakeholders and its strategic direction.

Council Operations

Throughout 2025, Council meetings continued in hybrid format, enabling participation both in person at WEA House and online. This flexible approach has strengthened engagement, allowing members across Sydney and beyond to contribute to the organisation's governance.

Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at 4:00pm, maintaining consistent opportunities for member input.

Council members worked closely with the Executive and Board members throughout the year, ensuring smooth operations and responsive decision-making.

This collaborative approach has been particularly valuable in navigating the challenges facing adult education in an era of declining government support.

Council Functions and Contributions

One of Council's primary responsibilities is reviewing the quarterly program of courses planned for each upcoming term. This function ensures that WEA Sydney's course offerings remain responsive to student needs, reflect contemporary interests, and maintain the organisation's educational standards. Council representatives bring diverse perspectives from their experiences as students, tutors, and community members, enriching curriculum planning and program development.

Beyond program review, Council members contribute their knowledge and life experience to broader strategic discussions, participate in the Annual General Meeting voting process, and help maintain WEA Sydney's connection to its founding principles of accessible, democratic adult education.



WEA SYDNEY COUNCIL

Student Representatives

Angelo Arulanandam
Sandra Berridge
Louisa Chan
Louisa Denniss
Carol Duxbury
Ellen Elzey
Frances Gibson
Sandra Harpley
Josephine Hennock
Anne Kricker
Allison Lenard
Candy Raftopoulos
Fadia Sultan
Janet Timberg
Judith Welsh
Wendy Whittaker
David Zhang

Member Representatives

Andrew Byrnes
Jane Cioffi
Catherine D'Chong
Helen Falconer
Anne Plowman
Kimberley Robinson
Maree Slater
Bill Steenson

