

# NEWS *and Views*

Isolated Children's Parents' Association Queensland Inc.



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2015



## ANNUAL ICPA STATE CONFERENCE

The annual ICPA State Conference held in Cloncurry on the 9th & 10th September was a great success! The enthusiastic Cloncurry branch convening made for a well organized, productive and successful event that seen all attending enjoying a great conference. A full Queensland State Conference report can be found on pages 6-7.



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**NOT LATER THAN:**

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## EDITORS' MESSAGE

Wow!! A lot of excitement, a little bit of nervousness and the thrill of doing something new all mixed together as I near the deadline of my first edition of News & Views. I have some very big shoes to fill following on the heels of Stacey, Rebecca and all previous editors that have volunteered their time and dedication to getting News & Views to our members. I am very excited to be compiling my first edition and the support I have received from many people via many emails, phone calls and a meeting with Stacey to check I was on the right track, have helped keep it a smooth and enjoyable transition.

I attended the Cloncurry State Conference this year as a delegate from the Belyando/Mt Coolon branch, never thinking that I would be leaving contemplating taking on the N&V's editor. During the conference I quizzed Rebecca and she assured me there's nothing to it!! With this, I messaged a friend and jokingly said, 'Do you want to do this?' (of course letting her know my new found knowledge of the position 'Nothing to it'). Her response was, "Zabby I think there might be more to it than that." I just laughed it off and said, "Yes probably, I am sure there is someone else keener than you and I to take it on anyway." Well, I think there was a little whisper throughout that I may have been thinking about it and my response of "I will if there is no one else that really wants to do it more" was how I left Cloncurry. The excited nerves I got when I received news that I was the new N&V's editor, quickly turned to nervous nerves...Oh Gosh! Now to tell my husband!!

A little bit about family and myself: My husband Loid and I have 4 wonderful kids (most of the time) 2 girls, Charlize (11) and Izabelle (9) and 2 boys Lochie (7) and Jack (4). We live on one of the family properties, "Bulliwallah", south of Charters Towers that has been in the family for 31 years. We own and run a family cattle business alongside Loid's brother Richard and his wife Anna and Loid's parents Dale and Kris Appleton. We truly believe we are raising our children in the best way for us as a family. They get the very best of what living on the land has to offer but they also get the best parts of the city through our family, friends and education. The resilience our kids learn from a young age due to what they do and see, living, learning and working on the land is immeasurable. We are very fortunate to be bringing up and educating our family in "The Bush".

As the Belyando/Mt Coolon president for the second time around, I like to think that I am not going in as blind as the first!! The first time I had no children in school and really did not fully understand the BIG picture of ICPA. I literally thought it was this little committee (Belyando/Mt Coolon) that did great fundraising events in our area (Ha! How little I knew!!). Again, a similar situation where I was being assured there wasn't much to it. Well what an eye opener when I was sent to my first conference that year. Federal....to say I was blown away would be an understatement!! I left feeling in awe of all these people so passionate about our children's equality to education. At least this time, I know what a conference is and what ICPA strives so hard for, to achieve. To all the people actively involved in ICPA, their hard work can never be commended enough!!

I am also fortunate enough to be involved (even in the littlest of capacities at times) with other committees within our community, which are also driven and steered by very passionate people. There is a sense of achievement and enjoyment that comes from working within committees and organizations that are working towards a bigger picture or a greater good.

I look forward to learning more through taking on this new role from an editor's position and also the forever learning one achieves from being involved with ICPA.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, a fantastic 2016 and a very wet festive season all round!!

*Zabby*





# FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

As I begin the task of writing my first President's Report for News & Views, the theme for our recent State Conference in Cloncurry – 'Love The Road Ahead' seems extremely apt! I am honoured and excited to serve our organisation in this capacity. ICPA has a very rich history spanning back to 1971 when the first branch was formed in Bourke. There have been many dedicated volunteers over the organisation's 44 year history who have given up endless hours to provide the very best opportunities for our bush children.

Outgoing President Andrew Pegler has done a wonderful job steering our State Council team for the last four years and I'm sure all on council will agree that we have benefited greatly from his leadership and experience. Andy's size 11 shoes will be impossible to fill, therefore I will not even try. I can promise though that I will do my very best to get as much mileage as possible out of my size sevens!

To the Cloncurry branch members who convened our 44th conference, what can I say? Each and every one of you did a superb job. Your amazing organisation and pure hard work made everything appear to run so seamlessly. It was wonderful to showcase such a wonderful community and your efforts are sincerely appreciated, as are the efforts of all support branch members who came together to assist with conference.

Thank you to all delegates and observers who travelled to Cloncurry to represent their branch. With the season (or lack thereof) the way it is and the pressure this has created for so many, I sincerely hope you found conference worthwhile and went home with a spring in your step and a fire in your belly.

There were 59 motions on the agenda at conference including eight floor motions. Telecommunications issues featured heavily with motions asking for improvements to the current inadequacies of internet for those accessing distance education, as well as a request for ICPA Qld to support Federal Council in this lobby. Both councils are continuing to work closely on this issue as internet situation affects so many of our Queensland members.

Concerns were raised by branch delegates around the lack of adequate specialist services in our small communities as well as the need to ensure that resourcing for students with learning difficulties was appropriately targeted to provide every chance for successful learning outcomes.

Conference also heard motions relating to school bus runs and the need for bus runs to remain open in spite of falling enrolment numbers due to the transition of Yr 7 to secondary and drought. Council will also be lobbying to seek assurance that no rural and remote bus run servicing drought declared areas will be closed during or twelve months following the end of the drought. These runs are vital for our small schools and can often mean the survival or demise of the local school.

We were fortunate to have Education Minister Kate Jones address our conference. Ms Jones announced an increase to the Living Away From Home Allowance Scheme (LAFHAS) of 5% on top of CPI. This will mean that the tuition allowance for a secondary student will rise to at least \$5200.00 from 2016. This increase, coupled with a 10.2% rise in January, is certainly welcomed and will go a way to easing the financial burden for many rural and remote families. ICPA Qld recently lodged a submission to the Review of the Drought Relief Area Subsidy seeking an 'education subsidy package' to be included under the scheme. We will also be continuing our long standing pursuit to have the LAFHAS increased to the CPI Education Sub-Index.

I had the opportunity recently to return to Cloncurry for the Agforce State Conference. I was very grateful to be given some time in the program to speak with members about ICPA and our issues. There was in depth discussion over the course of the day on the 'Developing Northern Australia' initiative. We must work together to ensure that any debate surrounding this issue is ALWAYS underpinned by the need for sustainable, robust communities. Access to a quality education for ALL rural and remote students is the key to attracting and keeping people in these wonderful districts. The development of smart, confident, innovative young people is vital for the longevity of all industries, at home and globally.



In this edition, we farewell our News & Views editors Stacey Kirkwood and Rebecca Burge. Together, these ladies have introduced the wonderful colour you see on our pages today. They have also explored the concept of sponsorship in our magazine, which has been very popular and added a new dimension way we produce our little mag! We sincerely thank Rebecca and Stacey for their commitment to News & Views. It is a credit to our tremendous volunteer base. Zabby Appleton from the Belyando/Mt Coolon branch has eagerly put her hand up to take the reigns as the new editor. I am confident that this magazine will continue to evolve and prosper under Zabby's charge.

