

DOWN THE TRACK

Magazine



A KEY WIN FOR ICPA NT

Read how the tireless work of our State Council has been met with a long awaited endorsement

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

Our Branches have been super busy and the results are in

TWO MONTHS TO CHRISTMAS

Take a look inside to find some Christmas joy to share with the kids as the festive season rapidly approaches



Isolated Children's Parents' Association

NORTHERN TERRITORY STATE COUNCIL Inc

2021 Positions

Postal Address: PO Box 8346, Alice Springs 0871 | **Email:** NTSecretary@icpa.com.au | **Website:** www.nt.icpa.com.au

<p>PRESIDENT</p> <p>Sarah Cook Aileron Station PO Box 1361 Alice Springs NT 0871</p> <p>0889569705 NTPresident@icpa.com.au</p>	<p>SECRETARY</p> <p>Juliane (Jule) Vlach Ambalindum Station PMB 265 Alice Springs 0872</p> <p>08 8956 9465 NTSecretary@icpa.com.au</p>	<p>TREASURER & PUBLIC OFFICER</p> <p>Moira Lanzarin Coodardie Station PO Box 4101 Mataranka NT 0852</p> <p>0428 474 262 NTTreasurer@icpa.com.au</p>
<p>VICE PRESIDENT</p> <p>Suzanne Wilson 122/8 Gardiner Street Darwin NT 0800</p> <p>0418830214 NTVicePresident@react-live.com</p>	<p>ICPA NT STATE PATRON</p> <p>Her Honour The Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO Administrator of the Northern Territory Office of the Administrator 29 The Esplanade, Darwin, NT 0800</p> <p>Phone: (08) 8999 7103 govhouse@nt.gov.au</p>	<p>PUBLICITY OFFICER</p> <p>Amanda Murphy Carpentaria Downs PMB 77 Katherine NT 0852</p> <p>89 8975 9784 nt.icpa.publicity@gmail.com</p>
<p>ASSISTANT SECRETARY</p> <p>Katie Payne PO Box 1316 Katherine NT 0851</p> <p>0417925629 katie.andy@bigpond.com</p>	<p>ICPA NT COMMITTEE</p> <p>Kerrie Scott - Mountain Valley Station 08 8975 4064 icpa.kscott@gmail.com ----- Lauren Hoar - Moroak Station (08) 8975 4888 hoarla9@hotmail.com ----- Lisa Kimlin - Murray Downs Station (08) 8964 1958 president.as.icpa@gmail.com ----- Kiya Gill - Jervios Station (08) 8956 6307 steve.kiya@gmail.com ----- Rebecca Mohr-Bell - East Mathison Station 08 8977 0134 Rebecca@argyllconsulting.com.au</p>	<p>LIFE MEMBERS</p> <p>Jan Heaslip.....8952 9810 Pat Elliott.....8971 2116 Chrissie Holt.....Deceased Denise Edwards Del Harlan0417 835504 Kate Schubert.....9305 5857</p>
<p>EDITOR & WEBMASTER</p> <p>Annika Bell PO Box 728 Palmerston NT 0832 0403729814 dtt@icpa.com.au</p> <p>ARCHIVES</p> <p>Ruth Woerle PO Box 728 Palmerston NT 0832 0404 479 534 woerles@hotmail.com</p>		<p>FINANCIAL SUPPORT OFFICER</p> <p>Helen Harding Gorrie Station RSD MS 1953 Katherine NT 0852</p> <p>08 8975 9965 ntfso@icpa.com.au</p>

PORTFOLIO POSITIONS

Allowances / Boarding	Sarah Cook	Rural/Remote Schools	Moira Lanzarin
Assistant	Kerrie Scott	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

has an excellent stakeholder relationship with nbn, who have been really supportive as I try

Dear Members

My Messenger is pinging like a single-finger piano lesson.

Seven of your state councillors are on Messenger, having a busy discussion about the **state of boarding in the Northern Territory**; the options and limitations, and they've been deep in discussion for over an hour.

The conversation began because a member contacted ICPA to say their **Interstate Boarding Allowance application had been knocked back** and they believed the 'reasons why' were poor.

Our state council agrees, the lack of support for Territory geographically isolated boarding families is wearing thin on all of us.

The conversation quickly moved into a strategizing session and **they've set to work**. One councillor is drafting a brief, another is following up the Department of Education, and someone is calling boarding schools in the Territory. Another councillor is researching statistics and others are contributing ideas and suggestions. I am proud to be part of this team, these guys rock my world and they're rocking yours too.

Meanwhile as I write, **I'm on the phone to my Skymuster provider, I've been waiting for 100 minutes....** I'm having connectivity and technical issues again. I am grateful ICPA

to figure out my problems. You know as well as I do, that connectivity issues in the bush really pulls things up, and the past few weeks have been particularly frustrating. If you ever have internet issues that you can't resolve with your provider, get in contact with ICPA and we'll pass your details on to our nbn friends.

In the past month, on behalf of ICPA NT, I've attended two Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee meetings via Zoom, one for central and one for north Australia. These reviews are an opportunity for people living and working in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia to share their **views and experiences using telecommunications** services in their area. I was in good company with other ICPA members, who also attended.

Next week, ICPA NT will attend an **nbn round table discussion** in Darwin. While I'm there, I will also speak at the **Chamber of Commerce September Women in Business** lunch, sponsored by nbn. I'm going to talk about families, education and the role of women in the bush, and I'm very conscious that lots of you ladies would do this talk far more justice than me. Nevertheless, I will try my best to share some of our challenges with the audience who may not fully appreciate 'The Layers of Life Out Here' (that's the title of my talk!).

Last week ICPA NT presented at the **NT Police Union annual conference in Darwin**,



Sarah Cook with Suzanne Wilson and the nbn team, who sponsored the NT Chamber of Commerce September Women in Business event and Sarah's key note speech 'The Layers Of Life Out Here'.

to develop mutual alliances between their rural and remote members, and ICPA. While in Darwin, Vice President Sue Wilson and I caught up with the **Senior Advisor to the Minister for Education**.

Next week state councillors from the Alice Springs region will meet with the **Executive Director, School Improvement & Leadership South** to talk about computer policies, connectivity, home visits and COVID, and provide a brief on our other standing motions.

Today, ICPA had a huge win nationally following months of work between all levels of ICPA, when National Cabinet endorsed the National Code for Boarding School Students.

ICPA NT should be particularly proud of The Code, because **we were the first jurisdiction to call for a national approach to boarding**, right after COVID hit last March 2020. Given

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...

A quick note from the editor...

It's been a while since our last DTT, however this means we've got so many wonderful stories and pieces to share with you again.

As this year has rolled out, in some ways similar to the last with all it's uncertainty, but also new and with it's own fair share of trials and tribulations, ICPA NT members have continued to do what we do; live and work and advocate for life in remote and isolated locations whilst raising our families and stoically remaining strong as the backbone of the NT outback - we are bred tough and as a result shine when faced with adversity! This is reflected time and time again in the stories, experiences, photographs and reports that I receive to place within these pages - and I am so bloody proud and humbled by the people of ICPA NT! Keep those stories coming, I know they are out there!

This does not mean that we do not feel it all; get weighed down and experience the heaviness. That is what it is to be human. We do however, pick ourselves up after a good (healthy) cry or spit, chat with a mate or professional, and carry on - fighting for what we know is right. Like working tirelessly for wins like the endorsement of the National Code for Boarding School Students.



Anni
Annika Bell
DTT Editor

Being that the next DTT will be a December/January edition I've included in a few Christmas present tags as well as a fun Christmas cooking activity for you and your little ones to do together at the end of the year - I know I'm going to give it a go! Send in your pics if you do too!

Lastly, I want to draw your attention to the stunning photo that graces the back cover - a picture that highlights why we do what we do with ICPA NT. The beautiful Kate Nelder nee Harding, daughter of our incredible Financial Support Officer Helen Harding, at her wedding earlier this year, with two of her bridesmaids, her sister Amy and their KSA and NTSDE friends Donal and Margo Sullivan, and Hannah and Celeste Woerle - all life long friends who's friendship started thousands of kilometres apart!

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 December/January edition. **Due date for submissions is 30 November 2021.**

FRONT COVER - Photo Credit: Arnhem Highway Oenpelli Road as taken and supplied by ICPA NT 'Down the Track' Editor, Annika Bell
BACK COVER - Photo Credit: Fiona Denny (photographer), supplied by ICPA NT Financial Support Officer, Helen Harding

CONTINUED... A WORD FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT

most of our boarders must - by necessity - board interstate, a national approach was the only sensible option for Territory members, so this Code is a massive step in the right direction and excellent recognition of ICPA's advocacy.

In the coming weeks, state council will prepare for our next round of **delegations to Darwin in November**, right after our State Secretary Jule and I join some of the Alice Springs branch members in a trip to Longreach for the **50th Annual Federal Conference**.

So we're busy, but not as busy as the Katherine Branch will be soon – organising our **40TH ICPA NT STATE CONFERENCE in DARWIN on 9th March 2021**.

I'm seriously thrilled the Katherine Branch have decided to host in Darwin, the location makes it easy for Ministers, senior Government officers and other VIP stakeholders to attend and that's our plan – to **bring the decision-makers TO OUR MEMBERS**.

Members past and present are urged to attend our 40th State Conference – forty years Territory ICPA advocating for equity in education in the bush.

Who will you invite to celebrate this significant and important occasion?

Branches will hold their AGMs before our next edition. Best wishes to Katherine Branch Executive Kerrie, Julie, Katie, Fiona, Amanda and your Committee, and the Alice Springs Branch Executive Lisa, Danyelle, Candice, Kelli, Ley and Katy and your Committee, for a strong turn-up at your AGM and strong, continuing support for your branch.

For this edition, I really wanted to hunt down a well written article that we could all relate to, about the roles we play in keeping our communities strong. Nothing stood out, but I encourage you to please give some thought to how you can continue to support associations like ICPA who strengthen your community.

'Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote.... every day about the kind of community you want to live in'

– Author Unknown.

