

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

by **Glennis Crawford,**  
**Vice President, SA State Council.**

**COLIN MUNRO** of the ABC's 'Sunday All Over' programme and **Jane Barton's 'Morning Extra'**, broadcast the story of the foundation meeting of Federal ICPA, and from that humble beginning ICPA across the outback became a snowballing phenomenon. In SA, **Jill Dobbs**, of **Moralana Station** in the **Flinders Ranges** heard on her wireless **Colin Munro's report** and reported this to the next meeting of the **Port Augusta School of the Air Outback Parents' Meeting**. It aroused much interest. As a result, **Don Nicolson, Roopena Station, Whyalla, Richard Ragless, Puttapa Station, Beltana and Athol Iver, Spring Dam Station, Yunta** were elected to act as delegates to ICPA's first Federal Conference in October 1971 in Bourke.

SA involvement began with ICPA in 1971, through the Outback Parents' Club and it was soon necessary to form a Branch of ICPA. Hence the birth of Port Augusta ICPA. The North-East Branch was formed in 1972 and for many years these were the only Branches operating in SA. They held combined meetings on an ad hoc basis, chaired by SA Life Member, Don Nicolson, and these meetings became the forerunner of our State Conferences.

Branches in SA apart from the above mentioned, to have formed and become affiliated with the Federal body are: Marea Air (1979); Far West (1982); Pinkawillinie (1982-1992); North-West (1982); Adelaide (1985-92); Everard (1989) Lock & Districts (1989); and Flinders Ranges (1991).

Our State Council in SA has a unique structure compared to our interstate bodies. Because of the small number of branches each Branch is entitled to two delegates on the Council which enables this body to truly represent our members.

SA ICPA has a proud history of service to the isolated families it represents and has made significant achievements in the last 25 years. Some of these include the State Education Allowance (first introduced in 1980) which is paid free of means testing, to secondary students who qualify for the living away component of the AIC. The formation of the Host School/Itinerant Teacher Service, which was designed to use existing personnel and resources more efficiently in local schools, to assist children and supervisors working in isolated situations, had enormous input from ICPA. Significant input from ICPA in SA has also gone into the implementation of the Remote & Isolated Children's Exercises (RICE) in the 70's, School Councils at both the School of the Air and the Correspondence School (now both campuses of the Open Access College) in the early 80's and the REVISE scheme in the 90's. Pastoral Training Courses in SA were originally mooted by ICPA, representation on a committee to study the use of satellite communications systems, and gaining policy

changes to the bypassing of local schools (which has once again reared its ugly head!) were some other issues which ICPA took on board and became reality.

Our representation on many committees has been from the respect and credibility ICPA has gained within educational and political circles. The restructuring of distance education in SA in the early 90's was a huge undertaking for the Education Department and ICPA was well represented on many of the groups at that time. We continue to have representation on the Open Access College Council, the Management of the Itinerant Teacher Service, SA Rural Student Accommodation Program and Telstra Regional Consumer Council and are frequently consulted by various groups and organisations.

SA has hosted three Federal Conferences, 1980 & 1986 at the Adelaide Festival Centre, 1991 in Port Augusta and we will host the 1996 Conference at Westminster School in Adelaide. We are very excited about this event, and look forward to many ICPA friends visiting us mid year.

Fundraising for ICPA has always been a task that many of the branches have undertaken to assist with delegate travel to Conferences and State Council, support for Federal and State Council and Branch Administration. These fundraising ventures have been innovative, fun and in some cases jolly hard work. There have been campdrafts, catering for bush bashes, bushranging, lotteries, raising fat lambs, cake stalls, phone directories, cook books, woolshed dances, fashion parades, selling sheep manure and all-weekend campouts - just to name a few! In the early days of ICPA in SA the Tommie Wattie Stomp became a huge fundraiser not only for the North East Branch but for St John's Ambulance, RFDS, Federal and State Council. It was hard work for the dedicated but rich rewards were reaped and much needed publicity gained.

We in SA owe so much to our early members of ICPA; those that had the foresight and impetus to get the branches going; those who travelled the long distances to Federal and State Conferences on very little or no funding; those who diligently fundraised for others to lobby on our behalf and those who stood up and said that the children of the bush have a right to an education and educational opportunity. To those people we say, "Thank you".

In SA, we are continuing the work of those who have laid the foundations to a strong, well organised, dedicated and successful organisation.

Happy Birthday, ICPA! •

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