

DOWN THE TRACK

Newsletter



STATE CONFERENCE MOTIONS 2021

Brush up on all 24 of the Motions that were passed at State Conference and what this means for you

ALLOWANCES & BOARDING

Get your applications in before September

MATARANKA SPORTS CAMP

Check out the faces and joy of all the students who attended the popular annual Sports Camp put together by the Katherine Branch



Isolated Children's Parents' Association

NORTHERN TERRITORY STATE COUNCIL Inc

2021 Positions

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PORTFOLIO POSITIONS

Allowances / Boarding	Sarah Cook	Rural/Remote Schools	Moira Lanzarin
Assistant	Moira Lanzarin	Special Needs	Suzanne Wilson
Communications & Technology	Sarah Cook	Assistant	Juliane Vlach
Distance Ed / Curriculum	Amanda Murphy	Tertiary	Suzanne Wilson
Assistant	Juliane Vlach	Training	Suzanne Wilson
Early Childhood	Rebecca Mohr-Bell	Miscellaneous & Across the Border	Moira Lanzarin
Katherine Branch	Kerrie Scott	Alice Springs Branch	Lisa Kimlin

A WORD FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT

Dear Members

I was waiting for something to grab me, to make me think 'yes, that's what I'll say'. But when Annika (our Editor) asked me to send the Presidents Welcome for this edition, I had nothing. All I could think of is, I'm exhausted.

As another State President recently expressed, State Councils are planning their State Conference over Christmas holidays (it must be run at a certain time, according to the Constitution and the Associations Act); and then we roll into delegations and the year just keeps on rolling

Recently I haven't been able to find my passion and I've found myself wondering if it's all worth it. I'm also behind in my 'real job' projects and then of course the 'snowball affect' takes over, so I'm not only tired and out of passion, I also feel disorganised and overwhelmed. I have too much to do and no energy or passion to do it.

Then two things happened simultaneously.

ONE

Our new State Councils Secretary, Juliane (Jule) Vlach copied me in on her profile for DTT. I was so overwhelmed with gratitude of what ICPA represents to Jule, I literally cried. THAT is why I love ICPA. THAT is why I dedicate my volunteering to this amazing organisation.

TWO

I listened to the audio book 'This One Wild and Precious Life' by Sarah Wilson (HIGHLY recommend). I've taken the authors advice, and I'm choosing not to be overwhelmed. I'm starting where I am.

Welcome to the 87th edition of the Down The Track magazine!

We've had our 39th Annual State Conference and what a conference it was!

Congratulations and thank you so much Alice Springs Branch Convening Committee - for putting together an amazing conference for us to enjoy and appreciate.

Every year, during and following State Conference,

I feel so grateful to be surrounded by amazing people who care about education and who are invested in the future of families living in the bush.

On page 1 (left) you will find the names and contact details of everyone on State Council, these are the people who will represent you and your motions at high level Territory meetings with Ministers and Department Executives. State Councillors will tell your stories and give strong, compelling reasons why your motions must be considered.

On page 36 you will find the names and contact details of everyone on the Alice Springs and Katherine Branch Committee. These are the people who connect with and support their immediate community; who keep the ICPA name strong among their friends and supporters, and who fundraise and give back to the students and the bush community in which they live.

ICPA in the Northern Territory is in good hands, as we have been for 39 - going on 40 - years.

You will also notice the NT Lone Branch has changed its name to Territory Wide. This name -change was voted by the members (of Lone Branch) as more inclusive and to entice more

active members, who don't necessarily fall under the Katherine or Alice Springs Branch catchment. The Territory Wide Branch represents people from right across the Territory and even in other States. If you support equity in education in the bush, you are invited to join, regardless of where you live. It doesn't matter how old you are or whether you have children at school. Territory Wide Branch also has several Life Members and Branch Members who sit on both State and Federal Council, so this Branch is indeed important to our association and the work we do.

Even if I've been a bit slow corresponding with you lately, State Council is still representing you and advocating for equity in education for rural and remote students. This week we've attended a monthly meeting with the Regional and Remote Taskforce for COVID, a meeting with the Department of Education regarding the Student Assistance Scheme and sent information to members regarding Digital Health in the Bush. We have been working with Annika on the Down The Track edition and with Federal Council on the website. The Katherine Branch are running a Sports Camp and the Alice Springs Branch is emailing members about motions for federal conference.

Members are in good hands and the good hands come from members. Encourage your neighbours to join our worthy association and stay passionate about equity in education in the bush, even if it's all you can do for ICPA this year.

Best wishes,

Sarah
Sarah Cook

NT State President



A quick note from the editor...

Here we are again - another Down the Track done and ready for you; our wonderful supporters, readers, members.

And whilst we are a bit later in the year than usual, this edition is crammed with lots of updates, pictures and stories from the happenings within the ICPA NT space from the last 5 months.

I was fortunate enough to attend my first ICPA NT State Conference back in March and to say it was inspiring would be a massive understatement. I thoroughly enjoyed witnessing ICPA NT members in their element—advocating for equity, change and a fair go for all students in rural and remote NT, all whilst growing and nurturing incredible bonds and friendships.



Anni

Annika Bell
DTT Editor

And aside from attending Conference and putting together this latest edition of ICPA NT goodness, I have been working with an incredible team of people, Australia wide, to get our new and exciting ICPA Website up and rolling—which as we go to print is not yet live, however watch out for the exciting announcement via the ICPA NT Facebook Page!

As always, thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition, and please get in touch if you would like to submit something to our next edition coming out in September. **Due date for submissions is 23 August 2021.**

FRONT COVER - Photo Credit: Central Australian Outback Road as taken and supplied by ICPA NT President Sarah Cook.
BACK COVER - ICPA NT Members attending the 39th Annual ICPA NT State Conference Gala Dinner at Alice Springs Golf Club

Opening Speech - *"No Barriers in the Bush"* by Kerrie Scott



Welcome to the 2021 ICPA NT State Conference. It is a great honour to be the first to speak at the Conference, and set the scene for the theme –

'No Barriers in the Bush'

First let me introduce myself; my name is Kerrie Scott, and I am the Katherine Branch President, and sit on NT State Council. I wasn't born in the NT, but I've lived here for 23 or so years of my life, and my husband is a born and bred Territorian, along with our three children.

All of our children have been educated through Katherine School of the Air, with my oldest daughter now in her first year of boarding in Charters Towers, whilst my Yr 4 and Yr 6 children continue to study through distance ed. We live on Mountain Valley Station, a cattle and buffalo property along the Central Arnhem Road, 225km from our nearest town, Katherine.

When I was approached to say a little something to introduce the theme of today's conference, the first thing I said was "I'm sure there are far more important people than me that would be suitable to speak!". As I said those words, I realised inside, I felt like my voice really wasn't worthy. Who would want to listen to what I had to say? There will be so many amazing, accomplished people in that room, I'm just a Mum, trying to educate her kids in the bush, like all the other Mums, jumping the same hurdles.

Our very persuasive President Mrs Cook replied

"Who better to talk about Barriers in the Bush than someone who lives it, and is passionate about it!"

so here I am, overcoming one of the biggest barriers, the invisible one that feeds our self doubt, tells us we are wasting our time, that no one is listening, that we don't count, that we will just make do the best we can, that we will sacrifice and go without financially, that it is our fault we live out here, where no one else wants to, so we must suffer quietly and 'suck it up'.

...the government has no money for remote education right?.....

The Territory Government spent \$1.108 Billion dollars on education in the last financial year, and with 43% of Territory students enrolled in remote or very remote schools, a big chunk of that must have come our way right?....

There just isn't enough time for me to go through all the obstacles we face as parents trying to educate our children. But for the benefit of those that like to be reminded, there are the financial drains of the full time position we have teaching, (or as the more inexpensive term used 'Supervising') our children in the home classroom, which is literally being a bloody teacher, yet without the perks, the training, the pay or the time off...or stress leave for that matter.

If you are not in a position to "supervise" yourself, you must find a way to pay someone to do so, whether you dedicate one parent's wage, or you negotiate a deal with an employer to allow you to have a Home Tutor; in any form, you are paying for your child's free public school education like no other Australian Citizen is expected to.

Then it might be Boarding School Fee's, travel costs, extra support, perhaps you have multiple aged children and you're doing it all...it is all adding up. Financially, we are sucked dry trying to educate our kids.

But you know what, we are not victims, we are a people that are okay with paying our own way, in fact, our mantra is that

nothing good comes easy,

but when the one thing our country prides itself on is access to a free education for all children, where is the equity?

