

BITS & PIECES

ICPA WA Newsletter



Working together to ensure access to appropriate education for all regional Western Australians.

From Your President's Desk

Twelve months ago, I relocated my office due to the impact of COVID-19 and having my children at home doing online learning. I do not think any one of us comprehended, at that time, that 12 months on COVID-19 would still be so prominent in our lives. Although for the most part life has returned to some form of normality COVID-19 gives us the odd reminder that it is still very much present, as we saw with the delay to the start of the 2021 school year.

I am very thankful that I am able to be writing this from my office. Cyclone Seroja tore through the Midwest and surrounding regions with such ferocity causing destruction to homes and infrastructure; whatever was in its path. As stories of that night continue to surface it is nothing short of amazing to think there were no major injuries or loss of life. The damage to our property pales into insignificance compared to others and although infrastructure can be rebuilt it is going to be a long process. My thoughts are with all those impacted by the cyclone especially at such a busy time of year.

The loss of power and ability to communicate with the outside world compounded the feeling of isolation that rural communities and families can often experience. As communications have been slowly restored the realisation of the area of impact of the cyclone has become more widespread. With that is also the awareness of the many selfless acts of kindness that have been on display. The strength and resilience of our rural areas is exceptional. Thanks must go to the SES, ADF and all volunteers for their assistance with families in need. Volunteering, whatever its form, takes time out of already busy lives but it also brings many benefits in the form of new skills, knowledge passed on and friendships formed. It is a long road ahead but one that communities will travel together.

Our February face to face meeting had to be cancelled due to the sudden COVID-19 lockdown and a Zoom meeting held in its place. This made meeting in person at State Conference even more special.



Gascoyne Branch convened the 49th Annual ICPA WA State Conference, 'Educate not Isolate'. Our thanks to Alys McKeough and her convening committee for their time, commitment and a job well done!

There were many motions presented by branches, some of the issues raised concerned: allowances – BAHA, communications, SOTA funding, rural and remote school services, travel related allowances and travel exemptions for boarding students. State Council will continue to voice the concerns of our members and work on these motions.

At the AGM Tash Johns stepped down as Immediate Past President. I would like to thank Tash for all the support she has given me during the last twelve months. Her depth and wealth of knowledge is invaluable and her contribution to ICPA immeasurable. Tash you will be greatly missed. I would like to thank the 2020 State Council for renominating and together with three new councillors it gives me great pleasure to announce we are a full State Council for 2021. I would like to welcome Louise Ford, Meekatharra Air Branch, Lee-Anne White, Goldfields Eyre Branch and Jane Cunningham, Lakes District Branch. I thank them for volunteering to join State Council and look forward to the skills and knowledge they all bring. I am sure they will all enjoy their time immensely. State Council are due to meet for their next face to face on 23rd and 24th June at SIDE, Perth.

Next year we celebrate 50 years of ICPA WA, and the Midwest Branch have volunteered to host conference. See the Save the Date on page 8.

Left: WA President Sally Brindal with Federal Treasurer Lisa Slade at the 49th State Conference



The 2021 Federal Conference is a celebration of 50 years of ICPA and is to be held in Longreach, Queensland. I would encourage members to attend this significant milestone in ICPA history. Federal Conference is a great experience. State Council are willing to fund the 2-day Conference package for 1 member from each Branch. If members are interested in attending, please contact your Branch Secretary. Further details about Federal Conference can be found on the opposite page.

It is with great sadness that State Council received the news Raelene Hall will be stepping down as Editor of the Bits & Pieces magazine next year. Although members are sent an online monthly newsletter, Bits & Pieces is also an important source for getting information out to our members. I encourage all Branches and members to help contribute to this publication by way of branch news, photos, member's news, accomplishments or any information that you would like to share with the rest of ICPA WA.

If anyone is interested in becoming the next Editor, please contact WA Secretary, Kym Ross WASecretary@icpa.com.au. No previous experience is necessary and, I am sure, Raelene will be only too willing to offer her assistance.

I hope you have all been able to enjoy your holiday time with your children. Stay safe everyone.

Cheers

Sally Brindal
WA State President

A FOND FAREWELL

At this year's State Conference we said a sad goodbye to our State Councillor Tash Johns. Tash joined State Council in 2015, became Vice President in 2016, stepped up to be President from 2017-2019 before becoming the Immediate Past President in 2020.

Even in bush camps, while erecting fence lines, Tash's leadership and commitment to ICPA shone through. Tash is so thorough in everything she undertakes and is always the voice of reason. State Council thank her from the bottom of their hearts for her wisdom and contribution and wish her all the best in her next adventure.



