

## **BRANCH REPORTS**

### **CENTRAL WHEATBELT NORTH REPORT**

**Kate McCreery, President**

No report provided

### **EASTERN DISTRICTS BRANCH REPORT**

**Clare Hyde, President**

The Eastern Districts Branch has maintained a steady presence this year, continuing to provide support and advocacy within our region as needed.

A key issue impacting our area has been school transport, particularly the cancellation and subsequent reinstatement of the North Hyden bus run. Following strong community advocacy, the service was restored, highlighting both the importance of reliable transport for rural students and the value of collective action.

With a number of new members joining our branch, we have been focused on building awareness and understanding of the role of ICPA and how it can effectively support families in our local communities. It has been encouraging to see growing engagement and interest, and we are looking forward to the increased involvement of these new members moving forward.

We look forward to coming together at State Conference and contributing to the broader discussions that support rural and remote families across Western Australia.

### **ESPERANCE BRANCH REPORT**

**Jane Wandel, President**

No report provided

### **GASCOYNE BRANCH REPORT**

**Kelly Hopkinson, President**

**Report Written by Megan Dorrell, State Council**

ICPA WA is very excited to see the Gascoyne Branch back in action.

In February 2026, State Council was invited to attend the Carnarvon School of the Air Home Tutors Seminar. While we were unfortunately unable to attend in person, we appreciated the opportunity to join the session via Teams.

The session provided a relaxed and informative opportunity to share information about ICPA and answer questions from those in attendance. It was encouraging to see the strong interest and enthusiasm from families keen to re-establish the Gascoyne Branch.

ICPA WA State Council would like to congratulate those involved for their dedication and initiative in bringing the branch back to life. Holding an Annual General Meeting following the session and successfully forming a committee and membership base is a fantastic achievement.

We recognise the unique challenges faced by School of the Air students and their families, and we are confident that the re-establishment of the Gascoyne Branch will be a valuable support for members in the region.

State Council looks forward to working closely with the Gascoyne Branch into the future and supporting their advocacy efforts.

## **GOLDFIELDS EYRE BRANCH REPORT**

### **Karen Forrester, President**

At the time of writing, this year's AGM is yet to be held as the Kalgoorlie School of The Air annual Home Tutor Seminar is still two weeks away. We traditionally use this event to host the AGM and recruit new members as many of our members have been KALSOTA parents.

Currently our office bearers are:

President: Karen Forrester  
Vice President: Vacant  
Secretary: Katie Hall  
Treasurer: Madeline Wildy

We endeavour to hold three to four meetings every year, either face to face at School of the Air camps or online via Zoom. This year we held one face to face meeting and three zoom meetings.

The branch did not undertake any significant branch fundraising in 2025, as our efforts were spent seeking sponsorship for last years conference, however whispers of an event in 2026 is on our agenda and we hope to be able to host and bring together our isolated families in support of ICPA.

We are grateful to be financial enough to continue sending delegates to both State and Federal Conferences. Last year's federal conference was attended by Ross Wood and we are thankful for him giving his time, presence and wise counsel. We are in need of new members to continue the legacy and a meet and greet visit to the Northern Goldfields is on our agenda.

Contentions our branch brings to conference are the decline of adequate teaching staff and support in rural and regional schools and we continue with our ongoing pressure to alleviate the undue financial pressure on families of isolated students to support their access to equitable education. Our motions are focussed on attracting and retaining country teachers, enabling SOTA children to engage in camps and access Swimming lessons and ensuring that it does not become financially prohibitive for families to send their Secondary students to boarding school.

I would like to recognise the efforts of our state councillors representing our member on these issues. Without your dedication and hard work so many isolated voices would go unheard. I thank our members –

especially those who show up and give a hand or some insight, but also those members in the background we thank you for your ongoing support and contribution to the branch.

## **KIMBERLEY AIR BRANCH REPORT**

### **Monica Haslet, President**

There is not a great deal to report from the Kimberley at present, which is fortunate as things are ticking along smoothly in the North. We have experienced a very good wet season, with widespread rain across the region, and all indications are pointing towards a strong cattle season ahead. We will keep our fingers crossed that the current conflict in the Northern Hemisphere and ongoing issues with fuel access do not cause too much disruption within the industry.

