

BITS & PIECES

ICPA WA Newsletter



*Working together to ensure access
to appropriate education for all
regional Western Australians.*

From Your President's Desk

The past few weeks have certainly been a time of great reflection with the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The orchestrated order of proceedings had long been planned, and indeed the planning for the passing of King Charles III has already begun. Traditions that are decades old were on display for the all the world to see. It is common in today's society for the traditional way of doing things to be challenged as old fashioned, but sometimes when we lose traditions, we also lose history, yet it is important to move with the times and remain relevant. The pageantry (or pomp and ceremony as it is commonly referred to) that we have all witnessed has been nothing short of majestic and spectacular.

Throughout the period of mourning and coverage of the funeral, Queen Elizabeth II has been remembered across Australia as an example of "tireless and selfless service." Her devotion to duty and compassion for others is admirable, given it has been a life she was borne into without choice.

Recently, ICPA members from across Australia descended on Perth for the 51st ICPA Annual Federal Conference. Within our organisation there are many members who give tireless and selfless service in seeking equitable access to an appropriate education for rural and remote children. While there can be no just comparison to the service of Her Majesty the fact that our members choose to volunteer endless hours of service for the betterment of others is to be applauded. Four ICPA State Councils have recently celebrated 50 years, and the Northern Territory 40 years, which is a fantastic achievement for an organisation that is solely run by volunteers from the far reaches of Australia, who overcome many challenges and the tyranny of distance to make things happen.

At Federal Conference keynote speaker Dr Craig Challen recounted his involvement, alongside Dr Richard Harris, in the rescue of 12 Thai students and their football coach from the flooded Tham Luang caves in Thailand. It was most inspiring and another example of selfless service.

Within our communities there are a great number of everyday Australians all volunteering their time for selfless service. As I reflected on the Queen's life of service, I could not help but be thankful for the ways in which my family has benefitted from others' selfless service



and maybe that is why so many of us feel, perhaps, a sense of duty towards giving of our own selfless service.

It was absolutely fantastic that finally the ICPA community were able to come together without COVID restrictions at Federal Conference and meet face to face, despite COVID presenting a number of challenges during the planning stage. Members participated in some good debates throughout conference and the sharing of numerous heart-breaking personal stories. The social functions provided a great opportunity for networking and connecting with friends old and new.

Ten of the twelve ICPA WA Branches were represented at Federal Conference with 42 members travelling from all over WA for the two days of conference, functions and Partner's Tour. I would like to thank members for their efforts in attending conference, it was great to have WA so well represented. I would also like to thank the Branches for their raffle donations.

The 2023 WA State Conference "A long way down the Track" will proceed as originally planned in 2022 at the Pagoda Spa and Resort, Como on 17th March 2023. As we celebrate 50+ years of ICPA WA it would be wonderful to have many past members from over the years in attendance. Despite the success of our online conference in March, I still clearly recall the deflated feeling that followed due to the lack of social interaction and face to face connections, so I am really looking forward to the Banquet Dinner that is to follow the 2023 Conference.

This is last edition of Bits and Pieces for our illustrious Editor Raelene Hall. Raelene has been the editor since 2019 and I would like to personally thank her for all her hard work and dedication throughout that time. There are two editions of Bits & Pieces per year, May and November, and the Editor is always looking for articles, stories or snippets of information. So please, do not be shy. If you have something that you think may be of interest to others and you would like to share, please contact the Editor. Bits & Pieces is a magazine for you, the members, and about you, the members, and those are the best stories to read about.

As the end of another school year draws nigh this one is filled with mixed emotions. As with many of you,

we attended the twins (and last born) Year 12 graduations a few weeks ago, marking the end of their secondary education and the end of our school journey. There was plenty of time for reflection on how quickly the time seem to have passed, it only seemed like yesterday they were such tiny Year 7s embarking on their boarding experience. As we watched the Class of 2022 graduate, I am sure I speak for each parent of how proud each of us were to see our children grown into confident, respectful, appreciative and kind young men and women. Congratulations to the Class of 2022, the next chapter now begins! I wish them well for their future endeavours and whichever career pathway they chose that they remain safe, happy and healthy.

To each of our state councillors, thank you for the time, commitment and friendship you give whilst on Council and I look forward to working with you all in 2023.

To all our members best wishes, enjoy a wonderful festive season with family and friends and we look forward to seeing you at our 2023 51st State Conference.

Sally Brindal
State President

THANK YOU LOTTERYWEST



FORTY-TWO (42) ICPA WA members converged on Elizabeth Quay, Perth, to attend the 51st ICPA Federal Conference, functions and Partner's Tour.

There was representation from all over the vast state of Western Australia from the Kimberley in the north to Albany in the south and everywhere in between.

Assistance in the form of a travel subsidy grant from Lotterywest had a major impact in encouraging members participation from our regional, rural and remote areas.

