

# MINUTES

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INCORPORATED

Convened at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Moree

If attending: Town and Country Club

5 Frome Street, Moree NSW

Or VIA Teleconference



**President**  
**Claire Butler**

**Secretary**  
**Deborah Castle**

**Claire Butler, ICPA-NSW President.**

I would like to welcome you all here today and we appreciate your attendance under these circumstances using the teleconferencing facility today. I'll just go through a couple of formalities. If you could mute your telephones until you need to speak that would be greatly appreciated. We are speaking from a mobile telephone on speaker today and that would help us to be able to hear. I will read the names of those who are present today and for the benefit of the teleconference, when I get to your name, if you are on and we have done the best that we can to try and establish who is coming on today, if you could answer "yes" when I call your name. Just so that you are aware, today's meeting will be recorded and we are doing so to the best of our ability and we have many note takers so thank you to those.

**Attendance in the room.**

Tanya Mitchell  
 Deb Castle  
 Irene Lund  
 Shennah Joiner  
 Claire Butler  
 David Butler  
 Skye Brag  
 Annabel Strachan  
 Libby McPhee  
 Tim Fletcher  
 Pam Fletcher  
 Caroline McDonald  
 Kate Warbey  
 Phoebe Watts

**Apologies**

David Shrimpton

**Attendance via Teleconference**

Lindy Kitto  
 Virginia Parkel-Thomas  
 Heather Druce  
 Laura Stalley  
 Bernadette Walker  
 Jesse Donohue  
 Alana Moller ICPA (Aust) President  
 Kerrie Johnston  
 Nikki Macqueen ICPA (Aust) Secretary  
 Suzanne Wilson ICPA (Aust)  
 Jane O'Brien ICPA (Aust)  
 Monique Watkin  
 Gabie Le Lievre  
 Kellie Turnbull  
 Sue Gordon  
 Rory Treweeke  
 Joan Treweeke  
 Sue Kingwill  
 Sarnia Walker  
 Nerida Healey  
 Kate Treweeke  
 Ellen Walker

Thank you. I shall hand over to Secretary, Deb Castle.

**Deborah Castle****ICPA-NSW Secretary**

For the adoption of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting I move the following motion:

**Motion 01.03.20** *"That the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting as circulated electronically be accepted as a true and accurate record."*

*Seconded:* Tim Fletcher, State Council. Carried.

Business arising from the Minutes: Nil

Correspondence: Nil

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## Secretary's Report

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**Madam President, distinguished guests, fellow members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen.**

It is with great pleasure that I present my first secretary report to Conference. I have had very big shoes to fill following our last secretary Helen Ponder. Helen was a very organised person and knowledgeable in all things ICPA. I am lucky to remember to gather all my clothes from the motel room, so watch this space!! I feel very privileged to be a part of ICPA-NSW State Council and have learnt so much this year, I have felt so supported by all my fellow state councillors as the last 12 months were a bit like a roller coaster for my family. Hopefully I can continue to fulfil this role to the best of my ability for our members for the next 12 months.

State Council have had another busy year advocating for equity of access to education on behalf of rural, remote and very remote families.

The State Council executive attended mini deputation to Sydney in July. Meetings were held with Telstra, Transport for NSW (TfNSW), Ministers Taylor, Mitchell, Toole, Marshall and Dalton, Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) and the NSW Department of Education (DoE). It is appreciated that these organisations and Departments make the time to meet with ICPA to listen to concerns and State Council look forward to further associations with them in the future.

Main deputation was held in October with a busy schedule planned over the four days. State Councillors split into groups and attended to 34 meetings taking several relevant discussion points to each meeting. This is a very useful way of getting issues most affecting our members heard at both a parliamentary level and with key educational stakeholders.

Some of the main issues ICPA-NSW took to Sydney were focused around Early Childhood, Distance Education (DE), Travel, and Communications. State Council had the opportunity to enforce the effects of the drought and the impact it is having on families and mental health. Many issues raised in Sydney were brought to the ICPA State Conference held in Buronga by delegates and members. It is important that issues be brought to State Council so that they can then be researched and followed up on. In saying that, issues do not have to be carried at a Conference to be raised with State Council. ICPA-NSW Councillors are available all year round to listen and advocate on behalf of its members.

Some of the feedback from our meetings was that these organisations and parliamentarians see our organisation as a great source of information for them as this helps with their decision making and strength in services that they can deliver to you as members.

