



BRANCH REPORTS

CENTRAL WHEATBELT NORTH REPORT

Kate McCreery, President

ICPA Central Wheatbelt North is a small branch of the ICPA representing members in the north of the central wheatbelt. We have a current membership base of 18 members including one Life Member, Leona Ure who was honoured by our branch for her long commitment to our organisation.

While small, our branch has advocated for many issues affecting families in our region. Most significantly, we helped secure the return of the dental van to Kalannie Primary School. We also have a particular focus on supporting rural teachers and attracting and retaining them in our area.

We actively seek out and encourage through our networks to attract more members by highlighting the advocacy of the ICPA in the provision of allowances that assist parents in sending their children to boarding school when there are no local options available.

EASTERN DISTRICTS BRANCH REPORT

Clare Hyde, President

While our Branch has not been particularly active, we are currently seeking to improve our membership and participation within the community. Hopefully, this will come to fruition at our AGM in March.

ESPERANCE BRANCH REPORT

Jane Wandel, President

The Esperance Branch enjoyed a visit in October last year from several of our state delegates. It was fantastic for our members and Mallee parents to meet with the ladies and get a better understanding of all the support ICPA has to offer for our regional families. We currently have local issues with school bus services, and the ladies were able to offer direction and support to the affected families. In addition, the Esperance ICPA branch continues to support our local schools through the donation of end-of-year book prizes. We will be holding our AGM in March and are looking forward to a flush of new members.

GASCOYNE BRANCH REPORT

Alys McKeough, President

Nil report

GOLDFIELDS EYRE BRANCH REPORT

Karen Forrester, President

Goldfields Eyre Branch has had a very active 2024-25 year, which is a testament to our awesome members and the commitment they have to ICPA and their community! We have not yet had our AGM, but the current office bearers are:

President:	Karen Forrester
Vice President:	Tallaya Wood
Secretary:	Katie Hall
Treasurer:	Madeline Wildy

Most of our meetings are held via Zoom due to the huge area our Branch encompasses; however we did manage to have a face-to-face meeting in Kalgoorlie during the School of the Air camp in June 2024. It was lovely to see everyone and an opportunity to welcome new members. Our current membership numbers are 23 families and although not all members are active in all Branch activities, their support behind the scenes is very much appreciated.

In July, Lara Jensen and helpers, in conjunction with the Meekatharra Air Branch, organised a camp for the children at Sandstone. The camp was attended by six families, including 17 bush children ranging in age from pre-primary through to Year 7. They travelled from as far north as Marble Bar and east from Kalgoorlie. The Sandstone community were very welcoming and supportive of the camp and made the old Sandstone School available for the group. Camp activities included stargazing at the astrodome, a trip to the Mount Magnet Mining and Pastoral Museum, cupcake decorating and craft activities. Tina Vernon organised a leathermaking activity and the children produced some beautiful key rings, belts and wallets to take home. This camp is so important for our children to socialise and have fun with their friends, particularly those living in very remote areas. Plans are in place to have the same again this year.

Thanks to successful fund-raising events, we were able to send Katie Hall, Karen Forrester, Tallaya Wood and Madeline Wildy to the ICPA Federal Conference in Sydney. Ross Wood attended the State Conference in 2024 as our Branch delegate, only just making it as he was flooded in at Rawlinna Station after an unprecedented rainfall event on the Nullarbor that caused major flooding and months of road closures. The Rawlinna homestead was flooded up to the attic level, so Ross and other staff were evacuated by DFES helicopter to Kalgoorlie on Thursday, and he flew to Perth Thursday night just in time for the conference on Friday morning!

