

BITS & PIECES

ICPA WA Newsletter



***Working together to ensure access
to appropriate education for all
regional West Australians***

From the President's Desk

As I sit at my desk for the first time as ICPA WA State President I am humbled to think of those who have held this position in the last 51 years. It was lovely to meet several past ICPA WA State Councillors at the recent ICPA WA State Conference where we finally managed to celebrate '50 Years, A long way down the Track'.

When I hear the stories of past councils preparing for Conference, trying to print the documents on photocopiers that take a minute or two a page to print, and compare that to the technology we have today, I feel very fortunate to be taking on the role in more modern times. Even though we have come a long way down the track, we continue to need to fight for similar things to the past, such as a telephone that works all of the time and a reasonable conveyance allowance. The conveyance allowance is currently set at 25.24 cents per kilometre, vastly different to the ATO rate of 78 cents per kilometre for business travel in a private vehicle. In 1998 the conveyance rate was 9 cents per kilometre and ICPA was requesting an increase to 20 cents per kilometre.

After holding the 2022 State Conference online, it was heart-warming to make the member connections once again in person and share stories of the past and present. Hearing guest speakers' personal regional and remote education stories showed a connection and understanding. For example, Ms Meredith Hammat MLA, appearing on behalf of Dr Tony Buti, Minister of Education, shared stories of her time at Broomehill Primary School and Kojonup District High School.

At this year's ICPA WA State Conference, we welcomed two new councillors, Arlene Sutherland and Jareth Forrester. I look forward to sharing their ICPA journeys.



With new people appointed to the roles of President, Treasurer and Secretary, we are very grateful that those stepping down from the roles, Sally Brindal, Kym Ross and Michelle Abbott remaining on council to share their knowledge and skills, and assist with the transition. Many thanks to Sally, Michelle and Kym for their three years of dedicated work in their positions, especially with the demands of hosting the 2022 ICPA Australia Federal Conference in Perth. I am pleased to say that we have a

full council this year which will make a big difference to the workload of the councillors.

With the last three years being focused around the COVID pandemic, we (touch wood) hope that the worst has passed and we can focus on issues that have been put aside whilst dealing with the crisis.

State Council will hold their first face to face meeting since Conference on 26 th and 27 th June at SIDE, Leederville. Delegations to address some of the issues raised at Conference include John Bailly, Manager of School Bus Services and Lisa Rodgers, Director General, Department of Education.

ICPA WA continues to be highly regarded by establishments, organisations and stakeholders in education. Whether it be as part of the Department of Education's regular Systems Alliance meetings or a being invited to attend consultative meetings for a new Bachelor of Education Degree, the voice of ICPA WA continues to give a voice to families from rural and remote WA.

I very much look forward with excitement to what 2023 may bring for our rural and remote students and their families.

Jane Cunningham, ICPA WA President

From The Editor



Welcome to the first Bits and Pieces issue for 2023. I would like to thank Raelene Hall for all her years editing this magazine, and I wish her all the best with her new life in Perth.

Being homeschooled through Meekatharra School of the Air and having been a boarder, ICPA has both directly and indirectly impacted my education, for which I am grateful, and I am excited to be a part of this amazing group of people.

Sitting in the conference room in Perth and listening to people tell their stories, I was reminded of times flicking through old School of the Air magazines, reading history books about rural WA, and scrolling through extensive Facebook posts of people protesting matters close to their hearts. I was reminded of the weight that words can hold and the power stories have in shedding light on the lives we lead. Studying in Perth, I have found there is a big dissonance between what people in urban areas know, and the reality for people in the country. How do you really know the distance of a long road if you have never travelled it yourself? But, a simple story goes a long way to put yourself in the shoes of another.

I have been privileged to grow up surrounded by amazing storytellers, people who wouldn't consider themselves as such. We come from places rich in history and from unique walks of life. Despite this, we all know how difficult it can be for our voices to be heard among the rush of everything else happening in the world, but that is what ICPA is for.

I look forward to hearing from everyone involved in this community. So, as always, if you have any news to share and stories to tell, send them through for the next edition of Bits and Pieces in November!

Olivia Ford
icpawa.bitsandpieces@gmail.com

CONTENTS

<i>President's Report.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>From the Editor.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Your 2023 State Councillors.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>New State Councillors.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Sally Brindal's Report.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>State Conference Photos</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Anna Mahony's Report.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Telstra Update.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>From Pingrup to Perth.....</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Photo Competition.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Bursary Award Winner.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Flooding at Meda.....</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Friends of the Bush.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>NBN Announcement.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Save the Date.....</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>ICPA WA Merchandise.....</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Connellan Airways Trust.....</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Sponsors.....</i>	<i>27</i>

Cover Photo: Eadie Lewis at Yarrabubba station. Photo taken by Lauren Lewis, Meekatharra Air Branch Member