Why is the starting point for every other family different to ours? Isolated families are literally leaving the Territory in droves because they just can't afford to educate their children up here. So many good families, ready to contribute so much to our community and economy just say, 'It's too hard and it is just too expensive' and head off to greener pastures. I know this, because I know them, I've seen it, over and over again.

The only reason we have isolated families left at all in the Territory is that the ones that don't leave are incredibly stubborn, relish in a challenge, and fundamentally just love the Territory. But I'll come back to that.

Okay, so it is financially crippling, but that is just one barrier. Try finding support services when you have children with special needs. Feel the guilt of not identifying developmental issues or learning difficulties in your child earlier because you just didn't know, and the precious little contact time with peers and professionals just wasn't enough to pick up on those subtle signs.

Try finally finding health and teaching professionals that 'get it', only for them to move on and leave before you even had a chance to let that breath of relief out.

Okay, so this is not a conference theme of 'Here are the Barriers', it is 'No Barriers in the Bush', and here's where the good news comes. ICPA NT has been on the front line advocating for isolated children since 1981, and every single entitlement, support and allowance currently in place to help these kids, is there because of the dedicated councillors and members working constantly to improve our circumstances.

I've been involved with ICPA for around 6 years, and on State Council for 4 of those,





and I can tell you that these amazing women work their butts off getting it done. We've experienced some amazing achievements, but I tell you, it can be a hard slog. Our recent success with advocating for internet subsidies for distance education classrooms took two long years of phone calls, letters, delegations, teleconferences, research of legislation and statistics, information on classroom demographic and data usage in distance ed classrooms, and our own personal stories and case studies. We had to find the answers that no government department had ever bothered to look for, and our ducks had to be in a row every single conversation, every single audience. I can't express the emotion we felt when at what felt like the 11th hour, we had success.

If only it was that quick and easy to get results on all of our issues, but if you ever think for a moment that we can't change the situation you are wrong.

We are the ONLY ones that can change the situation.

So I did say I'd come back to our love of the Territory. The ICPA branches in the NT have the majority of their membership cohort coming from the Pastoral industry. This industry contributes over \$450 Million dollars directly into the NT economy and in excess of \$1 Billion dollars indirectly. But one of the barriers we face is the total misconception by the general public that all the people in the cattle industry are wealthy, and they pay because they can... and they should.

The families on the coal face of this billion dollar injection of funds into the NT economy might have something to say about that. They're ordinary people, working their butts off every single day, in the heat, in the flies, battling the tyranny of distance, where no one else wants to be, and you'd be embarrassed to work out their

hourly rate. They're working every single day, even when they're not there, the existence of their livelihoods depends on them not dropping the ball...ever, and the majority of these people are not wealthy, if they were they might be on a yacht sailing the Whitsundays instead of processing cattle in 46 degrees, and whether it is pulling dying cattle out of bogs on Christmas Day because it hasn't rained, or pulling bore pumps out of rivers because it has, they are there, and there is no 'I've knocked off'.

Our life is our industry, it is one. Any quick browse of a boarding school article on social media where remote families are asking for financial assistance, you'll see hundreds of comments from the blissfully naïve suburban keyboard warriors, telling us to 'just send them to the local school like we all have to'...only problem is our local school might be 700km away.

We don't want to send our children away to school, but what we do want is for them to have an unabridged education, and if we can't provide what they need at home as they progress, we have no choice. For some families, there may be a small school offering a limited program nearby, or to home school through distance ed all the way through may be the preferred or ONLY option.

Anyway, my point is, it is of utmost confusion to me, why these isolated kids are not supported completely and without question in every way, as much as they need, to access an education – whether that be in the distance ed classroom, in a boarding school, or at university – wherever that might be.

Our options in the Territory are extremely limited compared to other states, and so is our support. There are motions that will be presented today that have been put forward for many years, and it breaks my heart. Why do we need to fight so hard for every single thing? These are the kids that

have an instilled love of the Territory, they have an incredible work ethic, they don't see the social issues, the distance, the terrible roads, the lack of assistance...they see home.

These are the kids that will return to the Territory, will remain in the Territory, as Doctors, as Truck Drivers, Cattlemen, Nurses, Teachers, Tradesman, because this is their home.

The Territory needs these kids.

Access to education is the key, whatever your level of disadvantage, education is what will save us. Isolation is a complication that is difficult to quantify, yet if we don't acknowledge the financial and social implications of neglecting to fully support isolated children trying to access a quality education throughout this geographically broad community, regardless of their colour or culture, we are doing more than just a disservice to the people within, we are essentially ensuring the demise of the Territory lifestyle we want to protect.

Our kids need us to be their voice, and we need to break down every single barrier to ensure their right to an education, that will bring opportunity, fulfilment, success and achievement.

Thank you.

Kerrie

Kerrie Scott
ICPA NT



39th ICPA NT STATE CONFERENCE 2021

Conference Motions

Each year, a Territory branch hosts the NT State Conference.

This year our 39th state conference was hosted by the Alice Springs Branch, and thanks to the effort of the Alice Springs Branch Convening Committee and assisting State Councillors, it was wonderful. Such dedicated and clever volunteers are incredibly important to the health and strength of our Association and the bush community.

Like the saying goes, **if you want a healthy government, vote. If you want a healthy community, volunteer.**

Next year, the 40th ICPA NT State Conference will be hosted by the Katherine Branch and we're already anticipating another momentous occasion!

*State conference is, among other things, where NT members of ICPA debate state-based motions and vote on them. Carried motions become state council 'policy'; it's what ICPA NT advocates to Territory decision makers, especially since **education is a Territory (or State) Government responsibility.***

Conference is a very important occasion - but it's also a lot of fun! We welcomed a fabulous bunch of members and invited guests whose attendance is integral for presenting information, clarifying and responding to questions and generally receiving our messages around advocating for equity in education for rural and remote students.

Twenty four agenda motions were presented & every single motion was carried, plus one floor motion. Motions came from: Boarding - Allowances (4), Boarding - Student Assistance Scheme (3), Distance Education (4 plus F1), Early Childhood and Care (1), Special Needs (2), Miscellaneous – COVID-19 (6), Miscellaneous – State Council (4), AGM (1). There were no motions received for Communications & Technology, Curriculum or Rural & Remote Schools.

Motions

- That ICPA NT lobby the NT Department of Education to make the **Interstate Boarding Allowance** decision-making matrix available to parents applying for the allowance.
- That ICPA NT appeals to the Minister for Education for families to be eligible for the **Interstate Boarding Allowance** on the basis of more criteria than curriculum alone.
- That ICPA NT continues to advocate to the Minister for Education for a **Living Away from Home Allowance** for Geographically Isolated boarding students.
- That ICPA NT lobby the NT Department of Education for an increase in all allowances within the **Student Assistance Scheme**, including the kilometre travel rate, to more closely reflect the cost of travel, especially in light of the number of kilometres our members travel on dirt roads to access education.
- That ICPA NT asks for an update from the Northern Territory Department of Education to see what progress has been made to simplify the application processes involved in families applying for allowances under the **Student Assistance Schemes**.



- That ICPA NT encourages the NT Education Department to improve the **Student Assistance Scheme** application, re-application and processing systems and ensure the scheme subsidies and assistance is appropriate to the needs of isolated students.
- That ICPA NT ensures the NT Department of Education subsidises the full amount of school room internet to families and remains a key participant and advisor to the Department of Education during negotiation of service needed and during the transfer from the **STARS** network to an **NBN** centrally managed service.
- That ICPA NT lobby the NT Government and the Department of Education to ensure that internet costs (as per the STARS network) for Geographically Isolated children enrolled and attending schools of distance education be the direct monetary responsibility of the Department of Education as this is consistent to the **Education Act**.
- That ICPA NT lobby the NT Department of Education to ensure any **STARS equipment**, including mobile trailers, are made available first and foremost to students who are currently enrolled in schools of distance education, especially during a time of COVID-19 lockdown.
- That ICPA NT continue to relay the importance of **Northern Territory Schools of the Air** to all relevant Ministers and Government departments.
- That ICPA NT, lobby the relevant Government Departments to ensure that existing **Mobile Early Childhood Services** continue and are supported to expand into regions without any early childhood services.
- That ICPA NT urges the relevant Ministers to collaborate to ensure access to and subsidise **accommodation and travel for children with specific or special learning needs** to attend appointments with qualified specialists.
- That ICPA NT urges the Minister for Education to ensure all rural and remote students have access to and are prioritised for **early identification and intervention for specific learning needs**.
- That ICPA NT lobby the Northern Territory Government and the NT Chief Health Officer, to grant an **exemption to all geographically isolated students from 'COVID 19 quarantine at government facilities'** allowing these students to quarantine at their family home, providing the family and student meet the requirements to 'quarantine at home' set by the NT Chief Health Officer.
- That ICPA NT lobby the NT Department of Education and the Northern Territory Government, including the NT Chief Health Officer, for geographically isolated students enrolled in a Northern Territory School of the Air, and their families, to be able to **cross the border and enter the Northern Territory for the purposes of accessing education**.



