

"Advocating for Rural and Remote Education"

THE PIPELINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION - SA

WINTER 2025

Edition 107

**“In a world where you can
be anything, be kind.”**

CLaire Pooley



Waylon, Memphis, Eli Cuffe and governess Tiarn Partridge don blue for Do it for Dolly Day 2025.



From the President

It hard to believe that it is already June and that we are almost heading into the second half of 2025. It has been a busy time for members across the state, especially for those who have been supporting their children navigate the beginning of the school year. It has been lovely to hear about all the first days, new schools, fun catch

ups and amazing achievements that our families have been sharing and as always SA ICPA are proud of every one of them and the incredible way they tackle all that faces them.

As usual the first half of the year is always focused on State Conference planning and then following through with the process of actioning motions with letters, delegations and advocacy. The 2025 State Conference held in Port Augusta and hosted by the Flinders Ranges branch was a great success. We were very fortunate to hear from Isabella Slade and Jessica Stenson as our inspiring guest speakers and were witness the most motions presented in many years, which were debated in a passionate and respectful manner. It was also very exciting to have the Minister for Education, Training and Skills, Blair Boyer attend for a portion of the day and get the opportunity to see the way ICPA supports and advocates for its member's needs. A big thank you to convenors Michelle Hilder and Lisa Slade and all the helpers from the Flinders Ranges branch for organising what was an excellent State Conference.

Since conference, state councillors have been working on drafting motion letters and gathering case studies ready to send to the appropriate parties. The letters were sent 2 weeks ago, and we have already started to see some responses to those letters trickle in, which contain positive indications that SA ICPA and its members tireless advocacy is paying off. You can read about these responses and other developments in the portfolio report contained in this edition of the Pipeline. Delegation will be at the end of June, so keep an eye out on our socials for news of how that went and as always, we welcome case studies that we can take to the ministers and government departments, that support any of our advocacy for the year.

It isn't long until the 54th Annual Federal Conference which is being hosted by the SA ICPA State Council and being held at the EOS by SkyCity in Adelaide on the 30th and 31st of July. We would love to see as many SA members as possible attend, especially those who have never had the chance to attend a federal conference before. It is a great way to spend time and connect with other members from across the country. If you think you would like to attend but are unsure how to go about it, please contact someone from state council or get in touch with the Federal Convening team. Now that winter is well and truly upon us, I hope that you will all be able to spend a while reading through this bumper edition of The Pipeline. We are so fortunate that members take the time to share the achievements of their children and events in their communities. Enjoying the Pipeline and its contents with a hot cuppa by the fire is a great way to stay connected with your fellow members and keep up with what is happening across the state. It would be even better if you are reading it while listening to some rain on the roof! Take care and I hope to see many of you in Adelaide in July.

Belinda

From the Editor

After Autumn, Winter is my second favourite season. June has finally brought some rain to the Flinders Ranges. These soft falls have somewhat settled the dust and provide hope for more to come and improve conditions on the land. Many of our members have had to contend with extreme weather conditions over the last six months that ranged from flooding rain to drought. All while trying to address the needs

of their families including the ongoing pursuit of accessing affordable, equitable, and quality education.

This year sees the ICPA Federal Conference being held in Adelaide at the SkyCity ballroom on Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st July. This is a great opportunity to showcase our members' lifestyles and the types of assistance needed to support equitable education. Additionally, if you have never attended a federal conference, the Adelaide located conference provides an affordable chance to join fellow members, observe procedures, gain a wider perspective of the issues faced by ICPA as a whole, and meet some new friends along the way.

I really hope to see you there! Until then, I wish you abundance to sustain your livelihoods and swell your hearts.

Mija



THE PIPELINE

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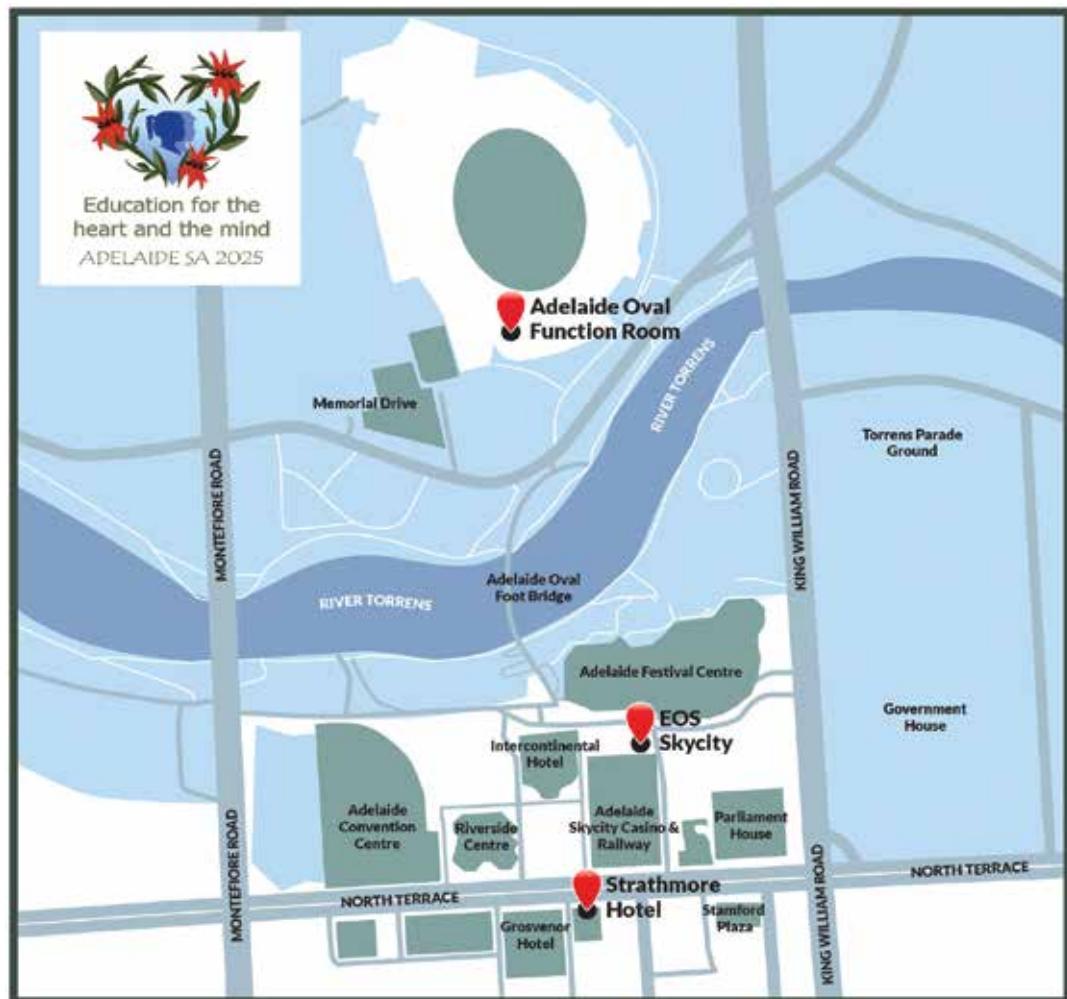
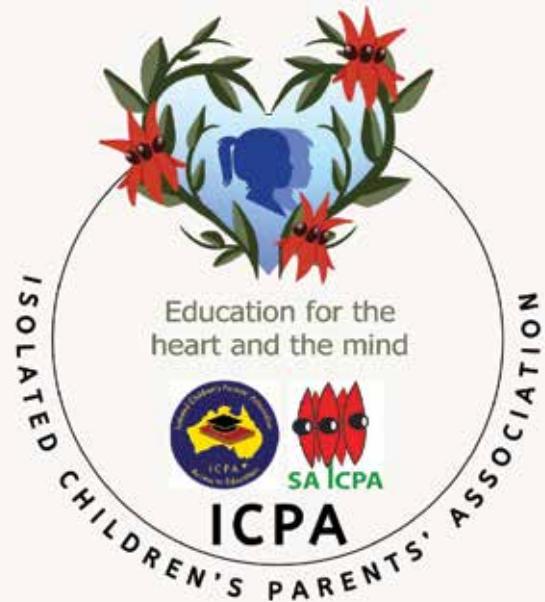
REGISTER NOW!

ICPA FEDERAL CONFERENCE, 30th - 31st JULY 2025, ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

By Mija Reynolds and Edwina Bowie, co-convenors.

ICPA Australia's 54th Annual Conference will be held in Adelaide, at Eos by SkyCity in their spectacular Ballroom on 30-31 July 2025 celebrating the successes and achievements of so many over the past 54 years to ensure our rural and remote children have access to equitable educational opportunities regardless of where they live. Hosted by the South Australian State Council and with the theme of Education for the Heart and Mind, our annual conference will be attended by branch delegates, Federal Ministers, Departmental representatives and other organisations and guests. The conference provides an opportunity for members to gather to share their stories and concerns, receive support and advice and celebrate the successes of this great organisation. Join us on Tuesday afternoon, 29 July for the Conference Procedures Workshop, followed by registrations and the pre-conference gathering up at Sol Rooftop Bar Eos SkyCity. Conference Wednesday and Thursday 30-31 July in the Ballroom of Eos SkyCity Adelaide. Celebrate a Winter Wonderland at the Adelaide Oval for our themed conference dinner on Wednesday evening 30 July. Let down your hair and catch up with new friends and old post conference at the Strathmore Hotel on Thursday evening 31 July. Don't forget our partner tours either. Check out the website for more details plus discount links for nearby hotel accommodation. Supplementary Motions are due to

the Federal Secretary by midnight 15 July 2025. For Conference queries and questions please contact the Conference Convenors, Edwina Bowie (convenor25edwina@gmail.com) and Mija Reynolds (convenor25mija@gmail.com). Conference Sponsorship queries to be directed to Kirsty Williams (federalconfsponsor@gmail.com) and Conference Registration queries and adjustments to Michelle Hilder (25confrego@gmail.com) and Pamela Cuffe 0429 865 051.



2025 ICPA FEDERAL

ADELAIDE - July 30th and 31st 2025

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Flinders Ranges Branch News

There might not be much rain about and things looking very dry around our branch but there's been plenty happening with our kids.

Some congratulations are in order for some of our tertiary students.

On the 22nd April, Henry Slade attended his graduation ceremony at Uni SA in Thebarton with a Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours). Congratulations Henry!

After 3 years studying, Jessica Fels graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences at the end of 2024 and was presented with her degree at a graduation ceremony in early May. Since January, Jessica has been working for Signature Beef in Central Queensland undertaking a beef supply chain graduate program. Congratulations Jessica!

Congratulations to Allen and Sharon McInnis who welcomed their first grandchild, Ellie Jean Thiel on 28th February 2025. Ellie is the daughter of Chloe (nee McInnis) and Travis Thiel.

Angus McInnis & Will DuBois had a busy cricket season.

Angus, in addition to playing for the Quorn Under 16 team has also played for Northern Districts in the SACA Premier Cricket Competition. They got through to the grand final but unfortunately lost to Adelaide Cricket Club.

Will & Angus won a Premiership playing for the Quorn Cricket Club Under 16 team and also represented Upper North at the SACA Country Cup Representative Carnival in January.

Ollie DuBois played in the Quorn Cricket Club Under 13 Grand Final but unfortunately lost to Central Augusta in a tight finish.

Well done boys and your parents who got you to your games!!

Charlie Hatcher, James McInnis & Corey Hilder won a B Grade premiership with the Quorn Cricket Club. Congratulations boys and special mention to Charlie Hatcher who had a season, winning the Quorn Cricket Club B Grade Bowling Aggregate, Bowling Average and Batting Aggregate trophies at the end of season presentations. Well done Charlie!

Josh Hilder & Henry Slade won a Premiership playing for the Pekina Cricket Club in the Northern Areas Cricket Association A



Philip & Sonya Fels with their daughter, Jessica.



Keith & Lisa Slade with their son, Henry.

Grade. Pekina won the premiership against Burra at a very dry Booleroo Centre oval. Riley Ridsdale won another premiership with the Copley Cricket Club in the North Flinders Cricket Association in March, beating the Quorn Bush Kernels at the Quorn Oval.