Your 2023 State Councillors

JANE CUNNINGHAM



President
Mentoring Eastern Districts Branch

CHANDRA RIDLEY



Vice President
Mentoring Kimberley Air Branch

LOUISE FORD



Secretary
Mentoring Central Wheatbelt North Branch

JASMINE CARMODY



Treasurer
Mentoring Yalgoo Branch

SALLY BRINDAL



Publicity Officer
Mentoring Esperance Branch

MICHELLE ABBOTT



Membership Officer
Mentoring WA Iones Branch

KYM ROSS



Committee, Webmaster
Mentoring Gascoyne Branch

SAMANTHA GREAY



Committee
Mentoring Meekatharra Air Branch & Pilbara Branch

ARLENE SUTHERLAND



Committee
Mentoring Midwest Branch

JANE HUGHES



Committee
Mentoring Goldfields Eyre Branch

JARETH FORRESTER



Committee
Mentoring Lakes District Branch

CONTACTS

- Jane C - icpawa.janec@gmail.com
- Chandra - icpawa.chandra@gmail.com
- Louise - icpawa.louisef@gmail.com
- Jasmine - icpawa.jasmine@gmail.com
- Sally - icpawa.sally@gmail.com
- Michelle - icpa.wa.michellea@gmail.com
- Kym - icpawa.kym@gmail.com
- Samantha - icpawa.sam@gmail.com
- Arlene - arlenesutherland@gmail.com
- Jareth - icpawa.jareth@gmail.com
- Jane H - icpawa.jane@gmail.com

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Portfolio	Leader	Support
Allowances	Chandra	Sam
Communications	Sally	Kym
Distance Ed/SOTA/Curriculum	Jane H	Louise
Early Childhood	Jareth	Jane H
Funding and Sponsorship	Shared	
Rural and Remote Schools	Arlene	Jane C
Specific Education	Jane C	Jasmine
Student Accommodation	Kym	Jareth
Teacher Training	Jasmine	Chandra
Tertiary, Trade and Training	Chandra	Arlene
Travel	Sam	Sally

NEW STATE COUNCILLORS

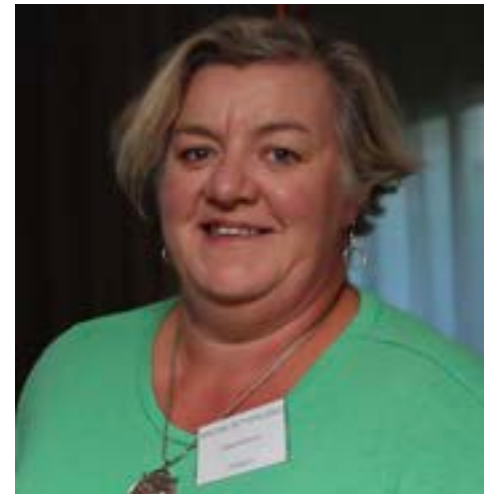


Jareth Forrester

Jareth comes from Yarlarweelor station, roughly 150 km North of Meekatharra. She is a mother and home tutor to her three kids who attend Kalgoorlie School of the Air. Jareth is handy with the sewing needle, and in her free time she enjoys dress making. She owns horses, and enjoys spending time with the kids and the ponies, along with attending the occasional horse show.

Arlene Sutherland

Arlene lives with her husband and 7-year-old on their farm called Chinocup, half an hour from the town of Nyabing. Her son goes to the local primary school. In her spare time, Arlene plays hockey, lends a hand at the local school, cooks and likes getting away from the farm when she can to go travelling. ICPA has played an important role in her community, aiding in providing teaching staff accomodation and school buses.



REVISE (Retired Educator Volunteers for Isolated Students Education) is a voluntary organisation that assists rural and remote children with their educational needs. The scheme provides tutors and retired teachers who volunteer their time to go bush to assist parents of rural and remote children in the supervision of their children's education received through the School of Isolated and Distant Education (SIDE) and regional Schools of the Air (SOTA). REVISE offers much needed relief at times when parents may find it difficult to adequately supervise their education. Where help is needed REVISE will be sure to assist if there is a volunteer available. If you are a parent requiring help and would like more information please contact Sue Potter REVISE co-ordinator at revisewa@gmail.com

50 YEARS, A LONG WAY DOWN THE TRACK



Roxanne Morrissey, Jeannette de Landgraft, Sue Broad, Liz Sudlow, Sally Brindal, Mary Walsh, Jenny Percy, Emma Foulkes-Taylor

It certainly must have seemed a long way down the track for the Midwest Branch, the convenors of the 50 year celebrations. After two years of planning, unplanning and then re-planning, finally ICPA WA was able to celebrate 50 years at the 51st Annual Conference, at the Pagoda Resort and Spa, Como. The conference room looked magnificent with beautiful floral displays, creative table centre pieces and a display depicting 50 years of advocacy by ICPA WA.