- That ICPA NT asks the Northern Territory Government to work with them to develop a pack of forms and documents, to help families prepare to meet the requirements when **applying for an exemption** from 'COVID 19 quarantine at government facilities' for all geographically isolated students attending educational facilities interstate.
- That ICPA NT lobby the NT Department of Education and the Northern Territory Government to remove any **costs involved in mandatory COVID-19 quarantine** at government facilities, for students whose permanent place of residence is in the Northern Territory.
- That ICPA NT implores the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to increase **maintenance of roads** to ensure safe conditions for families travelling to attend to educational needs.
- That ICPA NT be acknowledged and congratulated in their ongoing efforts throughout the year in **attending delegations and lobbying Government** on our behalf for a brighter future for our children in rural and remote Australia.

ICPA NT was acknowledged and congratulated for our ongoing efforts throughout the year, attending delegations and lobbying Government for a brighter future for children in rural and remote Northern Territory - and indeed Australia.

Following conference, the incoming 2021 State Council was elected, including **seven re-elected Councillors who stood for another term.**

If you are entirely happy with education in your world, it is highly likely ICPA has helped make it that way (if you receive any allowances, **you can absolutely thank ICPA**).

If you aren't happy with aspects of education in your world, ICPA advocate on behalf of rural and remote families. You can find your **local Branch or State Council contact details** in the front of this publication, or on our new-look website www.icpa.com.au/nt/

Suzanne Wilson
& Sarah Cook,

on behalf of
NT State Council.

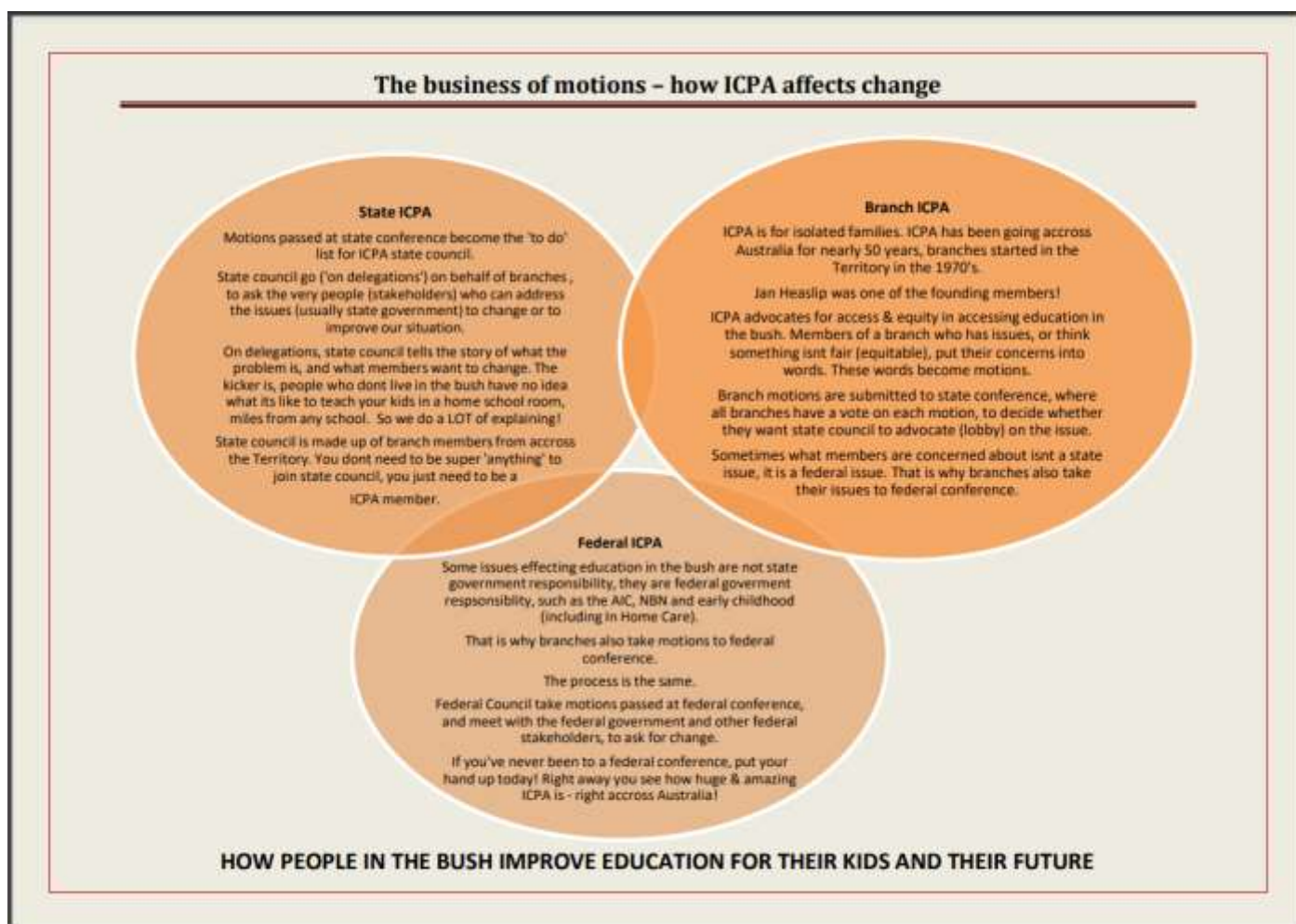


Photo Credit: Shutterstock Royalty-free stock photo ID: 1746821192 "The sun sets over the dry, red hills of the West Macdonnell Ranges near Alice Springs, Northern Territory." By LyndonOK

39TH ANNUAL ICPA NT STATE CONFERENCE

Pre Conference Welcome Drinks and Canapes | Double Tree by Hilton



"NO BARRIERS IN THE BUSH" 1 - 2 MARCH 2021

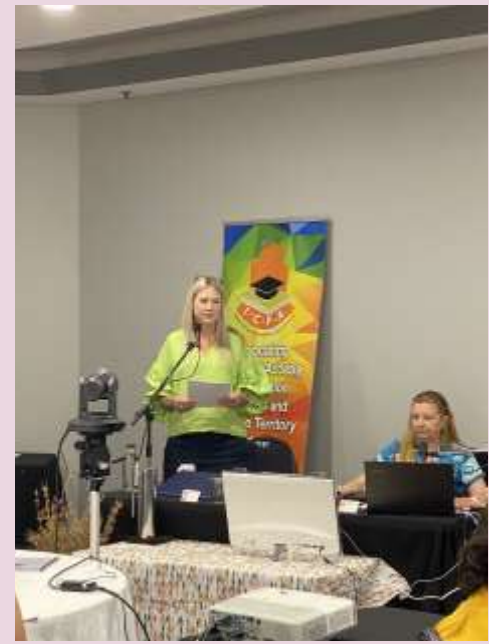


LEFT PAGE: (1) ICPA Merchandise and a list of our sponsors. (2) Candice Krebs, Sarah Cook and Amanda Driver at the Registrations table. (3) Warren Snowden, Tiani Cook, David Murtagh and Joshua Burgoyne. (4) Amanda Driver holding an ICPA NT fishing shirt. (5) Suzanne Wilson and Joshua Burgoyne. (6) Liz Bird and Jo Fogarty. (7) Jo Hersey, Kerrie Scott, Pat Elliott, Del Harlen, Merriel Lawrie and Pauline Rainer. (8) Suzanne Wilson, Aderyn Chatterton, Alf Leonaldi and Sarah Cook. (9) Nikki Macqueen, Jane O'Brien, Sue Shotton and Suzanne Wilson. **RIGHT PAGE:** (10) Sarah Cook, Hon Warren Snowden, Claire O'Brien, David Murtagh, Tiani Cook, Marianne St Clair and Moira Lanzarin. (11) Kerrie Russell, David Murtagh, Marianne St Clair and Moira Lanzarin. (12) Lisa Kimlin, Candice Krebs. (13) Jane O'Brien, Sarah Cook, Ley Kunnoth. (14) Richard Stokes, Thomas Dunsmore, Joshua Burgoyne, Ley Kunnoth, Danyelle Haigh. (15) Ley Kunnoth, Danyelle Haigh, Rebecca Mohr Bell, Paul Bailey. (16) Meriel Lawrie, Pat Elliott, Sue Shotton. (17) Kerrie Scott, Sue Shotton, Lisa Kimlin. (18) Suzanne Wilson, Jo Hersey. (19) Ben Quilliam, Jane O'Brien, Sarah Cook, Jo Hersey. (20) Sarah Cook.