Congratulations to the Moree team who have organised and presented a very professional conference this year. The convening committee have worked tirelessly to make this conference a successful conference. I would like to extend a warm welcome to those who have made the time to join us here this week.

I would like to finish with a quote from Helen Keller.

*“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”*

**Deborah Castle**  
**ICPA-NSW Secretary**

**Motion 02.03.20** “*That the Secretary’s Report be accepted.*”

Moved by Deb Castle, Secretary. Seconded: David Butler, State Council. Carried.

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## Treasurer’s Report

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**Madam President, fellow members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I present the Treasurer’s Report for the 2019 Financial Year.** These audited financial statements, with accompanying auditor’s report, have been prepared by Kellie Nulty, Accountant in Mildura.

### **Statement of Income and Expenditure:**

There are several points of interest in this year’s figures compared to last year’s.

- *Memberships:* The amount of \$15,795 is the total of all 2019 memberships, whether they were collected in the 2018 financial year or in the 2019 financial year. This figure is inclusive of both online and branch payments to ICPA-NSW.
- *Donations:* Included in this amount are Branch Donations, ICPA (Aust) Federal Conference donation, Telstra Partnership agreement funds and the Boarding Schools Expo donation.
- *Government Grants:* The Educational Support Grant (ESG) for the 2019/20 financial year was received in late August. This included the previously announced increase of 7.5%. ICPA-NSW thanks the NSW Department of Education and former Minister for Education, Rob Stokes, for this welcomed increase.
- *Funds Held in Trust:* \$2,908.39 is being held in trust by ICPA-NSW for Cobar Branch and an additional \$4,985.04 is being held in trust by Lone Members for Warrumbungle Branch. These funds will be absorbed by State Council if the branches do not reform within 5 years of going into recess.
- *Income:* An additional category has been applied this year to account for the online membership payments. This category, PayPal, is balanced by the expenditure categories of Federal Membership and Branch Fees.
- *Expenditure:* Overall expenses for the 2019 year was \$87,875.00. This expenditure is similar to the 2018 financial year. Within that spending were increases in Top Wire Costs, both for the printing and postage. This has been largely offset by the inclusion of paid advertising in Top Wire. The increase in postage is also attributed to an overcharging error by Australia post. This is being sorted out and we should receive a refund soon. State Council’s overall expenses were lower this year with many meetings attended via Video link and Teleconference instead of face to face.

The final result for the 2019 financial year is a profit of \$28,693.00.

### **Assets and Liabilities Statement:**

The overall equity position of ICPA-NSW for 2019 is as follows;

- *Assets:* The Unexpended Donation Account has not been utilised this financial year, the balance remains unchanged.
- *Plant & Equipment:* A projector was purchased during 2019.

**Merchandise:**

ICPA-NSW merchandise has had sales totaling \$717.00 for the 2019 year, thanks to the efforts of Merchandise Convener, David Shrimpton. This has been a difficult year for Merchandise sales due to the economic climate. Many thanks to David for continuing to travel to both State and Federal Conferences showing our ICPA-NSW wares for sale. Due to the limited sales, there has not been a need to purchase much additional stock.

**Lone Members:**

I would like to thank Irene Lund for the dedication she has shown in this role. Irene has been a great source of assistance to me during my first year on State Council. Lone Members ended the 2019 year with 116 members.

**Sponsorship:**

ICPA-NSW is very appreciative of the continued support of Telstra through a community partnership agreement. ICPA-NSW would also like to again thank Meg Bennett from the Boarding Schools Expo for the generous 2019 donation. DestinationNSW generously sponsored the 2019 Buronga State Conference to the amount of \$6,850. DestinationNSW have followed up by supporting this year's ICPA-NSW Moree conference. We would like to also thank our new sponsor, the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) for their generous grant towards the Moree 2020 conference. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors, both major, and also the just as valuable smaller contributors, your generosity helps make our conferences affordable for all members.

**Membership:**

At the end of the 2019 membership year, ICPA-NSW had 25 financial branches (not including Lone Members), and five branches in recess.