So, THANK YOU Lotterywest for supporting our members in advocating for equitable access to an appropriate education.

WA State President Sally Brindal with the Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region of WA

EDITOR'S MUSINGS



It's time for me to say farewell and to welcome our new editor Olivia Ford. I know she will do a superb job. It's great to see one of our younger members stepping up.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with our state magazine over the past couple of years. Your efforts are much appreciated.

What a fantastic time we all had at Federal Conference despite the weather. It takes more than some stormy weather to dampen ICPA spirits. Congratulations to State Council and the convening committee for the amazing job they did.

Lots of interesting reading in this issue with milestone birthdays for schools, outback balls, quilting, ICPA camps and much more. Don't forget with Christmas coming up ICPA merchandise can make great presents.

The photo competition for the 50th celebrations to be held at next year's state conference is open for entries. I know how talented our ICPA members are so don't forget to get your entries in. More information on page 10.

I'm writing this just over a week from our daughter's wedding. What a milestone in her life and that of our family. She was well known as my ICPA secretary when still quite young and doing School of the Air at home. Now she is a finance business partner with Mader in Perth.

I don't know where the years have gone but I do know that ICPA has made a difference in our lives and the education of our three children, for which we will always be grateful. More importantly we will always be ICPA members and supporters.

I am so proud to have been involved in this wonderful organisation over so many years and, as I take step back, I urge others to realise the value and benefit of being, not just an ICPA member but an involved ICPA member.

Regards

Raelene Hall
Retiring Editor

Cover Photo:

Year 6 student Isla Ford (12yo) from Paroo Station at the Kalgoorlie School of the Air (KALSOTA) 60th celebration ceremony along with her classmates.

CONTENTS

From Your President's Desk	2
Thank You Lottery West.....	3
Editor's Musings.....	4
Wise Words from Graduating Boarder	5
Connellan Support for Conference	6
Journey to Conference	7
It was Epic.....	8
School of Air Through Generations.....	9
Branches Combine for Camp	11
Conference Photos	12
New Chair for REVISE WA	14
ICPA Donuts	15
Happy 60th Kalgoorlie SOTA	17
Outback Ball.....	19
Federal Conference 2022	21
ICPA WA Merchandise for Sale.....	22
ICPA WA Contacts and Portfolios.....	23

Wise Words from Graduating Boarder



Boarding is a very unique part of school life. It is an experience that shapes every boy's personality, and ultimately their future. Most boarders will spend almost 40 weeks a year living away from family and friends; for up to 6 years. This is a significant part of someone's life, especially during the formative years. When most people talk about their time as a boarder, they talk about all the positive experiences they have had, however, it is not often that people outside of the boarding community hear about the struggles.

Year 7 is a very daunting experience for any student, but for a boarder, there is an added layer of complexity. They not only have to adapt to the new school setting, but they also have to adapt to living away from their family in a communal environment. Be it from the other side of the world or remote and rural areas of Western Australia, boys experience an unfamiliar living arrangement.

These struggles can cause homesickness, a well-known term amongst boys that can be crippling for some. This is something every boarder has to overcome along with the usual stresses of starting high school. I guarantee every single Hale Boarder has experienced homesickness at some point of their journey at Hale. This can be in the form of loneliness, longing for family members, pets or just the open spaces, the independence and safety of small communities, the worry that some experience about the upcoming harvest season and the pressure on their parents.

They may not always show the effect of homesickness but on the inside it's hard. For me homesickness was a significant struggle during my early years at Hale. I was always afraid to show the effect homesickness had on me, however on the inside I was battling the consistent struggle of missing my family and the farm, which is a significant

part of my life. Thankfully, with the support we receive from boarding staff and our new extended family we navigate this difficult period.

In recent years COVID-19 has been another significant hurdle for some of our boarders to overcome. Living in the Senior Boarding House with 140 other students in close confines, having to wear masks in the boarding houses, not being able to spend time in friends rooms and the distances that our parents had to travel to support our removal from boarding due to sickness are just some examples.

You might not realise this, but our International students have had limited opportunity to return home for almost 3 years. A current Wilson House student is currently facing this struggle. Isaac started boarding at Hale in Year 10, 2020. Unfortunately for Isaac that was the last time he has been able to see his parents. This is such a significant struggle that Isaac has faced for the last 2 years, however, to his credit he has not let this affect his outlook on school and his future ambitions. Seeing Isaac achieve so much, under such adversity inspires us all.

So boys, next time you are talking to a boarder mate, take a moment to check in and see how they're going; such a small gesture can have a significant impact on their day. The challenge for the Hale School community is to make sure that our boarders connect with our day students and vice versa. We always hear about the strength of the Hale School network and we must make sure that this network includes links from all over the State and Internationally – this is where the importance of boarding can be celebrated.