39TH ANNUAL ICPA NT STATE CONFERENCE

Conference Day



"NO BARRIERS IN THE BUSH" 1 - 2 MARCH 2021



39TH ANNUAL ICPA NT STATE CONFERENCE

Post Conference Gala Dinner at Alice Springs Golf Club



"NO BARRIERS IN THE BUSH" 1 - 2 MARCH 2021



Thank you to everyone who attended the ICPA
NT 39th Annual State Conference.

See you next year!

39th ICPA NT STATE CONFERENCE 2021

ICPA NT Alice Springs Branch President's Speech

I would like to start by welcoming all life members, delegates, guests, sponsors and presenters.

This is one way to be thrown in the deep end, please excuse me if I come across nervous as this is my first ever report as Branch President and public speaking takes me right out of my comfort zone, however like you all I am here to better the education of our bush, rural and remote children's education.

A little about myself:

Our family manage a cattle station 400km north of Alice Springs. We have three children; two daughters that are boarding school students at Westminster School in Adelaide, and one son who attends Alice Springs School of the Air. I am the youngest of four, with three older brothers, I grew up in Alice Springs and did my schooling here. whilst we lived in town with our mum, our dad was a contract musterer, so a lot of our holidays were spent working and enjoying this great remote lifestyle that we live today and are very fortunate enough to be raising our own children in, and it's this way of life that brings us all here today.

ICPA goes back further than today for me as these drawings behind me were drawn as ICPA letterheads by my mother-in-law in the late 80s to early 90s when she was an ICPA Alice Springs branch executive member, who at that stage was advocating for her sons and now, all that hard work continues rippling through to her

grandchildren. I'm sure there are a few members here today that might remember these drawings at that time.

I am excited for the year ahead with our December 2020 AGM, newly appointed (and some returning) branch executive and committee members. We have another busy year ahead with the hosting of today's State conference, attending the 50th annual ICPA federal conference in Longreach, continuing to fundraise for our branch and the organizing of other events throughout the year that both raise money and put our name as a branch out there and on the map!

Last year our branch fundraised a total of \$16500 in profit even with a lot of our fundraising events being cancelled due to COVID-19.

This fundraising was done through the newly adapted cattle sale donations, the running of the Bronco Branding canteen held at Undoolya in September, our fishing shirt campaign for the second year around as well as other very generous donations from various local businesses throughout the year that we are so grateful for. We are already planning on these all going ahead again this year for 2021.

Our branch awarded \$5000 in grants this past year and continue to offer our 5 grants annually valued at \$7500. We have had a committee of 5 members working tirelessly on our grant applications, changing some wording and the application process for the ease of applying for our grants in the future, our grants will be moving to an online application later in the year and we thank these members for all their hard work they have put into making this process possible.

COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic last year, for most of us that have children on distance education, this was a pretty good place to already be, as it was not foreign for us, and to our children, it was THEIR NORMAL, whilst for urban children and families it bought a whole new prospective to children's education. On the other hand, for those families with children attending boarding school, particularly interstate it proved to be very challenging at times. ICPA NT together with a previous ICPA member and

boarding school mother and the royal flying doctors' services were able to put together a chartered flight on a RFDS plane and take 11 boarding students from the NT back to school in Adelaide where they then did the mandatory quarantine for 14 days if they had that option. however, for a lot of students, the quarantine time or facilities simply were not an option for various reasons whether it was financial, family support, mental wellbeing or many other reasons, this saw a lot of students at home for up to 4 months for the schooling year.

Looking forward at the year ahead, we are a new committee with fresh ideas, we come from a variety of backgrounds and I'm sure we will all bring some new ideas to the table. The new committee has only been in their positions for nearly three months and so far, have already managed to bring in new members, gain sponsorship from new sponsors and looking at other ideas for fundraising and the promotion of our branch. We as a Committee, will continue to support our members in any way that we can, as it takes members to build a village and it takes a village to raise and educate children, whether they are geographically isolated or not.

There is also a lot of gratitude and appreciation to the outgoing executive committee as their support with navigating us in the right directions has been nothing but short of inspirational especially our outgoing president, who is always answering any of my questions any time of the day and no question is a silly question.

I would like to make a comment that it is so good to see so many Alice Springs ICPA members at a conference for their very first time! This is what helps us be heard.

Thank you all for listening to my first ever report as ICPA Alice Springs Branch President.



Lisa

Lisa Kimlin

**ICPA NT Alice
Springs Branch
President**





All Souls St Gabriels School is proud to announce the start of a self-funded redevelopment of the School's Design & Technology precinct. The project started last week with the first demolition stages and have an estimated build time of 26 weeks. Redeveloping the Design & Technology precinct is a priority for the School and will offer students from Pre-prep to Year 12 an innovative learning environment.

The School engaged with Tippet Schrock Architects, and with the guidance from Architect Peter Scott, has produced a state of the art 21st Century Learning Space. The School's goal is to transform the current facility into workshop spaces that are adaptable and can change to meet future technological requirements. Due to COVID19 implications, the School delayed starting the project in 2020, our Centenary year.

Following the lodgment of tenders in 2020, the School has engaged the services of Townsville builders W&F Constructions. They have worked on many school-based projects in the region, including Trade Training Centres at Burdekin Catholic High School and Gilroy Santa Maria College. W&F Constructions has commenced site set up, and will ensure the redevelopment is safe for students, staff and visitors to the area, including the Senior School student drop off area.

The new facility will offer flexible learning spaces, accommodate a range of activities between the disciplines, and allow for visual connections between classrooms. Open walkways from the Junior School via the new facility will offer a more connected campus. High-level windows allow natural light to permeate the spaces throughout much of the day, reducing the power demands.

Headmaster Mr Darren Fleming said, "I am grateful for the hard work that has gone into preparing for this project and thank the Architect, Peter Scott, for transforming our ideas into reality. This space will allow the School to offer a range of Technologies into the future".



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COUNCILLOR PROFILE

ICPA NT STATE SECRETARY

Juliane Vlach of Ambalindum Station, Central Australia

My name is Juliane (aka Jule pronounced 'Ula'). I was born and raised in the countryside of north-eastern Germany. After university I started travelling, and eventually my travels brought me to the shores of Australia in 2014.

Half a year into my time in Australia I came to the Northern Territory to do work in the primary sector for my second Working Holiday Visa year. I found work on a cattle station west of Katherine, NT, where I met my current partner, and it was like a jump into ice cold water. It was vastly different to what I knew, and I could barely understand the "Aussie Outback Slang", which made things difficult at the start. But at the same time, I just loved it – the people, the work, the isolation.

In 2019 our son was born, and I got my first taste of being a stay at home (first time) mum in a remote area. It was mentally and physically very draining without having family members close by for support. It was eye opening how easy people living in towns could access playgroups, doctors appointments, specialists – you

name it, but how difficult and time consuming it is for us living "out bush". Friends introduced me to KICS (Katherine Isolated Children Service) and it was a great opportunity for my son and I to get out and socialise with mothers and their children from other stations in the area.

With my son now two years old, and another one on the way I start to understand & feel the struggles of remote/rural living families to give their children the best possible start (and further down the track) in education, medical support, socializing with other children their age – the list goes on. I want to make a difference for my kids and other kids, now and in the future. So that the struggle is less and we have easier access to government support. When we moved to the Red Centre in 2020, to Ambalindum Station near Alice Springs, for a new job my partner took on and I found out that there is no such service as KICS in Central Australia I was devastated.

But where to start to change something this big? Where to go to find support? The internet is full of information but who has the time to scroll through hundreds of pages of government slang to find out if you are actual eligible for support? It felt overwhelming & I felt like drowning in all this information, not finding the answers I was looking for.

I heard of ICPA throughout the years but never really put a thought to it till earlier this year. A friend mentioned the ICPA State conference in March this year in Alice Springs and do I want to join her? It was a game changer. Hearing other peoples' stories about their struggles I didn't feel alone anymore. When asked if I would like to join State Council, I was a bit hesitant at first, but it was the place I was looking for. The place to start to make a change!

