



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

well the year is in full swing, in fact, we have nearly reached Easter and the first school break. I think all of our members cherish this first school break as it is always wonderful to have our children home, the release from the schoolroom ourselves or avoiding the daily trip to school over bouncy roads for a little while.

In mid- February, representatives from all State Councils and Federal Council met in Adelaide for meetings to help strengthen our relationships, share information and plan ways forward with various issues. Opportunities for the councils to work together, exchange ideas and discuss ways to support each other and our members were once again invigorating and empowering. We truly appreciate the effort that all of the councils made to have someone present even though finding a time that works well for councillors from across the country can be quite a coordination challenge. A significant part of these meetings sees each council give an update of their recent work and everyone present eagerly listened to each state's report. It was truly awe inspiring to hear of the achievements, initiatives, passion and enthusiasm councils had. There is so much great work being done by ICPA all across the country.

The state conferences are another area where great work is being done and these hold provision for members and branches to have direct input into the dealings of ICPA. Many of the states have recently held their State Conference and the new State Councils will now begin work on the issues that have been brought forward. I extend my congratulations to those who have nominated and been elected to the State Councils and I know that they will be very effective in their advocacy.

Our conferences, both state and federal, also provide a time to reflect on our ICPA history and I always enjoy the stories and information that is shared at these times about various past councillors and ICPA members. We greatly respect and admire the work, effort and dedication of those before us and what our organisation has been able to achieve.



ICPA has great support from its members and we thank those members and branches that have shared information, their stories, background and understanding of the issues and how they affect rural and remote families in their daily lives.

Yet, there is still much work to be done to ensure our rural and remote students get a fair go with their educational opportunities. ICPA continues to make ground and get the message out there, however it is important to also think about the future of the organisation, how we will be able to take it forward and, most importantly, who will take it forward in the future.

As an organisation, we need to ensure that the accomplishments of ICPA can continue and that we have strong councils to do the legwork in our lobbying for change. In order to do this we need people who are passionate about making a difference in rural and remote education, members who will put up their hands and volunteer to take on these roles, help drive these changes and seek further advancement. Federal Conference is a great time to do this. At this year's Federal AGM, we will have several councillors who will be retiring from Federal Council, as well as some who will be stepping down from their executive positions. The recent years have been a very productive time in ICPA and we will miss these councillors immensely when they step off of our council. There will be several positions vacant and ICPA needs people to join our team and keep the momentum that has been created going. Without people power our council cannot work to the best of its ability and we cannot keep up the push for improvement adequately.

It can be overwhelming and intimidating to contemplate joining a council. We worry that we do not have the knowledge and skills necessary or that we are not up to the task. Most of us that are on councils now have had the same concerns before we took that step. Those that do take the leap and offer to help usually find it very rewarding. We make lifelong friends, learn a lot and there is a tremendous sense of accomplishment in knowing you are helping make a difference in our children's education and their futures. No previous council experience is

necessary, just passion and enthusiasm. There is a terrific support network on council and many other helping hands to guide us and encourage councillors. If you have a desire to work with a dynamic group of people and further the causes that ICPA represents, please consider joining Federal Council by nominating at the Federal Conference in August. You can contact any of the Federal Councillors or myself for further information about roles on Federal Council and how you can help. We would really welcome the chance to talk to you. The saying goes that "many hands make light work" and this is very true on our ICPA councils. With full councils we can continue to make great things happen for our rural and remote children.

Wendy Hick
Federal President

From Your Editor

Greetings to all members, especially any of you who may be reading Pedals for the first time.

As you can see from the photo in my editorial we have 'lift off' or in other words our daughter has officially graduated from Uni.

I've already got her doing some voluntary accounting for me; I knew a Bachelor of Business majoring in accounting would come in handy!

Thank you to all the wonderful contributors to this issue and how fantastic it is to have three of our young ICPA members writing of their experiences of Uni, Cambodia and an exchange trip to France. The girls have it sewn up this issue. Come on boys, your turn now!



My apologies to those of you who sent me lots of lovely photos for not being able to include all of them. Sometimes space just doesn't permit.

By the time you receive this WA, SA, NSW and NT will have held their State conferences/AGMs. Congratulations to all those who have stepped up to take office for the first time and thank you to those who are willingly continuing on for another time. Without these people ICPA would not exist.

Our next issue is July and the deadline is 15th May. I will be overseas at the time but please still send your material in by the deadline if possible. I will be jumping through hoops to get it compiled on my return at the end of May.

Where am I off to I hear you ask? Well it's very exciting as my travel buddy and I are off to Scandinavia for a three week coach tour then onto Iceland for a week's tour.

ICPA has really moved with the times with a strong presence on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as well as the ICPA website www.icpa.com.au and our newest venture, an ICPA blog which can be found at <https://icpachat.wordpress.com>

With the world moving at a faster pace and people wanting information almost immediately it can be difficult to make a quarterly magazine relevant and interesting. That's where I need your help. Not everyone will be on the various forms of social media, some don't have time for it, others aren't interested. Some people would prefer to sit down with a cuppa and read Pedals.

So please make an effort to share your social media items with readers of Pedals. I know it's easier to put up a photo and a few lines than write an article for the magazine but they don't have to be essays. States, branches and members all have something to contribute.

Raelene Hall
Editor