Dale Ness
Lakes District Branch



Connellan Supports Federal Conference



ICPA (WA) State Council Convening Committee wish to thank the CONNELLAN AIRWAYS TRUST for their financial support assisting with the cost of satchels and name badges for all those that travelled from near and far to attend our ICPA Federal Conference.

The ICPA (WA) State Council Convening committee members are spread from Leonora to Hyden to Jerramungup and all points in between, volunteering their time to advocate on behalf of remote, rural, and regional students and their families, in accessing an equitable education.

The annual ICPA Federal Conference provides a forum for regional, rural, and remote members to communicate grass root issues to Government departments, policy makers, education staff, service providers and associated industries on a national level. This year's conference was attended by ICPA members, representation from government and independent metropolitan and regional schools, boarding schools, telecommunication providers, post compulsory educators and industries along with politicians.

ICPA State Council convening committee volunteer five days of their time to be in Perth to finalise Conference details.

It was a great way of encouraging remote branch members to travel to Perth to meet and share issues experienced in accessing education which their geography sees them isolated from and to be able to attend our associations federal conference in our own state.

ICPA WA is grateful for the generous sponsorship received from the Connellan Airways Trust. Our membership base is very aware of Connellan Airways Trust. Members took home pamphlets in their conference bags and were encouraged to circulate them in their local communities. Any entity that supports our volunteers to travel from remote parts of our State for the betterment of access to education deserves a big THANK YOU.

Thank you

ABOUT THE CONNELLAN AIRWAYS TRUST

The Trust was the brainchild of E J Connellan (EJ) who established Connellan Airways in 1939. This Territorian pioneer, aviator and pastoralist convinced shareholders of Connellan Airways that a substantial portion of the proceeds of the sale of the airline should be applied to the establishment of a Trust. Due to the generosity of many and the efforts of EJ Connellan, the Trust was established in June 1981.

The Trust was established to commemorate all those who have lived and worked in the Outback and suffered the privations and remoteness of the Outback.

The VISION of the Trust is to improve social and economic outcomes for people living in Outback Australia.

The OBJECTIVES of the Trust are:

To promote and encourage the advancement of knowledge of people, especially younger people, living in outback parts of Australia such as those formerly served by Connellan Airways.

To assist such people ("eligible recipients") through financial support for education, health, communication and transport needs.

To foster the education of people in Outback Australia who provide service or assistance to eligible recipients.

To encourage access to the Trust and to achieve an awareness of the Trust with people living in the Outback, the media, potential donors and supporters.

Visit the website www.connellanairwaystrust.org.au to learn more about grants, awards and publications.

Journey to Conference

1,200 kilometres, 3 kids under 5, no husband, no halfway accommodation (thanks to the timing of my travel and the Diggers and Dealers event) and torrential rain for 400+ kilometres sounds like a fantastic way to start my journey to my first ICPA Federal Conference. This also happened to be my first ICPA event ever.

So how did I improve on my week from the start?

I dropped the girls off at their grandparents and drove away smiling happily into the welcoming, friendly faces of my fellow ICPA WA State Councillors at The Ritz Perth.



My eldest daughter is in her first year of schooling this year, Kindergarten. We live out of Wiluna in the Northern Goldfields of WA, and are enrolled at Kalgoorlie School of the Air. I became a member of the Goldfields – Eyre Branch of ICPA and took part in my first zoom meeting. In the meeting the ladies were trying to encourage a larger voice for SOTAs on the WA State Council. A few conversations later and some late-night pondering and I knew ICPA was something I was passionate about.

Which of course brings me to the privilege of attending my first Federal Conference which just so happened to be held in my home state.

It had been over 12 months since I had been to Perth so to have the sheer luxury of staying at one of the finest hotels the city has to offer, child free (hooray) was sensational. I feel I can take very little if any credit for the fantastic work that the WA State Council did in organising the Federal Conference as I have only been a State Councillor since March this year.

Since I moved to the station 5 years ago, I have not had the opportunity to meet and socialise with so many like minded people. People who also happened to be in very similar situations as me. It was really comforting to surround myself with so many other mums who just got it! They know what I am going through, they know the struggles and the triumphs. We shared war stories, horror stories and winning stories. It felt so nice to meet all these fantastic people and to feel more confident in why I became an ICPA WA State Councillor, to be the voice for rural, regional, and remote families.

As I said my goodbyes, it was with fire in my heart for a cause that is so very deeply important for my daughter's future, ICPA!

Jasmine Carmody
Prenti Downs Station

Left: The cute Carmody girls from Prenti Downs Station, Wiluna. Top Ysobel 3, Middle Verety 4 1/2 and Lyra 1 1/2

IT WAS EPIC!

For those of you who were unfortunately unable to attend the 51st Federal Conference, convened by WA State Council, it was a fantastic couple of days.

The weather may have been cold, wet and windy but that did not dampen the spirits of those attending. Everyone was so upbeat, finally being able to gather face to face for Conference.