So, now to the Road Ahead – State Council has a fantastic team of dedicated volunteers who are all passionate about improving opportunities for rural and remote children. As we go about business, we are always reminded to never lose sight of the importance of taking our members with us. These are your motions, your issues and you are living them daily. We must all work together to pursue the best opportunities for our children. Volunteers do what they can, when they can. Any amount of time you can put into ICPA is appreciated.

It is heartening to know that we are all on the Road Ahead together. Let's continue to make a difference for our bush children.

*Kim Hughes*

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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

*Dear parents and carers,*

It was a pleasure to see you at the ICPA state conference in September.

The drought has placed enormous challenges and pressures on families and the choices they make to provide the best possible educational opportunities for their children.

I was therefore pleased to announce extra funding support for students living and studying away from home at non-state boarding schools.

In 2016 we will provide a one-off, 5 per cent increase to the Remote Area Tuition Allowance, Remote Area Allowance and Remote Area Disability Supplement under the Living Away From Home Allowance Scheme. This is in addition to the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase.

The maximum yearly allowance next year will increase to more than \$3,600 per primary student, \$5,200 per secondary student and just over \$7,400 for students with disability.

I hope this will assist rural and remote families during an incredibly difficult time.

In October, the Premier and I launched our Advancing education action plan for education in Queensland to prepare our students for jobs of the future.

We also released a discussion paper called #coding counts which explores how schools can innovate and engage in coding and robotics.

The Digital Technologies curriculum will be fast tracked so Queensland state school students from Prep to Year 10 have an opportunity to engage in coding and robotics studies from 2016.

We will also expand the study of culture and languages from Prep to Year 12 in state schools with a focus on Asian languages.

Ensuring every state school has access to specialist science, technology, engineering and mathematics teachers is another key priority of the action plan.

An Autism Education Hub, a reading centre to offer advice to teachers, parents and students across Queensland, and specialist coaches to improve the reading skills of disadvantaged students and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are also three initiatives of the plan.

Other upcoming changes include new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems which will begin for students entering Year 11 in 2018.

The new systems will include a combination of school-based and external assessment, and new processes to strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessments.

This will boost confidence that senior subject results are comparable across Queensland schools.

A move from the OP to the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) will also bring Queensland into line with other Australian states and territories.

To guarantee a smooth transition, we will trial the new arrangements to ensure any necessary refinements are made and staff will receive extensive professional development.

We are taking a collaborative approach to ensure school communities and parents are represented in the development of these new arrangements.



*Minister Kate Jones and Dr Jim Watterston, Director-General of the Department of Education and Training, discuss the Advancing Education action plan with parents, teachers and students at the Cairns forum.*



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**See you on Facebook!** You don't have to be a Facebook member to visit this page, though there is a 'Sign Up' button near the top of the ICPA page if you would like to join. Your branch can have a Facebook group to advertise meetings and increase communication within your area, please take a note of the guidelines.

Queensland ICPA President Kim Hughes is your representative on the Senior Secondary Assessment Taskforce. As chair of the Taskforce, I look forward to keeping you updated as the reform progresses.

All of the Advancing education and #coding counts strategies are designed to prepare students to be global citizens of the future, with the necessary skills to be successful in an increasingly technology-focused world.

I hope that, if you haven't already, you will read the plan and discussion paper and contribute your input and feedback through the online surveys at: [www.advancingeducation.qld.gov.au](http://www.advancingeducation.qld.gov.au). These are open until 23 December.

There are already some great opportunities for rural and remote students to extend their technology skills, such as through the Technology subject available for Year 7, 8 and 9 students. This

is offered by the Brisbane School of Distance Education (BSDE) including via local state schools.

BSDE is also building a Futures Academy which begins next year to provide opportunities for students who wish to pursue careers in coding, robotics and new age digital technologies.

Students practise their problem solving, coding and design skills to solve scenarios and learn about various new technologies such as 3D printing.

In other relevant news regarding education funding, I'm pleased to confirm that the remaining \$480 million in additional Australian Government Students First funding will continue to be provided directly and in full to Queensland state schools through Investing for Success (IFS).

Investing for Success uses a strengthened needs-based allocative methodology that is more closely aligned with the recommendations made in the Australian Government's Review of Funding for Schooling (commonly known as the Gonski Review). This will result in most schools receiving an increase in funding in 2016 and 2017.

In line with my earlier commitments, I can also guarantee that the revised methodology ensures that schools will be allocated at least the same amount of funding they received under the 2015 Great Results Guarantee.

Having certainty will help schools and their communities to plan ahead and prioritise their activities over the next two years, so I encourage you to contribute to those discussions.

On 13 October, in Queensland Parliament, I had the pleasure of launching a new early childhood education and care workforce action plan.

The early childhood education and care sector currently employs 31,000 Queenslanders. We expect more than 4,000 additional early childhood educators will be required in the next three years, if the growth rate continues at the same rate as the last three years.

The workforce action plan is part of our commitment to ensuring every Queensland child has access to early childhood education and care services.

Quality education and development outcomes for young children depend on the knowledge and expertise of educators.

The new workforce action plan will therefore include extra study assistance and new scholarship programs to help educators in rural, remote and Indigenous communities gain qualifications.

It will include a careers campaign that will promote the value and professionalism of the early childhood workforce.

There will also be face-to-face professional development and networking programs right across Queensland. These will include leadership skill development and a professional development package to support early childhood education and care educators working with children with additional needs.

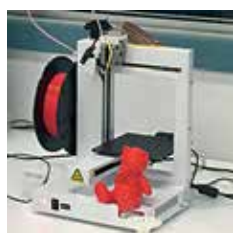
I look forward to the various plans and strategies I've outlined making valuable improvements for all Queensland students, regardless of their location.

2015 has been another year of challenges for rural and remote families. Yet, your courage and determination to prioritise a quality education for your children remains an absolute inspiration.

Thank you for your example of dedication and hard work. I wish you all the peace and joy of the Christmas season and I hope that 2016 will bring much needed rain.

*Kate Jones*

Minister for Education



Brisbane School of Distance Education teacher Julie Sharpe prints computerised 3-dimensional designs, produced by Year 9 students across Queensland, to a 3D printer.



# CLONCURRY 2015 STATE CONFERENCE REPORT



## Love The Road Ahead

ICPA STATE CONFERENCE 2015 - CLONCURRY

### Love The Road Ahead,

*...all roads lead to Cloncurry*

There were new clouds of dust in the north western sky early in September, whipped up by wagons en-route to Cloncurry, gathering for the 44th conference and a birthday party. However, the dust from Highway Love The Road Ahead was made of special stuff; it was particles of eagerness, excitement, hopefulness, apprehension, joy and discovery created from the movement of members and guests who took time out to connect, involve and invigorate. The atmosphere created was unique and wonderful - a real grass-roots ICPA experience. For those who couldn't make it, you were missed. Here is a recap to encourage you to be on the highway for 2016!

Cloncurry sits to the far north west of our great state, surrounded by millions of acres of productive grazing lands - when it rains! There was no drought on when the mighty convening team from Cloncurry branch hosted an event to bring a broad smile to the face of ICPA. Accommodated at the gorgeous Community Precinct, a perfect mix of historical and modern architecture, delegates and guests were treated to the abundant spoils of the hard work done by the committee led by Penny McMillan. Ladies, you did yourselves proud. The 44th conference was spectacular!

