



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

When they've finished reading, Olivia's mother gives her a kiss and says 'You know, you really wear me out. But I love you anyway.' And Olivia kisses her back and says 'I love you anyway too.' – from the children's book "Olivia" by Ian Falconer



Following on from a conversation with my brother last week, where he suggested that people wonder why I spend so much time on ICPA, I found myself reflecting on that question.

Like raising children, sometimes it is hard. Sometimes it really wears me out. Sometimes I do wonder why I do it. However, like my children, I know it is so important, I am passionate about it and I do truly love it. I am fairly sure in saying that, I am speaking for all the volunteers who have and continue to dedicate their time to ICPA. Few have devoted themselves more to ICPA than Raelene Hall, over almost two decades as Pedals Editor and though I am sure there have been times when she has found it hard and she has felt completely worn out, I am pretty sure she loves it too. And while it is now time for Raelene to move on, I am sure that she will continue to involve herself in ICPA and for that I am glad. Raelene, on behalf of Federal Council, along with all of our members, please accept heartfelt gratitude for the extraordinary time and effort you have contributed to ICPA. Please don't ever be a stranger.

Speaking of strangers, as I write this report, Federal Council are currently endeavouring to make acquaintance with key Ministers in the new Federal Government, elected in May and ensure they are cognisant with our organisation and advocacy. We very much look forward to working with newly appointed Minister for Education, the Hon Jason Clare MP, along with Minister for Social Services, the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP, Minister for Skills and Training the Hon Brendan O'Connor MP, and Minister for Communications the Hon Michelle Rowland MP.

Federal Council also welcomes the appointment of a Minister for Early Childhood Education, the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP. We are eager to work with the Minister to raise the current challenges being faced across the country in early childhood education and how they are amplified in rural and remote areas.

While the election campaign and caretaker mode meant that for some time we were unable to correspond or discuss advocacy with government or departments, we certainly did not rest on our laurels and took the opportunity to meet as a team in Canberra in

May, to get to know each other and work together. It was the first time some of our councillors had met each other face to face, such a valuable opportunity. We also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the National Farmers' Federation discussing our commonalities and where we could work together for the rural and remote communities we advocate on behalf of. May also saw an opportunity for a joint councils meeting, a rare occurrence these past few years, for a thoroughly enjoyable and productive weekend.

We have also had Federal Council representatives at all state conferences these past few months and while I have had to miss several due to some health problems, it has been

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heartening to finally have the opportunity for at least some of us to come together. It was a thrill to be a part of celebratory anniversary events held in New South Wales, South Australia, the Northern Territory and online with Western Australia. My personal highlight though, was to be in Bourke, the birthplace of ICPA, celebrating 50 years with the founding President, Mr Wally Mitchell. This opportunity was such a momentous and historic occasion that I felt so very privileged and humbled to be a part of.

Which brings me to our 51st conference, the start of our second half century. I am now tentatively admitting that I am uber-excited that we will be together once again in Perth in August. With plans well and truly underway and motions currently rolling in from branches and state councils across the country I can assure members that the Western Australia convening committee, are going above and beyond to make all ICPA members and guests welcome and taken care of. While after 51 years it is perhaps disappointing to still see so many motions reflecting the educational inequities experienced by geographically isolated children and their families, it does

reiterate just how important ICPA continues to be. As the Conference theme suggests, the Conference will be an opportunity for rural and remote members to make new connections with one another, reignite old ones, collaborate, learn and, more generally, revel in the ambience that is an ICPA Federal Conference.

As you read this report, on the eve of Federal Conference, may I take this opportunity to mention to anyone who has ever thought about joining our Federal Council team to consider if it is your time. Like raising children, it isn't necessarily going to be easy, however I can assure you that it is most certainly worthwhile.

So now as we make final plans for the 2022 Federal Conference, while I hope to see many of you there, may I take this opportunity to remind you all that no matter where you are, being geographically isolated does not mean you are alone.

Alana Moller
Federal President

Coming Together

Twelve Federal and State presidents and secretaries, representing nationwide members met in Canberra on 14-15 May to discuss advocacy and various matters pertaining to Council business. Each state council gave an update on what is happening in their respective states and compared the ways in which each state deals with common issues.

Councils' business included strategic planning, corporate governance and corporate governance training, memberships, succession planning, the website, state and federal magazines, communications between branches, states and federal.

Not surprisingly, State and Federal Conferences were a hot topic of discussion with the NT, NSW and SA having already celebrated their milestone anniversary conferences this year. 2022 Queensland and Federal conferences will be held in the coming months.

We were fortunate to enjoy some social time getting to know new friends and rekindling old friendships with councillors from the other states over dinners. We look forward to sharing our experience and learning with the rest of state council and members in the coming months.

Suzanne (Sue) Wilson
ICPA NT Assistant Secretary



L to R: Moira Lanzetta, Kym Ross, Kim Hughes, Belinda Hatcher (front), Amanda Clark, Suzanne Wilson, (front) Louise Martin, Alana Moller, Kate Thompson, Sally Brindal, Hollie Williams, Shennah Joiner