On closing, people often comment how lucky I am to "have the time to volunteer for ICPA". Nothing is further from the truth, and actually, it can be hurtful assuming I have time, because the truth is, I don't. I have a full time job, family, personal investments and other responsibilities, just like everyone else.

I have exactly the same amount of time in my day that you do.

Volunteering is a big effort and can often feel rather thankless. I always hope big wins like The Boarding Code will generate some feedback, but that's often not the case.

ICPA has wonderful branch executives, committees and state councillors who are incredibly energetic, hardworking and bloody inspiring, and they appreciate the support of members.

It's such a lovely feeling when members phone or write a quick email of thanks, or who provide guidance, feedback and encouragement from time to time.

Next time you feel like you should give a

bit more but you aren't able to, **at least share your appreciation or provide feedback for the voluntary organisation, and thank the people who volunteer their precious time – it goes a long way.**

In closing, I wish to congratulate the beautiful Annika on another brilliant edition of Down The Track. Annika grew up in the bush, but nowadays lives in regional Darwin with her husband and three young children. Annika also works full time, but she somehow fits DTT into her busy life. What would we do without you, Anni? I have no idea!

Send your stories, articles and photos to Annika by 30 November, in time for the Dec/Jan edition dtc@icpa.com.au

Sarah

Best wishes

Sarah Cook

ICPA NT State President



**VOLUNTEERING FOR ICPA NT CAN BE DONE
IN MANY WAYS - ALL IMPORTANT AND WILL
MAKE A TANGABLE DIFFERENCE**

Please get in touch with your local branch to find out how you can join in, every effort big or small is welcomed.

#volunteersmakeadifference



ICPA NT ALICE SPRINGS BRANCH

Danyelle Haigh -Vice President

Hello to all our wonderful members!

The ICPA NT Alice Springs Branch have been in full swing for 2021 with a few busy months just gone, including a lot of fundraising events.

Our wonderful Branch were given the awesome opportunity to cater for the **Undoolya Station Bronco Branding** which included preparing and serving breakfast, lunch and dinner on the 11th and 12th of September. It was a great event and we were so grateful to have been included in this exciting fundraising occasion.

We also had a great team of volunteers to assist with the running of the bar at the **Barkly Rodeo held in Tennant Creek** on the 2nd of October, and thank all those who put their hand up and helped out.

We are so proud to be again selling our limited edition fishing shirts that have been so generously sponsored by the following groups:

- **Murranji Water Drilling**
- **3Wayz Helicopters**
- **Remote Concrete**
- **Horses for Courses**
- **Elkedra Pastoral**
- **Paraway Pastoral**
- **J.C Baldwin & Sons**
- **Trekwest Hiking Tours**
- **Sandover Pastoral**
- **DIT Technologies, and**
- **Jervois Station.**

The shirts are available for **\$50 for Adults (sized XS to 7XL) and \$40 for Kids (sized 0-16).**

If you'd like to get your hands on one of our fantastic fishing shirts please get in touch by emailing us at secretaryasicpa@gmail.com

Our most recent Branch Meeting was held in Alice Springs at the Big4 McDonnell Range Holiday Park on the 21st of September at 3.30pm, which concluded with a meet and greet afterwards for new members and anyone wanting to join the Branch. Thank you to everyone who organised and attended - it was yet again a wonderful show of ICPA NT support.

Until next time,

Danyelle

**Alice Springs Branch
Vice President**



ICPA NT KATHERINE BRANCH

Kerrie Scott - Branch President

Branch activities have been ticking along this year despite the ongoing challenges with Covid restrictions.

Mataranka Sports Camp 2021

The 2021 ICPA NT Sports Camp was held in Mataranka earlier this year, with over 90 registrations, and students involved from three schools. I really can't thank our sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and the amazing sports development officers enough for making the camp such a success.

The kids get so much out of just a few days; socialising, learning new skills, learning new sports, and the time to be able to be just 'normal' kids, enjoying what most take for granted.

For the parents and caregivers, it is a time for us to catch up with friends, welcome new families, feel the relief of being able to see our children enjoying activities we often feel guilt over them missing out on, and basically, connect as a community.

The camp has come a long way in a relatively short time, and the fact that it continues to grow, and the children get just as excited each year, indicates it has a very important and special role to play. Into the future, we will run the camp as a stand alone event and break from running in conjunction with a KSA Mini School as we

had done in 2020 due to Covid. This will make it easier to coordinate, allow growth, reduce costs, and ensure the camp remains sustainable.

The Nutrien Auction.....WOW.

The Nutrien tent at the Katherine Show on the Friday afternoon was the place to be. The crowd was buzzing, the drinks were flowing and the bbq was sizzling. The donations for the auction were incredible, and we cannot thank those individuals and businesses enough for their contributions. Particularly, we would like to thank Karen and Shane from Sandstone NT Solar and REAQUA for the donation of an entire Solar Pumping system and installation again... what an incredible donation, valued at \$15,000.

45 items were up for grabs and the bidding was frantic! Ben Coutts and the team at Nutrien did an absolutely amazing job. \$120,700 was raised by the Katherine community to go to the Katherine Branch.

Thank You!

Thank You!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that came together to make that happen, and everyone that purchased items at the auction. Big thanks to Julie Richter, Helen Harding and the branch volunteers who cooked the bbq, and assisted during the

auction. Helen's sausages were awesome!

Personal Development Grants

The Branch has continued to offer the Personal Development Grants and Roylene Hill Art Awards. The IT Grants will again be open later this year, and the branch also offers the Extraordinary

PHOTO CREDIT: Shutterstock Image ID 1776619922 - by puyalroyo "The Katherine river at Katherine Gorge"





Opportunity Grants throughout the year. Unfortunately, due to Covid, there haven't been many opportunities available for fulfilling the Extraordinary Opportunities, however we will look to support and encourage any learning opportunities as they arise when and where possible.

KSA Interstate Excursion Cancellation

Sadly, the KSA interstate excursion to Cairns got cancelled due to Department of Education travel restrictions, which meant quite a few kids missed out on experiencing one of the 'big deals' of their primary and middle years.

Hopefully we will be able to support them to be able to participate in a different activity at another time.

Sponsoring Funkhahas and Campdrafts

We have once again sponsored the Kids Funkhana at the Mataranka Campdraft, and the kids Mini Draft at the Territory Cup Campdraft, and look forward to sponsoring the Youth Campdraft Clinic in Timber Creek later this year.

NT Dance Superstars

The NT Dance Superstars have been tapping their toes through the year with Miss Heidi – an amazing initiative that allows our remote little dancers the chance to train weekly via Zoom with a professional dance studio.

Boarding School

Many of our families are still struggling with the challenges of interstate boarding through a pandemic.

The uncertainty around when borders will shut down is keeping everyone on edge, and

we really must thank our State and Federal Councils for their tireless efforts in advocating a common sense approach for students needing to travel interstate.

Unfortunately, the reality of our situation and the unique circumstances and challenges of educating geographically isolated students in secondary years is beyond the comprehension of the policy makers. The State Council is currently doing a power of work to gather data and information to advocate for more support for Geographically Isolated Boarders – and in particular to highlight our limited schooling options, and the costs associated with travel and boarding.

Let's hope the remainder of our year is Covid drama free!

Kerrie

**Kerrie Scott
Present Katherine Branch**



THANK YOU to all the incredible sponsors of the 2021 Sundowner Charity Auction



FRANK MILLER – ROCKTEAR PARK

BINDI MCBEAN – WHETSTONE



VASSE FELIX



STOCKLICK TRADING
think lick... think STOCKLICK



LION



Kirby's
Katherine Hotel



THE TOP SADDLERY & BUSH BOUTIQUE
Quality gear for the real outback



ENGEL
A LEGEND IN RELIABILITY

DATAMARS



Nutrien
Ag Solutions

The Auction was held on the 16th of July at the Katherine Show Grounds with all proceeds going to ICPA NT Katherine Branch

Sandstone NT Solar



DANNY MURPHY



BILBA GROUP COMPANIES



70 YEARS OF ALICE SPRINGS SCHOOL OF THE AIR

Reflecting back with Tanya Heaslip

The Alice Springs School of the Air is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year!

'Good morning everyone, this is VJD, Mrs Hodder speaking. Over.'

Our School of the Air teacher's crisp, clear voice crackled out through the crashing static.

'Good morning, Mrs Hodder. This is Tanya from SVU. Over.'

A chorus of voices, including mine, boomeranged back to Mrs Hodder from cattle stations and far-flung settlements spread far and wide. The voices were jumbled, talking over each other, some louder than others because they had better reception, some almost completely lost in the din. None of this was a problem for Mrs Hodder. She took the chaos in her stride.

'Marvellous! Now it is time for 'Brumby Jack', everybody. So please stand up next to your radios and sing along with us here in the studio.'

Her brisk, clear voice commanded us to our feet. A roar of children's voices almost obliterated the static. We were bellowing out a theme we know only too well – a stockman galloping after wild brumbies and wheeling them around from near escape. The happy chants crashed and dipped and melded one into the other.

We couldn't see the other children behind the voices but we could hear them. Our imaginations put faces around them, hair and eye colour, freckles and grins, riding boots and hats. And Mrs Hodder was our binding glue.

Once we'd finished, she clapped her hands. 'Wonderful singing, everybody. Keep up the good work! Over.'



A young Tanya talking on the radio

Being on the radio with Mrs Hodder was like play, like theatre, and I loved it.

From 1968 to 1974, it gave me friends and a teacher, even if I couldn't see their faces, and allowed me to connect with them through song and friendship and play, something that an isolated bush kid like me craved. My siblings, dogs, paddy calves and horses were great friends, of course, but connecting with others took my world to another level.

That is why School of the Air remains equally important today.

How else do isolated children develop social skills, learn new ways of thinking and singing and playing, and grow to a level equal to their compatriots in town and city schools? Most bush kids are generally shy to the point of mute when faced with the outside world, and lack those life skills that children who sit in a real classroom learn quickly and intuitively from the very first grade.

The courageous and insightful Adelaide Miethke knew this.