Elizabeth Quay was such a fantastic location for Conference; close proximity of the Bells Function Centre and The Lucky Shag for pre and post-conference functions was ideal given the inclement weather. The Conference Dinner at Fraser's Restaurant, Kings Park, afforded a wonderful night time view of Perth City whilst dining on exquisite food. Guests were treated to a live performance by Joshua Haynes and Lachlan Obst (son of Federal Councillor Naomi Obst).

Josh and Lachlan met at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts in Perth and together as artists wanted to write a story worth telling. That story is about what happened to us in 2018, one of toughest obstacles we have faced in WA as an association, the fight for School of the Air. Josh and Lachlan are in the early stages of writing their musical, Children of the Air, which aims to detail the lives

and experiences of many of our children and their families, that strive to give them an equitable education many kilometres from home.

It was such an honor to be their first live audience for the debut of their song 'I Miss.' The song was sung through the eyes of a 12 year boy, away at boarding school, who rang home to speak to mum and got her voice mail. There was not a dry eye in the house!

The conference venue was absolutely exquisite with beautiful views across the Swan River, scrumptious food and ample room for social networking. There were two fantastic days of debate and discussion with all WA presented motions being carried and a number of motions defeated.

Keynote speaker, Dr Craig Challen, provided an inspirational recount of his involvement in rescuing 12 boys and their football coach from flooded caves in Thailand. It was inspiring and motivating. Hannah Calcinco (new Pedals Editor) shared aspects of her Masters of Education thesis specialising in Boarding School transitions for rural students moving to a metropolitan boarding school, which was most enlightening.



WA delegates in attendance at the 2022 Federal Conference in Perth

SCHOOL OF AIR THROUGH GENERATIONS

My family, including our mother Jean Murray, who taught us four daughters (1965-1978), recently attended the Kalgoorlie School of the Air 60th celebrations. My husband David Lefroy was also a Kalgoorlie SOTA pupil. I then taught our two children (2003-2012) and one of them was also able to come to the event. We are all proud to have been associated with School of the Air and the connection is still there so many years later. I have attended the 25th, 40th, 50th (as an organiser) and now the 60th.

The P&C did a wonderful job setting up activities and memorabilia at the school, as well as an evening event. For us, ICPA was also an integral part of SOTA. Mum was involved in the initial beginning of the Kalgoorlie Branch. I joined in 2003.

As a quilt maker, I donated many quilts for fund raising for both the P&C and ICPA and have donated another quilt to the Goldfields - Eyre ICPA Branch for a fundraising ball and auction in September. This quilt titled Rich and Rare is valued at \$1000.

Last year I won Best of Show in Western Australia with a quilt called Death Row, depicting the demise of insects throughout the world. This quilt has now gone to Sydney to compete for Best of Australia, another example of a "bush kid" achieving well!. The connections we have made through School of the Air and ICPA have been long lasting and to see how important they are through the generations and scattering of age and distance is wonderful. There is just something special about the bush isn't there?

Lana Lefroy
Yuinmery Station
Sandstone.

Below: The amazing quilts made by Lana Lefroy. Left: The 'Rich and Rare' quilt was donated to the Goldfields - Eyre branch as part of a fundraiser. Right: The 'Death Row' Quilt' which one Best of Show WA in 2021



Raelene Hall



With sincere

GRATITUDE

ICPA WA

Bits & Pieces Editor 2019-2022

ICPA WA

Photo Competition 2023

Theme: "Our tracks and the places they lead"

Sponsored by: Smyth Agri Services

Categories	Prizes		All entries will be displayed in a PowerPoint presentation at the WA State Conference on 17 th March 2023.
Primary Student:	1 st \$50	2 nd \$25	
Secondary Student:	1 st \$100	2 nd \$50	
Open:	1 st \$150	2 nd \$75	
Peoples Choice:	Photo framing		

Email entries to: WASecretary@icpa.com.au

Post entries to: Kym Ross, P O Box 146, Jerramungup WA 6337

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Branches Combine for Camp

This year I thought it was high time I did my bit for our ICPA community and hold an ICPA kids camp. We held it during the middle of the June/July school holidays here at Paroo station. It was great to have ICPA kids from two different branches come together and get to know each other over the weekend. The distance makes it difficult for kids to get together and hang out, so it was rewarding to see kids who never would have met leaving as friends.

On Saturday morning we got straight into things with some tie die funkiness. They all got to pick their colours and dye a shirt each to take home with them. After that the kids started to decorate a box each with an assortment of craft supplies.

After lunch we got into the highlight of things...the Cambodia Club colour run. We assembled the kids over at the yards and started the run with a good dousing through the cattle race. Some kids may have gotten a bit more colour than they had bargained for (it might have been a good idea to tell everyone to keep their mouths and eyes shut) but overall, they enjoyed ambushing each other with bucket fulls of colour powder. They did laps around the holding paddock until their little legs couldn't go anymore and we exhausted the dye supply. The kids made sure every last bit of it was used, and that the parents didn't miss out on the fun.