Riley was also selected to represent the Northern Areas Football League Under 17's, playing in the Nutrien Cup on Saturday 7th June. Riley & his team mates were coached by fellow branch member, Keith Slade. While they didn't get the result they were chasing they did very well in very wet and windy conditions that they don't experience often!

Congratulations to Ben Rasheed, selected in the state 12 & Under AFL team. Ben will travel to Queensland to play at the Australian Football Championships.

Milla Ridsdale has been selected to represent the North Eastern SAPSASA Netball team in June and will travel to Adelaide to play in the State carnival.

We wish them both well!

James Reynolds has settled into year 7, boarding at PAC and has received an award for academic excellence in English for Term 1, 2025.

Good luck to all our children participating in sporting and other academic achievements, we're so proud of you all!

On Saturday, 31st May our branch held our major fundraiser at the Hawker Races providing the BBQ and selling cheese platters to the hungry crowd.

The track was ready, plenty of punters and people out and the weather beautiful for a great day at the races.

BBQ plates were hot and cooking early. By late morning we were flat out serving and it didn't ease off until late afternoon.

Cheese platters at the wine stand were once again a hit. With the weather so fine, who wouldn't want a glass of wine along with the delicious selection of cheese & biscuits available, all sold out by the end of the day. Thank you so much to those that lead this effort – to Sonya Fels & Sharon McInnis who organise the BBQ and Cheese platters and to all our helpers once again for a successful day. Those who volunteer their time to help, either before the day with setting up and preparing or on the day cooking the BBQ and serving the public, we couldn't do it without you all! A special mention to the 3 Elders blokes that helped get the BBQ on the go and stayed cooking all day, Paul Noble, Gilbert Murcott & Billy, so appreciated. Also thank you to Linda & Kel Haydon for taking the reins on the day.

A good day had by all, crucial to our fund-raising efforts. Well done to all involved.

Jo Ridsdale

Flinders Ranges Branch News



Angus McInnis in the Northern Districts team for the SACA Premier Cricket competition.



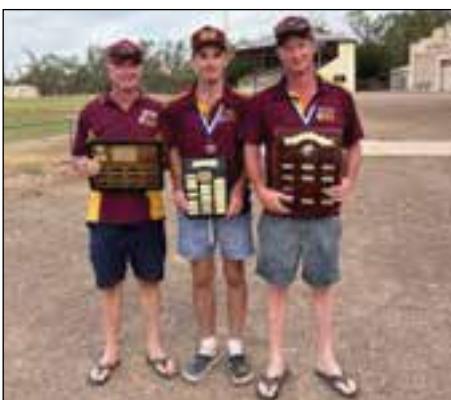
Dan Rasheed was selected to represent the Northern Areas Football League Under 15's, playing in the Central Zone carnival. Additionally, Dan was named NAFA's best player for the day.



Charlie Hatcher with his medal haul following a very successful season with the Quorn Cricket Club.



Will DuBois and Angus McInnis after winning the Under 16 premiership for the Quorn Cricket Club.



Riley Ridsdale pictured with his Grandfather Paul and Uncle Tyson, 3 generations to play for the Copley Cricket Club



Denis & Josh Hilder following Josh's premiership win with the Pekina Cricket Club.



James Reynolds with his grandmother Noreen Pardoe, received an academic award for Year 7 English at PAC.



James & Angus McInnis, with their B Grade and U16 premiership shields for Quorn Cricket Club.



The Signature Beef Judging (Jessica, 2nd from left) at the Intercollegiate Meat Judging (ICMJ) Northern Conference in Rockhampton in April.

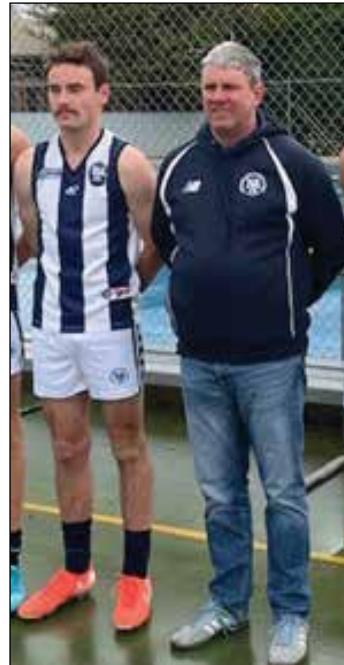
Flinders Ranges Branch News



Emily Murphy and Taylor McInnis serving Cheese Platters at the Hawker Races.



Matt Reynolds cooking the BBQ at the Hawker Races.



Riley Ridsdale and Keith Slade.



Philip Fels, Linda Haydon, Annette Hill & Deb Solly serving the BBQ late in the afternoon.



Will DuBois & Angus McInnis, representing Upper North at the SACA Country Cup.



Travis, Chloe & Ellie Thiel.



Charlie Hatcher, James McInnis & Corey Hilder with the shield following their premiership win.

Marla Oodnadatta Branch News

The Marla Oodnadatta Branch has had another busy and social start to the first half of the year.

The district welcomed a good drop of rain in March putting a spring in the cows' steps.

Here at Anna Creek some of the country is getting dry but there are some fantastic areas where the rain has fallen. The calves are springing up and kicking out as the cradle is lifted for another season.

Lake Eyre is filling and anticipated to rise to record levels.

Tourists are trekking up and down the Oodnadatta Track and the chatter on the two-way radio is at full noise! The township of William Creek is alive with welcome visitors.

Our thoughts go out to our members who are suffering in drought areas and our QLD friends affected by the flood waters.

The first social event of the season, the annual Cricket Match, saw Stations and the Oodnadatta township coming together on the 1st of March for some friendly rivalry. It was a scorcher of a day with the temperature peaking in the mid-forties.

A 20 over match, the Stations Team batted first. After slowly catching up, the Town Team took home the win in the last few overs. Then it was on to The Pink Roadhouse for a wind down, cool down and catch up. All were fed and watered well thanks to Joe and Jess at The Pink Roadhouse. A fantastic day and night had by all. We all flocked to the William Creek Gymkhana & Motokhana on the 15th of March. Another scorcher of a day made pleasant by community friendships and some fantastic overhead water misters!

It was great to see so many kids having a go and compete with such enthusiasm and confidence.

Our branch members Kirsty Williams, Hollie Williams, Dani Chapman and Helen Williams attended the State Conference in Port Augusta in March. They all came home inspired after a great day of motions, and hearing from the SA Minister for Education Mr Blair Boyer, listening to guest speaker Olympic marathon runner Jess Stenson and the opening Speaker Dr Isabella Slade.

We congratulate Dani Chapman who has taken on the State Secretary position, Kirsty Williams who is continuing as State Vice President, and many thanks to Hol-



Helen Williams and Dani Chapman on secretarial duties at the Oodnadatta Gymkhana.

lie Williams who has completed a term as State Secretary.

The SA Arid Lands Landscape Board hosted a day in Oodnadatta on the 5th of April. A family fun day with a Port Adelaide Football Club kids clinic, a walking tour and propagation session, yoga and kids crafts. Thank you to all for organising.

On ANZAC day we gathered in William Creek for the ANZAC Day dawn service hosted by the William Creek Hotel to raise the flag pay our respects.

The Oodnadatta Gymkhana and Motokhana took place on the 14th of May. Another fantastic event full of serious competition and a lot of fun. The kid's confidence muscles once again flexed. Perfect weather too. Many a laugh was had both on the day and on the dance floor that night!

Ski for Life Vice President Bo Dearlove and guest speaker Mary O'Brien (Are you Bogged Mate?) journeyed to William Creek on May 30th for a very enlightening Men's Mental Health Information Session. Bo and Mary spoke about depression and suicide and the help that is available via charities like Are you Bogged Mate and Ski for Life. We thank the Ski for Life organisation for enabling Mary to travel down from Queensland, and for their efforts towards suicide awareness and prevention.

Mary's talk was followed by dinner and a very entertaining Quiz night which got our brains working hard. Everyone had an absolute ball.

This event was made possible by PIRSA's Connecting Communities Events Grant- a heartfelt thank you to PIRSA.

On a final note, I would like to acknowledge all the bush kids who packed up and headed to boarding school at the start of this school year. Your resilience and positive attitudes are a credit to you all.

District events approaching:
Oodnadatta's 40th Bronco Branding weekend to be held on the 12th of July, and William Creek's Bronco Branding & Campdraft on 16th of August.



Lucy Williams at the front of her Boarding House.

Marla Oodnadatta Branch News



Gracie, Olivia & Bonnie Williams with the Port Adelaide Football club players.



Stations V's Oodnadatta, cricket teams come together.



A full house at William Creek for the Information and Quiz Night.



Harvey, Logan & Magenta Williams with Jacob, Lachie & Clem Keogh catching up at Dream World.



HISTORY MADE IN 2025!

A special shout out and huge congratulations to 18-year-old Harvey Williams from Nilpinna Station for taking out the mono-comp at the 2025 Oodnadatta Gymkhana/Motokhana! Harvey completed more than 2.5km on one wheel around the entire track and came back down the home straight for a second time. An achievement that has never been seen before at Oodnadatta. What a ride!

Marla Oodnadatta Branch News



PJ Vermeulen at Burra enjoying the Ag Program.



Magenta and Lucy Ridsdale in Ag Class. The class have raised 30 laying hens.



Beau Fennell racing towards the finish line at William Creek.



Trent Coleman, Louise Kohler and their children Emmett, Asha and Drew enjoyed family time in Tasmania seeing the sights.



The Quiz Champions of the night Team "Hawker Hurricanes" consisted of Col Greenfield, Trevor Williams, Helen Williams, Jill Greenfield, Bo Dearlove, Mary O'Brien and a couple of tourists from Western Australia.



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Marree Air Branch News

First Time Boarder

Sending your child to boarding school at a young age can be both an exciting and challenging experience. Many great pieces have been written over the years about children starting at boarding school, but I don't think much can prepare for the emotional journey that children and parents go through. It must be experienced to be fully understood.

Our eldest, Sydney, has started year 7 at boarding school in Adelaide this year, and while it opens the floodgates of many emotions, there have been so many wonderful things that I'm sure will make it all worthwhile in the long run.

Sport has been a highlight. At Sydney's age you can see a yearning for friends and team sports, and it has certainly helped with the transition.

Certainly, there is a huge learning curve in building independence, taking care of their own time and personal responsibilities as they navigate their life away from home. This does build self-esteem as they improve their skills.

We are still learning strategies to cope with the inevitable waves of homesickness and overwhelm, but our rural and remote kids are resilient and so loved.

What an amazing family we have within the ICPA that so many parents and past students are keen to help share their experiences and always be ready to reach out with help and advice!

Kate Litchfield

Copley Quiz Night

On Friday the 23rd May, the Copley Progress Association held a community quiz night at the Copley Hall. A total of nine teams registered and fought out over rounds which included history, sport, local knowledge and music for a chance to win the first prize.

The winners were 'In It To Quiz It', made up of teachers from Leigh Creek Area School, followed by 'The Blow In's', a group who are currently in the area restoring and renovating the Copley Church, and third was 'KFC- Kids From Copley', a team of local station workers and contractors.

The night also included a raffle and hotly contested game of quoits. Kids were engaged in a colouring-in competition and floor activities throughout the night.

Tea was provided by Copley local Helen McLeod who spoiled the participants with delicious pizzas. The Copley Progress Association hope to continue to hold community events throughout the year.

Farina Underground Bakery Re-Opening

The Farina Bakery at the historic town has reopened for winter 2025. The most remote underground bakery fired up its ovens on the 23rd May and will remain open until the 20th July. The bakery is run by the Farina Restoration Group, made up of volunteers from all over Australia. Each year the group works on restoring pieces of the deserted town as well as opening the bakery for travelers. This year the group plans to restore a diesel loco and build a shed to protect it. In 2025 a whopping 12,000 visitors made a stop at the bakery and this year, with Kati Thanda- Lake Eyre filling, it will likely welcome even more. If you are traveling the Oodnadatta Track in the near future, be sure to call in and check out the Farina Ruins and indulge in some baked goods!

