

NEW SOUTH WALES PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tanya Mitchell

Madam President, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I present the President's report on behalf of ICPA-NSW.

The last twelve months have continued to challenge all of us in ways we never thought imaginable.

Rural and remote students continue to be under-represented and this disparity adversely impacts these individuals and their communities. The array of issues resulting in this disparity include financial, cultural, personal, educational and social support factors and the Australian education system must strive to deliver excellence and equal opportunity for all Australian students. The rural and remote cohort is more likely to be willing to return to their rural and remote communities ensuring viability, economic development and sustainability of these communities.

We know families living in rural and remote Australia face limited access to pre-school and quality early childhood education. The importance of technology and telehealth in providing distance education is heightened in these isolated geographical areas, that are less serviced by the market, and more serviced by local and state government services. Attracting quality, skilled staff in any industry to remote areas is another unique issue, but particularly with educators needing more professional and peer support.

Research shows that children living in rural and remote Australia have far greater likelihood of developmental vulnerabilities or delays compared to their city counterparts – which are in turn linked with poor educational outcomes, disability, chronic mental health problems and a higher risk of unemployment, personal relationship difficulties, contact with the criminal justice system and homelessness.

The recently released 2021 Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data shows children living in very remote areas of Australia continue to be more than twice as likely as those living in major cities to be developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains. They are also three times more likely to be developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains. The most recent figures show children living in rural and remote areas of Australia are further falling behind with the gap widening for children who are developmentally vulnerable.

All evidence supports pre-school is advantageous in the early years for brain development and to help identify any developmental issues. The physical, emotional, and social development attained in early childhood sets a trajectory for long term outcomes in health, education, and well-being. We know that reducing childhood developmental vulnerability and improving developmental health outcomes in rural Australia will help increase educational outcomes and build stronger regions and a stronger nation, well into the future.

However, the results of a recent report from the Mitchell Institute highlights that families in regional, rural, and remote areas are the most at risk of suffering from poor access to early learning. The Report shows just over 30% per cent of families living in major cities live in areas the researchers classified as childcare desert neighbourhoods. The contrast is even more stark with remote and outer remote areas having the highest levels of childcare deserts at 87.5% and 79.9%. About 453 remote towns did not have a childcare centre within a 20-minute drive.

ICPA-NSW have been involved in Rural Roundtables, held in conjunction with Thrive by Five and Royal Far West late last year, to develop a specific plan for early learning in rural and remote Australia, that

considers some of the unique issues our communities face. These issues are certainly not new to ICPA but the research and reports show evidence of the gaps between remote and metropolitan children's education and outcomes which we can then use to advocate for change. Thrive by Five is an initiative of the Minderoo Foundation and is campaigning to make our early learning childcare system high quality and universally accessible.

March 2022 saw many past and present members of ICPA descend upon the town of Bourke for our 50th Annual NSW State Conference with 112 delegates and over 200 people in attendance at the conference dinner. It was heartening to see so many come to celebrate 50 years of ICPA in its birthplace. The Conference was officially opened by Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of NSW who along with her husband Mr Dennis Wilson, are joint Patrons of ICPA-NSW. We were grateful to have them in attendance to unveil the 50 years plaque which was later placed next to a commemorative tree planted by Wally Mitchell and Rory Treweek, both founding members of ICPA. Wally was awarded Life Membership of ICPA-NSW at the conference which now sees both he and Rory as Life Members of all three, Branch, State and Federal levels.

It was fortunate to have many wonderful speakers including our NSW Minister for Education and Early Childhood the Hon. Sarah Mitchell, Richard Stokes from ABSA, the inspirational Sam Bailey, Dr Rosalind Walsh from Department of Education – High Performing Students Program, Mike Marom from Telstra, Ben Ballard, Executive Director of Regional, Rural and Remote Education Policy Unit and special thank you goes to our Federal President Alana Moller for travelling to Bourke and being there to support NSW State Council and speak to any Federal issues that arose.

On the day before conference, Distance Education families gathered in person and online with the Department of Education Rural Regional and Remote Education Policy team to discuss and address issues raised by the families and educators. The recently formed team has been an important factor in the mutual exchange of information and to create solutions to problems faced by our members in the provision of education in rural and remote situations.

In the first week of June, nine ICPA-NSW State Councilors descended on Sydney for a full deputation. It has been 3 years since we have been able to meet with all our relevant stakeholders face to face. We had 40 meetings booked over the two days, so precision timing and patience was needed as we navigated the city and changes to some of the meeting times. We had 6 meetings with several departments within the newly formed Regional, Rural and Remote Education Policy Team which were followed by meetings with stakeholders and Ministers including;

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| - NSW Farmers | - University Admissions Centre |
| - Royal Agricultural Society Foundation | - ACCAN |
| - Bus NSW | - BCEF |
| - NSW Centre for Effective Reading | - Transport for NSW |
| - CWA of NSW | - Teachers Federation |
| - Contact Inc | - Parents and Friends Association |
| - Council of Catholic School Parents | - Ministry for Health |
| - NESA | - Australian Independent Schools |
| - Telstra | |
| - Ms. Kate Washington MP – Shadow Minister for Family Communities and Disability | |
| - The Hon. Mark Latham, MLC - Chair Parliamentary Committee on Education | |
| - Ms Prue Car, MP – Shadow Minister for Education and Early Childhood | |
| - Mrs. Helen Dalton MP – Member for Murray | |
| - Ms. Julia Finn MP - Shadow Minister for Sport, and Shadow Minister for Youth | |

- Mr. Tim Crakanthorp – Shadow Minister for TAFE and Tertiary
- Ms. Jenny Aitcheson MP – Shadow Minister Regional Transport and Roads
- Mr. Roy Butler MP – Member for Barwon
- The Hon. Mick Veitch, MLC – Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Agriculture and Western NSW
- The Hon. Bronnie Taylor, MLC – Minister for Women, Regional Youth and Mental Health
- The Hon. Wes Fang, MLC - Deputy President and Chair of Committees
- The Hon. John Graham, MLC - Shadow Minister for Roads
- Advisor to Mr Ryan Park, MP – Shadow Minister for Health and Mental Health
- Advisor to The Hon. Paul Toole, MP – Minister for Regional NSW
- The Hon. Sarah Mitchell, MLC – Minister of Education and Early Learning
- The Hon. Dugald Saunders, MP – Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW
- The Hon. Steph Cooke, MP - Minister for Emergency Services and Resilience, and Flood Recovery
- The Hon. Sam Faraway, MLC - Minister for Regional Transport and Roads

As day two came to close, we attended the Launch of the Thrive by Five Campaign at Parliament House. It was a pleasure to be invited to speak at the event representing our members needs in rural and remote NSW and Laura Stalley presenting a speech on behalf of ICPA (Aust), President Alana Moller. It was a great networking event with Ministers and organisations such as Royal Far West, Contact Inc. and Life Education also being involved in the project.

