

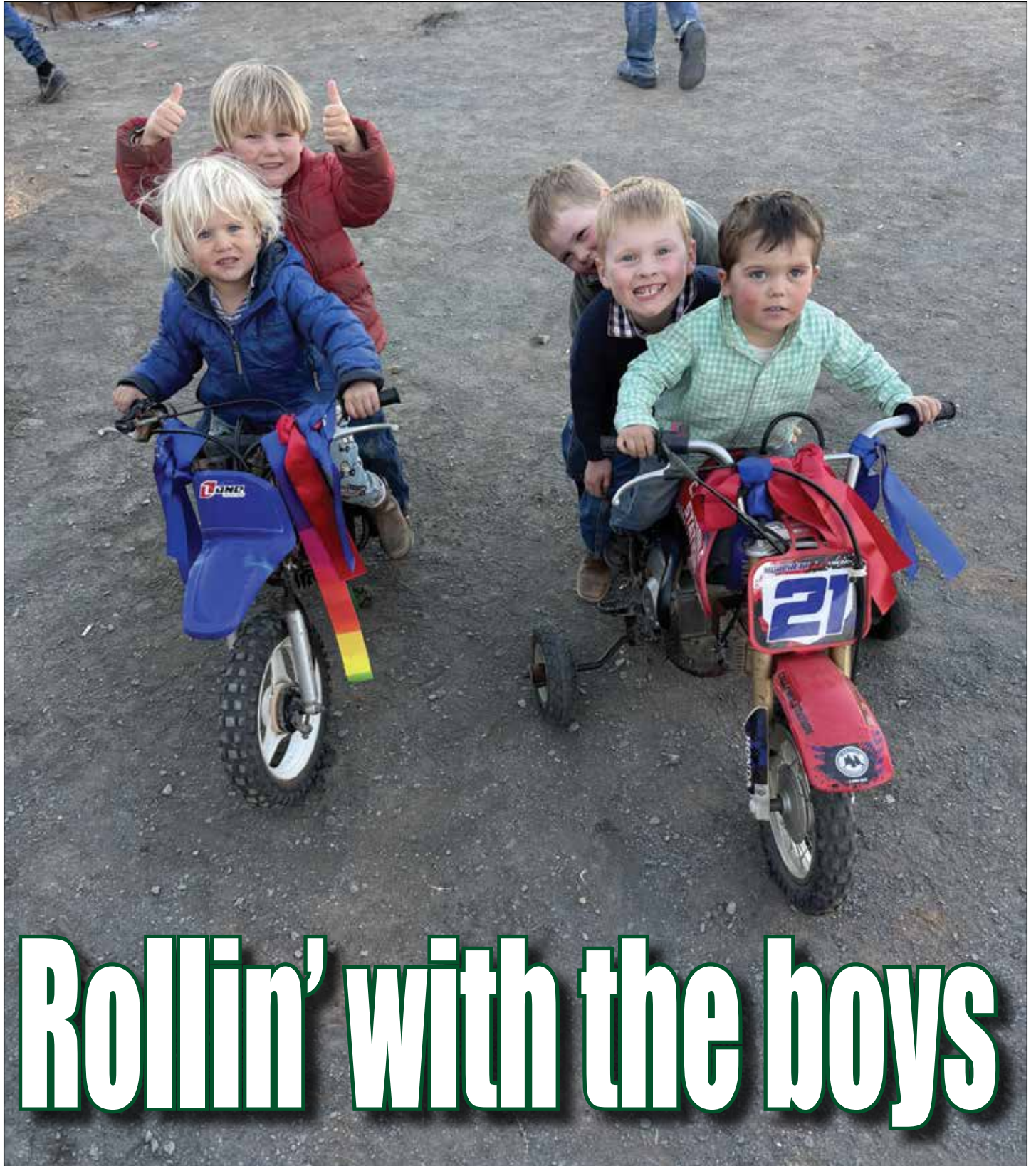
"Advocating for Rural and Remote Education"

THE PIPELINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION - SA

WINTER 2026

Edition 109



Rollin' with the boys

Marree Air Branch boys: Winston and Albie Ward on their PW50 with Huxley and Wyatt Morphet and Alfie Nicholls on the CRF50 at the Marree Gymkhana and Motorkhana.



From the President

One of the great strengths of ICPA is that each generation continues to build on the work of the last. The advocacy, relationships and achievements we value today are the result of decades of commitment from members dedicated to improving outcomes for those living in rural and remote areas.

It is impossible to individual-

ly thank everyone who contributes to ICPA. Our organisation is strengthened by people who give their time, expertise and support in so many different ways. Every contribution, no matter how big or small, plays an important part in our success.

As I step into this role, I would like to sincerely thank Belinda Hatcher for her four years as President. Belinda's dedication, knowledge and passion for rural education have been, and continue to be, invaluable to ICPA, having come full circle as a School of the Air student, boarder and parent. Thank you, Belinda, for your leadership and commitment.

Congratulations to Helen Williams on receiving State ICPA Life Membership. Helen's wisdom and willingness to contribute have made her an incredibly valued member of ICPA for many years, and we are fortunate to continue benefiting from her involvement at branch level.

Thank you to the North East Branch for hosting a successful State Conference in Burra. Strong attendance from members, organisations and stakeholders, along with 35 motions (the highest number in many years) demonstrated the commitment of our members and the ongoing need to improve outcomes for rural and remote families.

Following Conference, we were pleased to welcome a full State Council, along with several members in off-Council roles. It is encouraging to see new faces joining the team alongside experienced councillors. Thank you to outgoing State Councillors Mija Reynolds and Jo Williams for their contributions during their time on Council. We are also grateful to Mija for continuing as Pipeline Editor and the work she puts into each amazing edition.

Since Conference, State Council has been focused on preparing motion letters ahead of Delegation. Councillors should be so proud of their efforts across all portfolios in the writing and editing process of these. All 45 motion letters were distributed within a month of Conference, a significant achievement, with responses already beginning to arrive. Thank you also to those who provided case studies to support our advocacy with real-life examples. Please continue to share these when relevant to your experiences.

Delegation meetings will be held in late June alongside a two-day face-to-face State Council workshop. We are grateful to Beach Energy for its ongoing support in providing facilities and training opportunities for councillors.

Federal Conference will be held on the Gold Coast on 29–30 July, with a number of South Australian representatives attending. If you have ever considered attending a Federal Conference, put it on your list for 2027. They are great fun, you learn so much, and meet fantastic people from other states along the way.

Finally, thank you to everyone who contributes to ICPA's success, both now and in the past. Through our members, branches,

families, stakeholders, State Councillors and supporters, today's achievements are built on the dedication of those who came before us, and the work we do continues to go shape opportunities for future generations. ICPA's role is so important in ensuring the government and other organisations, understand that supporting rural and remote families is an investment in the communities, industries and regions that underpin Australia. While we have made great strides, our work is far from finished, with barriers still to overcome and opportunities still to pursue. Until next time, go well.

Kirsty

From the Editor

I'll keep it short and sweet for this edition. I derive so much joy in watching the outback flourish in green from all of this rain and hope you are enjoying it too. Setting this edition with so many photos and news from all around has been a pleasure for me as usual. Inside you will find this bumper issue contains lots of State Council news including the June delegation to Port Augusta and Adelaide; a colour-in competition; State Conference round-up with photos; and heaps of news and photos from around South Australia. Grab a cuppa and enjoy the read.

Mija



THE PIPELINE

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Meet the SA ICPA State Council



Kirsty Williams
Marla Oodnadatta Branch
President



Belinda Hatcher
Flinders Ranges Branch
Immediate Past
President
Portfolio: Rural Schools



Rebecca Rasheed
Flinders Ranges Branch
Vice President
Portfolio: Rural Schools
& School Travel



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Branch
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Portfolio: Distance
Education &
Communications



Courtney Rowe
Marree Air Branch
Publicity Officer
Portfolio: Early
Childhood and
Education



Petie Rankin
North West Branch
Portfolio: Boarding Schools/
Second home
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Portfolio: Tertiary
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pathways & School
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Portfolio:
Communications &
Tertiary Education/
Career Pathways



Edwina Bowie
North West Branch
Webmaster
Portfolio: Early
Childhood
and Education



Louise Kohler
Marla Oodnadatta
Branch
Portfolio: Early
Childhood Education
& Communications



Kristina Crawford
North East Branch
Portfolio: School Travel &
Boarding Schools/
Second Home



Katrina Morris
Port Augusta Branch
Portfolio: Specific
Education Needs & Tertiary
Education/ Career
Pathways



Bridie Ferguson
Marree Air Branch
Portfolio: Rural Schools



Kalia Mason
Flinders Ranges Branch
Portfolio: Specific
Education Needs



Di Thomas
Eyre Branch
Portfolio: School Travel



Donna Gaskin
North East Branch
Portfolio: Distance
Education & Rural
Schools



Katie Robinson
North East Branch
Portfolio: Distance
Education



Paulaine Vermeulen
Marla Oodnadatta Branch
Portfolio: Specific
Education Needs

Fundraiser maxxing

The SA ICPA State Council is pleased to see branches already making good use of the Square terminals recently provided to all South Australian branches. As cashless payments become increasingly common, the terminals offer a convenient and efficient way to process transactions at branch events and fundraising activities. This initiative aims to support branches in maximising fundraising opportunities, streamlining event operations, and making it easier for members and supporters to contribute. We look forward to seeing the positive impact these terminals continue to have across the state.



Zoomed in

SA ICPA State Council held a very productive Zoom meeting, with a strong focus on discussing motions ahead of Federal Conference.

There was excellent discussion and collaboration as we continue to advocate for improved educational outcomes for rural and remote students.

ICPA State Conference Burra 2026 – Breaking Barriers

The South Australian ICPA North East Branch was proud to host the 2026 Annual State Conference in Burra on 30 April. The event drew a strong crowd, with 91 delegates attending, including ICPA members, boarding school representatives, state government, community organisations, and local businesses.

The conference kicked off with a pre-conference dinner at the Burra Bowls Club, beautifully catered by Cooper's Butchers. It was the perfect way to start the event, with guests raving about the quality of the food and the welcoming atmosphere. Many attendees also took to the green for a friendly game of lawn bowls, which brought plenty of laughs and added to the relaxed, social feel of the evening. A big thank you to ABSA for sponsoring the drinks and Westminster School for supporting the dinner.

The formal proceedings opened with Life Member Glennis Crawford taking delegates on a trip down memory lane, reflecting on the history of ICPA in the North East and the people and moments that have shaped the region's strong connection to the organisation.

A highlight of the conference was the lineup of speakers who generously gave their time to share their experiences and insights. Emily Riggs, owner of Iris & Wool, was especially memorable - her personal story was both powerful and moving, and there wasn't a dry eye in the room by the time she finished. It was a moment that left a lasting impression on many in attendance.

Another special moment came with the presentation of Life Membership to Claire Tiver. Glennis Crawford shared a heartfelt tribute, recognising the many years of dedication

from both Claire and Athol Tiver to ICPA. It was a well-deserved honour that was warmly received by everyone present.

Catering throughout the conference was expertly handled by Mog's Café, and a range of stalls showcased local crafts and produce, giving visitors a real taste of the region. Delegates also received beautiful conference bags made by Leisa from Bush Covers & Collars, with materials funded through Wind Prospect.

The event wrapped up with a wonderful post-conference dinner at the BBH Sports Complex. Guests enjoyed a delicious three-course meal prepared by Jane Kellock, with help from BBH Netball and Football players. Thanks to the generous support of BHP and Connellan, it was a fantastic way to close the conference. The evening also featured a well-supported raffle, with



BR&C and Whittenbury Ag generously donating the major prize, a weekend away in the Barossa. Which added some extra excitement to the night.

The organising committee would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend and experience our region. We're also incredibly grateful to our sponsors - your support helps make events like this possible and brings our communities together.



Photo: L-R Henry, Glennis Georgina and Annabel Crawford

ICPA State Conference Burra 2026 – Breaking Barriers



Hon. Geoff Brock MP speaking to a motion.



Kristina Crawford and Leisa Breeding welcoming attendees.



Claire Tiver and Athol Tiver (dec) receiving life membership from North East Branch President Josephine Williams.



Kirsty Williams and Briony Ackland.

ICPA State Conference Burra 2026 – Breaking Barriers



Louise Kholer speaking to a motion.



Edwina Bowie, North West Branch.



North East Branch members attendance.



Glennis Crawford, guest speaker, and Belinda Hatcher immediate past president.



2026 State Council.



Sonja Fels, Linda Hayden and Michelle Hilder from Flinders Ranges Branch practicing their bowls!

SA ICPA Delegation & State Council Training Report – June 2026



Day 1: SOTA.

June was a significant month for SA ICPA, bringing together a full week of advocacy, collaboration and professional development. State Councillors travelled for meetings in Port Augusta, before heading to Adelaide for a second day of targeted delegation meetings, followed by two days of workshops and meetings at Beach Energy, and rounding out the week with a third and final day of delegation.

