



Community education to return to the Southern Highlands

WEA Inland courses start next week

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(photo and interview opportunity at 10am Friday 22nd Oct at Kazcare Early Learning Centre, cnr Kirkham & Centennial Roads Bowral)

WEA Illawarra, one of the most respected and well established adult and community colleges in NSW, is expanding its services into the Southern Highlands region with courses commencing the first week in November. To be operated under the name WEA Inland, this will reflect the geographic focus for delivery of these courses and ensure a separate identity for the WEA in this region.

According to Gareth McKeen; CEO for the WEA, *“This is an exciting development for the WEA and I am confident our courses and training will be well received”* *“Community Colleges operate in the community for the community and so it is important that WEA establishes its own identity in the Southern Highlands area”* *“We are keen to utilise local tutors and trainers where possible and to offer courses that will be of interest to and resonate with the Southern Highlands community”*

WEA Inland will offer courses at Kazcare Early Learning Centre in Bowral, formerly the site of the Steiner School. *“This is a wonderful venue for adult education and it is great to be able to utilise a facility that supports the aims of the WEA in looking to enrich people through learning”* commented McKeen. Lifestyle and general interest courses will be offered along with accredited vocational training and short business courses. The first round of courses include such diverse offerings as mosaics, candle making, renaissance art history, fiction writing, zarumba dance, household energy reduction, painting and pastels through to Diploma of Management and Certificate IV in Training and Education.

Gareth McKeen comments *“WEA is well known for the wide variety and eclectic range of courses offered so we hope to be able to offer some really interesting courses for the community over the coming years”* *“We are also supporting job seekers and existing workers with some government subsidised courses scheduled to start in late October and we plan on working with the local business community to offer training that their staff would find of benefit”*

WEA ran its first course in Wollongong in 1914 and primarily offering general interest courses but in the 1990's moved into vocational training as a registered training organisation. The Workers' Educational Association emerged from the UK in 1906 as a way to provide workers with learning opportunities and social interaction. As a not-for-profit company, WEA exists to support life-long learning and provide opportunities for engagement in education.

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