It was heartening to hear the excitement that our stakeholders had for meeting us in person again, but also grateful for the relationship and honesty that we provide them from our members. Many of them look forward to our meetings, as they feel that we provide them with vital information about rural and remote education. These issues are not always able to be dealt with straight away, but we will continue to advocate for our members. However following deputation there was a myriad of new budget announcements by NSW Government and it was amazing to hear of the investment and changes that addressed some of the issues we took to the Ministers which have been raised by our members. Whilst the new reforms will not benefit every family or address all of our issues it is so good for many of them to be acknowledged and see movement in areas of early childhood education and health, workforce participation and training. As a result, this budget places a strong emphasis on supporting families and investing in a brighter future, by accelerating investment in the health system, and providing immediate support for cost-of-living pressures and housing to deal with the current inflationary challenges.

The NSW Government announced it will invest \$7.2 billion in 2022-23 in cost-of-living support. These will come in the form of:

- \$1.3 billion for the Brighter Beginnings Affordable Preschool initiative to provide fee relief for families with children across the community and mobile preschools and long day-care sectors.
- \$193 million for the Back to School subsidy, providing \$150 to every NSW schoolchild towards the cost of school supplies in 2023.
- \$98 million for a two-year pilot of a \$250 prepaid Regional Apprentice and Uni Travel Card for university students and apprentices in NSW each year.
- \$192 million Parents NSW program to reward and thank eligible NSW households for their efforts to support learning from home in 2021
- \$155 million Before and After School Care program, providing a \$500 voucher towards the cost of before and after-school care for every child in New South Wales

- \$5.8 billion over 10 years to establish a year of universal pre-kindergarten in the year before school and investing over \$280 million over four years to support the workforce of early childhood educators.
- Investing \$41.3 billion over four years to make preschool more affordable for families, including by providing \$2,000 of support per child to access preschool services in long day care from the beginning of 2023.
- \$111.2 million for development checks in preschools, delivered jointly by the Department of Education and Ministry of Health.
- \$70.9 million to expand the Sustaining NSW Families program to support families to reach their full potential.
- \$1.2 billion to maintain and enhance the quality of education facilities at NSW public schools.
- \$108.5 million to continue the rollout of Institutes of Applied Technology pilots, bringing together industry, Vocational Education and Training and higher education providers.
- \$82.7 million for Fee Free Vocational Education and Training to support a further 70,000 students to access apprenticeships, traineeships and other high-priority training.
- \$25.1 million to expand the Careers NSW pilot, providing comprehensive careers and education advice to NSW schools.
- \$18.2 million co-investment towards development of a University of Newcastle campus in the Gosford CBD.
- First Nations people are also a key focus area in the budget, with the government investing \$715.8 million to help meet NSW's targets under the National 'Closing the Gap' agreement.

ICPA-NSW have also participated as part of the Disability Strategy Reference Group, a focus group to support the development of the Outcomes Framework for students with disability. The group are looking at ways to see how are we tracking and improving outcomes for all students with disability. It is also expected this work will inform work done at a school level and will be informed by the research and community consultations that have been completed. This means there can be developed evidence-based indicators and measures that reflect what is important to students with disability and their communities.

Sometimes we present motions for a long time before finally seeing progress. Sometimes we need to review what we are asking for and see how we can word it differently to change the way a situation is viewed by those with the power to approve or make policy changes. Personal stories make great case studies to present on deputation and help to give real life experiences to our motions. Each year both State and Federal ICPA Councils bring your issues to respective state and federal governments for increased financial support through various allowances to assist with educating rural and remote children. On behalf of all ICPA-NSW members, I would like to thank our Federal Council colleagues and NSW State and Federal governments in working together to increase the financial support offered to our rural and remote families. ICPA families are truly grateful.

In closing I would like to thank my fellow State Councilors for all their support and for the time you give voluntarily advocating for and providing assistance to our members.

NORTHERN TERRITORY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Moira Lanzarin

It is with great honour and humility that I stand here before you to share my first state President's report at Federal Conference. Thank you to my amazing fellow Territorians who join me here and to all those keeping the home fires burning. NT members please wave your hand: they include fellow State Councillors, Federal Councillors, and member representatives from all three of our Branches, Katherine, Alice Springs and Territory Wide.

The role of State President is a special privilege, and a huge responsibility that I do not take lightly. But it is something that does not happen singularly and is very much a team effort in which we all have important roles to play. The groundwork set by those before us; the support, assistance, and hard work by all those on Council; Branch Executives and Members; but most importantly, the source of our being, our why – the Bush families – the Mums, Dads, and children across the width and breadth of our nation working hard every day to educate their children and continue living, working, growing and feeding our amazing country. Rural, remote and regional families and their children is why we do what we do, why ICPA was formed all those years ago and why ICPA is still equally as relevant and important today. The other integral members of Team ICPA are our wide and varied support base of stakeholders, sponsors and partners. Thank you for joining with us today and always. Your participation in this journey is appreciated and important.

ICPA has been an ominous and reassuring presence throughout my life. As a child growing up on the family cattle station in North Queensland and Distance Education and School of the Air, ICPA was always there. The familiar logo on folders and meeting bags. My Mum (Clair O'Brien) juggling radio time to participate in meetings and her regularly having to travel for conferences and meetings in her roles at Branch, State and Federal levels. We knew Mum was off doing really important stuff talking with Government to make things better for ourselves and other bush children's education and opportunities. It was at a Federal Conference in WA, in 1993, that Mum stood down after six years as Federal Councillor, the first three of those also as a Queensland State Councillor. This was also the year we moved to the Territory. As an adult and a bush parent living and working in the NT, I knew it was only a matter of time before I became a member of ICPA in my own right. This was first as a Lone Member then belonging to the Katherine Branch. I joined NT State Council as Treasurer two and a half years ago, on answering the call for assistance and knowing it was now my turn to step up. Our two sons now are also benefitting from direct and in-direct ICPA activities and influence as small rural school students at Mataranka Primary, Katherine School of the Air and now boarding school in Charters Towers. I fit ICPA in around my daily routine of managing the small family stud Brahman cattle operation at Coodardie Station, other volunteer and family commitments and helping my husband supervise our eldest son's middle school distance education lessons at home.