The first day of delegation began in Port Augusta, where councillors met with several organisations central to the well-being and education of remote families.

The first meeting was with RICE, where discussions centred on early childhood service delivery and the ongoing challenges of providing consistent support across vast distances.

A visit to the newly established School of the Air (SOTA) campus followed, including a tour of the facilities and conversations about distance education, resourcing, and the need for increased travel rebate to families for face-to-face events.

We then met with the Outback Communities Authority (OCA)

to discuss outback road maintenance and the lack of urgency to reopen roads after rain events causing issues with access to schooling.

The final Port Augusta meeting was with Uni Hub Spencer Gulf, focusing on tertiary pathways, regional retention, and opportunities for rural students to pursue further education closer to home. If you are looking at study remotely get in touch they are a wonderful resource and willing to help in how ever they can.

Adelaide Delegation Day 2 brought councillors into conversation with state leaders and agencies shaping policy across education, transport assistance, and regional development.

The day began with a briefing from Richard Stokes at the Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA), providing insights into boarding standards, national trends affecting rural families, and a discussion around SA boarding more broadly. We are hoping to attend the boarding suppositum in August where all Adelaide schools meet.

A meeting at Parliament House with Geoff Brock followed,

where councillors raised priority issues relating to equity, access, and the challenges faced by remote students, particularly around outback roads and infrastructure. The need to encourage people to live in these communities was also discussed, along with the importance of providing travel incentives within the education system. Geoff is an ongoing supporter of SA ICPA, and we always gain valuable takeaways from our meetings with him.

A session with the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS) explored the barriers families encounter when travelling for medical care and navigating claiming guidelines. We raised key member concerns that continue to arise and that we feel need to be addressed.

The delegation then met with Renewal SA to discuss regional housing pressures and the impact on attracting essential workers to remote communities. As a newer organisation, this meeting was beneficial in helping them understand where our members live and the significant lack of adequate housing and infrastructure.

The day concluded with a meeting with the Minister for Education, Training & Skills, Lucy Hood, and her senior advisers, where councillors highlighted key concerns around travel allowances, school rezoning (LCAS), teacher retention, and equitable access to learning in general.

State Councillors gathered at Beach Energy for two days of workshops, training and strategic planning, generously hosted by Lucille Bailey, Community & Land Advisor. Beach Energy was extremely accommodating and generous with their time and resources.

Face to Face Meeting Day One combined professional development with creative thinking and team connection. Councillors took part in a session focused on strengthening contributions to The Pipeline magazine, followed by communications and media training delivered by Beach Energy. They also completed Co Pilot training to build digital capability and joined a collaborative brainstorming workshop exploring future advocacy priorities. The day wrapped up with



Day 2: Parliament House.

SA ICPA Delegation & State Council Training Report – June 2026

a hands on cooking class and shared dinner at Sprout Cooking School, offering a relaxed and enjoyable way to unwind and connect as a team.

Face to Face Meeting Day Two brought together formal council business and targeted workshops, beginning with the State Council meeting where those in Adelaide were joined by councillors via Teams to discuss ongoing business and approve procedures to help make our council more efficient and proactive.

A meeting with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Port Augusta central operations followed, focusing on service delivery and current challenges. Councillors then participated in a Services Australia AIC session, while those not receiving AIC gathered to work on updating council documents.

Across the delegation and training, SA ICPA councillors strengthened confidence and deepened relationships with government, agencies and service providers, while also investing in their own capability and cohesion as a team.

Day five, delegation day three started with a meeting with seven representatives from the Department for Education, we saw this as a great opportunity to reinforce messages from earlier in the week and touched on multiply motions raised at conference. We have a clear intent to continue discussions with the department and follow up on our discussions.

This was followed by our final meeting with the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD). The OECD showed a strong commitment to working with SA ICPA, RICE and remote families to improve early childhood access. Key themes included the broken childcare funding model in rural and remote areas, the need for de-

mand mapping, and tailoring programs like RICE and Flying Start to the realities of outback families. They highlighted upcoming rural care expansions, workforce initiatives, and prevention focused support for children aged 0–8. The OECD also showed strong interest in SA ICPA's federal motions and welcomed opportunities to share information with our members.

That brings a wrap to a huge five days of strengthening connections, advocacy and skills, alongside focused strategic planning. The week deepened our relationships with key agencies, advanced our advocacy priorities, and built capability within the State Council team. We are energised by the momentum and look forward to progressing the issues raised through motions carried at State Conference. A further and more in depth update will be provided to our members.



Day 3: Media Training with Ken McGregor.



Day 4: Face to face meeting.



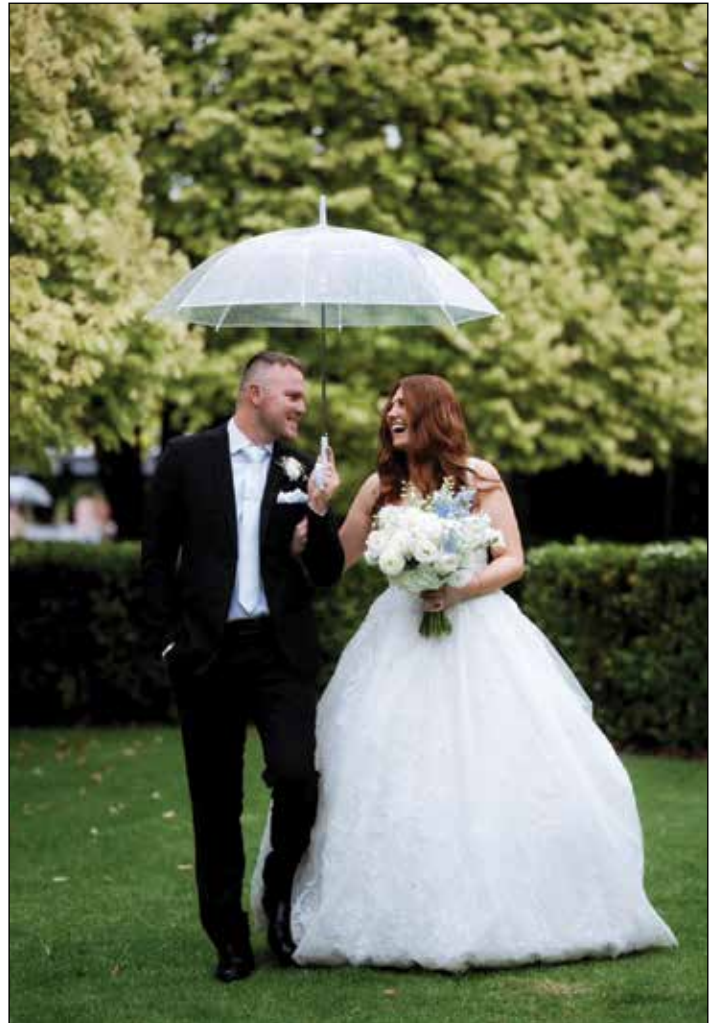
Day 5: DfE meeting.

Eyre Branch News

With overflowing gauges about the district in March, everyone is very optimistic for the rest of the year ahead. The rains have continued, and the country is looking a healthy green. Following is a selection of photos from the Eyre Branch.



Alex Kessell with his Bride.



Sam Kessell with his Bride.



Willas family ready for Sports Day: Charlie, Henry, cousin Freddy Watson and Camille.

Eyre Branch News



Kirralee Johns (centre) played for Norwood FC.



Family affair: The Webbs are tennis premiers.



Whillas at play.



Jed Polkinhorne's first day at Sacred Heart College with sister Elkie.



Kirralee Johns at home in Streaky Bay.



Di Thomas with horse Gecko at Smoky Bay on ANZAC Day.



Fun times for the Polkinghorne's at Penong.

Flinders Ranges Branch News

Fundraiser for Flinders Ranges Branch

BBQ & CHEESE PLATTERS - HAWKER RACES 2026

That time of year again and the Flinders Ranges Branch organised the BBQ and the cheese platters for a fundraiser at the annual Hawker Races 2026. The track was ready, plenty of punters and people for the day. The weather was threatening rain early, but the races went on and turned out to be a great day.

The BBQ plates were hot and cooking up a storm ready for the early birds. The first race was due to start late same as last year but didn't affect us. By late morning we were serving up a storm and didn't stop until late afternoon. You could tell when the race was on and when it finished there would be a lull during the race and after, the line was a few meters long. We sold everything we had cooked and had some uncooked meat and bread left over.

Cheese platters at the wine stand were once again a hit. With the day being so busy with patrons, who wouldn't want a glass of wine along with a selection of cheese & biscuits. Sold out by the end of the day. Great job Kalia Mason & Jazmine Kimba and helpers once again for a successful day. I would like to thank all our branch members & volunteers that helped before with setting up and preparing and for on the day cooking the BBQ and serving the public. A special mention to Kel & Linda Haydon for being there before time to get the BBQ's hot & ready and for helping me organise the day. I would also like to mention the huge help of Jane

Gloster & Katrine Scott from other branches that helped on the day. Thank you to Paul Noble & Gilbert Murcott from Elders, these blokes helped all day with cooking the BBQ. A good day had by all. Once again thank you to everyone that helped.

Sonya Fels



Linda Haydon, Jane Gloster and Sonya Fels.

Flinders Ranges Branch News

In April, a few of our branch members travelled to Burra for the SA ICPA State Conference. Thank you to our delegates, Linda Haydon & Bek Rasheed for representing the Flinders Ranges Branch and to Belinda Hatcher, Sonya Fels, Michelle Hilder and Lisa Slade for also flying the Flinders Ranges flag. After 4 years, Belinda Hatcher has completed her tenure as State President and is now in the role of Immediate Past President. Bek Rasheed has been elected Vice President and Michelle Hilder and Kaila Mason are our State Council Representatives. Thank you and well done!

In February, John & Keziah Henry welcomed baby Harrison to their family, congratulations!!

We welcome Emily, Ian, Ada, Leo and Frank Fels to our

branch, we are excited to see our branch growing!

Jessica Fels has taken up an amazing opportunity to extend her knowledge in agriculture and is working for a Black Angus cattle stud in Alberta, Canada. Leading up to this, Jessica completed an Agricultural Science Degree before spending 12 months with a beef production and processing company in Far North Queensland in her graduate year. We wish her all the best and trust she will enjoy the experience.

Lucy Ridsdale has been selected in the Adelaide Thunderbirds Talent Academy Regional Squad where she will spend time further developing her netball. Lucy has also just returned from representing the Northern Areas Netball Association at the Country Champs in Adelaide over the June long

weekend where they competed well, unfortunately losing their final on Monday by 2 goals.

The Rasheed family from Minburra have lots to celebrate lately.

Dan Rasheed was awarded the Brian Tennant Swift Bursary at St Peters at the end of his first year boarding in 2025. This award is endowed by Sir Brian and Lady Swift in memory of their son, Brian Tennant Swift, for being a good athlete and of good character, and who are, or give promise of being a positive influence on the boarding house,

Dan has also been playing U16's for North Adelaide in the SANFL in 2026 along with school footy and cricket.

Ben Rasheed won senior athlete of the day at the Orroroo Area School Sports Day in March 2026. Played U12 state

footy late in 2025.

Evie and Ben Rasheed were selected in the Northern Bullants Basketball Team and trained with the academy in U16 and U14 age groups. Competed in Port Pirie carnival and Country Championships in Adelaide (March 2026).

In July, we will be represented by Tracey Dewell and Bek Rasheed who are travelling to the Federal ICPA Conference on the Gold Coast and will be our branch delegates. We look forward to hearing all about it on their return.

The very welcome rain has seen the country transformed, all feeling very relieved and lucky. How nice it is to have a green winter and watch everything come alive, the forecast looking like more to come this week!

Jo Ridsdale



Bullants: Evie and Ben Rasheed.



Flinders Ranges Branch: Linda, Belinda, Michelle, Lisa, Bek, and Sonya attended the SA ICPA State Conference in Burra.



Bon voyage: The Fels family see Jessica off at the airport.

Marla Oodnadatta Branch News

A rather scorching start to the year turned into an amazing wet season for all of us in the Marla Oodnadatta region and beyond. If you were thinking of doing some sightseeing by road, now is the time to take to the Oodnadatta Track. The landscape has transformed into a sea of native grasses and Lake Eyre is brimming with water and bird life by the thousands.

Branch members and the local community have been busy with the first half of the year's happenings. A big congratulations to our Branch President, Kirsty Williams, on her appointment as State President.

We also congratulate Dani Chapman and Hollie Williams on continuing in their roles as State Secretary and Treasurer.

Well done to Helen Williams, who was awarded State Life Membership. This is a wonderful recognition of her 20+ years of dedicated service to SA ICPA. Thank you for your efforts, Helen.

Ada Nunn commenced Reception at the beginning of this year in the Macumba Station schoolroom through Port Augusta School of the Air.

Recent Kindy Graduate Drew Colman of Mt Sarah Station is set to commence Reception in Term 3 and will join her two older siblings Emmett and Asher.