In 2022 ICPA celebrated 50 years of ICPA online, recapping the history of ICPA WA. But, it is just not the same as being in a room, coming together and celebrating in person. It is the people that make ICPA the wonderful and respected organisation that it remains today. Over the past 50 years, endless hours have been dedicated in the pursuit of equitable access to education for rural and remote children. There's not one trace of carbon

or ink ribbons, or static on the line. Today we have the benefit of technology with laptops, internet and emails and mobile phones. So, we must pay homage to those who have been before us overcoming the adversities of their time.

Over the past 50 years there have been twenty State Presidents. The Midwest Branch provided a wonderful 50 year celebration cake and Sue Broad, 3rd State President 1975-1977 was joined by six other former State Presidents, together with myself the 20th State President, as she cut the cake. It was remarkable that we had the 3rd 5th 7th 13th 14th 16th 18th and 20th State Presidents together. Unfortunately, our founding President Mrs Margaret Hoare (Lacy) was unable to attend but we were able to play a video message from her. There were also many other previous founding Branch Presidents



who had not met up in quite a while, so there was plenty of chitter chatter!

Historically, education has been about the three Rs. ICPA WA went one better and our “Conversations with ICPA” had the five Rs:

Roma Heath – founding President Yalgoo Branch
 Roxanne Morrissey – Yalgoo Branch Life Member, State Life Member, Federal Life Member
 Raelene Hall – State Life Member
 Rossco Foulkes-Taylor – son of a State President and husband of a State President
 Richard Hudson – Executive Producer ABC and “Conversations with ICPA” host.

It was interesting listening to the Conversations from the esteemed participants. There were reflections on their involvement with ICPA, what ICPA had meant to them, a few good stories and their views on the future of ICPA. All participants valued the friendships they had made and the people who make up ICPA; also, the fact we were meeting together, that ICPA is still as relevant today as it was 50 years ago. So, while we had fun reminiscing on the 50 years of ICPA WA there was still the matter of the current day issues.

‘It is the people that make ICPA the wonderful and respected organisation that it remains today.’

Ms Meredith Hammat, MLA, Parliament Secretary to Hon. Dr Tony Buti, Minister for Education addressed conference on behalf of the Minister, who was unable to attend due to illness. Ms Hammat considered it her good fortune to be sharing the 50th celebrations with ICPA WA and shared her education journey with conference. From her personal experience Ms Hammat is only too aware of the issues that rural and families face in accessing an equitable education.

Ms Lisa Rodgers, Deputy General of Education officially opened conference. Ms Rodgers has an immense passion for rural and remote education. She has the utmost respect for ICPA and the integral role of ICPA in improving outcomes in accessing education for rural and remote families.

Keynote speaker WA Local Hero Nominee 2022 Catrina-Luz Aniere, CEO of Millennium Kids Inc, provided an insight into the work of her organisation. It was fascinating to hear her approach to engaging students as a teacher while still achieving learning outcomes. Through Millennium Kids Inc students are taking the initiative to provide solutions to real world problems; critical thinking that is necessary for the future.

Telstra and NBN both spoke about advances in technology and future developments, ensuring the connectedness of families. Richard Stokes, CEO Australian Boarding Schools Association shared his story on the changes and progress he has seen in boarding over his 43 year involvement.

All 21 motions presented were carried and covered topics including:

- Increase to the Boarding Away from Home Allowance (BAHA)
- Support for NDIS students in boarding
- Increase to conveyance allowance
- Safety on school transport
- Allied health and support services for rural schools
- Impact of 3G closure
- Teacher training w
- Camp schools
- Distance Education Teaching Allowance (DETA)

Celebrating 50 years is a phenomenal milestone for a volunteer organisation and there have been many interesting stories from over the years. The celebrations culminated in a banquet dinner in the Historic Ballroom with MC Rossco Foulkes-Taylor and guest speaker Paul Hasleby, former AFL Fremantle docker entertaining the guests. After specific details of an embarrassing situation was revealed by Paul, Raelene Hall was quick to put her googling skills into action!

Thank you to the convenors, our sponsors and you the members for making it a memorable 50th celebrations. In the words of Slim Dusty,

**Looking forward, looking back,
I've come a long way down the track,
Got a long way left to go...**

Over the past 50 years ICPA WA has come a long way down the track, but we too still have a long way left to go. So here's to the next 50 years!

**Sally Brindal
Publicity Officer**



Conversations with Raelene Hall, Richard Hudson, Roma Heath, Rossco Foulkes-Taylor & Roxanne Morrissey

Thank you

ICPA WA would like to formally thank the Midwest Branch for convening the 2023 ICPA WA State Conference.

Midwest Branch, your outstanding efforts created a wonderful atmosphere. The table decorations were extremely thoughtful in both representing the Midwest and celebrating 50 years with the gold two-way handpieces. It was befitting that the red soil in the vase holding the table numbers came from Yuin Station in memory of Jano Foulkes-Taylor who was an avid advocate for ICPA WA. Thank you to each and everyone for all your time and effort.



