
The Top Wire Report

Madam President, distinguished guests, fellow members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I present The Top Wire Report for 2024.

Firstly, congratulations to ICPA-NSW State Council for another year of writing reports and providing portfolio and motion updates for The Top Wire! Members love reading about where things are up to after motions are passed at State Conferences and what transpires throughout the year on the advocating front. Thank you for taking the time to help me with the proof-reading process of each edition which ensures we keep The Top Wire at the premium level we strive for and for never complaining about the sometimes-ridiculous turnaround time frames that I keep you to, in order to get The Top Wire publications out to members in a timely manner.

I'd like to acknowledge the organisations that have regularly supported The Top Wire throughout last year with useful information for parents. These include the Gidget Foundation with perinatal/postnatal-and-coming articles, Royal Far West and their focus on early intervention services such as speech pathology/occupational therapy, Tresillian who offer several 'first stop' options for parents with general concerns over their baby or toddler, NSW Centre for Effective Reading with their helpful phonological awareness/ phonics/vocabulary and reading fluency articles and the Dept of Education with their tips on accessing the NSW Education Parent App, Distance Education for preschoolers, the National Student Wellbeing program, Telstra & nbn have also been consistent with contributing articles regarding the up and coming 3G closure, new satellite plans and communication updates for which we thank you.

During last year's conference the wonderful Jess Donoghue of The Empowered Muse (aka the Conference Photographer!) collared a number of Conference attendees to be models for an updated ICPA Merchandise section of The Top Wire. The May edition was the first edition to include this spruced up Merchandise section and we will continue to use these models throughout future editions.

Throughout 2023 the following branches have contributed to The Top Wire: Hay, Boomi, Monaro, Rankins Springs, Wenworth, NSW/VIC Lone Members, Broken Hill, Central West Plains, Louth, Walgett, Lord Howe Island and Nyngan branches. I thank these branches who have contributed, and I note that it is a 70% increase on last year's branch contributions so now we just need to have the remaining 17 branches jump on board for 2024 and share with our members something that is happening in your branch. It mightn't be anything especially significant but whatever it is doesn't matter, nor does the size of the article matter, but ICPA-NSW members are always interested to learn about what goes on in the lives of rural and remote families.

Thank you to the schools who have supported The Top Wire with advertising during 2023 and a special thank you to Claire Butler who efficiently collates information from the schools in readiness for the bumper November edition of The Top Wire.

Finally, many thanks to the Rankins Springs Branch who consistently come together every three months to package and post each edition of Top Wire to all our members.

Kerrie Johnston
Top Wire Editor