Membership numbers for 2019 are slightly lower than 2018 at 838. There has been a slow decline over the last few years. The online membership platform has continued to be popular. Most Branch Treasurers are now familiar with the process and it offers members an easy method to pay their membership. I would like to congratulate the Branch Treasurers for their efforts. It can be a difficult job getting members to pay on time. We must be mindful when reminding families of the need to pay their membership when so many are doing it tough and this conversation can be a difficult one. It is heartening to see that some branches have deferred their branch fee to help alleviate the financial burden on their members. This small act may make the difference between a member re-joining or leaving. So again, thank you. Many branches are now holding their AGM in late November or early December, this makes the treasurers job difficult as memberships are due on the 31st of December. I would encourage you to consider holding your AGM in October or early November so you can set your branch fees and get your memberships in by the due date.

I came to this role having no idea what I was getting into and I know a couple of you must still be wondering what I am doing! Many thanks to the past treasurer, Rachel Brindley, she managed to convince me over a two-hour period that I could do this (no, there was no alcohol involved so I am totally responsible for my actions). Rachel presented me with many good reasons as to why I would be good at this role. It all sounded good until a parcel arrived from her about four weeks later, complete with Laptop, folders and invoices. I sat and stared and thought "what have I done". You will be pleased to know that things haven't changed. You see, I am an introvert. I only attended the conference as my youngest son said, "you need to get out and meet people". Well he is eating his words now, he is getting sick of me saying "just wait, I have some ICPA work to do". I am still learning and to my knowledge, I think it is all going ok.!

To my fellow State Councillors, a very big thank you, you have all made me feel so welcome and supported as I make this role my own. I look forward to continuing to work together for this great cause.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all Branch Treasurers for their patience and support. Whilst many of the Branch Treasurers remain unchanged from last year, there are also a few new faces. Please take the time to introduce yourselves.

**Shennah Joiner.**  
**Honorary Treasurer.**

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**Isolated Children's Parents Association of NSW Inc**  
**ABN 68 132 394 867**

**Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 31 December 2019**

**Income Statement**

**Balance Sheet**

**Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial**

**Statements Committee Statement**

**Independent Audit Report**

**ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC**  
**ABN 68 132 394 867**  
**INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Sales of Merchandise	717	2,099
Memberships	15,795	17,108
PayPal	17,392	-
Donations	15,186	10,941
Government Grants	55,455	51,586
Sundry Income	5,804	573
Advertising	5,977	-
Interest Received	<u>242</u>	<u>1,747</u>
	<b><u>116,568</u></b>	<b><u>84,054</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Audit & Accounting Fees	1,500	1,500
Bank Charges	174	99
Branch Fee	7,228	2,636
Brochures & Badges	134	1,280
Computer Costs	863	1,570
State Conference Expenses	7,588	12,448
Federal Conference Expenses	5,465	5,988
Federal Membership	10,164	-
Government Charges	97	45
Depreciation	609	522
Donations	605	260
Insurance	1,476	1,486
Meeting Expenses	34,661	46,687
Merchandise Purchases	233	282
Newsletter	12,400	6,906
Postage	3,079	930
Printing & Stationery	305	1,571
Subscriptions	457	343
Sundry Expenses	717	3,432
Telephone & Internet	<u>120</u>	<u>-</u>
	<b><u>87,875</u></b>	<b><u>87,985</u></b>
Net Profit/(Loss)	<b><u>28,693</u></b>	<b><u>(3,931)</u></b>

**ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC**  
**ABN 68 132 394 867**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECMEBER 2019**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash on Hand	20	20
NAB Cash Management Account	88,971	58,738
NAB Cheque Account	48,756	57,967
NAB Merchandise Account	4,456	4,004
Westpac Lone Members Account	24,427	24,877
Unexpended Donation Account	9,494	9,494
PayPal	3,840	-
Opal Cards	399	
Grant Receivable	-	51,586
Stock on Hand	5,325	5,325
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>185,688</u>	<u>212,011</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Plant & Equipment	13,285	13,285
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(12,676)</u>	<u>(12,066)</u>
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>609</u>	<u>1,219</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>186,297</u>	<u>213,230</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
NAB Business Credit Card	18	3,181
GST Control	3,816	3,188
Income in Advance	-	52,641
Lone Members Trust	24,427	24,877
Unexpended Donation	9,494	9,494
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>37,755</u>	<u>93,381</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>37,755</u>	<u>93,381</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>148,542</u>	<u>119,849</u>
 <b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		
Opening Balance	119,849	123,780
Profit/(Loss) for the year	<u>28,693</u>	<u>(3,931)</u>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>	<u>148,542</u>	<u>119,849</u>



**ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC**  
**ABN 68 132 394 867**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies**

These financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the members and Associations Incorporations Act NSW. The Committee has determined that the organisation is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

**a. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

**b. Revenue and Other Income**

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtained over the funds, which is generally, at the time of receipt.