Fiona Mann, Susanne Warr, Emma & Roscco Foulkes-Taylor



Jen Critch, Fiona Mann, Sam Messina, Naomi Obst



Shahron Prosser, Carla Hyde, Bianca James, Marlene Mayfield, Carolyn Burns



Amanda Nixon, Sam Messina, Liz Sudlo, Jen Critch, Anna Mahony, Jenny Pitman



Rachel Stenslunde, Alana Moller, Julia Broad, Richard Stokes, Anne Gething



Roxanne Morrissey, Mary Wake, Kelly Hopkinson, Jo-Anne Tonkin



Sue Broad, Raelene Hall



Susanne Warr, Fiona Mann, Jim Bell, Rej, Jasmyrn & Rodney Allen



Lisa Rodgers



Sue Potter, Denice Hilsz



Elise Petty, Jasmine Carmody



Jo-Anne Tonkin, Carolyn Burns, Jeanette De Landgraft



Raelene Hall, Tracey Blair



Naomi Obst, Liz Sudlow, Susanne Warr



Rosco Foulkes-Taylor



Donna Faragher, Kym Ross, Jenny Percy



Paul Hasleby, Steve & Sally Brindal



Tom Morrissey



Alana Moller, Elise Petty



‘WHERE HAVE ALL THE COWBOYS GONE?’

A few weeks ago I received an email from the then WA State President Sally Brindal, this email was sent out to all ICPA members, stating that as it stands, there weren't enough delegates coming to the state conference (being held at the Pagoda Resort and Spa Perth) for it to be constitutional and asking for members to please consider giving some of their time to come down to Perth and play a part in helping keep this vital association going. To be honest, I was more than a little surprised by the shortage of attendance, especially as it is a state conference with the addition of the ICPA WA's 50th year celebrations which were postponed last year due to Covid restrictions.

Now I could spend the space in this fantastic magazine, run by volunteers, talking about how vital the ICPA is to everyone facing challenges educating their children in isolation, but I feel that if you're reading the articles here, you probably already know that. And what actually popped into my head when I received the said email was the song by Paula Cole, ***Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?*** Except in my version, it was *Where Have All the Volunteers Gone?* My mind kept wandering down this line of thought as I started my 240 km journey to Port Hedland to catch the plane to Perth for the conference. I started looking inwards and outwards for the answer to this the question because I'm sad to say I'm one of

those people who have, until this point, not put my hand up to volunteer for ICPA in any form apart from voluntarily paying my membership and a fundraising bike ride I did many years ago with the help from my Mum and youngest bro.

It's both reassuring and concerning to find that lack of participation at a voluntary level for clubs, associations, groups etc, is down across all of Australia, so it's not just WA ICPA suffering. Alana Moller, Federal ICPA President, made this very point at the branches meeting prior to conference. Many branches across Australia are struggling to maintain membership and/or participation at both branch and state levels. As I began my Virgin flight to Perth in the middle seat, between two people who'd just come off night shift, I asked myself why I haven't volunteered my time? Well, the first word that popped into my head was burnout. I know I can speak for many people when saying burnout is a very slow burn. It can take several years to even acknowledge one has it (if they do at all) and sometimes another few years to actually do something about it. When you make your living off the land, burnout is sadly all too common and accepted. It doesn't create an environment where you want to put your hand up for extra

work at the cost of your business or that tiny window of time you may have for your family or for yourself. A friend said to me recently ‘you must fill your own cup first before filling others.’ It is a genuine concern of mine that I wouldn’t be able to fill the extra cup and therefore let people down. Once again I realized I’m not alone in feeling this way.

‘When you make your living off the land, burnout is sadly all too common and accepted.’

As I walked into the Pagoda Resort and Spa on the banks of the beautiful Perth icon, the Swan River, I felt more than a little nervous walking into a room of people whom I mostly didn’t know or hadn’t seen in a very long time. I live in a remote part of the state and over the past few years, covid restrictions had pretty much squashed any face-to-face meeting opportunities, it wouldn’t be far off to say I’m possibly a little scratchy when it comes to the art of conversation.

Of course, my concerns were not warranted, it was a wonderful night catching up with old friends and acquaintances and meeting new people.



Jackie Simkin, Jen Critch, Sam Messina



Anne Gething, Emma & Rosco Foulkes-Taylor, Fiona Mann

As I headed upstairs to my lovely hotel room, I wondered how big of an impact covid has had on volunteer numbers. I think we’d all agree it’s been huge. There is no doubt in my mind it has created a disconnect in the community due to both individual experiences and challenges and community challenges as a whole. The challenges have been and are still many and complicated and far too intricate to unpack here, but I know volunteer positions have and are suffering greatly due to covid.