Our branch members boarding school kids have settled into the year away from home.

Magenta Williams has begun boarding at Loreto College in Adelaide and is in year 8.

George Williams has joined his older sister Lucy, boarding in Adelaide. George has commenced year 7 and his high school journey at St Peter College in Adelaide. George also received the much-appreciated Marla Oodnadatta ICPA Bursary of \$1500, awarded by our branch when students commence their secondary schooling.

In February many Marla Oodnadatta Branch members attended a delightful wedding. Congratulations to Jono and Tayla Leonard.

Jono and Tayla's love blossomed while meeting and working on neighbouring properties Anna Creek and Nilpinna Station.

Congratulations to Damian, Harvey and Logan Williams, who were all part of the Copley Cricket Club premierships-winning team, defeating Quorn in March.

More welcome rain caused the William Creek Gymkhana to be postponed from the end of March to ANZAC day the 25th of April. The William Creek Sporting Club held a dawn service complete with horses standing post and breakfast in commemoration.

A few weeks later we celebrated Mother's Day waking up in our swags in Oodnadatta after a weekend of Gymkhana action held on May the 9th.

Both events so very much anticipated and enjoyed by all locals after a few months of being reasonably isolated around homesteads due to all the rain.

Some of our families also attended the recent Marree Gymkhana held in June.

The iconic outback sport of Bronco Branding is coming around fast, being held in Oodnadatta on the 11th of July and the National Finals is being hosted by William Creek on the 15th of August. Just in-case you are in the area!

We gratefully acknowledge support from OCA for contributing half the cost of the mechanical bull and jumping castle to be at the Australian National Bronco Branding Championships (William Creek) in August, with the branch covering the remaining amount. We have been busy selling the Marla Oodnadatta ICPA Cookbook through our local supplies. Look out for a branch tea towel coming to our local hotspots soon!

If you haven't already, please follow our Marla Oodnadatta ICPA Facebook page to stay up to date with branch news and events.



Magenta Williams in year 8, Loreto College.



George Williams in year 7, St Peter's College.



Drew Colman with her Kindy Graduation bear.

Marla Oodnadatta Branch News



Mates, Honey-May Fennel, Alice Quinn & Lisma Vermeulen together for a sleepover.



Former Governess Tayla Leonard on her wedding day with Gracie, Olivia, Bonnie & Magenta Williams.



Newly appointed State Life Member Helen Williams, pictured with Kirsty Williams.



Logan Williams, Year 12 Formal Sacred Heart College 2026.



Ada Nunn visiting Port Augusta SOTA.

Marree Air Branch News

Competition, Community and Fun at Marree Gymkhana and Motokhana

The June Long Weekend Gymkhana and Motokhana at Marree was another successful event, with beautiful days, fresh nights, enthusiastic young riders, and plenty of community spirit.

Saturday's Gymkhana showcased the growing confidence and skills of our competitors, with some very close competition across all age groups. It was fantastic to see the improvement in many of the young riders since the previous event, with everyone giving their best effort throughout the day.

Sunday's Motokhana got underway early, with the youngest competitors leading the way. The little tackers rode



Reeva Reynolds, North Moolooloo.

flat out, listened carefully to instructions, and had an absolute blast competing alongside their mates. Close competition across all age divisions made for an exciting day of racing

and fun for riders and spectators alike.

Across the two days, nearly 100 competitors, including both children and adults, took part in the events.

Leading Riders – Gymkhana

Adult: Lachy Johnson
Under 16: Magenta Williams and Pippa Reynolds (tied)
Under 12: Missy Reynolds
Under 8: Missy Reynolds
Led Class: Lilly Martin

Leading Riders – Motokhana

Adult: Harvey Williams
Ladies: Kate Ozolins
Under 16: Beau Bavistock
Under 12: Fletcher Denny
Under 8: Missy Reynolds
Under 5: Huxley Morphett and Winnie Ward (tied)

Fundraising activities were once again a highlight of the weekend. Our hardworking President, Kaeli May, kept everyone entertained with the "Guess the Weight of Jukebox the Pony" competition, which was won by Bully Booth. The lolly jar competition was won by Anne Dawes, while footy tipping also proved popular throughout the weekend.

We sincerely thank the Marree Sports Club for their support, including allowing us to auction several items as part of our

fundraising efforts. A special thank you goes to our generous sponsors: NTS Rural, Dunns Earthmoving, Nutrien Ag Solutions Port Augusta, Dulkaninna Station, Depot Springs Station, North Moolooloo Station, Rubi Red Resin, Copley Gymkhana Club, Marree Sports Club, and Jill and Colin Murdoch. Their continued support helps make these events possible and allows our riders to enjoy such a fantastic weekend of competition and community involvement.

Thank you to everyone who attended, competed, volunteered, and supported the event. We look forward to seeing you all at the next Gymkhana and Motokhana.



Will and Millie Dunn, Wertaloon.



Kaeli May and Jukebox trying to buy some beer tickets.



Dusty and David May, Depot Springs.

Marree Air Branch News

Ella and Emelia Ridsdale recently visited family in Melbourne. Ella's favourite things about visiting is "Staying at Aunty Steves House and Nanny and Poppy's house because trains go past all day!"



Ella and Emelia at the shops in Melbourne.



Emelia visiting her Poppy!

Copley Quiz Night

The Copley Quiz Night was another successful community event, with a great turnout filling the town hall. Attendees enjoyed pizza, refreshments, and a fun night of trivia, while the Marree Air Branch raised funds through a meat raffle, guess-the-lolly-jar competition, and footy tipping. Congratulations to the winning team, the "Gayle Force Team", made up of Marree Air members Kaeli May, Courtney Rowe, Luke Nicholls, Tyson Ridsdale, Chris Reynolds, Jordan and Gayle. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event, and to State Council for providing the Square terminal, which has greatly assisted our fundraising efforts.



Gayle Force Quiz Team: Gayle, Kaeli May, Jordan, Courtney Rowe, Luke Nicholls, Chris Reynolds and Tyson Ridsdale.



Alfie Nicholls, Angepena - Lolly Guess Winner.

North East Branch News



Catering at the SA Merino Field Day.

It's been a pretty unforgettable season in the North East Pastoral region. Late February brought an incredible weather event, with almost the entire area receiving anywhere from 100 to 200mm of rain falling in just two days - something many of us have never seen before. While the rain was very welcome, it certainly came with its challenges. Houses were flooded, roads were washed out and fences didn't stand much of a chance.

Since then, the rain has continued, and the transformation across the region has been nothing short of remarkable. Some stations have already exceeded 300mm - an incredible figure given the average annual rainfall is just over 200mm. The country is looking as good as anyone can remember.

In the middle of all this, the North East Branch hosted the 2026 State Conference in Burra. After months of planning, organising and plenty of teamwork, it all came together for a fantastic couple of days. We've had lots of positive feedback, which made all the hard work worthwhile.

A massive thank you goes to our convening committee - Leisa Breeding, Katie Robinson, Kristina Crawford, Josephine Williams and Leah Beard - who really put in the effort to make it happen. And a big shout out as well to Donna Gaskin, whose help both before and after the conference was very much appreciated.

With conference taking up so much time, there hasn't been a lot else happening, but we still managed to squeeze a few things in. In March, the branch ran the canteen at the SA Merino Field Day. It was a busy day, but a great fundraiser for the branch. We'd also like to thank Michelle Cousins and Amelia Rasheed for thinking of ICPA when organising the fleece competition, and for donating the fleeces to us. The competition will be back next year, so start growing those fleeces!

We also held our AGM, where Leisa Breeding stepped down as President and took on the role of Secretary, with Josephine Williams stepping into the President position. A huge thank you to Leisa for her hard work and commitment during her time as President. We also welcomed Katie Robinson and Donna Gaskin onto State Council for the first time, alongside Kristina Crawford.

April saw the Yunta Gymkhana and Motokhana, and despite fuel prices being up at the time, there was still a great turnout over the weekend. Congratulations to Hanna Crawford from Weekeroo Station, who took out Rider of the Day in the 12-15 years category.

We've also had some fantastic sporting results from our young people. Hanna Crawford represented Broken Hill in the Under 13 girls' team at the State Championships

in Adelaide over the June long weekend. The team played five games, finishing with two wins, a draw and two losses. Hanna has also gone on to qualify for the NSW PSSA (Primary School Sports Association) soccer team, playing with the boys, and will head to Nelson Bay in September - an outstanding achievement!

Alexandra Robinson has also been busy, representing the North East Netball Association (NENA) at the Under 11 Country Champs in Adelaide. Her team won three out of their five games, which is a great result. Alex has also been selected to represent the Mid North District at the upcoming SAPSASA netball carnival at the end of June. Well done, Alex.

Now that the State Conference is done and dusted, we're all looking forward to taking a bit of a breather before gearing up for our next fundraising effort. We've got an exciting opportunity coming up with the Olary Pub, who have kindly offered us the chance to run a pop-up food stall in their car park. We'll be catering for travellers heading from the Mundi Mundi Bash, which should be a great fundraiser, and a lot of fun as well.

It's certainly been a busy and eventful few months - who would've thought we'd be able to harvest clover in the North East... and swap our work boots for gum boots!

Katie Robinson



Hanna Crawford and 'Jack' won the Encouragement Award trial at the Broken Hill Ag Fair



Boolcoommatta kids learning about magnets during a STEM activity at Broken Hill SOTA



The Crawford girls from Weekeroo at the Little Topar Gymkhana.



Hanna Crawford represented Broken Hill at the State Championships.



Sophie Crawford at the Little Topar Gymkhana.



Sophie, Hanna and Ella Crawford at Weekeroo.



Alex Robinson at the Country Champs carnival.



A sea of clover at Sturt Vale.



Conference Convening Committee.

COMMERCIAL FLEECE COMPETITION

ICPA SA NORTH EAST BRANCH FUNDRAISER



CHAMPION HOGGET FLEECE

1ST PLACE

\$1000

2ND PLACE

\$150

3RD PLACE

\$100



ewe FLEECE (FINE, MEDIUM & STRONG)

1ST PLACE

\$300

PER CATEGORY

2ND PLACE

\$150

PER CATEGORY

3RD PLACE

\$100

ELDERS VOUCHER



CHAMPION ewe FLEECE **\$1000**



Judging Wednesday 10th March,
Winners announced at the AWI Luncheon 11th March



*Participants can elect to donate their fleece
to raise funds for ICPA SA North East Branch



Fleece delivered to Elders Burra
by Monday 8th March



TO ENTER A FLEECE CONTACT:
Tim Shepherd Ph: 0472 674 501

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Australian Wool
Innovation Limited

Lone Members News

SA ICPA Lone Members at present has 21 memberships from across Australia, including Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, and South Australia. Representation from within the state comes from Carrieton, Quorn, Fowlers Bay, Cororobie, Marion Bay, Lucindale, Kangaroo Island and Adelaide. Membership also extends across five independent schools, as well as a tertiary education facility.

Lone Members were well represented at the State Conference, with delegates Kerry Williams and Georgy Ewing in attendance, alongside Uni Hub SA and boarding school representatives from Prince Alfred College, Pembroke School and Walford School. Lone Members did not present any motions this year.

Following Conference, outreach was made to all boarding schools in Adelaide, along with St Mark's in Port Pirie. I am pleased to report that Seymour, Westminster, Scotch and Saint Marks have since joined the Lone Members, with further memberships anticipated in the coming months.

Georgy Ewing recently volunteered with Bike SA who took a 9-day tour in the Flinders Ranges, starting & finishing in Port Augusta. Georgy said that she has never seen the Flinders so green & lush, very lucky sheep & cows!

Retired Educator Volunteers for Isolated Children's Education (REVISE) has been quiet, but Georgy attended SOTA camp at Port Hughes in early June.

The Adelaide Thunderbirds netball team are rolling along nicely, having secured the minor premiership title. Matilda, Shane Rowe's daughter-in-law, is a key player in the team and has also been selected for the Australian Diamonds squad for the Commonwealth Games. Shane and Paddy are looking forward to heading to Scotland for the games.

Please remember anyone can become a Lone Member, so if there is people out there you think may be interested in supporting rural and remote education point them in our direction!!

Hollie Williams



Walford

One Heart, One Home

There is something so special about boarding life at Walford. Living and learning with girls from all over the world, forging the kind of close friendships that last a lifetime—what could be better than that?

2026 has already been action-packed for the Walford boarders. Their weekend recreation schedule has seen the girls head to laser tag, bowling, TreeClimb, ice skating, night markets, Fringe shows, AFL matches, a Thunderbirds game, and even puppy yoga. There has also been plenty of fun in the Boarding House, with the ultimate sleepovers, complete with karaoke, face masks and movies, as well as meal time quizzes and cooking classes in our Fig Tree Café.

The Walford boarders celebrated National Boarding Week recently. The festivities consisted of boarders versus day girls basketball, boarders sharing their experiences at assembly, and various fundraisers to raise money for their chosen charity, the Heart Foundation. The boarders also hosted a group of day students for the inaugural Student Leaders' Sleepover, an initiative spearheaded by the Boarding Student Leaders. With a Toy Story-themed dinner, there was plenty of fun and laughter as the day girls experienced a taste of boarding life.