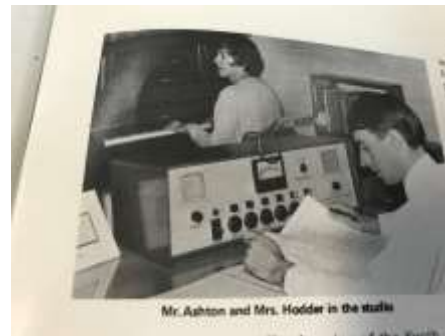
In the 1940s, as a retired educator in her 60s, she travelled with the John Flynn 'Mantle of the Outback' party throughout the bush to see how they could help isolated families. She was shocked to find that children ran away and hid from her and her party. The children were terrified. They did not know how to engage with newcomers. Adelaide knew something had to be done. Travelling on to Alice Springs, she heard isolated mothers talking to doctors over the new Royal Flying Doctor Service, and thought, 'If medical advice can be dispensed through the airways, why not education?'

It took about four more years to bring her vision to reality, but in 1951, the Alice Springs School of the Air was **launched over 1.3 square kilometres**, reported internationally as 'the largest classroom in the world' for a handful of students.

Today there are between 100-120 students calling in across this vast region, heralding the success of Adelaide's vision.

Technological developments have taken classes from a pedal radio, to the two-way radio, to a computer, where courtesy of satellite dishes, bush children can now see and hear their teacher and classmates. They can actually paint, draw, perform and dance with others, and most importantly, prepare themselves for the outside world they will eventually join.

And in today's COVID world, it's not just bush kids who are benefitting from the



Mr. Ashton and Mrs. Hodder in the studio



Brett, MLis and Tanya in their ASSOA School Room



MLis and Tanya performing with their guitars in a dry creek bed for an ASSOA get together



In the School Room - Tanya, MLis, Brett and Miss Thiele

lessons learned over the years of School of the Air. As schools and governments grapple with educating students online during lockdowns, some have turned to School of the Air for advice and assistance.

Luckily, School of the Air has 70 years' experience to draw from.

**Long live the wonderful
School of the Air - and Happy
70th Birthday!**



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

20 September 2021

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Queensland

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of New South Wales

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Northern Territory

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Western Australia

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of South Australia

Remote Boarders Long-Awaited Return Home Across Borders

Families who live in rural and remote Australia are hailing 'a win for education in the bush', celebrating the recent National Cabinet decision that supports consistency in cross-border movement of boarding students during periods of COVID lockdown.

The National Code for Boarding School Students (The Code) was endorsed by National Cabinet late last week, following strong advocacy from the Isolated Children's Parents' Association representing rural and remote families who have had to navigate uncertainty, a multitude of COVID restrictions, and forced separation simply to access education for their children.

ICPA Australia President Alana Moller said "ICPA Federal and State Councils across Australia pulled together and we all worked tirelessly with government to find a solution for rural and remote families, following prolonged border restrictions that have seen interstate boarding students separated from their homes and families in the bush."

"For many rural and remote students, boarding school is a standard means of accessing education, especially in the middle and senior years. Providing long-term, nationally-consistent guidelines for families whose students must traverse state borders to access education is essential to temper the uncertainty they've experienced throughout the pandemic."

ICPA NSW President Claire Butler added her appreciation for the decision "we have just had three students come out of hotel quarantine in Victoria and whilst this news is too late for them, we see this Code as a way forward that gives people clear rules and a right of appeal. It has been a very difficult time for our families, sandwiched by three states with three completely different rules and one of the biggest issues was not having a clear contact to deal with in health departments. This Code brings transparency and certainty, which is very pleasing."

ICPA NT President Sarah Cook said The Code is a huge relief for Northern Territory geographically isolated families "The Territory doesn't have a great deal of boarding capacity. A majority of our very remote secondary students attend boarding school across jurisdiction borders, in another state. Students must be able to move efficiently and effectively between their school and home. This Code gives rural and remote families access to education. It's a vitally important piece of work and our members applaud National Cabinet for endorsing it".

ICPA WA President Sally Brindal expressed concerns for Western Australian boarders, "Some boarding schools and agricultural colleges in Western Australia have seen a number of students not return to face to face learning. The uncertainty regarding border restriction for boarding students made the situation just too difficult."

The Code will provide welcome relief for an estimated 1,600 rural and remote families across Australia, impacted by inconsistent and often-changing State, Territory and Local Government Area travel restrictions. The enforcement of the measures in the Code will be reflected through relevant Public Health Orders or Emergency Management Directions or other mechanisms of each State and Territory.

"ICPA Qld has been very appreciative of the efforts Qld Health has made to adopt a class exemption to enable boarding students to easily cross the borders for the holidays, however, we encourage all States and Territories to implement The National Code as soon as possible. The consistency provided by a national code will avoid further confusion and upset for families, which has been affecting the mental health and wellbeing of many of our members" said Louise Martin, President ICPA Qld.

ICPA acknowledges fellow stakeholders, schools, government and others who have supported geographically isolated families to bring this outcome to fruition.

Alana Moller, Federal President Ph: 0749 835 353
Louise Martin, Queensland President Ph: 0746 549 317
Claire Butler, New South Wales President Ph: 0409 206 871
Sarah Cook, Northern Territory President Ph: 08 8956 9705
Sally Brindal, Western Australia President Ph: 0427 275 014
Jill Greenfield, South Australia President Ph: 08 8672 8936

ICPA NT KATHERINE BRANCH

A Snapshot of the Personal Development Grant Winners



Mikayla Craig



Benji Bethal's brilliant artwork



Muay Thai Accommodation in Darwin

Hi my name is Cameron Dehne and I
am 15 years old.

I am from Bloodwood Station and I
board in Katherine for school.

18 months ago I joined Blue Eagle
Muay Thai in Katherine with my
brother Clinton.

I love the sport and have won my last
two fights in Darwin.

Next year I am hoping to get an
interstate fight and compete for the
Junior NT Title.

I train 5 days a week and go home on
the weekends to our family station at
Bloodwood.

Elise Brown of Amangee Mungee Station applied for the Personal Development Grant so she could get some jodhpur boots and chaps for use when she is learning dressage and jumping at her school, Fresham, in Mittagong.

Well done Elise!



Tia Blokland's beautiful artwork



Tia and Mikayla Craig



Colt Scott above and Zahli Scott below



Hunter Grant fishing his best life!



Violet-May Carey's picture of her horse Lottie

SUZANNE WILSON, VICE PRESIDENT ICPA NT

NT COGSO 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE & AGM

NT COGSO are the peak parent body for NT public education. As Schools of the Air and Distance Education are public schools, ICPA NT meet with COGSO whenever we are in Darwin. We also value COGSO supporting ICPA with advice and feedback on our advocacy.

ICPA NT Vice President Suzanne Wilson has been attending COGSO AGM's for the past few years, here is Suzanne's report on COGSO's annual Full Council meeting on 4 September 2021 .

The Conference

Trent Lee welcomed participants to the room playing beautiful sounds on his didgeridoo. The Conference was opened by Beverley Ratahi, Vice President (COGSO) at 8.45 am. Welcome to country was performed by Larrakia Elder, Aunty Bilawarra Lee. VIP guests in the room were welcomed starting with Jo Hersey MLA, Shadow Education Minister.

ICPA NT was given a terrific welcome as a valued guest by Beverley, and I was pointed out as being the ICPA Vice President representing ICPA NT today. Hon Lauren Moss, Minister for Education and Karen Weston, CE, DoE would be joining us later.

Apologies were received from Tabby Fudge (President), absent due to ill-health. The President's Report was not presented but attendees could read it from the Conference papers booklet. Regional Council Representative Reports and the 2020 Annual Full Council Meeting Minutes were provided in the Conference papers booklet also.

The AGM – Election of Executive Members

- President – Tabby Fudge was returned
- Vice President – Beverley Ratahi didn't stand for re-election. Sarah Rheinberger was appointed VP
- Treasurer – Richelle Kent was returned.

Guest Speaker

After morning tea, the Guest Speaker was Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunerr Baumann AM. She is the Senior Australian of the Year 2021. Miriam is an Aboriginal activist, educator, and artist. Miriam entertained us with tales of her growing up, the family and what family means to her. She also talked about engaging young people in education and gave some handy tips on this e.g., how to handle children's non-performance in the classroom. She also pointed out that we all need to take time "to fulfil your spirit" – time-out and mindfulness.

The Workshop

"What can schools, services and the education system do to engage all young people in learning?"

As anticipated, this follows on from the Education Engagement Strategy forums that ICPA NT (both Sarah Cook and I) attended earlier in the year, and the submission ICPA NT submitted.

NT COGSO had put together a great series of short videos of 'kids voices' - children saying what they wanted at their schools and in their communities. Very illuminating from more playground equipment, more trees to more food!

Three key areas that were music to my ears were:

- 1.Children wanting more computers so they could have one each or ones that all the keys worked.
- 2.Children wanting to know where their food came from – how to cook it and how it helped their health (bush medicine too), and school gardens.
- 3.More F2F teacher visits for rural and remote children.

In our table groups, we had to decide what should the Education system (schools/Dept etc) 'do more of', 'less of' and 'anything new'. Our group of 7 included reps from several schools, a school principal and me.

Karen Weston (CEO, Dept of Education), Minister Lauren Moss and Ben Duggan (Minister's Senior Advisor) moved around the tables listening to the discussions – Karen was the only one that made it to our table. Not surprisingly, the discussions were school centric, but I was able to explain our families' situations a little in the given timeframe.

In the 'do more' section I pushed the need for more mobile playgroups and learning programs for GI families – especially the southern NT region. Also highlighted that FaFT was exclusively for indigenous children and families, and the table felt that this should be extended to non-indigenous children/families too.

In the 'do less' section, almost without exclusion all tables put in 'less red tape'. I pushed a bit for less stereotyping e.g., not all remote children are indigenous, but I don't think that was heard, amongst the chatter of students fitting into little boxes or pigeonholes.

In the new section, schools focussed heavily with hangout/chill out rooms, more playground facilities, trees to have lessons under etc.