My main aim is to improve the support or get support put in place for families with children under the school age (0-5years).

Juliane Vlach



Suzanne Wilson, NT State Council Vice President is a regular contributing member of the CRCNA Telehealth Research Project, who aims to develop a simple, robust telehealth system for remote communities.

Members are encouraged to contact Suzanne for more information, to share examples of how telehealth would assist your family, or to complete the Telecommunications and Telehealth Survey.

ICPA NT wish to thank CRCNA project researcher Marianne St Clair of Simbani Research, for attending and presenting at our State Conference in Alice Springs.



OUTBACK MAIL

Connellan Airways Trust



Hello friends,

Whilst it feels like a long time ago now, Connellan Airways Trust was pleased to attend the ICPA NT State Conference in Alice Springs. What an amazing gathering of people, speakers, and information about education in the bush. Congratulations to the organisers of this conference.

March saw the Trust announce the E.J Connellan Award recipients for 2021. The Award was established in 1988 by the Connellan Airways Trust in honour of the founder NT pioneer, aviator and pastoralist, Edward Connellan (known as E.J or Eddie). The Award aims to give opportunity to people living in Outback Australia to undertake further studies or research of a kind not otherwise readily available to them.

Congratulations to Annalise Pearce from Kununurra and to James Christian from Alice Springs. The Awards will support these recipients

with their higher education goals over the course of their study. Both applicants showed significant commitment and purpose in contributing to the Outback into the future, which is a big part of the Award.

In April the Trust also released an Outback Major Grant aimed at supporting organisations with technology and communications advancement in the bush. Expressions of Interest are currently being reviewed and I am excited to see some of the potential projects we have received. Keep an eye out for these being announced in June/July.

Do not forget that the next round of general grants is closing on 15 August 2021. These grants are available to support a variety of endeavours with education or health outcomes and applications are prioritised by need. I went looking through the archives back to the year 2000... over the years, the Trust general

grants have supported over 79 grants for ICPA branches around Australia! How's that for a long-time partnership in working towards better education outcomes for the bush? Pretty good, hey.

The Roger Connellan Award also opens 1 June, closing 31 July. This Award of up to \$20,000 is to improve bush pilot safety and training (after initial licensing) – there is an element of community involvement too. Have a look, it might suit your aviation goals to apply.

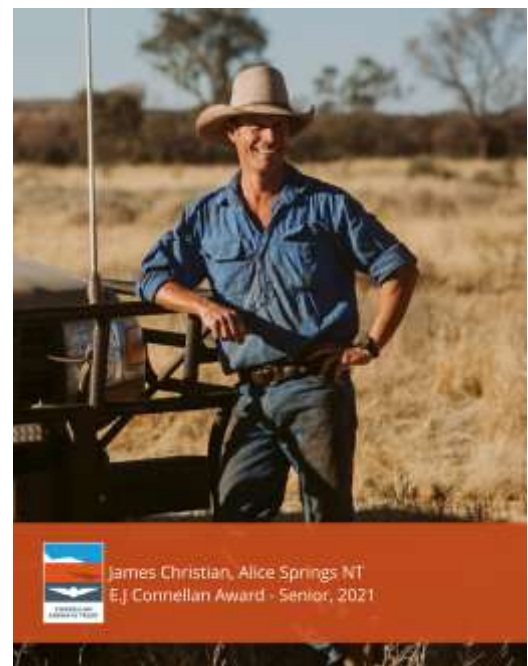
I look forward to seeing everyone at the Longreach Federal conference in July. Until then, may your crops be evergreen, your stock be healthy, and your family find daily moments of joy.

Kind regards,

Jessica Hackett
Executive Officer
Connellan Airways Trust



Annalise Pearce, Kununurra WA
E.J Connellan Award - Junior 2021



James Christian, Alice Springs NT
E.J Connellan Award - Senior, 2021

WELCOME NEW ICPA NT STATE COUNCILLORS



JULIANE (JULE) VLACH - STATE SECRETARY

LAUREN HOAR - COUNCILLOR/SPECIAL NEEDS PORTFOLIO

LISA KIMLIN - COUNCILLOR/PRESIDENT ALICE SPRINGS BRANCH

KIYA GILL - COUNCILLOR

Welcome to the team, advocating for equity in education - outback!

TO THE STATE COUNCILLORS WHO REMAINED ON COUNCIL FOR ANOTHER YEAR, THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SHARE YOUR TIME KNOWLEDGE & COMMITMENT WITH ICPA



2021 Student Assistance Scheme

	Boarding					Daily Transport
	Within the Northern Territory			Interstate		Conveyance Subsidy
	Mid-Term Travel Scheme	Student Travel Scheme	Supplementary Boarding Allowance	Interstate Boarding Allowance	Remote Area Travel Allowance	
** Applicants must refer to the Student Assistance Schemes Policy and Guidelines for a complete overview of the scheme. The policy and guidelines will take precedence in the event of any discrepancy.						
Criteria	To be eligible you and your child must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be permanent NT residents• be studying full time• be living away from home to attend school on a daily basis• be approved for Basic Boarding Allowance under the Australian Government's Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) scheme			To be eligible you and your child must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be permanent NT residents• be studying full time• access curriculum that is not available at NT schools that have access to boarding facilities• be living away from home to attend school on a daily basis• be approved for Basic Boarding Allowance under the Australian Government's Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) scheme		To be eligible you and your child must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be permanent NT residents• live in an isolated location more than 5 km from the nearest school or public transport access to public transport (unless unable to travel due to public transport restrictions or disabilities)• be taking the most direct route to and from school
Years	Primary, middle or senior			Primary, middle or senior		Primary, middle, senior or tertiary education
Due Date for Applications	Annually by 30 September			Annually by 30 September		Annually by 30 September
Due Date for Claims	Claims can be submitted after each term or semester, but no later than 31 March of the following year		N/A	N/A	Claims can be submitted after each term or semester, but no later than 31 March of the following year	Claims can be submitted after each term or semester, but no later than 31 March of the following year
Payment <i>Claims can only be paid where an application has been approved</i>	Eligible applicants can claim up to four return trips per school year		Maximum of \$600 per school year	\$2,000 per year	Eligible applicants can claim up to four return trips per school year	\$0.46 per km Eligible applicants must undertake a minimum of four return trips per day, to convey the student to and from school. Capped at \$0.46 per day
Contact Details	NT Department of Education GPO Box 4821 Darwin NT 0801 Telephone: 1800 019 157 or 08 8901 4965 Email: studentassistance.det@nt.gov.au					

Schemes for Isolated Students

Port	Distance Education				University or Higher Education
Subsidy	Correspondence Site Allowance		Materials Delivery Assistance	Schools of the Air Student Functions	Tertiary Fares Reimbursement Scheme
	Primary, Middle or Senior School	Pre-School			
For a complete and detailed list of eligibility criteria and conditions prior to making an application or claim ** Check for any inconsistency with the guidance material given below					
Eligibility criteria	To be eligible you and your child must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be permanent NT residents• your child must attend one of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Alice Springs School of the Air- Katherine School of the Air- NT School of Distance Education• be approved for Distance Education Allowance under the Australian Government's Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) scheme	To be eligible you and your child must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be permanent NT residents• your child must attend one of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Alice Springs School of the Air- Katherine School of the Air• meet the requirements for the Distance Education Allowance (except for the minimum age) under the Australian Government's Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) scheme	To be eligible you and your child must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be permanent NT residents• your child must attend one of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Alice Springs School of the Air- Katherine School of the Air- NT School of Distance Education• be approved for Distance Education Allowance under the Australian Government's Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) scheme	To be eligible you and your child must be a principal residence in the NT, and the course must: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be considered a priority field by the CDU Standing Committee• not be available in any form at the same level at Charles Darwin University or any other NT registered training authority• lead to an award enabling further study in the same field or specialised employment field	
Level of education	Primary, middle or senior	Pre-school	Primary, middle or senior		Tertiary or university
Frequency	Annually by 30 September		Annually by 30 September		Annually by 30 September
When to claim	N/A	N/A	Claims can be submitted after each term or semester, but no later than 31 March of the following year		Claims can be submitted after each term or semester, but no later than 31 March of the following year
Maximum claim	\$493 per school year	\$246.50 per school year	Eligible applicants can claim up to eight return trips (capped at 200 km) per school year	Eligible applicants can claim up to two return trips per school year	NT Institutions: Eligible applicants can claim up to three return trips per school year Interstate Institutions: Eligible applicants can claim up to two return trips per school year
For more information visit education.nt.gov.au Web: https://nt.gov.au/learning/student-financial-help-and-scholarships/financial-help-for-isolated-students					



2021 ICPA NT KATHERINE BRANCH

State Conference President's Report - Kerrie Scott

After a far better wet season for our members, it is a pleasure to be presenting the Katherine Branch Report for 2021. Having already had the privilege of addressing conference earlier today, I will make this as brief as possible! Firstly, on behalf of the Katherine Branch, I must thank the Alice Springs Branch and Convening Committee, along with State Council for their hard work in putting this conference together. Katherine Branch look forward to taking on the challenge next year.