That night the kids spent their last bit of energy jiving at the ICPA disco under the clothesline. There was Shania Twain (which probably resonated more with the adults than the kids), lollies and dancing games.

On Sunday the kids walked through the bushes in search of rocks to decorate and make into pet rocks, then everyone embarked on a very long game of 'Capture the Flag'. It involved a lot of stealth and tactical moves and there was rematch after rematch to outdo the other team.

The kids finished the day with a movie night and popcorn as the adults had a few beers around the fire. It was safe to say it was a big day for everyone and it was good to unwind.

Thank you so much to all the families who travelled so far to make this camp wonderful.

Hopefully our fantastic community can make it an annual camp and the 'Capture the Flag' war can rage for many years to come.

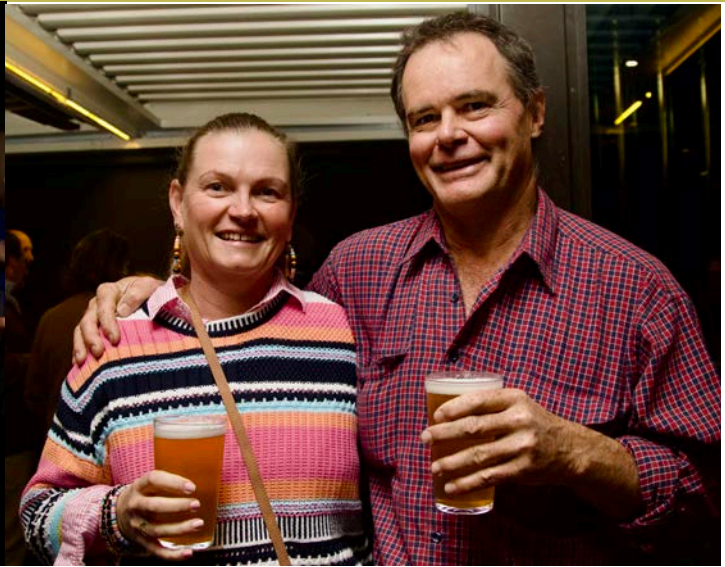
Louise Ford
Paroo Station
Meekatharra



The amazing art work created by the children who attended the Paroo Station ICPA camp



Louise Ford , WA State Council and Tallaya Wood, Goldfields - Eyre Branch



Amanda and Darren Martin, Kindon Branch, QLD



Seated L to R: Trish McKenzie and Amy Palmer, Cunnamulla Branch, with Margaret Doyle, Moonie Branch (standing)



Federal President Alana Moller with Clair O'Brien, Far North QLD Branch



Natalie Bevan, Meekatharra Air Branch with Tallayah Woods, Goldfields - Eyre Branch



Sally Brindal, WA State President with husband Steve Brindal , Brad Abbott with wife Michelle Abbott, WA State Treasurer



Elyce Donaghy, Goldfields - Eyre Branch, Julia Broad, QLD Vice President, Tallaya Wood, Goldfields - Eyre Branch



Michelle Abbott, WA State Treasurer, Jane Cunningham, WA Vice President, Samantha Greay, WA Publicity Officer



The National Anthem was sung beautifully by Sasha Browne of St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls, Perth



**Mothers and daughters attending Federal Conference in Perth.
L to R: Juliane Vlach, Nikki Mahoney , Louise Joyce, Chandra Ridley, Madison Hall, Louise Ford, Olivia Ford, Clair O'Brien, Moira Lanzarin**



REVISE WA

Retired Educator Volunteers for Isolated Students Education
In conjunction with Isolated childrens Parents Association Inc WA



It is with great pleasure that WA State Council announce Ms Denise Hiltz as the new REVISE chairperson. Denise is a former Primary School Principal and has previously worked with two members of the Executive Committee. Denise has a keen interest in the education of children living in remote areas of Western Australia. At their recent face to face meeting WA State Council met with Denise along with REVISE Co-ordinators, Sue and Alan Potter.

WA State Councillor Chandra Ridley, Sue Potter, REVISE Co-ordinator, Denise Hiltz, REVISE Chairperson, Alan Potter REVISE Co-ordinator and Louise Ford, WA State Councillor

Thirty One Years of Doughnuts

This year was extra special being the 50th annual Newdegate Machinery Field Day with the Lakes District ICPA having run the doughnut stall since 1991. Thank you to all to all the volunteers who helped fill the roster at this year's event. Making doughnuts at the Field Days is the ICPA Lakes District's only fundraiser for the year and it's a busy two days.

This year the doughnut stand had a revamp with a new double sink installed. This was purchased using funds raised by the quilt raffle last year. Thank you also to the Newdegate Machinery Field Days who provided the site for us to use and this year purchased a new stainless steel bench for the doughnut mix preparation. Thanks also to Stacey Newman for setting up the Tap machine for card payments and to Rochell Walker, Treasurer for Newdegate Machinery Field Days, for banking assistance.