The conference will take place at the Longreach Civic Centre, with the evening events being held at the Longreach Stockman's Hall of Fame, the QANTAS Founders' Museum and the banks of the Thomson River.

Accommodation throughout Longreach has been reserved to ensure your comfort. When booking please mention that you are booking for the ICPA Conference/iButton Events so you are able to book the reserved accommodation. There are rooms or cabins still available Albert Park Motel, Mitchell Grass Retreats, Abajaz Motel, Saltbush Retreat, Jumbuck Motel, the Staging Post and the Longreach Tourist Park.

Federal Conference consists of a pre-Conference function the evening prior to Conference, the 2-day Conference package, a Conference Dinner at the end of Day 1 and a post conference function at the conclusion of Day 2.

State Council are willing to finance 1 member from each Branch to attend the 2-day Conference event. Please contact your Branch Secretary if you are interested in attending.

FROM YOUR EDITOR



Greetings and welcome to your first edition of Bits & Pieces for 2021. Its hard to believe we are nearly half way through the year already.

Cyclone Serjova brought all her fury to our state earlier this year and many of our ICPA families were affected. Our thoughts are with them as they continue

the cleanup and repairs/rebuilding, which for some will take many months or even years.

Another successful State Conference was held in March Read all about it and check out the photos in this issue. A huge conference is coming up next year when WA will celebrate its 50th anniversary conference. Save the date on your calendar. It will be here before you know it.

Great to see State Council with their full complement of councillors -the first time for some years. Congratulations to the new councillors (read about them on the opposite page) and thank you to our continuing councillors.

We all have a great chance to have input into the Australian Curriculum Review - see page 18/19. If you feel the Curriculum is not up to par here is your opportunity to put your thoughts forward.

Best Wishes to all.

Raelene Hall
Editor

‘Never regret anything that made you smile’.

Mark Twain

Cover image:

Carla Hyde, Secretary and Coby Smith, Vice President of the Eastern Districts ICPA Branch enjoyed their time at the WA State Conference

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Meet Your New Councillors

Lee-Anne White



Lee-Anne and her husband Sam are Overseers at Rawlinna Depot. Farming is in Lee-Anne's DNA. She was born and lived all her life in Esperance having been an Agricultural TA as well as a self-employed contractor. A move to a work on a cattle station in QLD led to meeting husband Sam, creating their family and running their own sheep husbandry and fencing contracting business.

Now back in the West Lee-Anne and Sam, along with Chloe, Jessica (both 8) and Grace (9 months) are members of the Goldfields Eyre Branch with the girls enrolled in Kalgoorlie School of the Air.

Lee-Anne enjoys helping youth to learn new things and believes there is no such word as 'CAN'T'. She is willing to give anything a go. With her love of living remotely Lee-Anne is very keen to get more families involved with ICPA.

Jane Cunningham



Jane grew up in Kondinin where her mother was involved with the local Kondinin ICPA Branch. Jane currently lives in Tambellup with her husband Ian and their children Lysbeth 14, Emmeline 12 and Leo 10. Lys and Em board at Great Southern Grammar. Jane teaches part-time in the K/P/1 class at Tambellup Primary School as well as working in the family business.

Jane loves gardening and wildflowers, especially the orchids of the Wheatbelt and Great Southern. The family love camping all over our amazing WA.

Jane is a member of the Lakes Branch and has just taken on the role of Secretary. She is keen to continue the great work of our past councillors.

Louise Ford



Louise grew up on Prenti Downs Station, East of Wiluna. Together with her brother she was educated through Meekatharra School of the Air, as were both her parents. Louise attended boarding school in Perth for her high school education.

Louise and her husband Jim live on Paroo Station between Meekatharra and Wiluna. Their daughter Olivia is at Curtin Uni, their son Charlie is in Year 12 and twins Isla and Flynn are in Year 5 at Kalgoorlie School of the Air.

Louise is a member of the Meekatharra Air Branch. She feels passionate about isolated families' voices being heard. Having lived in the bush all her life and, having a decade long association with School of the Air, she feels strongly that it's vital our children get the best possible education despite their geographical location.

CONNELLAN SUPPORTS CONFERENCE



ICPA (WA) State Council wish to thank the CONNELLAN AIRWAYS TRUST for their financial support assisting with the cost of accommodation for our State Council members from remote

and rural Western Australia.

The ICPA (WA) State Council members are spread from Meekatharra to Hyden to Jerramungup and all points in between, volunteering their time to advocate on behalf of remote, rural and regional students and their families, in accessing an equitable education.

The annual ICPA State Conference provides a forum for regional, rural and remote members to communicate grass root issues to Government departments, policy makers, education staff, service providers and associated industries. This year's conference was attended by ICPA members, representation from government and independent metropolitan and regional schools, boarding schools, telecommunication providers, post compulsory educators and industries along with politicians.