Tutor Representatives

John Coombs
Suzanne MacAlister
Maria Teixeira-Alves

Life Members

Margaret Bagby
Douglas Golding
Alan Green
Leth Maitland

Affiliate Members

Ian Bryce
Trang Nguyen
George Wardell



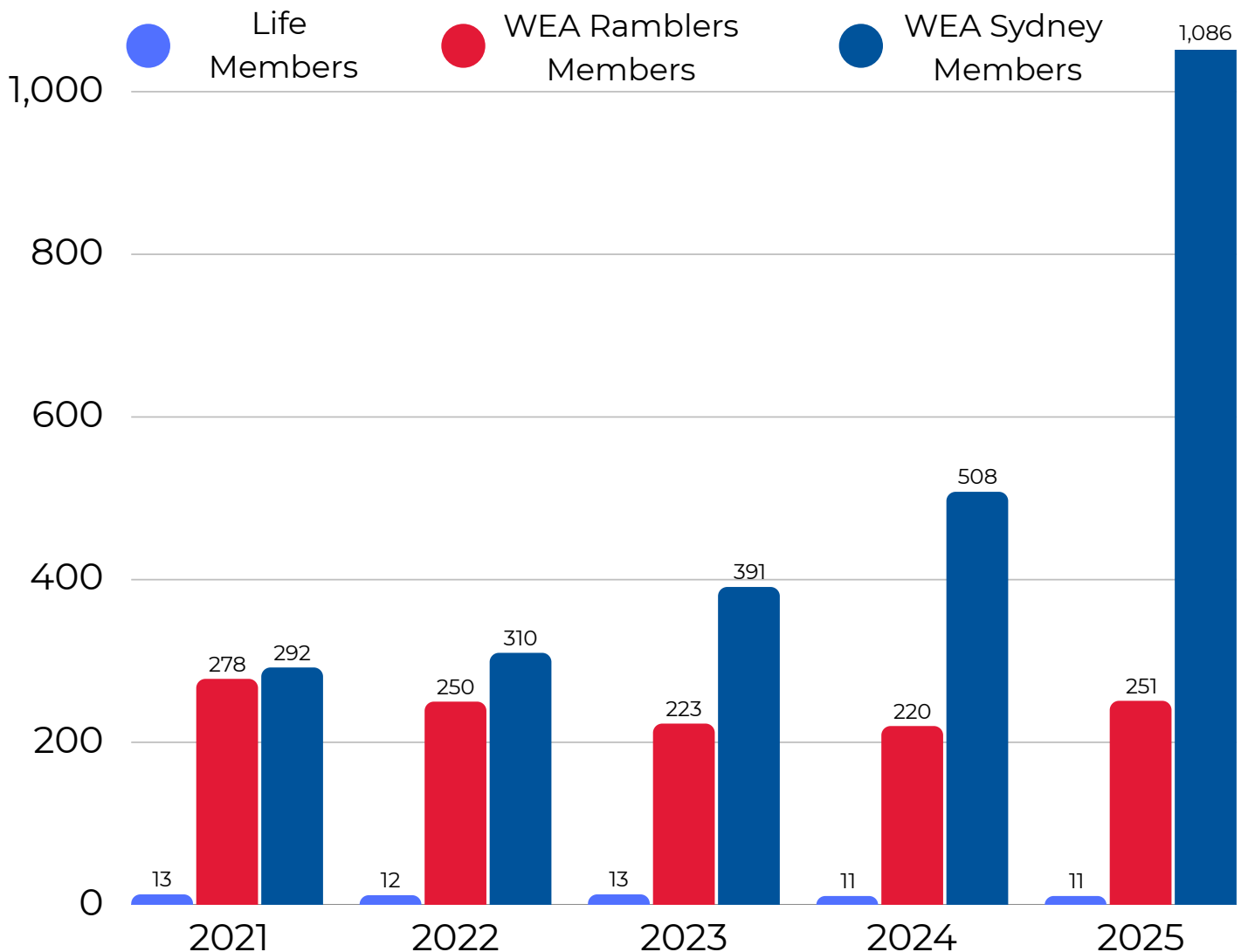
MEMBERSHIP TRENDS

In 2025, WEA Sydney's membership base demonstrated both the organisation's resilience and the ongoing importance of community support. Total membership stood at 1,297, comprising 1,086 WEA Sydney Members, 251 WEA Ramblers Members, and 11 Life Members.

While overall numbers have stabilised since 2021, membership remains a vital source of support in the face of declining government funding for

declining government funding for adult and community education. Annual memberships, priced at \$25 (or \$65 for three years), provide practical benefits such as course discounts and exclusive lectures, while also enabling members to participate in governance through Council representation. These figures highlight how membership continues to sustain WEA Sydney's democratic and community-focused approach to lifelong learning.

Our Year in Members



MEMBERSHIP TRENDS

Life Members

WEA Sydney honours eleven distinguished Life Members whose sustained contributions have shaped the organisation: Margaret Bagby, Sturt Duncan, Maureen Fry, Dr Douglas Golding, Alan Green, Alwyn Jordan, Joan Lawrence, Ron Lawrence, Leth Maitland, Richard Pinder and Suzanne Richardson. Their continued involvement exemplifies the commitment to lifelong learning and community service that defines WEA Sydney's culture.

Engaging New Council Members

Council continues to welcome new members who wish to contribute to

WEA Sydney's future. Councillors receive \$90 course vouchers for every three meetings attended, access to guest speakers, and opportunities to influence the organisation's direction. Those attending at least three meetings become eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting and may nominate for Board positions, creating pathways for deeper engagement with the organisation's governance.

The Council's monthly meetings remain open to all interested students, tutors, and members, maintaining WEA Sydney's founding commitment to participatory, democratic adult education.



MEMBERSHIP TRENDS

The WEA Sydney Ramblers

The WEA Sydney Ramblers continue our tradition of providing walks across Greater Sydney that cater for a range of interests and walking experiences. Nearly all our walks can be accessed using public transport. The walk programmes are published quarterly and are supplemented by short notice walks. All walks are made possible by our volunteer walk leaders.