State Council arrived in Cloncurry two days prior to conference. The pre-conference meeting is held as one of few valuable face-to-face gatherings of council, planned to pull business together to ensure conference runs as it needs to. Councillors are responsible for updating reports and being prepared for motions that fall into their portfolio. It's an important time; an assurance for readiness.

This year, Tricia Munn from Eyes Open Social Media presented a very interesting, informative and relevant session on safety

in social media for the pre-conference workshop. She gave real-life examples of why security settings should be as important as the profile picture! Tricia was also the key-note speaker for day one. Delegates were left with much to consider about how they use their on-line networks and a strong message about being social media smart. In a world where we are more connected than ever, it's vital we teach our children (and ensure) they are also protected on-line.

The night before conference begins is one of buzzing excitement, meeting new faces and greeting old ones - for many people, state conference is the once a year catch-up. If anticipation could be wrapped like a blanket, the pre-conference gathering was comfortable, warm and familiar - a lovely way to kick things off. Guests were treated to the first tastings of what would prove to be a standout menu for the next few days. Head chef, aka Annie Hacon, pulled together a team of people who knew about good food and how to make it taste great!

Conference was opened with the sweet voices of children from St Joseph's Catholic School singing the national anthem before a solo cello performance by Millie McDonald who is learning the instrument on-air as a student of Mt Isa School of the Air. Millie's grandmother, and inaugural secretary of Cloncurry Branch, Christine McDonald opened proceedings and we were officially away for 2015!



St Josephs Catholic School Cloncurry sang the anthem and received cupcakes for the great performance.

Motions this year were again varied and there was no one issue more represented than the other. However, it is the 'emotion of the motion' when debated on the floor that can stand an issue out from the rest and create lasting memories that become ICPA folklore. The base issue underlying many of the motions is affordability of living in the bush and the effect it has on successfully educating children. One consequence of shrinking rural communities can be seen in access to education and this surfaced in relation to numerous motions across several portfolios. Delegates heard concerns including the need for increases in assistance to enable essential access to secondary and tertiary education, access to school transport services, adequate learning support staff and appropriate support for children with individual, specialised learning needs.



Chris McDonald, Millie & Julie McDonald

It's always great to see branches saying 'thank you' amongst the motions. This year, Queensland Education was acknowledged for expanding communications facilities in some small schools and for trialling the tele-practice model for delivering speech therapy services. Also, there was a thank you for the one-off increase in LAFHAS earlier in the year. While we lobby for equality, it's always important to remember to appreciate the changes the lobby brings.

Mr Brian O'Neill from the Society for the Provision of Education in Rural Australia (SPERA) shared the importance of school/community relationships in rural and remote Australia and Wendy Hick, new Federal President, gave her first report in that capacity.

Tunes from the children from Mt Isa School of the Air carried delegates into the afternoon session and primed all for the transformation of the Precinct to Party Central - destination for a 40th birthday bash.

Happy birthday Cloncurry branch! Mrs Kathleen Batt, inaugural President, was in attendance to blow out the candles on a cake spiced by 40 years of dedication to bush education.



Keynote Speaker Tricia Munn

## Cloncurry 2015 State Conference Report - Love the Road Ahead Cont.

Party Central has it all – cool courtyard, cold drinks, canapes, cruise-y music, cattle race....cattle what?! In a conference first, delegates were scanned into dinner with an Allflex wand and processed through a drafting gate. Most guests handled well, with a few baulking at the gate and others rushing the race. There was the occasional crush-jam and a few went down, however no bruising was evident. There was a grade for everyone and conditions on-board were superb – what more could anyone want; gorgeous food, fabulous company...fairy lights!

Conferences are mostly about the motions members so carefully prepare. They are also a small part about the dance moves members bring to the floor on dinner night!! 2015 saw a bit of everything...funk, rap, classic, even the sprinkler. There were several Energiser Bunnies doing their bit to guarantee Love the Road Ahead includes some 'cool'. The following morning, there may have been a few torn hamstrings – it's the price of full involvement and it's marvellous!!

Day two kicks off with an early start and the AGM. There was a lot of movement this year – Kim Hughes from Richmond branch is the new President, stepping up from Vice President. We said a big thank you to outgoing President, Andrew Pegler who now assumes the Immediate Past President role. Other changes at the top include Wendy Hick stepping off council, making way for two new Vice Presidents, Louise Martin and Tammie Irons. Kate Twist remains as secretary-extraordinaire and Sue Pegler as the unflappable bean-counter. We farewelled councillor Emma Brodie after several years – her gorgeous smile and positive energy will be missed...as will her dance moves! News and Views Editors, Stacey Kirkwood and Rebecca Burge bowed out after four years sharing the chair. The empty seat has been filled by Zabby Appleton from Belyando-Mt Coolon branch. Vacant councillor positions are filled by new ladies, Cathie Fernie (Clermont branch), Kylie Camp (Mount Isa BOTA), Wendy Henning (Westmar-Inglestone branch) and Kelly Ostwald (Southern Downs branch). Welcome ladies! It's very exciting and encouraging having new faces, new ideas and a new look council for 2015-16.

Education Minister Kate Jones joined conference to listen and share. Her attendance was highly valued and the fresh, open approach appreciated. The announcement regarding the further one-off increase in LAFHAS was applauded, as was the casual, 'real' way Ms Jones circulated with guests for morning tea. The children we represent are a most important cohort of students in this great state and to have the genuine support of government is essential.

The room once again filled with the pleasant-sounding voices of children from Cloncurry State School. There is something just so perfect about the song of young children, and the smiles that accompany the melody – you can't help but smile (and sing!) along.

Carol Markie-Dadds, head of strategic policy with Triple P International delivered an informative session exploring the benefits of positive parenting support programs on families and communities.

During breaks, delegates were able to satisfy an itch for retail therapy if it came upon them. The talents of creative North West women were for sale. There was something for everybody. One could start with some body treatments, dress the kids and get a couple of shirts and belts for you, buy a gorgeous gear bag to pack it all in and top it off with some bling. For those in the crowd who can't function without fashion, even for those who can, the mini markets were a wonderful addition and opportunity for talented women to share their wares.

This year's conference was again another example of the strength of ICPA. Conference is THE occasion for the year and requires time, energy, effort and...money. Sponsorship for the 44th year was astronomical. It started with a convening committee who wanted to ensure everything was covered and resulted in the most amazing generosity and

show of support from 46 companies, organisations and schools. The incredible backing can guarantee ICPA has the funds to 'do business' how it needs to be done in order to achieve equality, opportunity and support for all country children. Sincerest THANK YOU to each and every one who contributed to make it great.

Amongst the legion of sponsors, there were 15 boarding schools. This alone is an impressive statistic. However support from the whole boarding school community becomes astonishing when considering the number of boarding school guests who travelled to be in Cloncurry. Last count, there were 52 representatives – WOW! It was wonderful to look around the crowd and know the work ICPA does, and the important people it represents, matters to the boarding school community. It has a huge responsibility to care for and teach the bush babies who are entrusted to their school so to know our conference is an important event on their calendar weighs heavily. Thank you to each and every rep who travelled beyond the ranges to see the world our children come from – never underestimate the value of those few days!