The past 12 months have proved challenging for everyone, the world is now a very different place than it was before, and our isolated families in the top end have not been immune to the difficulties this has brought to education in lockdown. Many of our members faced coming out of an exhausting, non-existent wet season straight into a pandemic, and although we've been in the most fortunate place in the world during such an event, it was hard for the kids that had spent such a long time alone already on isolated properties, to learn that their isolation would continue for an indefinite period. All school and social contact events, teacher patrols and camps were cancelled. Many of us scrambled to get our heads around accessing essential medications, stores and supplies when ridiculous limits were put in force, with very little

understanding or consideration from decision makers of how that would affect remote properties trying to maintain what is essentially small townships, with staff and residents living within. At one point I had to take my eldest daughter away from the schoolroom on a town trip for the day just to be the second person for 2 item limits, to ensure we could at least have some supplies that we could not get in bulk to get us through. Whilst the rest of the country has endured very short term inconvenient tastes of home schooling, we were finally at the forefront of innovative delivery of remote education and everyone was looking for the answers from us. Our interstate boarding students however, were in turmoil. Boarder closures left families in dire straights as to what to do, and horrific stories of children being put into forced isolation without their parents began to emerge and families were suitably terrified. States and Territories were left floundering, and these kids were in limbo with all sense and reason seeming to be thrown out the door, replaced with uncompromising rules that took none of our unique circumstances into consideration. The Katherine Branch members thank the State and Federal Councils for their untiring efforts advocating and advising the Department of Education and relevant Ministers working toward finding solutions, and their ongoing commitment to ensure our

boarding children have some certainty and feeling of safety accessing their education.

Whilst branch activities came to a stand still in the first part of the year, we were back on track in the second. Our branch decision to postpone our April Sports Camp until October proved a good move, and we were able to have our full camp with over 90 registrations over 2 and a half days. We look forward to our camp which will be held as usual, in April this year. Our 'Special Luncheon' during the delayed Katherine School of the Air Inschool Week was also well attended and we look forward to finding other opportunities to team with NTCA toward better outcomes for remote families.

Fortunately, having had some extraordinary fundraising efforts in previous years, we were able to offer all of the grants and opportunities to our members as usual. The Nutrien Grants, ICT Grants, Personal Development Grants, Art Awards and Memorial Awards were all awarded, and it is amazing to see our children pushing through the adversity of the year. Assisting families financially by administering these funds is one of the most rewarding parts of being involved with the Katherine Branch. We cannot thank our sponsors and the fundraising efforts that enable this to happen enough. We look forward to working with Nutrien Ag Solutions Katherine to

put together the Nutrien Auction at the Katherine Show again this year.

Our branch continues to have a strong and committed membership, and we have both a combination of experienced, and new and enthusiastic councillors signed on for 2021, ready to forge a path through what lies ahead for us. Whilst we still grapple with the new normal, we will adapt to changing circumstances, but our goals remain the same. To ensure equity in access to education for all remote students, to continue to provide support, opportunities, and community to our membership. Katherine Branch appreciate the work put in by our State and Federal Councils advocating our motions. It is often frustrating when we have motions we cannot seem to get traction on, but as they say "It's a slow process, but quitting won't speed it up".

Finally, as Katherine Branch President, it is my absolute honour to formally recognise two members that have been awarded Katherine Branch Life Membership. Mrs Sally Sullivan and Mrs Helen Harding have worked tirelessly for our branch for many years. Both of these amazing, motivated, intelligent and generous women have not only inspired me personally, but been a driving force within the branch, tackling each challenge with both experience and professionalism. Whilst Sal's focus has moved to Federal Council, she remains a dedicated Branch member. Sal is our rock, our go-to, our voice of reason, our encyclopedia of all things ICPA. Sal has always been at the end of the phone or email whenever I've needed guidance or advice. Hele remains an integral part of our branch operations, and her dedication and knowledge propels us, and saves us! We know we can't keep her forever, but I don't know what we would do without her. When I'm frustrated with our longstanding issues that seem too hard to conquer, the politics, or the personalities that make you consider whether you should be doing something else, I recall Hele's advice to me through many phone calls over the past few years, "We didn't just do it to help our kids, we done it to help all the kids that come behind. What we achieved back then has helped your kids, and all you can do is hope that what you do now will help the next lot". That is the attitude that has been instilled in me from these admirable women, we are holding the torch, and this is our turn to make a difference. I've got limited time to thank these women, but without them, we would not be in the position as a branch that we are in today. These badges are just a symbol of the impact they've had on the Katherine Branch, and we say 'thank you'.

Kerrie

Kerrie Scott
Katherine Branch President
ICPA NT



**SARAH MEASEY, REBECCA CADZOW
HEIDI MILLERSHIP**
THREE VALUED STATE COUNCILLORS WHOSE TERM
ENDED AT THE 2021 AGM

Thank you for everything!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOLUNTEERING, YOUR
TIME, YOUR EFFORT, YOUR ENTHUSIASM, YOUR
COMMITMENT, YOUR IDEAS, YOUR FRIENDSHIP,
EVERYTHING YOU SHARED WITH ICPA NT

We are grateful

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COURAGE | COMMITMENT | COMPASSION

Sally Shaw of the East Kimberly Region

My family own a cattle station in the East Kimberly region of Western Australia which my parents purchased together 20 years ago.

This property is located 250km from our closest town of Kununurra along both gravel and highway roads. The geographical location of our home physically places myself and my family in isolation from resources and other people.

My family first became involved with the ICPA in 2002 when my older brother and myself were young children. Since 2002, each member of my immediate family has been an ICPA member. As a family we have greatly appreciated the work of the ICPA. The association's efforts to bring people living in rural areas closer together has provided us with a greater sense of community in what can be an at times lonely and isolated lifestyle. The assistance granted by the ICPA has been a significant support to me throughout the hardships of growing up on an isolated cattle station.

From beginning Pre-School through to year five I was enrolled in Katherine School of the Air. In the early years of my education, we were taught from home via teachers in Katherine over the radio. As new technology was introduced, our learning moved to an online format where I was able to communicate with my teacher in Katherine and classmates from around WA and NT over the internet. From year six through to year 12 I was enrolled at Geelong College in Victoria. I am very thankful to have been able to experience both distance education and mainstream learning throughout my childhood, I have fond memories of each of these extremely different schools.

After completing year 12 in 2017, I am now attending The University of Western Australia in Perth where I am studying a Doctor of Medicine. This is a six year degree and I have recently completed my third year of studies in 2020.

From growing up on an isolated cattle station, I formed an interest in rural medicine and the stark differences between rural healthcare and mainstream healthcare. It is my hope that this degree will provide me with a

career pathway of becoming a medical professional in rural areas of Australia, such as the one where I grew up. Hopefully sometime in the future I will be lucky enough to be part of a group or establish a group of doctors who travel around rural parts of the country delivering medical assistance to isolated communities, ideally within the Kimberley region where I am from.

To pursue my chosen education path and complete a full time Medicine study load I have relocated to Perth to study at The University of Western Australia. This move has placed me a significant distance away from my home in the Kimberley. Fees associated with travelling to university and back to the station during holidays to visit my family are significant. In cases of formal university events where parents and family can attend, I would be very grateful for my parents to be able to come to Perth and visit me.

The generous ICPA grant, should I be lucky enough to receive it, will be in part used to purchase air fares back to Kununurra, and for my parents to visit me.

For the first two years of my course, Perth was an unfamiliar city to me, and I did not have any family or friend connections previously established there. This meant that living on campus in one of the university residential colleges was the best option for me at the beginning of my course. I believe that living in a new city and making new friends and relationships in university was made a lot easier by living on campus with a large group of similar young adults.

In 2021 I have decided to move out of university accommodation and will be renting a share house with two other Medicine students I have become close friends with. Living in Perth without the comfort of my family to support me is sometimes challenging. Studying full time in a demanding and competitive degree means that the costs associated with paying rent and other utility bills can at times be difficult for me to afford.

