



ICPA NT State Conference and AGM
Thu 29 Feb 2024
ALICE SPRINGS

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ICPA NT 2024

State Conference

State and Branch Reports

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2024 AGM: ICPA NT State Council President's Report

Moira Lanzarin, NT State President

Today is a special day for multiple reasons. We are all here together - in person, in spirit, or online - despite the challenges; and it is the 29th of February. To borrow the words of Vera Nazarian, today is: *"A strange, amazing day that comes only once every four years. For the rest of the time it does not "exist." In mundane terms, it marks a "leap" in time, when the calendar is adjusted to make up for extra seconds accumulated over the preceding three years due to the rotation of the earth. A day of temporal tune up! But this day holds another secret—It is a day of unlocked potential.*

Today, together, we will unlock that potential, as we "Leap into Learning" and embrace the exciting opportunities that it brings.

I am forever mindful, and ever so appreciative of, the strong leadership and processes set by those who have gone before us, in guiding and creating ICPA as we know it today. Thank you. And thank you to some of those amazing individuals for continuing to contribute and be with us still.

Just as we are all about growing our children and their education – ICPA provides a personal growth journey for parents and teaching staff. I love seeing the increasing confidence and capacity as new members come through, taking their turn in leadership roles, so ably supported by those who have been before.

ICPA has helped me grow and develop. Not just in my time as State Treasurer and now President but from a much earlier time too. I consider myself a child of ICPA. My school of the air and boarding school days in North Queensland were all the better because of the advocacy and actions of my Mum and others busy working at a Branch, State and Federal level of ICPA.

This unique structure of ICPA - being divided into 3 groups – not on a hierarchy of importance – but on a delineation of task – makes it strong and powerful. 1) Our Branches are where we all stand and belong. They provide grassroot connections and support. 2) Our State Councils – are a united voice for members on state-based issues. 3) Our Federal Council – a united voice for members on Federal (national) issues. Every member belongs and has access at every level. Any member can stand at any level. Everyone is equal and everyone is important. We just have different tasks to achieve. Today acknowledges and celebrates that, with all three groups presenting and participating together.

My task as NT State President is to lead the State Council in our advocacy to relevant stakeholders about state related issues. I also see my task as a conduit and connecting mechanism between all three groups and our stakeholders.

Last year, I quoted from our ICPA NT diary, that myself or State Council representatives attended 98 meetings/events on your behalf either in person or online. When I checked this year's spreadsheet, it had only 62 items listed. I don't believe we have actually done less in any way this year, in fact it is quite probably more, and simply that my admin time to keep things updated has slipped.

ICPA is currently run on a 100% voluntary workforce. We wear multiple hats simultaneously. We are the shareholders, directors and workers of ICPA – all at the same time. This combined with the role of parent, home tutor, business manager, HR department, cook, nurse and jack of all trades – not to mention volunteer members of Landcare, bushfires, campdraft or Cattleman's. This is both our

greatest strength and weakness. We are passionate and committed but we are few in numbers and spread very thinly. We speak from the heart and with integrity because it is our lived experience and reality. Our kids are far too important not to. But well-being, burnout and follow up must be carefully managed so that this important juggling act can keep all the necessary balls in the air as required and safely place them down unbroken too. So if you see things that you think could or should be done better, please also think, "How can I help to do that?"

We are most grateful of the many and varied sources of funding we receive to assist in the achieving of our goals: the Department of Education, individual sponsors, branch donations, members contributions, fundraising and grants.

Hosting the Federal Conference in Darwin in July was a massive effort and one that the NT should be rightly proud of. This year's conference will be in Sydney - "Bridging the Divide". Who will join me?

Thanks to our most skilful grants writer, Vice President, Kiya Gill, NT State Council were the recipients of a Qantas flights grant which we have been able to use to get Councillors to and from events (where Qantas connections exist and timings allow).

Delegations were held in Darwin and Alice Springs and meetings in Tennant Creek and Katherine with relevant stakeholders to put forward the issues raised by you in your motions.

I spoke on your behalf at the Developing North Australia Conference in Darwin and manned a booth at the NT Cattleman's Association Conference. At both of these, I reinforced that one cannot achieve economic development and advancement of the regions without looking after families. And to look after families, one must consider access to EDUCATION (and medical, communications and roads).