ICPA State Councillors volunteer three days of their time to be in Perth to finalise Conference details. State Council also rely heavily on the volunteer hours of the convening ICPA branch members who organise the logistics of the event.

This year's theme was 'Educate not Isolate'. The events of the past twelve months, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have clearly highlighted how children can be isolated from education and the importance of access to an equitable education.

Conference is a way of encouraging remote branch members to travel to Perth to meet and share issues experienced in accessing education which their geography sees them isolated from.

ICPA WA is grateful for the generous sponsorship received from the Connellan Airways Trust. Our membership base is very aware of Connellan Airways Trust. Members took home pamphlets in their conference bags and were encouraged to circulate them in their local communities. Any entity that supports our volunteers to travel from remote parts of our State for the betterment of access to education deserves a big THANK YOU.

ABOUT THE CONNELLAN AIRWAYS TRUST



The Trust was the brainchild of E J Connellan (EJ) who established Connellan Airways in 1939. This Territorian pioneer, aviator and pastoralist convinced shareholders of Connellan Airways that a substantial portion of the proceeds of the sale of the airline should be applied to the establishment of a Trust. Due to the generosity of many and the efforts of EJ Connellan, the Trust was established in June 1981.

The Trust was established to commemorate all those who have lived and worked in the Outback and suffered the privations and remoteness of the Outback.

The VISION of the Trust is to improve social and economic outcomes for people living in Outback Australia.

The OBJECTIVES of the Trust are:

To promote and encourage the advancement of knowledge of people, especially younger people, living in outback parts of Australia such as those formerly served by Connellan Airways.

To assist such people ("eligible recipients") through financial support for education, health, communication and transport needs.

To foster the education of people in Outback Australia who provide service or assistance to eligible recipients.

To encourage access to the Trust and to achieve an awareness of the Trust with people living in the Outback, the media, potential donors and supporters.

Visit the website www.connellanairwaystrust.org.au to learn more about grants, awards and publications.

THANK YOU

WA Conference Packed a Punch

Jane Hughes, WA State Publicity Officer, has compiled an overview of the State Conference for all those unable to attend.

What a ripper 49th State Conference we had this year! They say good things come in small packages and although this year's State Conference was one of our smallest it packed a punch with wonderful keynote speakers, guests and our amazing ICPA members.

The Gascoyne Branch did a brilliant job of hosting this year's conference. Alys and her team did an incredible job putting everything together to make this year's conference run smoothly. The table decorations, consisting of produce from the Gascoyne region, had everyone's mouths watering.

The pre and post conference functions went off flawlessly, with the Ingot Hotel going above and beyond to make sure we had delicious food and drinks.

A highlight was having Mr Colin Pettit, the West Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People, as our opening speaker. He gave a wonderful and highly engaging presentation.

Mrs Lisa Slade, Federal Treasurer, presented the ICPA Federal President's report on behalf of Mrs Alana Moller.

Mr Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager, Telstra, addressed conference covering a range of topics including:

- * 760 WA schools getting connectivity upgrades
- * Regional Connectivity Program
- * STAND: Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters Program
- * Digital Farm Grants

Mr Richard Stokes, CEO ABSA, facilitated our panellist session discussing the challenges faced by teachers, principals, boarding students and university students during the 2020 COVID pandemic. Members of the panel were: Professor Stephen Winn - Executive Dean of the School of Education ECU, Madi Hall - Year 11 student St Brigid's College, Isabel Nixon - University student Notre Dame, Paul Mathews - Principal School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE).

Richard then put on his Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA) hat and discussed:

- * A range of online workshops offered to parents, teachers and boarding staff.
- * Certificate courses offered to boarding school staff.
- * Free online course offered to boarding school staff.
- * Certification assessment for boarding schools
- * ABSA's new podcast called On Duty.
- * New webpage for parents on ABSA website.



Ms Naomi Evans, Head of nbn Local WA (Regional and Community) updated members on the following:

- * NBN strengthening telecommunications in regional communities.
- * Regional development and engagement.
- * Supporting priority segments.
- * Support that was offered during COVID -19.
- * Sky Muster Plus satellite service.
- * Ensuring Australians of any age can participate in online learning.
- * Digital capability tool.

Ms Lisa Rodgers, Director General, Department of Education, WA, also spoke to conference attendees and covered the following items:

- * Making sure that children have foundation skills and access to the senior secondary curriculum.
- * Having students equipped with good work skills to enter the workforce.
- * Changing the way we deliver education.
- * Distance Education and the quality of it.
- * SIDE being a first choice option for students while offering access to specialised courses and provision.