For families who might be interested in a Walford education for their daughter, we are pleased to announce that, through the generosity of our Foundation, we have released 10 scholarships for new students commencing in 2027. You are more than welcome to contact our Head of Enrolments, Jade Harvey, on 8272 6555 or admissions@walford.asn.au if you'd like to find out more, or visit walford.sa.edu.au/scholarships.



Lone members at State Conference – Georgy Ewing, Jessica Geraghty (Pembroke School), Will Mercer (Prince Alfred School), Ewina Birrell (Walford School), Kerry Williams.

North West Branch News

It's been a busy start to the year for the North West, with plenty of fleeces shorn and baled across our sheep properties and lots of mustering for all the cattle properties. All the North West region recorded incredible rainfall in late February and mid-March, with some families and properties receiving falls not seen for many many years. The widespread rain has been an absolute game changer, and all our families are extremely grateful for the season it has provided.

Whilst the North West was receiving all that rain, our Life Member Joanna Gibson was enjoying some long-awaited time abroad, including hitting the slopes in the French Alps (with James in tow).

April saw five North West Branch members attend the SA ICPA State Conference in Burra. We were happy to have all North West Branch motions passed. Thanks to the North East Branch for hosting a wonderful conference.

Jill Greenfield and Joanna Gibson will represent our branch at the Federal Conference on the Gold Coast in July. We have three motions ready to be presented at the Federal Conference and wish Joanna and Jill all the best as they advocate on behalf of North West Branch families.

May saw the Rankin, Martin and Willis families attend the SOTA Camp at Port Hughes, where students enjoyed a range of activities including lawn bowls, putt putt golf, little athletics and sandcastle building. The camp, as always, was a wonderful opportunity for students and families to connect and enjoy time together. Hudson Willis loved the camp and was the Best Costume winner for his portrayal of Luna Roo for National Simultaneous Story time. This was Lawson Rankin's final SOTA Annual School Camp, marking the end of a memorable chapter in his School of the Air journey.

May also saw Jess Whittlesea host a RICE Playday at Mt Eba. It was a lovely day, with four mums and five children in attendance enjoying the opportunity to catch up.

Several of our families travelled to the Oodnadatta and Marree Gymkhanas, both days full of competition and socialising. Bobbie-Lou and Tom Martin from In-gomar took part in the Lamb Survival

Workshop in Melrose, gaining valuable knowledge and practical skills to support livestock management.

Hayden Rankin is now halfway through her first year of Nursing at the University of Adelaide and has settled well into university life. Max Matheson is also halfway through his first year of Medical Science at Flinders University and is enjoying college life at St Mark's College. Both are now fully-fledged university students. Molly Gibson is onto the last leg of her Nursing degree up in Katherine, NT.

Ruby and Nelson Willis have settled into the Adelaide winter sports season, enjoying plenty of netball and football. Ruby completed her Year 10 exams and is looking forward to returning home for the school holidays. The family loved being all together back on Arcoona over the June long weekend and seeing how fantastic the country is looking after the recent rain. We are happy to report that Eli Rankin is enjoying life away at boarding school and thriving at St Peter's College. Congratulations to Eli on being awarded the Year 7/8 Cricket Best and Fairest award.

Ryder Rankin is looking forward to heading to Falls Creek on a school ski trip in June, while Sam Matheson is preparing to trek the Larapinta Trail during the July school holidays.

Tanner Amos-Crowell from North Well and Willa Matheson from Wilgena are preparing to start kindergarten in July. We wish them, and their supervisors, all the very best as they embark on this exciting new adventure.

We would also like to congratulate Laura and Ben Hewitt from Pernatty Station on the arrival of their daughter, Florence Mary Hewitt. Florence was born in Adelaide on 4 June, weighing 1.98 kg. Laura and baby Florence are both doing very well, and Ava is enjoying her new role as a big sister.

Bobbie-Lou Martin



Lawson and Bonnie at Port Hughes.



Ryder and Lawson on their bikes.



Tanner, Toby and Keely watching some storms roll over.

North West Branch News



Cameron at Port Hughes beach.



Hayden in her scrubs.



Hudson as Luna Roo.



North West members at state conference.



Joanna and family enjoying the alps.



Max, Willa and Winnie Matheson at home.



RICE playday at Mt EBA.



Ruby, Hudson and Nelson Willis with dad, Adam at home.



LEIGH CREEK KINDERGARTEN HAS A PLAYGROUP!

When?

Every Thursday and Friday during the school term.

You can come in anytime from 9am-3pm.

The children have the opportunity to engage in a range of experiences, such as cooking, learning new songs and building connections with other children!

We have recently started using Class Dojo to let families know in advance any special events we have coming up. If you would like any more information about how to join Class Dojo, please email Tom.Bertossa401@schools.sa.edu.au.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education



NATIONAL BOARDERS WEEK 2026

National Boarding Week was celebrated from Sunday 10 May to Saturday 16 May 2026,

bringing together boarding communities across Australia to recognise and celebrate the unique experiences of boarding students.

Coordinated annually by the Australian Boarding Schools Association (ABSA), the week highlights the resilience, culture, and strong sense of community shared by students who live away from their regional, rural, or international homes. Across the country, approximately 150 non-government boarding schools take part, acknowledging both the challenges and the deep connections formed within boarding environments.

The 2026 theme, "Echoes of Home," celebrated the culture, traditions, memories, and communities that shape boarders every day. It recognised that while students may leave home to attend boarding school, their sense of home continues to evolve and remain present in meaningful ways.

The theme also encouraged schools to reflect on how they can honour and sustain these connections, supporting students to maintain their identity while growing into independence. National Boarding Week provided an opportunity for school communities to come together, celebrate these connections, and recognise the important role boarding plays in the lives of many rural and remote families.

The week once again highlighted the strength, adaptability, and community spirit that underpin the boarding experience. Enjoy some of the SA ICPSA Boarding kids favourite thing about this years boarders week.

Magenta Williams
Loreto College

My favourite activity was around the campfire at the boarding house. I liked having dance battles while eating smores.

Will Onell
Saint Marks College

The best thing about boarders week was having my mates around and going to footy training with them

Cody Bell
Westminster School

My favourite thing from boarders week was singing Wonderwall with all the boys for our boarders video and messing it up 23 times!

Nelson Willis
Pembroke School

During boarders week I really enjoyed being able to bring my friends from the day school to the boarding house so they could see it.

Nulla Faulkner
Sacred Heart College

What I loved most about boarding week was the same as every week, spending time with my friends and making special memories. I did also enjoy not having study all week!

Dan Rasheed
Saint Peters College

The best thing about boarders week at St Peter's is the boarders video. Every boy in the boarding house sent in a video from their home, that got made into one big video that got played in front of the whole school

Ryder Rankin
Pembroke School

Boarders Week was pretty good, we got great food that week and could invite people over to the boarding house for a look. The boarders played footy against the day students and that was a great game.

Aurelia Reynolds
Wilderness School

My favourite activity was dressing as a boarder for a boarders day at school.

Ruby Willis
Pembroke School

The thing I liked most about boarding week was the Monday morning Breakfast. We got to invite a staff member from the day school and have a cooked breakfast.

Logan Williams
Sacred Heart College

My favourite thing was going to the Adelaide Oval to watch the Crows play North Melbourne

Lucy Williams
Seymour College

My favourite part of boarders week was the Boarders Vs Day Girls footy game because it was fun, competitive, and everyone came to watch.

Eli Rankin
Saint Peters College

I liked hearing the speeches from some of the other boarders about their journey to Saints. The food is the best too! I like that it celebrates the boarders and how different we are because of where we all come from. We got to watch the new boarding video too which was cool.

George Williams
Saint Peter's College

The best thing about boarders week was the sport and the connection with mates around the house doing different activities.

Ella Crawford
Westminster School

Really enjoyed boarders week and liked how lots of the students from the day school got a chance to find out where all the boarders come from.

Lara Bell
Westminster School

My favourite part of boarders week was when we did a boarders Kahoot at dinner.

Stella Frahn
Scotch College

Boarders week at Scotch started off with the splash carnival, where we all got to have fun swimming in a range of fun events up at the pool! It was great talking to people I never usually talked to, and having an opportunity to do something fun as a community.

Sydney Litchfield
Scotch College

My favourite bit about Boarders week was having the Boarders BBQ where the Boarders put on a bbq for the whole school and all my Day Student friends can come. We got to do whip cracking on the lawns then and I loved that because it's the kind of stuff I do at home. The boarders held an assembly for the school and it was really good hearing the older boarders talking about how it's hard at the start of boarding but now they can see so many benefits from it and all the Boarders were like one big family looking out for each other.

Port Augusta Branch News



Do it for Dolly Day at Thurlga.

Well, the green, green grass of home has well and truly sprung to life across our branch. Whether the rainfall has been light or heavy, the countryside is looking amazing. It's so refreshing to be able to report that "we've had rain" and to see the landscape looking its absolute best.

The kids are growing just as quickly as the grass, and our SOTA students have recently returned from the Port Hughes camp after an amazing week together. They enjoyed playing sport, spending time at the beach, and making the most of every opportunity, even when the weather tried to get in the way. Thankfully, it didn't dampen their spirits.

It always gives me great pleasure to see the older students taking the younger ones under their wing. They enjoyed activities such as reading together and orienteering, among many others. The upper primary students were wonderful role models for the junior primary students, and it was a great reminder of just how far they have come since starting their schooling journey.

Our branch members have also enjoyed coming together over recent weeks, making the most of the running creeks and full rock holes. Whether it has been a barbecue by the water, a camping trip with family and friends, or simply catch-

ing up for a chat, these gatherings remind us how important community connections are. It doesn't matter how we come together; what matters is that we do.

We also held another successful Gymkhana, an event that many of our branch members contribute to and support. As well as being a fantastic community event, it is an important fundraiser that helps our branch attend events and conferences throughout the year. Once again, it brought the whole community together, with our young people helping with preparations and lending a hand on the day. One of the things I love most about these events is the incredible range of ages involved, from our kindy children through to our retirees. Everyone plays a role, and without the willingness of so many people to contribute, events like these simply would not happen.

Pamela and I also made the trek to Burra to attend the North East Conference and enjoy the wonderful hospitality of the region. I always appreciate the character and history of the old town halls that so often serve as our conference venues. The speakers, discussions and debate on all things ICPA kept us engaged and inspired, reinforcing the importance of continuing to advocate for our children and young people, from kindy



Pam and Kat at State Conference in Burra.

through to university.

There is nothing quite like coming home after being away for a while, and we always look forward to welcoming our travellers back as they return from university and other studies.

Our branch has a wonderful mix of young people at all stages of their educational journeys. We have university students studying agriculture, teaching, nursing and a range of other fields, all applying their knowledge in the real world. Many are currently completing six-week placements and are certainly feeling the financial pinch, but they are also gaining invaluable experience and building relationships with the children, families and teaching staff they meet along the way.

We also have apprentices undertaking careers as electricians and mechanics, many of whom still use home as their base and continue to lend a hand whenever they can. Our Year 12 graduates are now approaching the crucial final stages of their studies, and we wish them every success as they work through the challenges and opportunities of their final semester.

At the same time, we have primary school students rapidly approaching the end of their primary years and already beginning to prepare for boarding school. It is always a bitter-sweet time as we help them

take that next big step in their education journey.

We also have many thriving primary-aged children who are soaking up every learning opportunity and experience available to them. From gymnastics and Little Athletics to piano lessons and other activities, they continue to embrace everything on offer with enthusiasm and energy.

We are excited to welcome a new group of kindy students this semester and look forward to watching them begin their learning adventures. Our wonderful toddlers are also making the most of RICE, enjoying playtime, painting, and all the fun and learning that comes with those early years.

We are also delighted to welcome a new little bub into our branch. Arriving in a hurry at just six weeks early, this little one has already experienced the incredible support that rural families receive through their community, RICE and the RFDS.

What a busy and inspiring bunch we have in our branch. It is wonderful to see our children and young people growing, learning and thriving at every stage of their journey.

Look forward to hearing all your news.

Cheers Kat

Port Augusta Branch News



Chelsea, Lara, Dion and George Woolford.



Ava Hewitt.



Maddie and Bonnie at Nonning Gymkhana.



Ava, Ben and Laura Hewitt.



Phoebe Michaels.



Memphis Cuffe at Nonning Gymkhana.



Imogen, Sienna and Phoebe Michaels.



Eli Cuffe at Pink Cricket Day.



Michelle, Payton and Phil Lord
Payton's year 12 formal.



Indie, Tully and Elke Davey.

Thankyou Beach Energy

Thankyou for the wonderful learning opportunities and community support.



Inclusive training of media and Ai.



Beautiful board room.



Welcoming atmosphere.



*Together we learn,
grow and innovate.*



Thanks again for your energy,
ideas and collaboration!



