

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

"Kites fly higher against the wind than with it" - Winston Churchill

50 years ago, Mrs Patricia Edgley made a decision to give geographically isolated children and their families a voice. A voice to ensure their educational needs were met and maintained. And to do this she knew we had to unite because, as the theme of our recent Federal Conference reflects, we are indeed "Stronger Together". How indebted we are to Mrs Edgley and all of our ICPA forebearers for their foresight and wisdom, for bringing our great organisation to fruition and promoting such an important message which still rings true today.

Over 50 years since that very first meeting back in 1971, ICPA has risen above challenges and trials to remain steadfast and committed to this cause. As I chaired our milestone 50th Annual ICPA Federal Conference, alas once again in the face of the COVID pandemic, with more than 200 people in attendance both face to face and online, there was little doubt about the resilience of our great organisation to withstand and overcome whatever is thrown at us, whether the wind is with us or not.

Of course, I cannot write this President's report without giving my take on the Federal Conference, which was a momentous occasion, finally coming together after months of uncertainty. It was with great pleasure and humility that I was able to be a part of this event and my heartfelt gratitude goes to all who were a part of this Conference, despite the odds that were against us; to all the helpers, sponsors, supporters along the way, those on the Conference floor and those who attended online, for the understanding, support and encouragement felt as we navigated the rough waters in planning this Conference. My thanks also goes to all of Federal Council and the convening committee, Wendy Henning, Tammie Irons, Julie McDonald and Prue Button who, on more than one occasion, have had to placate me and keep me from



crawling under a rock, while also dealing with their own emotions and challenges – at times it was a comedy of errors - but I could not think of a better group to have been sharing it with. I trust they all know how valued they are. No one but us will ever know how challenging, uncertain and emotive the lead up to Conference was and that none of what we did in relation to Conference was done light-heartedly or without tremendous anxiety, struggle and deliberation given the unprecedented situation that was unfolding. An enormous thank you also goes out to the Australia Boarding Schools Association team Richard, Tom and Jared. Conference would not have been possible without the ongoing and immeasurable support we have received from them.

To all ICPA Members, it has been a privilege to be entrusted to represent you in the role of Federal President again and work alongside my fellow Federal Councillors. How privileged I feel to have the opportunity to work alongside such an incredible team for another Council year. And so our new Council has hit the ground running and the team is doing what we do best – representing and advocating for members. While we sadly farewelled several former Federal Councillors at Conference, Nikki, Jo, Kristen and Briony who are sorely missed I thank them from the bottom of my heart for their contributions to ICPA. We welcomed on board new members to the team, Wendy Henning, Ali Allison, Anna McCorkle, Naomi Obst and Laura Stalley. Lisa Slade, Suzanne Wilson and Sally Sullivan left their respective Executive positions, however I am very pleased that we still have each of them on board in new roles.

Currently we are working hard to action the motions carried at Conference, along with continuing to attend virtual meetings, correspond with stakeholders and maintain Federal Council administration. We were pleased on 1 December to not only hold Geographically Isolated Distance Education (GIDE) Day for the second year in a row but to also launch a three month campaign to raise



Alana Moller, Federal President, with Boyd Curran of Nutrien, one of the conference sponsors

the profile of the plight GIDE (geographically isolated distance education) families face and, specifically, to call for the Distance Education teaching Allowance (DETA) to be brought to fruition. I urge members to check our social media and get involved. The story needs to be told!

As the New Year commences and plans are made for school, tertiary and training I wish to draw members attention to the recently released Federal Allowances document (see p 30), where we have collated a thorough list of the federal allowances available to assist members. We are hoping this evolving document will serve as a valuable resource for families requiring assistance. I encourage members to our look at our website www.icpa.com.au, where you will find conference information and reports, a range of portfolio documents, contact details, ICPA history and many valuable resources. Of course I also remind you that all of Federal Council are here for you to contact and to give you any assistance when you need it; please do not hesitate to touch base with us at any time.

As I draw to a close, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a most wonderful 2022, filled with love, laughter and happiness. There is not much left to be said as we embark on the new year, except that ICPA will once again be here for you and to support you as we can, because being geographically isolated does not mean you are alone.

**Alana Moller
Federal President**

As pandemic conditions continue to be so fluid, it is difficult to predict what is ahead; however, ICPA Australia has been and will continue to ensure our geographically isolated students are remembered and supported. We continue, in particular, working towards a consistent solution for the challenges which have transpired for interstate boarding students.

CBA Tertiary Scholarship Awarded

The 2021 recipient of the CBA Tertiary Scholarship, administered by Yaraka/Isisford ICPA Branch, is Darcy Douglas from Mitchell.

Darcy completed his secondary education as a boarder at The Southport School, QLD. Realising the importance of education he put in total dedication to his studies and harnessing the opportunities he was given. Obtaining an ATAR of 99 he will attend UQ studying a Bachelor of Advance Finance and Economics (Honours). He hopes to aspire towards the betterment of regional communities by being an economic leader within them.

Other achievements include being team Captain of TSS open Basketball, Boarding Dorm Captain as well as mentor and tutor to younger students

Participating in the Australian Business Week Enterprise Program, Darcy led the team to winning Stock price, markets shares etc and wrote the winning analytic report.

He was Dux of Economics, received the Headmaster's Award for Resilience, the Award for Best All rounder and

a High Distinction (top 1%) in UQ School of Economics student competition. Darcy was also in the Bond University business extension program.

He has many other interests including basketball, soccer, debating, gym and sailing.

A positive, optimistic and enthusiastic student, with no task too difficult for him to tackle, Darcy is conscientious, hard working and knows what he wants. Whilst always prepared to listen to others Darcy is still willing, where appropriate, to challenge them.

Darcy has a very good rapport with his peers, is confident and encouraging with communication skills of the highest order. He has a very strong work ethic and old fashioned values, helps out his mates and shows respect to his elders.

Overall, Darcy is a responsible young man with a wonderful future ahead of him

**Fiona Owens
Yaraka Isisford Branch**