ICPA in the Northern Territory is strong. At our 40th Anniversary Conference, "Before and Beyond" in Darwin this March, members and participants loudly and passionately responded that 40 years on, the role, purpose and need of ICPA is as important as ever. The beautiful diversity of individuals, backgrounds, locations, needs and experiences all coming together with the common goal of striving to create the best education outcomes for our bush kids and enabling families to stay living and working in the outback. Through the motions and workshops, we connected with members and stakeholders, to progress current concerns and shape the pathways forward. The program was jam packed and the speakers, both prepared and impromptu were amazing, and the networking and connections invigorating.

This year sees a strong and full ICPA NT State Council with 12 members. It is a great balance of continuing and new members and it is a pleasure to work with such a talented and dedicated group. The professional state and high regard of ICPA in the Northern Territory is in no small way thanks to the relentless and targeted effort and commitment of those who have gone before us.

The core top 5 issues for Northern Territory ICPA have remained unchanged in the last several years. 1.) Improve the NT Student Assistance Schemes and include a Living Away From Home Allowance (LAFHA) for all students who attend boarding school. 2.) Maintenance funding & new funding for Mobile Playgroups to reach geographically isolated children (five years and under). 3.) Early identification, diagnosis and management of special learning needs, including access to specialists, Medicare rebates, telehealth services and education advisors. 4.) Continued improvements to accessing affordable and reliable technology for geographically isolated education purposes, including connectivity and the software and hardware required for delivery. 5.) A Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA) to recognise the substantial financial costs associated with the role of the home tutor who facilitates the delivery of distance education in geographically isolated schoolrooms.

NT Council has its work set out, but we are excited about the challenges and possibilities ahead. It feels as though we are making progress on a number of these long-standing issues.

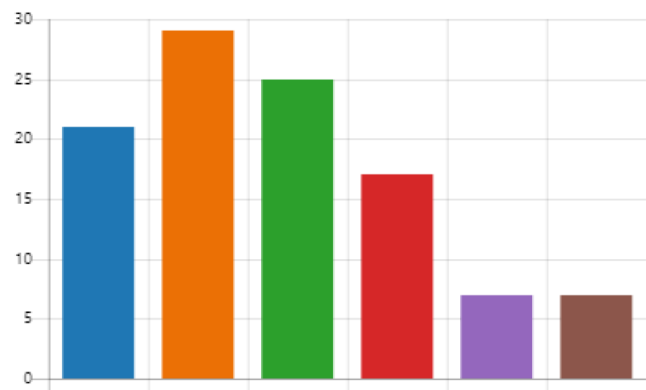
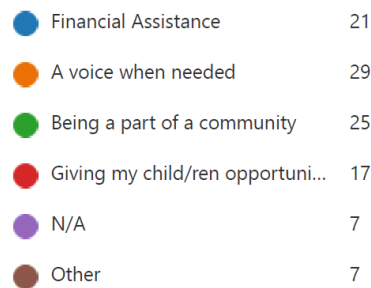
Our access to high level decision makers within the NT Education Department is improving. Post Annual Conference, ICPA NT was invited to join SEAG – School Education Advisory Group. This group brings together key education stakeholders to provide advice to the Chief Executive on important strategic and system policy relating to government Schools. Our NT Education Minister has always been responsive to our calls, and this has now been formalised with regular 2 monthly meetings. A department official, embarrassed by the slow progress and the repeated presence of motions seeking improvement in the NT Student Assistance Scheme, has vowed that improvements will occur this year, negating the need for such motions to be present at our next annual conference.

Member's motions have been presented to stakeholders in Darwin at Delegation on the 11-12 May, in Darwin. A total of 13 meetings in all, over 2 very busy days. Meetings included the Education Minister's Office, the Opposition Party, multiple members of the Department of Education as well as established partners such as the NT Cattleman's Association and new partners in St John's Ambulance and current members of Charles Darwin University. Plus, a tour through the most impressive and state of the art, new boarding facilities at Haileybury Rendall School in Darwin. I and two fellow councillors attended delegation in person, with another two councillors participating via phone for their Portfolio meetings. A very positive reception was received, and we will continue to follow up and action where needed. Planning for our next delegation is now in the pipeline.

By coincidence, our 40th Annual Conference was reported and celebrated in our 90th Edition of Down the Track magazine. Our humble member's newsletter continues to move from strength to strength. We have moved to taking paid advertising to offset production costs and are also investigating an e-magazine option to best accommodate the needs and wishes of members.

During our Conference we asked participants to complete a survey. Not only about the conference but about ICPA. I would like to share the following highlights with you.

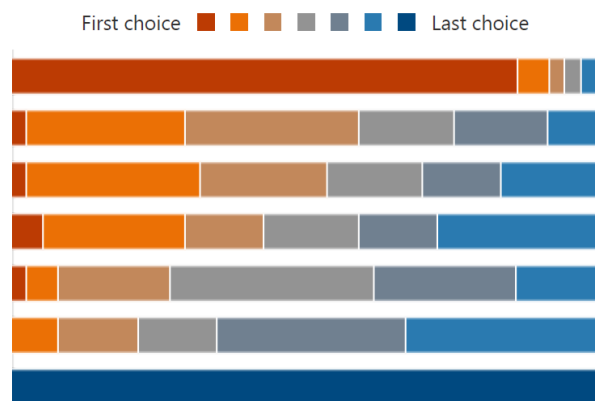
1. How has ICPA benefited your family?



8. What do you think ICPA priorities should be in the future? (Please list 1-6 with 1 being the highest)

Rank Options

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1 | Advocacy |
| 2 | Grants |
| 3 | Networking |
| 4 | Promotion |
| 5 | Fundraising |
| 6 | Branch Events |
| 7 | Other |



Advocacy, a voice when needed, and the sense of belonging and being part of the ICPA family, resonated strongly. Participation at conferences – both State and Federal – is critical to achieve this. This was recently reinforced at the local Katherine ICPA NT brains trust informal weekly morning tea, when host and life member legend, Pat Elliot, stated “The best thing we can do is get members to Federal Conference”. “Growing Member Connections” is a wonderful conference theme and the NT wish everyone all the best for a successful conference. Just how successful, will depend on what each one of us does once we get home with the things that we have learnt, heard, or were inspired by.

Thank you to both Federal Council and WA State Council convening group for enabling such an opportunity and for all conference participants for accepting the challenge.

QUEENSLAND PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Louise Martin

Federal President Mrs Alana Moller, Federal Life Members, State Life Members, Branch Life Members, Past Councillors, Distinguished Guests, fellow ICPA members, ladies & gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to present my 2022 Queensland President's Report.