At the end of August, we held our Kid's Activity Day and Bushman's Ball at the Nullarbor Muster Club grounds at Rawlinna. Despite being 450km from the nearest town, this event was well attended by over 100 people, including children. Afternoon activities for the kids included sheep herding, push bike races and craft. The sheep herding was definitely the highlight for most of the kids!! Meanwhile, the shed was decorated with loads of beautiful wildflowers (thanks to our bumper season after the floods earlier in the year), calico drapes and beautifully decorated tables. The children loved having the opportunity to get dressed up in their finest ball dresses and suits and looked absolutely gorgeous! Lots of princesses and very smartly dressed princes!! Faith Day organised a photo booth and I think the kids took endless amounts of photos of themselves! This is a unique family event and we were lucky to have great support from the community and sponsors. Apart from our children and families having a fabulous, fun evening, our fundraising was also very successful with some generous donations for a live auction and raffle prizes.

Convening State Conference has kept us busy in the last few months and we hope it all goes smoothly in March!

I want to extend a very special thank you to all our Branch members who contribute in many different ways to ICPA. It is more important than ever to advocate for our rural, regional and remote children and that only happens with great commitment and support from within our communities. Thank you to all. 😊

KIMBERLEY AIR BRANCH REPORT

Monica Haslet, President

Nil Report

LAKES DISTRICT BRANCH REPORT

Fiona Hobley, President

We welcomed new faces in 2024 and it was a pleasure to bring on active members hitting the ground running with ideas and networks. We are thrilled to have Jane Cunningham, Arlene Sutherland, Kym Ross and Chelsea Mott as State ICPA representatives from the Lakes District Branch.

ICPA assists families with early childhood, primary secondary, boarding, TAFE and university, and we really have seen the differences from our hard working volunteers over the past few years in getting our regional voices heard.

Chelsea Mott has been a delight to work with since joining last year and injecting a social media presence amongst our Lakes team. Given her talents, she was fast-tracked onto our State team with her media and marketing background.

Last year, Lakes District Branch hosted the State Conference and a massive thanks to Kym Ross, who convened and registered the Conference at Aloft in Perth, while also holding a State and Federal ICPA positions. Our Lakes District team was a flurry of flowers, wheat heads, notes from school children and home-baked goodies from Arlene for the early education theme. Chelsea Mott, Hayley Altham, Arlene Sutherland, Megan Dorrell, Claire Walter and Rachael Springbett assisted late into the night for the room set up and backed up a busy day reading out motions from our Lakes District members. The Minister for Education, Hon. Dr Tony Buti addressed the conference and interacted with our ICPA members.

The ongoing Newdegate Field Day fundraiser is a huge credit to Claire Ness. Claire, who coordinates a team of volunteers, orders the stock and pumps the irresistible waft of donuts through the field day. I worked on a shift with a lady named Amanda who was a last-minute fill-in and she was an absolute bubble and happy to be lending a hand for a fundraiser. As a former Newdegate resident, she also knew just about everybody placing an order. Believe it or not, we had a small amount of time to chat between selling \$8,800 donuts and it was actually her mum Pearl Green (Life Member) who started the food stand for the Isolated Children's Parents' Association. I felt like I had been blessed by meeting ICPA royalty. The story went that previously the Newdegate Field Day was just for men (back in the day), but they decided the field day was getting bigger and they needed catering. Pearl, as ICPA put up her hand up and to this day, food is still going out via ICPA, albeit covered in sugar and cinnamon.

The fundraising enables us to be represented at the WA State Conference and enables us to donate to REVISE, a tutoring program for remote families and the WA State Council. In 2024, we funded ICPA members to attend the State Conference with 2 nights' accommodation as part of the conference setup team. We had a vast array of raffle items and received a share in conference takings. It was fantastic to see our new member and Secretary Megan go on to attend the Federal Conference in Sydney, gaining connections and understanding the impact ICPA has on policymakers.

We live in the regions as it has so many wonderful advantages with safety, freedom, friendship and support. Schools are often our regional centres, and hence the care and investment by the community is second to none. When these small centres come under pressure, the whole community feels the effect.



Our parliamentary representatives and those in government decision positions need to know what and how to support regional families. Without support for school buses, we see people move away from the regions. Without support for teachers, we see people move away from the regions. Then, we turn around twice and wonder where our community is.