This year also marked a very special occasion as we had 3 new Councilors join State Council - Lee-Anne White, Jane Cunningham and Louise Ford, with Naomi Obst stepping into the role of Vice President. This has meant we have a full State Council for Western Australia, which hasn't happened in a few years!! I look forward to seeing you all at our 50th State Conference in 2022.

SAVE THE DATE

***ICPA WA 50th Conference
Friday 18th March 2022***

Come and celebrate

REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN

St Stephen's School has announced two new scholarships for regional students to join their community in 2022.

The Regional Scholarships are available to Secondary students from regional WA commencing in Years 7-10 at either the Carramar or Duncraig campus, dependent on space, who have the intention of continuing to Year 12 at the School and a desire to pursue tertiary, apprenticeship or career opportunities after graduation.

Applications will be determined according to a range of criteria including community involvement, efforts towards academic achievement, a positive attitude to learning, enthusiastic involvement in co-curricular activities, good attendance, conduct and behaviour that aligns with the School values.

The coeducational scholarships are offered in conjunction with participation in the School's award-winning Home Away From Home (HAFH) program, which offers a more bespoke homestay arrangement than traditional boarding and at a fraction of the cost.

"The HAFH program offers regional Secondary students the opportunity to study in the Perth metropolitan area, benefitting from a leading holistic education that offers all the academic and vocational pathways, extracurricular programs and pastoral support while going home to the comfort of a family home at the end of each day," St Stephen's School Principal Mrs Donella Beare said.

The HAFH program runs in partnership with established homestay provider Talkabout Homestay, who undertake strict checks and interviews to match students with local host families.

"It is a holistic approach that encourages strong relationships between the host family, regional family and School to best care and cater for each child's learning and wellbeing," Mrs Beare said.

The Regional Scholarships will grant partial or full remittance of tuition fees (at the Scholarship Committee's discretion) but do not cover the cost of the homestay component.

Applications for the scholarships to start in 2022 are now open until October 1, 2021.

Apply at www.ststephens.wa.edu.au/enrolments/ris/regional-students or email: homeawayfromhome@ststephens.wa.edu.au for more information.



A New Chapter

As we finalise a chapter of our lives, School of the Air, we begin a new chapter, that of Boarding School, and for two children who have been living in the Pilbara Region of Western Australia, we are embarking on the next journey in a big way, choosing to send them Interstate for this next chapter.

Our daughter Regina, began her School years at Mt Isa School of the Air in January 2014, and then continued on with Port Hedland School of the Air from January 2016 and completing her Primary school years in December 2020. For the duration of Regina's schooling, we have been based on remote cattle properties and for the majority of the years Regina and her brother Jack have been the only students on the property. So to begin Boarding School will also mean an increase in the number of students in Regina's classroom, the excitement and fun of living with lots of girls, the chance to play sport and join in some extra curricular activities, all of which Regina hasn't been involved in before.

Regina and Jack Lethbridge at Port Hedland School of the Air



We are very thankful that we have had the expertise of some wonderful governesses over the past seven years, not to mention the teachers that have educated Regina from afar. We are also very thankful for the support of the ICPA, and the tireless work they do to ensure our children can continue their education through School of the Air for as long as they have. We were lucky enough to receive the Bursary from the Pilbara Branch of the ICPA for 2020, and it has certainly gone a long way to ensure Regina has all the necessary uniforms and books to begin her Boarding School Journey.

We consider ourselves very lucky to be able to live where we live, educate the children the way we have and experience the life we have so far. I have always been very positive about Distance Education and knew for many years that our children would be going away to Boarding School at some stage. I have often commented on the fun they will have, the friends they will meet and the sport they can learn to play – all positive experiences I remember from my childhood. I didn't grow up on a large cattle station, and I didn't go to Boarding School but, growing up I was lucky enough to be given every opportunity at school and sport. From there I moved to large cattle stations across Australia and thus began my love for them.

So for our children to grow up on cattle stations; education through the School of the Air was the way of life and Boarding School is the next step. Over the years, it had seemed like it was a long way away, but it did happen very quickly and all of a sudden reality hit and we were sending them away. I knew it was something that was going to happen eventually, and I believe thousands before us have conquered this and we can too!

Belinda Lethbridge



Regina's graduation from Port Hedland School of the Air

Conference to Council

In March this year I attended my first ICPA State Conference at the Ingot Hotel in Perth. Although I have been a member of the Lakes District Branch for a few years, I was a little nervous as this was my first active face-to-face meeting at any level of ICPA. The nerves quickly disappeared as I was welcomed by a warm, fun and energetic group of women from every corner of Western Australia, as well as Queensland and South Australia over dinner and drinks.