Marree Gymkhana and Motorkhana

The Marree Sports Club hosted their annual gymkhana and motorkhana over the June Kings Birthday long weekend. The venue welcomed over 250 people through the gates over the weekend which included participants, avid gymkhana and motorkhana spectators and curious tourists passing through the area. Friday night

welcomed a new event, a stockman's challenge, held under lights. Competitors put their horsemanship and horse's abilities to the test by completing an array of maneuvers and obstacles in the course. The junior division was won by Pippa Reynolds on Diva with 55.5 points followed by Reeva Reynolds on Star with 54 points, both from North Moolooloo Station, and third was won by Lara Bell, of Dulkanninna Station, riding Aussie on 53.5 points. The top two spots in the senior section were taken out by Prue Fargher, of Spalding, riding Battle Smart and Aussie, both collecting 67 points, and third was won by Lachie Johnson, from Pekina, on Buddy with 62.5 points. The challenge was drawn up and judged by Shannon Bell, of Dulkanninna Station, and she said 'I was impressed with the turn out and number of competitors and how well everyone did! It was a lot of fun to judge and watch everyone do the pattern and have some fun.' Friday night's meal was provided by the Marree Sports Club with meat generously sponsored by Austral Meats, Gepps Cross. Saturday morning seen horses resaddled and out on the track for a day full of high-end competition in events such as bending, barrels and musical chairs. Competitors come from near and far for a chance at the whopping \$13000 in prize money. Junior riders put their riding skills to the test in fast events but let luck decide place getters in the renown 'Monte Carlo', a spin the bottle knock-out game. Isabelle Nicholls, of Orroroo, was the last rider left and winner of the event. The club was thrilled to receive a PIRSA grant to purchase racquets and balls for their new, entertaining event, Polocrosse Pairs. Competitors tried their hand at picking up, throwing and scoring with polocrosse equipment, which most participants hadn't used before. The event was won by Kate Ozolins, of DK Pastoral, and Kaeli May, of Depot Springs Station. Once the day was done, the most successful led rider was Tilly Daly, of Spalding. The leading U/8 rider was Missy Reynolds, the U/12 rider was Reeva Reynolds and U/16 rider was Pippa Reynolds, all of North Moolooloo Station. The leading junior horse was Matey, owned by the Williams Family at Nilpinna Station. The senior rider of the day was Adam Litchfield, of Mt Lyndhurst Station, and his horse Mynstral took out leading senior horse. Adam was thrilled with the day's results, stating 'I was pretty lucky as it was hotly contested!'.

Foot races and the 'Run for Rum' was held under lights Saturday night with Luke Nicholls, of Angepene Station, and Kate Ozolins winning their own bottomless cup for the night. The committee had sourced an array of fantastic items to auction with part proceeds going to the RFDS. The night kicked on with dancing and a PIRSA grant allowed the club to have Diversity Entertainment there DJ-ing. All meals Saturday and Sunday were done by Apex Group, Gawler. The roar of motorbikes filled the crisp Marree air on Sunday with competitors revving their engines in events such as bang and go back, go slow race and night bike races. The crowd were in awe watching the skilled riders put their motorbikes on one wheel in the mono event. With the wind picking up in the afternoon, it was a difficult feat but it was Lachie Johnson who won the mono competition. After the dust had settled, it was Wyatt Morphett, of Callanna, who won the U/5 leading rider. George Williams, of The Peake Station, won the U/8 and Kobe Johnson, of Pekina, won U/16 riders of the day. The senior division was won by Luke Nicholls and the Lady Rider of the day was Kate Ozolins (yes, the two winners of the bottomless cups on Saturday night!).

Photo credit goes to Harry Sanders at Freedom Photography. For more action and party shots head to Freedom Photography and Marree Sports Club on Facebook. MSC are hosting the 30th Camel Cup on the 22nd June 2025 and next year's gymkhana and motorkhana will be held on the June Kings Birthday long weekend 2026.

Kaeli May

Marree Air Branch News



First Time Boarding: Sydney Litchfield (left) at boarding school in Adelaide.



Marree Gymkhana and Motorkhana: Missy Reynolds dives for the last ball in musical balls.



Copley Quiz Night: Winner of the quoits Harvey Williams with David May



Marree Gymkhana and Motorkhana: Junior Challenge winners Lara Bell, Reeva Reynolds and Pippa Reynolds with judge Shannon Bell.



Copley Quiz Night: Socials L-R Daryl Bowshire, Colin Davis, Gary Fuchs, Chris Reynolds, Geoffrey Mengersen and Adam Litchfield.

North East Branch News

At the time of writing, parts of the state are experiencing the worst drought that farmers have seen, while other areas are under water following record floods in southwest Queensland. Unfortunately, the majority of our northeast branch members are located in the drought-affected region. Here at Sturt Vale, we've received only 25mm of rain so far this year—just one-eighth of our average annual rainfall—and we're nearly halfway through the year. We can only hope for a wet winter to carry us through the coming months.

In March, our branch had the opportunity to assist with catering at the Mid North Merringo Field Days. It was a fantastic chance to raise awareness of ICPA in an area where it's still relatively unknown. A big thank you to the wonderful ladies who helped out on the day—hopefully, this becomes a regular event on our calendar.



Jo, Charlotte and Riley Drennan got their photo taken with Toby Price and his co-driver, Holly Kilbride.

The Yunta Gymkhana, held over the Anzac Day long weekend, was a terrific day. It was wonderful to catch up with a few familiar faces and enjoy the community spirit. Congratulations to the Yunta Race Club committee on putting together another fantastic weekend—well done to all involved! In April, the Mid North district SAPSASA Cross Country was held at Burra Community School. It was Alex Robinson's first-time trialling for a SAPSASA district team, and she did an amazing job. Out of a field of around 15 girls, Alex came second—earning herself a spot on the team to compete at the State Championships in June at Oakbank. Congratulations and good luck, Alex!

Every year in Burra, Shannons Rally SA – Rally of the Heartland takes place across the local area, with teams racing in a time-trial style format. This year, the



Toby Price's spraypainted signature on the Burra School oval.

event had an extra buzz with Toby Price joining the action, driving one of the rally cars. Toby was fantastic—he took the time to chat with local kids about his incredible career, and even pulled a few donuts on the Burra School oval before spray painting his signature on it! It was a fantastic experience for all the kids (and adults!).

Federal conference is fast approaching, and it looks like it's going to be a fantastic couple of days in Adelaide. The North East branch would like to thank the Yunta Race Club, Bush Covers and Collars, Sew Delightful, Iris & Wool and Inky Soda for their generous donations towards the North East Goodie Basket.

While we continue to wait for rain, the branch has been busy getting the ball rolling on preparations for next year's State Conference. Watch this space.....!

Katie Robinson



Alex Robinson riding her poddy calf, Red



Josephine Williams and Nicci Noakes catching up at the Yunta Gymkhana.



Jayden Beard in Canberra.

North East Branch News



Kids enjoying the haybales at Yunta.



Abby Sheridan and horse Misty at the Yunta Gymkhana.



Edward Robinson at the Yunta Gymkhana.



Hanna Crawford and Imogen Mannion at the Yunta Gymkhana



Hanna, Ella and Sophie Crawford on their horses at the Yunta Gymkhana.



Jayden Beard at Parliament House in Canberra.

Lone Members News

I'm pleased to report that I have continued in the role as Lone Members Officer for 2025 – We currently have 13 member/families/schools based in WA, QLD, Gammon Ranges, Boolcunda, Fowlers Bay, Marion Bay, Limestone Coast and Adelaide. This year we welcome a 2nd school as Lone members, Walford Anglican School for Girls.

This year, the Lone Members presented one motion at State Conference, proposing that Rex Airlines be approached to offer a fixed student fare for rural South Australian students accessing flights for educational purposes. The motion highlighted the need for a subsidised fare scheme to support families who rely on flights from regional centres such as Coober Pedy, Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln, Ceduna, and Broken Hill to transport their children to and from boarding school. A similar initiative, known as the 'Bush to Boarding' scheme, is already in place in Queensland, where Rex Airlines provides concessionary, capped-price fares to students from a wide range of regional areas based on distance travelled. The Lone Members hope a comparable program could be introduced in South Australia to ease the financial burden on rural families.

The Lones members have been busy compiling a Goodie Basket to raffle at federal conference. We would like to thank all businesses and individuals who helped us put together an awesome basket; Oh Sew You, Adaroy Photography, Almerta Station,



Lone Members Anna Nunn, Jodie Keogh, & Georgy Ewing at the SA State Conference.

Bob Baker, Durham Downs Station, Bush Covers & Collars, Bronco Branding SA, Copley Gymkhana Club, Williams Cattle Company, North Moolooloo Golf Classic, Barb Wire Belts, Mini Jumbuck, Websters Hyde & Heath, George the Farmer,

Mikes Beef Jerky, Mahalia Coffee Beans, Wangolina Wine, SPH & Co.

A genuine thank you to Life Member Bob Baker, who generously handcrafted a grazing tray from recycled, locally sourced jarrah timber from Williams, WA. Special

thanks also to Georgy Ewing for graciously volunteering as a drop-off point for Federal conference raffle and auction items and sourcing further businesses to donate. Additionally, we extend our appreciation to Prince Alfred College for sourcing a gour-

Lone Members News

met-style basket from across the Adelaide region, as a further raffle offering!!

Jodie Keogh has officially handed in her badge and stepped down from the SA ICPA State Council after serving two years in the role of State Treasurer. Jodie has

been a tremendous asset to both the State Council and the executive team, and she will be greatly missed for her insightful, wise, and prompt contributions. Her departure also marks the end of a remarkable nine-year consecutive term as a State Council-

lor. We are grateful that she and her family will continue their involvement with the organisation as Lone Members.

The Keogh family recently experienced record-breaking floods at Durham Downs on the Cooper Creek, which led

to a lot of logistical juggles and flood isolated school holidays. Jacob has been working hard on his rugby in Toowomba with good progress, Lachie has settled well into his first year of boarding school and Clem is enjoying working cattle again after the floods.

The Nunn family (Wooltana Station) have moved North to Macumba Station, we wish them well on their new family adventure. Anna and Justin will be well missed from the Copley and districts community, but I'm sure welcomed into the Oodnadatta one. They will continue to be Lones member for the remainder of the membership year.

Hollie Williams



Above: Bob baker serving platter.

Left: Multi-coloured Sturt Desert Pea taken by Adaroy photography.

2025 Cooper Creek Floods

*Jodie Keogh
Lones Member*

I feel we have finally come out of the bubble of the history making 2025 Cooper Creek floods.