**c. Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

**d. Plant & Equipment**

Plant & equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all plant & equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

**Note 2: Related Parties**

The names of the Committee members who have held office during the period are:

Claire Butler - President	Gabrielle Le Lievre - Publicity Officer
Bruce Paynter - Immediate Past President	Kerrie Johnston - Top Wire Editor
David Butler - Vice President	David Shrimpton - ICPA Merchandise
Libby McPhee - Vice President	Annabel Strachan
Deborah Castle - Secretary	Skye Bragg
Ali Briggs - Assistant Secretary (Resigned)	Tanya Mitchell
Shennah Joiner - Treasurer	Tim Fletcher
Irene Lund - Lone Members Officer	

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties.

**ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC  
ABN 68 132 394 867  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

**Note 3: Contingent Liabilities**

At 31 December 2019 the Committee is unaware of any liability, contingent or otherwise, which has not already been recorded elsewhere in these financial statements.

**Note 4: Capital Commitments**

At 31 December 2019 the Committee is unaware of any capital commitments, which has not already been recorded elsewhere in these financial statements.

**Note 5: Events Occurring After Reporting Date**

Since the date of these financial statements, there have been no events occurring after reporting date which require specific disclosure.

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**Motion 03.03.20** *“That the 2018 audited financial statement of ICPA-NSW Inc. and the accompanying Treasurer’s Report be accepted.”*

Moved by Shennah Joiner, Treasurer. Seconded by Libby McPhee, State Council. Carried

**Motion 04.03.20** *“That Kellie Nulty (CA, RCA) be retained as auditor for ICPA-NSW Inc. for the 2020 financial year.”*

Moved by Shennah Joiner, Treasurer. Seconded by Libby McPhee, State Council. Carried

**Motion 05.03.20** *“That family membership of ICPA-NSW remain at \$18.00 for the 2020 membership year.”*

Moved by Shennah Joiner, Treasurer. Seconded by Libby McPhee. Carried.

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## General Business

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**Claire Butler, President.**

Taking into consideration the special situation we find ourselves in today, as everybody is aware, we have had to cancel the 2020 conference and the reports were printed prior to this date as they were printed in anticipation of conference so we do apologise that there was mention in there of the conference and it's success. It has been a really decision to make. It really wasn't easy but these are really unprecedented times. As a State Council we just hope that everybody, our membership, can understand the decision that was made. Moving forward, there will be something that we need to plan to be able to work through our motions and we will be seeking the advice of our members and the Federal Council and even outside with our stakeholders. CWA, having to cancel their conference, we are keen to watch how they are going to deliver their motions so, we remain very committed to do so as a State Council. That's what we are here for. We are here to support our families and their issues. So, taking into consideration the special circumstances we find ourselves in today, we really would like to acknowledge the hard work that the Moree Convening Committee has put into this. Many of us have convened conferences before and we know the work that goes into this. We really do and we are really, really sorry that this has not worked out and there is a great disappointment.

So, taking into consideration the special situation we find ourselves in today I seek the meeting's permission to consider the following motion and this is moving forward because we have to work towards handing over a lot of equipment to a branch that is interested in taking on the 2021 Annual Conference.

I seek conference's permission to present the following motion.

*"That Hay Branch host the ICPA – NSW State Conference in March 2021 in Hay."*

I am seeking the meeting's permission to present this motion on behalf of the Hay Branch.

We have raised hands in the room. A majority in favour of presenting this motion. There is a majority in this room.

**Laura Stalley, Hillston Branch.** I would like to support this motion.

**Lindy Kitto, Lone Members.** I support this motion.

**Sue Gordon, Lone Members.** I support this motion.

**Virginia Parkel-Thomas, Collarenebri-Mungindi Branch.** I support this motion.

**Gabie LeLievre, State Council.** I support this motion.

**Rory Treweeke, Life Member.** I support the motion.

**Kerrie Johnston, Rankins Springs Branch.** I support the motion.

**Nerida Healy, Wentworth Branch.** I support the motion.

**Bernadette Walker, Lone Member.** I support the motion.

**Ellen Walker, Rankins Springs Branch.** I support the motion.

**Claire Butler, President.**

Thank you for that. Do we have anyone who does not support this motion being presented?

No. I therefore ask for the motion to be presented.