After finding my seat on conference morning and meeting some of our golden senior members at my table, who made me feel so welcome and are still truly passionate about child education and equality after all these years, I settled in to listen to the motions being put forward by branches across the state and the key speakers. I came to realise just how powerful these motions can be in bringing about change. The ICPA is a very influential and respected association in the political realm, and the State Council is a force to be reckoned with when taking branch motions to the relevant political members and interested parties. I wanted to explore the value motions have on volunteer interest, after all, people typically volunteer their time for things that interest them, or they feel are relevant to them.



Anna Mahony, Louise Ford, Chandra Ridley

Since being at the conference I have spoken to several people about this, and they all sing the same song, they only want to invest precious time if the topics are relevant to them. Now I think to myself, how is that made possible? Of course, as far as ICPA is concerned, relevance starts at the branch level and putting forward relevant motions for that region, which in turn enhances interest. But how can that be achieved if some branches are struggling with active membership numbers? It's like one problem feeding off the other problem.

The conference started to draw to a close and new State Councillors and Executive Officers were elected, all volunteers willing to give their time to help improve education for our young people living in isolation. To my surprise, all the Executive Officers stayed on as State Councillors and several State Councillors put their hand up for Executive roles. What makes them continue to volunteer their time at a state level and how can we mirror that at a branch level? There is no doubt from my conversations that people want to feel interested, welcome, part of a team, have a sense of achievement, be supported, valued and not overloaded with work. It was a really enlightening conference for me, and I would highly recommend participation, even at an observer level, trust me and you won't be disappointed.

After finding someone to jump-start my car back in Hedland (yes I left my light on), I headed home and continued to ponder the volunteer problem. I would have to say the answer is at the root of the tree. For a tree to grow strong and stand the test of time it must have strong roots to feed off. Focusing on branch level participation and investing time and money into recruitment at this level is absolutely imperative in ensuring the longevity of the ICPA.



Bianca James

As a friend recently said to me, the branches are the ICPA. So, after chasing my own horses off the veranda for the second time whilst writing this I've come to the conclusion that the cowboys haven't gone, they just haven't mounted their steeds for a while. I'm absolutely confident those horses will be on the move again soon. As life gets back to normal after Covid and people have been able to rest and recalibrate their lives, they'll be back and the branches will be ready to welcome them with open arms and hearts. We care too much about our kid's education to let such a valuable association dwindle, as we all know our children will be the only losers if it does.

**Anna Mahony, Muccan Station
Loans Branch**



Did you know?

Installing the vehicle mounted Telstra Go Repeater allows customers to benefit from an additional 10,000 kilometres of 4G coverage along some 60,000 kilometres of national highways and roads.

SPECIAL OFFER

We have a range of network coverage extension devices for vehicles, home and office. As a valued ICPA member, Telstra is pleased to offer you a product discount on three of our network extension devices:

- \$50 off the Telstra Mobile Smart Antenna (TMSA)
- \$10 off the Yagi antenna
- \$50 off the Telstra Go Repeater

For more information go to <https://icpa.com.au> or call Telstra on **1800 305 307** and advise you are eligible for ICPA Telstra Partner Discount and quote member number ICPA1.

For more information about Telstra's coverage extension devices go to www.telstra.com.au/regionalaustralia

FROM PINGRUP TO PERTH

The 51st State Conference was memorable and moving for me personally, as it was my first conference in person and my second year with the ICPA Lakes District Branch. It just so happens that I was elected President for the Lakes District Branch in Southern WA at the very first meeting I attended in March 2022. I had attended due to wanting to see the new Pingrup Pantry Café, have a cuppa and learn more about ICPA, but alas, I walked out a President for a group I knew little about.

Fast forward a year, and it was wonderful to finally be able to put faces to names at the 2023 State Conference (as the 2022 conference was all online). I was surrounded by inspiring and hard-working people in their education roles, parenting roles and supporting industries. The panel discussion was a great banter between life members and station families and what ICPA means to them.

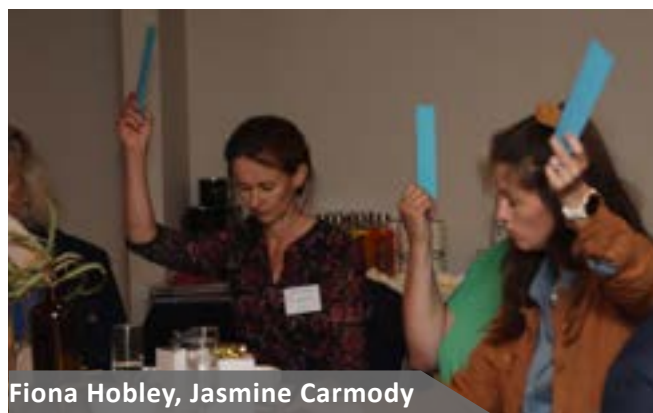
The past members' stories spaced out throughout the conference had me laughing and in tears. I found it difficult to understand that the plights for isolated education have, in some ways, remained unchanged and we still have to lobby for what seems to be common sense and logic when it comes to delivering quality education to regional families and support for educators.