At the conclusion of another big conference, the unique dust cloud created followed the last wagon leaving Cloncurry. It is hoped, with it went proud members; re-energised, informed, satisfied, ready to tackle what's next!

Conference requires the convening committee to rise above the all-ready hectic pace of life and to add yet another layer of responsibility and 'work' to everyday. Each year the small group of women and men who say, 'We'll take on the challenge', do an incredible job not only for ICPA but for their community - thank you never seems a big enough word, so it needs to be said often, by many. ICPA gets its strength from its members - **YOU** are the most important part of the organisation - thank you for all **YOU** do.

What a wonderful couple of days spent surrounded by inspiring people! The 44th gathering of this fantastic organisation was a credit to everyone who has the belief children deserve the best education we can give them, regardless of where they hang their hat. This will be remembered as we navigate the highways into 2016 and look ahead to the turnoff to Alpha. In the meantime though, also remember ICPA should always be working from the grass roots level because any great change starts at the foundations – together let us build extraordinary things!

*Gillian Sample*



State Council & Conference Convenors



# MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVES

## Louise Martin – Vice President



New Vice President Louise Martin and Kim Hughes

I am honoured to accept the position of Vice President of this wonderful organisation. During my time on council thus far we have achieved a rise in funding for school bus runs to upkeep and upgrade buses whilst leading the travel portfolio and as leader of the financial assistance portfolio we have had 2 permanent increases in the LAFHAS. These rises have come about as a result of great team work and the dedication of all on state council over many years.

I look forward to supporting our new President Kim Hughes and working with all of council to achieve positive outcomes for our members and their families.

"United we stand, divided we fall." (Aesop)

## Tammie Irons - Vice President



New VP Tammie Irons and Kim Hughes

"Vice-President" – well it had a nice ring to it, and I was sure there was a spare hat in my cupboard somewhere that I could affix the label to – so I stepped up and have taken on the next challenge in my ICPA journey! It is a journey which I have enjoyed immensely over the past 3 years, and one whose stopovers I continue to look forward to! I liken the feelings of pride I feel for our achievements to those I feel for my own children's achievements. It is such an exciting team to be a part of and the relationship we have with the Department has allowed me to believe that we can achieve almost anything if we just keep standing together as a united voice. This year in particular I am eager to stand alongside our new President, Mrs Kim Hughes and offer my support to her and our new councillors. I have big shoes to fill – fortunately I have big feet and they are restless to keep on travelling the road ahead!



Mind • Body • Spirit



All Souls St Gabriels School

## Scholarship Applications for 2017 are now being accepted

In 2017, All Souls St Gabriels School will offer selected Academic Scholarships to students entering Years 7 and 11, as well as a Music Scholarship which is open to all Secondary students. Scholarship applications are available on the school website or by contacting the School office. Applications close on Friday 11 March, 2016.

The Scholarship Examination will be held on Saturday 19 March, 2016

Talk to us today:

07 4787 1433

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PO Box 235 Charters Towers, Qld



# MEET THE NEW COUNCILLORS



L to R Cathie Fernie, Kylie Camp, Wendy Henning & Kelly Ostwald

## Wendy Henning

**Branch:** Westmar/Inglestone **Portfolio:** Specific Needs

Wendy lives at "Merchison Park" Glenmorgan with her husband Andrew and their four daughters. Together they run their cattle and mixed cropping business. All the girls have attended the small local primary school Teelba State School, where Wendy also works part time as a Teacher Aide. The eldest two are now at boarding school on the coast.

Wendy joined the Westmar Inglestone Branch when the girls were little and is now Secretary for the branch. Wendy attended her first conference in Mt Isa, when the debate was all about prep being introduced! Since then Wendy has also been a part of the organisation committee of two State Conferences (Goondiwindi and Toowoomba) and also this year's Federal Conference in Brisbane.

Wendy joined State Council to work with fellow, like-minded, people who have a passion for all levels of education for our greatest assets, our children and the opportunity to have the hands on ability to help lobby for all ages and stages.



## Cathie Fernie

**Branch:** Clermont **Portfolio:** Tertiary, Trade, Training & RREAP

Cathie grew up on a beautiful cattle property, west of Moura, the eldest of seven children. Her school life started at Moura State School before she headed off to the Rockhampton Girls Grammar School for the last five years of secondary education, boarding for three of those. In 1982, Cathie graduated from Queensland Agricultural College, Gatton with an Associate Diploma in Animal Husbandry. Her first job was as a governess south of Hughenden, then onto the Toyota Dealership in Hughenden. She found her wings in 1986 and travelled through Europe, working in England for two years as a nanny. Back home in Australia, she found herself employed in the seafood industry for five years before meeting husband Andrew.

Moving to "Riverview", Clermont in 1993 for a 'trial run', the hurdle was (and still is) 140kms of gravel road and isolation for a very social girl. The honeymoon did not wear off and by the end of 1999. They had married and had three wonderful children. The other partner who joined them in their journey is Andrew's depression which he manages with medication. Over the years, the team has acquired three cattle properties in the area, keeping them busy.

In 2001, their oldest child, Georgina enrolled with Charters Towers School of Distance Education, followed by Duncan in 2003 and Hugh in 2005. With the help of governesses, this was a great experience. During this time Cathie was an active member of the P & C. She was Secretary for two years. 2005 saw her join Clermont ICPA Branch and the Clermont Sporting Clinic Committee. From 2007, she was Sporting Clinic Co-Coordinator. A position she held for four years. Cathie has held all executive positions within the ICPA Clermont Branch. During the time, she helped produce a second edition of the "Country Hospitality" Cookbook which has just been reprinted.

Cathie attended her first ICPA Conference in Mt Isa in 2006 with a motion calling for 'recognition for qualified teachers who were employed as home tutors with families enrolled with SDE's.' Five Conferences later, she is still amazed at the professionalism of the organisations and the respect shown to ICPA at both a State and Federal Government level.



## Kelly Ostwald

**Branch:** Southern Downs

**Portfolio:** Travel (Leader)

Kelly lives on a property west of Texas Qld, where she and her husband Dan run the family rural operations consisting of cropping and cattle. Kelly has educated her children through Distance Education in Dubbo before moving to Texas. One child attends the local state primary school and two are away at boarding school in Toowoomba and 2 children attend University in Brisbane and at the Gold Coast.

Kelly is an active member of her local community and has held many roles on community organizations over the years. She has been involved in the Texas Little Athletics, Texas Swimming Club and race director of the local triathlon for 5 years.

Kelly holds a Bachelor of Nursing. Her interests include running, triathlons, reading and travel and relaxing with friends. Kelly is very passionate about education and the need for **all** children to have access to the same opportunities.



## Kylie Camp

**Branch:** Mt Isa Branch of the Air (BOTA)

**Portfolio:** Distance Education

Kylie has been a member of Mt Isa Branch of the Air (BOTA) since 2001. She was Branch Vice President for three years prior to becoming President in 2010 – a position she still retains. In her role as President she is also involved in the Branch's Sports for Bush Kids sub-committee running an annual sporting camp for families in the MISOTA catchment. In her other life she and her husband, Ernie, live in the Gulf on "Floraville Downs" with their four children. Their eldest is currently at TAFE studying Childcare and her other three attend schools in Toowoomba in Yrs 8,10 and 11 respectively. One of her children has specific learning needs which has been quite a challenging, emotional journey but also rewarding. She was a governess for eight years and taught her children, with the help of a governess when all the kids were in the classroom, for twelve years. She has been a member of the ICPA C2C reference group for several years and been Portfolio Research Officer for State Council for the past two. She is a member of local sporting groups, CWA, Landcare as well as on the executive of her local Kindergarten and Chair of the Shire Regional Arts Development Fund committee.