School buses play a vital role for our small regional schools in the Lakes District and constant improvement with School Bus Services (SBS) with communication is high on the agenda. We need SBS to understand the impacts of changing bus routes without consultation, the timeframes needed to deliver notices of change and the transparency/process steps on how to obtain a suitable resolution.

A thank you to a dedicated Treasurer Kelly O'Neill for navigating membership changes, reporting and keeping our books in order with a high level reporting. Your contribution has been so valuable.

I would like to encourage anyone, whether it is the first time you have heard of ICPA or the first time you are thinking about attending State Conference, to please make it to Perth. The State Conference connects you with people and gives you the opportunity to speak your mind. You will gain a valuable understanding of how much goes on behind the scenes for ICPA.

On a final note, we are looking for more volunteers to throw their hat in the ring. Maybe you are like me and your children are starting to leave home for boarding school, but you remember the struggles with early childhood learning, daycare centres, school buses, allowances, school staffing... just to name a few. This is a great organisation to give back to.

Let us join our voices and let people know how much we do care and how much we are prepared to stand up for equal education access.

MEEKATHARRA AIR BRANCH REPORT

Chandra Ridley, Outgoing President

Membership has dropped slightly, with 9 current financial members.

Our Branch AGM was held on 19th February where I stepped down as President, and Claire Mahony took on the role. Julia Foulkes-Taylor was elected Vice President, while the Secretary and Treasurer roles remain unchanged. A big thank you to those who have stepped up to take on positions; we appreciate your commitment.

President:	Claire Mahony
Vice President:	Julia Foulkes-Taylor
Secretary:	Tracie Blair
Treasurer:	Lauren Lewis
Life Member:	Raelene Hall (SLM)

Seventeen students from station families attended the annual Sandstone ICPA Camp, held from 5-8 July in the Murchison district of WA. The weekend camp, in its second consecutive year, had a historical theme to encourage children to think about the histories of their families and pastoral communities. Six families who attended with students aged between pre-primary to Year 7 learned about the importance of the preservation of history through the work of local museums and historical literature by local authors. The children were treated to a tour of the Mount Magnet Mining and Pastoral Museum, home to some of the most historically significant machinery in the Midwest.

The camp offered children the chance to participate in a series of art sessions, including pot decorating, creating a historical resin coaster, and a leather-making activity. The children raised over \$700 through a



sausage sizzle for the Cambodia Club to go towards sponsoring children in Cambodia before enjoying a Cambodia Club Colour run and "Capture the Flag" game. Planning has already begun for next year's camp, with organisers determined to ensure it remains an annual fixture long into the future.

A raffle held at Landor raised \$1,429.50 for the Branch. A big thank you to Dale Hill-Power for organising it.

MIDWEST BRANCH REPORT

Jen Critch, President

At our February meeting we said goodbye to Sam as our Treasurer and welcomed Kirrilee to the role. Thank you Sam for all the passion you gave to your role. We also said goodbye and thanked Jackie for everything she gave to her role as Secretary and for finding Trin to take on the Secretary role this year. Welcome Trin!

The State Conference was held in March in Perth.

Jasmyn and I attended as delegates with Naomi, Sally and Michelle in attendance as State and Federal councillors.

We had a motion about the BAHA allowance that unfortunately was not passed and another motion on support within boarding facilities for students with disabilities which was passed.

An online state meeting was held in June. It was such a productive meeting and allowed every Branch to voice any issues they were experiencing and an opportunity to meet the state executive committee.

The Federal Conference was held in July in Sydney and was attended by Jasmyn and myself. We had the last motion of the conference on access to disability services in boarding schools. It was successful. Thank you to Jasmyn for making the trek over. I loved being able to meet others from all over Australia who are experiencing the same issues as us. I encourage anyone who can attend this year to contact me. It is such an opportunity to represent our gorgeous Branch and meet other members from all over the country.