Our Lakes District motions ranged in issues from children's access to school therapists, teachers unable to take leave, school bus seatbelts, autism program support, strategic education directions implementations in the region and boarding away from home allowance increase. When I asked my friend if we should wear our name tags to dinner that night, she replied, "I think they might know our names after listening to us all day!"

We were able to understand other branches' issues in their motions put forward, in particular, the Kalgoorlie branch being charged excessively for the School of the Air Camp venue in Kalgoorlie since the government decided to outsource the management to all 6 school camps in WA. These camps

have been under pressure to be closed by the government due to lack of use, yet they are price beyond reason. Having been a School of the Air student I fully agree with the importance in having School of the Air camps and know how memorable these camps are to students.

I am Western Australian born, however I attended the Charters Towers School of the Air for years one and two via two way radio on a station 200 km from Charters Towers in Queensland. My mother needed a job after her marriage breakup in Western Australia. With all her family in Queensland she found herself on the other side of Australia single, unemployed and two kids under the age of 5. She knew she needed a job where she could care for us and save money. Having governessed in her younger years in Queensland and the Northern Territory she secured a position on a station in Central Queensland and drove the Datsun 240 km with the two children up the bulldust and corrugated roads to Bulliwallah station.



Fiona Hobley, Jasmine Carmody



Jasmyn Allen

We had so much freedom on the station. I would rush to complete my school booklet at the start of the week, then we would head bush, swim in the creek, ride poddy calves, dig in the dirt under the homestead with puppies, catch pigeons or find piglets to drop in a bucket and wait for the mother sow to come and give chase. One morning Mum couldn't find me, because I had woken up in the dark and rounded up the milking cows and put them in the yards (it was a 640 acre paddock). School of the Air camps were highlights meeting up with other students from surrounding stations. The activities included coordinated dances and performances and putting faces to names. I've held strong memories from the station years, despite being so young.

After completing my primary and secondary education in Queensland, mostly in Roma, I moved back to Western Australia to attend university and live closer to my father, who was still farming. At university I met my husband and today we are farming 350 km south of Perth with 3 boys in Year 8, 5 and 2. It is my son's second year at high school in Year 8 attending a local district high school and my other children attend a local primary school in another town, so I am mostly a taxi service for 2023 and rely on the Western Australian school bus service.



Jackie Simkin, Reg Allen

These days I don't consider myself isolated geographically like growing up in Queensland. On the plus side, today's world is offering so much more scope for remote learning. I look forward to advances in connectivity for communications, more teaching incentives for regions, greater family assistance from government for boarding families and keeping local regional education strong.

Fiona Hobley, Lakes District Branch President

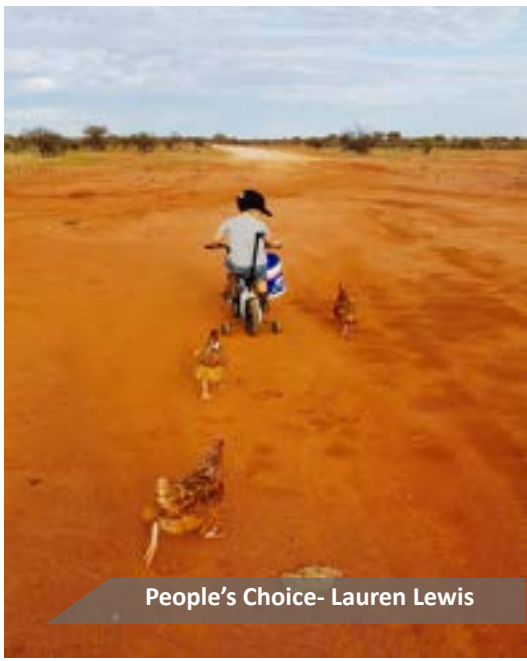


Fiona Hobley

2023 PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS



Open Division- Lauren Lewis



People's Choice- Lauren Lewis



1st Place Primary- William Rowe



1st Place Secondary- Ryan Obst



2nd Place Primary- William Rowe



2nd Place Secondary- Ryan Obst



MY FAVOURITE MEMORY ABOUT MY TIME AT MSOTA

**By Christabella Pumpa, Murgoo Station
Winner of the 2022 Meekatharra Air Branch
Bursary**

My Favourite memory about my time in MSOTA is when I was in grade 2. We were at the Geraldton camp school; we had all just gotten back from brushing our teeth when we entered the large dining room. We were doing one of those cool late at night games. But when we entered the dinning room, we discovered that we would not be playing a game, but we would be looking at birds of prey, everyone was in shock as at the far back of the room was a snowy owl and a wedged tail eagle. We quickly rushed to try and get a good seat so we could see everything that was going to happen. A lady and a man came out of the shadows, they started talking about the birds and they said how they had rescued the wedged tail eagle when it was just a baby as it had a broken wing. They also told us how they have a colossal incubator that they use to breed endangered bird species. They also answered some questions that the students had. Once they had finished doing that, they let the snowy owl fly around the room so everybody could see how it flies. But the snowy owl decided that it needed to go to the toilet, so it did a number 1 all over my little sister Eliza and number 2 all over Flynn Ford!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Their parents went to go and help them clean themselves up.