School of the Air Students Jump Into Action for Jump Rope for Heart

Students from Port Augusta School of the Air have been enthusiastically taking part in the Heart Foundation's Jump Rope for Heart program, combining fitness, fun, and fundraising to support a great cause.

Living and learning across some of South Australia's most remote regions, School of the Air students may be separated by distance, but they have come together with a shared goal to improve their health and wellbeing while raising money for lifesaving heart research and education.

Throughout the program, students have been practising their skipping skills, setting personal challenges, and finding creative ways to stay active. From beginners mastering their first jumps to experienced

skippers attempting tricks and endurance challenges, every student has been encouraged to participate at their own level.

The students have also been seeking sponsorship and donations from family, friends, and community members, helping raise valuable funds for the Heart Foundation. Their efforts demonstrate that no matter where you live, everyone can make a positive contribution to their community and support important causes.

Teachers and supervisors have been impressed by the students' enthusiasm and commitment, with many embracing the opportunity to improve their fitness while learning about heart health and the importance of an active lifestyle.

Jump Rope for Heart has been a wonderful way for School of the Air students to connect through a shared activity, build confidence, and contribute to a cause that helps Australians of all ages.

The School of the Air community would like to thank everyone who has supported the students through donations and encouragement. Every contribution, big or small, helps make a difference.

As the program continues, students are looking forward to reaching their fundraising goals and celebrating the positive impact they have made one skip at a time.

Pamela Cuffe



Lorraine Greenfield, OAM

Early 1984 marked the formation of the North West Branch of ICPA in South Australia. Founded from the original Port Augusta branch by President Julia Materne, the first meeting was held at Wilgena Station, not far from Tarcoola. Attended by Julia, Lorraine Greenfield, Ann Halls and others it was decided that they would form their own branch as there was enough interest in advocating for rural and remote family's education in the North West.

Lorraine and Keith lived at Billa Kalina Station for over 30 years and had two children who both studied via Port Au-

gusta School of the Air and then attended boarding school in Adelaide.

Lorraine has been an active member holding many positions including that of North West Branch President for many years, State Councillor and State Treasurer and conference convenor.

Lorraine was presented with Life Membership of the North West branch in 2023 for her years of service to bush families and their children's education.

She recalls writing many long hand letters, (before emails, zoom meetings or the fax were around) lobbying heads

of departments for mostly the same issues the current State and Branch executive are.

Along with a very ordinary phone service, long trips on an unsealed Stuart Highway in the Falcon station wagon Lorraine and others like her were instrumental in getting the ICPA in SA to be a lobby group which was taken seriously and given a seat at the table when requested.

On June 8th 2026 Lorraine was awarded an OAM for Service to Remote Communities.

The Medal of the Order of Australia is in recognition of not only ICPA but her over

60 years of service to many other Volunteer organisations such as SA CWA, Kingoonya/Glendambo Race club, SOTA, RFDS, RICE and Soil Board.

From the little girl born on a January scorcher at Innamincka, Lorraine has always wanted equity and social interaction for isolated children and families in the bush.

Thankyou from generations of ICPA families, you've more than earned Lorraine Greenfield OAM.

Col Greenfield

AUTHOR REVIEW

FREDRIK BACKMAN

I have long known that Frederick Backman was my favourite author. Ever since I shut the pages on the 3rd book in his 'Beartown' series, I was utterly and completely in love. His writing style is powerful and sharp and his stories deep and full of emotion. If you haven't read, or heaven forbid heard of him, I beg you to invite his stories into your life.

I began 'Beartown' as an audiobook (returning home from dropping off boarding kids and facing an 8-hour journey of silence, interrupted only by my tears, was not appealing) and I listened to it solidly until the final words. The narrator is brilliant in 'Beartown' and 'Us Against You' but, for reasons beyond my understanding, they changed for the 3rd book in the series 'The Winners' and I couldn't do it. So, I bought all 3 hard copies and started again. I lost days but gained perspective. I have recently finished his latest (not part of the 'Beartown' series), 'My Friends', and don't think I have any tears left to shed but to me, a good book is one that makes me cry. I can't even put into words what it is, but he skillfully writes emotions like you can touch and feel them, from the very depths of your heart. It's not often a book can grasp emotions like they are really felt but Backman manages this on every page.

I urge you to try Frederick Backman. Start with an audiobook if it's easier and if you aren't emotionally involved, I am sorry for wasting your time, but I hope you can return your audiobook or put the hard copy back on the shelf and consider yourself wiser for having read his words.

Petie Rankin



Royal Flying Doctor Service

CENTRAL OPERATIONS

RFDS General Practice Update

The RFDS Primary Health Care team has officially moved into the new RFDS General Practice building. The facility is taking shape beautifully, with plans to open for services by the end of 2026. Work is continuing behind the scenes to finalise the build, staffing, equipment, and models of care.

What does this mean for our outback families?

- For patients in remote communities, there will be no changes to the care you currently receive. Please continue to book medical, nursing, and allied health appointments via email at clinic-bookings@flyingdoctor.net, through Bushlink (Bushlink — RFDS Patient Information), or by calling 08 8648 9500.
- The new General Practice clinic will be staffed by a dedicated team of GPs and nurses. While some of your familiar RFDS Rural Generalist Doctors may choose to work in the clinic, recruitment is currently underway to help fill the practice team. Importantly, your medical records will remain accessible across RFDS services to support continuity of care.
- Like any general practice, patients visiting Port Augusta who require treatment for an acute health issue (such as a respiratory illness, asthma flare-up, tonsillitis, or minor procedure) will need to contact the clinic to book an appointment.
- A small allocation of same-day urgent appointments will be made available for vulnerable patients, including children, pregnant women, and elderly or frail individuals. Our reception team will assist with these bookings where appropriate.
- Appointments will be allocated based on clinical need, with all patients assessed through the same triage process.
- The new clinic will serve both the Port Augusta community and RFDS outback patients and is expected to be in high demand. If you know you will be travelling to town and may need an appointment, you will need to book ahead, as same-day appointments may not always be available.
- We will keep you updated on the opening of the site.

Telehealth appointments

The RFDS is funded to provide face-to-face care at your remote place of residence. If you need to speak with an RFDS doctor about an illness, injury, or urgent medical issue that may require the use of your medical chest, you can continue to access unplanned telehealth support by calling 08 8648 9500 or 1800 RFDS SA (1800 733 772).

For non-urgent matters such as prescription renewals, workplace or driver's licence medicals, asthma action plans, or routine health reviews, a planned telehealth appointment can be arranged if you are unable to wait until the next scheduled RFDS Primary Health Care visit. Please contact the team by phone or email to make a booking.

We will continue to keep our communities informed as further information becomes available. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mandy Smallacombe, Manager Primary Health Care.

MEET OUR COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE TEAM



MANDY SMALLACOMBE
Manager, Primary Health Care

Coordinates a team of doctors, specialist nurses and allied health professionals to deliver comprehensive primary health care to people in the far west and north of SA – an area of 840,000 square kilometres.



KATELAN BURY
Chronic Disease Coordinator

Delivers care, support and education to patients with chronic diseases, promoting self-management strategies and coordinating treatment plans to better manage health conditions.



TESSA BENNETT
Chronic Disease Nurse

Accredited Diabetes Educator with a passion for chronic conditions, facilitates primary health care through health promotion and disease prevention, educating and assisting patients with managing chronic and complex diseases and illnesses.



TARNYA EGGLETON
Child & Family Health Nurse

Provides guidance and support on child health and development, breastfeeding, sleep and settling, and all the things parents and caregivers want to know about their children during their crucial first five years.



CAITLYN REID
Community Midwife

Passionate about providing quality, personalised health care and advocating for those living rural and remote areas. Strong interest in maternal and infant health and wellbeing.



JACQUI MERKEL
Community Midwife

Works across all manner of nursing, supporting pregnant women with antenatal and postnatal care in rural and remote SA.



MARY PACKARD
Community Midwife

Provides all manner of nursing, midwifery, immunisations and care coordination to patients in rural and remote SA.



MELISSA ALLEN
Mental Health Service Manager

Qualified Mental Health Nurse managing the SAANT team. Provides care across mental health including complex care for illnesses such as depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, psychosis, gender dysphoria and family/domestic violence.



MICK KEANE
Mental Health Social Worker

Social Worker with a background working with Aboriginal communities in the Central Desert Region of NT. Mick is especially skilled in working with children, youth and men, and using group work approaches.



MYLES ATKINSON
Mental Health Social Worker

Accredited Mental Health Social Worker with experience working in country South Australia and the Victorian Highlands. Works alongside people to develop strategies to self-manage their wellbeing and mental health.



Kendall Morrison
Podiatrist

Delivering essential foot and lower leg care to people living in remote and outback SA. Healthy feet, strong communities.



JOSIE CALDERWOOD
Dietician

Helps people to lead healthier lives, using Nutrition Therapy to set goals and manage conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, gastrointestinal issues, weight management.



CHRISTIE ALEXANDER
Occupational Therapist

Provides a wide scope of support, with experience in areas such as pain management, chronic fatigue, housing modifications, and working with children with developmental and learning issues.



LIAM COFFEY-OATES
Physiotherapist

Provides assessment and treatment services for people living in rural and remote SA with focus on chronic pain and arthritis to optimise health outcomes and improved quality of life.



DENISE MARTIN
Aboriginal Health Coordinator

Assists remote patients with transport, accommodation and support with appointments – ensuring you and your families receive the care you need.



KRISTEN BESANT
Aboriginal Health Practitioner

Works alongside patients with chronic disease to better knowledge and health outcomes, including Adult Health Checks to ensure you feel as good on the inside as you do on the outside.



DENISE WILLIAMSON-KNOEF
Clinical Pharmacist

Provides support to remote area clinics and patients, ensuring outback communities get optimal treatment and timely access to medication – can answer any questions regarding your medications.



GRACE FORREST
Primary Health Care Administration

Runs the daily administration of our Community Health Services, coordinating clinic flights and appointments for patients at the Port Augusta Base and in remote communities.



**Royal Flying
Doctor Service**
SOUTH AUSTRALIA &
NORTHERN TERRITORY

CONTACT US

Book an appointment or find out more about our services.

Ph: 8648 9500

E: clinicbookings@flyingdoctor.net

Community Health Clinics > July 2026

To book call (08) 8648 9500 or email
clinicbookings@flyingdoctor.net

Our office is staffed between 8.30am and 4.30pm,
Monday to Friday (except public holidays)

> **TELEHEALTH** You can book a telephone or video consult
with our clinical team in Port Augusta during office hours.

> **Visiting Care: BUSH RUN** You must request your booking
before midday on the Monday of visiting week.

> **Visiting Care: ALL OTHER SITES** You must request your
booking before midday the day before the scheduled visit.

Bush Run locations >

Bush Run W Cook, Hiltaba, Kingoonya, Lake Everard, Maralinga
and Mt Ive.

Bush Run C Arkaringa, Billa Kalina, Bulgunnia, Cadney
Homestead, Commonwealth Hill, Glendambo, Ingomar, McDouall
Peak, Mobella, Mulgathing, Mt Eba, Nilpinna, The Peake, Stuart
Creek, Todmorden, Twins, Wilgena and William Creek.

Bush Run NE Balcanoona, Clifton Hills, Cowarie, Dulkaninna,
Etadunna, Kalamurina, Mt Lyndhurst, Muloorina,
Mungerannie, Murrepeowie and Parachilna.



* denotes overnight stay

Bushlink is here!

Scan or visit
rfdssant.com.au/bushlink

Currently available in Blinman,
Coorabie, Innamincka, Nullarbor,
Yunta and Bush Run locations

For medical emergencies 24/7
Call 1800 733 772



Week 3	Mon 29 Jun	Tue 30 Jun	Wed 1 Jul	Thu 2 Jul	Fri 3 Jul
Primary Care	Andamooka	Oak Valley * Blinman	Yalata	Oodnadatta	Innamincka
Allied Health	Marree	Andamooka *	Andamooka	Blinman	Yunta

Week 4	Mon 6 Jul	Tue 7 Jul	Wed 8 Jul	Thu 9 Jul	Fri 10 Jul
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marla Marree	Yalata	Oodnadatta Yunta	~
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Marla Oodnadatta *	Oodnadatta	~	~

Week 1	Mon 13 Jul	Tue 14 Jul	Wed 15 Jul	Thu 16 Jul	Fri 17 Jul
Primary Care	Coorabie/Nullarbor Andamooka	Bush Run W	Bush Run C *	Bush Run NE	~
Allied Health	~	Marree *	Marree	Andamooka *	Andamooka

Week 2	Mon 20 Jul	Tue 21 Jul	Wed 22 Jul	Thu 23 Jul	Fri 24 Jul
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marla Marree	Yalata	Oodnadatta Yunta	~
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Marla Oodnadatta *	Yalata * Oodnadatta	Yalata	Yalata * Coorabie

Week 3	Mon 27 Jul	Tue 28 Jul	Wed 29 Jul	Thu 30 Jul	Fri 31 Jul
Primary Care	Andamooka	Oak Valley * Blinman	Yalata	Oodnadatta	Innamincka
Allied Health	Marree	Andamooka *	Andamooka	Kingoonya / Glendambo	Yunta

Community Health Clinics > August 2026

To book call (08) 8648 9500 or email
clinicbookings@flyingdoctor.net

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Bush Run locations >

Bush Run W Cook, Hiltaba, Kingoonya, Lake Everard, Maralinga
and Mt Ive.