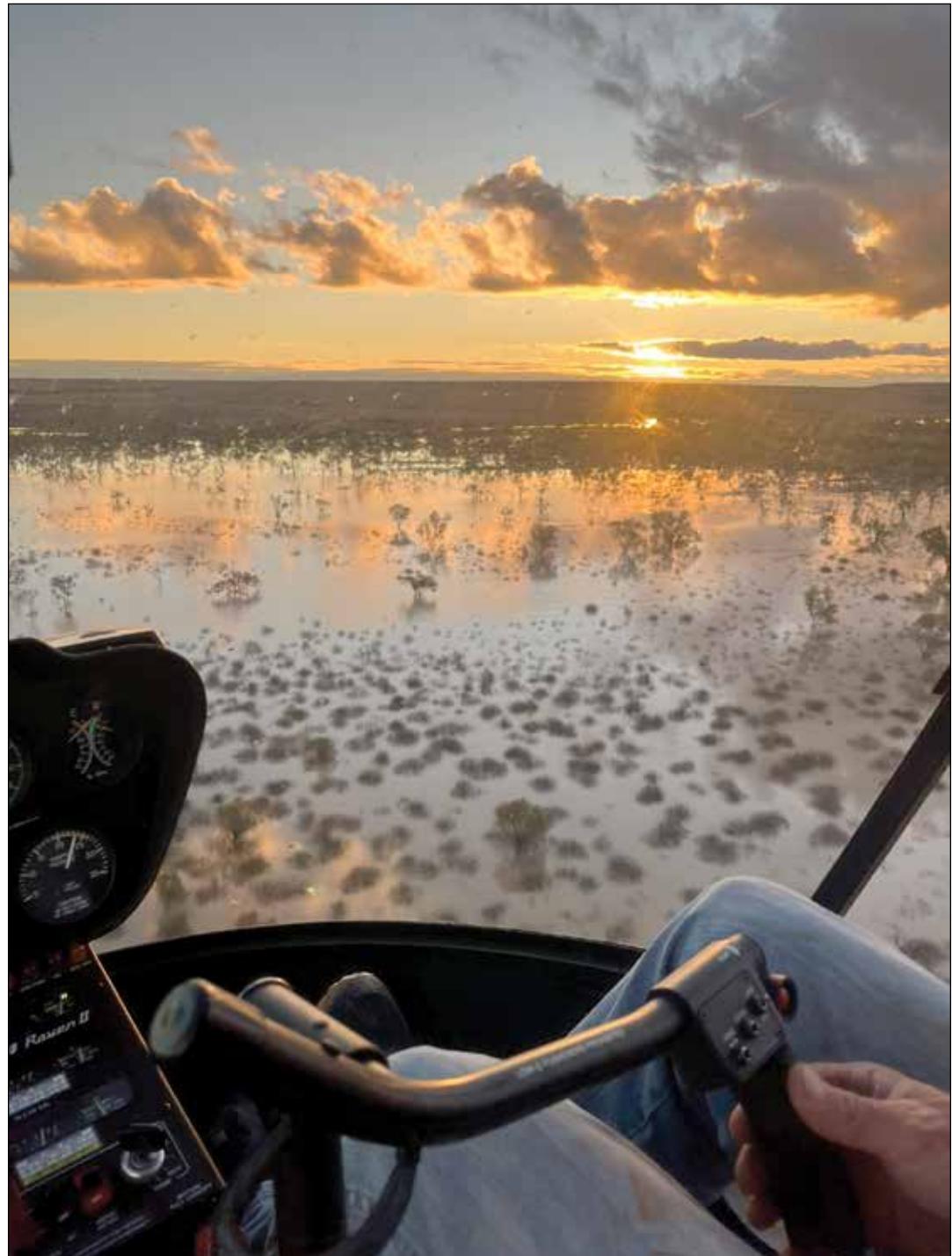
The day after the SA ICPA State Conference in Port Augusta Clem & I were to travel back to Durham Downs stopping at Broken Hill overnight to do some shopping.

It became apparent early that morning there was rainfall expected and if we wanted to make it home there would be no stopping and just to keep driving! We made it back around 9.30pm that evening and rain had started once we hit the dirt.

Here at Durham Downs it did not stop raining constantly for the next 4 days, which I have never witnessed living on the Cooper for over 11 years. We have been very dry so when the rain started it was all happy and let's have a drink to celebrate! The more it kept raining non-stop though the feeling changed and we knew we the Cooper was starting to swell.

We occasionally have of water glimpses from the homestead deck, but these eventually became water views to the back of the kitchen and as far as the eye can see. Rainfall totalling of 309mm plus the floodwaters coming down from Jundah and Windorah, culminated in record breaking floods here at Durham, with the previous 1974 record of 4.4m being broken and peaking at 4.75m. The channels from our homestead across the Cooper were over 30kms wide, with up to 40kms at other parts of the station.

The first day we had a break in the weather we had mobilised many helicopters to shift cattle out of flood waters from the local rain and then move away



from the creek in anticipation of the flood peak. The welfare of our cattle was the priority and we threw everything we could at it.

Every day was a new logistical challenge. We knew our homesteads were high enough to not be affected but hearing stories from upstream were heart-

breaking and unnerving to say the least.

Our station loader went a little viral sitting out in the floodwaters on a pad. We tried to get it back from a paddock before the flood peak arrived but it was just too wet for it to move. A plan was formulated and a couple of people including Eddie

Hatcher, with the last of our diesel made a high sand pad for it to sit on. I'm pleased to report the Loader survived the Cooper Creek Flood! Many Facebook posts and snapchats were made by helicopter pilots but I think the best caption I saw was 'The most cautious cat on the Cooper'

2025 Cooper Creek Floods

Our diesel truck delivery was delayed prior to the rain. This resulted in having to sling diesel in for our generators & avgas for helicopters. We had aircraft including R22's R44's, Huey's and Blackhawks land. Aircraft & helicopters really were the heroes of the flood.

Our next-door neighbours were evacuated over to us when floodwaters rose into their yards, it was scary for everyone but I am pleased we were able to help our neighbours out.

We get our food supplies from Adelaide and we knew the Nappa Merrie Bridge would go under and Innamincka would then be cut off so it was a mad rush for the freight company to get loaded and up to Innamincka and then in QLD. I had quickly anticipated we would have no food stores for around 2 months for 17 people so I placed a large order to be able to sustain ourselves. Unfortunately, with both the Cooper Creek and Wilson River flood leads merging at the same time the truck only made it to Innamincka with 4 pallets of supplies on board sitting there for us! It was another logistical challenge getting that over to us but with aircraft and helicopter help it eventually made its way here.

We had quick help to get Jacob and Lachie from boarding school in Toowoomba back home by plane & helicopter, as they were just about to start school holidays. We were so thankful we got them home for our piece of mind and for them to witness what we thought was a once in a lifetime flood event together.

Getting Jacob and Lachie then back to boarding school after holidays involved planes, helicopters and hire cars. The boy's schools were excellent and regularly checked up on the boys and how we were faring.



Clem Keogh assesses the extent of flooding from the air.

A broken collarbone from a distance of 1100km away as a boarding school mum is of course always hard but getting that phone call and not being able to get in your car and head off was very stressful. Again, a helicopter and plane at considerable cost was involved but this is what we do to get to our kids when they need you.

As I write this we have finally seen floodwaters recede. We spent nearly 6 weeks with no road access in and out from our station. The next month the only road access was into QLD via unsealed roads making our 300kms usual trip to Quilpie a 700km trip on a road that has had no traffic. We were able to get our crew into town for a rise in morale and see some new faces by helicopter ferries to the outstation which was obviously very costly and time consuming but felt it was important. The last 2 weeks we have finally been able to get es-

sential 4WD vehicles onto our road making our trips just that bit shorter, but still the normal 'long way' around.

Whatever challenges we have had we are so fortunate compared to so many other people, stations and families in our area. This flood event was unprecedented and we will never

forget the 2025 floods. The good and the bad of the flood will always stay with me, both our stories here at Durham but those of our neighbours and friends who were dealt a far worse hand, but for now I sit back and see fat cattle, green feed as far as I can see and the way the landscape is blooming.



North West Branch News

Life continues at its usual gallop in the North West, with all our families keeping busy as ever. It's so super dry and dusty in our neck of the woods but we're happy to report that all our students have either settled back into school smoothly or begun their boarding journeys with confidence.

Almost all our members made it to the State Conference in Port Augusta at the end of March. It was great to come together and advocate for our children and members and see passion make progress. Thanks to the Flinders Ranges branch for a great day and night.

So, some big news! Hayden Rankin started the year off very well with her P's followed shortly after by her Pembroke formal where she looked absolutely beautiful. May delivered a trip for Eli, Lawson and Petie to Canberra...with the Year 5/6 group. Apparently, the boys were reportedly mortified by their mum's presence, but Petie had a blast. Back at home at The Twins, there was a bit of action on the sporting front. Lawson required ankle surgery following a minor motorbike accident but is now on the mend. We're wishing you all the best for a speedy recovery Lawson. Also on the sporting mishap front, Hayden was selected to play in the Pembroke Girls' Firsts football team, well done Hayden, though a concussion early in the season saw her sidelined for three weeks, much to her frustration. Meanwhile, Ryder has just started playing footy for the first time. Unfazed by rules or strategy, he's simply loving the camaraderie and team spirit. Most recently the Rankins attended the Oodnadatta Gymkhana, always a highlight on the outback calendar.

Jill Greenfield represented Federal Council at the Primary Industries Education Foundation Australia (PIEFA) Conference

in Canberra during May. The conference, focused on food and fibre in education, provided a valuable platform for rural perspectives in agricultural learning. I can report that Jill is also very busy loving her first grandchild, the 'Ava' spam is so special.

Great news, Ruby and Nelson Willis have settled beautifully into boarding life at Pembroke. Candice has reported they are right at home there; we are so happy for them and well done to them both. Huddy and Candice have found a new rhythm in the schoolroom at Arcoona and we all know that Hudson must be so excited when the school holidays come round and his big sister and brother come home.

Bobbi Lou Martin and her family recently took a trip to Adelaide for a medical check-up for Cameron, who also got to celebrate his 7th birthday while they were in the city. After a hectic few months with shearing and their first round of cattle work, the break was well earned. They even managed to score corporate tickets to the Crows vs Brisbane game! Lily and Cameron both enjoyed a full and fun-packed week.

On the Matheson front, earlier in the year Sam Matheson competed in the Head of the River rowing regatta, where it was lovely to see several old School of the Air families cheering on children who now row. More recently, Sam completed a five-week residential camp at Point Turton with his school, Prince Alfred College, and was awarded Wambana Man, peer chosen for the best overall boy. Sam finished the camp by running the full 11 km with success, well done Sam. Back in first term Winsome amazed everyone by taking out third place in Walford's Year 8 Girls Swimming Carnival, despite having never had a proper swimming



Dani Chapman, Petie Rankin, Kirsty and Hollie Williams.

lesson! What a mermaid. Ian and Max recently enjoyed the Kingoonya Camp Oven Cook Off after years of missing it due to the compulsory June long weekend trip to Adelaide to visit the kids at boarding school. On the RICE Playday front, Wilgena Station hosted a playday in February, where Willa and Tanner had a wonderful time with the RICE ladies. In May, Mt Eba followed suit with a playday hosted by Jess Whittlesea, who, along with her partner Brock, is now running the property. It's lovely to have a new family with a little one in the area. Jess's son Jed and Tanner also enjoyed a fantastic day of play and activities.

Saving the best news for last, we're thrilled to share that Shona Amos and Toby Crowell of North Well Station are officially engaged! What delightful news for their little family of four, and we couldn't be happier for them.

With shearing now wrapped up for the North West stations still in the merino game, there isn't a property not hoping for some heavy rainclouds to roll in and deliver some huge dumps of rain.

A great big thank you to our

North West branch members who helped source and secure raffle donations for the upcoming Federal Conference. Thanks to Jill for organising wine from Barristers Block, and to Barristers Block itself for the generous contribution. Alana White kindly donated beautiful jewellery, and the Glendambo Districts Sporting Club (GDSC) contributed some items including a cap, tumbler and stubby holder. McDouall Peak generously added a Kent Saddlery voucher to the mix, while the McBrides donated wine and various merchandise. We are so grateful, thank you all for your support.

Congratulations to Miss Milly Pickles, a former governess and later a teacher with Port Augusta School of the Air. The Matheson family were thrilled to celebrate with their much-loved former governess, now Malaika Calandra, and her husband Joe at their wedding in Port Augusta in February.

Milly and Joe are also expecting their first child in early August, and we wish them all the very best for this exciting new chapter.

Edwina Bowie

North West Branch News



Jill Greenfield attended PIEFA.



Mathesons at the start of Sam's Wambana adventure, setting off on the 'One and All'



Toby and Tanner Crowell.



Nelson, Hudson and Ruby Willis.



Eli, Lawson, Hadyn and Ryder Rankin.



Lily and Cameron Martin in Adelaide.



Miss Milly Pickles' wedding.



Lawson Rankin on the road to recovery.

Port Augusta Branch News

Have you ever wondered what goes into to writing a report or a story for Pipeline?

Let me tell you about me;

First of all, the deadline is 2 weeks away, but do I decide to write the report and research what I need to know then.

Don't be silly, that would be the smart thing to do.

Have I been sent a reminder nearly every day for the last 2 weeks. Yes!

What then follows is complete and utter anxiety (not acknowledged, of course) about what the heck I need to write, what I need to include and what information people want to hear. Have I checked with our wonderful Pipeline editor 3 times in the last 2 days about me getting this to her, Yes! Has she reassured me that there is still time and that she would love to see the story/report. Also, yes. Have I reassured Mija that on the way back from Adelaide while sitting in the car for 6 hours it would be done, yes again.