High School children who were home for the field days also got roped into helping with the roster. We appreciate their help as Newdegate locals have a lot of other rosters to fill over the two days. This year we had quite a few new people taking a turn on the roster which was great to see, especially those who travelled to do this.

This year we used 150kg of doughnut mix, 20 kg of cinnamon sugar and 120 litres of oil, making over 5000 doughnuts over two days!



**Claire Ness
Lakes' District Branch**

Trey Westlake, one of the younger age group, who helped out at the Lakes District Branch doughnut stall.



Josiah Barrett - Lennard and Lily Turner hard at work on the doughnut stall for Lakes District Branch ICPA at Newdegate Field Day Machinery Field Day.





(L-R) Daniel Hogg and Katie Hall, Kinclaven station caught up with friends Vicki and David McQuie from Bulga Downs station at the Kalgoorlie School of the Air 60th celebrations.



(L-R) Former KALSOTA students Marie and Theo Calzoni from Gibb Rock station caught up with lots of old friends at the 60th anniversary celebrations.



Kalgoorlie SOTA students (L-R) Angus Cornthwaite (10yo) Kinclaven station, Brigid Wood (6yo) Rawlinna station, Alby Vernon (5yo), Heidi Vernon (7yo), Mount Jackson station and Maggie Hogg (6yo) Kinclaven station catching up at the 60th Anniversary celebrations.

Happy 60th Anniversary Kalgoorlie School of the Air

The deadline for this article was the 30th September, and true to style, I am just making it! Why? For someone who has been associated with the Kalgoorlie School of the Air since 1998, you would think this article would be easy to smash out! Well, it's not because I am struggling with what to say, but what I must leave out. The very reason I am writing this is that I cannot say NO, well, not very often!

I started my schooling as a student at Alice Springs School of the Air in the seventies. I do not remember my mum supervising me, but apparently, she did. I do however remember the governesses, one of whom, to this day, remains one of my best friends. I remember my teachers, the wonderful camps, the two interstate trips funded by the P&C and the ICPA fundraisers.

Whilst I don't remember the 'day-to-day schooling' as such, my experiences were all very positive. I even supervised my youngest brother in year one for two terms after I had

completed my Early Childhood Studies. When I became a new bride, I remember my rather naïve comment that, 'Yes, I would be teaching my own children, as I was a trained teacher. I should be more than up for the job!' Well, 1998 came around soon enough and my daughter was enrolled in Year 1 but our first week also happened to coincide with shearing and the cook didn't turn up, so I was it! My lesson on how to juggle station wife duties and my role as an educator began.

I had, and still have, a steadfast belief that education is as important to our children as love, food and a nurturing home. I stood my ground that nothing was to compromise my children's education. Fortunately, I started off as a better educator than a shearer's cook or station hand! My role as home tutor lasted from 1998 to the end of 2007, with a six term break somewhere in between and several weeks of reprieve thanks to swapping kids with Kanandah

The time capsule for the 60th Anniversary celebrations was made, and donated by local boilermaker and former KALSOTA student Callum McQuie from Bulga Downs station.



Station. It turns out teaching my own two children was not the piece of cake I thought it would be! There were many tantrums and tears; they were all from me! By about Year 5 my daughter had stopped listening to mum banging on. 'Staying Alive in Year Five' was a real thing for our little classroom. However, I enjoyed the great support from the teachers, especially from the principal and other home tutors. My children did survive and they did go on to do well in their secondary years with Gabrielle completing a Bachelor of Science and Callum completing his boiler making apprenticeship. If you get a chance to go to the Kalgoorlie SOTA, you will see Callum's boiler-making skill on display as he designed and fabricated the 2022 Time Capsule made for the 60th Year Celebrations.

During my time as a home tutor, my inability to say 'NO' saw me accept roles I dare say I wasn't at all prepared for. I became secretary of the Kalgoorlie ICPA Branch, which then rolled into becoming President, Vice President and Publicity Officer during the years. To coincide with those roles I was President, or Secretary for the Kalgoorlie SOTA P&C which also entailed helping organise the Kalgoorlie School of the Air 40th Year celebrations. This period involved many fundraising efforts selling anything from socks to bulbs, turning over many sausages and cutting up kilos of onions for the Leonora Race Days, helping with the wonderful Weebo Garden Parties and attending State and Federal conferences. What a time to be part of the P&C and the ICPA. The distances were great but when the members got together we had a lot of fun! My most vivid and lasting memory will always be one home tutor seminar, in which all the Kalgoorlie home tutors got together to make a quilt for one of our mums, who was terminal, in just two nights. There were two sewers amongst us leaving the others to trace shapes, cut out shapes, iron, top up drinks and keep

spirits up and the stories coming. it was a wonderful time to be part of such an amazing school community.