ICPA NT continues to be an active member of SEAG - the Education Department's School Education Advisory Group. And at the invitation of then Education Minister, Her Hon Eva Lawler, we put forward a nominee for the Parent Representative position on the NT Board of Studies. We still await to hear the outcome of that.

A most useful event on the ICPA annual calendar is the Joint Council President and Secretaries meeting. This brings together State and Federal ICPA leaders together for a weekend of shared learning and strategic connection. This year, instead of it always being hosted and Chaired by Federal Council, we have moved to a rotation among the Council. At the beginning of the month, Catherine and I welcomed all Councils to Darwin for a most productive weekend. WA have now raised their hand and will host and chair next year.

The day after our virtual conference last year, State Council participated in a Values-based, decision-making training session led by Helen Lewis of Decision Design Hub. This is a living, evolving piece of work which will help guide us into the future, ensuring we stay relevant, focused and true to purpose. Part of the vision articulated was: *"As an Organisation we are relevant and resilient. We are persistent, strong and powerful in the voice and support we give to GI families which is positive and solution based. Our intelligence, professionalism, integrity and knowledge are respected. We are welcoming, compassionate and inclusive."*

Council will further expand this work to develop strategic plans and actions. Online cloud storage and capacity, is helping (when the supporting communication infrastructure allows) for us to work smarter and more collaboratively. We are currently using Google Drive for shared documents. This is making a big difference and we are investigating ways of improvement and upskilling as necessary.

The in-depth portfolio reports in your conference bags and available electronically from our Conference website, will give a comprehensive overview of some of our work to date. Further sessions today will expand on these. The program has been designed so that there is also ample opportunity for networking, questions and sharing information. So please, make good use of that. Do not be shy - make a point of introducing yourself to someone you haven't met before. If something you wish to know hasn't been covered, ask.

At our 40th Anniversary conference members suggested that we need to get our stories into mainstream media - that a reality tv show would be useful. This is happening. Thank you Danyelle Haigh for courageously sharing your family's story – on television and in print. If you haven't seen the current edition of Women's Weekly, our own Danyelle and Kylie Jones are beautifully featured as is Federal President, Louise Martin. Thank you for raising the profile. Later today we will hear from ICPA Australia how they too are working on sharing our collective stories to create awareness and further our cause.

At Federal Conference, the NT initiated a conversation about inclusivity of participation. i.e. the involvement of fathers in our association. I would like to publicly acknowledge and unreservedly thank our ICPA fathers - our husbands and spouses. They most certainly are involved. But in the majority, their involvement is hidden from the public eye. In many instances, it is simply not possible for both parents to leave home, business and classroom, to attend conferences and the like. This practical sharing of tasks, of covering for each other, of moral support and sounding boards all contributes and enables us to do what we do. So please, on our behalf, thank your spouses, but also let them know that they are welcome with open arms to not only our social events but also, core business.

By the very nature of our charter - working for geographically isolated children and families - there will always be a need for ICPA. We cannot change the geography or the distance, and nor would we want to.

Enjoyable and important are key factors I believe to the success of ICPA – they are part of the WHY that keeps people volunteering and working hard to achieve better opportunities and outcomes for our children. To my State Councillors - thank you. Please stand. You are awesome. We are blessed with a very talented team. I am inspired and invigorated on a daily basis by the amazing individuals who are ICPA. ICPA helps give me purpose and connection, especially during the challenging days that we all experience.

Thank you for entrusting me with the task of NT President.

2024 AGM: ICPA NT Alice Springs Branch Report

Danyelle Haigh – Branch President

Thank you Moira and Thank you all for joining us in Alice Springs today. For those that don't know me, I thought I'd start by breaking the ice & telling you a little about myself & my family & how I came about being ICPA Alice Springs Branch President.