### Richmond's Conference Roundup

Our branch was once again delighted to have delegates attend state conference this year. On Tuesday afternoon we participated in the pre-conference workshop which totally opened our eyes as it addressed helping Australian children become responsible digital citizens and plenty of parents eyes were opened with regards to the need for simple social media safety awareness. For more information visit [www.eyesopensocialmedia.com.au](http://www.eyesopensocialmedia.com.au) to help identify how to update both you and your child's, security settings on current social media sites.

The highlight of the conference for our branch was of course the nomination and unanimous election of the new State President, our one and only, Kim Hughes. Our branch is proud to have one of our own in the position and we know she will excel at the job. Fellow branch member, Gillian Semple, has continued her role as Publicity Officer, which led to a number of delegates commenting on the size of our branch and it's depth of quality. This was supported by our numerous motions and our ability to strongly support these motions. They probably got sick of hearing our voices!

Our branch would like to make particular mention of two motions that the Federal Council are lobbying for and seeking information in the form of case studies for. These motions are:

1. "That ICPA Qld Inc lobby the relevant Minister to provide additional LAFHAS assistance as part of the drought relief package for recipients who reside in drought declared areas." If you have moved to town due to schooling issues and the drought or know of someone who has, Federal Council would like to hear your story.
2. "That ICPA Qld Inc lobbies the Queensland Transport Department to create a student subsidised travel scheme for geographically isolated students. This allowance is needed for students travelling from home to attend educational institutions." Any case studies to support this need would also be appreciated by Federal Council to support their lobbying efforts.

One of the motions that our branch had passed was "That ICPA Qld Inc continues to give full support and acknowledges Federal Council's efforts in lobbying the relevant federal ministers to recognise that all rural and remote students should be automatically eligible for the Tertiary Access Allowance." This particular motion gained a great deal of media coverage following conference. The media focused on many delegates relaying personal cases which related to this motion. Immediate Federal Past President, Judy Newton was able to inform us of the new changes which will come into effect as of June 2016 on the

issue of Tertiary Access Allowances as a result of Federal Council lobbying. The Federal government's change to the tertiary allowance will be that assets will not be assessed for eligibility.

The capability of the current technology to meet our educational needs was the most discussed topic. The NBN was represented by Lalla McKenzie and Adam Vesnaver who outlined the future plans for NBN. The long term satellite (LTS) Skymuster, will be sent on October the 1st, with testing being performed until mid- January 2016. After this period, internet service providers will be able to offer new plans. However there is still uncertainty in the equality



Tricia Batt & Susan Bellingham

of data allocation across Australia. An interesting fact: It was quoted that the average Australian usage for August was 128GB for the month, so we are all well below average which proves the inequality in rural and remote Australia. Satellite internet users who have no other option to access the internet are certainly losing out. We were told, when seeking out new service providers ask for a battery back- up, when they install your connection. It was raised that those of us who only have satellite access to the internet should have first priority to access to the LTS. Our impression is that there is still no guarantee and it is a waiting game to see if the LTS will provide what satellite requirements customers educating their children at home need.

Our branch was grateful to have Education Minister, Kate Jones address the conference to announce the increase in the remote tuition allowance. We had a good vibe from the attending governmental representatives who were open to discussion with delegates over conference and provided plenty of clarification to discussion to aid motions.

Finally the small but stylish and professional convening committee kept us well fed and organised. We were even drafted into dinner according to our NLIS tags. The old baron cow was drafted off to the meatworks while the technology queen stuck her head down and missed the draft gate.

We gratefully represented the Richmond branch at conference to assist in lobbying for the rural and remote children of our area and across the state and look forward to flying our branch flag at Alpha in 2016.

Regards

*Susan and Tricia*



Kim Hughes, Tricia Batt & SM Tim Mander



# A FOUNDATION WITH HEART

In the first week of school in term three, 502 distance education and small rural school students drawn from many small schools in the Mackay and surrounding districts, including the Brigalow Cluster of Small Schools, Charters Towers School of Distance Education and Capricornia School of Distance Education travelled to Mackay to participate in the Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival, alongside local Mackay students.

The event was held at the Whitsunday Anglican School in Mackay, with the generous support of Mrs Beryl Neilson and the Winchester Foundation, sponsoring and organising the children to attend the event. The students were immersed in a unique literary, educational, cultural and social experience, which most of the students would otherwise rarely have the opportunity to participate. The volunteers from the Winchester Foundation, along with Whitsunday Anglican School staff managed to ensure all who attended had an extraordinary experience. Over the two days, the students had the opportunity to attend presentations with well-known authors, musicians and illustrators, including Tristan Banks, Will Kostakis, RA Spratt and Emma Quay. Along with attending these presentations, the students were able to purchase books written and/or illustrated by the various presenters and were able to meet with the authors personally and have their books autographed. Mykenzie Moller, a Charters Towers School of Distance Education student declared of this experience, "It was super fun and it was amazing to be able to talk to the authors like they were friends! My favourite was definitely R A Spratt, author of the Nanny Piggins and Friday Barnes series. She made me laugh!" Another highlight of the event was the opportunity to meet



*CTSDE Clermont Outreach Students with Mrs Beryl Neilson – Winchester Foundation*

and be photographed with well known musician Graeme Connors who was a special guest for the occasion.

Some of the students and their parents and teachers camped at the Kinchant Dam Outdoor Education Centre, located in the Pioneer Valley half an hour west of Mackay, while others had the opportunity to experience boarding school life, staying at the Whitsunday Anglican School in Mackay and participating in activities with the other students who board at the school. This meant that not only were the students able to participate in the literary festival, however were also treated to other extra-curricular activities normally not available to them, including a trip to the beach. Students also had the opportunity to personally meet with Mrs Neilson and were privileged to each receive a Winchester Foundation shirt to proudly wear throughout the event, not to mention the scrumptious morning and afternoon teas and lunches provided by the Winchester Foundation. The outstanding event was capped off on Friday afternoon with a presentation ceremony, where Mrs Neilson was acknowledged for her tremendous support and presented with gifts of appreciation by students from many of the schools which participated. The whole event was an exhausting, yet fun and enlightening few days and by all accounts a terrific time was had by all.

As mentioned, the experience was made possible by the generosity of Mrs Beryl Neilson and the Winchester Foundation who sponsored our children to attend this tremendous event. All who attended would like to express many thanks to them for their support and the opportunity to participate in such a superb event.

*Alana Moller*



*Voices in Literature Students with author Nick Falk, RA Spratt - author of Nanny Piggins series and Illustrator Tony Flowers*



*Students from CTSDE & CSDE with Mrs Beryl Neilson and members of the Winchester Foundation*

## The Lone Members Pool Comp returns – Cloncurry style!

**Destination:** The Oasis Hotel/Motel.

**Target:** Take out the championship!

The much enjoyed and anticipated Lone Members Pool Competition after the pre-conference drinks made a return in down town Cloncurry this year thanks to Kim Donaldson and Jacqui Beale.