Bush Run C Arkaringa, Billa Kalina, Bulgunnia, Cadney
Homestead, Commonwealth Hill, Glendambo, Ingomar, McDouall
Peak, Mobella, Mulgathing, Mt Eba, Nilpinna, The Peake, Stuart
Creek, Todmorden, Twins, Wilgena and William Creek.

Bush Run NE Balcanoona, Clifton Hills, Cowarie, Dulkaninna,
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Yunta and Bush Run locations



Week 4	Mon 3 Aug	Tue 4 Aug	Wed 5 Aug	Thu 6 Aug	Fri 7 Aug
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marla Marree	Yalata	Oodnadatta Yunta	~
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Marla Oodnadatta *	Oodnadatta	~	~

Week 1	Mon 10 Aug	Tue 11 Aug	Wed 12 Aug	Thu 13 Aug	Fri 14 Aug
Primary Care	Coorabie/Nullarbor Andamooka	Bush Run W	Bush Run C *	Bush Run NE	~
Allied Health	~	Marree *	Marree	Andamooka *	Andamooka

Week 2	Mon 17 Aug	Tue 18 Aug	Wed 19 Aug	Thu 20 Aug	Fri 21 Aug
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marla Marree	Yalata	Oodnadatta Yunta	~
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Marla Oodnadatta *	Yalata * Oodnadatta	Yalata	Yalata * Coorabie

Week 3	Mon 24 Aug	Tue 25 Aug	Wed 26 Aug	Thu 27 Aug	Fri 28 Aug
Primary Care	Andamooka	Oak Valley * Blinman	Yalata	Oodnadatta	Innamincka
Allied Health	Marree	Andamooka *	Andamooka	Blinman	Yunta

Community Health Clinics > September 2026

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Week 4	Mon 31 Aug	Tue 1 Sep	Wed 2 Sep	Thu 3 Sep	Fri 4 Sep
Primary Care	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics
Allied Health	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics

Week 1	Mon 7 Sep	Tue 8 Sep	Wed 9 Sep	Thu 10 Sep	Fri 11 Sep
Primary Care	Coorabie/Nullarbor Andamooka	Bush Run W	Bush Run C *	Bush Run NE	-
Allied Health	-	Marree *	Marree	Andamooka *	Andamooka

Week 2	Mon 14 Sep	Tue 15 Sep	Wed 16 Sep	Thu 17 Sep	Fri 18 Sep
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marla Marree	Yalata	Oodnadatta Yunta	-
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Marla Oodnadatta *	Yalata * Oodnadatta	Yalata	Yalata * Cooberie

Week 3	Mon 21 Sep	Tue 22 Sep	Wed 23 Sep	Thu 24 Sep	Fri 25 Sep
Primary Care	Andamooka	Oak Valley * Blinman	Yalata	Oodnadatta	Innamincka
Allied Health	Marree	Andamooka *	Andamooka	Kingoonya / Glendambo	Yunta

Week 4	Mon 28 Sep	Tue 29 Sep	Wed 30 Sep	Thu 1 Oct	Fri 2 Oct
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marla Marree	Yalata	Oodnadatta Yunta	-
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Marla Oodnadatta *	Oodnadatta	-	-

Community Health Clinics > October 2026

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Yunta and Bush Run locations



Week 1	Mon 5 Oct	Tue 6 Oct	Wed 7 Oct	Thu 8 Oct	Fri 9 Oct
Primary Care	Public Holiday	Bush Run W	Bush Run C *	Bush Run NE	-
Allied Health	Public Holiday	Marree *	Marree	Andamooka *	Andamooka

Week 2	Mon 12 Oct	Tue 13 Oct	Wed 14 Oct	Thu 15 Oct	Fri 16 Oct
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marla Marree	Yalata	Oodnadatta Yunta	-
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Marla Oodnadatta *	Yalata * Oodnadatta	Yalata	Yalata * Cooberie

Week 3	Mon 19 Oct	Tue 20 Oct	Wed 21 Oct	Thu 22 Oct	Fri 23 Oct
Primary Care	Andamooka	Oak Valley * Blinman	Yalata	Oodnadatta	Innamincka
Allied Health	Marree	Andamooka *	Andamooka	Blinman	Yunta

Week 4	Mon 26 Oct	Tue 27 Oct	Wed 28 Oct	Thu 29 Oct	Fri 30 Oct
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marla Marree	Yalata	Oodnadatta Yunta	-
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Marla Oodnadatta *	Oodnadatta	-	-



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Call 1800 733 772



Week 1	Mon 2 Nov	Tue 3 Nov	Wed 4 Nov	Thu 5 Nov	Fri 6 Nov
Primary Care	Coorabie/Nullarbor Andamooka	Bush Run W	Bush Run C *	Bush Run NE	~
Allied Health	~	Marree *	Marree	Andamooka *	Andamooka
Week 2	Mon 9 Nov	Tue 10 Nov	Wed 11 Nov	Thu 12 Nov	Fri 13 Nov
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marla Marree	Yalata	Oodnadatta Yunta	~
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Marla Oodnadatta *	Yalata * Oodnadatta	Yalata	Yalata * Coorabie
Week 3	Mon 16 Nov	Tue 17 Nov	Wed 18 Nov	Thu 19 Nov	Fri 20 Nov
Primary Care	Andamooka	Oak Valley * Blinman	Yalata	Oodnadatta	Innamincka
Allied Health	Marree	Andamooka *	Andamooka	Kingoonya / Glendambo	Yunta
Week 4	Mon 23 Nov	Tue 24 Nov	Wed 25 Nov	Thu 26 Nov	Fri 27 Nov
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marla Marree	Yalata	Oodnadatta Yunta	~
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Marla Oodnadatta *	Oodnadatta	~	~

Community Health Clinics > December 2026

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Week 1	Mon 30 Nov	Tue 1 Dec	Wed 2 Dec	Thu 3 Dec	Fri 4 Dec
Primary Care	Coorabie/Nullarbor Andamooka	Bush Run W	Bush Run C *	Bush Run NE	~
Allied Health	~	Marree *	Marree	Andamooka *	Andamooka
Week 2	Mon 7 Dec	Tue 8 Dec	Wed 9 Dec	Thu 10 Dec	Fri 11 Dec
Primary Care	Andamooka	Marla Marree	Yalata	Oodnadatta Yunta	~
Allied Health	Oodnadatta *	Marla Oodnadatta *	Yalata * Oodnadatta	Yalata	Yalata * Coorabie
Week 3	Mon 14 Dec	Tue 15 Dec	Wed 16 Dec	Thu 17 Dec	Fri 18 Dec
Primary Care	Andamooka	Oak Valley * Blinman	Yalata	Oodnadatta	Innamincka
Allied Health	Marree	Andamooka *	Andamooka	Blinman	Yunta
No Clinics	Mon 21 Dec	Tue 22 Dec	Wed 23 Dec	Thu 24 Dec	Fri 25 Dec
Primary Care	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics	Public Holiday
Allied Health	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics	Public Holiday
No Clinics	Mon 28 Dec	Tue 29 Dec	Wed 30 Dec	Thu 31 Dec	Fri 1 Jan
Primary Care	Public Holiday	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics	Public Holiday
Allied Health	Public Holiday	No Clinics	No Clinics	No Clinics	Public Holiday

Pastoral Gathering Brings Laughter, Connection and Community Spirit to Port Augusta

The Pastoral Gathering held at Central Oval in Port Augusta on Friday 19 June was a fantastic night out for people from across the region, thanks to the generous support of BHP. The event brought together like minded pastoral families and community members for an evening of good food, great company, and plenty of laughs, which was a much needed chance to step off the land and enjoy time together.

Guests were treated to a delicious meal prepared by ASG Bianco, accompanied by com-

plimentary drinks that helped set the tone for a relaxed and social atmosphere. BHP also organised guest speaker Ben Pettingill, well known from the Flying Blind podcast. Ben captivated the room with inspiring stories, sharp humour, and easy banter that had everyone engaged from start to finish.

After dinner, the fun continued with games and a lively quiz hosted by a quiz master. Tables battled it out for bragging rights and some very impressive prizes, including BHP engraved Yeti gear and other goodies.

The friendly competition added plenty of energy to the night and kept everyone laughing.

The Fat Farmers Health Check Bus was also in Port Augusta for three days, providing full body skin checks to an incredible 175 people. This service was widely appreciated and highlighted the importance of accessible health support for rural communities.

The only hiccup of the evening came at the end when guests discovered they were briefly locked inside the venue. Even that turned into a moment of

shared humour and storytelling, adding to the night's memorable charm.

A huge thank you goes to BHP and to Bernie, whose efforts helped bring everyone together for such an enjoyable event. It was also wonderful to meet and connect with Jeremy during the evening.

Overall, the Pastoral Gathering was a brilliant reminder of the strength, resilience, and camaraderie that define our outback communities. Nights like these matter, and this one certainly delivered.



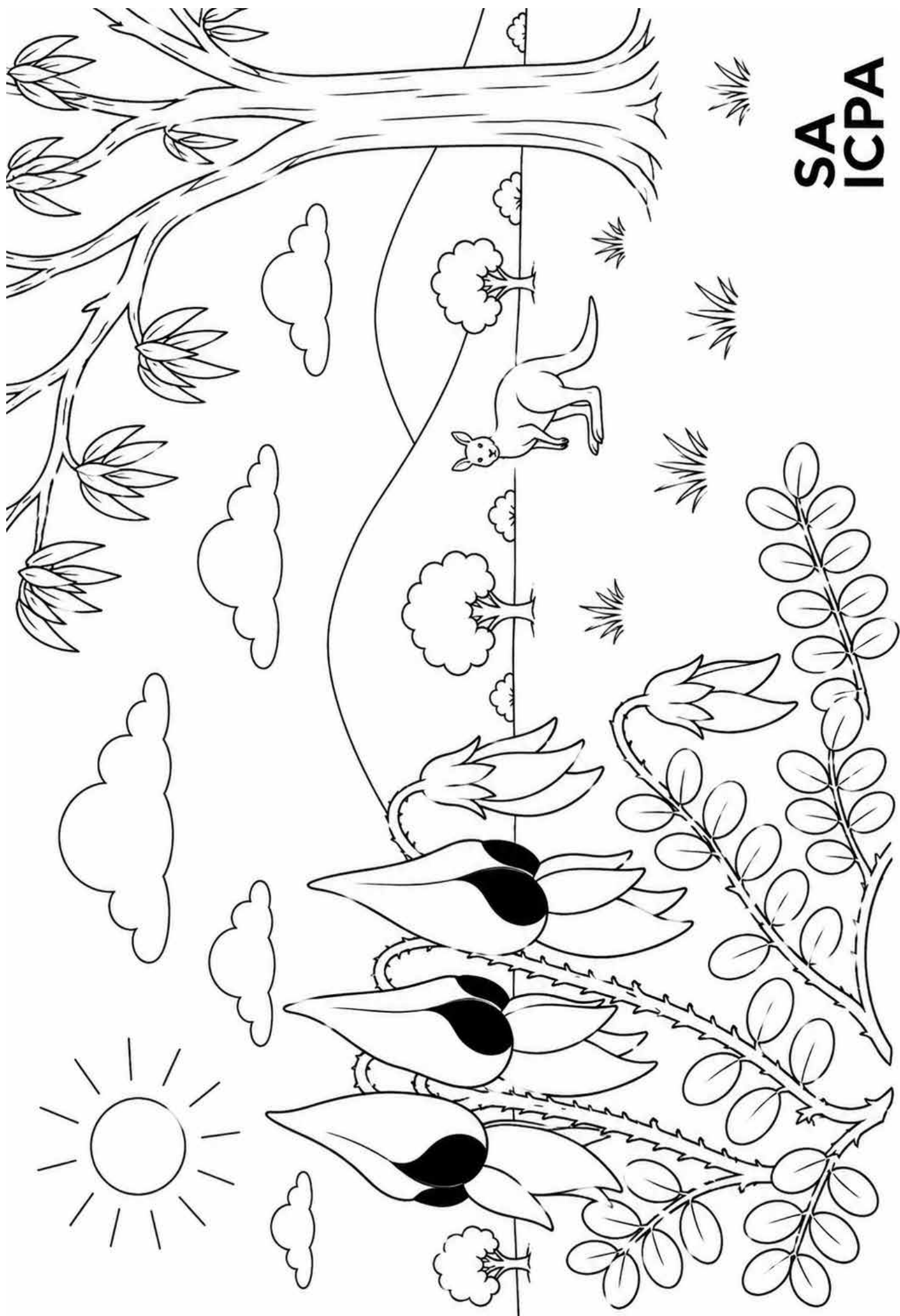
Oodnadatta Gymkhana Fly-in



Thanks to Petie Rankin for sending in this photo which shows how important flights are for these kids to get home and join in with their community's events, and how wonderfully connected they all are. Lawson Rankin joined Ruben Driver from Elkedra Station in the NT along with Eli Rankin, George and Lucy Williams, Magenta Williams, Ryder Rankin and Logan Williams who flew into Coober Pedy for the Oodnadatta Gymkhana.



