

# DOWN THE TRACK

## Magazine



### CONFERENCES GALORE

Read all about the many conferences attended and hosted this year

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### PLAY GROUPS IN THE CENTRE

Central Australia finally gets funding traction for much needed Playgroups

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### LEMON FESTIVAL

Athelle Outback  
Hideaway celebrates a bumper Lemon Season





# Isolated Children's Parents' Association

## NORTHERN TERRITORY STATE COUNCIL Inc

### 2023 Positions

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<p><b>Boarding and Allowances</b></p>	<p>Melissa Kerr, Kerrie Scott, Bec Osmotherly, Catherine Atkins, Moira Lanzarin</p>	<p><b>Rural and Remote Schools</b></p> <p>Melissa Kerr, Moira Lanzarin</p>
<p><b>Communication and Distance Education</b></p>	<p>Danyelle Haigh, Connie Woods, Moira Lanzarin</p>	<p><b>Early Childhood</b></p> <p>Kiya Gill, Juliane Vlach, Jacinta McInnerney, Danyelle Haigh, Moira Lanzarin</p>
<p><b>Tertiary and Training</b></p>	<p>Suzanne Wilson, Kiya Gill Catherine Atkins, Moira Lanzarin</p>	<p><b>Special Needs</b></p> <p>Suzanne Wilson, Jacinta McInnerney Moira Lanzarin</p>
	<p><b>Miscellaneous</b></p>	<p>Moira Lanzarin</p>

# A WORD FROM THE ICPA NT PRESIDENT

## Hello Members and Supporters

***It is hard to believe that we are already over halfway through the year. So much has happened on the ICPA calendar with so much exciting and important stuff still ahead of us.***

This edition is all about CONFERENCES. Our virtual State Conference, the NT Cattleman's Conference, the Developing North Australia Conference and last but not least the amazing, Federal ICPA Conference hosted by the NT.

Thank you to all who participated in our Virtual Conference. "Advocacy from Anywhere" certainly proved to be correct. Well done to our conference delegates who rallied together for vigorous but respectful debate to ensure that the items that are important to you and your children are heard and actioned. Technology and communication systems have come such a long way. It was great to clearly see so many beautiful faces, joining from many diverse settings and hearing your crisp and clear voices. Thank you to those who persisted despite technical glitches and dropouts and learnt alongside us as we all navigated online voting and correct governance processes.

Thank you to our tech sponsors (and Territory Wide members!) Marianne St Clair & David Murtagh, Simbanni Research, for ensuring we had additional screens, good audio and video and for keeping us on track. And to our Darwin hosts – Suzanne & Michael Wilson, Darwin.Holiday, your

facilities and hospitality are superb and highly recommended.

Hosting and participating in a virtual conference can be challenging – so it was very humbling and exciting to hear and see that the conference was not only efficient and effective but also enjoyable.

***Enjoyable and important are key factors I believe to the success of ICPA – they are part of the WHY that keeps people volunteering and working hard to achieve better opportunities and outcomes for our children.***

Enjoy reading about the conference in greater depth on the pages ahead.

Having two of our new Councillors (Connie Woods and Jacinta McInerney) and Treasurer, Bec Osmotherly join with us in Darwin for Council meetings and AGM, face to face for the first time, is so valuable. Other Councillors actively participated virtually. The Values-based, decision-making training led by Helen Lewis of Decision Design Hub, will help guide our organisation into the future, ensuring we stay relevant, focused and true to purpose.

***Part of the vision articulated was "As an Organisation we are relevant and resilient. We are persistent, strong and powerful in the voice and support we give to GI families which is positive and solution based. Our intelligence, professionalism, integrity and knowledge is respected. We are welcoming, compassionate and inclusive."***

Read more in the pages ahead. As with all things, your feedback and input is appreciated.

Connections, relationships, partnerships, mateship, community dynamics – looking after each other and working together. These are what makes a society and when they are working well and are positive and strong, growth and success has fertile ground to flourish. Building and strengthening relationships with members as stakeholders is important and an ongoing activity.

This year ICPA worked collaboratively at NT Cattleman's Association's (NTCA) annual conference and Gala dinner in Darwin. As NT President, I spoke at the AGM emphasising the importance of supporting families. We held a trade stall in prominent location which allowed interaction and exposure to the 900+ crowd of NTCA conference attendees. The NT's three branches (Alice Springs, Katherine and Territory Wide) plus NT State Council and Federal Council were showcased and the important and distinct roles that each play in the effective advocacy of equity to education outback.

"Developing North Australia" (DNA) conference was held in Darwin this year. We felt it was essential that the voices of isolated children and their families be heard in this forum. Through an extensive selection process, I was chosen to do a 20 minute presentation, in their "Livability" pillar.



FRONT COVER - Photo Credit: Amber Driver - ICPA NT Member

BACK COVER - Outgoing Federal ICPA President Alana Moller with incoming President Louise Martin

# A WORD FROM THE ICPA NT PRESIDENT

Continued...

***My speech focused on the theme that it is impossible to have sustainable development without families and that you cannot attract or retain families if they can not access adequate options for their children to be educated and thrive.***

Also in Darwin, and on the same week, ICPA NT hosted the Federal Conference. "Unique Land – Unique Learning" the theme for this year's Federal Conference, perfectly sums up the geographically isolated education scenario. Thank you to Convenor Sue Wilson and her hardworking team for hosting a truly amazing event. And thank you to the huge turnout of NT members - we hope you enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed having you there.

Conference (Federal and State) have at least three core activities: 1) Reporting 2) Motions and 3) Networking.

**REPORTING** – The reports and updates from Federal Council and the State Presidents set the scene. It reminds us how different we all are but how connected and united by the same ultimate challenge – educating our children in geographical isolated situations. Hearing from other stakeholders provides food for thought, further useful information, and a point of contact to follow up, where need be.

**MOTIONS** – these are your voices, your concerns, and issues. When a motion is voted against, it is often not because one disagrees that it is important or worthy, but because it is not within the scope of those being asked to deal with it, or that it would take away from other benefits already gained. No motion, regardless of the vote, ever actually loses. By presenting it at conference, awareness of it is raised, understanding of it is increased, and it is officially recorded. It

is also highly likely that someone in the room, will have the connections or ability to assist to help take the issue further or through to completion. Conference is about all the people in the room (and those reading later) – not just the incumbent Council team.

**NETWORKING** – this is probably the most valuable. The above two components provide much of the stimulus for networking to occur. The finding of common ground and points of mutual interest; or those we wish to learn more about; or to those we wish to share our individual story with. Or just reconnecting with friends and making new ones.

***For the first time in a long time, NT is without representation at Federal level. Our conditions and environment are unique. I urge you to consider Federal Council.***

If not tapping yourself on the shoulder, who could you encourage to take on the task. The journey of a Councillor or Committee member at any level of ICPA is richly rewarding. I offer you my unconditional support.

Enjoy reading the wonderful stories, pictures, advertisements and snippets in this edition of Down the Track, once again so beautifully crafted and put together by our talented editor, Annika. Thank you and thank you to everyone for your contributions.

Stay safe and kindest regards,

Moira

Moira Lanzarin - ICPA NT State President

## A quick note from the editor...

Hello again to all our wonderful members, supporters and anyone who might be having a gander through the pages of this edition.

As Moira has mentioned in her President's opening, this is the edition all about conferences—of which you will find reports, photos and takeaways from attendees of these fundamental and defining moments in the ICPA NT and Federal calendar.

Within this edition you will also find:

- Birthday celebrations across the Territory
- Reports from thankful recipients of a number of grants and awards.
- Central Australia finally gets funding for play groups
- And much more!

One of my favourite pieces in this edition has been the submission from Henley Broad about his prized hens - be sure to check it out on page 27.

I would like to take a quick moment to thank all the incredible members and supporters for your contributions to this edition and every edition (and if your piece/s are not in this edition they will be in the next one).

Lastly, a massive thankyou for the ongoing patient and kind support and encouragement from our hard working leader Moira Lanzarin and the ICPA NT Council - it means so much, and more!

Anni

Annika Bell  
DTT Editor

SUBMISSION DUE DATE FOR NEXT EDITION OF DTT: 18 DECEMBER 2023



## Danyelle Haigh - Branch President



My first report as the 2023 branch president and what an honour it is!

Firstly I'd like to acknowledge and thank all of our members, past and present for the continuous amount of hours and commitment that everyone dedicates to the equity of education for our rural and remote children. For volunteering your time, for attending meetings and most importantly bringing your concerns to us.

**You are the ones living with these challenges every day and we hope in time we can improve these challenges together.**

I would like to thank our amazing outgoing committee, the time and commitment that you have all put in throughout the year has been phenomenal. We are forever grateful to you all.

I would like to also welcome our newly elected committee; I'm excited for the year ahead with you all and look forward to what we can achieve this year together.