I began as a staff member of the Kalgoorlie SOTA in 2007 until the end of 2017. My roles began as the LOTE (Language Other than English) teacher, continued onto the role of STL (Support Teacher Learning) and ended as the part-time Science Specialist. Somewhere in the mix I also shared the role of the Year 5 teacher. I thrived being a teacher. The opportunity to travel for home visits and to be involved in camps suited me well. Being a home tutor I brought empathy to my role as STL. Teaching your own is a tough gig and if anyone says different, they haven't done it long enough! I got to share in the 50th celebrations as a teacher and if you were there, didn't the ladies do a splendid job celebrating such a golden milestone?

So now our school is 60, all thanks to the regional people of WA making such an imposing stand to persuade the current WA Government to reverse their decision to close the WA Schools of the Air. I wish my last day with Kalgoorlie School of the Air had ended so very differently than being told that our school would be closed at the end of 2018. I am not ashamed to say that I cried the entire 340 km home, such was my bond and belief in such an important intuition! I am very thankful that I had the opportunity to be personally associated with Kalgoorlie SOTA in various roles for 19 years.

Congratulations to Kalgoorlie School of the Air on becoming 60! May you continue to provide our isolated children with the best possible education and give our regional children the wings they need to navigate their futures. May you continue to 'Seek the Best'.

Vicki McQuie
Bulga Downs Station



Former KALSOTA students and siblings - (L-R) Jenny Cotter, Annette Butcher, Jo-Anne Tonkin and Gerald Cotter who were all on KALSOTA in the 1960's from Binneringie and Madoonia Downs Stations.

Bushman's Ball

On the 10th September this year the Goldfields-Eyre Branch held their inaugural Kids' Fun Day and Bushman's Ball at the Nullarbor Muster grounds in Rawlinna. The day was a roaring success and, despite the huge hours and logistical hurdles we faced putting on a ball in the middle of nowhere, members and their families are already planning to do it all again next year!

Our branch is fairly small at the moment but luckily for us we have a core contingent of active members who feel passionately about what we can do and achieve for our kids as ICPA parents. And it was over lunch with one of these members that the idea for first a Ball and then a Kids Fun Day grew wings.

Katie Hall has brought up two daughters on the Nullarbor 11 years apart and over our lunchtime discussions about ICPA membership numbers being down she lamented the loss of the little wombats, informal station stays and casino nights - ICPA events that brought bush families together and built communities that parents and kids could lean on in tough times and celebrate with in the good. If only we could get the community together again and remind them how important the ICPA was.

When I first moved to the bush from the city six years ago I had an ICPA legend 'pop in' for a cuppa. Sitting across from Roxanne Morrissey that day is a memory I still draw on today. She had me signed up for a membership and inspired to get involved with our local branch before the end of our first coffee. She gently reminded me that if you wanted community in the bush then you needed to be active in building it and it was this sentiment that continued to inspire me this year when the logistics of putting on an all-day event seemed all too daunting. The

other piece of advice that stood out that day was when she told me that my children didn't choose to be geographically isolated - I chose that - and it was my obligation to them to make sure they had the same access to education and community that their cousins in town had. A ball was definitely going to bring our local community together, with the added benefits of raising our profile, inspire new families to become members and raise funds for our branch but what about the kids?

We wanted the ball to be family friendly and a fun day for our kids to remember too and that is where big kids themselves are handy to have around! Katie Hall and new member, Chantal Cornthwaite, from Kinclaven station are two amazing mums who have never lost their child-like spirits and, as such, were quick to jump on board with the kids' fun day, designing and building a BMX track in an unused section of the Muster Club grounds. Chantal also set to creating a chill out space, complete with projector and unlimited Pixar movies for the kids to enjoy later in the night. Katie's love of camping and fishing made setting up a scout like challenge a no brainer. She organised the kids in teams and set up challenges that saw children setting up tents, building campfires, boiling a billy and knot tying. Jimmy Wood, from Rawlinna Station and ex branch president, jumped on the band wagon and set up a sheep kids' trial where kids teamed up in groups of two to muster three sheep from the chute, around a drum and into a yard

on the far side of what is usually a bull riding arena. Last but not least we set up a craft table and had the kids decorate jars that we then used as candle holders on the tables during the ball.

While all the fun was happening with the kids on the flat, Amy Forrester was turning the Muster Club shed into a beautiful ballroom, our amazing secretary



All lined up ready for the BMX speed race

Elyce Donaghy was setting up the bar and Karen Forrester was flying through the kitchen in preparation for catering the whole event, which was then hosted by myself and MC'd by Amy Forrester. The beautifully talented Matilda McQuie supplied the live music and Ross Wood was our live auctioneer.