The 'Educate not Isolate' theme of the conference had a diverse line-up of speakers. The most memorable for me being Mr Colin Pettit, the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Mr Paul Mathews the Principal of SIDE and Mr Michael Valentine of the Hale Future School.

Although Mr Colin Pettit presented recent survey results of young people that highlighted many challenges they face, Mr Paul Mathews and Mr Michael Valentine demonstrated that the technology and skilled teachers we have available in Western Australia can reach children wherever they are located. As a primary school teacher myself, I find the future of delivering teaching and learning programs very exciting.

I attended the State Conference with the intention of learning more about ICPA and how it was run and how I could contribute in the future. Sitting between Claire Walters of the Lakes District Branch and Jane Hughes of State Council who guided me, my confidence grew with the process of motion presentation and voting and was amazed to hear the reports from the different portfolios and the benefits for our regional and remote children.

During the day it was suggested to me by Life Member Roxanne Morrissey that maybe I should consider nominating for State Council. After observing the organised and enthusiastic State Council it was not hard to make the decision to nominate, and before I knew it, I was a WA ICPA State Councillor.

Though I did attend with the intention of becoming more involved one day in the future, I was very happy to leave with the position I did and really look forward to learning as I work with such a vibrant group of ladies in a great organisation.

Jane Cunningham



Conference 2021 in Pictures



L to R: Kym Ross (WA State Council), Richard Stokes (ABSA), Jason Sinclair with Federal Councillors, Briony Sinclair, Lisa Slade and Jo Camilleri at pre-conference drinks **L to R: Sam and Lee-Anne White, Elyce Donaghy and daughter Erin Donaghy with Claire Mahony**



Kym Burns (WA State Council), Claire Walter (Lakes), Naomi Obst (WA State Council), Sam Greay (WA State Council), Roxanne Morrissey (Yalgoo), Teneeka Hill (My Parent Connect) and Jane Cunningham (Lakes)



Chandra Ridley (left), WA State Council and Claire Mahony, Meekatharra Air Branch



Conference 2021 in Pictures



**Ms Lisa Rodgers, Director General,
Department of Education WA**



Naomi Obst (WA State Council), Michael Valentine (Hale School) with WA President Sally Brindal



**Boyd Brown, Regional General
Manager, Telstra**



Panel Discussion: L to R: Richard Stokes (facilitator), Professor Stephen Winn - Executive Dean of the School of Education ECU, Madi Hall - Year 11 student St Brigid's College, Isabel Nixon - University student Notre Dame, Paul Mathews - Principal SIDE.



WA State Council 21/22 L to R: Louise Ford, Sam Greay, Jane Cunningham, Michelle Abbott, Chandra Ridley, Jane Hughes, Sally Brindal, Kym Ross, Lee-Anne White, Naomi Obst, Kym Burns

More to ICPA than Meets the Eye

On the 19th March this year I attended the ICPA conference hosted by the Gascoyne Branch. It was a great show of solidarity as people from all over the state came to Perth to be a part of helping isolated children's education. This was my first ICPA conference I had ever attended and, after such an enlightening experience, it definitely won't be my last.

Being a past School of the Air student and a governess, I walked in thinking I already knew how ICPA operated and had a good idea in regard to what it has done for our community but, up until the conference, I did not know the extent these people go to to ensure country kids get a good quality education.

It came as a shock how much I didn't know and how so many important things in country kids' education is only there thanks to the ICPA pushing and lobbying for it. I remember looking down at the motions and having to double back, more than surprised over things that had to be lobbied for. Motions that were covered in the conference included better bus transport to school and the funding of Supported Teachers Learning, all things urban students have, yet we have to push and fight for them.

This just shows even more the divide between learning when it comes to urban and rural schools. However that is, of course, where the amazing people of ICPA come in. If I had never attended the conference I would never have known just how integral this group is to the education of kids in the bush. It was a great experience and I am excited to attend next year's conference in the hope of supporting our rural education more and seeing these amazing people in action.

Olivia Ford
Paroo Station
Meekatharra

Madi Hall of St Brigid's College, Olivia Ford, Curtin University student and Isabel Nixon, Notre Dame University student chat to Richard Hudson on the ABC Country Hour



THE FIRST DAY AND NIGHT IN BOARDING

Parental Disclaimer: Unpacking day in a boarding house is not an accurate representation of how a boarding school functions. In short, it's madness. Parents and students jammed in dorms, personal belongings spread across the floor and facial expressions that show a concoction of sadness, excitement and looks of despair at the realisation that this wardrobe is not going to fit everything that was lugged from home. It doesn't matter how organised a school is, nor how mentally prepared parents think they are, first day will always be overwhelming – and that's okay.