SA
ICPA





Did you know you
can **access urgent
care** at home?

Q WCH Virtual Urgent Care



Government of South Australia
Women's and Children's
Health Network



Women's
& Children's
Hospital

Campaign supported by
The Hospital Research Foundation



The Hospital Research
Foundation



A guide to boarding scholarships suitable for remote and isolated SA students

This list has some, but not all, available scholarships at Adelaide boarding schools. The scholarships listed are those most suited to rural, remote and isolated children and their situations. For an exhaustive list, please head to their respective websites. Most schools have academic and general excellence scholarships but these are based on sitting an ACER exam or have criteria that is hard to meet for geographically isolated children. All scholarships are submitted via an application, with the exception of Immanuel which requires an ACER test to be sat for their boarding scholarship.

SCHOOL	SCHOLARSHIP NAME	REMISSION %	ENTRY LEVEL
Loreto College - All girls Roman Catholic	All-rounder boarder	Up to 50% off tuition AND 25% off boarding	7-11
Prince Alfred College (PAC) - All boys	Neil Smart (Regional and remote students)	Up to 50% off tuition	7-11
	Ken Lord (remote area boarding student)	Up to 75% combined (tuition & boarding)	7-11
	Edward Hunt (those looking for a career in ag, primary industry or related field)	Up to 50% off tuition All 3 scholarships can be offered varying amounts not listed, dependent on circumstances	7-11
	Boarding (priority will go to a SOTA student)	Up to 50% off tuition	7-11
Pembroke - Co-educational	Boarding	50% off tuition	7-11 (can apply each year while attending if unsuccessful)
	Isolated student scholarship & bursary (priority will go to a SOTA student)	Up to 50% off tuition	7-10
	Margaret Sellers (available periodically for rural or outback primary producing families)	Up to 100% off tuition and an agreed % off boarding	10-12
	Indulkaninna (available periodically and based on need for a boarder)	100% off boarding	10-12 (or exceptional circumstances)
Immanuel College - Co-educational Lutheran	Boarding		8-11 (but must pass ACER examination)
Rostrevor - All boys Catholic	Nothing applicable for boarding specific		
Sacred Heart - Co-educational Catholic	Lower fees so no scholarships offered but can apply for low income and remission allowance		Boarding from 9-12
Seymour - All girls	Boarding		7-10
Scotch College - Co-educational	Nothing applicable for boarding specific		
St Peter's - All boys Anglican	Boarding	Up to 50% off boarding (and in some instances, a % off tuition)	7-11
	The Big Hike	Up to 90% off tuition (this is not limited to boarding students but encouraged to apply)	7-9
Walford - All girls Anglican	Rural and Remote	Up to 50% off tuition	7-12
	Boarding	Up to 50% off tuition	7-12
Westminster - Co-educational Uniting Church of SA	Come for 6, pay for 5 (not a scholarship but an offer)	For all boarders starting in year 7 through to year 12	Year 7 entry
	Remote & Rural scholarship (aligned with ICPA membership but not exclusive to)	50% off boarding (only 1 student per scholarship and has been allocated until 2029)	8-10
	Cliffard Boomsma	50% off boarding	7-10
Wilderness - All girls	Boarding	Up to 50% off tuition	7-11

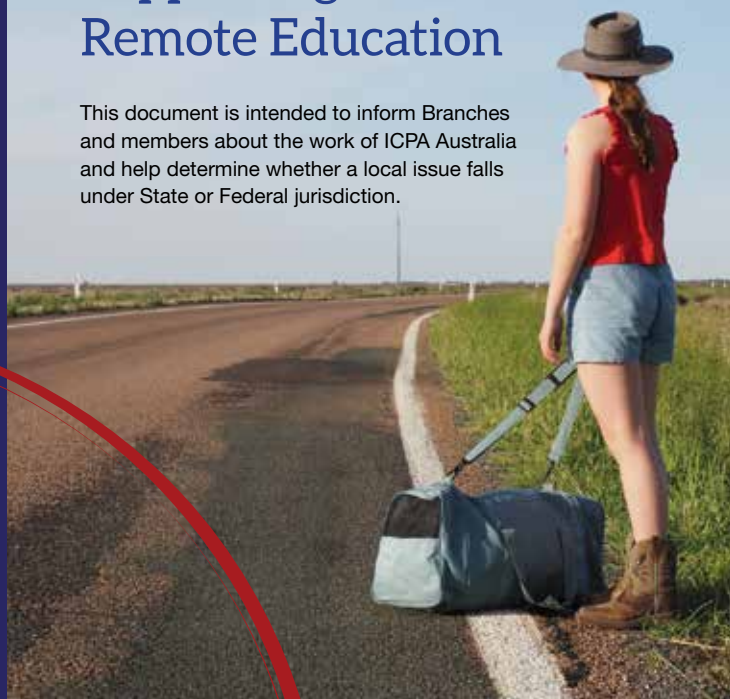


Branch Guide to ICPA Australia Functions and Advocacy

United in Our Advocacy:

Supporting Rural and Remote Education

This document is intended to inform Branches and members about the work of ICPA Australia and help determine whether a local issue falls under State or Federal jurisdiction.



Branch Functions

To support members in attending
Federal / State Conferences

Provide financial support to the Federal / State Councils

Identify local education issues and bring motions to
Federal / State Conferences

Raise relevant issues to Federal Council as they arise

Collate relevant case studies to support
Federal Council advocacy

Work with local stakeholders to enhance educational
opportunities and highlight inequities

Advocate to your local Federal / State politicians
on current inequities

Support advocacy for ICPA by contributing to Branch,
State and Federal publicity publications (eg: Pedals)
and campaigns

Grow Branch membership by connecting with local
education providers, community groups and families through
meaningful engagement and awareness campaigns.

Host events for local families such as sporting camps and
workshops to increase membership

Strengthen community connection by working together as a
Branch to participate in and support local events



Contact

info@icpaaust.org.au
www.icpa.com.au



ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION SOUTH AUSTRALIA

WONDERING IF IT'S YOU?

- GRANDPARENT OR RELATIVE
- SCHOOL?
- ACTIVE COMMUNITY MEMBER?
- BUSINESS?
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

YOU WILL BENEFIT FROM
BECOMING AN SA ICPA MEMBER,
STAY INFORMED AND RECEIVE OUR
ICPA PUBLICATIONS

JOIN OUR

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP: \$50

- SUBSCRIPTIONS TO PIPELINE AND PEDALS PUBLICATIONS.
- REGULAR UPDATES OF KEY ISSUES AND OUTCOMES.
- UPDATES FROM BRANCHES

VALID FOR 12 MONTHS FROM DATE
OF PAYMENT



As a member of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) South Australia, you are actively supporting rural and remote children to access the education and opportunities they deserve.

OUR ADVOCACY

- ✓ Rural Schools
- ✓ Student Travel
- ✓ Tertiary Education & Career Pathways
- ✓ Specific Education Needs
- ✓ Boarding Schools & Second Home
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ Distance Education
- ✓ Early Childhood

HOW TO JOIN?

- HEAD TO OUR ONLINE MEMBER PORTAL
- REGISTER AND CREATE A MEMBERSHIP LOGIN
- SELECT YOUR BRANCH OF CHOICE
- MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:
HOLLIE WILLIAMS
satreasurer@icpa.com.au



<https://icpa.com.au/sa/membership>

Allowances for remote and isolated families

2026

Allowance	Who can apply?	How much?
Federal Allowances: Services Australia Assistance for Isolated Children Boarding Allowance	Parents of geographically isolated school aged students who need to board away from home to attend school. Applies to boarding schools, hostels	\$13,582 per year, made up of 2 components: \$10,555 — Basic Boarding Allowance \$3,027 - Additional Boarding Allowance (*ABA is subject to Parental Means Test, and actual boarding costs — ie. boarding charges must be greater than \$9,146 in 2023)
Assistance for Isolated Children Distance Education Allowance	Geographically isolated and undertaking schooling via Distance Education	\$5,278 per year.
Assistance for Isolated Children Second Home Allowance	Geographically isolated and run a second home to access education.	\$307.46 per fortnight, per child
Youth Allowance	Young people from 16-24 years, studying, training or looking for work. Dependant children up to 22 years are subject to Parental Means Test. Rural and regional students can claim the independent rate by earning 75% of Wage Level A in a 14 month period.	Varies by situation. Please call the dedicated hotline: 13 24 90 or see the Centrelink website.
State Allowances: DECD Transport Services Department (08) 8226 2406 Travel Allowance	School students living five kilometers or more from the nearest public school or school bus run.	Paid per km. Apply through school principal.
State Education Allowance (SEA) Remote Travel Allowance	Families in receipt of AIC Basic Boarding Allowance and recipients of AIC Second Home Allowance.	\$5443.26 per year increase www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/travel-concession-and-allowances \$533.03 per year

Further information regarding the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC)

Apply through Services Australia (www.servicesaustralia.gov.au)

Dedicated Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Call Centre: 13 23 18

* To qualify for AIC, students must live at least 56km from nearest/appropriate Govt school OR 4.5km from transport and 16km from nearest Govt School OR are adversely affected by road conditions preventing travel to school for more than 20 days in the school year (journey exceeds 3 hrs) OR meet special needs criteria.

* For the 2026 school year, families can receive the Additional Boarding Allowance (ABA) under the AIC scheme if their boarding charges exceed \$10,305 per year. The ABA is an income tested payment for boarding, aimed at helping with costs beyond the Basic Boarding Allowance.

Equity vs Equality

*By Aurelia Reynolds, Year 10 boarder,
Flinders Ranges Branch*

Since boarding in Adelaide, I have noticed some misconceptions that many day students seem to have regarding educational equity. Discussions often arise about the additional ATAR adjustment points awarded to students from remote and regional areas. Some day students argue that these extra points are unfair and give boarders an advantage when applying for university courses.

However, this perspective overlooks the important distinction between equality and equity. Students attending schools with extensive resources and opportunities should understand that treating everyone exactly the same is not always fair.

What is Equity?

Equity refers to the principle of fairness, justice, and impartiality. Unlike equality, which focuses on treating everyone the same, equity recognises that individuals face different circumstances, challenges, and barriers. As a result, equity involves providing people with the support and opportunities they need to achieve comparable outcomes. The goal is not to give some people an advantage, but rather to ensure that everyone has access to similar opportunities for success. Many students living in remote and regional areas experience limited educational opportunities compared to their metropolitan peers. They may have fewer subject choices, less access to specialist teachers, reduced extracurricular opportunities, and fewer pathways into higher education. These factors can significantly influence both academic achievement and future career options.

The additional ATAR adjustment points awarded to students from these areas are designed to recognise and compensate for these disadvantages. They are not handed out without reason or careful consideration. Instead, they are part of a system intended to create a fairer admissions process and ensure that students who have faced educational barriers are not disadvantaged when competing for university places.

For this reason, I believe it is both fair and justified that students who have lived in remote or regional areas receive additional ATAR points. These adjustments are not about giving anyone an unfair advantage; they are about providing equitable opportunities so that all students, regardless of where they grew up, have a similar chance of pursuing their goals.

Life Members

Federal Life Members

Julia Materne

Jane Gloster

State Life Members

Bob Baker

Lorrayne Balharry

Glennis Crawford

Jane Gloster

Julia Materne

Lynn Nagel

Sharon Nutt

Joanna Gibson

Jill Greenfield

Lisa Slade

Helen Williams

Port Augusta

Lynn Nagel

Colleen Manning

North East Branch

Julia Materne

Glennis Crawford

Jane Gloster

Dot Sandland

Roslyn Breeding

Claire and Athol (dec) Tiver

Flinders Ranges

Kaye Fels

Richard Warwick

Sally Henery

Marla Oodnadatta

Digby and Bernadette Giles

Helen Williams

North West Branch

Joanna Gibson

Jill Greenfield

Lorraine Greenfield

State Council & Portfolio Reports

All members are encouraged to reach out to portfolio holders at any time if you have questions or want to know anything.

State Conference Motions

All motions presented at the 2026 State Conference have been actioned. You can find the full list of motions on the SA ICPA website.

The June delegation will help raise key issues across the portfolios with the relevant ministers, with the aim of achieving positive action and outcomes in the months ahead.