When I came to experience and live the rural and remote lifestyle, 8 years ago from our travelling business, Murranji Water Drilling our son, Heath, was only a sweet little 1 year old. With our business taking us travelling across multiple states/territories to cattle stations, meeting families from all walks it was then when I realised firsthand the struggles families and children face when accessing equity in education.

Being a city girl and growing up on the Gold Coast I attended mainstream schools. I was totally oblivious to the

hurdles, the exclusions and the challenges that lay ahead of me when it came to education and bringing my children up in Outback Australia.

Facing these struggles is how I first found out about ICPA and the incredible work they do. The support network, the volunteers and advice I have received from the ICPA team and seeing how passionate everyone is I knew instantly this was something I wanted to be a part of.

ICPA NT Alice Springs Branch have been lucky enough to receive so much support from sponsors over the years and we are incredibly grateful! We cannot thank you all enough for your donations.

In 2022 we had the support from Red Centre Campdraft, Aileron Bush Club, Govies Muster and Barkly Rodeo; these associations gave our branch the opportunity to host fundraisers at their events, and we thank each of them. We also received a wonderful donation from Bluedust NT that went towards grants for our Branch, and we thank you for your generous donation.

Thank you to Northern Territory Cattleman's Association for allowing us to hold an auction at your gala dinner on the 17th of March, we will be forever grateful for this opportunity, and we were completely blown away by the generosity of the sponsors who came on board to support the auction. The sponsors included the following, Reaqua and Thinkwater Alice Springs who donated a solar system for a bore complete with installation; Murranji Water Drilling who donated a stock water bore; Olsens for donating their

wonderful products; and Elders Alice Springs along with Polaris, who donated a buggy! It gives me goosebumps thinking of the generosity of these companies.

Families are out of pocket \$60-\$80k a year to educate their geographically isolated children. We need to support these families more to retain them to our regions as we are seeing too many people leave Central Australia due to the high costs of education and access to health services. Funds raised from the auction will go towards supporting our families through a variety of programs and initiatives including but not limited to; playgroups for children under 5 who cannot access any form of early learning until they enrol in school, Grants to assist our families with the excessively high costs of education, provide sports activities to give our students the opportunity to try team sports and of course to continue our core work of advocating for change at a government level.

Our branch, committee and members have been busy these past months with so many wonderful things to share. We have recently partnered with Charles Darwin University to offer a Certificate 4 in Education Support for Home Tutors in the Northern Territory. This will make a massive difference for families to not only help recruit and retain home tutors but it creates training pathways for future territory teachers.

Connellan Airways Trust and Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) have been supporting our home tutor training programs by kindly funding

Continued over page...

# ICPA NT Alice Springs

## Branch - *President's Report*

### Continued...

lifesaving first aid training for 2 years. This is keeping our members and their families up to date with current measures, providing new knowledge and instilling confidence in their ability to react quickly and calmly in an emergency situation. Our families are extremely grateful that you recognize the importance of this training and continuing to keep our rural families safe.

I express concern that our geographically isolated children under five years of age and their families are still without access to early learning initiatives across Central Australia. As a community we have advocated for this for decades without any change, at a government level, early learning isn't just about children's development, it's also about supporting families, families who live thousands of kms away from their own networks and live very isolated lives. We are tired of families leaving our community due to them not being able to access these services.

This year we are trying to close that gap. By partnering with RaisEducation we will be delivering these much-needed services to our community. We are so very grateful to Variety the Children's Charity and the Community Benefit Fund for supporting this cause and funding this initiative. We are looking forward to rolling out nine playgroups this year and seeing the difference this interaction makes on our young people. We need more support to be able to continue providing a regular ongoing service! \$1500 will fund one playgroup for our community, how many would the Northern Territory Government like to fund?

In this day and age our families are still out of pocket for internet costs for delivering education to their children. Why is this still happening? How can it change? Access to reliable internet is fundamental to achieving equitable quality education. How can a student learn when the internet is dropping out every couple of minutes? How can a child stay focused when the screen


keeps freezing? Families are out of pocket hundreds of dollars a month for internet costs. We are directly asking the Department of Education and the NT Government to find a better solution.

Life in remote Outback Australia is hard but magnificent, if we work together, we can achieve great things!




## Danyelle

Danyelle Haigh  
ICPA NT Alice Springs Branch President




*Introducing  
Jervois Station's  
newest ringer*

**ELSEY ROBYN GILL**



**MAY 24TH | 2023**  
**ALICE SPRINGS HOSPITAL**

*Congratulations to  
Meeka and Joel*







***This is my first year in the NT, Katherine School of the Air and ICPA NT Katherine Branch, all culminating with a surprise nomination for branch president! Nobody was more surprised than me at the nomination.***

This is my very first report as the President of the ICPA Katherine Branch, and much of the information in this report has been taken from our outgoing President's December report. Our outgoing president, Kerrie Scott, has certainly been a force to be reckoned with! Her knowledge, passion and hard work are admirable and are certainly reflected in the membership numbers and presence that the Katherine ICPA holds within our community. Certainly, big boots to fill and I am going to try my very best to keep the momentum and hard work going that those before me created.

2022 was certainly an active year for the Katherine Branch!

The Nutrien Sundowner, which is our major fundraiser for the year, was a roaring success again this year with the Katherine Branch being the beneficiary of a total of \$152,800. These funds allow us to deliver on each grant offered by the branch, which are available to ICPA families to make education and educational experiences accessible to everyone, regardless of distance. The relationship between the Katherine ICPA Branch and Nutrien Katherine is a very special one and one that gives so much support to our isolated families. Thank you so much to the hard work of everyone involved, a mammoth effort and one that is certainly appreciated by our bush families!

The Mataranka sports camp held in October 2022 was a huge success with over 90 children from over the territory

attending and participating in over 8 sports- Rugby Union, Basketball, Gymnastics, Soccer, Obstacles, Dodgeball, Rugby League and Cricket. A unique opportunity for our remote and rural kids to get together and build on those much-needed life skills that team sports offer as well as a welcome opportunity for bush families to socialise, catching up with old friends and welcoming new ones. With Kerrie Scott stepping aside after 5 years at the helm of all things sports camp, we welcome Lauren Hoar as the new sports camp co-ordinator, Amanda Murphy continuing as the catering manager and some of us coming up in the ranks to help as we can! Thankyou Kerrie for all of your hard work as sports camp co-ordinator, and to all those supporting along the way, for identifying a gap in the needs of our bush kids and bringing such a great event to fruition. Hopefully an event that will be cemented in our calendars for years to come.

Our branch was also able to support the ASH youth camp, held earlier in 2022 at the Katherine showgrounds. Another fantastic event for our bush kids and their faithful ponies, very strongly supported from across our region. The Katherine Branch is proud to support this camp again in 2023.

At our AGM in December we had a change of office bearers, saying goodbye to some long serving members to our branch. Katie Payne stepping down from the secretary position last year and now stepping away from a committee position and Kerrie stepping down from the president's role but staying on the committee to enable a

smooth transition for those of us who are new to the roles! Thank you ladies for your dedication and hard work over your time with ICPA.

Julie Richer is staying on as Vice President, Sally Dyer coming in for her second year as branch secretary and bursary officer. Hanna Blockland is our new treasurer, assisted by Helen Harding, who also holds the position of public officer. We also welcome Liz Cook in the position of fundraising co-ordinator, and Jess Burke as our new Publicity / Media Officer. Last but not least, Lauren Hoar has stepped up into the Sports Camp Co-ordinator role. This executive team is strongly supported by the committee comprising of Kerrie Scott, Amanda Murphy, Bec Mohr-Bell, Annie Craig and Annie Cronin. A wonderful group of ladies who I am excited to be joining forces with.

Huge thankyou to all of these ladies for your help and support so far while I am finding my feet. The Katherine ICPA branch is certainly a dynamic and enthusiastic group and I am excited to put my shoulder to the wheel and continue the wonderful work that has been carried out by my predecessors. As I write this, it is pouring with rain outside, so I hope everyone has enjoyed a bumper wet season and your country is looking green and cattle happy and fat.

All things shaping up for a wonderful 2023!!

Connie

Connie Wood  
ICPA NT Katherine Branch President

## ICPA NT KATHERINE BRANCH

Connie Wood - Branch President



# PLAY GROUP IN THE CENTRE



## Finally, Playgroups in Central Australia

ICPA Alice Springs in partnership with RAISEducation has received funding to coordinate and deliver playgroups across Central Australia this year.

The lack of access to early learning activities in our region for geographically isolated children and their families has been a hot topic for our branch for many years.

We aim to hold nine playgroups across three catchment areas:

- Kulgera (south)
- Ti Tree (north)
- Harts Range (north/east)

We have already had two playgroups that have captured the smiles of lots of little people.

Thank you to Kylie and RAISEducation for helping us create these opportunities for children to learn and grow.

This program has been made possible via financial support from Variety the Children's Charity and the Northern Territory Governments Community Benefit Fund.