**Motion 06.03.20** *“That Hay Branch host the ICPA – NSW State Conference in March 2021 in Hay.”*

Moved by Monique Watkin, Hay Branch. Seconded by Caroline McDonald, Lone Member on behalf of Hay Branch. Carried.

**Claire Butler, President.**

Thank you very much Hay Branch.

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**Sarnia Walker, Moree Branch.**

Just before we move onto the reports, I have something that is still relevant to General Business please.

**Claire Butler, President.**

Sarnie you will have to move a motion that you seek conference’s permission to consider a motion.

**Sarnia Walker, Moree Branch.**

Well, I was just going to advise you and the secretary that it says in reports “Congratulations on a great conference etc..” in the secretary’s report and in order for that to be true and correct it might need to be adjusted also.

**Claire Butler, President.**

Can we have the meeting’s permission for the necessary wording changes in the reports? To remove the last paragraph which states, “Congratulations to the Moree team who have organised and presented a very professional conference this year. The convening committee have worked tirelessly to make this conference a successful conference. I would like to extend a warm welcome to those who have made the time to join us here this week.” We do apologise for that. It was printed earlier.

Permission granted.

**Claire Butler, President.**

Sarnia would you like to move that motion?

**Motion 07.03.20.** *“That the secretary’s report be adjusted to reflect a true and accurate record of what has occurred to the conference.”*

Moved by Sarnia Walker. Seconded by Kate Warby, Moree Branch. Carried.

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## Merchandise Report

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Presented by Irene Lund, State Council on behalf of David Shrimpton, Merchandise Manager.

**Madam President, distinguished guests, members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I present the NSW Merchandise Manager's Report.**

The sale of merchandise was slow at both the 2019 State Conference in Wentworth and the Federal Conference in Adelaide, which may be attributed to the current financial conditions affecting out members at present.

Prior to the NSW State Conference, a small order of eight polo shirts was purchased to ensure that all sizes were available. There was also a phone order completed in the lead up to Christmas.

The merchandise stand is well stocked with all sizes of polos and shirts available, please visit and show you belong to this amazing organisation by purchasing and wearing with pride items from the ICPA merchandise.

**David Shrimpton**  
**Merchandise Manager**

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## NSW Membership Officer Report

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**Madam President, distinguished guests, members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I present the NSW Membership Officer's Report.**

- At the end of 2019 ICPA-NSW had 834 financial members which includes 77 new members. At the end of 2018 we had 856 financial members
- Branches are informed of any new or renewing members who have used the online portal.
- New Member Welcome Packs are mailed to new members and new school contact people within a short time frame of joining.
- We have an occasional new member who nominates one of the branches in recess. Anyone nominating one of these branches is looked after by NSW/Vic Lone Members and an email sent to the new member explaining why and given the opportunity to perhaps choose another branch.
- Address labels for the Top Wire were printed and mailed to Kerrie Johnston on each occasion of a Top Wire being printed.
- Address labels were also produced to mail out Boarding School Expo flyers early in the year.

**Irene Lund**  
**NSW Membership Officer**

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## Lone Members Report

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**Madam President, distinguished guests, members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I present the Lone Members Report.**

NSW/Vic Lone Members is the one of the biggest group of members within ICPA-NSW. Lone Members are usually members who live too far from a branch to attend meetings and may be involved in educating isolated children or interested in supporting those who do. A number of Boarding Schools in NSW and Victoria also hold membership as many of their boarders come from regional and remote areas and the schools wish to support the aims of ICPA.

Highlights for 2019 for NSW/Vic Lone Members include:

- A total of 62 family members and 54 school/organisation members by the end of 2019
- Regular newsletters to members keeping them informed and involved
- Hosting a visit by the Governor of NSW and ICPA-NSW Patron, The Hon Margaret Beazley AO QC and her husband in Cobar in October

One of the best things about being the Lone Members Officer is to be able to get to know so many people across NSW and Victoria through emails, phone calls and face to face interaction at conferences or Boarding School Expos and anywhere elsewhere in between. It is always a pleasure to meet or receive an email or phone call from a Lone Member.

It is also a great privilege to be on State Council and count everyone as special friends. Thank you to all the Council members who have given me so much advice, help and encouragement during the last three plus years. I wish the next Lone Members Officer to have as much joy in the role as I have had.