Mingenew Expo was again a great opportunity to showcase our Branch. Thank you to those who travelled to volunteer on the two days. Thank you Sally, Trin, Janelle, Michelle, Sam, Jasmyn and Naomi.

The Gravel Race in Chapman Valley was the following day. Jasmyn organised this fundraiser. Thank you to the volunteers on the day Sam Messina, Heather, Peter, Rodney and your beautiful kids for helping on the stalls. Thanks to Debbie Gillam for delivering the donations. We raised a substantial amount and hope to do this event next year.

The biggest issue we have been experiencing at the moment is bus issues. The Yuna bus run has been saved. Well done to the Yuna community for your efforts in promoting this issue statewide. It does show that if a community works together it can be so powerful. ICPA (WA) had a big role in this as well, and we sincerely thank them for all their help in getting the bus run reinstated.

Thank you Trin and Jasmyn for always being on call. You are amazing and I appreciate all your help. Thank you to the state and federal councillors who all work so hard towards our motions and making education accessible to all.

Lastly, thank you to all our members. your memberships give us all a voice and every member counts.

PILBARA BRANCH REPORT

Candice Miller, Secretary/Treasurer

The Pilbara Branch of ICPA has been a little quiet over the past couple of years as some very long-term executive members passed the baton over to very new members and left some very big shoes to fill.

One of our biggest challenges lay with the bank and the sorting out of signatories, which I believe is not an issue isolated to our Branch alone, and many of you in the executive roles can understand the associated frustrations.

Late last year PHSOTA welcomed our new principal, Mr Brian Abbey and at the commencement of the school year, we saw some new wonderful families join our school. We will all be gathering together at camp in May and have invited Jane Cunningham to a pre-AGM Zoom meeting where we hope some ICPA experience and knowledge will inspire some new members to join and encourage enthusiastic members to fulfil the executive roles to revamp and rejuvenate the Pilbara ICPA Branch.

In the wake of cyclone Zelia our creeks are flowing and pastures green, and we are excited and optimistic for what lies ahead in 2025 for the ICPA Pilbara Branch.

WA COLLECTIVE BRANCH REPORT

Michelle Abbott, WA Collective Branch, Lone Members Officer

The WA Collective Branch aims to include members who may not belong to a specific local branch but still wish to support ICPA (WA) and be informed on ICPA issues.

The WA Collective Branch was established in 1976 and has undergone multiple name changes since its inception. Originally known as the Independent Branch, it later became the WA Lone Members Branch. During the WA State Conference on 15 March 2024, it was announced that the Branch would undergo another name change.

This renaming reflects a more inclusive approach, allowing members to be part of the WA Collective Branch while still categorised as Lone Members (in accordance with our constitution).

Branch Founding Members:

- Mrs L Phillips
- Mrs J Hardwick
- Mr and Mrs V Elliot
- Mrs M Jones
- Mrs M Hinwood

The WA Collective Branch does not hold meetings but is entitled to 2 votes at State Conference.

Membership of the WA Collective Branch has remained steady and consists of Lone members who are either individuals, schools or other organisations.

You can join or renew your membership through our website at www.icpa.com.au/wa. To verify your membership status, please log in to your user account. If your membership has lapsed, simply follow the prompts to renew. I encourage everyone to join or renew via our website, as this greatly reduces the workload for our volunteers and ensures you receive membership benefits immediately upon payment. However, if you prefer to pay through your Lone Officer, they will be happy to assist.



I attended the 2024 Federal Conference in Sydney, and it was a valuable experience. If any WA Lone members are interested in attending and representing our Branch at the 2025 conference, there are opportunities for financial support available.

YALGOO BRANCH REPORT

Ruth Rowe, President

2024 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 2024 State Conference by Roxanne Morrissey, thank you for your time and effort in attending on our behalf Roxanne.

Roxanne and myself attended the online Zoom joint Branch meeting in June last year, it was lovely to be able to connect with everyone from afar.

Thank you ICPA (WA) for your tireless efforts in supporting WA families.