We were extremely lucky and very fortunate that the Cunnamulla conference was held in person, 12 months ago, in amongst covid lockdowns. We have really commiserated with Federal Council and other states as they navigated the pandemic forcing delays in conferences, going online and trail blazing the blended approach. ICPA Qld is truly grateful that we have had a full 12 months between conferences for the first time in 3 years. Delegations and face to face meeting were not without complications with councillors unable to attend in person at a variety of events. Fortunately, with technology and adaptability councillors were able to join most of our meetings virtually. We sincerely hope that we can now put all those challenges behind us and look forward to a more normal future.

Following Cunnamulla conference, we updated our Position Statement with our Key Issues for 2021/2022. It was determined the key issue for the year would be an overview of the lack of equity in education for rural and remote students and highlighted the shortfalls of each portfolio. This document has virtually covered the state, reaching many inboxes far and wide, including all parliamentarians and key stakeholders.

A compact crew of five state councillors descended to Brisbane in August, kicking starting the first meetings of the year. Covid again put a dampener on proceedings with the majority of councillor zooming in from home for our face-to-face meeting as well as departmental meetings. We were fortunately able to meet with a variety of people in person which really made the trip worthwhile. The central issue for discussion was the closing of the accommodation facilities at several schools of distance education, which was debated very passionately at conference. Some progress was made after considered discussion with the department. Other highlights included meeting with the Minister for Agriculture, Mark Furner, broadening the scope of our lobby to seek an increase in the LAFHAS. A Mini Delegation was held in November resulting in progressive discussions with the Department of Education. Unfortunately, Tony Cook the Director General, one of ICPA's inclusive supporters during the pandemic has, moved on. We were fortunate enough to meet with Craig Kelly, Acting DG and Peter Kelly, DDG State Schools at the time to highlight our key issues. This included expressing our disappointment that the Education Portfolio is not a standalone portfolio and unfortunately incorporates industrial relations and racing under the one umbrella. We were back in Brisbane again in February this year for a face-to-face meeting and delegations with nearly a full council, which was pretty exciting. ICPA QLD met with the newly appointed Director General for Education Micheal De'Arth who was left without any doubt of the challenges of educating rural and remote children. The Minister for Education, Grace Grace, gave us valuable time to meet and discuss our current key issues. During this meeting, we sincerely thanked both the Minister and the DG ensuring ICPA Qld was involved, and able to contribute, in stakeholder meetings during covid leading to some of the most practical return to boarding codes in the country. Discussions were held around the increasing concerns that Geographically Isolated Students are being minoritized in the Schools of Distance Education, which were initially purpose built for these students. The concern that rural and remote students could be disadvantaged with NAPLAN testing moving online was also raised with the Minister.

Thanks again to Dr Regan Neumann, Kym Turner and Julissa Vasquez from the State Schools Rural, Remote and International team for facilitating the meetings with all the relevant departments. Post

Conference all the motions are collated and sent to the relevant areas for consideration. This has streamlined our meeting days considerably.

ICPA's relationship with the department of education continues to reflect the high value they place on our organization. We are proud to be represented on many stakeholder groups including the Rural and Remote Education Reference Group, Early Years Forum, Qld Schools Ethics Committee and Outside School Hours Care Committee. Over the last 12 months, during the height of the border closures preventing boarding students travelling to and from school we were very appreciative of being on the Response, Lead, Engagement stakeholder group facilitated by Qld Health. In collaboration, the stakeholder group attained the most practical solutions for crossing borders and management of boarding houses during covid outbreaks. Thanks, must also go to the other parent groups with whom we work closely – P&Cs Qld, Catholic School Parents Queensland, and Queensland Independent Schools Parent Network. Again, I would like to thank Carmel Nash and the team at the QCEC offices in Brisbane for the continued use of their boardroom and web conferencing facilities for our Council meetings along with the delicious smokos and lunch they provide, it is much appreciated.

ICPA Qld is very proud of the great working relationships we have with our Key stakeholders, ABSA, QCAA, Agforce, Telstra, Nbn, QCEC, ISQ, P&C Queensland and others. Knowing that we can communicate with these organisations at any time to assist in our advocacy is invaluable.

In October, we had the most amazing experience in Chillagoe, for our midyear meeting, hosted by the FNQ branch, some of whom travelled further than we did to host the weekend. We took the opportunity to arrive a day earlier, in order for our new council team to get to know each other considering we couldn't all be together in person for our first meeting. We had a lovely time exploring the local tourist attractions on Friday. We then knuckled down for 2 solid days of meetings and strategic planning.

Queensland Council has participated in two joint meetings with Federal council and the other state councils. We had a zoom meeting in February, and just recently we had an in-person meeting held in Canberra, where all state councils were in attendance. It is such a valuable experience, with each council offering support and the sharing of ideas. Amanda Clark, State Treasurer and I were privileged to represent Queensland at the face-to-face meeting. Amanda and I also travelled to Bourke, NSW to attend the 50th New South Wales ICPA conference and celebrations. Alana Moller joined us on the road trip and you know what goes on tour stays on tour!! It was fascinating to listen to the 81 motions presented at the conference as our issues are so similar yet so different. It was a real privilege to be there and meet some of the founding members, including Wally Mitchell.

Our Annual Conference was held recently in Blackall and wow! didn't Blackall turn the cold weather on for Conference!! Every conference seems to have its special memories and I am sure the cold frosty mornings will be etched in the minds of attendees!! Not to mention the 5.30am start on the loud speaker at the campdraft on a frosty Friday morning adjacent to tent city. The beautiful wattle theme and decorations in the hall was a beautiful distraction though and. The 51st conference held in Blackall, 50 years on from the first conference also held in Blackall, was a wonderful event, with over 200 people attending. This special conference, so important to the Blackall branch, was so ably convened by Anita Dennis and Susie Milson and the Blackall branch convening committee and it ran seamlessly from start to finish, which was much appreciated by Qld State Council.

Qld State Council was thrilled that The Minister for Education, the Honourable Grace Grace MP was able to take time from her busy schedule to open conference in Blackall this year. We must also thank the Minister for listening to some of our issues and providing direct feedback to the attendees. We welcomed the news that the ICT hardware subsidy will be increased from \$250.00 to \$400.00 for

distance education students and the partnership between Education Queensland and Telstra to deliver faster internet to all schools. We also appreciated the attendance from several government agencies who took a keen interest in the issues faced by rural and remote families.