# F2F | 2023 MELBOURNE

Back in February all ICPA Presidents and Secretaries came together in Melbourne for a weekend of meetings and networking.

A most productive time was had sharing progress, good ideas and discussing issues of concern. Helen Lewis, from Decision Design Hub joined us virtually to do an overview session on value-based decision making. It was most beneficial for NT President and seconded Secretary, Catherine Atkins, to have time together and prepare for the NT AGM and Virtual State Conference.



## THREE BUSY BEES

Hard-working ICPA Secretaries: Kim Hughes, ICPA Federal; Catherine Atkins, ICPA NT; Annette Boyle ICPA Qld : standing under golden bees statues in Melbourne



Happy

Birthday



MACKENZIE BADDELEY is 3  
2 April 2023



ZAEDA GILL is 4  
17 April 2023



MILLIE MCKAY is 5  
30 January 2023



HENLEY BROAD is 7  
17 February 2023



AARON HAYES'  
11th Birthday Cake



ALICE QUINN'S  
7th Birthday Cake



ZANDER WARBY is 12  
29 April 2023



DARCIE GORMAN is 2  
27 April 2023



QUINN BROAD is 4  
17 August 2023





The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association  
Advancing and protecting the interests  
of cattle producers in the  
Northern Territory



## Media Release

30<sup>th</sup> of May 2023

### National Farm Safety Education Fund: Improving Farm Safety Practices

## Safer Stations

The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association recognise the importance of station safety for all that live and work on remote properties in the Northern Territory; and we were fortunate enough to be granted one of nine nation wide projects worth \$1.6 million to Improve Farm Safety Practices as part of the National Farm Safety Education Fund.

***"Farm safety doesn't need to be complicated, expensive, or inconvenient. It's about making choices. A few small changes to how things are done around the farm can make a big difference"***

- David Littleproud

The NTCA has worked with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to utilise this Commonwealths support to ensure stations are a safe place, and workers can get home to their families at the end of each day.

Our project is designed to educate the next generation about the importance of on-station safety. And reduce the workload of managers or owners to ensure worksites are safe for all.

To target the next generation, four engaging videos have been produced along with an activity workbook to make the learning experience fun and interactive.

In order to simplify and reduce costs for managers or station owners, we have also compiled a Work Health and Safety guide to the most recent legislation and best practices.

All of which can be found on the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association website under the Safer Stations project, or a hard copy can be supplied upon request.

Ultimately our goal is to ensure businesses have the best practices in place to ensure the safety of all that live and work in these remote locations. Its also important for us and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry that children learn these vital safety skills from a young age and carry them on into the future.



## ANTON LANZARIN | Coodardie Station, Mataranka

Hi, my name is Anton, and I'm about to start my second year at BTC (Blackheath and Thornburgh College) in eighth grade.

BTC is a small day and boarding school in Charters towers with around 70 boys boarding and around 350 kids in the school. I'll share a bit about my first year in boarding and the things I found most helpful to me.

Probably the most important thing was making good friends that you can rely on. At the start of the year, I didn't talk much to other people as much as everyone else which wasn't too good. You end up missing home so much more than if you're hanging out with your friends or busy doing stuff.

Once I first got to boarding, I felt like I was never going to fit in, and everyone seemed so different from me. But once I got

to know them more there were kids that were similar to me. The people I don't particularly like don't have much to do with me, nor I with them - if we do interact, it usually is brief and then we go our separate ways.

The opportunities I get in boarding school are much more than what I could do in Mataranka. For sports, we had to travel an hour every time we had a game or training where as at boarding school, everything is there.

Another thing that helped me was having family close by to go to on the weekend if I needed a break from boarding.

Thank you to Katherine Branch of ICPA and Nutrien for making this possible.

## CHARLIE COOK | Katherine



Hello my name is Charlie Cook, I am Year 7 attending St Joesphs Nudgee College Boarding School in Brisbane. This has been quite a change for me moving from the station into the big city. It has always been just my brother Blake and I, now I am now living with 300 other boys at the Boarding House. I have been able to make friends with other station boys from all over Queensland and Australia.

Nudgee has lots of training fields and open spaces which makes me feel at home. After school we can go to the oval and play rugby which is one of my

favourite things to do with my friends. Mr Brealy, the O'Brien House Deans, House Mum Tracey, Mr Sedour and Fabio are really kind to me and take us all out to the beach to surf, have bonfires and overnight campouts, BBQs, take us to the Reds and Broncs matches at Suncorp stadium and also make sure I keep my room very very tidy.

While I miss the station life, there are so many new opportunities at Nudgee. I enjoy playing rugby union, cricket, cattle club, swimming, guitar lessons, boxing and pony club. My best moment so far was receiving the Cricket Team Man Award 2023 for my team and getting into the blues rugby squad.

I am very grateful to the ICPA Katherine Branch for assisting me to attend this great school.

Lastly I especially like the school chants at Nudgee College:

**Nudgee are you ready? READY!**

**Who's the best? N U D G E E!**

**Who's going to win? N U D G E E!**

**Blue and whites**

**Go Nudgee!**





## COLT SCOTT | Mountain Valley Station, Katherine

I love playing cricket, but doing School of the Air meant I could never join a team, I live too far away. Now that I board at Columba, I've been able to join the Charters Towers Junior Cricket Club, and got to play my very first season of cricket. We play home games, and a lot of games with Townsville teams, so I get to travel a lot on weekends.

My game has improved a lot since the first game of the season, and I train once, sometimes twice a week. In my team we have kids from every school around Charters Towers, so I've been able to make friends at different schools too, and our Coach gives everyone a chance to play. This year we won the Townsville competition, and I was named our teams 'Most Improved Player'.

I am very grateful to ICPA Katherine Branch for the Nutrien Boarding Grant that allows me to have the opportunity to finally play cricket. I can't wait for next season.



## PEPPER WORTLEY | Ruby Planes Station, WA

Hello, My names Pepper Wortley and I am currently 16 years of age and attending Western Australia College of Agriculture Narrogin.

I moved to boarding school after being home schooled until year 9 on a cattle station in the Kimberly region of WA.

Ag school kids have a reputation for being wild and ready to work; now that defiantly is true. Boarding school makes some awesome memories and friends that help prepare you for life. You open a new chapter of your life that sets you for the rest of your life.





## NATHAN RICHTER | Victoria Downs Station



I am in grade 9 at Toowoomba Grammar School in Stephens. I am currently in my third year of boarding. In the past two years I have struggled with homesickness and miss home with all the freedom and not many people around me.

This year I have enjoyed making and fitting into friendship groups and fitting into the boarding house and feeling a lot more at home.

I have been involved with a lot more of the school's activity's such as GPS rugby and GPS cricket, and I have done a welding course which was a really good experience; I learned how to do stick, mig, and tig, I hope to build on this in the coming years.

I really appreciate the opportunity to attend a school interstate; the people I have met and the opportunities I have been given, would not be possible if I was still home schooled on the station.

Thank you ICPA NT for supporting our education journeys.



## HAYLEY RICHTER | Victoria Downs Station

My name is Hayley Richter, and this is my first year in boarding at Fairholme Collage.

There have been many ups and downs throughout my experience, but I know it is a year I will remember.

Coming straight fresh out of a classroom with just me and my governess into a class with 20 other girls has been very tough. However, everyone has been so supportive and helpful along the way. When first thinking about what it's going to be like going into year seven, my first thoughts were that the work would be really hard, but it has been so much easier than I thought.

Having a horse down here with me has helped me in many ways. It is like having a piece of home right here with me. I have progressed so far from the start of the year, to where I am now in my riding, just because of all the amazing experiences and opportunities I've had here.

At the very beginning of term one, I had emotions of both excitement and nerves. Making new friends was one of the scariest things about joining a new school. However, I have made some of the most amazing friends and I'm sure we'll be friends for many years to come. If I had the option to just live at home, I would probably take it. Although, I would miss living with all my friends, going on amazing trips, doing Interschool Equestrian, and all the other fun that I have here at Fairholme.





## EMILY WATTS | Mount Sandford Station | The Glennie School

Dear Mum,

I still can't believe it's my second year of boarding here at Glennie. Time flies when you're having fun I guess haha. Anyways, a lot has happened in the last few weeks that I haven't seen you or dad or my sisters. An example being that a new girl came into boarding at the start of the year. They don't live in Australia, either. Cool, right?? We started talking and she's actually really nice and now she's a part of our friend group :)

I also discovered that one girl that sits with us actually loves one of my favourite shows and now, months later, we're best friends! It's funny the ways people bond haha. Me and my friends also established a tradition where we all get together for a sleepover on the last weekend of each term to celebrate finishing exams and assignments for another term before we all go home for the holidays. In fact, I'm writing this letter to you whilst I'm at a sleepover! Right now some of the other girls are making breakfast. Oh! I almost forgot! Two of my friends (one a day girl and one a boarder) took part in the school musical this year! I somehow managed to convince one of my other boarding friends to go with

me to watch the musical and I was able to see them from the audience. As for the SCHOOL part of boarding, my grades have been getting better since coming to Glennie, and my extra curricular activities are going well. Actually, I have to perform at an awards ceremony and do a dance performance, a choir performance AND a drama performance. I have friends doing it with me in all of them except dance, but I'm really looking forward to it! That happens next term though, so I still have a while to wait.