A small group of pool sharks gathered eagerly around the pool tables and eagle-eyed each other over the cues. Teams were sorted, rules were read and the first break shot was made. There was friendly banter in the bleachers as supporters cheered on their favourites. In a show of girl power, dark horse, Deb Boot from Augathella partnered with rookie Deidre Williams from Charleville to snatch victory from an all man team comprising Jaye Beutel from John Paul College and Thomas Dunsmore from Australian Boarding Schools Association. The action was fast and furious and the dying minutes were tense as the bar went quiet to watch if the black ball would fall.

The wooden plaques were made by the ever-talented Kim Donaldson who knows how to turn a lump of timber into a piece of art for the mantel.

The competition isn't just open to Lone Members so be sure to make a team for the 2016 event. The night in Alpha is sure to be another tense tournament and test of skill...no doubt with some big lashings of luck. See you table-side!



Jaye Beutel JP College



Pool Comp Winners

## Tech Speak to Home Tutor Translation

ICPA (Qld) Inc. I.T. and Communications advisor Jeff Little has compiled a document providing information members may wish to consider if they are setting up a home school room for Distance Education. This advice is intended to be a guide for those who will be utilising the NBN long term satellite service, but is not intended as a list of mandatory requirements

With the roll out of the NBN Long Term Satellite Solution otherwise known as the "LTSS" expected to start in mid 2016. Qld ICPA has put together a guide "The LTSS and you" on how it may impact satellite internet users, in particular those who use the service for education.

The easy to read guide includes things like a Tech Speak translator to enable the most technically challenged Member to get an appreciation of the path ahead.

The full guide can be found on the ICPA Qld Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ICPAQLDINC>).

You do not have to be a Facebook user to view this page.

<b>Things</b>	Computers, printers, external hard drives, IPads, Routers, Switches.
<b>Network</b>	A collection of things that have been connected together.
<b>Local Network</b>	The one at your place.
<b>Ethernet</b>	A data transmission method using cables to connect things together.
<b>Ethernet 1000/100/10</b>	The speed in Megabits of your Ethernet computer network. The faster the better.
<b>Ethernet External Hard Drive</b>	A hard drive which plugs into the Ethernet network, this allows all users to share the same hard drive.
<b>Network Switches</b>	A thing that takes a single Ethernet connection and converts it to many (4&8 is typical) but without Wi-Fi and firewall capabilities.
<b>ISP</b>	Internet Service Provider e.g. BigPond.
<b>Modem</b>	A box that sucks a signal in and puts Internet data out.
<b>Multiple ISP Access</b>	NBN modems have the ability to connect to a number of ISPs. This means you could have a company internet account, a domestic internet account, and an education internet account. The usage on each account is measured and billed separately.
<b>PowerLine Extender</b>	This is a thing that allows data to be transmitted over the wires used for your power. First choice would always be to use a Ethernet cable as it is likely faster and more reliable but cable is not always practical.
<b>Routers</b>	A thing that takes a single Ethernet output from the modem and converts into multiple connections using Ethernet and Wi-Fi so that you can connect multiple things to the internet and to each other. It also acts as a firewall
<b>Firewall</b>	Stops nasty people breaking into your computer. It is NOT virus Protection. If a computer does not have a firewall, it is estimated it will take about 10 minutes for hackers to gain access and create havoc.
<b>Virus Protection</b>	Minimises the risk of getting a very sick computer from nasty software bugs.
<b>Wi-Fi</b>	A data transmission method that uses radio to connect things together.
<b>Single Band Wi-Fi</b>	A Wi-Fi Radio that only works on 2.4Ghz.
<b>Dual Band Wi-Fi</b>	A Wi-Fi radio that works in the 2.4Ghz and 5Ghz bands. Because you can split things to different transmitters, things work faster.
<b>Wi-Fi Access Point</b>	This is a thing that will convert a Ethernet wired data signal to a Wi-Fi radio data signal.
<b>Wi-Fi Extenders</b>	This is a thing which picks up a Wi-Fi signal and boosts it. Your school room may get a weak Wi-Fi signal and not work reliably, this thing may be able to get enough signal into the school room. It is also good for that dead spot in the lounge.



# BEN GLENMORGAN REFLECTION

Over August and September 2015, I was lucky enough to be eligible to participate in the 'Beyond the Range' grant as part of my 3rd year practicum experience. I requested to be placed in the small remote town of Glenmorgan, which I am told has a town population of 22 people and 12 dogs. Due to the incredible support that many rural and remote schools have for prac students, I was welcomed into their school and their community.

Prior to this, I had never been more than an hour west of Brisbane and have never travelled alone. Also adding to my unease was the issue of accommodation given that being a student comes with financial limitations. However, I was offered free accommodation with three different families and welcomed into their community. I ended up staying in a cottage on a 14,000-acre cattle property 15 minutes from the school.

Glenmorgan State School is a one-teacher school that has 15 students ranging from prep to grade 6, which came with its own set of experiences and challenges for me. As a pre-service teacher, it allowed me to experience all age groups and my strengths and weaknesses in different areas. The variety of different planning and teaching experiences that I was exposed to was challenging, yet rewarding.

During my time outside of school, I was overwhelmed with the offers I received from families in the community to participate completely new experiences.



Ben & Tammie

I saw some of the processes of cattle work such as filleting beef, mustering and feeding cattle. I was taken fishing, to Junior League football games, shooting at the pistol club, as well as invited to dinner with members of the community.

Taking advantage of the 'Beyond the Range' grant has been more than just a great prac experience for me; it has also been a great life experience. I have met

some lovely people and experienced things both inside and outside of school that I would never get the chance to do back in Brisbane. As I write this, I am three days away from going back home to Brisbane and I'm already thinking about the possibility of doing it all again next year.

*Ben*

## ROUND TABLE FORUM

A forum to investigate why regional and remote students are underrepresented in higher education and how the Australian Government can improve its support was held in Rockhampton on Thursday 3 September.

Michelle Landry MP Federal Member for Capricornia along with Senator Matt Canavan hosted National Party Senator Bridget McKenzie, Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment as well as representatives from the Department of Education and Department of Social Services. Together they sought feedback from students, parents, teachers and other community members to look at the issues which face regional students and the resulting impact on university attendance.

While there has been growth in regional and remote students undertaking an undergraduate degree, numbers are lower than their city counterparts. Barriers to higher education access include cost, distance, socioeconomic status, school experiences and preparedness.

Prior to the roundtable forum at CQ University, Michelle Landry MP, Senator Bridget McKenzie and Senator Matt Canavan visited the Rockhampton campus of Capricorn School of Distance Education and met with local ICPA members to discuss general education issues for regional students. Internet access issues and the cost of education were discussed.

It is hoped the final report on university attendance will be complete by the end of November.

*Claire MacTaggart*



# CLERMONT ICPA SPORTS CAMP



*Clermont Sports Camp Young Athletes, Coaches and Volunteers*

More than 110 children along with volunteers of 16 full-time carers, 14 caterers, 8 part-time carers, and an organising committee including a Camp leader, Camp coordinator, full-time nurse converged on Clermont for a week of team sports, ably coached by 10 national coaches. An incredible amount of time, effort and resources goes into making this camp a positive and inclusive experience. This is evident in the enthusiasm of the organisers and helpers, and the skills the children develop on and off the field.