It was a privilege to present two outstanding contributors to ICPA Qld over the years with Life Membership. Margie Greenway and Jan Gall have continued to fly the flag for ICPA Qld for many years long since their official roles within the organisation have drawn to a close. Certificates of appreciation were presented to Jeff Little for his long-term support of ICPA and to Noela Wilson who has been busy behind the scenes for over twenty years proof reading News and Views and the Minutes. We know that no federal conference or qld conference will be the same without Jeff who has been such a passionate supporter of ICPA over the past 25 years and beyond.

Conference also saw the launch of the 50 years of ICPA Qld book. Christine McLean, with the assistance of Mary Killeen, di Selby and Carmel Elliot undertook a mammoth task to have this history compiled by conference. Thank you so much for all who contributed to the book as it is a wonderful record of all that has occurred over the last 50 years. Again, ICPA Qld thanks you, Julie Collis, for your generous donation towards the printing of this book.

Preparations are now underway as State Council organises delegations to Brisbane in July where we take all the motions passed at conference and present the issues to the Education Department, the relevant Ministers, and other Key Stakeholders. The Motion Action Plan is taking shape for the coming year, and we look forward to, hopefully, a regular year of action for lobbying our actions.

Our next face to face meeting will be in Brisbane while we are at delegations. We will be finalising the portfolio objective updates from motions presented at conference, determining the key issues for the year and finalise our plans for the next 12 months.

This year saw the departure of two councillors, Rob McArthur and Jocelyn Freeman, for whom we thank for all your efforts over the period you were on council. Tammie Irons position as Immediate Past President has ended; however, we really appreciate Tammie staying on as Registrations Officer and overseeing the Website. We welcome Tammy Bailey, Richmond Branch to the team and look forward to working with you.

Thank you to WA State Council for treating us to a fantastic few days in Perth and we continue to be inspired by the passion we all bring to the table at conference.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Belinda Hatcher

Madame President, Federal councillors, ICPA members and guests, it gives me great pleasure to present my first President's report for South Australia's ICPA.

In March 2012, I headed to Wilpena Pound to attend my first ever ICPA State Conference as an observer for the Flinders Ranges Branch. I had joined our branch only 6 months before after some friends in the area told me that now my kids were older and on School of the Air, that I might benefit from being involved. Now, I knew what ICPA was and what they did but as I had only been living back in the community for a couple of years and between settling back into station life and 'herding' 3 kids under 9, it hadn't really crossed my mind to join until then. Attending conference, I was told, would be a great way for me to dip my toes into the waters of ICPA – little did I know I was about to be dunked into those waters headfirst!

As I sat and listened to motions (which confused the heck out of me back then!!) I began to understand what my friends at SOTA camps and local cricket matches were speaking so passionately about. I listened to Judy Newton give her Federal Council update, Glennis Crawford and Jane Gloster speak to motions with such ease and confidence and watch all those ladies who I knew from SOTA, RICE and outback events sit up the front and run the day so effortlessly. To say I was in awe was an understatement. Lunch time quickly rolled around and someone brought this little piece of paper to me that had my name in the nominee position with the word secretary written next to the 'position nominating for' section. It was all a blur after that and by the end of the day I was elected to the roll of State Secretary! Fast forward 10 years, and here I am as President, a role which I am slowly starting to get the hang of. Going to Wilpena all those years ago changed my life for the better and I am so proud of everything that I (and all the councillors I have served with or who served before me) have been part of achieving for this amazing, highly valued organisation and all its members.

This year's South Australian State Conference was held on Friday the 1st of April in Port Augusta and was hosted by the Port Augusta branch. The name for this year's conference was 'Looking Forward, Looking Back', which was the perfect theme as we were celebrating 50 years of South Australian ICPA. With approximately 80 members, guests and visitors in attendance conference was opened by Port Augusta Branch life member Colleen Manning. By the end of her speech there wasn't a dry eye in the house and it was the perfect opening to the day. We were also treated to some wonderful recounts from a panel of past members on what their time was like on SA ICPA and some of their favourite memories from that time.

There were many laughs and lots of 'I remember that's' coming from the audience and it was such a great way to pay tribute to those who have paved the way for our current councillors, members and SA ICPA. We had a bumper 23 motions presented with all being successfully carried. They came from a wide range of portfolio areas and were debated in a passionate and respectful way. Overall, it was a positive and successful day that was enjoyed by all.

The State Council executive elected at the 2022 AGM were President – Belinda Hatcher; Vice President – Lisa Slade; Immediate Past President – Jill Greenfield; Secretary – Hollie Williams; Treasurer – Michelle Hilder and Publicity Officer – Helen Williams. Branch reps and councillors are Katrina Morris, Amanda Michael, Ellen Litchfield, Pamela Cuffe, Louise Kohler, Candice Brown, Penny Rasheed, Di Thomas and Linda Haydon

Appointed positions for 2022 are: Pipeline Editor – Lynly Kerin; Pipeline Layout Designer – Mija Reynolds; State Webmaster – Jodie Keogh; E-Newsletter Editor; Helen Williams; REVISE Rep - Candice Brown; OACGC rep - Petie Rankin; Lone Member officer - Jodie Keogh.

Thank you to those state councillors that stepped off of state council this year. They were Kerry Williams, Jess Barry, Melanie Lewis and Emilie Warnest. Their time and passion has been appreciated by all. A special thank you to Kerry who has been Pipeline editor, President and Immediate Past President during her time on state council. Those that know Kerry, know of the immense passion she has for the Specific Needs portfolio and education in general. She is and always will be our 'go to' person for almost any question we have about education.

I would personally like to say a big thank you to and acknowledge Jill Greenfield, who over the past three years as State President has been a steady hand and a fearless leader of our state council. When faced with the unprecedented issues that arose from the pandemic or anything that was thrown her way, she rolled up her sleeves and dove headfirst into doing whatever was needed to support our members no matter what it took. Thanks Jill!

SA ICPA State Council were invited to participate in the Country Education Strategy and it was such a privilege to be included in this consultation by the Department for Education. The Country Education Strategy paper was released in September 2021 and some of the common issues found included the attraction and retention of quality leaders, teachers and support staff, transition and induction of new staff into local communities, better access to quality student support and broad curriculum choices as well as access to quality ICT infrastructure, capabilities and support.

These key topics are what ICPA advocates for on a daily basis and it was such a great opportunity to relate things back to our member's needs and highlight the extra support and resources families in rural and remote South Australia need to meet these expectations and we look forward to working with the Department for Education and key stakeholders in bringing many of these goals to fruition.