As amazing as it is over here, I can't wait to come home soon! It'll be 10 entire weeks since I've seen you guys, but I can't decide if it feels like longer or if time has flown by. A bit of both, I think.

Oh! Breakfast is ready! I'll wrap up this letter now, but one quick thing:

Thank you for sending me here- I'm a lot happier than I was!

From your fav daughter,

Emily :)

## BAILEY HOAR | Moroak Station

My start to boarding school didn't go exactly as I thought it would, it can completely run off the rails. I feel like even though everyone tries to prepare you for being away from home and everything that you know, you can never be completely ready.

I learnt that it just takes you wanting to try change that makes it worthwhile. I changed schools halfway through the year and now I have made a good group of friends and settled in.

I'm liking boarding school life and all the opportunities that are offered to me. I'm really enjoying rugby training, going to the games and meeting new friends.

I think that nothing worthwhile ever starts out easy.



ICPA NT State Conference  
and AGM  
ALICE SPRINGS  
[www.icpa.com.au/nt](http://www.icpa.com.au/nt)

Save  
the  
Date



# Thank You

## KATIE PAYNE

Katie was first introduced to ICPA Katherine Branch when she started working at Landmark in 2007 and became involved in the ICPA Landmark Sundowner Auction. Along with Ben Coutts and the team at Landmark, Katie helped to make the Auction a successful fundraiser that continues to this day under the Nutrien banner.

In 2016, Katie, her husband Andy and her young boys, Cambell and Darcy, moved to Larrizona Station on the Sturt Plateau where they embraced the busy bush life of managing a station. Katie's involvement in ICPA went up a notch as she offered to take on the role of Katherine Branch Secretary and before too long, she was on the Executive Council for ICPA NT as well.

Although Katie and family are now back in Katherine and she has been able to step down from the Secretary position, she remains an active member of ICPA, assisting the branch wherever help is needed and continuing to share her wealth of knowledge.

Thank you Katie, for your years of dedication and passion for ICPA, it has been greatly appreciated.  
ICPA NT KATHERINE BRANCH



## 2024 Enrolments Open!

### ENROL TODAY!

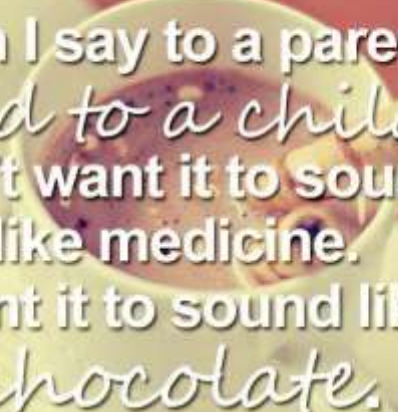
- Amazing school community ✓
- Supports a wide range of family circumstances ✓
- Quality Education ✓



### Contact

kath.soa@education.nt.gov.au  
(08) 89 651 555

Visit our website for enrolment eligibility  
[www.ksa.nt.edu.au/](http://www.ksa.nt.edu.au/)



When I say to a parent,  
'read to a child'  
I don't want it to sound  
like medicine.  
I want it to sound like  
chocolate.

-Mem Fox



# ICPA NT KATHERINE BRANCH ICT GRANT 'HOW TECHNOLOGY HELPS ME'

## Billy Burke

Thank you very much for the money you gave my mum to buy me an iPad.

I think it is great. I love it so much.

I use it lots for school things that help me with my writing, reading and maths. I play on it every afternoon. I am getting better at my reading, writing and maths from the extra activities I do on it.

I would like to thank ICPA Katherine Branch for giving me the opportunity for this.



## Annabelle Corones

Annabelle loves to use her iPad for learning everywhere.  
This picture is of Annabelle at the beach reading books  
+ playing math games on her iPad.



## Bailey Hoar

Being away from home and boarding for the first time ever, I could not have managed without technology.

With my ICPA ICT grant, my parents bought me a laptop that was required for school; I used this every day.

Throughout the semester I used my laptop to research topics, send assignments to teachers, create presentations and review the grades I received.

This all would not have been possible, without the grant from ICPA Katherine branch, so Thankyou!

## Jack Murphy

Technology helps me learn because you wouldn't be able to do online lessons if you didn't have a laptop. Laptops are very helpful because if you are stuck on a math's question you can google videos and find a strategy to help you answer the question. On a laptop, you can send photos to your teacher of your completed assessments and that's how technology helps me learn by distance education.



## Georgie Murphy



I am a student at Katherine school of the air learning by distance education, therefore I rely on Technology to learn and communicate with my teacher and classmates. I use my iPad daily to independently upload my schoolwork and attend online lessons.

Using my iPad, I can easily watch Maths and English videos as they are downloaded to our online platform that we attend online lessons on. The best thing about my iPad is that it is portable so I can take it outside when I need some sun and it can come with me when we go to other stations mustering, this allows me to continue to learn wherever we are.





# ALL SOULS ST GABRIELS SCHOOL

Founded in 1920 and located in the historic town of Charters Towers, All Souls St Gabriels School is a vibrant, co-educational day and boarding school providing students from Pre-prep to Year 12 with a strong academic programme. Extensive opportunities in sport, rural activities, faith development and the arts are all set within a picturesque 45 hectare campus.

its student body with a unique learning environment. In recent years, the school has undergone major refurbishment to ensure that the facilities are continually upgraded. With our new Design and Technology precinct, equipped with the latest technology, to our Horse and Cattle Clubs, students are offered the best facilities possible.

For more than 100 years the school has endeavoured to remain at the forefront of educational change. From humble beginnings, the school has grown to provide

Flexibility of the mind is required when many of our current attitudes to work and life face new challenges. However, a strong set of values, good social skills, strength of character and commitment to community are always important. We recognise the value of balanced learning by placing equal emphasis on students' academic, social, physical, cultural, spiritual and pastoral development.

Our reach into the Northern Territory continues, with easy transport options available to and from Townsville. We are boarding specialists, with around 200 boarders, from Year 6 to Year 12.

A close-up, profile shot of a young man in a dark suit, white shirt, and a light-colored straw hat with a dark band. He is looking towards the right. In the background, other students in similar attire are visible, slightly out of focus. A red banner with the word 'Homestead' is partially visible in the background.

The school crest features a yellow eagle with spread wings perched atop a shield. The shield is divided into four quadrants: top-left is green with a white cross, top-right is white with a green cross, bottom-left is white with a green cross, and bottom-right is green with a white cross. A banner at the base of the shield reads 'Service' on the left and 'Negotiate' on the right.

## All Souls St Gabriels School

CHARTERS TOWERS

Co-Educational Day and Boarding  
Pre-prep to Year 12 | Boarding from Year 6

[www.allsouls.qld.edu.au](http://www.allsouls.qld.edu.au) | 07 4787 1433

**APPLICATIONS FOR ENROLMENT IN 2024 ARE OPEN**  
Transport options available from Townsville!





# NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

- CONFERENCE 2023 -



## BRINGING OUR VALUES AND VISION IN TO THE TO LIGHT

### Brainstorming Session with Helen Lewis

After the great success of our AGM and conference the State Councillors were able to spend the morning with Helen Lewis of Decision Design Hub, who facilitated a great meeting to brainstorm and discuss the Values and Vision for ICPA NT. We met together in Darwin and other councillors joined us via Teams. We were also pleased to have long standing ICPA NT member Helen Harding involved in the discussion.

Helen is a facilitator in decision-making and policy-making with a rural focus based in Warwick in Queensland. Our President, Moira and Secretary, Catherine were able to work with Helen when they met with the other ICPA Presidents and Secretaries in Melbourne at the beginning of the year.

The State councillors were invited to do two surveys based on what key words we would use to describe values and visions of ICPA NT. Helen started to create the Values and Visions from these words. There are some key factors that Helen suggested we base our vision on: Organisation, working environment, Membership, Technology and Environment.

Our words created a great discussion in the group but we could see there were some very key words that always came up:

***Remote, advocacy, community, connected, empower, equity, motivated, history, respect, compassion, strong, proud, passionate, voice, friendship.***

It was a great experience for all the councillors. We were able to recognise and celebrate the importance of what we do and what we achieve. We also were very humbled by the experience, knowledge and history of those who had come before us as ICPA NT and felt it was so important to acknowledge the amazing effort of all ICPA members over the years.