This where it is a real palm in the forehead moment, after laying awake most of the night telling myself I would get up at 6am and bang out the report I have done everything but. If you rocked up at my house right now, it would be the cleanest it's been in a month (maybe a bit of an exaggeration but you get my drift), you would be able to stay for lunch and dinner because I've cooked soup and put the slow cooker on, I've unpacked the car, put away the shopping and put a load of washing on. I've gone out and refilled the chooks and ducks' water, blower vaced the outside, cleaned the budgies water and fed all the animals outside. I have also while writing this, answered the phone to my daughter, sent her several

snap chats of her cats, placed an online grocery order, checked Facebook and Instagram to see if anything had changed since I checked it an hour ago (nothing had) and fed lunch to everyone else in the house. I'm shaking my head at this; it's not like there hasn't been anything interesting going on in this wonderful branch.

So here goes, while Pamela, Chloe, Kate, Chris and I attended the wonderful state conference hosted by the Flinders Ranges branch in March, we really enjoyed being with our fellow ICPAers and talking about what is going on in around the state, our branch tool several motions to this conference and will follow some up at the Federal conference in July and the kids were busy enjoying each other's company at school.

Our local branch also helped our community with the local Nonning gymkhana, we had honey for sale, the kids all had a wonderful time competing. Waylon and Bonnie had their first go in the kid's motorbike gymkhana and Memphis and Eli where amazing competitors in their age groups as well. All the young kids of our branch competed and had a wonderful time in the horse events with such bravery shown when horses weren't following their usual quiet path. Great skills and confidence being developed in new age groups, including leading riders, first, second and third places and encouragement awards. Our big kids came back and filled their cups by just being home amongst their community for a start, we had them helping in and around the shed, they competed in the motorbikes, the horses and they wrangled Pam and I out of the shed to have a go too, should of seen Pam and Payton on the



Andrew Smart and Alex O'Neil on farm training.

motorbike event, was so awesome. It just makes your heart feel so happy to see the young ones competing and helping at these events (not just ours). They love being with their community, they love and we love shouting and encouraging them from the sidelines, we love giving them a hard time when the big kids are running the horses for the little kids. They share horses, and sisters, brothers, cousins and friends join together to go in teams, it makes all that hard work and standing in the kitchen and getting all those jobs done worth every minute.

Hang on one sec, just getting a coffee!!!!

The big kids of our branch have done so many wonderful things since our last Pipeline, while one is still exploring new horizons overseas. Some are spreading their wings further North and gaining new experiences working cattle in green grass country. Learning management skills from other teachers, mustering skills from older mentors and working out how things are run in different environments. Some are experiencing home sickness while working and doing uni and not being able to come home and help while times are tough and

not only that times are tough, but just being with the people that love us most and smelling that familiar fresh air, riding your bike or horse and have that home fresh air blow in your face, sitting behind a mob of cattle or sheep and taking in your surrounds. It does get ingrained into these kids from a young age, a lot of the time, as we know, the people they are working with and going to uni with, in the city, don't really understand the pull of being out in the country, they just see isolation and loneliness, but it's such a sense of home and belonging that that those two things don't even come in to it. It's why they want to be here when we are busy with shearing, crutching and mustering, in their minds eye they are out on the bike and in the yards helping, while still studying and even if they are very far away, they still want to have a bit of mum's home cooking or dad's coffee. But they are getting the studying done and making themselves and us proud.

Just went to have a sip of coffee, half cup left, stone cold, drinking anyway.

Our young ones have been so busy all over our branch really knuckling in and trying hard to improve their reading in Re-

Port Augusta Branch News

ception and Year 2, stepping up to upper primary responsibilities of being a leader and running book clubs, SRC and travelling away from mum and dad for the first time and visiting Canberra. Some of our face-to-face kids have had a great experience competing in the annual Tcharkuldu Rock cross country with their mates near and far having a go. The local footy and netball competition has been keeping them part of their communities and improving their skills.

Our big boarding kids have been knuckling down to get to the end of term but in amongst that we have watched them blossom and don their best with their school formals.

OMG the dog just threw up on my white carpet, aaahhhh I'm ignoring it until I'm finished.

We were lucky to attend the wedding of some of our big, big kids in our branch, our babies scrubbed up and looked a million dollars as they chose somewhere green to say "I do" surrounded by their bush family and friends. Since the last pipeline we had the exciting news of new bubs to come and 2 families have added some precious new bubs to our community.

We are excited to be able to attend the Federal Conference in Adelaide and welcome everyone from across Australia. We have a few key issues to bring with us and hope to hear them backed by people across the country.

We look forward to some soaking rains across our branch soon.

I'm now going to and clean the second dog vomit on the white carpet and breathe a sigh of relief that I actually finished this with a million stops in between.

Katrina Morris



Must wear goggles while colouring. Waylon Cuffe.



Josh, Jess and Harrison welcomed new baby Charlie.



Dougal McTaggart at his Formal



Haley and Ruby French said I do in The Clare Valley.



Imogen, Phoebe and Sienna.



Ian, Katrina, Bonnie and Jacinta, Do it for Dolly Day



Chloe and Dylan Copland.



Bonnie Nonning Gymkhana.



Michelle, Phil and Payton Scotch Year 12 formal.



Tom, Hannah, Indie and Elke welcomed new baby girl Tully.



Lauchi, Georgia and Jane Anderson

2025 SOTA Year 5 & 6 Canberra Trip

Canberra trip – Eli Rankin

I loved going to Canberra because I got to hang out with my classmates while visiting cool things. I loved Questacon because we got to go into the shop and buy things and also play with all the experiments and things. I loved that I got to share a room with George, Lawson and Jayden by ourselves. Our bus driver Alan was so much fun. He told us so much about Canberra and always told us jokes. I'm so glad that OPFA could pay for us to go on this camp because I know it would have been expensive.

Canberra trip – Lawson Rankin

Canberra was great and my favourite thing was Questacon because of all the hands on things that we could do. My second favourite thing was the Australian Institute of Sport because we got to watch sports people play sports and also got to have a go at playing Olympic sports. Jayden and I got to put a wreath down in honour of the soldiers at the War Memorial so that was really special. It was very busy and I wish we got to go into some of the gift shops a bit but we were never bored.

Canberra trip – George Williams

The best thing about our Year 5/6 School of the Air Canberra Trip was definitely the Questacon where there were all sorts of games and a giant slide which was great fun. The War Museum was really interesting, we just wished we had more time to look around there before moving onto the next place. There was so much to see and do in Canberra that we really needed another week, our teachers might not have thought this though! Our bus driver Alan who wore a T-shirt regardless of the outside temperature was an absolute champ, every morning he told us a new joke. What do you call 2 robbers? A pair or knickers! Thank you to all the parents on OPFA for all their fund-raising and paying for the camp and to all the teachers for organising such a good week away.

Canberra trip – Bonnie Morris

Hi Everyone, Bonnie here, at the start of term 2 we were able to go to Canberra. I really liked the Canberra trip because it was so much fun and I learnt of things about how our country is run by the government and was able to see where all the big deci-



Petie Rankin with sons Lawson and Eli in front of Parliament House.

sions for our country are made and I got to do it with my friends. I really liked how we got our own rooms and lights out wasn't too early. When we went to Parliament House a tour guide showed us around and explained what each part was used for and why they chose the colours and patterns around the building. I like the big Lego statue someone had made of parliament house. We got to see the house of representatives, which is green coloured room and we also got to see the senate which is the red coloured room.

I loved the war memorial it made me think of all the men and women that served our country, and I liked all the stories that the tour guide told us about the people. I also liked that we were able to watch the remembrance service and was able to see the tomb of the unknown soldier.

We went to the governor general's house and it was pretty fancy but we didn't get to see her this time. When we went to the Mount Ainslie lookout we could see all of Canberra and we like how all of the buildings lined up and the centre fountain of parliament house lined up with the centre of the war memorial and we got to take heaps of photos.

The pod playground was my favourite because it was so much fun, and we were able to run around and have pizza for lunch. The mint was interesting because we had the chance to design our own coins, and loved being able to see how all the coins were made and I liked the little shop too. I liked going to the institute of sport because we watched the athletes practice volleyball and swimming and our tour guides were athletes; they told us a lot of stuff about

health and fitness. Seeing all the different buildings and areas owned by different countries on our driving tour of the embassies was pretty cool and every time we went past one of them, we waved to the police officers out the front. The Australian Museum was really cool because there was heaps of activities for us to do there. I liked going to Questacon because there were heaps of things that you could play with and activities like the earthquake room and watching the lighting and tornado generator was so cool.

Cheers, Bonnie

Canberra trip – Jayden Beard

In Week 1 of term 2, the Year 5/6 class went on a super fun trip to Canberra! We all met at the Adelaide Airport. I felt a bit nervous because it was my first time flying, but guess what? Flying turned out to be pretty cool!

When we landed in Canberra, we grabbed our bags and met our bus driver for the week Alan! He was really funny and drove a giant 62-seat bus, just for the 6 of us kids, 2 teachers, and 1 parent.

Our first stop was McDonald's for dinner yum! Then we headed to Sundown Villas, which was our home for the week.

During the trip, we went to so many amazing places! We visited, Old and New Parliament House, The Governor-General's House, The Australian Institute of Sport, The National Art Gallery, The High Court of Australia, The ANZAC Memorial Parade, The National Electoral Education Centre, The Museum of Australian Democracy, The Australian War Memorial, Mount Ainslie Lookout, The Reconciliation Place, The National Museum of Australia, Geoscience Australia, Questacon which had an earthquake house which when you went in had a real life earth quake, The Royal Australian Mint, The National Capital Exhibition, My favourite places were the Governor General's House, because it had amazing paintings from the National Art Gallery and lots of really old things, and the Royal Australian Mint, where we got to make our very own rare coin!

Canberra was awesome! I had the best time learning new things, seeing cool places, and hanging out with my friends. It's a trip I'll never forget!

Canberra trip – Lara Bell

Canberra was fun there where so many things to look at and see and the war memorial was really cool to see and learn about. Questacon was really cool and to see really cool things and the National Museum of Australia was really neat to see old things used in the day and there where so many other cool things to see in Canberra!

A Big Thank You to Eloise Gale, Artist and Donor



The Marla-Oodnadatta Branch would like to extend its thanks to artist Eloise Gale, who has kindly donated a stunning 90x60cm framed oil painting to the raffle and auction fundraiser for the upcoming Federal Conference.

Eloise's gift is more than just a painting—it's a window into her world and a celebration of the South Australian outback that she holds so dear.

Born in Victoria and raised in Tasmania, Eloise has spent the majority of her life in South Australia, a place she proudly calls home. It is here that she has embraced life most fully, finding inspiration in the raw, expansive beauty of the landscape and the quiet strength of those who live on the land. Her intention, both as a painter and as a storyteller, is to capture the essence of this region—its colours, contours, lifestyles, and spirit—through her creative lens.

Eloise's art is deeply personal. Guided by emotion and intuition, her paintings are a reflection of what she feels and sees in the moment. She often draws on themes of the divine feminine and the visions that flow through her connection to the land. These themes are central to her identity as an artist and are

expressed vividly through her works. "I've never been drawn to the lime-light," Eloise says. "My art is how I explore and make sense of the world around me. It's from the heart. If there's no heart in it, there's no passion."

With over 30 years of experience, Eloise has refined her skills in oil, watercolour, and acrylic, all while purposefully avoiding clichés and traditional moulds. Her work is diverse in technique and style, yet consistent in its energy and authenticity.

"Painting frees my soul," she explains. "If I ever lost the childlike wonder and excitement to paint, my reason to express would fade. Each piece is an exploration—a spark of emotion, a burst of energy. That's what I want people to feel when they see my work."

Her generous donation to the SA ICPA is a heartfelt contribution to a cause she values. We are honoured to showcase and offer her piece as part of SA ICPA's fundraising efforts.

To view more of Eloise's work, visit: www.eloisegaleartist.weebly.com
Mobile: 0435 873 717



The building of Integrated Primary Health and Education Centre (IPHEC) at Port Augusta is progressing close to on schedule.

- The level one floor has been installed
- The roof is nearly ready to be installed
- Ground floor cement pour date is likely to be in July
- The gypsum board is on site for internal fix.

These are all important milestones in the construction phase of the building.

The planned completion date was programmed to be late December 2025 and is now likely to be in the new year February 2026 due to some early civil works delays last October.

School of the air staff visited the site last week and were able to walk the proposed tenancy space of the school on level one.