My husband Anthony & I have 2 children, Heath 9 and Theo 4. We live 190 km north of Alice Springs on the old Territory Grape Farm now known as Athelle Outback Hideaway. We also travel to remote cattle stations drilling & installing water bores. We lived the nomadic life for 10 years travelling & drilling 10 months of the year, working around the clock - all with the 2 kids in tow. Two years ago we decided to put down stumps here in the NT, give our kids some normality & stability. We now produce fodder crops, have a tourist park & attractions & only go out drilling for about 4 months of the year. Oh and did I mention, we have our own TV show... Outback Farm! If you haven't already, you can watch it back on 7mate anytime! Our boys attend school through Alice Springs School of the Air (ASSOA) & are taught by a governess at home & when we are on the road. We live an extremely busy but exciting life & although it took the kids a little to adjust to this, they are now thriving.

ICPA will always hold a very special place in my heart. When I first heard about ICPA, 5 or so years ago it was my first in-school with ASSOA and my first preschool baby. I was still so naive when it came to education in the bush and the inequity that we will face in our years ahead. I met this lovely group of passionate people who I have since made long lasting friendships with, that all were experiencing the same or something similar to what we were. I soon found myself wanting to be a part of this revolution, this group that were making real changes to bush families.

I took the leap and haven't looked back since. Every time I attend an ICPA event whether it be a branch meeting, state conference, federal conference, a dinner or social event I walk away feeling inspired! Even though there can be some intense debates, conflicts of interest or some real tears it always comes back to each & every one of those people all feeling something, all going through something but all wanting the same outcome for our families - Equity!

As I reflect on 2023 it was such a huge year for our branch. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved and all with the help of my amazing committee Kiya Gill, Benji Quilliam, Anna McKenzie, Katy Hayes, Georgie Hamlyn, Sam Selmes & Grainne Martin. We delivered first aid & CPR training; the ongoing home tutor program; a sports day; rolling out 9 playgroups held in conjunction with Kylie from RaisEducation; our in-school meet & greet functions; the strong attendance from our branch members at the 2023 ICPA Federal Conference; and our exciting Christmas party partnered with ASSOA - Alice Springs School of the Air. Our collaboration with ASSOA has also grown stronger this year with working together for better outcomes for our families.

We have welcomed so many new & old faces to our branch. We have tried new things for our families: all having successful feedback & number turnouts. We were able to offer these events because of the amazing amount of support we have received from sponsors, donations and grants.

A vast number of our members attended the Connellan Airways Trust 40th Anniversary Outback Masquerade Ball in September 2023 supporting the event like Connellan supports so many of our bush families. It was lovely to Don on a gown and socialise with other humans instead of steel cap boots & talking to my camel. We were spoiled with delicious 3 course meals, entertained by balleriners & sung to by some amazing voices. A night a lot of us will cherish!

I'm fortunate enough to sit as President of our branch but also as a councillor on the NT State Council. This in turn has helped guide me through my president's role and kept me informed, up to date and helps link me in so I can report back to my branch with what's happening on a state level. It has been great being part of the bigger picture. I anticipate some great delegations when we attend in Darwin later this year.

In my role as a councillor on state, I had the opportunity to fly to Charleville Qld in September 2023 and attend the very first Remote Australians Matter or RAM Conference. This was a massive insight into remote health and the problems that so many remote families are facing in the health department. RAM is a community-driven organisation that was established when a group of like-minded people, concerned about the lack of access to appropriate primary health care for the 2.5% of the population who occupy the 75% of the country that is classified remote or very remote according to the Modified Monash Model, decided to do something about it. They are Advocating for new community-driven, place-based models of primary health care that are innovative, equitable, appropriate, well-funded & sustainable for remote Australia. Another committee I have chosen to be apart of and will work closely with in 2024. Myself, my son & my family have experienced first hand the inequity we face living where we do and have had multiple trips on the RFDS plane. I look forward to contributing to the work RAM will be doing and seeing what the next 12 months has in store for RAM.

Looks like 2024 is panning out to be another big year for our branch and with another amazing team behind me - Amanda Kimpton, Katy Hayes, Grainne Martin, Amanda Brown, Benji Quilliam, Juliane Vlach.

We are hosting this ICPA NT State Conference and we have received confirmation from NTCA (Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association) that we will again have the opportunity to auction off items to raise funds for our branch at their Gala Dinner on the 22nd of March in Alice Springs. NTCA has also invited our bush kids and ASSOA to open their conference with our school themed song. This is so exciting! It is NTCA's 40th anniversary and the children will be performing in front of an audience in excess of 500 people. We will have more first aid training; the ongoing home tutor course; a colour run; lego masters; a dunking machine this week where the kids get to dunk their teachers; more grant offers; and so much more.