We as the current ICPA NT State Council hope that our Vision and Values will enable future ICPA NT councillors and members to grow ICPA NT to more successes whilst also understanding and appreciating the past effort and history. It will not be set in stone but will be an ever evolving document.

The current ICPA NT state council are very proud to be involved in this process, we all feel that what ICPA NT achieves for its members and families is so important and it is very rewarding for us to be involved.

**Rebecca**

**Rebecca Osmotherly ICPA NT State Treasurer**



# ICPA NT ZOETIS AUSTRALIA “PASTORAL INDUSTRY” STUDENT GRANT

## Winner - Phillip Sullivan



Speaking from experience, tertiary study far from home has an intimidating sense of ‘now or never’. If you want to keep your roots in the outback, there is a lot of stress to face. The combination of huge travel costs, homesickness, and the age cut-off for independent youth allowance creates enormous financial and emotional pressure for remote students to choose the ‘right’ degree and complete it as quickly as possible. It makes the idea of changing courses mid-way through university almost unthinkable. On the other hand, university is also an intoxicating experience. You comprehend that it is, in-fact, not normal to travel 400Km from a cattle station to see a specialist or 120Km to get groceries at high prices. There is a pharmacist or fuel 5 minutes away no matter where in the city you are. You can play sport every weekend without travelling for 2 hours or seek financial, legal, dietary or psychological advice by popping down the street.

As a result, some that choose to travel to university don’t desire to return to the dearth of resources present in the outback, their valuable tertiary education is lured away from remote areas by the abundant urban opportunities, leading to fewer resources in the outback... and the vicious cycle continues.

In late 2021, I considered this conundrum, and the part I was playing in it... and changed my degree mid-way. I decided to bring accounting and financial skills back to the outback, and to friends and family that raised me and supported me across my education and life. I am now

completing a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in accounting and management. I know from firsthand experience that many properties must outsource accountancy interstate to firms that have minimal experience with the unique challenges that living in the NT poses. I feel that with a tertiary education and some more experience under my belt, I can offer accounting and business management consultancy for stations from the perspective of one who has lived and breathed ‘cattle station’ since before I could walk. I also would eventually like to be involved in financial education services for remote schools to help students develop money-management skills without needing to travel interstate for an urban education.

The decision to change was stressful, and expensive. Thankfully, I felt able to make this commitment thanks to the financial assistance I have received from organisations like the ICPA.

The ICPA has been present throughout my life, thanks to my mother’s membership with our local branch. She has been a fierce campaigner for kids from the bush, to give them the opportunity to attend tertiary study despite geographic hurdles and to support them in learning skills that will give the next generation of rural and remote children better access to resources than we ever did.

Emotional stress aside, the financial strain of distant study is enough to discourage many potential students. Although independent youth allowance is helpful, it doesn’t account for covering the bulk costs of university. It is these costs that I am asking assistance in paying. Post-COVID, flights have increased to over \$400.00 each way, meaning returning home for breaks is an expensive choice. The university’s student services and amenities fee (SSAF) is a compulsory annual fee of \$326.00, which is quite a hit when on a student’s budget. Textbooks are another beast entirely. The total cost of my textbooks for my Semester 1 classes comes to \$599.00. As a result, I have previously had to opt for substantially cheaper, and substantially sub-par alternatives, such as borrowing a friend’s textbook, which limits when I can access it, or (allegedly) downloading bootleg pdfs, which do not allow for access to connected resources and are often missing pages. Finally, there is the cost of transport to and from university. While I can ride my bike to class occasionally, this is often unfeasible due to rain. As a result, I also use a 100-day public transport pass over winter, priced at \$276.00 for a concession holder. These costs stretch my student’s budget heavily, and I am thus seeking financial assistance through the Zoetis Australia Pastoral Industry Student Grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

## Congratulations Phillip!

The Zoetis logo, featuring the word 'zoetis' in a lowercase, orange, sans-serif font. The 'z' is stylized with a thick, curved line that loops around the 'o'.

# BLACKHEATH & THORNBURGH COLLEGE

## Our Territory Kids



**NAME:**  
Mikala Craig

**YEAR LEVEL:**  
9

**WHAT YEAR DID YOU START SCHOOL AT BTC:**  
2021

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM:**  
Mistake Creek, Northern Territory.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BTC:**

My favourite thing about BTC is that the school has heaps of opportunities. I really enjoy the co-curricular and sports activities that BTC offers. Coming off a property and being home-schooled in primary school I was not exposed to many sports. My first year my Mum said to have a go at everything and decide what I liked, and that's what I did. Tennis, touch football, netball, softball, swimming, cross-country are just a few. I also like how there are 2 other boarding schools and another high school, so we have a lot of sports against the other schools, and it gets really competitive. But we don't take it too seriously and always have a lot of fun. I also like how it is not a big school and you get to know everyone, including the teachers.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BOARDING:**

Boarding is like having a sleep over at your friend's place and seeing them every day. But you also get your own room and space if you need. I also have the opportunity to do activities that I would never be able to do if I was at home. Townsville trips, football games, shopping, going to the beach. Camping out down the Burdekin River. Dances, shows, parades, morning runs. I also like how we don't have to walk very far to go downtown on the weekend.



**NAME:**  
Maggie Murphy

**YEAR LEVEL:**  
9

**WHAT YEAR DID YOU START SCHOOL AT BTC:**  
2021

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM:**  
Eleanor Pool Station, Borroloola, Northern Territory.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BTC:**

My favourite thing about BTC is the range of sports that are available for myself as a student. Coming from a remote place, sports was one of the things that wasn't available for me. BTC has given me many sporting opportunities, which is my favourite thing out of a wide range of things about the College.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BOARDING:**

My favourite thing about boarding is the people. Mainly my friends, but the dormies and everyone associated with girls boarding have made it worthwhile. Being able to connect and understand people who come from similar backgrounds is one of my favourite things about boarding.



**NAME:**  
Ivy Saal

**YEAR LEVEL:**  
7

**WHAT YEAR DID YOU START SCHOOL AT BTC:**  
2023

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM:**  
Tipperary Station, Northern Territory.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BTC:**

My favourite thing about BTC is all the opportunities. Like all the sports, co-curricular and cattle club. We recently went to Malanda Cattle School, Beef Expo and Winton Show to judge and parade cattle.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BOARDING:**

The good thing about boarding is the dormies, the girls and when we get to go to Townsville for the footy games on the weekends as well as all the opportunities.



**NAME:**  
Ross Sutherland

**YEAR LEVEL:**  
10

**WHAT YEAR DID YOU START SCHOOL AT BTC:**  
2023

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM:**  
Katherine, Northern Territory

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BTC:**

How many sports we play such as touch football and rugby league and the opportunities I have been given in those sports.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BOARDING:**

How connected the boarding staff are to the students and how much they care about everyone.



**NAME:**  
Anton Lanzarin

**YEAR LEVEL:**  
8

**WHAT YEAR DID YOU START SCHOOL AT BTC:**  
2022

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM:**  
Coodardie Station, Northern Territory.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BTC:**

Being able to interact with other kids more often and all the opportunities I never had being isolated.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT BOARDING:**

All the events that are run by the boarding staff are all active and fun.





## Blackheath & Thornburgh College

Charters Towers, Queensland



BTC STUDENTS FROM THE NT

Back Row: A. Saal, A. Lanzarin, J. Bates, C. Murphy, S. Craig

Front Row: I. Saal, D. Sherratt, S. Anderson, S. Anderson, M. Vandeleur, M. Craig

**K-12 | CO-ED | NON-DENOMINATIONAL  
BOARDING FROM YEAR 6**

[www.btc.qld.edu.au](http://www.btc.qld.edu.au)

07 4787 5100

[enrolments@btc.qld.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@btc.qld.edu.au)

SCAN ME





# POST SECONDARY GRANT RECIPIENT 2022 - REPORT TO STATE CONFERENCE 2023

## Kirra Riggs

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of the Northern Territory for awarding me the Post-Secondary Grant to support my university studies. This grant has been a significant source of support for me as I pursue my Bachelor of Animal Science degree remotely from a rural area.

I applied for the grant to help cover the costs of my travels by road and air to attend mandatory intensive school at the University of New England in Armidale. These intensive schools, which are held 2-3 times a year, are a vital part of my studies. Without attending them, I would be unable to complete certain units and progress with my degree. The funds have also enabled me to purchase the required textbooks and learning materials.