Christabella with her award at graduation

While they were doing that the lady and gentleman apologised and answered some more questions.

When Flynn, Eliza and their parents got back the lady told us to line up if you would like to hold the owl, (neither Eliza nor Flynn went and lined up) nearly everyone lined up.

The lady told us to put a special glove on your hand (which I think is called a goblet) and stay still. The owl felt heavy and wired as his talons tried to hold on as tight as they could. When everyone who wanted to have a go had a go, we all said good-night, and went to bed full of laughter, tiredness and excitement.

**Christabella and her friends at school
camp:**

**(Left to Right) Flynn Ford, Eliza Pumpa,
Mitchell Pasco, Christabella Pumpa**

FLOODING AT MEDA



Meda Station, before and after the floods

At the start of this year, the Kimberley region copped one-in-one-hundred-year floodwaters, with homes and properties destroyed and estimated tens of thousands of livestock lost in total in the area.

Members of the Kimberley Air branch, Troy and Monica Haslet, manage Meda Station, located 40 kilometres out of Derby along the Gibb River road. Troy has been managing Meda for ten years.

They were away in New Zealand when the floods hit their property, so they had to organise a charter plane to get back, which luckily, was not too difficult to do.

Monica says two rivers run through their property, and water levels were the highest they had ever been..

The water had gotten that high before on Meda station, however, because of the rapid fall of rain in such a short span of time, it created worse flooding.

Monica says the rivers are tidal, so cattle were sadly washed out onto the marsh, with about 500 head lost. The floods also took several of their horses, including two of Troy and Monica’s best horses and the kid’s pony, which was especially upsetting.

Because not too much was damaged, Monica says the clean-up process won’t be too rigorous, however, one hundred kilometres of fencing needs to be stood up, which is especially important because it is drawing closer to mustering season.



Monica, Wade and Marlee in the charter plane



The kids with their pony sadly lost in the flood

FRIENDS OF THE BUSH

Kalgoorlie School of the Air's Parents and Citizens Association hosted its annual 'Friends of the Bush' night on the 24th of February, after their home tutor's camp. The night was held on the balcony of the Kalgoorlie Hotel.

Friends of the Bush managed to raise \$2,800 for the P&C, with the funds going predominantly towards the school's Canberra camp. Around 80 people attended, the highest attendance the night has had since its start in 2018.

Tina Vernon, president of the P&C, says the Friends of the Bush has been an event that continues

grow bigger and bigger, not only showcasing the kindness of sponsors who help make the night happen, but bringing together the community that surrounds KalsOTA.

The night had several fundraising events throughout, including the Mad Bull Raffle, where people buy a raffle ticket in the form of a cattle tag they get to keep.

Another fundraising event was the silent auction which raised \$700. The P&C aims to source prizes that are locally produced and handmade, and this year's was a homemade mirror by Terry Bloxsome from Wongon Hills, donated by Wondinong station.



Back: Lydia Pleitz, Bianca, Tina Vernon, Zowie Breese
Front: Meg Smith, Shannon Prosser, Katie Hall, Tallaya Wood, Faith Day, Jasmine Carmody, Kim Heinemann, Aileen Scerri-White



NBN ANNOUNCEMENT



NBN Co has announced that around 24,000 homes and businesses across regional Australia are now able to access nbn fixed wireless for the first time.

This marks a significant milestone in the upgrade of the nbn fixed wireless network, which is aimed at transforming the way people stay connected across Australia, regardless of where they live.

Key to the program is an enabling an additional 120,000 homes and businesses in the satellite footprint to be able to access nbn fixed wireless, as well as introducing enhanced speeds during the busiest times of the day over the overall fixed wireless network and two new higher speed plans by the end of the program. The upgrade is being funded by a \$750 million investment, with \$480 million from the Australian Government and \$270 million from nbn.

The approximate 24,000 premises that can now access nbn fixed wireless services were previously located within

the nbn satellite footprint. The locations were chosen based on their proximity to existing nbn fixed wireless towers, with priority given to those in the most heavily used parts of the nbn satellite footprint.

The announcement builds on nbn's commitment to upgrades being delivered across regional Australia, such as the trial of a new nbn Sky Muster Plus plan, which aims to provide faster speeds and more unmetered data to satellite customers, and the additional one million more households and businesses, that will benefit from the fibre roll-out program that continues across the country, with up to 58% in regional areas.