One afternoon, while sitting in the common room, I asked my Year 7 boarders what they were thinking during their first night in the boarding house. One girl pipes up and said, "On the first night, I woke up in the middle of the night and was so confused about where I was."

Another adds, "Yeah, I just did not want to be here. My stomach was churning."

And another student quips, "I just found the idea of having to make my bed every morning quite daunting..."

Whether they're big or small problems, the things that worried these girls were all reasonable. The transition into high school is a mammoth effort. Factor in trying to live in a new environment with 25 other teenagers and the significance mounts. Students are desperately trying to balance their upended equilibrium and find their feet in this strange new world – and the sentiments from these Year 7s resembled that. Like they say, good things take time.

"And how do you feel now?" I asked. We were mid-week 7 of term 1 and without sounding clichéd, our boarding house now somewhat resembled one big family. One girl shrugged, "It just feels normal."

"I have 3 brothers, I really like that I now get to live with 26 sisters." beamed another.

The secret is, the girls now know the tricks of the trade. They know that if you want to wash your hair with hot water, you need to shower straight after school and they also know the importance of being the first in-line for dinner on Asian night if you've got any hope of getting pork buns. They understand the dynamics of communal living – both the benefits and the downfalls. As one child reflected, 'You learnt pretty quickly how certain people react to different things. Who'll keep your secrets and who'll spread it. You also know who'll be grumpy if you wake them up in the morning'.

To be candid, it's not perfect harmony all the time. They still squabble like siblings and someone is always leaving their

dirty socks on the hand railing, but the boarding house of today is a far cry from the madness that engulfed us all on day one. The mechanics of providing holistic care for, sometimes hundreds, of students is no mean feat and the simplicity of the everyday routine in a boarding house is rewarding. The calm in the chaos is a testament to not merely boarding staff, but to the students who fill our boarding houses with laughter, test the boundaries on a daily basis and display independence far beyond their years (even if they are still sometimes forced to wear a dirty uniform to school because they didn't put their washing in).

Parents, rest assured, that the looks of overwhelm on your child's face has dissipated. For some, it was soon after you waved goodbye and for others, it took slightly longer, but day to day life in the boarding house is the 'new normal' and your kids have this routine mastered.

Hannah Calcino
@the.urban.farmhouse



CONFERENCE A FAMILY AFFAIR

**With mum Chandra being a member of the ICPA WA State Council, Lachlan and Madi Hall, who both board in Perth, away from their home at Bulloo Downs Station, Newman, took the opportunity to experience an ICPA State Conference
Below are their thoughts on the event.**

On the 19th March 2021 I attended the 49th annual ICPA State Conference. Throughout the day we heard from many exciting guest speakers who offered insights on many things I hadn't thought about before. After morning tea I was involved in a panel discussion sharing my thoughts and responses to many questions regarding boarding and online school in 2020 from the perspective of a high school student. After the panel discussion myself and two other girls were asked to speak on the ABC Country Hour to expand a little more on what had been discussed in the panel. After lunch we heard from some more guest speakers and drew the raffle before the day drew to a close. The day ended with a lovely barbecue in the pool area of the Ingot hotel, where the conference was held. I consider my experience from conference to be enjoyable, educational and one I hope never to forget.

Madi Hall, Yr 11 boarder, St Brigids College, Lesmurdie

On the 19th March I was able to go to the ICPA State Conference with my mother and sister. It was the 49th Annual Conference and I enjoyed it highly. We got to go and have a lovely lunch at the hotel which consisted of pork chops and mashed veggies. I had some cool experiences and times that I will probably never forget.

Lachy Hall, Yr 9 boarder, Mazenod College Lesmurdie



Conference gets the thumbs up from Lachy Hall (centre) with his mother Chandra Ridley, (WA State Council) and sister Madi Hall

Simple Videoconference Connectivity Guide Released by NBN

As you know, due to COVID-19, over the past year so many of us have been relying on videoconferencing for work, learning, health appointments and more. To assist community members, health care providers, carers and others confidently utilise videoconferencing for these interactions, nbn has developed a new *nbn™ video conferencing connectivity guide*.