Natalie Szabo EGM Primary Care and the Project Manager of the IPHEC build reports that the project so far is progressing well beyond expectations and achieving the timeliness of the build, in a regional centre is a credit to Builders Mossop Construction and Place Management, both SA based firms.



Attention communities of Yunta and our Bush Runs!

Welcome to your new online bookings portal, Bushlink > at rfds-sant.com.au/bushlink

Bushlink is a digital tool that offers 24/7 access to book and manage face-to-face primary health appointments via smartphone, iPad or computer.

There is no obligation to use Bushlink – our PAG team will still be taking calls and emails as normal.

It is exciting that we have now arrived at Community Rollout (Phase 1 – May to July). During this stage Bushlink will:

- only be available to Bush Run and Yunta patients (now or new)
- only be available for Visiting Primary Health (fly-in) services

For more information about your Primary Health services, including Bushlink, please click > Primary Health – Patient Information

Tap into care with Bushlink >

Easily manage your RFDS healthcare appointments with our online platform, **Bushlink**.

Why Bushlink?

- ✓ One-off sign-up
- ✓ Book face-to-face appointments
- ✓ Choose your own consult type
- ✓ Appointment reminders
- ✓ Secure messaging
- ✓ Live schedule updates
- ✓ Improved feedback pathways



FIND OUT MORE

Scan or visit
rfdssant.com.au/bushlink



Rolling out to rural and remote South Australian communities in 2025.


Designed with our Communities


Royal Flying Doctor Service
SOUTH AUSTRALIA & NORTHERN TERRITORY

MEET OUR COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE TEAM



MANDY SMALLACOMBE
Manager, Primary Health Care

Coordinates a team of doctors, specialist nurses and allied health professionals to deliver comprehensive primary health care to people in the far west and north of SA – an area of 840,000 square kilometres.

KATELAN BURY

Chronic Disease Coordinator

Delivers care, support and education to patients with chronic diseases, promoting self-management strategies and coordinating treatment plans to better manage health conditions.

TESSA BENNETT
Chronic Disease Nurse

Accredited Diabetes Educator with a passion for chronic conditions, facilitates primary health care through health promotion and disease prevention, educating and assisting patients with managing chronic and complex diseases and illnesses.

TARNYA EGGLETON
Child & Family Health Nurse

Provides guidance and support on child health and development, breastfeeding, sleep and settling, and all the things parents and carers want to know about their children during their crucial first five years.

CAITLYN KELLER
Community Midwife

Promotes about providing quality, personalised health care and advocating for those living rural and remote areas. Strong interest in maternal and infant health and wellbeing.

JACQUI MERKEL
Community Midwife

Works across all manner of nursing, supporting pregnant women with antenatal and postnatal care in rural and remote SA.

MARY PACKARD
Community Midwife

Provides all manner of nursing, midwifery, immunisations and care coordination to patients in rural and remote SA.



VIVIEN RIDGWAY

Mental Health Service Manager

Provides wellbeing support to help people manage their life challenges, and more complex care for mental illnesses such as depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or psychosis.

MICK KEANE

Mental Health Social Worker

Accredited Mental Health Social Worker with a background working with Aboriginal communities in the Central Desert Region of NT. Mick is especially skilled in working with children, youth and men, and using group work approaches.

MYLES ATKINSON
Mental Health Social Worker

Accredited Mental Health Social Worker with experience working in country South Australia and the Wilcannia Highlands. Works alongside people to develop strategies to self-manage their wellbeing and mental health.

EVA GILL-MINERO
Mental Health Nurse

Extensive experience in emergency and crisis intervention and strives to improve accessibility of quality mental health care, early intervention and tailored therapies. Has a special interest in ADHD and ASD.

RON SMITH
Physiotherapist

Provides assessment and treatment services for people living in rural and remote SA with focus on chronic pain and arthritis to optimise health outcomes and improved quality of life.

JOSIE CALDERWOOD
Dietician

Helps people to lead healthier lives, using Nutrition Therapy to set goals and manage conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, gastrointestinal issues, weight management.

DENISE WILLIAMSON-KNOFF
Clinical Pharmacist

Provides support to remote area clinics and patients, ensuring outback communities get optimal treatment and timely access to medication – can answer any questions regarding your medications.



JOINING US SOON...
Podiatrist
Occupational Therapist



DENISE MARTIN

Aboriginal Health Coordinator

Assists remote patients with transport, accommodation and support with appointments – ensuring you and your families receive the care you need.

KRISTEN BESANT

Aboriginal Health Practitioner

Works alongside patients with chronic diseases to better knowledge and health outcomes, including Adult Health Checks to ensure you feel as good on the inside as you do on the outside.

GRACE FORREST

Primary Health Care Administration

Runs the daily administration of our Community Health Services, coordinating clinic flights and appointments for patients at the Port Augusta Base and in remote communities.

CONTACT US

Book an appointment or find out more about our services.

Ph: 8648 9500
E: clinicbookings@flyingdoctor.net



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Community Health Clinics > July 2025



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Homestead, Commonwealth Hill, Glendambo, Ingomar, McDouall
Peak, Mobella, Mulgathing, Mt Eba, Nilpinna, The Peake,
Todmorden, Twins and William Creek.

Bush Run NE Balcanona, Clifton Hills, Cowarie, Dulkaninna,
Etadunna, Innamincka, Kalamurina, Mt Lyndhurst, Muloorina,
Mungerannie and Mumpeowie.

* denotes overnight stay



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Scan or visit
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FIND OUT MORE

Currently available for Bush Run and
Yunta patients

For medical emergencies 24/7
Call 1800 733 772

Week 3	Mon 30 Jun	Tue 1 Jul	Wed 2 Jul	Thu 3 Jul	Fri 4 Jul
Primary Care	Andamooka	Coorabie/Nullarbor Blinman	Oodnadatta Yalata*	Oak Valley	-
Allied Health	Marree	Andamooka*	Andamooka*	Andamooka Yalata*	Yalata / Coorabie
Week 4	Mon 7 Jul	Tue 8 Jul	Wed 9 Jul	Thu 10 Jul	Fri 11 Jul
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marree	Yalata Oodnadatta	Yunta Marla	-
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Oodnadatta* Kingoonya/Glendambo	Oodnadatta	Marla	-
Week 1	Mon 14 Jul	Tue 15 Jul	Wed 16 Jul	Thu 17 Jul	Fri 18 Jul
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marree	Bush Run C *	Bush Run NE	-
Allied Health	Marree*	Marree	Andamooka*	Andamooka* Blinman	Andamooka
Week 2	Mon 21 Jul	Tue 22 Jul	Wed 23 Jul	Thu 24 Jul	Fri 25 Jul
Primary Care	Andamooka	Bush Run W	Oodnadatta Yalata	Yunta Marla	-
Allied Health	Oodnadatta*	Oodnadatta	-	Marla	Yunta
Week 3	Mon 28 Jul	Tue 29 Jul	Wed 30 Jul	Thu 31 Jul	Fri 1 Aug
Primary Care	Andamooka	Coorabie/Nullarbor Blinman	Oodnadatta Yalata*	Oak Valley	-
Allied Health	Marree	Andamooka*	Andamooka*	Andamooka Yalata*	Yalata / Coorabie



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Week 4	Mon 4 Aug	Tue 5 Aug	Wed 6 Aug	Thu 7 Aug	Fri 8 Aug
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marree	Yalata Oodnadatta	Yunta Marla	-
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Oodnadatta* Kingoonya/Glendambo	Oodnadatta	Marla	-
Week 1	Mon 11 Aug	Tue 12 Aug	Wed 13 Aug	Thu 14 Aug	Fri 15 Aug
Primary Care	Andamooka	Bush Run W	Bush Run C *	Bush Run NE	-
Allied Health	Marree*	Kingoonya/Glendambo	Andamooka*	Andamooka* Blinman	Andamooka
Week 2	Mon 18 Aug	Tue 19 Aug	Wed 20 Aug	Thu 21 Aug	Fri 22 Aug
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marree	Oodnadatta Yalata	Yunta Marla	-
Allied Health	Oodnadatta*	Oodnadatta	-	Marla	Yunta
Week 3	Mon 25 Aug	Tue 26 Aug	Wed 27 Aug	Thu 28 Aug	Fri 29 Aug
Primary Care	Andamooka	Coorabie/Nullarbor Blinman	Oodnadatta Yalata*	Oak Valley	-
Allied Health	Marree	Andamooka*	Andamooka*	Andamooka Yalata*	Yalata / Coorabie

Community Health Clinics > September 2025



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Week 4	Mon 1 Sep	Tue 2 Sep	Wed 3 Sep	Thu 4 Sep	Fri 5 Sep
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marree	Yalata Oodnadatta	Yunta Marla	~
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Oodnadatta* Kingoonya/Glendambo	Oodnadatta	Marla	~
Week 1	Mon 8 Sep	Tue 9 Sep	Wed 10 Sep	Thu 11 Sep	Fri 12 Sep
Primary Care	Andamooka	Bush Run W	Bush Run C *	Bush Run NE	~
Allied Health	Marree*	Kingoonya/Glendambo	Andamooka*	Andamooka* Blinman	Andamooka
Week 2	Mon 15 Sep	Tue 16 Sep	Wed 17 Sep	Thu 18 Sep	Fri 19 Sep
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marree	Oodnadatta Yalata	Yunta Marla	~
Allied Health	Oodnadatta*	Oodnadatta	~	Marla	Yunta
Week 3	Mon 22 Sep	Tue 23 Sep	Wed 24 Sep	Thu 25 Sep	Fri 26 Sep
Primary Care	Andamooka	Coorabie/Nullarbor Blinman	Oodnadatta Yalata*	Oak Valley	~
Allied Health	Marree	Andamooka*	Andamooka*	Andamooka Yalata*	Yalata / Coorabie

Community Health Clinics > October 2025



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Primary Care	Andamooka	Marree	Yalata Oodnadatta	Yunta Marla	~
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Oodnadatta* Kingoonya/Glendambo	Oodnadatta	Marla	~
Week 1	Mon 6 Oct	Tue 7 Oct	Wed 8 Oct	Thu 9 Oct	Fri 10 Oct
Primary Care	Public Holiday	Bush Run W	Bush Run C *	Bush Run NE	~
Allied Health	Public Holiday	Marree	Andamooka*	Andamooka* Blinman	Andamooka
Week 2	Mon 13 Oct	Tue 14 Oct	Wed 15 Oct	Thu 16 Oct	Fri 17 Oct
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marree	Oodnadatta Yalata	Yunta Marla	~
Allied Health	Oodnadatta*	Oodnadatta	~	Marla	Yunta
Week 3	Mon 20 Oct	Tue 21 Oct	Wed 22 Oct	Thu 23 Oct	Fri 24 Oct
Primary Care	Andamooka	Coorabie/Nullarbor Blinman	Oodnadatta Yalata*	Oak Valley	~
Allied Health	Marree	Andamooka*	Andamooka*	Andamooka	Yalata / Coorabie
Week 4	Mon 27 Oct	Tue 28 Oct	Wed 29 Oct	Thu 30 Oct	Fri 31 Oct
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marree	Yalata Oodnadatta	Yunta Marla	~
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Oodnadatta* Kingoonya/Glendambo	Oodnadatta	Marla	~

Community Health Clinics > November 2025



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Week 1	Mon 3 Nov	Tue 4 Nov	Wed 5 Nov	Thu 6 Nov	Fri 7 Nov
Primary Care	Andamooka	Bush Run W	Bush Run C *	Bush Run NE	-
Allied Health	Marree*	Marree	Andamooka*	Andamooka* Blinman	Andamooka
Week 2	Mon 10 Nov	Tue 11 Nov	Wed 12 Nov	Thu 13 Nov	Fri 14 Nov
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marree	Oodnadatta Yalata	Yunta Marla	-
Allied Health	Oodnadatta*	Kingoonya/Glendambo	-	Marla	Yunta
Week 3	Mon 17 Nov	Tue 18 Nov	Wed 19 Nov	Thu 20 Nov	Fri 21 Nov
Primary Care	Andamooka	Coorabie/Nullarbor Blinman	Oodnadatta Yalata*	Oak Valley	-
Allied Health	Marree	Andamooka*	Andamooka*	Andamooka Yalata*	Yalata / Coorabie
Week 4	Mon 24 Nov	Tue 25 Nov	Wed 26 Nov	Thu 27 Nov	Fri 28 Nov
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marree	Yalata Oodnadatta	Yunta Marla	-
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Oodnadatta* Kingoonya/Glendambo	Oodnadatta	Marla	-