Minister's Address

Hon Lauren Moss, Minister for Education gave a short speech. This focussed on the work the NTG is doing in Education. She did note that she and her Dept met and consulted with various stakeholders regularly including ICPA NT.

There were twelve motions brought and all were carried. Topics included school funding models, special needs funding, counsellors as mentioned above, teacher housing, swimming and life-saving programs, parent and community engagement in schools, traffic safety, teacher salaries and water audits.

There were six late motions brought and all were carried. Education infrastructure budgets and resourcing for female-to-female aggression were hot topics. School based policing, road safety audits 'Effective Enrolment' terminology were also raised.

Thank you motions were for DoE, recognising Teaching Principals and the resulting pay increases under the current review process, and appreciation for Tabby Fudge's work despite her illness.

It was noted that there will be 5 new school counsellors and 2 managers to handle the increased workload being experienced. The need for these was one of the Mataranka School motions.

The Conference/AGM concluded pretty much on time around 4.30 pm. It was an interesting day which the NT COGSO team ran like a well-oiled machine.

PHOTO:
Suzanne with
Sarah Rheinberger



Celebrating Forty Years



ICPA NT State Conference

DARWIN, NORTHERN TERRITORY
HOSTED BY THE KATHERINE BRANCH

9th March 2022

SAVE THE
DATE

OUTBACK MAIL

Connellan Airways Trust

Hello friends,

It's that time of the year when I'm thinking about the previous financial

year and the work that the Trust has been involved in to support people like you in Outback Australia. I'd like to share with you some statistics about rural, remote and regional living that I find interesting.

*"Around 7 million people—about 28% of the Australian population—live in rural and remote areas, which encompass many diverse locations and communities (ABS 2019d). These Australians face unique challenges due to their geographic location and often have poorer education and health outcomes than people living in metropolitan areas. Despite lower education and health outcomes for some, the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey found that Australians living in towns with fewer than 1,000 people **generally experienced higher levels of life satisfaction** than those in urban areas and major cities (Wilkins 2015)."*

Here's another one for you...

"Collectively, Australia's regions account for around 40 per cent of our total economic output. To put this into context, were it not for our regions, Australia's economy today would only be the size that it was in 1997 and Australia would no longer rank amongst the world's largest economies." Which is taken from the Regional Australia Institute Talking Point report – "The Economic Contribution of Regions to Australia's Prosperity".

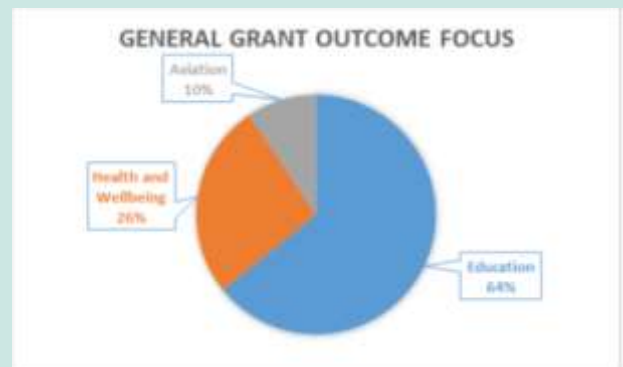
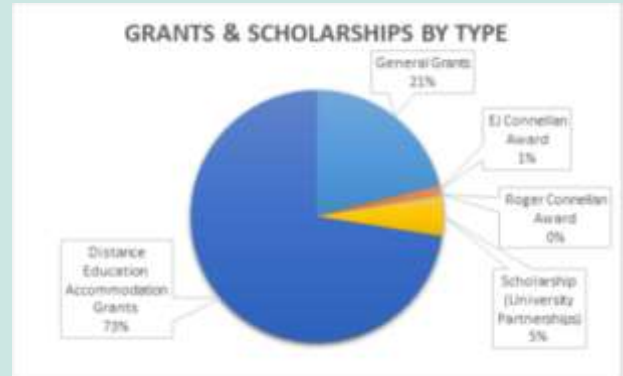
When I read stats and facts like this; so contradictory, yet incredibly insightful, I smile. Sometimes I even laugh out loud.

These contradictions prove that whilst living remotely with limited access to services, outback people are some of the most productive and happiest people in our country.

However, this should not deter us from pursuing education and health equity. This is vital to the continued growth of the places we love to live. It is also our children's right in Australia to access to quality education and health services like that of their city dwelling counterparts. But guess what I take from all this (bear with me, I promise I have a point!) ... rural and remote people are more likely to succeed with this pursuit. They are more likely to drive this change. And outback people are more likely to walk into the challenge of this quest with a smile on their face. It won't mean it isn't hard, or that there isn't frustration and tears. But persistence is key. That, my ICPA NT friends, is what makes outback people so incredibly special. You can attest to this through the successful changes over the last 50 years, driven by ICPA.

And so, the Trust plays its part in this huge moving machine of the Outback. We continue to provide our grants and scholarships enabling access to education, health and social opportunities. The Trust Chair Mr Mark Coffey recently announced the recipient of the Outback Major Grant in 2021. Mr Mohr-Bell, with wife Rebecca are located on Mathison Station in the far north-west of the NT. The project being funded aims to install, test and report on an experimental communications network exploring different technologies for areas without mobile phone service. This tech could be a huge step forward for remote communications. Check out our website for more information on this project.

Here are some Trust Granting Stats from 2020/2021 for you:



Every grant, scholarship, award and partnership adds to the experience and vibrancy of our remote people and places.

We hope that in strengthening access to education and health focused opportunities we also build on the confidence, leadership and skills of outback people who in turn contribute to a thriving Outback.

Have a fantastic next quarter and (fingers crossed) I hope to see you at the Federal Conference in November.

Kind regards,

Jessica Hackett
Executive Officer
Connellan Airways Trust

Welcome Owen Martin

Upon realising he was late, Owen rushed into this world in the wee hours of Friday 12th March (12/3/21 - a numerical palindrome) in Alice Springs hospital. Owen is a very chatty, contented and happy baby and he just loves being doted on by his three older siblings, Conor (age 6), Maeve (age 5) and Cillian (age 3).



12.3.21



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To
From

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\$5/Ton sold will be donated to ICPA NT on hay purchased in 2021 if this advert is mentioned.

2020 Jarra hay (covered)

\$125/Ton + GST

Also have 2021 Jarra and
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'Ceres Downs' - Douglas Daly

ALICE SPRINGS SCHOOL OF THE AIR SPORTS WEEK 2021

Coming together again for sports and fun!



Yay that time of year had finally come around.

Heath, my 7 year old hadn't slept for a week, had been on his best behaviour, and even completed his daily chores, all because he was so excited that he was finally getting to see his friends and attend school in an actual classroom.

Second term in school week we make a 3000km round trip just so our boy can experience one of his four normal school weeks. With a few big hiccups traveling in, being stranded on the side of a dirt road with my Govie and 2 kids in the middle of nowhere for 6 hours, we finally arrived in Alice springs safe, if a day later.

With a different sport activity completed everyday leading up to the sports carnival on the Friday I was told by an eager year 2 class that this is the best week ever!

Whilst I (mum) trotted off to a week full of meetings for the ICPA, school council, committees etc, all of the eager Alice Springs School of the Air students celebrated our school turning 70 years old. This included competing in a townies versus bushie kids cricket match, a masquerade disco, raising some money and food for the animals at RSPCA, and finishing off with a massive sports carnival participating in running races, obstacle courses, relay races, long jump, shot put, AND a parents, teacher & govies race.

Unfortunately Kissel (the red team) won, then Ferguson (yellow team) and then our team Barrett (blue team). But all-in-all the kids had the time of their lives and were tucked up in bed by 6pm!

We do what we do to give our kids a brighter future - it can be hard on them and us, but it's weeks like this that we all treasure when we get to experience some sort of normality.



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Amazing, untouched natural landscapes and fantastic hospitality were highlights of our trip to Katherine and surrounds in the July holiday break.

Driving from Darwin to Katherine, my family were astonished by the vastness of the Northern Territory as we passed road signs displaying the distances to famous landmarks and locations. While my family and I have always lived rurally, the remoteness and distances covered for services, sporting events and education by our growing base of families in the NT is amazing.

On this visit I met with a talented young athlete looking to make a move to boarding at BTC in 2022 who described a weekend trip to Alice Springs for a netball carnival a mere 1200km away. Several of our current students from remote properties and stations in the NT are over 6 hours from their teacher at the School of the Air in Katherine. These distances are immense and the work the ICPS and School of the Air do to support these young people is outstanding.

While in the North we were able to meet with a number of prospective families, but

perhaps the highlight of the trip was touching base with a young lad from Mataranka who joined us at BTC at the start of 2021. He and his family own and operate the Territory Manor in Mataranka and it was an absolute pleasure to be welcomed into their home and business. Like many of our families from across QLD



and the NT their work and livelihoods make it very challenging to visit us in Charters Towers, increasing the importance of these trips, something I look forward to continuing in the future.

It is a huge decision and commitment to send a child away to boarding school

presenting many challenges as they navigate a range of emotions, personal experiences and environmental factors weighing heavily on the mind. Every setting is unique and as a rural, co-educational independent school we pride ourselves on developing accountable and reliable young people ready to contribute in an ever changing world. With increasing access to direct flights to Townsville and our travel day bus services, we aim to support students from the north in accessing high quality, equitable educational opportunities inspired by our history, moving boldly into the future.

I would like to make a special mention to Katherine School of the Air and their administrative staff who welcomed me into their setting to meet with families and provide opportunities to access scholarship testing. Their support along with that of our families who provided local knowledge for the trip enabled us to feel first hand the importance of strong connections in education.

Simon Murphy

*Principal
Blackheath & Thornburgh College*

Philip Sullivan

An Unexpected Journey

I must say I felt a little envious reading through my application for the NT ICPA Post-Secondary Bursary from January 2020.

I couldn't help but smile hearing the hopeful optimism of the oh-so-naïve young Philip as he described the exciting events that were going to take place in Melbourne in 2020, which was to be a most auspicious year. His enthusiasm as he asked for financial support to reduce the secondary costs of his Computer Science degree at RMIT University so he could attend the Penny Arcade Expo (PAX) Australia and the YOW! Technology Conference was touching.

