



Pedals Report – Federal Conference Hannah Calcino -QLD

Good Morning ICPA Federal President Louise Martin, ICPA Federal Council, Delegates, Members, Stakeholders and Guests.

If you'll allow, I'd like to take a moment to be a little bit sentimental. This Federal Conference has felt particularly special as it has been hosted on my home soil. As a born and bred Gold Coaster, I'd like to say welcome to my home. I've lived in a 9th floor apartment in the Meriton complex where many of you are staying; my grandparents owned a very small dairy, then beef operation in the rolling green hills of the Gold Hinterland, which you'll be able to see from SkyPoint at our post-conference function tonight; my cousin, Father and Grandfather walked the same paths we walked at TSS last night and I spent 5 years teaching English and coaching sports on the very hardwood floor you're currently seated on.

This also feels like a full circle moment. It was while working at St Hilda's School, where Annette Boyle – previous QLD State Council Secretary, called me into her Head of Boarding office and asked if I'd like to take a trip to coach some netball at ICPA Sports for Bush Kids in Mount Isa. To think of all the things I've gained by simply saying yes to that work trip makes me believe that I probably owe Annette a very big thank you...

I stand before you today to present my annual ICPA Pedals Magazine report. Pedals is currently in a very good spot – it has a readership in excess of 8,000 people each quarter, more and more businesses and schools are wanting to advertise within our pages and members are always generous with their contributions. As always, I'm indebted to Tracey Dewell, our publisher, for the work she does in coordinating advertising and ensuring the beige word documents I send her somehow become the aesthetically pleasing magazine that arrives in your mailbox. I don't say this lightly – I would be lost without her and there wouldn't be a magazine without her expertise.

Every year, I sit down to write this report and wonder what on earth I could say that would be worth listening to, but then I remember that it's not me that I'm about to speak about – it's all of you and you all have stories worth sharing. So, without further ado, I'd like to take a few moments to revisit some of my favourite stories from the last 12 months of Pedals magazines.

The October 2025 cover image still makes me laugh – six year old Zaeda Gill of Alice Springs branch, donning a yellow wig and bumble bee costume while her poddy calf Annie wears a beautiful yellow sunflower head piece. The funny image accompanies a story of the pilgrimage the children of Jervois Station take each year to attend the Alice Springs Show.



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In the January issue each year, Mount Isa Branch of the Air interview their branch members graduating primary school to find out what adventure lays ahead for them and what they're most looking forward to about starting high school.

April 2026 featured Federal Councillor Amber Driver's tale of a 5,000km journey that transversed 5 states, in a quest to visit the grandparents while dodging flood waters, road closures and the ever-evolving plans required when attempting to take a family holiday when you live on a cattle station.

Finally, if you haven't yet, make the time to read Bronwyn Tofaeono's musings as she travels to Broken Hill from Lord Howe Island for her first State Conference in our most recent issue.

What all these stories, and not merely the ones I've just mentioned, but every article published in Pedals has in common, is that they tell tales of the collective power and benefit of doing something that is bigger than ourselves. Whether it's state or federal councils attending delegations or branches running a sausage sizzle to raise a few dollars for a sports camp, the work of ICPA is longstanding because the motivation behind it isn't selfish ambition.

I often get asked why me - a single, childless, thirty year old - is so invested in ICPA and my answer is always the same – because who wouldn't want to stand in a room full of people who are passionate about the same things you're passionate about? Because I've never witnessed another organisation that is run completely by volunteers that gets to be at the same table as policy makers and government officials. And finally, because my investment of time is delivered ten-fold when it's combined with the collective efforts of others who are also striving for equitable education for our geographically isolated children.

So, federal council, state councils and branch members, whatever you do, wherever you do it – thank you. Your effort may seem small, but the collective power is mighty.