Access to fast and reliable internet connectivity can help fast and reliable internet connectivity can help schools and universities improve access to education and enhance the learning experience for students in regional and rural areas.

For more information on the upgrade program and to check if you're eligible to access a nbn fixed wireless

service, go to nbn.com.au/regionalinvestment



Accommodation with ICPA rates are available at:

1. The Doubletree by Hilton on the Esplanade, the Conference venue. The hotel is 4-star, with a room rate of \$370/night/standard king/twin room, available on Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th July. A first night's deposit is required at the time of booking.

2. Capitanos is 3-star and next to and at the rear of the Double Tree Hilton Esplanade and is located adjacent to the Darwin Entertainment Centre on Mitchell St, Darwin. Access between the hotels is by a breezeway and is only approx. 60 m walk (2 mins).

3. Mantra on the Esplanade, is 4-star and has apartments as well as hotel rooms. The hotel is an easy, scenic 350 m walk away (4-5 mins, also closer to the Darwin CBD). The discount will apply for any room type between 25/07/2023 – 28/07/2023 when booked before 01/07/2023.

And follow the below simple steps:

1. Select the Region and Property, your Travel Dates and the Number of People travelling – hit SEARCH
2. Select Change Search – at the top of the page
3. Input Promo Code ICPA23 (case sensitive) in the Promo Box – hit SEARCH again. You will see discount applied to the BAR Rate.
4. Select the room type you wish to book and hit BOOK NOW to proceed to payment screen
5. Fill in all required details to confirm your booking and hit COMPLETE BOOKING
6. You will receive an email confirmation once all details have been processed.

For more information and links to get discounts on accommodation, head to <https://icpa.com.au/conference/accommodation>

The Meekatharra Air Branch is hosting an ICPA camp in Sandstone during the July school holidays.

The camp is open for ICPA families from any branch to join, come and meet new people and make great memories.



2023 ICPA CAMP

07-10 JULY

The Old Sandstone Primary School



Photos from the 2022 camp at Paroo Station

For more information, contact
Lara Jenson
MOB: 0429 386 182
Email:
wondinongpastoral@gmail.com



ICPA^{WA}

MERCHANDISE

Tall insulated tumbler.....	\$25
Insulated tumbler.....	\$25
Pannikin.....	\$16
Shopping bags.....	\$6
Glass water bottle.....	\$18
Glass travel cup.....	\$15
Coir door mat.....	\$30
Historic branches T-towel.....	\$16

plus postage

For orders please contact
 Louise Ford
icpawa.louisef@gmail.com
 0447812882



Established in 1971, the Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) is a national organisation representing rural students and their families at all stages of education and has a large network of branches throughout Australia.

ICPA WA works within the community to provide support and assistance to rural and regional families across Western Australia. We advocate and lobby to assist families to access appropriate education for their children.



Report to Connellan Airways Trust

2023 ICPA State Conference – State Councillor Accommodation Support
17th March 2023 – held at Pagoda Resort and Spa, Como



ICPA (WA) State Council wish to thank the CONNELLAN AIRWAYS TRUST for financial support towards the cost of accommodation for our 9 State Council members from remote and rural Western Australia to host our 51st Annual State Conference. Our State Council are spread from the Kimberleys to Goldfields Eyre to Esperance and in between, volunteering their time to advocate on behalf of remote, rural & regional students and families in accessing an equitable education.

The ICPA State Conference provides a forum for regional, rural and remote families to communicate **grass root issues** to Govt 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 and Politicians.

ICPA State Councillors volunteered three days of their time to be in Perth to finalise Conference. State Council rely heavily on the volunteer hours of the convening ICPA branch members to organise the logistics of the event. Encouraging remote branch members to travel to Perth to meet and share issues experienced in accessing education which their geography sees them isolated from is so important, especially in the days following our conference where isolation has been intensified. We convened this event just before the COVID19 nation-wide isolation regulations were brought in.

ICPA WA is grateful for the generous sponsorship received from Connellan Airways Trust. ***Our membership base is very aware of Connellan Airways Trust. Members took home pamphlets in their conference bags and are encouraged to circulate 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.***



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

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



The Isolated Children's Parents' Association of WA

kindly thanks and acknowledges the following sponsors and donors of our
51st Annual State Conference.

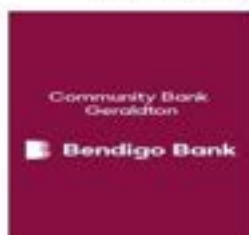
17th March 2023 Hosted by Midwest Branch



IT'S HOW
WE CONNECT



**GREAT NORTHERN
RURAL SERVICES**
A NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS PARTNER



ICPA (WA) would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of the Department of Education, WA. Thank you.



Department of
Education