During the year, there was a total of 111 completed walks, including 27 Short Notice Walks. Due to extreme weather conditions, 5 programmed walks were cancelled, as was the annual Christmas get together at Forty Baskets Beach. On the positive side, the 4-day Blue Mountains getaway in September was popular and a great success despite some inclement weather.

As of December 2025, the club has 251 members.

The 2026 AGM was held at WEA House on the 14th February, at which time the Vice President resigned, having reached the maximum term limit permitted by the Club's Constitution. All positions on the Committee were then open for nomination and were filled by nominees present at the AGM.

Further information about WEA Ramblers can be found at: www.wearamblers.org.au

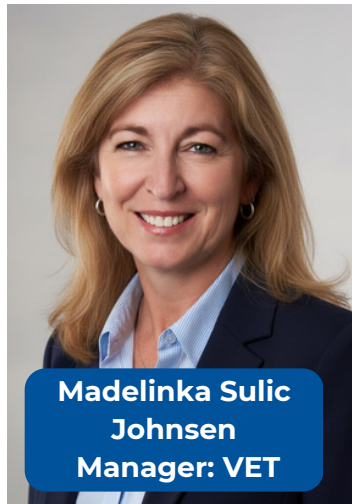
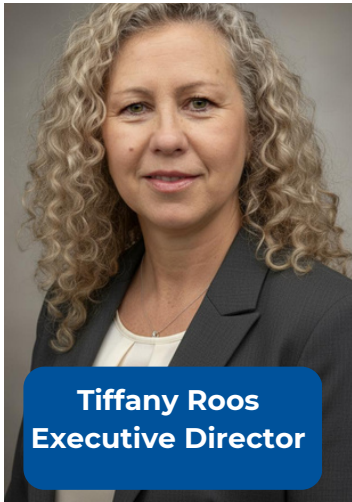
President: Michael Smith

Vice President: Fiona Matthews

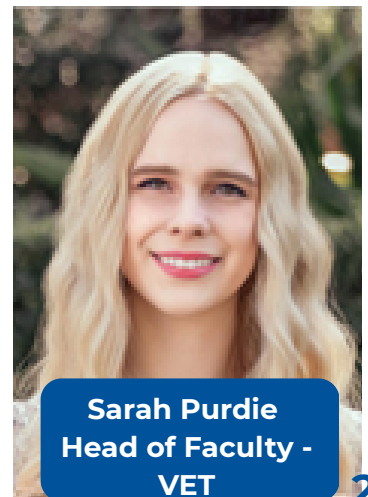
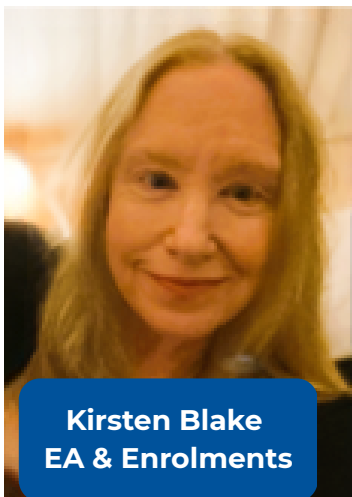
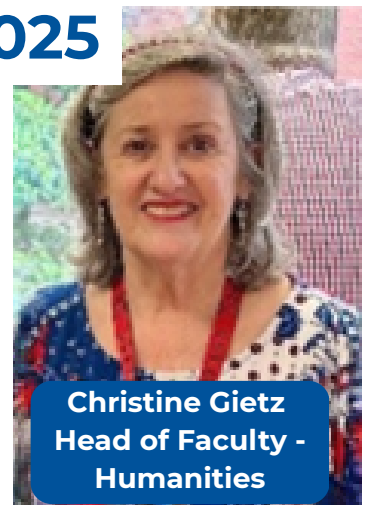
WEA Council Representative: Trang Nguyen



OUR STAFF 2025



The following staff left in 2025



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