As a university student, it can be challenging to balance academic responsibilities with financial needs. While working full-time was not feasible for me as a full-time student, I took on part-time employment as well as

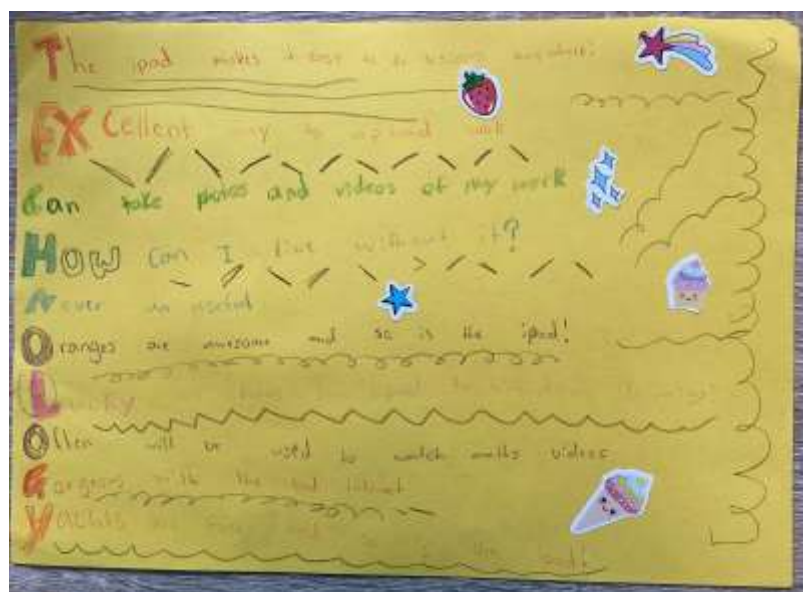


contract day work. This is where the generosity of the ICPA has been greatly appreciated, as I have been able to focus more on my studies rather than financial concerns.

I cannot thank the ICPA enough for their generosity and support. As a student unable to take on full-time employment, the Post-Secondary Grant has enabled me to pursue my academic goals and achieve my dream career. Once again, thank you for this invaluable gift.

## ICPA NT KATHERINE BRANCH ICT GRANT 'HOW TECHNOLOGY HELPS ME'

### Tia Blokland



Tia used her ICT Grant to get herself an iPad to help her on her distance education journey.

### Aliya Nagle







## ICPA NT KATHERINE BRANCH AWARDED ON AUSTRALIA DAY

### Recognition of hard work and passion

2023 Australia Day Awards saw ICPA Sports Camp acknowledged as 'Community Event of Year' awarded to organiser Kerrie Scott.

A wonderful achievement in recognition of all the work attended by the ICPA team running a sports camp for children in remote areas of the Top End. A great chance to get together and learn about sports including Rugby, Soccer, Gymnastics, Basketball and more.

Children living in these areas usually don't get the opportunity of regular access to sports due to geographical isolation.

Congratulations Kerrie Scott and the whole ICPA NT Katherine Branch Team.







# Do It For Dolly Day '23

Do It For Dolly Day is a day dedicated to bringing the community together, spreading kindness and uniting in helping break the silence around bullying.

And this year ICPA NT showed up again in force from stations across the Territory, including:

ATHELLE OUTBACK HIDEAWAY  
DELMORE DOWNS STATION  
ELKEDRA STATION  
JERVOIS STATION  
MOUNT DENISON STATION







## Henley's Hens



Lavender  
Lavender is a boy  
chicken and he is  
the angriest chick  
I have. He tries to  
run at people and  
jump on them  
which hurts people.  
I got Lavender  
from an incubator  
that was in my  
house.



Honey  
I got Honey from  
a blue egg and  
she was Leg bar.  
We had her up  
in Darwin she's  
light brown  
and a little bit  
gray and black.



Big Girl

Big Girl was at  
a farm and she  
was laying eggs  
for the farmer  
when she didn't  
lay eggs she was  
10 months old and  
the farmer wanted  
to kill her. My aunt  
got her off the  
farmer then she  
came to Jervois on  
a cage in a truck.

Lemon  
Lemon is a Leg bar  
which is a breed  
of chicken. She is  
a sister to Honey.  
She has spurs  
which is rare to  
see on hens. She  
now lives on  
Jervois with 40  
other chickens.



HENLEY BROAD IS 7 YEARS OLD FROM JERVOIS STATION IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA.

HENLEY ABSOLUTELY ADORES HIS CHICKENS. HE HAS BEEN PRACTICING HIS WRITING AND PUBLISHING SKILLS AND WANTED TO SHARE SOME INFORMATION ABOUT HIS CHICKENS.

# I CAN DO ANYTHING THAT I PUT MY MIND TO

BRODIE CRAIG

*630km southwest from the nearest town, down the Duncan Road is a 4000sq km station called Mistake Creek on the Northern Territory and Western Australian border; this place is my home and my family have managed and lived here for 28 years.*

As I was growing up, I had been homed schooled. So, I was at home a lot more than an average town kid would be. As a bush kid I learnt my education over the computer, we called this IDL, this was the only time that I could see my teacher and classmates, and this would happen every week day for half an hour.

As a young girl I had the freedom to adventure out, go to work or ride my horse after school which would finish at 1:00pm and on the weekends, so I had loads of fun. Being homed schooled thought me not to take things for granted and to enjoy the time that I have with my family.

When I was in transition (the grade before year 1 and after preschool) I had to repeat as I had trouble with learning. Because my Mum taught me school she picked up that I was having trouble. Mum tried explaining to the teachers that I was having difficulty with my work, but they just wouldn't listen to her.

Once I got to Year 4, Mum went out of her way and took me to an Irlen Syndrome and Dyslexia tester, and it turned out that for the last seven years I was struggling to read and process words, and was diagnosed with both.

Dyslexia being a learning disorder that involves difficulty reading due to problems identifying speech sounds and learning how they relate to letters and words, and Irlen Syndrome suggesting that the brain is unable to properly process visual information from the eyes because of sensitivity to certain wavelengths of light.

I had to travel to Darwin every couple of weeks to do further testing, I even had to get glasses with pink lenses to help stop the words jumping everywhere on the page, and as I got older this changed to blue.

Once the school found out about it, they had coloured paper for me to help me with my learning, they also made sure that I could understand my work. When I hear the saying a 'mother knows when there's something wrong with their child' I believe that is true.

**Because of that my Mum went out of her way to help me and I am so thankful that she has done this for me, if not for her I would be lost and still struggling**

Each year we would travel in to town and have our sports day and swimming carnivals - this was one of my highlights of my home-schooling years, it was an opportunity for all of us to come together.

These carnivals aren't just like your average carnival, ours were when everyone's family's came like grandparents, cousins, uncles and aunties, all the kids got in and done every activity and had loads of fun - the parents would even do a relay against the past students and year 9s. We have two houses; Bushfires and Cyclones so it was the most fun that a kid could have especially when everyone dressed up, even the parents.

The year of 2017 I started boarding school at St Ursula's College in Yeppoon Queensland, so I was a very long way from home, like I mean 3,168.9 km away from home. I was terrified for my life; I didn't know anyone, I didn't even know if I was going to make friends. The first couple of weeks I was not too sure how everything worked, I didn't know what a timetable was for the class times or how to get to the rooms. I didn't know what homework was and I would always get in to trouble if I didn't do it, no one ever explained to me what I had to do for it, so I had to find out what that meant by myself.

I was always scared to read things out to my class as I was a very shy person and I would get upset when I couldn't read aloud when I would mess up because of my dyslexia, so I have to work as twice as hard as everyone else. I was always scared to tell people about my disability, and it was like that for the first 2 years of high school, and I was starting to struggle again because the teachers didn't know about it.

Once I started to tell them they provided me with coloured blue paper which helped me a lot and I felt more confident with myself. Some teachers don't understand that it does take me awhile to process things in my head and over the last 6 years I've found out that I learn so much quicker when I'm doing hands on work. This is because I am more passionate about things I do when there is no writing and reading, and cause of this ability I got offered an apprenticeship and this makes me feel like I can do anything that I want, that I put my mind to and just because I have this disability, I can do more and see things in a different perspective.

Over the six years I have spent in Yeppoon I still miss home and all the lovely features about it - the sun on my skin when working in the yards, chasing cattle across the paddocks and most of all having time with my family. I have learnt so much and have developed into the person I am today because of these two places. Yeppoon has taught me that I am a thoughtful and caring person and can do anything that I put my mind to. My home has taught that I can be independent, strong and a hard worker. Both places have offered me many opportunities to push myself to the limit.

BRODIE COMPLETED YEAR 12 IN 2022

AND IS NOW A STATION HAND IN QUEENSLAND.



# ICPA NT KATHERINE BRANCH ICT GRANT 'HOW TECHNOLOGY HELPS ME'

## Zahli Scott

I was able to buy a phone, so I can keep in touch with Mum and Dad wherever I go, and not feel so far away.

This year I was able to travel to lots of shows with the Columba Catholic College Cattle Club and learn all about cattle handling and judging, and how to class wool!



## Ada Heaslip

Hi, my name is Ada Heaslip, and I am a boarder at Pembroke school in Adelaide South Australia. I originally come from Mataranka NT and Technology helps me learn.

Technology helps me because the knowledge of anything that I need to know during a class is sitting at the tips of my fingers. This is useful as I don't have to go through books as often.