**Irene Lund**  
**Lone Members Officer**

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## Top Wire Report

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**Madam President, distinguished guests, fellow members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I present the Top Wire Report.**

Congratulations once again to the ICPA-NSW State Councillors for their commitment and dedication as they lobby for issues around education of rural and remote families in NSW.

A tremendous effort indeed and you can read all about their efforts in each edition of the Top Wire as they helpfully contribute their reports.

Thank you to the branches who have contributed Waratah News articles and I would encourage every branch to consider contributing at least once a year. The size of the article is irrelevant as ICPA-NSW members are keen to learn about the lives of rural and remote families.

Thank you, Irene Lund, our ICPA-NSW Membership Officer for posting the address labels to me for mailing each edition and for keeping the address database of members up to date. Irene also had the arduous task of liaising with school's wishing to be included in our new initiative of having their schools advertised in our annual full colour November edition of the Top Wire, of which she handled with aplomb!

Whilst it was a mammoth task in this initial start-up phase, Irene has paved the way forward for her new successor in this role and should be considerably easier for future November editions of the Top Wire.

Many thanks once again to the Rankins Springs Branch who unreservedly come together to package and post each edition of Top Wire for your reading pleasure.

**Kerrie Johnston**  
**Top Wire Editor**

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**Claire Butler, President.**

Just for the record of the meeting I would like to say that Simon Lees, from Toowoomba Anglican Grammar School is also here in the room.

So, we will move to the Publicity Officer/Webmaster report and if I could just remind everybody to please mute their phones as there is a little bit of conversation going on in the background with one of your phones. So, please if you could just mute or not say anything unless you need to or unless requested. Thank you.

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### **Publicity/Webmaster Report**

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Henry Ford once quoted *“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success”*. To that I would say he knew ICPA even before it had come to fruition.

**Madam President, distinguished guests, members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I present the Publicity/Webmaster Report for 2020. And welcome to Moree.**

It seems very surreal that I am here presenting my report in Moree as these past twelve months seem to have flown by since I took on the new joint role of Publicity Officer and Webmaster at the conclusion of the 2019 State Conference at Buronga. Even though it has been a very busy year it has also been a very rewarding one.

#### **2019 State Conference**

“Striving for the Best in the Far West” 2019 saw the inaugural Supervisors Information Day held the day prior to conference with the perfect theme of “Our Kids Our Futures”. Everyone who attended enjoyed engaging with the guest speakers and being very open to learning and connecting. It is pleasing to see that this has continued onto Moree. The 2019, or the 47th Annual ICPA-NSW State conference, was held at Buronga, near Mildura, hosted by Wentworth Branch on 6th and 7th March. There was a very pleasing attendance from branches even during these continuing hard times, especially the Far West Branches that also have huge distances to travel to attend and are struggling with the unrelenting drought like so many of our members. A huge congratulations to Nerida Healey, President of Wentworth Branch and her convening committee. Those that attended no doubt would agree that it was a busy but smooth, entertaining and as always fantastic two days.



## **Facebook**

Facebook has continued to evolve into a very useful tool State Council and Branches use to keep members informed of issues and relevant information as it comes to hand. It is a great platform to share posts from like-minded groups including ICPA (Aust) and other State pages along with information from pages relevant to our members for example posts regarding mental health, sports, drought assistance, and more recently fire information. Facebook will continue to be a helpful platform to reach the majority of our members on a very regular basis.

## **Top Wire and Pedals**

I submitted articles and photos to both the State and Federal magazines, which all members would have received, and no doubt enjoyed the fantastic read both magazines offer. Both Kerrie at 'Top Wire' for NSW and Raelene at 'Pedals' for Federal need to be congratulated on their roles as Editors. Thank you both for doing a great job promoting ICPA through these publications and keeping our members informed of all the happenings around the state.

## **Main Deputation**

In October, State Council as a collective descended on Sydney for our annual deputation. Our contingent consisted of Immediate Past President Bruce Paynter, President Claire Butler, Secretary Deb Castle, Vice Presidents David Butler and Libby McPhee, Treasurer Shennah Joiner, myself, Councillors Irene Lund, Skye Bragg, Annabel Strachan, Tanya Mitchell and Tim Fletcher. All Councillors came with clear issues outlined for their various portfolios and what a busy schedule we did have for the four days that lay ahead. Over the course of the week State Council divided for meetings with various Ministers, Members of Parliament, Shadow Ministers and senior advisors and industry. Discussions over the four days included, but was not restricted to, small rural school transport, HECS type loans, Income Contingent Loans, School Drive Subsidy (SDS) for preschoolers and access to technology, importance of early intervention, ARIA classifications, our ICPA-NSW Drought survey and its results, the Parliamentary enquiry, Tertiary travel allowance, drought funding, connectivity for satellite schools, School of The Air (SOTA) drought funding, Child Care Subsidy for 12–15 year olds, Telehealth, bus numbers for bus runs, increasing data plans for rural families, SkyMuster Plus trials, UNICEF Drought Summit, recognition for graduate teachers teaching in the distance education schoolroom, and second year visa criteria and drought support for families to keep their children at boarding school. Many photos of these meetings were posted to our Facebook page over the course of the week and days following.