Behind the scenes the volunteer caterers who had the very important job of keeping everyone fuelled for the week went through 65 litres of milk, 49kg of bacon, 40kg of sausages and 60 dozen eggs. It is safe to say no-one went hungry.

Capricornia Branch of the Air would like to share some insights from the children of our members about their week at Sports Camp.



## **Kurt Vella, Year 4**

### **What was your favourite thing about Sports Camp?**

Meeting new friends, getting to know the coaches and teaching me other sports that I haven't tried before.

### **What was your favourite sport?**

My top two sports were rugby league and soccer

### **How did the carers help you?**

The carers were great, telling me good tips about the sport I was playing. Jason Philp was awesome because he was so funny and made me laugh and helped us be a team player. Mrs Olive was always so nice and answered all of my questions.

### **What did it teach you?**

How to work as a team.

### **What else was great about Sports Camp?**

Meeting new friends, camping out and spending time playing sport with my Dad and friends.

## **Lachlan McArthur, Year 4**

### **What was your favourite thing about Sports Camp?**

My favourite thing at the ICPA Sports Camp was the variety of sports on offer. The coaches did a fantastic job of teaching us new techniques that I hadn't seen before. Examples were a chest pass in netball, a side step in NRL and lastly a bounce pass in Handball.

### **What was your favourite sport?**

My ideal sport was the fantastic but tiring netball. Despite the blazing hot sun we all had brilliant fun. I know my team had an awesome time playing all eight sports.



### How did the carers help you?

The carers helped us enjoy each day of the week by joining in. Sometimes they made us laugh however all of the time they encouraged us. On Thursday night, the amazing carers dressed up in funny and outstanding costumes.

### What did it teach you?

At Sports camp I was taught to encourage my team on and to listen to the coaches. I learnt a million techniques and all of these new skills have helped me be a better sportsman.

### What else was great about Sports Camp?

I would like to thank the volunteers, especially the kitchen staff for feeding us lots of wonderful, abundant food. I would also like to thank Amanda Clarke for taking the photos and for organizing the sponsors and coaches.

## Alexandra Olive, Year 4

### What was your favourite thing about Sports Camp?

My favourite thing about ICPA Sports Camp was learning different sports and playing as a team with other children.

### What was your favourite sport?

My favourite sport was netball because I like to shoot goals and soccer was fun too.

### How did the carers help you?

The carers supported us by cheering and joining in playing the games too.

### What did it teach you?

The week of Sports Camp taught me to be flexible with time because if one thing didn't work out we chose to do it another way.

### What else was great about Sports Camp?

ICPA Sports Camp was great because I met lots of different children and had new and fun experiences with sport.

## Tom Servin, Year 5

### What was your favourite thing about Sports Camp?

My favourite thing about the ICPA sports camp was that by the end of the week I was able to play sports, with confidence, in a team environment, that I have never played before.

### What was your favourite sport?

It is very difficult to choose a favourite sport because each sport was uniquely fun.

### How did the carers help you?

My sports camp carers were absolutely



fantastic and helped me to settle into a foreign environment with ease.

### What did it teach you?

I have come away from my first ICPA sports camp feeling very appreciative for the opportunity I was given to participate in such a fabulous fun filled camp.

### What else was great about Sports Camp?

Thank you to all those who made this week a huge success... I will be forever grateful.

## Jahna Day, Year 6

### What was your favourite thing about Sports Camp?

Meeting up with all my friends from different schools and also meeting new friends.

### What was your favourite sport?

Tennis, hands down!

### How did the carers help you?

They were always there to encourage us and they were very kind and caring.

### What did it teach you?

It taught me sportsmanship and how to play a variety of different sports.

### What else was great about Sports Camp?

The food! The cooks did an amazing job!!

## Bridie Sivyer, Year 6

### What was your favourite thing about Sports Camp?

Catching up with friends from previous years at sports camp.

### What was your favourite sport?

Soccer.

### How did the carers help you?

They do an awesome job to make sure you are happy at all times.

### What did it teach you?

Never give up on your dream sport.

### What else was great about Sports Camp?

Meeting new people and learning new things.

## Drewe Mace, Year 5

### What was your favourite thing about Sports Camp?

The coaches were always happy and energetic and they encouraged us to get in and have a go.

### What was your favourite sport?

My favourite sport was rugby league (NRL) because it gives you a lot of adrenaline and it is a very social sport.

### How did the carers help you?

The carers helped us by making sure we were putting on sunscreen, having our hats on our heads and drinking plenty of water. They were also very encouraging and made sure we were always having fun.

### What did it teach you?

To be organised, to encourage one another and to help out.

### What else was great about Sports Camp?

The lolly drop out of a helicopter, the disco and the minute to win it challenge in the arena were lots of fun.

*Drewe Mace*



## ALPHA BRANCH

### Athletics Coaching Clinic

On the 10th of October the Alpha branch hosted a one day athletics coaching clinic at the sports oval in town. The day was well attended by children from both the Capricornia and Longreach Schools of Distance Education and the Alpha State School.

Qualified coaches, Neil Dale, Wayne Gakowski and his daughter Michelle, from the Emerald Athletics Club, travelled to Alpha for the day. The coaches covered the fundamental skills and techniques required for most athletic events including; sprints, high jump, long jump, discus, shot put and javelin. They also covered the basic rules for each of these events. The coaches commented that the kids were a very keen bunch with surprising athletic ability and talent.



*Boys in Arms at the Clinic*



*Alex Appleton & Renee McKeering enjoying the clinic*



*A well earned break*



*Planking Alpha Kid Style!*



*Coach demonstrating to the Kids*



*Coach speaking with the kids*

*Kristy Heelan*

## AUBURN BURRANDOWAN CADARGA (ABC) BRANCH

### Branch Happenings

ABC ICPA branch held its Melbourne Cup Day luncheon on Cup day at the Durong Bowls club. The day got off to a great start when members had to remove a very grumpy tree snake from the corner of the dining room – yes, we were after the true country feel for our day, but maybe not that authentic! Branch members then gathered themselves to present a fantastic array of nibbles and finger foods to a keen and happy group of local ladies. Many past members of the branch caught up with each other, and with the local Playgroup children also joining in, possibly some prospective new members also enjoyed their first ICPA experience. While everyone enjoyed the raffles and sweeps, all



*Catching up at the ABC ICPA luncheon were Lois Hudson, Shirley Hoare and Pam Reddan.*



# COVERING THE CLAYPANS

the ladies were proud and felt like winners following the historic race result! Thanks to all branch members, present and past, that helped pull the day together. I think we deserved our round of bubbles at the end of the day!

Our branch held its AGM between storms at the Burrandowan race track. The 2015 executive was re-elected for another year. Jane McLaughlin is president, with Cath Fairbairn her vice president. Jane Coe was elected secretary and Joan Northcott as treasurer. President Jane's report mentioned that members of our branch had attended both federal and state conference this year. Jane also made mention that one of our branch patrons - Mr Athol Greaves turned 100 in early September this year. Athol and his wife Myrtle were foundation members of our branch over 40 years ago. Both Athol and Myrtle both now reside Chinchilla. Members of our branch attended the birthday celebrations. Following our meeting and the power was restored branch member families enjoyed an end of year BBQ.

While recent weeks have seen the area our branch covers receive much appreciated rainfall (and very unappreciated hail) for the start of summer, we are very aware of that this is not the situation for all in Queensland. Our branch members sincerely hope that the rains find you and that your new year is wet, soggy and rain filled.

