

Through dust and distance, we learn and grow

Amy Squire – Winton Branch

In Western Queensland's wide, dusty heart, the kids of ICPA Winton grow strong in spirit & resilience—balancing lessons over the airwaves with life on cattle stations and in small towns. Behind them, the tireless ICPA Winton branch works to ensure distance never denies opportunity, proving that bush kids deserve every chance to learn, dream, and thrive.

*We don't walk to school past shops and cars,
We ride with roos beneath the stars.
No classroom here with desks in rows,
Just dusty tracks and cattle flows.*

*Our lessons come through screens and sound,
From teachers hundreds of miles around.
Some days it's tough, the lines go dead
And school's postponed for fence work instead.*

*But through the dust, the drought, the din
There's someone saying, "Let them in."
Let them learn, and live, and grow
No matter how far out they go.
That someone's loud, that someone stays
They're fighting hard in quiet ways.
They write the rules, they chase the call,
They're ICPA and they back us all.*

*They push for travel, grants, and gear,
So every kid can persevere.
From kindy tots to boarding teens,
They chase support behind the scenes.*

*They know we're far but never lost,
They fight so we don't pay the cost.
They stand their ground in every fight,
To give our futures equal light.*

*We may be raised on red dust roads,
With bore-fed tanks and heavy loads
But thanks to them, we find our way
Through every sunburnt outback day.*

*So here's our voice—our big thank you,
For all the tireless things you do.
For every form, each late-night win,
For making sure the distance doesn't win.*

*We're bush kids strong, and proud, and free
And ICPA stands strong with me.*



Amy, Jack and Hilton Squire

= Boarding is who we are.

We have a long history of educating boys and developing their good character for life.



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Driving Away

Shona Larkin – Hughenden Branch

*It happens in a blink of an eye,
What starts as a newborn's cry,
Becomes the moment you're driving away,
Leaving your baby for much longer than just a day.*

*It's something we try to prepare for,
Life as a boarding parent, as if it was a chore.
But no matter how ready you think you are,
Driving away is the hardest by far!*

*Thoughts race through your worried mind -
Have I labelled everything? Will they be kind?
Will they handle the workload?
Will the values we've instilled lead them down the right road?*

*The teary phone calls home, are the hardest of all,
It takes every might in you to be strong and stand tall.
Supporting their homesick and heartfelt pleas,
While holding back the urge not to grab your car keys.*

*Each child faces challenges in their own way,
But think of the doors you've opened for them today.
Though the days may seem heavy and patience may fray,
Take a breath and stay strong as you drive away.*

*In a blink of an eye, they'll stand tall and sure.
Far stronger and braver than ever before.
Resilient, determined and prepared for life's climb,
Thanks to a mum and dad who, through tears, gave them time.*



Shona Larkin with her husband Steve and children