During class I am able to write down important information quickly, so I don't miss anything and that I am able to understand what is being taught and when I need it I am able to save the document and go back to it whenever it is needed.

Technology helps me when I want to email my teachers or peers about a question that I am confused about. It is at my fingertips when I need to ask for help to help me get the best grade I can get.



## Abby and Jack Leslie

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to the ICPA for providing us with the ICT Grant.

The ICT grant has allowed us to purchase our own laptops to take to boarding school that we both started this year.

The laptops not only help us communicate with our teachers and allow us to complete all the school reports the teachers give us, but it has become a useful tool that allows us to further explore various subjects and learning materials that we may not have had available in our classroom.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[facebook.com/ICPANT](https://facebook.com/ICPANT)

[www.icpa.com.au/nt/](http://www.icpa.com.au/nt/)



# ATHELLE OUTBACK HIDEAWAY'S LEMON BUTTER

## INGREDIENTS

- 3/4 cup of sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup freshly squeezed Athelle Outback Hideaway Lemon Juice
- 125g chopped butter
- 2tsp finely grated fresh Athelle Outback Hideaway Lemon Rind

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Place all eggs and sugar into a saucepan or heatproof bowl.
2. Place bowl over pan of barely simmering water and whisk constantly until sugar has dissolved.
3. Add butter, lemon rind and lemon juice. Whisk mixture for 20 minutes or until smooth and the butter has melted and thickened enough to coat the spoon. Do not allow the mixture to boil as it will curdle.
4. Pour warm mixture into hot sterilized jars and seal immediately.
5. Serve with pancakes, on scones, toast or even ice cream



# ATHELLE OUTBACK HIDEAWAY'S CHEESECAKE

## INGREDIENTS

- 100g melted butter
- 1 1/4 cups sweet biscuit crumbs
- 395g sweetened condensed milk
- 500g Philadelphia cream cheese, softened
- 3tsp gelatine, dissolved in 1/4 cup boiling water
- 1/2 cup of freshly squeezed Athelle Outback Hideaway lemons
- 2 tablespoons grated Athelle Outback Hideaway lemon rind

## DIRECTIONS:

1. Whiz biscuits to a crumb
2. Add butter and press into the base of a pan of choice, chill in fridge.
3. Beat Philadelphia Cheese using electric mixer until smooth.
4. Mix in condensed milk and gelatine mixture until smooth.
5. Pour mixture into prepared chilled base and refrigerate for 4 hours or overnight.
6. Serve with whipped cream



# ATHELLE OUTBACK HIDEAWAY'S LEMON FESTIVAL





## A Ringers Life

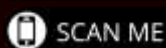
The smoke it rises from the race  
Calves they bellow and jump  
As the irons singe hair and flesh  
A perfect mark upon the rump  
With a modicum of fuss  
The horns are removed  
Their appearance and their safety  
Now vastly improved  
A half penny from the ear  
Ring or blade for the bulls  
Open the gate n turn em out  
Then gather up the tools

Ringers rest beneath a tree  
A short spell in the shade  
Tobacco rolled in paper  
Or perhaps a tailor made  
Black coffee or some tea  
From a battered tin cup  
Sit and watch those little fellas  
To be sure they mother up

Eastern skies begin to change  
Vibrant colours woven through  
A mix of reds n oranges  
Slowly fading into blue  
Silhouette the waiting stock trucks  
Lined up perfect with the ramp  
Crew and drivers all well rested  
From an early night in camp

Morning silence is quickly shattered  
As the cattle fill the crates  
Drivers and stockman all working together  
keep 'em flowing smoothly through the gates

With all the truckers loaded  
Thick dust hanging in the air  
The stock carters head on their way  
It's time to do their share  
They'll roll along right through the night  
To get the cattle through  
It's just another aspect of the gig  
This time-honoured job we do



Scan this QR Code to listen and read the ABC Article on Brad Murray about being an outback poet

Brad Murray – Jervois Station



### Welcome to Darwin – Federal Conference 2023

With immense delight and enthusiasm, the NT State Council Convening Committee welcomed over 175 delegates and esteemed guests to the captivating tropics of Darwin, NT.

Themed 'Unique Land | Unique Learning,' the Conference offered a splendid platform for creativity, allowing the Committee to provide attendees with a genuine taste of our distinctive region. From the majestic horns, the rugged charm of crocodile skulls, the stoic beauty of desert rocks, and the vibrant allure of tropical blooms that adorned the Conference room, every detail transported our guests to the heart and soul of our unique region.

Amidst impassioned discussions and fervent debates, the challenges of remote education in the NT and in other States were vividly illuminated, forging connections and understanding among all who participated.

The launch of the conference was heralded by the angelic voices of two young students from Haileybury Rendall School, whose rendition of the national anthem resonated with all despite their endearing nervousness. This splendid moment was just one of the many delightful offerings generously provided by the school, a proud major sponsor of the event.

Beyond the rich debates on the conference floor and the enlightening speakers that graced the stage, Partners relished a mix of the NT's outdoors and its agricultural wonders. This year saw whole families joining in, with children accompanying their fathers on partner tours and participating in evening functions. A genuine family affair at a Federal Conference was heartening to witness.

The event unfolded with a memorable Welcome Reception at the majestic Parliament House, hosted by the Honourable Eva Lawler, Minister for Education. This set the tone for the days to come.

The Conference dinner, set under the stars by the tranquil sea, offered a tropical menu that satisfied both the palate and the senses. A captivating auction, led by local Elder's auctioneer, Paul McCormick, emerged as one of the highlights, achieving a staggering fundraising result in support of the NT State Council.

The finale was marked by an exceptional post-conference evening at Crocosaurus Cove. This unique experience allowed delegates and guests to interact with a baby crocodile and a snake, explore the facility at leisure and two fortunate youngsters even had the opportunity to feed a full-grown croc—a true hands-on adventure.

We extend our profound appreciation to our valued sponsors whose remarkable generosity has enabled the Convenors to wholeheartedly embrace the outstanding offerings that Darwin can provide for our guests.

As the event concluded, we hope that everyone found warmth, enrichment, and fulfilment in the heart of the Northern Territory's capital, Darwin. This chapter will forever remain etched in our collective memory, an embodiment of the connections formed, and the knowledge shared amidst the inviting ambience of our unique land.

Suzanne (Sue) Wilson

Federal Conference 2023 Convenor







PRE CONFERENCE EVENT @  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE - DARWIN







# NORTHERN TERRITORY PRESIDENT'S REPORT ICPA Federal Conference 2023 Moira Lanzarin

## “Unique Land – Unique Learning”

It is with immense pride and humility that I take my turn to stand before you today as NT President and welcome you to our unique and extraordinary Territory. NT people please wave your hand. We offer you all a very warm welcome to our beautiful northern capital. My sincere thank you to our hardworking convening committee, ably led by the dynamic Sue Wilson, and the equally impressive Federal Council and generous sponsors for making this amazing gathering possible.

“Unique Land – Unique Learning” perfectly sums up the geographically isolated education scenario. I am excited about our time ahead and I trust so are you.

ICPA is an endurance relay of epic proportions. Every person doing their bit – doing what they can, when they can. Together, carrying on. 41 and 1/2 years in the NT, 53 years Federally. These are impressive figures. Even more impressive because it is done from a 100% volunteer work base. By the very nature of our charter - working for geographically isolated children and families - there will always be a need for ICPA. We cannot change the geography, and nor would we want to.

I am proud of every one of you and what we collectively stand for and have achieved.

Every three years, the NT holds our State Annual Conference and AGM virtually. This year it was via Zoom. “Advocacy from Anywhere” certainly proved to be correct. Our conference delegates rallied together for vigorous but respectful debate to ensure issues important to their children’s education were heard and actioned. Technology and communication systems have come such a long way. It was great to clearly see so many beautiful faces, joining from many diverse settings and hearing their crisp and clear voices. Thank you to those who persisted despite technical glitches and dropouts and learnt alongside us as we all navigated online voting and correct governance processes. Thank you to Federal President Alana and then Queensland President Louise Martin for assisting with due process when needed. Hosting and participating in a virtual conference can be challenging – so it was very humbling and pleasing to hear and see that the conference was not only efficient and effective but also enjoyable.

Enjoyable and important are key factors I believe to the success of ICPA – they are part of the WHY that keeps people volunteering and working hard to achieve better opportunities and outcomes for our children.

Having two of our new Councillors plus Treasurer and Secretary, join with us face to face for the first time at our AGM, was so valuable. Other Councillors actively participated virtually. I confess some envy as I hear about other Councils regularly all coming together for full face to face meetings. In my time on NT Council, this has not been achieved. But as said before, the NT has its unique characteristics – one of which is us being spread very thin across a very large chunk of land. The day after conference, State Council participated in a Values-based, decision-making training session led by Helen Lewis of Decision Design Hub. This is a living, evolving piece of work which will help guide us into the future, ensuring we stay relevant, focused and true to purpose.