Community Health Clinics > December 2025



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Week 1	Mon 1 Dec	Tue 2 Dec	Wed 3 Dec	Thu 4 Dec	Fri 5 Dec
Primary Care	Andamooka	Bush Run W	Bush Run C *	Bush Run NE	-
Allied Health	Marree*	Marree	Andamooka*	Andamooka* Blinman	Andamooka
Week 2	Mon 8 Dec	Tue 9 Dec	Wed 10 Dec	Thu 11 Dec	Fri 12 Dec
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marree	Oodnadatta Yalata	Yunta Marla	-
Allied Health	Oodnadatta*	Oodnadatta	-	Marla	Yunta
Week 3	Mon 15 Dec	Tue 16 Dec	Wed 17 Dec	Thu 18 Dec	Fri 19 Dec
Primary Care	Andamooka	Coorabie/Nullarbor Blinman	Oodnadatta Yalata*	Oak Valley	-
Allied Health	Marree	Andamooka*	Andamooka*	Andamooka Yalata*	Yalata / Coorabie
Week 4	Mon 22 Dec	Tue 23 Dec	Wed 24 Dec	Thu 25 Dec	Fri 26 Dec
Primary Care	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics	Public Holiday	Public Holiday
Allied Health	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics	Public Holiday	Public Holiday
Week 1	Mon 29 Dec	Tue 30 Dec	Wed 31 Dec	Thu 1 Jan	Fri 2 Jan
Primary Care	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics	Public Holiday	No Clinics
Allied Health	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics	Public Holiday	No Clinics

A year of MECAF

Edwina Bowie

Last year, thanks to my ECEC portfolio lead role, I stepped away from my usual station routine and into something entirely different: I became a member of MECAF, the Minister's Early Childhood Advisory Forum. It's been an interesting experience, and I'd like to share what I've learned, some of the perspectives I've offered, and the collaboration it's involved. At that first meeting in May 2024, I had little idea what I was walking into. Beyond a briefing note, all I knew was that I'd be working with others to help shape the future of early childhood development in South Australia, under the Flying Start initiative led by Minister Blair Boyer. I wasn't sure what to expect, or what I could truly contribute.

Flying Start represents the most significant reform to early education in South Australian history. By next year, around 2,000 children will be accessing three year old kindergarten. Premier Peter Malinauskas and Minister Boyer have championed early years investment as one of the most powerful levers for change. Every child, regardless of where they live, deserves the same opportunity to thrive... this sounded right up my alley. The Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care was launched in response to concerns, including data showing SA Reception students were less school ready than their peers in Victoria. Its findings laid the foundation for the current reforms. To lead their implementation, the State Government established the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) in early 2024, appointing Kim Little as its inaugural Chief Executive. MECAF was formed to help guide this process, drawing on perspectives from across the sector, includ-

ing those of remote and isolated families like ours, of which I was our champion.

But seriously, what was I doing here? I'm just a station mum. The language, the acronyms, the frameworks, they often went straight over my head. Before each meeting, I'd do a quick 15 minute Google just to try and get on the same page as everyone else. But once in those meeting rooms, I listened, asked questions, and took notes. Slowly, I found my footing. So, here's my best attempt to explain what's ahead, it's a heavy read but important.

At the heart of it all is Flying Start: a statewide initiative to deliver universal access to 3 year old preschool by 2032. It includes:

- A staged rollout of 15 hours per week for 3 year olds, starting in regional and remote areas from 2026.
- The creation of 20 Integrated Hubs combining education, health, and family services.
- \$96.6 million to grow and support the early childhood workforce.
- \$40 million over four years for new or expanded preschool facilities.

Running alongside this is Preschool Boost, a more immediate and targeted program designed to support children already showing signs of developmental vulnerability. It funds partner services to access allied health support, implement quality programs aligned with Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) domains, and upskill educators through professional development and coaching. The AEDC provides valuable observational data collected by teachers during the Reception year.

The difference between the two is scope and timing: Flying Start is long-term and systemic;

Preschool Boost is about meeting urgent need. These efforts are backed by significant grant opportunities: infrastructure and workforce grants, as well as up to \$185,000 over two years for local professional networks. But the big question remains, will our remote and isolated children be able to access any of it?

It's a fair concern, especially when it comes to RICE (Remote and Isolated Children's Exercise), which doesn't operate under the National Quality Framework. This is because RICE delivers a unique, outreach based model tailored to remote families, offering mobile playdays, parent support, and occasional care, services that fall outside the definitions covered by the National Quality Framework. Instead, it is classified as a "residual service" and regulated under South Australian legislation and receives funding through the Commonwealth's Community Child Care Fund Restricted (CCCFR) model. While Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) doesn't directly fund RICE, it plays a supporting role through national quality and professional development initiatives.

Because RICE sits outside the mainstream regulatory and funding structures, its eligibility for Preschool Boost or Flying Start grants remains unclear.

And yet, RICE has long been one of the only early learning lifelines for outback families in SA. If reforms like these are to truly deliver equity, services like RICE must be included. I'm hopeful there's room for tailored pathways for the services that don't fit the standard model but are absolutely critical to the families they serve. The AEDC tells us that 24% of South Australian children are developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains. We measure what we treasure, and if we truly treasure early development, we must invest accordingly. That includes remote children, who need support before challenges become entrenched. This is why preschool children should be included in the Distance Education component of the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) allowance.

Throughout my time on MECAF, I've been struck by how rarely rural and remote children fit neatly into the categories driving policy decisions. Most proposed solutions are designed



Edwina Bowie, Kim Little Chief Executive OECD, Elizabeth Death Chief Executive ELACCA, Libby Worrell Senior Educational Consultant Association of Independent Schools of South Australia.

with urban settings in mind. Yet it's strong, connected communities, like ours, that best identify and support vulnerable children. That's where SAICPA fits in: rural reform must be led from the ground up.

These reforms will be delivered alongside allied health services: CaFHS, speech, and occupational therapy, resources we've long fought for. The 2018 loss of CaFHS secondment to RICE was a serious setback. We know that 90% of brain development happens in the first 2,000 days, and early intervention changes lives.

For our youngest learners, communication and foundational life skills are essential. Speech therapy underpins learning and play, while OT supports skills like toileting, eating, and emotional regulation. These are critical to school readiness and confidence, and they're so much harder to access when you live hundreds of kilometres from town.

Integrated Hubs are one response to this challenge. With two pilots launching in 2025, in Port Pirie and Adelaide's northern suburbs, and more planned by 2032, these hubs will co-locate preschool, health, and family support in one accessible space. They sound a lot like what RICE used to offer with the CaFHS service, before its reach was reduced.

A key feature of these hubs is the Preschool Plus program: 30 hours of preschool per week for eligible three and four year olds. But again, access remains the hurdle. Hubs require at least 40 children enrolled to operate. In remote settings, especially where learning is online and parent supervised, that figure is impossible.

Still, I've had a bit of a brain-wave. Perhaps the old SOTA building, alongside RICE, could house one of these new hubs. The infrastructure is there, but the policy design isn't quite aligned with our reality.

The Royal Commission's focus for Preschool Plus was supporting those at greatest risk. That

includes our RICE preschoolers. Because there's currently no unified system for identifying developmental vulnerability in the early years, the government is working on proxy criteria, indirect indicators like income, remoteness, or cultural background. These proxies can help prioritise support, and for our bush kids, they could be the key to being included.

In the months ahead, local consultation and engagement opportunities will grow. I am trying my hardest to make sure our voices, those from the far reaches of South Australia, are heard and we are included.

Early Childhood Education Scholarships – South Australia
The South Australian Government is offering substantial financial support through the QualifySA in Early Childhood program to encourage more individuals into early childhood education:

- Bachelor's Degree: Up to \$25,000 for students pursuing a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education.
- Diploma: Up to \$7,000 for those undertaking a Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students: Eligible for scholarships up to \$34,000.
- Regional and Remote Students: May receive an additional \$10,000 through the 'Grow Your Own' allowance.

These scholarships are available to South Australian residents enrolled in ACECQA-approved early childhood qualifications. The funding is structured as milestone payments throughout the study period and into the initial years of employment.

For more details and to apply, visit <https://www.earlychildhood.sa.gov.au/working-in-early-childhood/financial-support>.

Life Members

Federal Life Members

Julia Materne

Jane Gloster

State Life Members

Bob Baker

Lorrayne Balharry

Glennis Crawford

Jane Gloster

Julia Materne

Lynn Nagel

Don Nicholson

Sharon Nutt

Joanna Gibson

Jill Greenfield

Port Augusta

Lynn Nagel

Don Nicholson

Colleen Manning

North East Branch

Julia Materne

Glennis Crawford

Jane Gloster

Dot Sandland

Roslyn Breeding

Flinders Ranges

Kaye Fels

Richard Warwick

Sally Henery

Marla Oodnadatta

Digby and Bernadette Giles

Helen Williams

North West Branch

Joanna Gibson

Jill Greenfield

Lorraine Greenfield

SA ICPA STATE CONFERENCE 2025

“Through the Ranges” Growing Minds & Futures



Lisa Slade receiving her SA ICPA State Council Life Membership badge from President, Belinda Hatcher.

*Michelle Hilder,
Conference Co-convenor*

The SA ICPA State Conference was held on Friday, 21st March 2025 at the Port Augusta Central Oval Complex, Port Augusta, hosted by the Flinders Ranges Branch. Co-convened by Lisa Slade and Michelle Hilder. The SA Arid Lands Landscape (SAAL) Board held a Pastoral Field Day on Thursday, 20th March out at the Port Augusta Racecourse. The date, for this day, was carefully chosen so pastoral property owners, managers, families and ICPA members could attend both events, reducing travel and maximising the opportunity for people to attend both events. We were kindly invited to join in with SAAL and fellow pastoral community members, for the evening meal, for no charge. A scrumptious meal was enjoyed by all who

attended. A big thank you to SAAL for their support in providing this to our members.

Lisa Slade was presented with SA ICPA Life Membership by SA ICPA State Council President, Belinda Hatcher.

Lisa is a member of the Flinders Ranges Branch and has been an active member of ICPA on all levels (Branch, State and Federal) for many years. Lisa has been a very passionate advocate for making sure that our voice for “equity of access to education for all students who live in rural and remote Australia” is heard.

Following on from Lisa’s presentation, Nutrien Ag Port Augusta staff proceeded to run the auction for the Flinders Ranges Branch ICPA. This was very successful and a big thank you to anyone who contributed to any of these items given. The 2025 SA ICPA State Con-



Flinders Ranges Branch 2025 SA ICPA State Conference convening committee. Absent: Lisa Slade.

ference was very well attended. The strong attendance of politicians was great to see. A total of 29 motions were put forward by delegates covering a variety of issues. Our Opening Speaker Dr Isabella Slade (Lisa’s daughter) gave a very interesting story of her journey to become what she is today. Guest Speaker, Jess Stenson, Commonwealth Games gold medallist and two-time Olympian, had a very interesting talk on her dedication, commitment and perseverance to end up achieving what she has. All Branch presentations were excellent to watch and enjoyed by all. “Outback to Anywhere” – Lisa McIntosh treated Conference attendees with delicious food for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

Our Conference bags (new 20kg bags) were something a little different, which were do-

nated by Laucke Mills, were designed and sewn together by Jane Fischer – Wirreanda Wares – Cradock. A mixture of bags included pictures of various farm animals which included either sheep, cattle, ducks, horses and chooks, as the main picture on the bag.

The post-conference dinner was held at Ian’s Western Hotel, Port Augusta. Thank you to our regular supporters, ABSA, for providing refreshments for members prior to our meal.

Thanks again to our sponsors of the 2025 SA ICPA State Conference, as listed, for their support.

We look forward to catching up with everyone at the 2026 SA ICPA State Conference will be hosted by the North East Branch ICPA.