Of course, 2020 went perfectly smoothly and young Philip was able to attend all the events of his dreams, while immersing himself in study and the vibrant culture of Melbourne.

Or so I would have liked.

The past 18 months has been an exercise in adaptation, change, struggle, strife and countless other nouns. Needless to say, the contrast between the idea of Melbourne as a hub of culture, footy capital etc., and the police state locked down for over 36 weeks, has been a little jarring.



No AFL.

No nightlife.

No events.

No university clubs.

Yes Zoom.

The cancellation of both PAX and YOW! were disappointing to say the least. I had been excited and grateful to receive the ICPA NT Post-Secondary Bursary, which had helped me to pay for a laptop powerful enough for the computer science subjects I was taking, which I could use for in-person university classes.

But now what could I do? I was locked down in my residential college, unable to get home due to travel and quarantine costs.

It was at this point despondency set in. Without the social aspect of university, computer science became unappealing. It's not much of a hope-kindler to be sat in front of a screen all day coding.

I began to consider a change of course. Pursue my dreams, shoot for the stars etc. etc. Mid-year, and into a Bachelor of Arts I went, studying French and Creative Writing as my majors. I didn't know where I wanted to take them, but I was sure I was doing the right thing.

Out of lockdown...then back in for 117 days. Over these long months of confinement, I dreamed of home.

Even my least favourite tasks (fighting fires, spraying weeds) began to seem like luxuries I had taken for granted.

Slowly I began to realise that the ordinary bush was in truth as extraordinary as a lifestyle could be, and it would be a huge mistake to leave it for urban life permanently.

This culminated in another decision: out of the Arts and into the Commerce. I am currently completing my last semester of Arts, with the aim of studying commerce and bringing home skills that I can use to benefit not only my family's business, but the community which I have sorely missed in Melbourne.

As much as I am disappointed that I couldn't use the financial support generously given by ICPA NT to attend events in Melbourne in 2020; my laptop has helped immensely with the completion of university study and moving into commerce will mean the extra processing power will come in handy.

This past 18 months has been a journey that I would never have expected when I typed my application in the distant past of January 2020, but, through the tribulations, I have been given new perspective, new direction and a new compulsion to sanitise regularly.

I think we've all been given our fill of the unexpected for a few years, so here's hoping for a touch of stability from now on.

Philip Sullivan



RED FROGS AUSTRALIA

Red Frogs Australia - Best Friends since '97

It all started in 1997 when Red Frogs Australia founder Andy Gourley (then youth pastor at Citipointe Church) hit Schoolies Week on the Gold Coast with his skateboarding mates and realised the need for a designated sober person at the massive drinking parties.

Andy recognised that the culture of young people in Australia is hugely dominated by alcohol, and that excessive consumption of alcohol and other substances can lead to dangerous, and sometimes, life-altering behaviours.

These young people needed a sober best friend to take care of them!

With a team of 17 volunteers wearing t-shirts screen printed with 'Hotel Chaplaincy', Andy hit the Gold Coast. They started door-knocking every hotel room and looking after the school leavers who had passed out from intoxication or cooking pancakes for those who hadn't eaten that day.

Many schoolies were sceptical and closed the door in their faces - until they

discovered the magic of a small red lolly. The team grabbed a bag of Allens 'Frogs Alive' red frog lollies from a corner store, and became fondly known thereafter as The Red Frog Crew.

But Red Frogs aren't just at Schoolies Week on the Gold Coast anymore, now they are a national support program for young people from the ages of 13 – 30.

The mission to 'safeguard a generation' has expanded to providing a positive peer presence in alcohol-fuelled environments where young people gather; educating young people on safe partying behaviours; and promoting alcohol-free and/or diversionary activities that engage young people in these environments.

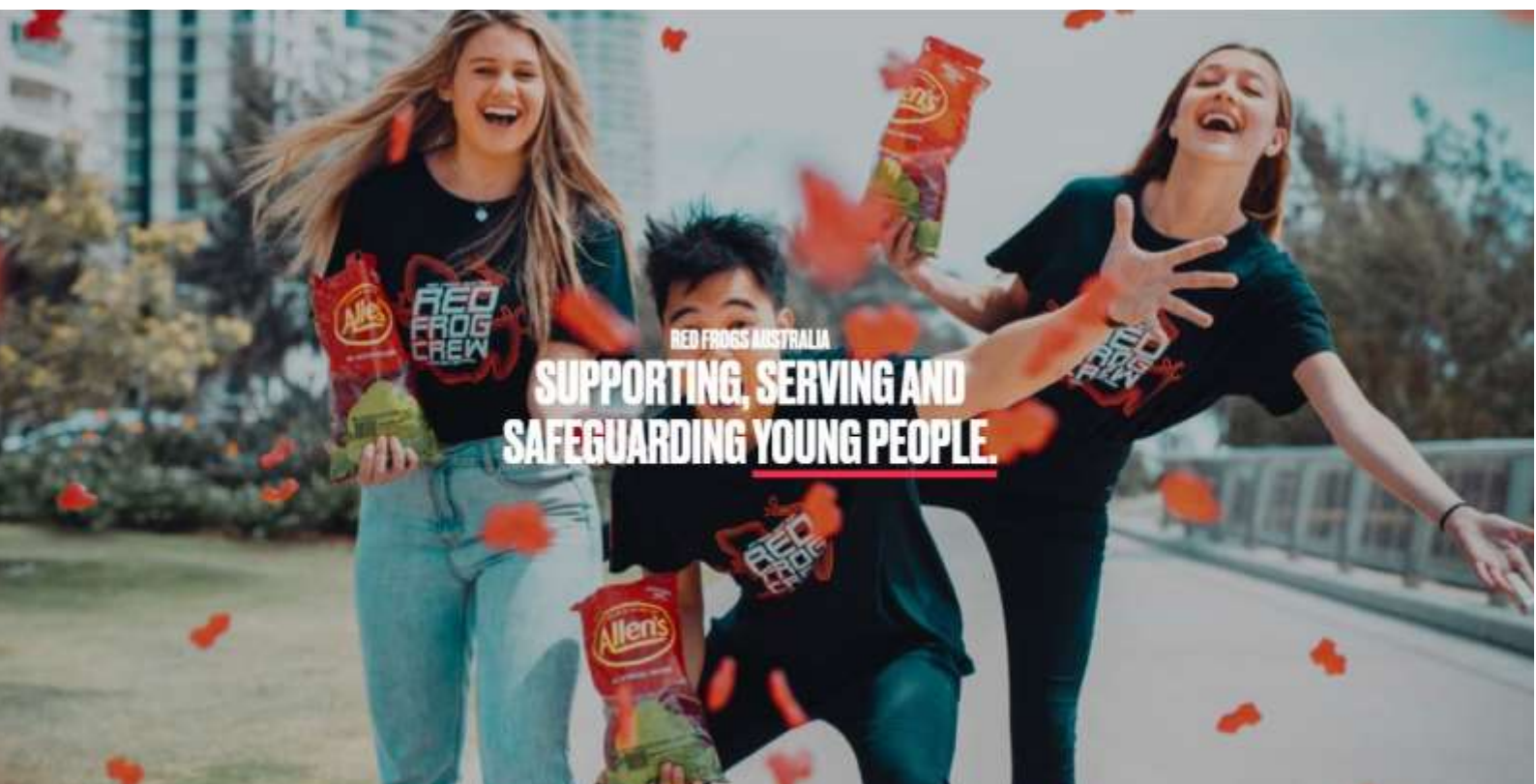
The Red Frog Support Network now spans right across Australia through the work of over 3500 volunteers

encompassing high school education talks, university student support on campus and student residences, youth mentorship at skate parks and crowd welfare at sporting events and music festivals.

What does that mean for parents? Peace of mind!

The Red Frog volunteers are the eyes and ears on the ground, watching over your young people in their moment of need. They are the fence at the top of the cliff, rather than the ambulance at the bottom. They strive to make sure every young person comes home safe from whatever party event they might be at. They are angels in red and black.

Right now, you can become a 'Friend of the Frog' for just \$10 a month and help the Red Frogs continue their life-saving work in safeguarding a generation. If you'd like more information about Red Frogs, or would like to support the work of their volunteers, you can head to www.redfrogs.com.au



SIBA SHIPS - WELLARD RURAL EXPORTS “BRIDGING THE GAP” GRANT | SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT 2021

Philip Sullivan

For my entire life, my family has been geographically isolated.

From services, sports, socialisation, surgery, the sea and, of course, education (doesn't start with 's', much to my disappointment), we have always had to struggle to access these services many urban denizens take as a given.

Travelling hours from our remote cattle station to play sports, boarding at a school that seemed closer to the moon than to home, and quickly popping up to the GP five hours away were experiences we considered normal but, for the uninitiated, were markers of the tribulations many, if not all, remote families must undergo.

It was only in 2020, however, that I truly comprehended the distance between civilisation and home.

I travelled to university, 3300km away, and found myself trapped there by a long and painful lockdown, with family feeling unfathomably far from reach. Borders were closed, and the costs of mid-pandemic flights, along with quarantine and the further 400km of driving, were untenable.

I am not oblivious to the irony of being isolated while living in one of Australia's most populous cities, but I have never felt as imprisoned by the geographical boundaries of home than during that lockdown.

In the end, unfortunate circumstances forced my hand and I had to endure the costs of returning home.

Continuing my studies now, I am hyperaware that due to the distances I must travel to study, and thus to return home, if borders are closed, the challenge of geographical isolation once more rears its ugly head.

My mother has been an active member of ICPA in the NT since joining our local branch. She has been a relentless advocate for equitable access to both education as well as personal development programs for rural and remote youth.

Her and ICPA's work has encouraged my siblings and I to pursue our ambitions regardless of geographical disadvantages, as well as allowing us to rekindle our desire to remain in the country we were raised on, as more and



more opportunities become accessible from our remote location.