As I embark on my second year as Alice Springs branch President, I am excited for the year that lies ahead and focused on making it another successful year for our branch and our families!

Thank you.

2024 AGM: Katherine Branch Report

Constance Wood – Branch President

This report concludes the end of my first year at the ICPA Katherine branch president, a role I was surprised to be nominated for, but a role that I have been proud to hold and hope to continue with in the coming years. As a relative newcomer to both the NT and Katherine School of the Air, I have felt both supported and inspired by so many of our mums (and dads) working within the scope of the ICPA. Many events I have attended for the first time this year, having a newborn last year and two other young children at foot.

It has been a year of many 'firsts', my first time on any ICPA state council, which I thought would be an intimidating experience but I have found to be such a welcoming and enthusiastic group of women, many of whom I now consider friends. I have been absolutely blown away by the professional, passionate way that the NT ICPA members go about carrying out the various forms of advocacy for our GI kids.

I attended NT State conference in Darwin in March, which was held using zoom and that was an interesting process to be a part of. Lots of healthy debate sprung out of the 'back to school voucher' motion alerting us to the importance of wording motions to ensure that the intention of the motion is clearly identifiable. A floor motion was quickly put together and it was a great experience to be a part of the meeting of the minds as well as the workshop ran by Helen Lewis of Decision Design Hub which really dissected the vision and goals for the NT state council, a fantastic exercise to be a part of.

The Nutrien fundraiser at the Katherine show was a real highlight for me, with approximately \$170,000 raised by the commitment and team work between the Katherine ICPA and Nutrien, as well as the generosity of our wider community by firstly donating auction items, and those who dug deep and purchased items at the auction. It was such an exciting and fun event to be a part of, with lots of banter and laughs had throughout. A huge thankyou to all involved, particularly Liz Cook for co-ordinating and all of those who worked efficiently and effectively feeding the masses and selling caps for extra fundraising. I know that this money will be put to good use and already we are able to give financial donations to important services for our bush such as KICS and RAISE education as well as contribute to reducing the cost of the KSA Cairns trip for the students who attended. Further to this, as a result of the hefty fundraising amount, we have been able to raise all of our grant amounts and hopefully we can find new and innovative ways to support and facilitate easier access to education and educational experiences for our bush kids.

One of the real stand out events of the year, for me personally was the Sports Camp, and I highly commend Lauren Hoar for an absolutely stellar first year as sport camp co-ordinator, as well as all those hard working parents and home tutors behind the scenes working to keep everyone fed and watered and the event running as smoothly as it could. Such a wonderful experience, not only for the kids but for us parents as well. The sporting skills learnt by the kids as well as life skills that team sports bring such as resilience, co-operation, communication and the ability to work with others, are important skills that they can add to their tool kit when taking on life. So many of our kids are based on stations with nobody else to play sport with other than their siblings, And we all know how that can turn out sometimes, certainly not with a sense of good team spirit or effective communication!!!! To see all of our kids participating at their various skill levels and showing passion and team work with their war cries as well as just generally having fun with their mates was just

absolutely awesome as a mum to be a part of. All of these opportunities were available to our kids at a minimal cost to the families, hopefully making it accessible for all geographically isolated kids in the region.

Federal Conference in Darwin was another inspiring event that I was lucky enough to attend due to the financial position of the Katherine Branch. The face-to-face connections that conference enables, facilitates so many meaningful conversations and that feeling 'that you are not alone'.

It is frustrating that so often the same motions are brought forward and we see little traction in areas such as increases in the distance education allowance, recognition and funding for our home tutors, boarding allowances, costs of travel, reliable communications connectivity throughout the bush, accessibility of education related allied health services and just generally the cost of distance education, the financial burden of which are all pushed back on to our GI families. Access to education is absolutely essential when raising a family in our remote areas, but yet I feel that minimal financial support is given from the government to assist these particular families with the real out of pocket cost of educating our children. The way I see it, the government have an obligation to provide access to all for a state funded education, but the costs of accessing the same quality of education when you live in a remote area far outweigh the costs borne by our counterparts in towns and cities. There is a true difference between equality and equity. We seek equity in access to education.