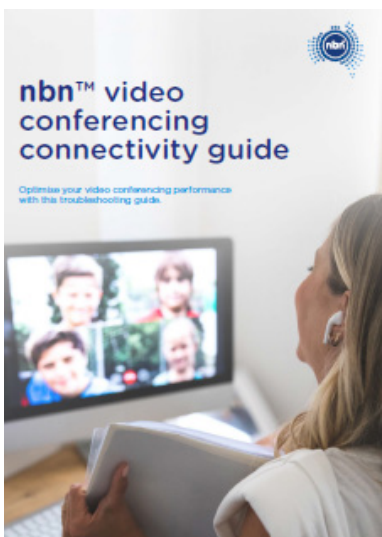
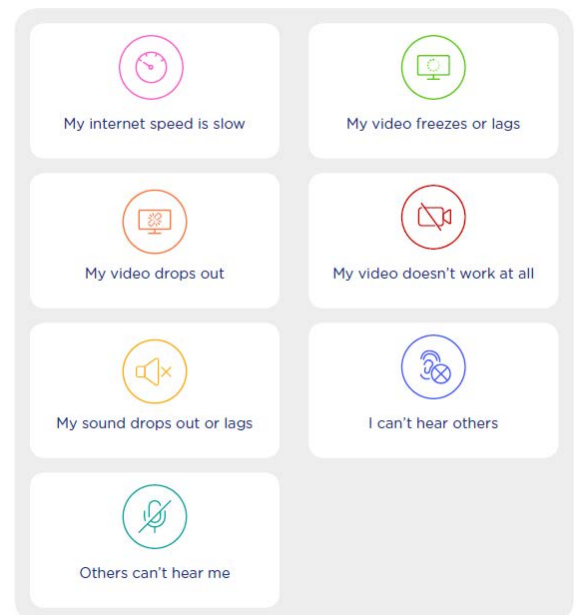


The interactive guide covers common issues videoconferencing users may experience: including:

- * Slow internet speeds
- * Video freezing or lagging
- * Video dropping out
- * Video not working at all
- * Sound dropping out
- * Sound not working

It is our aim to provide quick guidance on common videoconferencing issues to help users take advantage of video calling for a whole range of activities.

Users of the guide simply select the Issue they're facing and will be provided with a number of troubleshooting tips to try, including directions on when they need to contact their internet provider and what information to have on hand.



You can also access this guide on the nbn website www.nbnco.com.au nbn recommends users download the guide from their browser and save to the desktop in case it's ever needed

For more information or to discuss any opportunities and challenges please contact: Naomi Evans, Head of Regional Community Affairs (WA), nbn Local naomievans@nbnco.com.au

Australian Curriculum Review

- The Foundation – Year 10 Australian Curriculum outlines the core knowledge and skills to be taught to all Australian students.
- It sets consistent expectations for what every Australian student should learn and the standard of that learning. Schools decide how best to deliver the national curriculum to meet the educational needs of their students and communities.
- State and territory curriculum and school authorities are responsible for implementation of the Australian Curriculum in their schools – they decide on the extent and timing of the take-up and translation of the national curriculum.
- Regular reviews and updating are essential to ensure the curriculum continues to meet the educational needs of students and is best practice. The Australian Curriculum, last reviewed in 2014, is subject to a six-year cycle of review (as agreed by education ministers in 2015).
- The aims and scope of the Review were defined following a five-year program of research by ACARA, which included consultation with education stakeholders, benchmarking the Australian Curriculum against the curricula of Singapore, Finland, British Columbia and New Zealand, and feedback from state/territory jurisdictions through ACARA's annual monitoring process.
- The overall finding was the Australian Curriculum needs refining, updating and decluttering to better support teachers with implementation, but there was no support for, or identified need, for a major overhaul.
- The Review aims to improve the Australian Curriculum across all eight learning areas (English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies, Health and Physical Education, and Languages) from Foundation to Year 10 by refining, realigning and decluttering the content of the curriculum.
- The Australian Curriculum Review is a national collaborative effort involving state and territories education authorities, curriculum experts and teachers around Australia.
- Teacher and curriculum specialist reference groups were established in July 2020 for each learning area, following approval of the Review's terms of reference by education ministers on 12 June 2020.
- The updated version of the Australian Curriculum, once approved by the ministers, will be made available on an improved, redesigned Australian Curriculum website at the start of 2022.
- A national curriculum was introduced to improve the quality, equity and transparency of Australia's education system. The original Foundation – Year 10 curriculum was endorsed in September 2015.