Our branch is relatively small and is primarily made up of Kimberley School of the Air parents. We are very fortunate to have our children attending such a wonderful school. In my view, Kimberley School of the Air is leading the way in distance education, providing Kimberley children—as well as some others from across the state—with a top-notch education. The school is always pushing boundaries, striving to improve, and continually working to deliver the best possible educational service.

My aim for the upcoming year is to focus on building and retaining our membership. Many of our families currently have children in the early years of their schooling, where things tend to run smoothly and few issues arise. However, as the years pass, we will be faced with the prospect of sending our children to boarding school. This can be a time when families need additional support from our local ICPA branch as they navigate the challenges of that transition.

It is important that we are able to guide families in the right direction, particularly in helping them understand what funding and support options are available to assist them through this stage. At the moment we are focusing on ensuring that any families new to the area are aware of the assistance currently available to them, including support such as the AIC payment.

Unfortunately, this year we will not have any members able to attend the conference. Access remains restricted for some due to the wet season, and the timing also coincides with our station season getting underway and staff arriving on properties.

## **LAKES DISTRICT BRANCH REPORT**

### **Fiona Hoble, President**

Without a doubt, the ICPA is an extraordinary organisation—one you truly come to appreciate when you attend a Federal Conference. As the President of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association for the Lakes District, I attended the Adelaide Conference to see firsthand how our issues are shared concerns across regional and remote Australia.

The challenges faced by families seeking quality education for their children are echoed by our rural friends and fellow members across the country, and we should be immensely proud of the ICPA volunteers who represent us in Parliament House meetings, roundtables, workshops, and in every forum where our concerns are raised. The issues we discuss here today are carried to the government by people who care

deeply about creating meaningful change for families like ours in relation to State and Federal educational issues.

The Federal ICPA Conference in Adelaide was a powerful reminder of why ICPA exists. Even though our work may feel quiet at times at a local branch level, we represent some of the most significant issues affecting our region: ensuring our children can access quality education, regardless of postcode.

The Revise Program coordinates volunteers to support station families that assist their children's distance education. Often this responsibility falls to one parent—frequently the mother—who is simultaneously running a household, supporting a partner, contributing to station operations, and carrying the full weight of their overseeing their children's education. Support through the Revise Program give these parents the chance to step away from the schoolroom without guilt, knowing their children are receiving quality support. Our district has proudly supported this program for many years, and the impact continues to be profound.

We are particularly hopeful that a few members will consider stepping into state roles in 2026. These positions offer the opportunity to sit in on valuable meetings with the Director General for Education, the School Bus Services, Minister for Education and other key stakeholders. If you feel that spark—the desire to create change, to speak up for rural and regional children —I encourage you to attend the State Conference on 27 March and consider joining State Council.

2025 was a standout year for our major fundraiser at the Newdegate Field Days—the famous doughnut stand. With a record profit the team delivered an incredible effort, dunking, frying, and selling doughnuts at a pace that seems to grow every year. On a personal note, I graduated from battermaker to deepfryer operator—a milestone I approached with nerves due to the popularity of the donut stand at Newdegate. This fundraiser continues to be the heart of our branch, and its success enables us to contribute to programs that make a real difference and assist our members attend meetings and support our State Representatives.

A heartfelt thankyou goes to Claire Ness and her husband and children, for their unwavering commitment to the doughnut stand, the birthplace of our branch's fundraising success. Huge thanks to all our volunteers that pop in and out of the donut stand and fill the rosters and to Rochelle Walker for behind-the-scenes setup.

I would also like to thank Megs Dorrell, Chelsea Mott, Jane Cunningham and Arlene Sutherland for their dedicated service on ICPA State Council. Their work in meetings, correspondence, and regional advocacy has been invaluable. Kym Ross as a Lakes Member represents us at the Federal ICPA level which is a credit to Kym for her dedication. Next year the ICPA Lakes District will celebrate 50 years since inception in Nov 1977, so watch this space for celebrations at Newdegate.

With the Lakes District group spanning from the coast to the inland lakes we want to continue hearing the stories of our members. School buses, teacher housing/attraction and retention, district high schools, residential boarding and early childcare have been pressing issues for the Lakes District members.