The generous Post-Secondary ICPA Bursary would significantly assist with the cost of living in Perth. The funds



from this bursary would greatly reduce the stress associated with paying monthly bills. This would enable me to spend less time working over the weekends, allowing more opportunity to focus on my studies and university commitments.

Studying Medicine involves purchasing many textbooks and academic resources. While second-hand textbooks are much cheaper and I am looking for ways to minimise the costs of tertiary resources, the expenses of essential books are incredibly large and difficult to afford every year. Any form of financial support would be well utilised in assisting me to purchase such books and other stationary items that are crucial for the completion of my course. Ensuring that I can afford the books and resources necessary to complete my degree is very important and I feel that the generous ICPA Bursary will enable me to have the funds required to purchase such items.

Thank you for considering my application,

Sally Shaw

Congratulations
Sally!



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FOUNDATION FOR RURAL REGIONAL RENEWAL

Back to School Competition 2021

Here are just a handful of the wonderful submissions and successful applicants for this year's Foundation for the Rural Regional Renewal (FRRR) Back to School Competition 2021.

Give It Your Best By Betty Bethel

Saddle up your horse
And get ready for the big course,

At the campdraft or at home
You need to pretend you're alone,

Confidence is the key
For you to succeed,

When my friends' cheers
It makes me lose my fear,

I always give it my best
To keep up with the rest,

Us kids in the bush
Sometimes need an extra push.



Nathan Richter

One of the things that I have found tough, but I have kept on going, is attending boarding school. It has been hard being away from home, mum and dad, I miss everything terribly!! The hard thing from being away from home is that there are so many rules and there are so many people compared to home. I also find it hard being away from mum and dad and I have missed them so much. Every morning I have to get my self-dressed, serve my own breakfast, get to classes on time, and get all my stuff sorted for the next day. I then go to cricket training, come back have a shower, go to roll call, then go to dinner! I go to sleep and it happens all over again. The only thing that kept me going and not giving up is to do it for mum and dad and my best friend Alex that is also here and so that I get a better education.



James Bayly

I have to give it my best to ride my motorbike through the boggy sand.



Ian Andrews

I have been hatching eggs in the incubator, growing up the chickens and selling extra eggs at school.



Maeve Martin

I use my animals to help me count.
I love sorting them by size, colour and type.



Conor Martin

I give Spelling my best by learning my words using Memory Games.



Congratulations to all the applicants!



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WE ARE COMING TO KATHERINE!

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ICPA NT KATHERINE BRANCH ANNUAL SPORTS CAMP

Mataranka, Northern Territory | 21 - 23 April 2021

ICPA sports camp is an event held every year in Mataranka for all kids. Schools such as Katherine school of the air, Mataranka Public School, and Douglas Daly all come to Mataranka for two days filled with all different sports. We had the best fun and I'm sure everyone else did too.

The camp started on Wednesday afternoon down at the Territory Manor where some Rugby teachers came and we all got to practice some drills and even have a game with our friends.

On Thursday everyone went to the rodeo grounds where we all got together with each year level split into groups and we went off for our two days worth of very very fun activities. We got to play basketball, run on the blow up obstacle course, rugby league, soccer, games and drills, and gymnastics. Our most favourite activities were the rugby league as we got to tackle and learn new things and the blow up obstacle course because we got to race our friends and tie our legs together to make it more fun and challenging.

On Friday after lunch the most exciting part happened where we got to present our class group chants to everyone! Everyone really enjoys this because it's always the best fun to try and win with the most funny and creative cheer! This year the Flying Fruit Bats won, congratulations to them!!

For us, we look forward to this every year because we don't get to see all our friends that much, and then we also get to meet new people and practice sports that we don't really get the chance to do.

There are so many people that come and help out, but without Mrs Scott and Mrs Murphy this would never happen and none of us would get any yum food! We also wouldn't have been able to learn what we did without all the sports teachers, and help from parents and home tutors.

We cant wait for next year!

Jesse and Bailey Hoar (year 3&5 KSA)



Dear ICPA committee,

I had so much fun at Mataranka and would love to go again.

My favourite activities were soccer and gymnastics and the food was so tasty. Thank you for letting me come.

**From Mila [from the Fruit Bat team]
Douglas Daly School**

Dear ICPA,

I enjoyed the gymnastics, basketball and soccer.

Can I please come back?

I loved the sports camp and the food was so good too!

From Bailey in the Fruit Bats!!

Douglas Daly School



Dear ICPA,

Thank you so much!

Mataranka sports camp was the best! We loved the variety of different rotations. We learnt different skills at each activity.

The food was also amazing.

The fussy eaters should be sad to miss out. We can't wait for next year!

Thank you from,

Douglas Daly School kids!





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Shania Milton of Umuwa, APY Lands

My dad has lived and worked remote on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands since 2007 and that is where I grew up.

I have lived in two communities within the lands and have attended School of the Air through South Australia and the NT, and then attended boarding school in Alice Springs where I completed my higher education. I have since enrolled at Flinders University in Adelaide and am doing a Bachelor of Criminology.

For the majority of my primary schooling I lived in a community called Ernabella and then moved to a community called Umuwa where I currently live when I am home from school.

We have been members of the ICPA NT since 2011, when I first joined Alice Springs School of Air (ASSOA), and have continued being with the branch all the way through my secondary education

and will continue while completing higher education.

My course cost is \$6800 annually. This amount of grant money would allow me to pay for my first year of tuition. This in turn would allow me to focus all my time on studying for my exams and allow me to redirect any stress towards my assignments instead of having to worry about finding a job straight away to finance my degree.

Due to my course I will spend a fair amount of my time using technology as I will do multiple hours of research related to the Australian Judicial system, criminological theories, as well as finding information about Western democracies and comparing them to the Australian political system.

Therefore the cost of a new computer would be included in the spending of the grant. This would allow me to work with a reliable computer for all of the



necessary research and assignments, as well as allow me to access any online lessons without there being connection issues and or the risk of things crashing and deleting.

Shania Milton

Brooke Weir of Ammaroo Station, Central Australia

My family lives on Ammaroo Station, which is 320 km away from the closest town, being Alice Springs. Because of the distance to the closest town and having no high schools nearby, I attended boarding School in Adelaide.

In 2020 I moved to Brisbane to experience a different area of Australia,

while working towards my goal of becoming a registered nurse, as a Bachelor of Nursing was not offered on campus in the Northern Territory.

My family have been members of ICPA in NT since 2004, as my brother and I went to Alice Springs School of the Air. My mother was also a committee

member and Vice President of ICPA Alice Springs Branch, and a committee member on the state council for two years. Both my grandmothers were also members of the ICPA and held various positions when their children attended ASSOA.

The Bachelor of Nursing at Griffith University goes for three years, and after I have graduated, I hope to become a remote area nurse, where I am particularly interested in working in the Northern Territory.

During the summer holidays, I work at the Ampilatwatja Health Centre near Ammaroo as an assistant in nursing, where I have developed a strong passion for nursing in remote areas.

I am applying for this grant in the hope of buying a MacBook laptop for university, as my laptop is getting old and becoming slow. This would help me immensely as my lectures and some coursework are still online due to COVID, therefore I am spending a lot of time learning via my laptop, not the classroom.

The cost of this would be approximately \$2000, so I would really appreciate the help of this grant, as having a new laptop would play a big role in me being able to effectively complete my coursework and gain knowledge, bringing me one step further to being able to achieve my dream of becoming a remote area nurse.

Brooke Weir



"BEYOND ALICE"

A boarding school experience - as recalled by Tanya Heaslip

I wondered if anyone else here missed home like I did. Felt as out of their depth as I did. But even if I'd known exactly how to explain my confused feelings, I didn't have the skills or words to discuss sensitive topics like missing my family and the land, or my aching sadness, loneliness, and shyness. Probably no-one else did, either.

We were like a small family of skittish and clumsy young fillies, struggling to find our feet and our legs, and trying in our own ways to adapt to our new world.

We started to create our own fun by doing ridiculous things, hoping all the while we wouldn't get caught. Sliding down the banister rails in our pyjamas and wearing shower caps for effect was one of our favourite pre-bed activities. The rails were wide, and the post at the bottom was topped by a big wooden ball, so we didn't go too fast.

