

## **Annual Pedals Report 2024**

### **Hannah Calcino – Pedals Editor**

Good morning Federal President Louise Martin, federal and state councillors, ICPA members and stakeholders. As always, it is an honour to stand before you today and present my annual Pedals report.

I thought I would start my report by answering an age-old question – how did the national magazine of ICPA come to be known as ‘Pedals’? It is a question I have often pondered myself and one that I have never been able to answer. In preparing for this report, I contacted our federal archivist Carmel Elliott, who sent me the following excerpt from the second edition of Pedals published in 1981. To paraphrase, the word ‘pedals’ is derived from the Latin word ‘pedis’ which translates to ‘foot’ and ICPA has long since provided foot holes for equity for rural and remote children. From the days of John Flynn and Adelaide Miethke, who with their pedal-operated radios, changed the way geographically isolated children were educated; to the children who pedal their bikes down their dusty driveway to catch the school bus into town and the many families who foot the bill to boarding school – ICPA has been there every step of the way championing for funding, resources and education for Australia’s most isolated children.

Pedals is delivered to over 8,000 mailboxes each quarter. It sits on bedside tables, in receptions of boarding schools and as I’ve recently discovered, once read, is used by my father as a firestarter. On average 25-30 schools and businesses advertise in each quarterly edition. Our publisher, Tracey Dewell, sends an invitation to advertise each November; however, primarily new advertisers are reaching out directly, which is promising. More and more advertisers are recognising the reach that our magazine has and are choosing to showcase ICPA families that are connected to their business or school within our pages.

From a publishing perspective, Tracey would like to encourage our readers, members, and advertisers, to please continue to support Pedals to keep it in its peak condition. This is achieved by supplying your amazing stories, delicious recipes, puzzles, book reviews, event photos and informative advertising. She loves reading and compiling your information into this important magazine and your feedback is always welcome and appreciated.

In my report last year, I highlighted a couple of my favourite articles from the previous 12 months. This report, I’d like to shine a light on a few faithful contributors, who without fail, send me content for almost every edition.

Stephanie Cowper, from Charters Towers branch has supplied 2 incredible cover images in the last 12 months. Her stories about Charters Towers ICPA sports camps showcase the benefit of providing sporting opportunities for children who do not have access to regular sporting programs.

Mary Killeen of Yaraka Isisford branch and Hollie Williams, South Australia State Council and Marla Oodnadatta branch, faithfully send me branch updates and happenings from their respective regions.

Lara Jensen of Meekatharra Air Branch has contributed 3 lovely pieces of the last 12 months about the Sandstone ICPA camp, Kalgoorlie School of the Air drama camp and the benefits of the REVISE scheme for distance education families.

Finally, who could forget our resident book reviewers, Magenta Williams and Ivy Anderson. At 11 and 13 respectively, these avid readers review books sent to us through Fremantle Press. Their way with

words is advanced far beyond their years and I appreciate the fresh perspective and youth they add to our magazine.

I would also like to reaffirm the thoughts I include in the editor's letter that begins every edition – Pedals exists because of the people who sow into it and I am eternally grateful to all who contribute articles. I love reading what is happening across every corner of Australia and feel that 'thank you' does not adequately articulate my gratitude for all who help this magazine to keep turning.

I am convinced that ICPA is fuelled by late nights at the computer, thoughts of advocacy at the most obscure times and ponderings about how our organisation can have a greater reach while staring at 100s of kms of road – at least, that's how Pedals comes together. But what's remarkable about this, is that I'm not alone. I'm not the only member of ICPA who is cramming to meet deadlines after a full day of work. I'm not the only one who's sprucing our advocacy to my colleagues, friends and family and I'm not the only one who gets a bubble of excitement at the pit of their stomach when they think about being in a room full of people who are also passionate about equitable education for rural and remote children.

In our fast-paced world, time is a precious commodity. But generosity extends beyond the gift of time; it encompasses our willingness to advocate for change. Advocacy is not merely a duty; it's a privilege and a responsibility. The generosity of everyone in this room, who gives up their time to work towards something bigger than themselves, is not unnoticed. Working as part of an organization run purely by volunteers is truly a testament to the power of passion and dedication. It's a reminder that change doesn't always come from those with titles or positions of authority but from the collective efforts of individuals driven by a common cause. I think I echo the sentiments of all present and all who have come before – ICPA is a tapestry of compassion, drive, authenticity, and generosity, and for that reason alone – it's worth being a part of.