While some issues return to the table year after year, it is important to recognise ICPA achievements in recent years. The conveyance allowance has increased from 25.24 cents to 55.6 cents per kilometre, helping families access bus routes where services do not reach. The State ICPA councillors have strengthened relationships with school bus services, and they continue to advocate for improvements to the boarding away from home allowance, and other supports essential to our regional and remote children. These wins matter. They are the result of persistence, collaboration, and the belief that rural children deserve the same educational opportunities as any other child in Australia.

## **MEEKATHARRA AIR BRANCH REPORT**

### **Claire Mahony, President**

Meekatharra Air Branch has around 20 members.

At the 2025 State Conference our Branch waved the flag to convene today's 2026 Conference. Ladies, you have done a beautiful job bringing everything to fruition. Well done!!

Back in the July 2025 holidays a 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Combined ICPA Camp was held in Sandstone. 10 families with 18 excited kids from the Murchison, Goldfields and Pilbara regions gathered together.

The children thoroughly enjoyed all the activities such as scout skills, a stargazing session, arts & craft activities, a disco, story time with Maree Le Moignan and her wonder dog Digby, cupcake decorating, first aid in the event of a snake bite, Cambodia Club colour fun run and a sausage sizzle fundraiser. Well done to everyone involved in making this happen and bringing these isolated kids together.

Once again our branch held a raffle at the Landor Races in October 2025, raising over \$3000! We are ever so grateful for people's generosity, be it donating prizes or buying tickets.

Have a lovely day

Over and out

## **MIDWEST BRANCH REPORT**

### **Jen Critch, President**

At our February meeting, we said goodbye to Kirra as our Treasurer and welcomed Fiona to the role. Thank you Kirra. Thanks to Trin, Jasmyn and both Fiona's for all your support as well. We have a great team!

The state conference was held in March in Perth, Jasmine, Fiona Mann, Trin and I all attended as delegates with Naomi, Sally and Michelle in attendance as state and federal representatives. We had numerous motions about early childhood, disability access, extension of the SIDE pilot program and investment in state run boarding facilities. All were passed.

Federal conference was held in July in Adelaide. It was attended by Jasmyn, Trin and I we had motions about disabilities in boarding facilities. Jasmyn presented the state report with panache and did a great job. Michelle Abbott and Sally Bridal also attended under their state and federal roles.

Unfortunately Mingenew expo didn't happen this year but we did do the Backroads Gravel race in Chapman Valley it was a beautiful day and a lucrative fundraiser for ICPA. Thank you for all the donations and Trin, Craig and Tim for their help on the day.

Wear Red day was embraced by schools and ICPA members and we had lots of photos circulating on the day.

An online state meeting was held in September this year. It was such a productive meeting and gave every branch an opportunity voice and any issues and an opportunity to meet the state executive.

Thank you all for supporting the ICPA.



## **PILBARA BRANCH REPORT**

**Candice Miller, Secretary/Treasurer**

No report provided.

## **WA COLLECTIVE BRANCH REPORT**

**Michelle Abbott, WA Collective Branch, Lone Members Officer**

With members being from all over the State, the WA Collective Branch is a unique and diverse group. Many members are grateful to be able to support ICPA (WA) through this branch. We have a steady membership of about 25 members. We encourage Boarding Schools and Residential Colleges “to get on board” and support this amazing organisation which does so much for many WA children and their families.

The 2026 Federal conference is on the Gold Coast and there are opportunities for funding if a WA Collective member wishes to attend and represent this branch.

In 2025 I was lucky to attend the Federal conference in Adelaide on behalf of WA Collective. A wonderful couple of days connecting with members and affiliates of ICPA. It would be great to see other WA Collective members to be able to do the same.

## **YALGOO BRANCH REPORT**

**Ruth Rowe, President**

2025 saw all of our office bearer positions remain unchanged with Roxanne Morrissey as Secretary/Treasurer and Mary-Kate Walsh as Vice-President.

The Yalgoo branch was represented at the 2025 State Conference by Roxanne Morrissey, thank you for your time and effort in attending on our behalf Roxanne.

I attended the online (Zoom) joint branch meeting in September, it’s lovely to be able to connect with everyone from afar at these meetings.

Thank you ICPA WA for your tireless efforts in supporting WA families. Roxanne and I look forward to attending State Conference!