We had water fights, pillow fights, and pillow races down the stairs. We shortsheeted each other's beds and jammed crushed biscuits into the bottom (or toenails, as someone did once). The aim was to ensure the mistresses didn't see or know or hear what we were up to. Getting away with mischief became

our main form of entertainment. Not that I was brave enough to do anything too naughty, but one day a dusty book changed all that.

On the weekends, we were allowed to take our travel rugs from the bottom of our beds outside. We'd lie on them on the lawn, just off the verandah outside Patchell Library, near the big loquat tree and read and write our letters home. One day, one of the girls rushed out, her eyes wide. She was holding an old book.

'The World of Suzie Wong'.

So risqué!

Tanya

Tanya Heaslip
Lawyer/Author
ICPA NT Territory
Wide Member



This is an extract from Beyond Alice by Tanya Heaslip (now available, RRP \$32.99).



"Beyond Alice" is the third book in Tanya's series of outback memoirs. It was published by Allen and Unwin on 4 May.

A number of launches were planned for May, and kicked off with "Market Sunday" in Alice Springs on Sunday 2 May at the Red Kangaroo Bookshop; a celebration back at the old Gillingham Hall school in Adelaide on Thursday 6 May; Margaret River on 15 May; and followed by a flying trip to Darwin on 25th and 26 May at The Darwin Bookshop. Grab a copy next time you are near one of those bookshops, or order online through: <https://www.tanyaheaslip.com.au/beyond-alice/>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION



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PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR BOARDING SCHOOL

Some helpful advice from Australian Boarding Schools Association

All boarding schools aim to promote the wellbeing of their boarders so that they can achieve both academic and personal success and fulfil their ultimate potential. Below is an excerpt from the Australian Boarding Schools Association's "Let's talk about Boarding" brochure. You will find a few tips from the list of ideas to consider when deciding that Boarding School is perhaps the best educational option for your child.

With the decision made the next step is to do as much as possible to prepare your child for living away from home within a boarding school context. Some ideas and actions in the months leading up to going away that have helped others include:

- ◆ Try to always speak positively about boarding school and all that your child can expect to gain from the experience. They will pick up on your anxieties so prime yourself to be positive.
 - ◆ Talk through any fears or anxieties that your child might have and come up with solutions for helping to manage these once they become a boarder.
 - ◆ Discuss homesickness with your child and how they might manage this, and also try to think about how their going away may affect you too. Discussing this openly will help them so that they will talk to you when they do travel this path.
 - ◆ If they don't already know, teach them how to use a mobile phone and put the important family numbers in the phone together.
 - ◆ Talk to them about making friends and tolerating others. Kindness is of essence to all good boarding experiences and if your child is always kind their journey will be an easier one.
 - ◆ Think about what they can take with them to have a sense of home within their boarding dorm - photos of home and a teddy or football are important.
 - ◆ Always talk positively about the boarding experience – what a wonderful opportunity this will be. Try not to share terrible stories about boarding in the past – things have changed!
 - ◆ Ensure they have a mobile phone and Skype/Facetime addresses to enable contact with home.
- And just prior to them going:
- ◆ Plan your communication times and keep these 'appointments' as a minimum. They then know you will be getting in touch and they will find time for you too!



For more information and advice, or to get a copy of the full length brochure, that includes information on how to prepare yourself for sending your child away to boarding school, visit the Australian Boarding Schools Association website www.boarding.org.au



A new edition to the
ICPA NT Early Childhood Portfolio!
Portfolio leader Rebecca Mohr-Bell
delivered a beautiful baby boy:

**CORBIN JACQUES
MOHR-BELL**

▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲
on the 30.12.20

**Congratulations Bec, Jay and
family. Corbin is a delight.**



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MAIL PLANES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Hard work rewarded as a Motion reaches a happy ending!

The Australian Government provides 266 communities in remote areas of Australia (including 91 in the Northern Territory) with improved access through the subsidy of a regular air service for freight and mail.

Local airlines are contracted to provide the flights under the Government's Remote Air Services Subsidy (RASS) Scheme. A station or community can apply to come onto the Scheme at any time. Airlines work closely with Australia Post on mail deliveries.

In the Northern Territory, these flights are provided by Chartair, Northern Territory Air Services or Katherine Aviation depending on the location.

The flights are scheduled to operate every week, subject of course to weather, the condition of each airstrip and other operational issues. Each station or community that wants to receive a flight is required to submit information about their

airstrip to help with safety assessments. Sometimes a flight may not operate due to weather or technical reasons and the airline will be in contact if this happens. Every effort is made to re-run the flight.

If you have a concern about a flight or delivery, you should contact the airline in the first instance as they will have up-to-date information. Any problems with flights that can't be resolved or that have gone on for some time can be relayed to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications at rass@infrastructure.gov.au. The Department won't have information about a particular flight but can work with you on any ongoing problems.

More information on the Government's program is available at <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/regional/rass.aspx>.

Education: Employment of Governesses

(Question No. 2771)

Mr Wallis asked the Minister for Education and Science, upon notice:

(1) Does the Commonwealth Government provide any form of **subsidy** for the employment of governesses for the purpose of teaching children resident in remote areas of Australia where normal schooling facilities are not available.

(2) If so, what form does the **subsidy** take.

Mr N. H. Bowen—The answer to the honourable member's question is as follows:

(1) Yes.

(2) Since September 1968, the Commonwealth Government has paid to parents an annual **subsidy** of \$100 for each child in the Northern Territory under the age of 12, who, because of distance from a school, studies at home under the supervision of a **governess**. The **subsidy** is also paid if the child's lessons are supervised by the mother and domestic help is employed to free the mother for this supervision.

Butter

(Question No. 2271)

Mr Hayden asked the Minister for Primary Industry, upon notice:

(1) What was the average export price per pound for Australian butter at the point of unloading in Great Britain during each of the past 5 years.

DISTANCE EDUCATION TEACHING ALLOWANCE

NT State Council recently had to determine our Top 5 priorities for the Northern Territory (based on conference motions).

Of our Top 5 priorities, one is to advocate for the Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA), in recognition of the role the Home Tutor plays in facilitating education in the home school room. During Federal Conference a Queensland delegate sent this photo to Sarah Cook, (NT ICPA President). It is of an excerpt from Parliament Question Time.

The question reads 'Does the Commonwealth Government provide any form of subsidy for the employment of governesses for the purpose of teaching children resident in remote areas of Australia, where normal schooling facilities are not available. If so, what form does the subsidy take?' Mr N. H Bowen answered, 'Yes. Since September 1968, the Commonwealth has paid to parents an annual subsidy for \$100 for each child in the Northern Territory under the age of 12, who, because of distance from a school, studies at home under the supervision of a governess. The subsidy is also paid if the child's lessons are supervised by the mother and domestic help is employed to free the mother for this supervision'.

If your family received this subsidy, or if you know why this subsidy ceased, State Council would like to hear the story. Please contact Sarah Cook - ntpresident@icpa.com.au or 0889569705.



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Isolated Children's Parents' Association

NORTHERN TERRITORY MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2021

DUE JANUARY 1ST EACH YEAR.



MEMBERSHIP TO YOUR LOCAL BRANCH IS ONLY \$50/FAMILY/YEAR

- A voice in your children's education.
- Membership voting rights at Branch, State and Federal level (financial assistance to attend State and Federal conferences available).
- Qualification for ICPA grants.
- Free subscription to - ICPA NT 'Down the Track' and ICPA Australia 'Pedals' magazines.

If you're not receiving these publications regularly, check with your treasurer- you may not be a financial member for 2021.
If you still want to keep in touch, but not be associated with a particular branch, then **Lone Members** is for you!

Please fill in this form and forward to one of the below treasurers.

If paying by Direct Deposit, please use your first initial and surname with the word 'Membership' as the reference to help the treasurer. (e.g. 'J Bloggs Membership'), and post or email this form using the details below.

These are important to use for grant qualifications and for ICPA advocacy purposes.

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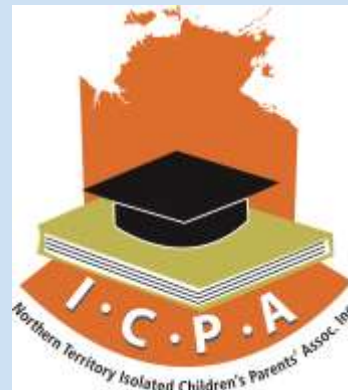
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Names (of Children)	Age (turning	Year Level	School/University/College Attending

I give ICPA permission to use photographs of my children for use in ICPA Publications and Newsletters, including the ICPA NT Facebook Page ☐ Please ✓

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DOWN THE TRACK Newsletter

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