THANK YOU, TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

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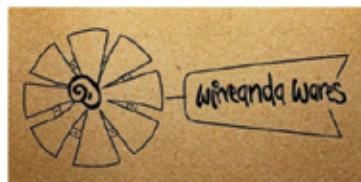
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State Council & Portfolio Reports

Boarding/Hostels/Second Home

Portfolio Leader: Mija Reynolds

Support: Hollie Williams & Kristina Crawford

- Three motions were presented in this portfolio at the 2025 State Conference.
- All Adelaide Schools have been contacted with a letter about State Councils Motion 11 presented at state conference to ask Adelaide boarding schools for a designated ICPA bursary. We have had a positive reply so far and hope to receive more.
- Adelaide boarding schools have been invited to become SA ICPA Lone Members. Prince Alfred College and Walford Anglican School for girls are current Lone Members.
- All South Australian boarding schools will be invited to attend the 2025 Federal Conference, and the majority have committed as sponsors. SA State Council have several motions within this portfolio that will be taken to Federal Conference.
- If you're considering sending your child to boarding school, we encourage you to explore individual school websites for details on available scholarships and bursaries.
- SA ICPA currently have 39 member students studying secondary education either at boarding school or within a second home.

Communication

Portfolio Leader: Louise Kohler

Support: Pamela Cuffe & Dani Chapman

- No communications-related motions were presented at the 2025 State Conference.
- Telstra have just announced the launch of Starlink-backed satellite-to-mobile messaging.
- This is only available to Samsung S25 devices updated to latest software.
- Telstra will be working to include other handsets soon.

Distance Education

Portfolio Leader: Petie Rankin

Support: Kirsty Williams & Pamela Cuffe

- Six motions were presented in the Distance Education portfolio at the 2025 State Conference.
- SOTA still without an SSO after multiple rounds of advertising.
- New SOTA building moving ahead. Planned to be moved by beginning of Term 2 in 2026.
- Julie Taylor retiring at the end of 2025.
- 5-year SOTA Head of Campus position will be advertised late this term/early next term.
- Federal Council met with the Department of Education (DoE) twice regarding the supervisor allowance (October 2024/February 2025). Discussed the Schooling Resource Standard, where Meg Brighton, Deputy Secretary of Schools at DoE, explained that GI students are currently included under the school size and location

loadings. FC asked if GI students could be identified as a separate student-based loading and added as a priority cohort. Meg informed us that there will be an SRS review as part of the national enablement initiatives in 2027, during which ICPA (Aust) will have an opportunity to provide input. However, adding a 5th student-based loading would require a two-pronged approach, involving both state and federal involvement to ensure that funding is passed on to DE schools for a supervisor allowance.

- A question for delegation for Julie Taylor can be 'Who's responsibility should it be when a supervisor is compulsory – State – Federal – or the DE schools?'

Early Childhood Education

Portfolio Leader: Edwina Bowie

Support: Ellen Litchfield

- Eight Early Childhood Education motions were presented at the 2025 State Conference.
- Motion 7 from the State Conference will be presented by the Marree Air Branch at the 2025 Federal Conference. The motion calls for the development of a Child Care Subsidy model that better supports the unique needs of remote and isolated families, particularly in relation to eligibility criteria for funding and subsidies.
- RFDS have responded to our motion letter with thanks for our ongoing commitment to working with them and reaffirmed their continued support for babies and children in the outback through the employment of their Child Health Nurse.
- Unfortunately, since the State Conference in March, there appears to be a widening service gap affecting families in remote and isolated regions—particularly due to the suspension of face-to-face Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) appointments and changes to CaFHS service delivery. The absence of in-person care increases the risk of delayed intervention and further compounds feelings of isolation for families.

In light of this, we hope that interim solutions will be considered to maintain access to essential services during the RFDS service interruption. Potential measures include:

- o Temporary outreach clinics in central, accessible locations
- o In-home or local hall visits by early childhood nurses
- o Collaboration with organisations such as RICE, which already operate within these communities

These approaches would help ensure continuity of care and mitigate the adverse impacts currently being experienced by remote families

- It is a certainty that there will be many motions presented at Federal Conference regarding the extension of the AIC allowance to include kindergarten children. It's an ongoing and frustrating battle, particularly given the State Government's rollout of three-year-old kindergarten and the extreme money that's being injected into this.

However, as always, we will continue to advocate for the extension of the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Distance Education Allowance to include children enrolled in eligible pre-compulsory early childhood education programs.

State Council & Portfolio Reports

- Since the State Conference, I've had the opportunity to take part in three sessions related to the Minister's Early Childhood Advisory Forum. One particularly interesting session focused on the projected establishment of OECD's integrated hubs across the state, especially in areas where children stand to benefit the most. Bringing together preschool children with a range of health, well-being, and education offerings, these integrated hubs aim to make it easier for families to access essential support services in one central location. Registration of interest closes on the 13th of June.

Rural Schools and School Travel

Portfolio Leader: Di Thomas

Support: Michelle Hilder & Belinda Hatcher

- Nine motions were presented in this portfolio at the 2025 State Conference.
- Motion letters have been written and sent out to the appropriate recipients, and we have already had a response from Alliance Airlines in relation to subsidised flights for rural and remote families. The response informed us that Alliance do not operate regular flights from the ports that were mentioned in our letter, but that there are community fares available on the repeat service from Adelaide to Olympic Dam / Olympic Dam to Adelaide for residents (including family and friends) of Roxby Downs and surrounding areas. These are facilitated by MTA Travel in Roxby Downs. Return costs are \$417.58 + credit card fees with some terms and conditions applicable. For more information contact Tina Johnson at MTA Travel on 0424 259 692 or email tjohnson@mtatravel.com.au.
- Some of the motions around subsidised flights from State Conference are being taken to Federal Conference.
- Rural and Remote Education Day (RRED Day):
Scheduled for Wednesday, 15 October 2025.
- \$100 Sports Vouchers Program:
Children in South Australia are now eligible for two \$100 vouchers per year to support participation in sport, dance, music, or swimming lessons – both can be used for the same sport.
More Information – Sports Vouchers SA

Specific Education Needs

Portfolio Leader: Hollie Williams

Support: Ellen Litchfield & Josephine Drennan

- Two Specific Needs motions were presented at the 2025 State Conference. Motion 27 was asking relevant ministers to make targeted funding available for the provision of speech pathologists in rural and remote schools and for distance education students. Motion 28 was around eligibility criterion within the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme.
- State Council have submitted a motion for federal conference like motion 27 from state conference.
- The wait time to see specialists including telehealth and allied health continues to be a huge problem across remote Australia.

- Specific Learning Difficulties SA (SPELD SA) offer bursaries to their online literacy clinic. Please contact them for details support@speldsa.org.au

- Autism Works in the Community Grants Program 2025:
These grants offer one-off funding for projects that promote inclusion and understanding for Autistic individuals and their communities in SA. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$40,000 (ex GST) for initiatives delivered over 12 months starting July 2025.
More Information & Apply – Office for Autism
Applications close: 5:00 pm, 9 May 2025.

Tertiary Education & Career Pathways

Portfolio Leader: Katrina Morris

Support: Dani Chapman

- No tertiary education motions were presented this year.
- The Commonwealth Prac Payment offers nursing, teaching and social work students support while they're undertaking mandatory placements has been introduced. More information here; Commonwealth Prac Payment - Department of Education, Australian Government
- If you are looking for an apprenticeship, check out the job list page statewide apprenticeships webpage; Jobs in Adelaide and South Australia - Career Opportunities
- The Tertiary Access Payment (TAP) is a non-indexed, means-tested payment to school-leavers from regional or remote areas who need to relocate for full-time, higher-level tertiary education (Certificate IV and above) at an education provider located at least 90 minutes by public transport from their family home.
- In the 2024-25 Mid-Year Economic Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO), the Government announced it is removing the TAP eligibility requirement to commence tertiary studies within 12 months of completing Year 12. All other criteria remain in place, including the student being up to 22 years of age at the time of commencement of the course. Removing the access limit period will ensure more regional students are incentivised to pursue a tertiary education and can benefit from this cost of living support. This will enable more students to access the TAP and responds to feedback from regional stakeholders and the Accord Panel. The changes to TAP eligibility require updates to the application and supporting systems. The Government is working to make these changes to enable first-year students who have taken one or more gap years following Year 12 (or equivalent) and are aged up to 22 to apply for the TAP. Students who have taken a gap year are eligible from 1 January 2025, however they cannot apply until mid-June 2025 through Services Australia as the system needs to be updated.
- Check out Country Education Foundation for regional support grants - Country Education Foundation of Australia (CEF) - Home.

Allowances for remote and isolated families

2025

Allowance	Who can apply?	How much?
Federal Allowances: Centrelink		
Assistance for Isolated Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boarding Allowance 	Parents of geographically isolated school aged students who need to board away from home to attend school. Applies to boarding schools, hostels and private board	\$11,396 per year, made up of 2 components: \$8,856 - basic \$2,540 - additional subject to parental income and actual boarding costs \$8,606 minimum boarding charge threshold for Additional Boarding Allowance
Assistance for Isolated Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance Education Allowance 	Geographically isolated and undertaking schooling via Distance Education	\$4,428 per year.
Assistance for Isolated Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Home Allowance 	Geographically isolated and run a second home to access education.	\$6,726 per year paid in fortnightly instalments, for up to three students. \$20,178 maximum second home allowance for each family (three children). www.ipca.com.au TAB: Boarding/Hostels/Second Home
Youth Allowance	Young people from 16-24 years, studying, training or looking for work. Dependant children up to 22 years are subject to Parental Means Test. Rural and regional students can claim the independent rate by earning 75% of Wage Level A in a 14 month period.	Varies by situation. Please call the dedicated hotline: 13 24 90 or see the Centrelink website.
State Allowances: DECD Transport Services Department (08) 8226 2406		
Travel Allowance	School students living five kilometres or more from the nearest public school or school bus run.	Paid per km. Apply through school principal.
State Education Allowance (SEA)	Families in receipt of AIC Basic Boarding Allowance and recipients of AIC Second Home Allowance.	\$4486.27 per year.

Further information regarding the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Apply through Centrelink

- Dedicated Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Call Centre: 13 23 18

To qualify for AIC, students must live at least 56km from an appropriate government school, or at least 16km from an appropriate state school and at least 4.5km from the nearest bus route.

The Parental Income Free Area for 2023 above which the Additional Boarding Allowance is reduced to \$55,626.

**2024 figures may increase with CPI

SA ICPA State Council 2025

<p>President Belinda Hatcher (Daniel) Ph: 08 8648 4213 Mt Elm Station Mob: 0400 745 825 PO Box 72 Email: SAPresident@icpa.com.au Hawker SA 5434</p> <p>Vice President Hollie Williams (Tate) Ph: 08 8670 7975 Nilpinna Station, Email: sasecretary@icpa.com.au PO Box 111 Coober Pedy SA 5723</p> <p>Secretary Dani Chapman Mob: 0427 296 706 Mabel Creek Station Email: Danielle.chapman7@me.com Coober Pedy SA 5723</p> <p>Treasurer Kirsty Williams (Cam) Mob: 0418 423 665 Peake Station, PMB 3, Email: savicepresident@icpa.com.au Coober Pedy SA 5723</p> <p>Immediate Past President Vacant</p> <p>Publicity Officer Ellen Litchfield Mob: 0438 757 792 Wilpoorina Station Email: Litchfield10@gmail.com Marree SA 5733</p> <p>Lone Member Officer Hollie Williams Ph: 08 8670 7975 Nilpinna Station, Email: sasecretary@icpa.com.au PO Box 111 Coober Pedy SA 5723</p>	<p>State Council Delegates</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33.33%; padding: 5px;">Eyre Branch</td><td style="width: 33.33%; 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Portfolio Allocation

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Early Childhood Education Edwina Bowie, Ellen Litchfield
Rural Schools/School Travel Communications Di Thomas, Michelle Hilder, Belinda Hatcher
 Louise Kohler, Pamela Cuffe, Dani Chapman

Distance Education Petie Rankin, Pamela Cuffe, Kirsty Williams
Specific Education Hollie Williams, Ellen Litchfield, Jo Drennan
Tertiary Education/Career Pathways Katrina Morris, Dani Chapman

THE PIPELINE

Next deadline - 21ST DECEMBER 2025

Please send articles to: The Editor, Mija Reynolds

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Wednesday 30th &
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