The South Australian Department for Education launched their 'Parent Engagement in Learning Strategy' on the 29 December 2021 and SA ICPA were lucky to be part of the consultation process. The strategy outlined how the department will support parent engagement in learning now and into the future. Given the higher level of involvement that most parents have in distance education, it was a great opportunity to not only understand how this works for families in metropolitan areas and face to face situations but to also offer insights into how those distance ed parents manage the level of involvement that comes with this unique form of education.

After what I imagine was a nervous and stressful wait for Federal Council, it was finally time to celebrate 50 years of ICPA at the 2021 Federal Conference in Longreach on the 3rd and 4th of November. SA ICPA was represented by 5 members, including Jill Greenfield, Hollie Williams and Katrina Morris, who made their way from William Creek to Longreach in a light plane. I hear there were a few nerves and it was a bit cramped, but in the end, they knew it would all be worth it to be part of the event. Even though I was not there, I am told that attendees were thoroughly spoilt by way of virtual guest speakers, dinner by the Thompson River and the Qantas 50th birthday display, just to name a few enjoyable moments. SA's very own Lisa Slade was farewelled from her position of Federal Treasurer and then welcomed into the role of Federal Vice President very soon after. Thank you Lisa, for flying the flag for SA – we are all very proud of your dedication to the organisation and its members.

In December SA ICPA were given the chance to be a stall holder at the SA Arid Lands field days which was held in Port Augusta where we were part of the 2-day event which saw many organisations, local businesses and services come together. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends, take part in the informative and interesting workshops provided, have a sticky beak at the latest innovation for the pastoral industry or buy something from a small business or two. It was very obvious just how big a part that ICPA plays in rural and remote peoples lives as it turned out that our stall was the most visited during the event!

The beginning of the 2022 school year did not start smoothly for many boarding children and families in South Australia and it was especially tough for those starting their boarding journey.

It became apparent early in the term that boarding houses were applying the rules based on how their leaders interpreted the guidelines from SA Health and it quickly became known by the boarders and their families that not all rules were the same. With this knowledge, State Council collated case studies from families across many boarding situations and then with the assistance of then Member for Flinders, Peter Treloar and then Member for Stuart, Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP, we were able to secure a meeting with SA Health, Department for Education, Catholic Education SA and Independent Schools of SA. This meeting was extremely useful for us all to come together for the common goal of

boarding children and some useful solutions were filtered back to families and passed onto their boarding schools. By term 2 things had settled and thankfully boarders began to see some return to normality.

I don't think I am alone in saying that the effect the COVID 19 pandemic has had on children and their education is yet to be truly quantified. It has been a difficult couple of years for our students but their resilience has continued to shine, even during the toughest of times. The tireless work of Federal Council, State Councils, ABSA and other interested parties in trying to find the best solutions for the never ending and constantly changing issues that have arose during the pandemic has been nothing short of incredible and SA ICPA and our members are so thankful for all you have achieved across this area.

State Secretary Hollie Williams came up with the great idea to sell fishing shirts, which we all know (along with double bander trucker caps) are among the hottest items for country people at the at the moment, as a fundraiser for both SA ICPA and SOTA. Sponsorship for the production of the shirts was sought and there were many businesses interested in supporting this fabulous idea. A call was then put out to members for photos of stock, kids in the outback and country scenes to feature on the shirts and the responses made the choices a difficult one. The money raised was shared equally with School of the Air's Outback Parents and Friends Association and overall raised around \$5000, which was an incredible amount and very welcome.

SA ICPA would like to acknowledge and thank The Indulkaninna Foundation for their generous donation. Their donation has been put to very good use in the form of bursaries for students, which are being utilised for wide variety of things including new laptops, online music and drama lessons, school uniforms, school camps and SPELD support lessons just to name a few. We look forward to this being an ongoing partnership and are very grateful to be considered in the philanthropic vision for their foundation.

We have continued to communicate with members in many ways including our E-Newsletter, Facebook, the website and of course the Pipeline Magazine. The Pipeline magazine is delivered to members twice a year and in January 2022, the 100th edition landed in members mailboxes.

It was full of nostalgia, memories and wonderful articles that paid tribute to how far the magazine has come and what it means to members.

In May, Hollie and myself made the trip to Canberra to be part of the joint state and Federal Council catch up. The opportunity to meet our peers from other states was a special one, especially considering it was the first face to face catch up of that kind in almost 3 years. Whilst there may be differences in council make ups, membership numbers and member needs, it is the collective passion of all councilors across the country at every level that makes ICPA such a powerful organisation, with the ability to bring about real change, where change is most needed. To know I have played just a small part in this big family is one of the reasons why I am (and I think why so many others are as well) so inspired to be involved. Alana, I had such a fan girl moment just being in the room with you over those couple of days and I truly look forward to learning and being inspired by your leadership style as I begin writing this chapter of my ICPA story.

At the time of writing this report and since our state conference, SA ICPA State Council have been busy writing motion letters, organising our delegation to Adelaide and supporting members with their needs. I am slowly finding my feet as President, but I have quickly realized that my passion and excitement for being in the role does not necessarily make writing reports and doing 'presidently' things any easier! Many thanks must go to our state councilors for their support during this transition time, especially to Hollie, Jill, Lisa and Michelle for their extra encouragement and gentle prompts when it has been needed.

Finally, congratulations and thank you to Alana, Federal Council and the WA State Council for putting on what I can only imagine will be an excellent couple of days for the 51st Federal Conference in Perth. I am sad I could not be there with you all, but have my fingers firmly crossed that I will be able to join you all in Darwin next year.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sally Brindal

Well, hello and welcome to the Quay, the place to be.

Madam President, Distinguished Guests, Federal Councillors, ICPA members. It is with great pleasure I present my report as President of ICPA WA. This is my final report as WA State President, and thanks to the COVID pandemic, my first live report – befitting that it is here in Perth. Thank you so much to everyone who has travelled from near and far to join us in beautiful Perth today.

The start of the 2022 school year began with many COVID restrictions still in place which caused an element of disruption to WA schools. Term 2 2022 was particularly difficult. The relaxing of COVID restrictions resulted in a surge of COVID cases throughout the whole community and an increase in people self-isolating due to being deemed a close contact. I would like to thank all education and boarding staff for their dedication and commitment in ensuring the disruption and impact to our children's education was minimised. I would also like to thank parents, and particularly boarding parents, for their patience, understanding and cooperation as we all navigated a high case load COVID environment.