Part of the vision articulated was:

*"As an Organisation we are relevant and resilient.*

*We are persistent, strong and powerful in the voice and support we give to GI families which is positive and solution based.*

*Our intelligence, professionalism, integrity and knowledge are respected. We are welcoming, compassionate and inclusive."*

Connections, relationships, partnerships, mateship, community dynamics – looking after each other and working together. These are what makes a society and when they are working well and are positive and strong, growth and success has fertile ground to flourish. Building and strengthening relationships with members and stakeholders is important and an ongoing activity.

The NT has only three branches – Alice Springs and Katherine who are based around the respective schools of the air, and Territory Wide who is our Lones Branch. Both main branches have seen a changing of the guard as older families move through to the next stage of their education and new families enter. It is beautiful seeing these new faces grow in confidence and skill as they step up to lead and participate.

We have achieved so much and there is so much that should be celebrated and excitedly proclaimed from the roof tops. The achievements of ICPA are huge and varied. Many of the things that we simply take for granted in our everyday lives, educating our children whilst being out bush, is thanks to ICPA: All of our allowances and assistance schemes; many of our institutions; and most of the related policy. If there wasn't a door to open, we have built the door ourselves and walked through. And done so with dignity, respect, professionalism and passion.

If ICPA has a weakness, I think that is that we do not acknowledge, own and celebrate our successes anywhere near enough. We are our harshest critic and always striving for more, pushing ourselves further. As an organisation we need to be better at celebrating and acknowledging our wins and kinder to ourselves regarding our contribution. So, in amongst the rush, please take the time to reflect and acknowledge the efforts and accomplishments – not only of ICPA, and others but also yourself.

The past 12 months has been filled with achievements. My ICPA calendar tells me ICPA NT State Council have participated in 98 meetings and this is not counting individual delegation meetings. Geographically isolated families across the NT are having their voices heard, their stories and issues listened to, and action is occurring.

Just yesterday, I represented ICPA and addressed the Developing North Australia Conference, also being held here in Darwin this week. My message was simple.

1. *For a sustainable north Australia, there must be families.*
2. *To keep and retain families they need to have good education options for their children (and communications, health and roads).*
3. *If families are supported, businesses and communities will prosper with far greater resilience and sustainability.*

The core top 5 issues for Northern Territory ICPA have remained unchanged for some time. 1.) Improve the NT Student Assistance Schemes for Geographically Isolated families. 2.) Maintenance funding & new funding for Mobile Playgroups to reach geographically isolated children (five years and under). 3.) Early identification, diagnosis, and management of special learning needs. 4.) Continued improvements to accessing affordable and reliable technology and communication systems for geographically isolated education purposes. 5.) A Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA) to recognise the substantial financial costs associated with the compulsory role of the remote home tutor. We are making progress but there is still more to be done.

An exciting initiative from ICPA NT this year has been the

recognition of the Home Tutor for RPL and the commencement of certificate 3, 4 or diploma of Ed, via Charles Darwin University, whilst they are teaching in the home classroom. Congratulations to our first group of Home Tutors undergoing training through Charles Darwin University whilst working full time teaching our bush kids and being recognised for their existing experience in the education journey. This is an exciting pathway, not only for our own children and home tutors but also working towards contributing to solving the national teacher shortage, especially in regional areas.

Thru partnership with St Johns, at no-cost to families, first aid training has been able to be made available to home tutors. We are also working closely with Early Childhood Australia (ECA) who are keen to collaborate with ICPA to improve access to early education for young children in remote areas through policy and program reforms.

Strong collaborations and reconnections with NT Cattleman's Assoc (NTCA) are occurring and we are currently exploring ways as to how we can work more effectively together. Our geographic landscape and many of our membership overlaps.

These achievements are due to the persistent hardwork, and passionate commitment of our strong and amazing Councillors (State and Federal), past and present, and thanks to our membership. #TeamICPA. It is a real pleasure and privilege to work with and for you. To my fellow state Councillors, you are a delight to work with. My congratulations and admiration to Alana and your Federal Council team. Well done.

Thank you for joining us today and I trust that you will find the conference enjoyable and productive and your time in the NT memorable and pleasant.



Many thanks to the Alice Springs Branch and State Council for supporting my attendance at the Federal ICPA Conference in Darwin this year. It was great to reconnect with ICPA in this way and to see the passion in its membership from all over Australia that keeps this great organisation powering on.

Although a lot the faces were new, I still found Jack Beach in attendance - who was around on Federal when I was a more active member, many years ago. He hasn't changed and still advocates for education in the bush.

I met a few new people (as that is half the fun of going to conference) and made a connection to the "Remote Australians Matter" Facebook group through Annabelle Brayley, one of the speakers. I recommend that members have a look. Just like ICPA, if we don't make people who live in the Bush 'matter' then no one will want to live here and that in itself makes life harder for those who have to live here.

The NT State Council did a fantastic job of convening the conference- the location for the conference and its functions were well chosen, showcasing our lovely Top End. I am sure the delegates from down south appreciated the 'warm conference weather' for a change.

I particularly liked hearing from our own locals – the Sullivan Family (or part thereof) of the kids and where they are at now and their education journeys and their appreciation of mum Sally being committed to ICPA for all those years. The added touch of having the conference opened by students from the Haileybury Rendall School singing the National Anthem cemented the reason why we are all here - for the kids.

I would recommend that all members attend at least one conference (whether it be a State or Federal one) early in their membership life, so they can truly appreciate what ICPA does and why we are here.

Cheers

Liz Bird







Being a TW delegate with Ruth Woerle at ICPA Federal Conference Darwin 2023 was an absolute pleasure .... the people, the passion, the linkages, the stories, the settings, the caring and the sharing! An amazing mix of ingredients for a great and enjoyable outcome ... the motions and debate ...

Congratulations to the new Federal Council. Thanks and appreciation to those who did not seek re-election too. I encourage ALL Members to consider active participation in 2024 locally and to Sydney for sure too - "You will receive over and above what you give - believe me!".

As for being part of the Conference Convening Committee, again it was my pleasure. It was a true Team effort of diligent commitment when members could AND they DID in every aspect on the numerous planning meetings/occasions/events. The post conference flood of Thank U's and words of appreciation says it all - Thanks again Sue Wilson. I'm so proud to be part of the NT ICPA group of volunteers who most certainly keep getting things done BUT not without the massive and generous support from our Sponsors - THANK YOU ALL

*Clair O'Brien*

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Congratulations to you and your delightful, hardworking team for a magnificent conference. It was enlightening, strategic and educational and above all demonstrated the leadership of ICPA across our Northern Territory and beyond. You are an outstanding group of professionals.

All the very best and go well, warmest regards from you proud Patron.

Vicki

*The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO*

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As an NT State Councillor, I was very pleased to have my workplace, Early Childhood Australia, represented at Federal Conference.

Renee and Maggie from ECA NT enjoyed meeting and chatting with delegates from all over Australia. Our colleague Lucy also enjoyed attending and found interesting the discussions on issues affecting geographically Isolated children and families.

Lucy's doggy Lilly proudly wore the ICPA kerchief on their walks along the Darwin foreshore.

Jacinta McInnerney





## Isolated Children's Parents' Association

### NORTHERN TERRITORY MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2023

*DUE - JANUARY 1ST EACH YEAR.*

Please ensure payment is received by March 31<sup>st</sup> to qualify for state and branch bursaries

### 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 2023.  
If you still want to keep in touch, but not be associated with a particular branch, then **Territory Wide 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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TITLE:	FIRST NAME :	SURNAME:
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Please advise your Branch Secretary and Treasurer of your change of postal or email address

#### **Your children's details**

*(this information is retained by the Branch and State Council Treasurers and Secretaries and used for Grant qualifications and advocacy purposes )*

Names (of Children)	Age (turning in 2023)	Year Level (in 2023)	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 and Website ☐ Please ✓



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This is a group who wish to be informed  
of ICPA issues, but do not wish to  
belong to a 'branch' as such.  
Anyone who lives anywhere can be a Territory Wide  
Member.

Territory Wide members do not hold meetings, they  
are coordinated by email and receive the same  
benefits as other branch members, including the ability  
to present motions to both State & Federal  
Conference, where they hold votes in the same way  
other branches do. Join Territory Wide today, by  
contacting our Territory Wide member officer, details  
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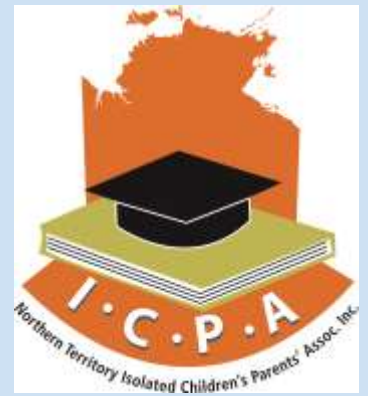
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