On a positive note, some traction has been gained with Student Assistance Scheme, specifically with the Inclusion of pre school being eligible for the Distance Education Allowance for 2023. There is still work to be done, and always improvement to be made, with another review scheduled for February 2024, so any feedback you have is always valuable and allows our state council to effectively and accurately advocate for our families.

I have felt this year, has been a steep learning curve and I have learnt so much from those who have been involved in this branch and with the ICPA for far longer than myself. I think that special mention needs to be made of our branch executive, particularly Sally Dyer, for keeping us abreast and informed of all things ICPA. You are an absolute superstar.

In 2024 I aim to be much more active in this leadership role, as I feel I have a bit more of a firm grasp of the workings of this wonderful branch. I look forward, to firstly a good break for all from the school room, and hopefully some good rainfall over the wet and all that entails but overarchingly, I look forward to taking on 2024 with the same vibrancy and energy I have felt from so many in this room. Together we are achieving great advocacy for our bush kids, and it is truly an honor to be a small part of this meaningful work and this absolutely top-notch group of people.

Thankyou.

2024 AGM: ICPA NT Territory Wide (Lones) Branch Report

Member Officer - Rebecca Osmtotherly

Rebecca Osmotherly, ICPA NT Treasurer and Territory Wide Mentor

The Territory Wide Branch is the NT “Lones” branch which means it is for those who are not associated with the Katherine or Alice Springs schools of the air, or for those that do not want to be actively involved with branch meetings/committees.

In saying that the Territory Wide Branch has some very active members. The Branch had eight members attend the 2023 ICPA NT State Council virtual conference with Suzanne Wilson as a delegate. Suzanne Wilson was re-elected to State Council and joined by fellow Territory Wide member Jacinta McInnerney also elected as a State Council member at the AGM.

The ICPA Federal Conference was held in Darwin this year with nine Territory Wide members attending with Clair O’Brien and Ruth Woerle as delegates. Suzanne Wilson and Jacinta McInnerney attended in their roles on State Council and also as members of the convening committee with Suzanne being the Federal Conference Convenor.

Territory Wide would like to thank Causeway Beef Nutrition for its generous donation of \$1,500.

2024 AGM: ICPA NT Treasurer's Report

Rebecca Osmotherly

It was great to be involved with ICPA again this year.

I am able to table the 2023 audit report, completed again by Venissa Mather, Your Local Audit, Darwin. The 2023 audit has been completed with no issues. The net surplus for the year was \$24,996. Much higher than the surplus for 2022 due to the NT hosting federal Conference this year and reduced expenses incurred with a virtual State Conference & AGM.

The Federal Conference was held in Darwin in 2024 and we were thankful to receive \$21,597 as proceeds from the charity auction and raffle. NT State Council will also receive a payment as a portion of the registration fees and also a portion of the profit of the conference but the total amount is yet to be finalised and will be receipted in 2024. Well done Mel Kerr, Sue Wilson and the convening committee on the running of a successful and profitable event.

On behalf of ICPA NT I offer our appreciation of support from the Department of Education.

We received some lovely donations from members, thank you very much.

The council was able to support its members through grants and a total of \$4,000 was awarded through the Post Secondary, Siba Wellard and Zoetis grants. We thank those sponsors for assisting with funding these grants. Thanks to Helen Harding for administering these grants.

Our membership numbers remain stable with:

Katherine Branch – 70
Alice Springs Branch – 54
Territory Wide (Lones) Branch – 24

Rebecca Osmotherly

Treasurer, ICPA NT State Council

MOTION: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved: Rebecca Osmotherly Seconded:

MOTION: That the 2023 Audited Financial Report be accepted.

Moved: Rebecca Osmotherly Seconded:

MOTION: That Venissa Mather, Your Local Audit be appointed the auditors for 2024

Moved: Rebecca Osmotherly Seconded:

MOTION: That the NT component of annual membership fee for 2025 increase to \$25

Moved: Rebecca Osmotherly Seconded:

2024 AGM: ICPA NT Website and Down the Track Report

NT Webmaster & Down the Track Publisher & Editor - Annika Bell

(Written on Annika's behalf by Moira Lanzarin)

Annika has been ICPA NT Down the Track Magazine Editor & Publisher since 2019. She also took on the role of webmaster when the new, re-built website came online.