2022 sees the removal of the final Royalty for Regions component of the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA). Over the past five years this allowance has now been reduced by \$785 per student to \$1320 per year, back to the same level it was in 2010. The BAHA reduction was explained, at the time, by the Government as, *'being a necessary part of reducing budgets'* however, given the announcement for the second year in a row, of a revised budget surplus, of \$5.7 billion this year, the reduction seems inequitable for families and students who benefit from this much relied upon allowance, especially with the continual annual increase in boarding fees. In correspondence during 2020 the Hon. Sue Ellery, MLC, Minister for Education and Training stated,

"After 2022, I will request the Department of Education examine the structure of BAHA payments."

WA State Council look forward to development in this area and hope the Department will look favourably on boarding families.

Another casualty of the 2018 Education budget cuts, to save money, was the privatisation of the running of the six camps schools to Fairbridge WA. Despite assurances at the time, it has recently become quite clear that there has been a deterioration of both facilities and programs, particularly at the rural camp facilities in Geraldton and Kalgoorlie, which used to be outstanding. At a recent meeting with the new Fairbridge CEO it was made abundantly clear that financial economics is a large factor. School camps play such an important role, especially for distance education children, and provide an important opportunity for parents, who are more often the home tutors, to receive some professional development. However, the current situation is impacting both of these valuable experiences and ICPA WA will continue to support our members in this area.

Members have continuously presented motions requesting a review into the School Bus Service offered to students (Orange School Buses). In August 2021 the State Government referred regional school bus services to the Parliamentary Public Accounts committee to consider a review focussed on the Public Transport Authority's (PTA) Student Transport Assistance Policy Framework, which provides students living in remote or rural areas with transport assistance to attend school. It also provides transport assistance to students with special needs who attend education support facilities. ICPA WA

presented a submission to the review committee and in February myself, Kym Ross, WA Secretary and Jane Cunningham WA Vice President gave evidence to the hearing.

Unfortunately, the Department of Transport have been less than cooperative regarding issues in relation to the Student Travel Subsidy Scheme – Road Travel Subsidy for high school students. Numerous letters have been written to the Department of Transport all receiving the same standard rote reply. It is extremely disappointing that requests for a meeting to further explain how the application of the current eligibility criteria is disadvantaging families living in rural communities have not been met with a favourable response. On the one occasion a meeting was arranged with the Minister of Transport's Policy Advisor, he failed to attend, with no prior warning given and no apology received after.

ICPA WA and Lisa Rodgers, Director General of Education, are maintaining their cohesive working relationship. Discussions have revolved around increased access and awareness for families to the School of Special Education Needs (SEN), SOTA reviews and accountability, promotion of the School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE) and expectations of staff during school reviews at rural schools.

WA State Council are a part of the Education Department's System Alliance Group. The System Alliance consists of key stakeholders across the whole education sector including Presidents of the various Principals Associations, Catholic Education, Independent Schools Association, various unions and P and C to name a few. The Alliance participates in assessing proposed policy across all facets of education from staffing to curriculum. The group is very receptive to each stakeholder sharing information on the impact of proposed policies; this information is taken on board. The group meets six times a year, led by the Director General Lisa Rodgers however prior to the return to school, met weekly from January, which continued throughout February, solely focussed on the return to school and the implications of proposed COVID guidelines. The attendance by ICPA WA was extremely important to voice any concerns and impacts the proposed guidelines would have on our rural schools and boarding families. ICPA did get a mention on the radio when the Education Minister announced the return to school guidelines and COVID planning measures that had been discussed with ICPA!

Due to the COVID situation in Perth, the WA 50th State Conference '50 Years along Way Down the Track' in March was postponed. In true Olympic fashion the planned 2022 50th celebrations were rolled forward to 2023 with all sponsors also agreeing to roll their sponsorship forward, for which we are most grateful. With five weeks to go, WA State Council converted to an online State Conference and on 18th March celebrated "50 Magical Years" of ICPA WA instead.

Conference was opened by Hon. Sue Ellery, Minister for Education and Training. Messages from Mrs Margaret Hoare (Lacy) the founding President of Meekatharra Air, the first ICPA Branch in WA, and also the founding President of ICPA WA, Mrs Roxanne Morrissey, Federal and WA State Life Member, Mrs Raelene Hall WA State Life Member and the founding President of the Yalgoo Branch Mrs Roma Heath, added a beautiful personal touch to the celebrations. There were thirteen branch motions presented predominately concerning the:

- WA Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA)
- Student Travel Subsidy Scheme-Road Travel Subsidy (STSS-RTS)
- degradation of the government's camp schools, now contracted out to Fairbridge WA
- teacher registration and pre-service placements at SOTAs and SIDE (School of Isolated and Distance Education) which encompasses not just geographically isolated children.

The WA Director General of Education, Ms Lisa Rodgers addressed conference and took questions without notice. Her open and informative response to questions was greatly appreciated by members. Ms Rodgers is very passionate about rural and remote education and improving the quality of education deliverance through distance education.

The revised programme concluded with the AGM being held straight after lunch. I would like to congratulate Naomi Obst, Midwest Branch who stepped down from Council due to taking up a position on Federal Council. Sincere thanks must go to ABSA, Federal Council and Nikki Macqueen for all their assistance with our online Conference. I would also like to thank Telstra and Greencollar for their sponsorship of the additional IT costs in setting up an online conference with online voting capabilities.

The online format meant that the tyranny of distance was not a barrier for people to attend. Despite feeling the conference itself was a success, the lack of social interaction and networking that normally follows conference was such an anti-climax. It really highlighted the importance of face-to-face connections, and although sometimes that does require more effort, it really is so so worth it! As the saying goes, ***you don't know what you have until its gone!***

It was wonderful to be able to attend a Federal Joint Council meeting, with WA Secretary Kym Ross in Canberra in May, and meet up with other State and Territory executives. It really is such a fantastic opportunity to hear issues and success stories from each other and discuss how we can all build on the wonderful organisation of ICPA.

Membership has remained steady in WA however, as we continue to learn to live with COVID, it is imperative that through the network of Branches we remain engaged with our members and rise to the challenge of continuing membership into the future and raising awareness of the role ICPA plays in supporting the access to education for rural and remote families.

I would like to acknowledge the support ICPA WA receives from all our generous sponsors and stakeholder groups.

I would like to thank my fellow State Councillors for volunteering their time and knowledge to such a worthy organisation and for their support, hard work and commitment. Thank you also Federal Council and the other State and Territory Councils for their continued support, camaraderie and friendship.

I took on the President's role on Friday 13th, 2020 and since that time COVID has continued to present so many challenges, changes and disruptions to lives the entire world. However, throughout that time there has remained one constant - ICPA. Thank you everyone for your support and contribution. Thank you for being the united voice during a time of chaos and great uncertainty.

I hope the two days of Conference are enlightening and enjoyable.