Boarding/Hostels/Second Home

Portfolio Leader: Petie Rankin

Support: Bek Rasheed & Kristina Crawford

Eight motions under boarding / hostels / second home were presented and passed at the SA ICPA State Conference in Burra. Three of the motions are asking for an increase in the State Education Allowance (SEA) and the Remote Travel Allowance (RTA) by introducing a stepped component to the current base rate. One branch put forward a motion asking for the RTA to be based on distance travelled rather than a flat rate, while another motion requested an emergency component to the SEA to help families cope with the increase in fuel and travel costs. A motion asking the Department for Education to review the process to claiming the SEA & RTA was carried. Three boarding motions regarding introducing a designated ICPA bursary at each school/college, investigating and establishing a coordinated travel scheme and lastly, exploring the feasibility of a government residential college located in Adelaide for rural and remote students were also carried.

State Council is putting forward Three motions to Federal Conference that our South Australian representatives will speak towards. The first one is asking for a policy change to the Additional Boarding Allowance (ABA) to remove the parental income testing, the second is requesting the relevant departments to continue the Commonwealth Regional Scholarship Program (CRSP) beyond 2029 and the final is a well-deserved thank you to ICPA (Aust) for securing an immediate increase to the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Basic Boarding Allowance (BBA) to cover 55% of the average cost of boarding for geographically isolated students. The motion requesting a designated ICPA bursary from schools/colleges has seen responses come through which is a positive result in such a short time. Last year, these letters saw some schools establish a new scholarship while others changed their guidelines, ensuring priority goes to SOTA students. A huge win for the geographically isolated.

The rising cost of fuel and travel is a huge concern for our geographically isolated families when the distances travelled to attend events is so far, this year saw extra motions put forward asking for emergency funding to help cover costs.

- With delegation in June, we hope to tackle some issues head on, with a focus on boarding school scholarships/bursaries and travel costs. The response from boarding schools has begun this conversation already so following up with this concern while there is momentum is paramount.

Specific Education Needs

Portfolio Leader: Hollie Williams

Support: Katrina Morris, Kaila Mason, Paulaine Vermeulen

Three motions relevant to this portfolio were passed at State Conference. Two of these focused on the ongoing shortage of allied health professionals servicing rural and remote students, and the need to increase funding support for students with learning difficulties who are not eligible for NDIS. The third motion called on the Minister for Health and SA Health to include “geographically isolated” families within the eligibility criteria for the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS).

State Council will be taking a motion to Federal Conference that calls on the Federal Government, in collaboration with state and territory education departments, to strengthen the rural and remote specialist workforce. This includes increasing training opportunities, expanding rural placements, and providing greater incentives and exposure to remote education settings for both teachers and allied health professionals. The aim of this motion is to improve access to specialist support and services for students with learning difficulties who are not eligible for NDIS funding.

Student Support Services (SSS) is a Department for Education initiative that supports children and young people in South Australian preschools and schools with additional needs, including developmental delay, disability, speech and communication challenges, learning difficulties, social or behavioural concerns, health and wellbeing issues, and school disengagement. Families who believe their child may benefit from support are encouraged to speak with their preschool or school, which can work with the SSS team to assess needs and arrange appropriate advice, recommendations, and specialist involvement. This is a valuable service for rural and remote families, and SA ICPA encourages members to explore and access the support available.

Good to know:

- Early identification and intervention: Delays in accessing assessments often mean students miss critical early support, impacting long-term outcomes.
- Continuity of care: Irregular access to specialists can lead to inconsistent support and disrupted progress for students.
- Digital access and telehealth limitations: While telehealth helps, connectivity issues and the suitability of online services can limit effectiveness in remote areas.
- Awareness of available services: Many families are unaware of supports like Student Support Services or how to access them.
- Transition points: Moving between preschool, primary, secondary, and boarding school can be particularly challenging without consistent support structures.

SPELD SA is a not-for-profit organisation providing advice and services to children and adults with specific learning difficulties and those who care for, teach, and work with them. Advisory Line FREECALL 1800 371 085

Upcoming priorities for the next period include increasing awareness of available supports for students with learning difficulties, particularly by ensuring that parents and caregivers are informed about the Student Services Program and how to access it. A key focus will be on improving communication and understanding

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around eligibility and referral pathways so families can better utilise this support. In addition, SA ICPA will continue to follow up on the PATS proposal submitted to SA Health late last year, advocating for improved access and eligibility for geographically isolated families.

Communications

Portfolio Leader: Michelle Hilder
Support: Louise Kohler & Pamela Cuffe

No Communications related motions were presented at the 2026 State Conference.

State Council is taking a motion to Federal Conference calling on the Federal Government to continue funding and support for the Regional Tech Hub to ensure rural, regional and remote families have ongoing access to independent telecommunications information and support. Reliable telecommunications are essential for rural, regional and remote families to access education, health services, business opportunities, emergency information and everyday communication. However, many isolated families continue to experience challenges with connectivity, service reliability, provider information and navigating rapidly changing technology. Regional Tech Hub provides an independent and trusted source of advice and support tailored specifically to the needs of rural and remote Australians. The National Farmers Federation (NFF), who run the Regional Tech Hub, reported that the service helped 28,000 people just in the past year alone.

Continued Federal Government funding and support for the Regional Tech Hub is essential to ensure geographically isolated families can access up-to-date information, practical assistance and advocacy support to remain connected and participate fully in education, work and community life regardless of location. It has been noted that many Telcos have made large increases to their internet plan costs over recent months.

Rural Schools

Portfolio Leader: Belinda Hatcher
Support: Bridie Ferguson, Donna Gaskin & Bek Rasheed

Six rural school motions were carried at this year's State Conference. These motions addressed issues including bus driver availability, funding for Student Support Officers (SSOs), the availability of teacher housing, the rezoning of Leigh Creek Area School, and road access for students travelling to and from school.

It was evident that the recent floods earlier in the year had a significant impact on rural and remote schools, with many families unable to travel and access schooling due to prolonged road closures and unsafe conditions. This highlights the critical importance of a well-maintained and reliable road network to ensure consistent access to educational opportunities and essential services. There is a clear need to review the response to flood events and establish a dedicated taskforce to support rural and remote families in main-

taining access to education during the recovery phase and other extenuating circumstances.

School Travel

Portfolio Leader: Kristina Crawford
Support: Di Thomas, Ellen Litchfield & Petie Rankin

Five motions were carried at the SA ICPA State Conference relating to the school travel portfolio. Three of these motions were focussed on an airfare concession for school and tertiary students while two have asked the Department for Education to increase the Car Allowance component of the Student Travelling Allowance Scheme.

State Council will be taking one school travel motion to Federal Conference, which is asking the Federal Government to work with regional airlines, state and territory governments and education stakeholders to establish a student travel fare for those who are required to travel from their rural and remote communities for education purposes.

The current fuel crisis has seen some regional airfares go up 153% in less than 6 months, causing families undue anxiety over the affordability of getting their children home. Families shouldn't have to justify seeing their children, but some boarding schools have seen a huge impact in the once regular visits and travel plans due to this cost.

The Rural Schools & School Travel portfolio was separated to become two individual portfolios to allow more clarity and to spread the information load between the leaders and their teams.

The fuel crisis saw some boarding schools put on buses at the end of term to alleviate the travel burden on families, which was well received and much appreciated. The positive feedback has gone back to the schools that implemented this to continue the service going forward.

Distance Education

Portfolio Leader: Pamela Cuffe
Support: Katie Robinson & Donna Gaskin

Seven motions were passed at the 2026 State Conference. Several motions focused on increasing the Remuneration for the Isolated Classroom Supervisor (RICS) payment, recognising the vital role classroom supervisors play in supporting students. The other motions addressed travel support, calling for reimbursement rates to be doubled in response to the rising cost of fuel and overall living expenses for School of the Air (SOTA) families. SOTA head of Campus Paul Piktin attended his first conference.

Federal Council has undertaken significant work on the newly adopted term, Remuneration for the Isolated Classroom Supervisor (RICS), since the last Federal Conference in Adelaide. Two roundtable discussions have been convened by the Commissioner for Regional Education, Fiona Nash, with strong representation from all states and territories.

Following the initial roundtable, three potential options were proposed. Once feedback has been reviewed by Ms Nash's office,

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Federal Council will determine the most appropriate pathway forward. The options include:

Introducing a wage for the Classroom Supervisor

Establishing a new program to provide an Isolated Supervisor Subsidy

Expanding the Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) scheme to include an additional subsidy for the Isolated Classroom Supervisor

A recurring theme emerging from several state and territory conference motions is the reliance on NBN as the sole Distance Education (DE) internet provider. Many members are advocating for greater flexibility, requesting the ability to choose their preferred internet provider, with reimbursement provided by the Department of Education or their DE school.

Jeane Shocroft is currently serving as Acting Principal of the Open Access College (OAC) and will remain in the role until the end of the year. The principal position at OAC is expected to be advertised at the beginning of Term 3.

Early Childhood Education

Portfolio Leader: Louise Kohler

Support: Courtney Rowe & Edwina Bowie

Five significant motions were carried this year at the State Conference for the Early Childhood Education and Care Portfolio, focusing on a State-funded Early Years Allowance for children aged 3–4, establishment of a funding mechanism to support RICE Playdays beyond June 2027, fit-for-purpose in-home care funding for isolated families, extending the Assistance for Isolated Children's Allowance to include pre-compulsory early childhood programs, and acknowledging the ongoing collaboration with Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS) servicing remote communities..

he increasing cost of In Home Care continues to place significant financial pressure on geographically isolated families. With limited or no alternative childcare options in remote areas, rising fees are impacting the affordability and accessibility of this essential service. This is expected to be a key topic of debate at the Federal Conference, with the hope of gaining traction with the relevant departmental bodies in attendance.

Term 2 was a busy period for RICE, delivering a week of face-to-face preschool alongside regular crèche sessions, as well as nine Activity Days and six Playdays. RICE currently has four continuing kindergarten students enrolled, with one student from the 2025 mid-year intake transitioning to Reception. The 2026 mid-year intake is expected to increase enrolments with an additional five children. A new kindergarten teacher has also commenced in the role.

RICE continues to work with the Department for Education and the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) on current preschool delivery and potential expansion to three-year-old preschool, with discussions focusing on rising costs in remote areas, including travel, family reimbursements and educator support. Following further discussions on funding pressures, OECD will collaborate with RICE to explore the estimated costs of delivering three-year-old preschool to geographically isolated families.

While this expansion presents valuable opportunities, sustainable funding will be essential to meet the unique needs of remote communities.

TalkHQ Speech Pathology recently approached SA ICPA regarding potential opportunities arising from the Australian Government's Disability Peer Support and Connections Program. Discussions have centred on the possibility of partnering with ICPA to develop a communication support program for isolated families, focused on practical parent mentoring, accessible resources and improved communication outcomes for children living in remote communities. This is an evolving concept, and we will keep you updated.

Things have been quiet on the Minister's Early Childhood Advisory Forum (MECAF) front in recent months. Meetings are scheduled for July and August. It will be interesting to hear from the new Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Lucy Hood, and learn more about the Government's priorities and plans for the next stage of early childhood reform.

Tertiary Education & Career Pathways

Portfolio Leader: Ellen Litchfield

Support: Katrina Morris & Michelle Hilder

There were no motions addressed to the Tertiary education and career pathways portfolio at the 2026 State Conference.

The federal councillor responsible for this portfolio is Jen Ruska, we have connected with her and will assist her with compiling case studies and any relevant information that can help them. The key issues that Federal Council are focused on are

- Appropriate Financial Assistance for relocation and ongoing costs
- Access to Financial Assistance (centrelink waiting times and Youth Allowance being fit for purpose)

The rate of rural students attending University is much lower than that of city students and it is because of the extra costs incurred to move to be nearer to the University, which a student living at home does not have. Aside from the cultural change of moving hundreds of kilometres from home, many regional and rural students experience financial difficulties in their first year of study, and for many, the subsequent years.

Rural and remote apprentices continue to face significant barriers when relocating for training and employment, including high upfront and ongoing costs for accommodation, travel, and living expenses, often on low apprentice wages.

At ICPA, we aim to address the challenges faced by tertiary students by advocating for increased financial assistance, improved access to accommodation and transport, and stronger support systems to ensure rural and remote students feel supported both financially and emotionally to pursue and successfully complete tertiary education and apprenticeship pathways.

SA ICPA State Council 2026

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Portfolio Allocation

Boarding Schools/2nd Home	Petie Rankin , Bek Rasheed & Kristina Crawford	Communications	Michelle Hilder , Louise Kohler & Pamela Cuffe
Early Childhood Education	Louise Kohler , Courtney Rowe & Edwina Bowie	Distance Education	Pamela Cuffe , Donna Gaskin & Katie Robinson
Rural Schools	Belinda Hatcher , Bridie Ferguson, Donna Gaskin & Bek Rasheed	Specific Education Needs	Hollie Williams , Paulaine Vermeulen, Katrina Morris & Kaila Mason
School Travel	Kristina Crawford , Di Thomas, Ellen Litchfield & Petie Rankin	Tertiary Education/Pathways	Ellen Litchfield , Katrina Morris & Michelle Hilder

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