



# Commitment Underpinned by Passion

*Alana Clark* Belyando-Mt Coolon Branch

Belyando-Mt Coolon Branch 2024 ICPA QLD State Conference Convening Committee held in Townsville. L-R: Colleen Angus, Natalie Comerford, Zabby Appelton, Alana Clark, Amanda Clark, Goscelyn Sullivan, Ureisha Hughes, Kate Ashton & Tom Porter. Absent – Natalie Kenny

At our recent Belyando-Mt Coolon Branch 40th Birthday Long Lunch our valued member Amanda Clark was deservedly awarded a branch life membership. Amanda's involvement over the past 20 years has showcased her commitment to ICPA underpinned by a deep passion for achieving equitable education rights for rural and remote students.

Amanda officially joined as a financial member of the Belyando-Mt Coolon branch in 2002, however, prior to this her parents were involved in the ICPA with the Aramac-Muttaburra branch, volunteering at various events.

Amanda's passion for education led her to study a Bachelor of Primary Education after leaving boarding school. Amanda spent many years teaching in small schools as well as Distance Education, giving her an amazing background in education at a professional level, aiding in her current advocacy efforts for ICPA.

After marrying Mick and moving to the Mt Coolon area, which she has called home for almost 25 years, Amanda was approached by Marion Fletcher, Branch Life Member, as the Belyando-Mt Coolon branch was suffering from low numbers. So, Amanda graciously accepted to become involved in the branch, at this stage she did not have kids. Throughout the last 20 years she has held various executive positions, mainly being secretary.

Amanda has recently completed 16 years educating her three children from kindergarten through to year seven before they departed for boarding school. During this time, she was consistently involved in ICPA. Amanda has spent 21 years in varying roles on the Clermont ICPA Sports Camp Committee, with 12 of these years spent as the administrator and treasurer. Amanda was a key driver

towards the camp successfully running every year during her time on the committee and is continuing to mentor the admin committee members.

Amanda Clark has spent much time organising many events to raise money for the Belyando-Mt Coolon ICPA. She ran the Twin Hills Gymkhana, on behalf of the branch for 12 years, often doing so with a pram or kids on lead ropes in tow. During these years anyone staying in the Clark camp knew that come Sunday morning all would be rallied to come down to the Gymkhana to reset barrels, retrieve flags or lend a hand. Amanda has a great talent at rallying up a crowd to make something happen in an orderly and organised fashion.

She was heavily involved in the organisation of the Mt Coolon Country Music and kids fancy dress evening, which was a major fundraiser for the branch for many years.

In more recent years she spent much time helping to organise the catering for many car rallies, with hundreds of people coming through Mt Coolon. This was no mean feat with limited kitchen facilities. Likewise, she also plays a pivotal role in organising the Mt Coolon Christmas tree each year, giving branch members a chance to relax and unwind at the end of the year and mingle with each other. The branch received an Australia Day Award for the contribution this event makes to the communities' wellbeing.

Amanda has attended an array of State and Federal conferences as a delegate, State Council representative or part of the convening committee taking her to several states, corners of Queensland and many a tent city. Two key conferences during this time were the 2014 Townsville conference hosted by Belyando-Mt Coolon in which Amanda was the treasurer and registration coordinator.

When the chance to host conference came around, Amanda jumped at the opportunity and produced a committee of 10 to host the 2024 conference in Townsville with herself as the convenor. A mammoth effort, in which she was pivotal to the conference's success.

Amanda's greatest commitment to ICPA so far has been joining the ICPA QLD State Council in 2019, first as the State treasurer 2019-2024 and recently she has stepped into her new role as Vice President. During her time as the QLD State Treasurer Amanda has been recognised for her phenomenal talents and commitment to her volunteer role by receiving a certificate of appreciation from the Not-for-Profit Treasurers' Awards in 2022 and again being nominated for this award in 2023. While Amanda was treasurer, she not only completed her duties of treasurer but also choose to sit across several portfolios and attend delegations to advocate for rural and remote children's education with unwavering commitment. Her passion for ICPA continues with her involvement on State Council, only increasing as time goes on as her children spread their wings. One thing that has not changed since Amanda joined ICPA in 2002 is that she continues to channel her passion for education into partaking in essential advocacy for ICPA.

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." No truer words can be spoken about Amanda Clark. Amanda is a powerhouse in everything she turns her hand to. No event is too big, no question is too silly and no matter the number of organisations she plays a key role in, her commitment to ICPA never wavers and it is, for this reason, she is deserving of receiving life membership for the Belyando – Mt Coolon Branch.

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Amanda Clark receiving her Branch Life Membership for Belyando-Mt Coolon Branch



Amanda speaking on stage at the 2024 ICPA QLD State Conference in Townsville



Amanda Clark & Margaret Maloney (Branch Life Members) at the 2014 ICPA QLD State Conference hosted by Belyando-Mt Coolon in Townsville



Goscelyn Sullivan, Layla Sullivan & Amanda Clark representing Belyando-Mt Coolon Branch at the 2017 ICPA Federal Conference in Alice Springs.

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