As my city of study slowly returns to normality, some of the multitude of opportunities I could not access last year are becoming available. As one of the most difficult costs of studying away from home is the bulk costs of travel, I am planning to complete a barista course in my spare time, which is a 2-day face-to-face course at a cost of \$295.00. This will enable me to supplement my youth allowance, which does not account for large payments such as my travel costs between home and university.

Furthermore, I am planning to access the enormous arts scene in the city to develop my passion for music by taking music lessons for my banjo, as in-person banjo teachers are quite tricky to find these days, but the city has plenty, and I have found one priced at \$65.00/hour lesson. As I hope to continue learning across the rest of my course, I hope to take at least 20 lessons. Both pursuits have costs which are difficult to cover on a student's budget, and I am thus seeking assistance through the Siba Ships-Wellard Grants Program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Congratulations on your successful application Philip and good luck with your lessons!

AN ODE TO PARENTS AND ICPA IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Tanya Heaslip

Have you ever wanted to go home from boarding school so badly that your whole body ached with the intensity of your longing? Counted down the sleeps? Marked days off the calendar?

And then – when you were so close, with holidays peeking over the horizon – the unthinkable happened?

**An outside force beyond your control
smashed through those dreams,
sending them like particles of dust in
a whirly wind – scattered, gone.**

Of course, you have. Today, that outside force is called Covid. It affects bush kids at boarding school, and their parents, every time a lockdown hits around holiday time.

It happened to bush kids everywhere in the 70s, too. Back then, the external force was the 'Pilots' Strike'. An unthinkable, unprecedented scenario. In our case, pilots scheduled to fly from Adelaide to the Territory refused to fly their planes just as we were packing our cases and dreaming of northern skies.

'You'll need to prepare yourselves, girls,' said the Headmistress briskly, 'for holidays here at the school, or at billets, if we can find them.'

My sister M'Lis, friend Janie Joseland and I looked at each other in shock and disbelief. 'But we have to go home.' It was the promise that had kept us going all term, and like a horse with his nose now pointed for home, we had turned and smelt the wind and wanted only to gallop, leaning over our horse's neck, giving him his head, feeling his power thundering underneath us, and galloping our way to freedom.

**We thought we might explode with
the grief that had no words.**

It wasn't just we kids struggling with intense emotions, either. Anxiety, anger and powerlessness equally consumed our parents, 1600 km and more to the north. It happened so quickly, almost overnight, that no one was prepared and no one had any experience in how to deal with such an issue.

But we were lucky. Our mothers were a force to be reckoned with. Mum and our friend Mrs Braitling and other station parents got together over the RFDS two-way radio and worked out a plan. Dad and Mrs Braitling would fly their little Cessna planes all the way to Adelaide, nearly a full day trip, and collect us all.

'You are lucky,' said the Headmistress, lips pursed, as she loaded us into taxis heading to Parafield Airport, each of us clutching one small bag of toiletries and a purse. After the endless trip to the outskirts of Adelaide, we tumbled out to

meet other Territory kids, waiting, faces as anxious and white as ours.

**To our overwhelming relief, there,
waiting by their little planes, were
the familiar and beloved forms of
Dad and Mrs Braitling.**

We stumbled across the tarmac and into their arms. And then the planes. There were so many of us, squashed, with barely room to breathe, and we all took off into the northern skies, no doubt illegally loaded. But the joy of reconnection and flying home with Dad and Mrs Braitling was one of the most precious moments I've ever experienced.

Today, in 2020 and 2021, holidays are again swallowed by the threat of quarantine, not seeing family at all, the actuality of not being able to get home, complete with stinging of tears as kids and parents alike are swallowed up by a maelstrom beyond their control.

**Thank goodness for ICPA. This gutsy,
passionate organisation is fighting at
a state and federal level to address
this drama, to get these kids home, to
let them isolate in the bush (the
safest place in Australia), and to
minimise the uncertainty and the
risks. ICPA is doing a brilliant job
fighting at present. It's an uphill
battle, but they don't give up.**

In the 1970s, during the pilot strike, the ICPA was just a fledgling group in the Territory, but they knew the power of banding together. They were fighters for their children, Mum and Mrs Braitling and the other parents. They fought for us when we faced our own version of Covid lockdown. And they won.

ICPA has grown in strength, numbers and influence, and has never been more valuable than today. Thank you for not giving up and fighting on.

Tanya

Tanya Heaslip
Author, Lawyer,
ICPA NT Member

(photo credit
Steph Coombes)





Future leaders , futures generations and a future together is what my grandad Terry would say; let's jump into the canoe and row the river together, and we can achieve anything.

My name is Jared Baldwin and I am the owner and Director of Remote Industries, and also the chair or the local chamber of commerce and the economic growth and support working group, under the Barkly Regional Deal framework. I was fortunate enough to grow up on a cattle property in the Top End where I was home schooled by my mum through Katherine School of the Air and spent my school holidays in Arnhem Land with family. My high school years were spent boarding in Queensland, helping out on stations during my school holiday breaks.

Whilst at boarding school, I learned to play guitar, fight, received the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award and I danced in a musical; a far cry from who I am now as the concrete man of the Barkly.

Throughout high school and my younger years I played rugby league in 3 states and professionally rodeoed in 4 states as a rodeo clown - protection bullfighting. All these activities I look back on now and I am forever grateful for the opportunities given to me - I believe without these experiences I wouldn't be in the position I am today.

And as a result of my own upbringing and experiences, I will forever advocate for more opportunities for people in the Northern Territory and in the Barkly.

The Barkly has been great to me and my young family; it has supported my business, Remote Concrete, which, this year is in its tenth year, and at the end of last year became fully federally safety accredited with a fleet of over 200 items of plant.

Through hard work, some failures, and then good timing, I have been lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time for opportunities to cross my path, and I have been in a position to grab them.

Whether it has been an employment program, building bridges, roads or youth centres, or lobbying government for more services, our business is undoubtedly passionate about the Barkly and the NT as a whole, and its capacity.

We are proud of our employment records including over 150 aboriginal people; a 3 year fully funded Isolated Children's

SPOTLIGHT ON AN ICPA NT SUPPORTER

Remote Concrete NT

Parents' Association scholarship for young bush people to be involved in extra curricular activities; and support mechanisms around our local Apprentices, one of which just finished his Diesel Mechanics Apprenticeship after 15 years.

I am here today as a success story, however I see myself and my peers as the future. **We are not the success yet, we are just getting started.**



Jared and his Grandad Terry Baldwin

As mentioned, Jarred and the Remote Concrete team are big supporters of ICPA NT through the **"Remote Concrete" Access Grant** - which provides financial assistance to winning applicants aged 16-20yrs, from geographically isolated locations who are seeking to further their educational, licencing or training journey.

Eligible applicants must have their completed applications submitted to ICPA NT by 31st October 2021. Application forms can be downloaded from the ICPA NT Website by going to:

icpa.com.au/nt/icpa-nt-remote-concrete-access-grant

Remote Concrete NT is also a proud sponsor of the ICPA NT Alice Springs Branch fishing shirts - which are available for purchase. Please contact the ICPA NT Alice Springs Branch Secretary via email: secretaryasicpa@gmail.com

Thank you to
Jared and the
RCNT Team
for their
ongoing
support of
ICPA NT!



Jared Baldwin

Owner / Director Remote Industries

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ICPA Conference Lucky Number Boards

Do you remember receiving a Lucky Number Board in your ICPA Alice Springs Conference Bag?

These are a great and fun way to raise money for ICPA NT State Council. Sell the numbers to your family and friends for \$2 each. Open the hidden panel and see who the winner is! From the \$100 collected, \$50 goes to the winner and \$50 returned to ICPA NT State Council.

Thank you to all those who have participated and returned funds via electronic deposit. This is greatly appreciated. It is not too late to play and or to return funds. If you would prefer not to do an electronic transfer contact Treasurer, Moira Lanzarin, 0428474262 or your Branch Executive and we will organise another option.



For more information:

Email: nttreasurer@icpa.com.au

Moira Lanzarin – 0428 474 262

ICPA NT Council, ANZ

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IN A WORLD WHERE YOU CAN BE ANYTHING, BE KIND

ICPA NT Families showing their
support on Do It for Dolly Day

The goal of Dolly's Dream is to change cultures and behaviours to prevent bullying, by increasing understanding of the impact of bullying, anxiety, depression and youth suicide and by providing support to parents.

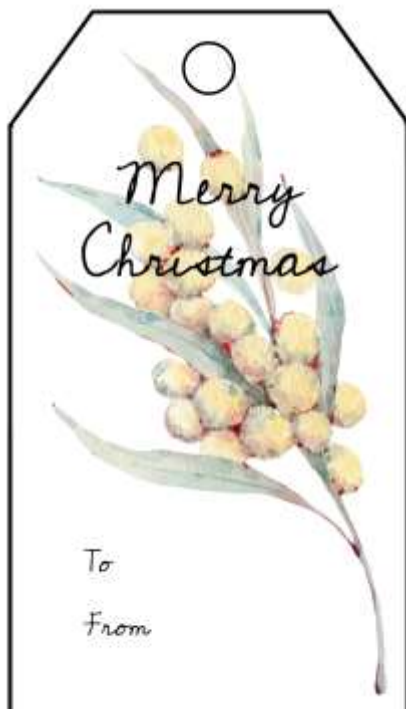
Two of many families who showed their support on Do It for Dolly Day where Henley Broad of Jervios Station with his incredible artwork, as well as Brodie and Lawson Krebs with Lucy Grant from Ambalindum Station.

An awesome show of support!



If you would like to support Dolly's Dream head to the website to donate: dollysdream.org.au

Jingle Bells...



A WORD FROM THE ICPA NT PATRON

To my friends at ICPA

WHERE HAVE THE YEARS GONE ?

My husband Craig and I count ourselves amongst the lucky ones to have had our daughter Coco attend a day school, only a few suburbs away, 11.1 kilometres to be exact, from pre-school to year 12 before she embarked on her next journey which was University for 4 years in Melbourne. The first two years boarding at Trinity College and the final two years in a share house with two other friends. The 3764 kilometres between Darwin and Melbourne were often difficult. I appreciate that I do not need to expand on these moments as I am sharing with you an all too familiar story.