While on deputation President Claire Butler and I had an interview on ABC Radio on "*Evenings with Chris Bath*" which was positively received and heard statewide. Even though it was a very hectic few days in Sydney it was a very rewarding few days as we were well received in all our meetings and were able to convey our members very relevant and vital issues with regards to drought, mental health, education, communication and everywhere else in between. Throughout 2019 we have been able to give ICPA a face via various media interviews and we have been well supported by ABC Radio including Broken Hill, Tamworth and ABC Rural, in addition to The Land Magazine, and various other publications. I thank those mentioned and others for their continued support of ICPA. As we all know that "*ICPA is as necessary today as it ever has been*" as said by Federal Life Member Mrs Pat Mitchell at the 2019 Federal Conference.

From me personally I would like to thank my fellow State Councillors for being so supportive to the '*new kid on the block*' it sure has made my coming onto State Council a very enjoyable experience. Being able to become a part of such a great team has been amazing. Every great team though is only that because of the leadership shown to them and for this I would like to thank our President, Claire Butler, who has taken on the role of President this year and raised the bar high.



ICPA-NSW continues to strive to provide a strong voice advocating for our rural and remote families driven by personal experience and determination like no other. In the words of our Education Minister, The Hon. Sarah Mitchell *“We need to make sure that children have the opportunities and don’t miss out no matter where they live or whatever their post code is”*.

**Gabie Le Lievre**  
**Publicity Officer/Webmaster**

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## Election of Office Bearers

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**All positions were declared vacant and Susan Kingwill took the Chair via teleconference for the elections, appointment of Scrutineers and Returning Officer.**

**Susan Kingwill, CEO Contact Inc.**

Thank you, Claire. It is a great pleasure to be with you all again to share the AGM and in times of adversity I truly believe that is when the solid foundations of an organisation are revealed. I am sure, along with everybody else, that we certainly share the same sentiments. I believe that ICPA-NSW has shown its true strength throughout the year and I especially want to congratulate Madam President, Claire Butler, and the Council for all their efforts despite the challenges of drought, the economic situation, bush fires and the more recently, Covid-19. I’m sure that everyone online at this AGM share a collect spirit of support for the NSW Council and its members to take the organisation into the future.

To move more formally to the election of office bearers. There are two processes at the AGM.

ICPA has a structure where there are three Trustees appointed to the organisation and these have a further oversight of the organisation’s governess approaches. The Trustees that are nominated for the year 2020 are the continuation of Anne Milliken and Lindy Kitto. Joan Treweeke is the nominee for 2020 for a three-year tenure.

### **Trustee 2020**

Joan Treweeke nominated by Deborah Castle. Seconded by David Butler, State Council.  
Accepted

Could I have an acclamation of acceptance of the three Trustees: -

Joan Treweeke

Ann Milliken

Lindy Kitto.

I’d like to move onto the election of Office Bearers and Committee Members for the State Council of the Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association of NSW, Inc. The Council can comprise of a president; two vice-presidents; a secretary; an assistant secretary; a treasurer; a lone member officer; a publicity officer; as well as the potential of six additional committee members. I wish to share that there have been many nominations for the different aspects I have shared with you and any positions that haven’t been filled will be declared as casual vacancies and the ICPA-NSW Council has the capacity to second people to that role in the coming year. Should the President who has been in place for the last four months not nominate

to be the President in the coming year they move on to being the Immediate Past President in the coming year and they are entitled to one vote at council meetings and at the annual conference.

**Claire Butler, President.**

I'm sorry to interrupt Susan but we have been asked who the scrutineers are? I'm sorry to do this but we are just seeking some information on this. It is difficult under the circumstances of the teleconference and we would hate to go forward with the election without advice on this.