The Nullarbor Muster Club and their members were incredibly supportive and if it wasn't for their help I'm not sure we could have pulled off an event like this. By the time the kids Belle and Beau of the Ball was announced, and prizes handed out for the Fun Day events our mighty little women and men were ready for the comforts of the chill out room and 35 kilos of popcorn they had me popping for the remainder of the night. The adults had other plans though and kicked up their heels into the wee hours. The live auction raised over \$7000 with a notable mention to ICPA member, Lana Lefroy, whose amazing Rare and Rich quilted wall hanging snatched a whopping \$2800 after pitting three very good friends against each other in a bidding war. A recovery breakfast was held on Sunday morning along with one last kids' event that saw Angus Cornthwaite take out the BMX speed race.

Elders Midland, FarmBot, Jumbuck Pastoral, the Lefroy Family, The Nullarbor Muster Club, KalsOTA P&C, Kanandah, Kinclaven and Rawlinna Stations all supported the event with auction items, catering, time and labour and we, at the Goldfields-Eyre Branch, cannot thank them enough. Money raised and new memberships aside the Glitz and Glamour themed Bushman's Ball was such a success because dedicated ICPA families got involved. They inspired their community to wash off the dust and take a break. To celebrate what makes us special in style, from the sequined ball gowns to the tails behind the bar, pastoralists, boiler makers and extraordinary townsfolk came together to celebrate the bush and the beautiful children who live here.

Hopefully we'll see more members and kids out here next year for an even bigger and more glitzy affair.

**Tallaya Wood
Rawlinna Station**



FEDERAL CONFERENCE 2022

Well, what an experience! The 2022 ICPA Federal Conference at the Ritz Carlton on the 3rd and 4th of August was quite a blast. I felt a little overwhelmed in the lead up as this was the first Federal Conference I have attended so I wasn't quite sure what to expect, and I was the Conference Convenor! Luckily it wasn't just down to me as Sally, Kym and the ICPA WA gang had everything in order for the events of the Conference.

The theme of 'Outback to Ocean, Growing Member Connections', gave the WA ICPA State Conference Committee great ideas to make gorgeous centrepieces for the conference tables. The committee collected red dirt from the north, white beach sand from the south, beautiful native sprays of leaves from our members and white gum wood rounds very kindly cut by my husband. As overwhelming it was to look at the huge conference room and see the work to be done, it was quite exciting to put our plans in action and see the centrepieces come together. Many thanks to the staff at the Ritz for helping me unload the heaving wood, boxes of bits and pieces, and many buckets of leaves from my very muddy 4wd (they looked a little shocked and confused as to what I was doing taking all of the items to my room).

Elizabeth Quay was quite a stunning area to host the conference and Perth managed to put on quite a show with a significant weather system passing over the city for the entire conference. As spectacular as it was to watch, it did delay many arrivals and brought on quite a bit of nausea with landings. Perth also managed a few power outages including the airport and Kym Ross' (ICPA WA State Secretary) place near Fremantle. The outage caused a bit of panic as it left the automatic garage door closed with a car full of items necessary to set up the morning before conference.

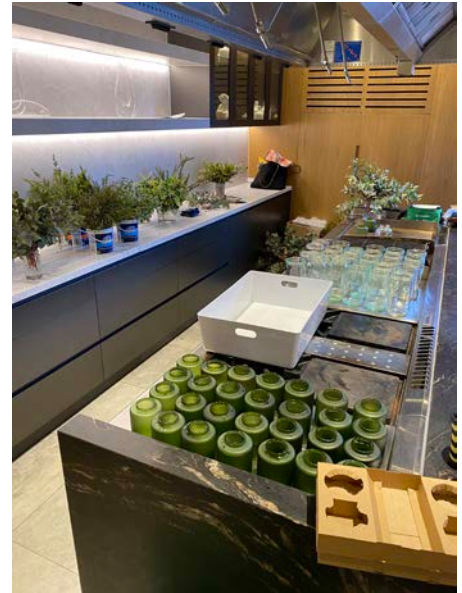
The pre-conference workshop was a really valuable experience for a new delegate like myself as reading the rules of conference can be quite daunting. The rules of conference really make for fair and respectful debate and discussion. Many motions that are presented at conference are presented from the heart and are very emotive for those presenting and listening. It was amazing to see the rules in motion, allowing attendees to comment, speaking for, speaking against, but always with respect for those presenting. It blows my mind that in 2022 some families are paying upwards of \$30 000 for suitable internet access for children to attend distance education lessons and that families (predominately women) are being home tutors for their children with no recognition from our governments for the work they do. There is so much work left for us to do.

As nervous as I was in the lead up to ICPA Federal Conference 2022, it wasn't long until I felt overwhelmed by the power of unity and positivity that such a group of likeminded, caring, determined and predominantly women can bring.

The people I met and the connections I have made over the conference days was amazing and I am looking forward to Darwin in 2023 already!

Jane Cunningham
WA State Council

Left: The amazing table decorations



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