Coco is our only child and the love of our lives, she has a big and multi-dimensional personality that has kept us on our toes, she thinks deeply and globally, she is entertaining, she is kind and creative and above all else, we believe she is 'the best thing since sliced bread'. We brought Coco up to be independent but when she chose Melbourne University and Trinity College, and they chose her, we were thrilled. But when the reality set in and the day came to leave her behind and return home the despair set in, the initial period of separation was confronting and overwhelming and brought back memories of my own homesickness that dogged me

for years – that is another story for another day. I suppose our life as a family was changed and would never be the same. Our beautiful daughter was kicking goals, making new friends, enjoying her 'Uni' and College life and all the trimmings a big city has to offer. I think she missed us, but not as much as we missed her. Her overall happiness certainly made us feel strong and we continued to encourage her independence and worldly approach.

There was certainly a lot of joy in our household as we counted down to school holidays, to have Coco back in Darwin with us was bliss, we cherished every moment. You probably develop a more respectful and patient relationship because your time together is so precious....

I remain so grateful for the wonderful technology we have today, the shared photos, regular iPhone calls and texts and especially the FaceTime moments have been so important and nourishing and continue to be so today.

This little insight as your Patron is solely to share some of our family's journey, I know and respect it doesn't scratch the surface of the many challenges faced by families who live remotely. I applaud all families who live in a geographically isolated part of our Northern Territory and admire your resilience and your ongoing hard work to highlight the challenges, and your stoic approach to achieve

equity for all students in all parts of our nation.

I thank Tanya Heaslip for sharing her story in her most impressive and honest book 'Beyond Alice' dedicated to her darling Mum and our Territory icon and much loved Jan Heaslip. Chapter 3 'Sink or Swim will stay with me forever. Both Tanya and Jan are the embodiment of the love and connection between a mother and a child that shines above all else in the most isolating and challenging of times.

Fast forward to 2021 and Coco has recently completed her Degree and is working full time, and yes in Melbourne. We miss her every day but are so very proud of her achievements, we are now counting the sleeps until she can take her first period of leave and be with us again in the NT. No doubt, like many of you, we hope she eventually returns home and settles in the North and brings with her the knowledge and life experiences that have shaped her across the miles.

Finally, we all live today in an unusual, unpredictable world where a pandemic creates a whole lot of uncertainty each and every day and that is tenfold for our isolated families. As you navigate your own journeys I send my very best wishes to you all in these precarious times.



Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran,
Administrator of the Northern Territory

MESSAGE

THANK YOU FOR THE REMOTE CONCRETE GRANT

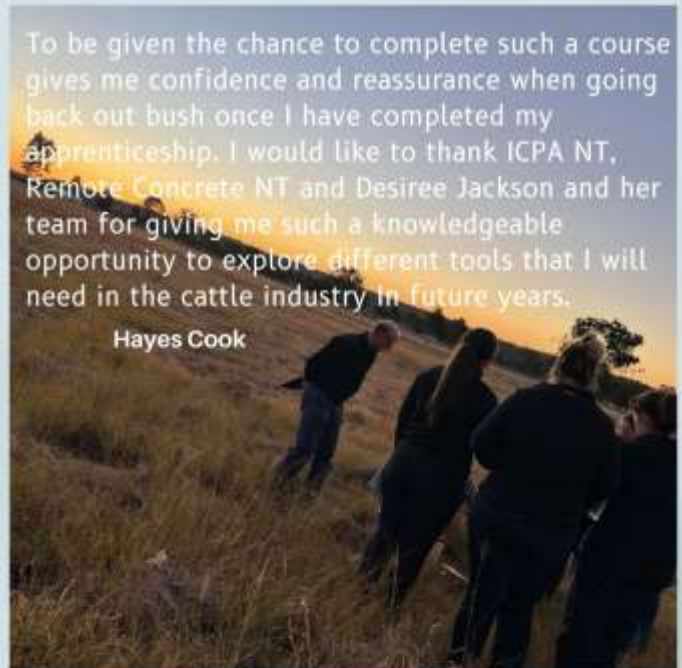


My name is Hayes Cook. I was lucky enough to win the Remote Concrete Grant in 2020, that gave the successful applicant the chance to step up and go to a workshop/course that they felt was something important to them and their education. After many months of trying to find something close, that I would be able to get the most out of for my future in the cattle industry, I chose the Nutrition EDGE 3 day workshop run by Desiree Jackson. Desiree's courses focus on livestock nutrition in the paddock and how to maintain and use your country in the best possible way. Ms Jackson does courses all over Australia and this time she decided to do one in Warwick QLD, which suited me perfectly as I am completing my boiler maker's apprenticeship in Toowoomba, only 1 hour drive from Warwick.



To be given the chance to complete such a course gives me confidence and reassurance when going back out bush once I have completed my apprenticeship. I would like to thank ICPA NT, Remote Concrete NT and Desiree Jackson and her team for giving me such a knowledgeable opportunity to explore different tools that I will need in the cattle industry in future years.

Hayes Cook



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A BIT LIKE CHRISTMAS

A Northern Territory Style Christmas...



GINGERBREAD MEN (UTE)

Ingredients:

- Melted butter, to grease
- 125g butter, at room temperature
- 100g (1/2 cup, firmly packed) brown sugar
- 125ml (1/2 cup) golden syrup
- 1 egg, separated
- 375g (2 1/2 cups) plain flour
- 1 tbsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 1 tsp Coles Bicarbonate Soda
- Plain flour, to dust

Method:

Step 1 - Preheat oven to 180°C. Brush 2 baking trays with melted butter to lightly grease.

Step 2 - Use an electric beater to beat the butter and sugar in a bowl until pale and creamy. Add the golden syrup and egg yolk and beat until combined. Stir in the flour, ginger, mixed spice and bicarbonate of soda. Turn onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth. Press dough into a disc. Cover with plastic wrap and place in the fridge for 30 minutes to rest.

Step 3 - Place the dough between 2 sheets of baking paper and roll out until about 4mm thick. Use a knife and a template to cut out shapes to put together to make your Ute and animals (or you could use cookie cutters in the shapes of the animals). Place on trays about 3cm apart. Repeat with any excess dough.

Step 4 - Bake in oven for 10 minutes or until brown. Remove from oven. Transfer to a rack to cool.

Source: <https://www.taste.com.au/recipes/gingerbread-men/3a04ab1d-a84a-424f-800a-7ebcbe92fa09>

Be sure to take some pictures and share your creations with DTT!

Leading in to the Festive Season we thought we'd give you an idea for a 'Territory Style' Ginger Bread display that you can make and build with the kids.

We've all seen a Ginger Bread House, but what about a Ginger Bread Ute, complete with some Native Australian animals in the tray?

Here are a couple of recipes we found on Taste.com.au that we have adapted for making your own Gingerbread Utes and Animals, along with some Royal Icing for the decorating. Enjoy!

NOTE: If you would like some templates to use when cutting out the shapes for the ute, please email Annika on dt@icpa.com.au and I'll send you some printable templates.

ROYAL ICING

Ingredients:

- 1 egg white
- 1/2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 1/2 cups pure icing sugar, sifted (see note)

Method:

Step 1 - Lightly whisk egg white and lemon juice together in a bowl. Gradually add icing sugar, whisking until smooth and combined.

Step 2 - Divide in to separate bowls and add a drop of food colouring (increasing the amount according to the colour you desire - but do NOT add too much as this can make the mixture too runny. If this does happen add more icing sugar).

Step 3 - Spoon in to a piping bag, or alternatively a small plastic bag snipping a small piece of a corner off and go ahead a decorate your Ute and animals!

NOTE: You may need a little more icing sugar if piping icing so it will continue to hold its shape.

Source: <https://www.taste.com.au/recipes/royal-icing-2/6ba3f657-41a8-49ee-b251-22346bac2b64>



STATE CONFERENCE

40th anniversary | 9 March 2022

*You are invited to join State Council in paying
tribute to 40 years of*

ICPA advocacy in the Northern Territory



Life Member nominations

The 40th Anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge dedicated ICPA members with State Life Membership.

Motions: due 11 Jan. 22

Branches put motions to conference, recommending or requesting State Council to take a particular course of action. 'Carried motions' form State Council policy. State Council advocates on that policy.

This means, Branches tell State Council what needs improving, changing, or introducing.

The explanation tells State Council why you are asking for this motion, 'what is happening on the ground', so anyone reading the motion can understand the issue and reason for the motion. ICPA NT advocates for equity in education for rural and remote students.

Do you have the tools, processes, programs and support necessary to access a fair deal to education where you live?

If you have a request to improve equity and access to education in rural & remote NT, submit a motion through your branch

by 11 Jan 2022.



ICPA NT KATHERINE BRANCH

This years Biggest Morning Tea, in memory of Carol Armstrong, was held as a luncheon before the July general meeting.

Members grazed on a selection of chicken, ham, salad and cheese platters followed by muffins and sweet slices to enjoy with a cuppa.

Donations made on the day and online totalled \$130.

During our meeting, attending members moved to make a \$500 donation from the Katherine Branch.

Thanks to all that donated to this important cause.

All donations go direct to the Cancer Council of Australia.

Well done Katherine Branch

Our Biggest Morning Tea is held every year in memory of Carol Armstrong, a dedicated and active member of ICPA Katherine Branch, who passed away in 2000 due to cancer.

Carol lived on Gilnockie Station, Sturt Plateau region, raising three children and educating them through KSA.

She was well known for her cheerful personality and fun sense of humour.