Her creative ability, superb design skills and wonderful way with words has transformed a good publication into a great one. Annika's connection with "Down the Track (DTT)" and ICPA is a long one and one of mutual joy and benefit. Annika grew up with ICPA as a reassuring constant in her life - her amazing mother, Ruth Woerle was long time editor of DTT and State Council member. Annika cut her teeth, assisting her mother on all components of transforming a mere newsletter into a magazine. She has spent more time attaching ICPA address labels than she cares to count.

"Down the Track" is now a full colour, 40 page magazine. With the advancement of social media, electronic communications and changing preferred habits of membership, 2023 saw DTT change from 3 editions per year to 2 - wet season and dry season with approximately 200 copies printed and distributed out to all our members, sponsors, supporters and other key stakeholders.

Annika's life and work commitments mean that she can no longer continue in these roles. We are most grateful for the significant and beautiful work she has produced. Her skills and finesse have put a polished and professional face to our association. Annika has kindly offered to assist in a transition period.

State Council has advertised Expressions of Interest in these positions and will be interviewing and putting forth recommendations at the AGM.



The advertisement features a silhouette of a person with a backpack standing on a rock, pointing towards a mountain range under a sunset sky. The text is centered and includes the ICPA logo in the top right corner.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

1. Down The Track - Magazine Editor
2. Down the Track - Magazine Publisher
3. www.icpa.com.au/nt - Web Master

Are you creative & organised?
Talented at communicating?
Keen to promote the education experience of our bush families and our advocacy messages? Be part of a dynamic and fun, solutions-focused team? Learning new skills in a supportive and respectful environment. If yes, contact us!

ntsecretary@icpa.com.au

Equity in Education Outreach
ICPA NT STATE COUNCIL

2024 AGM: ICPA NT Archivist Report

NT Archivist - Ruth Woerle

Since 2008 I have held much of the ICPA NT Archives.

What we have is mainly early days (beginning of NTICPA) – State Records, Alice Springs Branch, and Katherine Branch, past Gulf, and some (limited) Ashburton and Barkly Branch records. Thankfully, in the past our records were compiled and saved in quite meticulous order. Obviously events such as floods, vermin and general wear and tear, have challenged that a little, however, organisational planning was great, which is a tribute to our founders.

I have some material from more recent years; however, I have received very little of recent times. One of the reasons will be that much of what we have now is held on our computers – a first world issue all archives must be facing. However, there may be printed matter with members which could be forwarded to me – if in doubt of its relevance please contact me and we can decide what is appropriate.

Ideally, if everyone who has held an ICPA position in the last few years could forward me whatever they have – if it's in a digital format, Liz Bird and Moira recently created a new nt.icpa.archives@gmail.com Google account with lots of space to store any of our stuff we have stored electronically.

- **Relevant are Audit reports** – which each branch will have had to submit each year to the Department of Business after official audits took place – usually at the beginning of the year.
- **Minutes of Branch meetings** – particularly the **AGMs** with details of the incoming committee members etc.
- **Minutes of State council meetings** - particularly the **AGMs** with details of the incoming committee members etc.
- **Photographs** of events, fund raising activities, incoming new committee members group photos etc

I am happy to continue holding our archives and occasionally taking time to time re-visit our past so we can continue to remember how far we have come – and also how many things we are still fighting for!

2024 AGM: ICPA NT Grants Report

Grants Officer - Helen Harding

Remote Concrete Access Grant Applicants

** 2023: Remote Concrete Access Grant has now used all initial funds. Discussions are in place for its continuation

Post Secondary Applicants

(2023 Judge Nancye Gorey)

Lowanna Heaslip– successful applicant \$2000

2024: Applications closing Monday 26th Feb 2024

Siba Wellard Grant

** 2023: SIBA WELLARD GRANT CLOSED DUE TO NO MORE FUNDS AVAILABLE

Zoetis Applicants

(2023 Judge Pat Elliott)

Philip Sullivan – successful applicant \$1000

2024: Applications due after Conference.