Thank you.

PEDALS REPORT 2022

Raelene Hall

Madam President, Federal and State Councillors, ICPA members, ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure I present to you my very final Pedals report.

My memory of the conference at which I was first appointed editor of Pedals is very vivid in my memory - even seventeen years on. It wasn't the nerves or the anticipation although they were both present. No, it was that I attended a pre-conference event at Parliament House with, the then Prime Minister John Howard, with an egg on my forehead and the beginnings of a lovely black eye!

Earlier in the day, whilst walking down Anzac Parade, I had tripped at one of the memorials and landed on the side of my face/head. I managed to get myself up, call my friend and we got a taxi back to our hotel. After I collapsed to the hotel floor -twice - some concerned ICPA members suggested a visit to hospital was in order. Fortunately, there was no major damage other than a lump, a headache and bruising that kept appearing for the next 24 hours!

Seventeen years! What a journey it has been and how grateful I am to have had such an amazing opportunity. I've learnt countless skills; I've made friends and attended conferences across our vast land. I've worked with the most amazing Federal and State Councillors. As for all those members who have contributed to Pedals, your stories have made me laugh, cry, and want to hug you when you wrote about the inequities your kids in the bush face time and time again. So many of you have amazing writing talents but just don't see it or don't have time to nurture it. I hope one day you all see what you have to offer the world. Your kids are lucky to have you as parents.

Many others have contributed to Pedals content during my years as editor. Some distinguished, others in businesses, writing, publishing and more. Thank you for your generosity in sharing writings with all our readers. I will always be grateful for your support.

Those cover photos. Oh, my word! I never knew what the cover photo would look like until it landed in my inbox but once it did, I knew. I just knew. How? I can't explain it. Of course, there are the technical details like the resolution, orientation and room for the Pedals heading but then it is just the 'it' factor. Some photos just have 'it' and I hope the absolute delight I felt every time I found my 'it' photo was replicated by the joy you all felt when you saw the cover of your Pedals. To every person who has allowed me to share their amazing photos as covers thank you so much.

I would like to acknowledge all those who have gone down the Pedals editorial path before me. Each one of you has helped shaped the magazine we have today, and you all did it in eras when nothing was as simple and easy as it is for me today.

Why does anyone choose to do a voluntary job like this for so many years? Firstly, I don't even know where those years have gone? I certainly don't feel like I'm seventeen years older than when I started but, unfortunately my birth certificate doesn't lie. More than that though it's not only about what you can give but what you receive in return. I've mentioned it already -friendships, travel and new skills, to name just a few. Having to ensure Pedals was put together each quarter also helped me through some of the most difficult periods of my life. It gave me purpose and resolve to continue on with life when it would have been so easy just to wallow in a sea of grief and misery. I know my late sisters and brother would be proud that I stood up and carried on.

ICPA is a lobby group, an organisation to fight for the rights of our bush kids to have an equitable education to their city peers but it is so much more than that. It is a family. It is a family that puts its arms around you in the tough times, celebrates with you in the good times, holds your hand through the scary patches and is always there no matter where you go or what you do.

John F Kennedy famously said, 'Think not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country'. Paraphrasing those immortal words, I challenge you to 'think not just what ICPA can do for you but what you can do for ICPA'.

My final acknowledgement must go to my amazing family. My husband Clyde, who prefers to be behind the scenes but is 100% supportive of everything I choose to do and my three amazing children, Kenneth, Matthew and Kelly. You are the inspiration for everything I have done with ICPA. You truly are the wind beneath my wings. I love you all.

This is not goodbye from me but just farewell for now.

WEB MANAGER'S REPORT 2022

Sue Shotton

At the 50th annual conference in Longreach, ICPA was celebrating the achievements of our organisation and the grass roots members who have volunteered thousands of hours to teach their children and to lobby to give our children an education that any urban student expects.

Longreach also showed us that our great organisation can rise above current issues, such as COVID or state restrictions, and unite our members to debate policies even if full attendance is not possible, through technology. All who attended last year had a huge learning curve with dealing with online voting and although there were minor hiccups it worked and motions were debated and voted on forming our policy moving forward.

In 2021 ICPA launched its new website collection with all member states having their own website to individualise as they wish. All branches also have their own webpage within their state website which also can be individualised. Hopefully this will encourage cohesive interaction between members, branches, states and federal.

As with any new development in its infancy there will always be teething problems. Our technology has grown at a great speed with new features being created to respond to different scenarios which in turn has highlighted issues which had not been visualised in the early testing. It must be noted that like all new things, issues will arise and solutions can be sort to improve the technology we currently have.

Since our launch, Federal and State Conferences have utilised mini conference websites which are housed within the framework of the existing ones creating a one stop shopfront without the need to go through a third party. This is extremely important to keep everything within the websites framework so that traffic, both members and public, are drawn to the websites which will, in turn, highlight our lobbies and hopefully encourage new memberships. The more traffic visiting the website will also raise the website profile to improve our exposure on google search. A pleasing circle of events which ICPA strives for and which will benefit our membership.

Another important feature of the websites is the Federal database, which is an integral building block of the websites and it also has had its teething problems, such as life members receiving a membership renewal in error. When these issues arise changes in back of house are done to ensure these things do not happen again. I would like to thank Jane O'Brien, retiring membership officer, for her expertise in learning on the run how this database works and the wonderful work she has done over the past few years. She will be missed.

States, portfolio leaders and some branches utilise the icpa.com.au email addresses. These can either be a physical email inbox which does incur a monthly fee or a virtual mailbox which is directed to another email. This virtual box is free. Every branch has a virtual icpa.com.au email address which is being redirected to a branch executive. To update your redirection please come and see Nikki or myself.

Due to the speed of the technology developments and issues that have arisen we have found that communication between state webmasters, state memberships officer and the web team is vital so messenger groups were created which seem to work efficiently. It was also a requirement that generic emails were created so anyone can email a query to receive a reply in a timely manner. These emails go to all federal web team members for a resolution of the issue.

Thank you to all members of our technology team, whether it be website or membership, for all your hard work over the past year. A special thanks to my web guru, Nikki and our Federal President, Alana, who allows Nikki and me to do what we feel will benefit the website and ICPA. Also a special mention to our web developer, Mark from Enrega, who has been very accommodating to all our needs which is ensuring our website goes from strength to strength.

A conference report can't really show how this technology works so I hope you visit our website stand at conference and get some hands on demonstrations from Nikki or myself. We are available at any time and can also be contacted on website@icpa.com.au for website queries or database@icpa.com.au for any membership or database queries.

We hope to see you soon.