The Australian Curriculum Review – public consultation

- The public consultation window is 10 weeks, from 29 April until 8 July, 2021.
- Revisions to all eight learning areas (English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies, Health and Physical Education, and Languages), five general capabilities and the three cross-curriculum priorities are available for consultation.
- The Review has been a national collaborative process with revisions developed with help from states and territories, curriculum experts and teachers around Australia.
- This is a public consultation – anyone can provide feedback. ACARA encourages all feedback, as feedback will help us ensure the Australian Curriculum continues to remain world class and meet the needs of students.
- Feedback can be provided by completing an online survey. There are separate surveys for each learning area, the general capabilities and the cross-curriculum priorities. The surveys can be found on the Australian Curriculum consultation website: www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/consultation
- The online survey can be completed by individuals or groups, such as schools and professional associations. The learning area survey is designed so you can give high-level feedback about the overall proposed revisions or more detailed feedback about specific year levels.
- The consultation version of the Australian Curriculum for each learning area is provided in three formats. You can choose the format that best suits you – a full version showing all the curriculum elements, a version showing just the scope and sequence of learning, and a comparative document showing the proposed revisions against the current curriculum.
- At the end of the consultation window, all feedback will be reviewed and considered in finalising the revised Australian Curriculum.
- The Institute for Social Science Research at The University of Queensland has been contracted to undertake independent analysis of the data collected through the surveys and to develop reports to assist ACARA in making final revisions.
- The final revisions will then be provided to education ministers for their consideration and endorsement.
- Following education ministers' approval, the curriculum will be available on an improved, redesigned Australian Curriculum website at the start of 2022.

The Year Ahead For Regional Connectivity: An Update from Telstra

When you're out bush, having the right gear is vital. That includes strong communications, backed by Australia's best network, so that whether you're running around or running a business, you can stay connected. We've announced funding for a number of projects for regional Australia that will continue to bring coverage to even the most far-flung areas.

In the last 12 months, connectivity has become more than just a nice-to-have for your social media and entertainment streaming needs. It's a must-have. It's essential for participating in the digital economy, healthcare, education and more.

Following a blistering shift to online services, we need to ensure that nobody gets left behind. That's why we're investing millions to bring regional and remote communities into the connected fold.

As part of the Federal Government's Regional Connectivity Program, we'll be delivering 30 new projects into regional and remote Australia at a cost of \$54 million in joint funding. These projects include everything from new towers to improved high-speed broadband services.

By the numbers, we're investing almost \$16 million, together with \$26 million from the Australian Government and over \$13 million from state and local governments to help improve connectivity and communications around regional and remote Australian communities.

Over the next few years as part of the Regional Connectivity Program, we'll be running upgrade projects in all states including the following places in WA:

- * Bidyadanga
- * Coral Bay
- * Caiguna
- * Cocklebiddy
- * Condingup
- * Cave Point Lighthouse
- * Cygnet Bay
- * Greenbushes-Boyup



Improving connectivity in regional and remote Australia is challenging and expensive, so it's great to have the support of local, state and the Federal government to make the experience better for everyone.

We've got the largest network in Australia, with over 10,700 mobile base stations that cover over 2.5 million square kilometres. That's 99.5 per cent of the Australian population, and in many parts of the country, we're the only game in town.

Along with our work as part of the Federal Government's Mobile Black Spot program and our own announcements this week that see us add \$150 million over the next 12 months, followed by a \$200 million co-investment fund to develop regional connectivity, we're excited to bring more communities into the 21st century with a network that is second-to-none.

Great Southern Grammar Announces New UniReady Pathway

As part of a nationwide focus on improving aspirations and evolving pathways in schools, including pathways from VET to university and higher education, Great Southern Grammar is delighted to announce a new pathway to university study for students in 2021.

The widely recognised trend which sees students moving away from traditional ATAR pathways to university has resulted in GSG partnering with Curtin University to deliver the bridging course, UniReady, with the school being granted a licence to deliver the course on behalf of Curtin University in 2021 to GSG Year Twelve students.

This approach provides an holistic and equitable delivery of VET and ATAR study in Senior School and enables pathways to be tailored to build skills and assist access to higher education for a broader range of students.

The UniReady pathway provides greater flexibility and security for students interested in pursuing ATAR courses. Students can take a mix of ATAR, and/or VET and General

courses in addition to the UniReady course, shaping their course selection to their interests and abilities.

GSG's Head of Senior School, Mr Mark Bonnin said, "Offering the UniReady course will help each student find the individual pathway that best suits their ambitions and capabilities. UniReady students are enrolled at Curtin University, and they take the four units as external students, learning important skills of time management, self-motivation and direction, and independent learning. These skills are invaluable to university study, and will prepare our students extremely well, not only for future tertiary education, but also for their Year Twelve studies."

For further information about the range of pathways available, or to book a personal tour please call Registrar Mrs Julia Bairstow on 9844 0307 or email via julia.bairstow@gsg.wa.edu.au

Great Southern Grammar is an independent non-denominational Christian co-educational primary and secondary day and boarding school, located in the Great Southern on the shores of Oyster Harbour



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to discover
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All items come in all three ICPA WA colours—Blue, Yellow and Orange	
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*Working together to ensure access
to appropriate education for all
regional Western Australians.*