**Susan Kingwill, CEO Contact Inc.**

Is it of assistance, Claire, if I advise that there is only one nomination for each of the positions and therefore there is not going to be a vote so there may not be a need for scrutineers?

**Claire Butler, President.**

Thank you, that is fine and I am really sorry to interrupt but I think is important to get that clarification.

**Susan Kingwill, CEO Contact Inc.**

I think we are navigating this one all together. So, with that background it is with great pleasure that I would like to advise that we will go through all the nominations rather than seeking acclamation of acceptance for each one and we will deal with that at the end of the election.

**President**

Claire Butler nominated by Libby McPhee. Seconded by Irene Lund. Accepted

**Vice Presidents (two)**

David Butler nominated by Tim Fletcher. Seconded by Shennah Joiner. Accepted

Libby McPhee nominated by Caroline McDonald. Seconded by Skye Bragg. Accepted

**Secretary**

Deborah Castle nominated by Irene Lund. Seconded by Caroline McDonald. Accepted

**Assistant Secretary**

No nominations at the time of the AGM. Position casual vacancy.

**Treasurer**

Shennah Joiner nominated by Tim Fletcher. Seconded by Tanya Mitchell. Accepted

**Publicity Officer**

Gabie LeLievre nominated by Shennah Joiner. Seconded by Skye Bragg. Accepted

**Committee**

Tim Fletcher nominated by Pam Fletcher. Seconded by Shennah Joiner. Accepted

Annabel Strachan nominated by Skye Bragg. Seconded by Libby McPhee. Accepted

Kellie Turnbull nominated by David Butler. Seconded by Libby McPhee. Accepted

I declare that no other nominations have been received and there is no contesting for any of the roles according to my information and I would like to congratulate all of the new committee for 2020. Can we have an acclamation to wish the councillors all the best for the coming year?  
Acclamation.

**Claire Butler, President.**

We had a nomination for Laura Stalley come in. I'm just not sure what the protocol is here, whether we leave that and co-opt her on if you haven't got the nomination in your physical hands.

**Susan Kingwill, CEO Contact Inc.**

I understand the process is that this needs to be presented at the time of the AGM and that it has to be provided by a certain time prior to the AGM but I haven't received that nomination.

**Claire Butler, President.**

Yes, that's our fault. We do have a copy here but I'll let you continue.

**Susan Kingwill, CEO Contact Inc.**

Can I ask if the nomination was received by the deadline as per your constitution?

**Claire Butler, President.**

Yes it was. We just haven't been able to get it to you with everything that has been happening.

**Susan Kingwill, CEO Contact Inc.**

I haven't got it in front of me but I think it is appropriate to receive it if you did receive it by the deadline. If you could share first of all, who the person is, what role they are nominating for and who proposed them.

**Claire Butler, President.**

We are just bringing that up electronically and apologise for the delay. To reiterate - the issue that we have is that the nomination has come back from Laura Stalley however we haven't signed the nomination form so we might leave that and work with Laura afterwards regarding a casual vacancy. We are looking at the constitution and under Part Three, 18H, "*in the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the membership of the Council, the Council may appoint a member of the Association to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed shall hold office subject to this Constitution until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting next following the date of appointment.*" Under that we will make some arrangements and we sincerely apologise, Laura.

**Susan Kingwill, CEO Contact Inc.**

I'm sure that will be duly noted in your records and the ICPA-NSW State Council will co-opt people to fill those positions as deemed fit in the coming twelve months.

So, on that note, congratulations to all the Committee and I reaffirm that the three Trustees are Joan Treweeke, Anne Milliken and Lindy Kitto. The President is Claire Butler; Vice Presidents, David Butler and Libby McPhee; Secretary, Deborah Castle; Assistant Secretary is vacant; Treasurer, Shennah Joiner; Publicity Officer, Gabie LeLievre; and the three Committee members elected at the AGM are Timothy Fletcher, Anabel Strachan and Kellie Turnbull. Congratulations to all of you and I'll hand you back to President Claire.

**Claire Butler, President.**

Thank you, Susan. Thank you very much for doing this under these circumstances. I'd like to thank the Returning Officer, Susan Kingwill, and the nominees, thank you. We are looking forward to another great year on State Council.

**There being no further Agenda business I declare the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of New South Wales Inc. officially closed at 2.55 pm at Moree.**

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**Claire Butler**  
**President**

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**Deborah Castle**  
**Honorary Secretary, ICPA-NSW**

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