EVERY CUPPA MAKES A DIFFERENCE

 <p>\$150</p> <p><small>provides transport and overnight stay at a local Cancer Council Lodge for people who need to travel for vital cancer treatment.</small></p>	 <p>\$510</p> <p><small>helps provide training to leaders of cancer support groups so they can offer emotional and practical support to those projected by cancer.</small></p>	 <p>\$1000</p> <p><small>helps develop a blood test to monitor a patient's individual response to cancer treatment.</small></p>
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**Pre-register to host a
Biggest Morning Tea
in 2022!**

biggestmorningtea.com.au

NEWEST MEMBER TO DELMORE
DOWNS STATION CREW

Welcome
Charlie Maxwell Vickers

8/6/21 7pd 7oz







OUR
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MAKE IT
EASIER

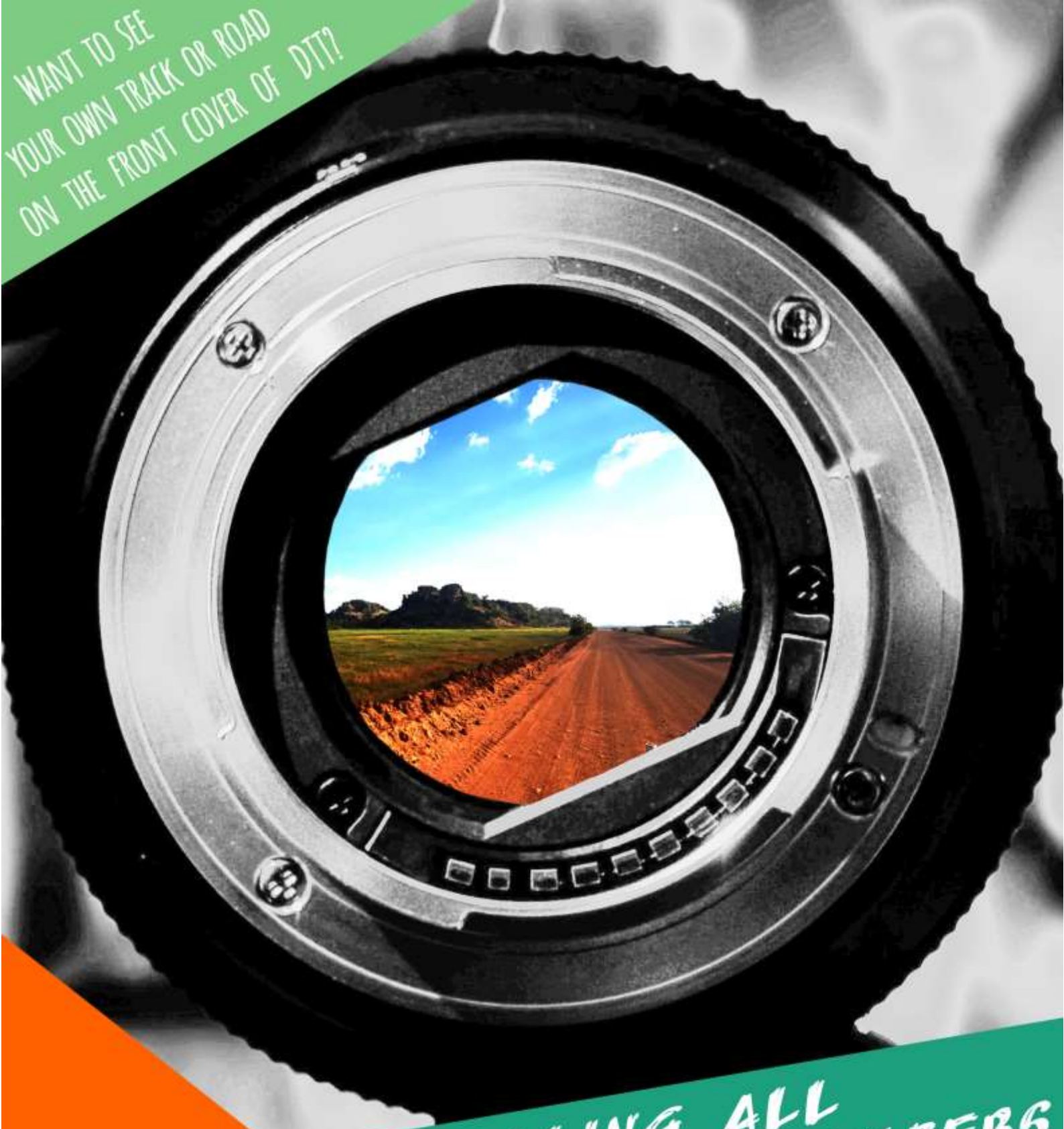


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WANT TO SEE
YOUR OWN TRACK OR ROAD
ON THE FRONT COVER OF DTT?



SPECIFICATIONS

JPEG Format

4MB minimum resolution

Submit via email to dttdt@icpa.com.au

**CALLING ALL
ICPA NT MEMBERS**

As the people who
travel them daily we would
love to see YOUR photos of YOUR roads and
tracks on the front cover of Down the Track

So get snapping and send in your photos
to get your own personalised DTT!

PLEASE NOTE: By submitting an image for use you give ICPA NT and Down the Track Magazine the right to use said image for the front cover of the Magazine with Photo Credit mention to you as the photographer.



Isolated Children's Parents' Association

NORTHERN TERRITORY MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2022

DUE - JANUARY 1ST EACH YEAR.

Please ensure payment is received by March 31st 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 2022.

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.

ALICE SPRINGS

Treasurer: Kelli McLaughlin

Tennant Creek Station
Via
Tennant Creek NT 0861
Ph: 0400 267 587
E: Treasurer.alicesprings.icpa@gmail.com

Westpac
BSB: 035 303
Acct#: 510446

KATHERINE

Treasurer: Fiona McDonald

PMB 38
Katherine NT 0852
M: 0408 520 452
E: icpakathtreasurer@gmail.com

ANZ
BSB: 015 884
Acct#: 410 247 444

TERRITORY WIDE MEMBERS

Treasurer: Moira Lanzarin

Coodardie Station
PO Box 4101
Mataranka NT 0852
Ph: 0428 474 262
E: nttreasurer@icpa.com.au

ANZ
BSB: 015 884
Acct#: 264 118 512

BRANCH:

TITLE: FIRST NAME : SURNAME:

ADDRESS:

PH: EMAIL:

Please advise your Branch Secretary and Treasurer of your change of postal or email address

Your children's details

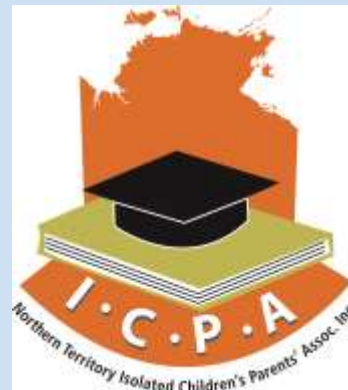
(this information is retained by the Branch and State Council Treasurers and Secretaries and used for Grant qualifications and advocacy purposes)

Names (of Children)	Age (turning in 2022)	Year Level (in 2022)	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 ✓

ALICE SPRINGS BRANCH	TERRITORY WIDE BRANCH	KATHERINE BRANCH
<p>PRESIDENT Lisa Kimlin Murray Downs Station PMB 173 Alice Springs NT 0872 0889641958 0438897736 President.as.icpa@gmail.com</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENT Danyelle Haigh 43 Hoeys Road Spring Creek QLD 4361 0405 001 825 contact@murranswaterdrilling.com.au</p> <p>SECRETARY Candice Krebs Ambalindum Station PMB 165 Alice Springs NT 0872 0428 133 212 secretaryasicpa@gmail.com</p> <p>TREASURER Kelli McLaughlin Tennant Creek Station Via Tennant Creek NT 0861 0400 267 587 treasurer.alicesprings.icpa@gmail.com</p> <p>PUBLIC OFFICER Ley Kunothe PO Box 2680 Alice Springs NT 0871 0889569171 0488410148 leykunothe@live.com.au</p> <p>PUBLICITY OFFICER Katy Hayes Arckaringa Station PMB 4 Cooper Pedy SA 5723 08 86707992 katyh2811@hotmail.com</p> <p>GRANTS OFFICER Benjamin Quilliam PO Box 6 Gillen NT 0870 0400 562 127 benjamin.quilliam@ns.uca.org.au</p> <p>COMMITTEE MEMBERS Kiya Gill Mary Bayly Rebecca Zadow</p> <p>ALICE SPRINGS BRANCH LIFE MEMBERS Denise Broad Bev Seidel Liz Bird</p>	<p>TERRITORY WIDE MEMBER OFFICER Moira Lanzarin Coodardie Station PO Box 4101 Mataranka NT 0852 0428 474 262 NTTreasurer@icpa.com.au</p> <p>ICPA NT TERRITORY WIDE MEMBERS 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 above.</p>  <p>BARKLY BRANCH LIFE MEMBERS Wendy Ohlsen Carmel Wagstaff Robyn Peatling</p>	<p>PRESIDENT Kerrie Scott Mountain Valley Station, PMB 124 Katherine NT 0852 08 8975 4064 icpa.kscott@gmail.com</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENT Julie Richter VRD Station, PMB 19 Katherine NT 0852 08 8975 0795 vrd@heytesburycattleco.com.au</p> <p>SECRETARY Katie Payne PO Box 1316 Katherine NT 0852 0417 925 629 katie.andy@bigpond.com</p> <p>TREASURER & PUBLIC OFFICER Fiona McDonald PMB 38 Katherine NT 0852 0408520452 icpakathtreasurer@gmail.com</p> <p>PUBLICITY OFFICER & SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER Amanda Murphy Carpentaria Downs PMB 77 Katherine NT 0852 nt.icpa.publicity@gmail.com</p> <p>GRANTS OFFICER Helen Harding Gorrie Station RSD 1953 Katherine NT 0852 08 89759965 Fax: 08 8975 9906 ntfso@icpa.com.au</p> <p>FUNDRAISING OFFICER Julie Richter</p> <p>COMMITTEE MEMBERS Lisa Dyer Lauren Hoar Emma Brown Bianca Brown Sally Dyer</p> <p>KATHERINE BRANCH LIFE MEMBERS Helen Harding Sally Sullivan Ros Andrews Jackie Harvey Merriel Lawrie Martha Swart Patricia Elliott Royelene Hill Janelle and Blue Pugh</p>

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