*Jane Coe*

## BELYANDO/ MT. COOLON BRANCH

### Twin Hills Gymkhana, Lolly & Home Bake Stall

Sunday September 27, 2015 saw another action packed day with record nominations received for the annual Twin Hills gymkhana hosted by the Belyando/ Mt Coolon ICPA branch.

After a rain washed 2014 a total of 108 riders nominated in the 7 various age groups, ranging from Under 6 to Opens. Riders competed in a total of four events comprising of Flag, Bending and Barrel Races as well as the Keyhole event.

To keep energy levels high amongst these keen young equestrian enthusiasts,



Big Kids L to R Perrie Moller, Amelia Kenny & Maddy Sparrow



Time for bubbles – ABC ICPA members celebrating at great day.



Post AGM drinks & BBQ at the Burrandowan Race track. Jane McLaughlin, Mellissa Hoare & Phil Coe.



Helpers at the Lolly Stall - Abby & Billy Dennis

members of the branch ran a small homebake and sweets stall, filled with delicious cakes and slices made by members of the branch and copious supplies of sugary treats. This is a well supported and important annual fundraiser for our branch.

After a full morning in the sun and saddle, children and their parents gathered under the big shed for the presentation of place getters and Runner up Age champions and of course Age Champions who this year received trophy belt buckles along with their ribbon.

Another highly sought after award is the Dale and Kris Appleton sponsored Most Successful Male and Female competitor of the gymkhana. Winners of these awards each receive a set of leather strapped spurs. This year those lucky winners were Daniel O'Sullivan (9/10 Year Olds) and Holly Watts (11/12 Year Olds).

The final award of the day is "Best Presented Horse" sponsored by Donna and Fiona Hall of Belyando Bridles. The winner of this was Abby Dingle with her "Pretty in Pink" theme.

At the end of the presentations all children who competed are rewarded each and every year by the extremely generous donation of a softdrink and packet of chips from local supermarket Beales IGA.

Lastly on my behalf I would like to say a big "THANK YOU" to all the members, parents, friends, relatives and ring-in's who helped out on the day. Without your valuable donation of time this event would not be possible. See you all in 2016!

*Egan Wilkinson*



Jack Appleton on 'Ole Gidley' led by dad Loid Appleton

## CHARLEVILLE

### Charleville School of Distant Education

The Charleville School of Distance Education held their 4th Term Mini-School in Roma from the 27th – 30th October. 45 children from across the region attended the school event which allows children to meet with their school teachers and peers face-to-face. Throughout the week the children were able to complete math and english assessments, science experiments, art and craft and rehearse for their up-coming musical, 'Gnomes and Gardens'. Additionally, the children had 2 hour swimming sessions each day and participated in fun night activities including trivia and games nights. 15 of the kids who attended the mini-school were Mitchell/Tomoo/Dunkeld ICPA members who absolutely loved meeting up with their friends for the week!

*Sally Campbell*



Charleville SDE Minischool. **Back Row (L-R):** Lily Allen 'Oakvale', Arch Campbell 'Currawarra', Phoebe Bryant 'Cytherea', Beau Campbell 'Currawarra', Matilda Bryant 'Cytherea', Sam Douglas 'Verniew', Will Bryant 'Cytherea', Jayden Blackett 'Marlee Downs', Rowan Harrison 'Bungaringa'. **Front Row (L-R):** Mitchell McInerney 'Crystalbrook', Cooper Campbell 'Currawarra', Lachlan McInerney 'Crystalbrook', Avril Compagnoni 'Umberill', Harry Hudson 'Tongi', Phoebe Allen 'Oakvale'.

## MOONIE BRANCH

### Event Decorating To Look Fabulous On A Budget

Moonie branch recently ran our biennial fundraiser Melbourne Cup Luncheon at the Moonie Sports Club on Cup day. It's always tricky to make the place look amazing and inviting on a budget of both time and money, but our group did an amazing job, so I thought I'd share a few ideas. When running an event as a fundraiser (Moonie has run about 8 cup luncheons) you need to get some great ideas, recipes, etc BUT you also need to make sure they are cost effective and give maximum 'bling' for your buck. Cheese platters tend to cost quiet a lot compared to other entrees, so cost your recipes before deciding upon them.

Ham and chicken are Melbourne cup favourites, but get someone who is skilled (Phil Egan has been our local guru) to carve the ham thinly and evenly as it makes an amazing difference to how much you use if it's carved in thick slices! Desserts are much more

cost effective if served up on individual plates and delivered to the tables (which is a nice thing to do anyway) rather than people helping themselves.

Use the email lists of your local groups (schools, sports clubs, etc) or school newsletters to send your invitations out rather than posting them individually as stamps are not cheap (as we all know) and postage can eat into your profits from the fund raising event. Facebook event pages also keep the event in people's minds and remind them that the RSVP dates are coming up.

Decorations can be cheap without looking that way too. We used white paper table cloths with organza table runners in bright colours and jam and condiment jars with small posies of flowers in them



Stylish decorations



Tantalizing Menu



Desserts to be enjoyed indeed!



# COVERING THE CLAYPANS

this year and the hall looked gorgeous. Di Selby was the floral arranger and did a stellar job, with small features of colour and interest at each table. A menu at each table was on a small wood stump... we can all fine dead branches I'm sure. It looked great.

I'm sure other branches will have a long list of what they have found to be useful, but I thought I'd share ours to possibly assist a branch to maximise their profits at an event, while minimising their stress and workloads. Hope you can take some ideas away with you to be of use.

*Lynelle Alquist*

(President/Publicity Officer, Moonie Branch)



"Fashions On The field 2015  
winner: Rebel Wormwell"



Melbourne Cup Luncheon in Style

## ST GEORGE BRANCH

Members gathered together at the Historical Begonia Homestead for their Annual General Meeting followed by a General Meeting on Monday 9th November. The coffee shop at the Homestead was a lovely venue for the meeting with a delicious morning tea served. Nominations of positions were again mostly filled. I will stay on as President, Brie Boyle as Secretary with Gabby Underwood again taking on the position of Treasurer. Many thanks to outgoing Treasurer, Vicki Priest, for her fantastic work over the last 3 years. Lisa Southern continues on as Immediate Past President with the Vice President still vacant at this stage. Due to the increase in Federal membership, we had to increase our membership to \$45 per member family. The executives thanked members for their participation and support shown throughout the year.

The General meeting followed with the main topics discussed being our bursary, the conferences and our inaugural ICPA camp to be held at the end of 2016. Planning is underway to host 50 ICPA children for a week of swimming, gymnastics, music, dancing, sport and art. Names for the camp were thrown around with Go Mad being the favourite.

With Year 7 going into high school this year, we thought it was the most opportune time to do a complete overhaul of our Bursary. This year our Immediate Past President set an exam based on the year 6 curriculum with a handful of general knowledge questions. From feedback received from teachers and parents, it has been a resounding success. Many thanks to Lisa for her time and effort in setting and distributing the exam.

Vicki Priest and I reported to the meeting on State Conference. It was a wonderful opportunity to attend a very social and welcoming conference. Thank you to the convening committee for all your hard work. We both thoroughly enjoyed conference



**Back Row:** Kaylean Killen, Gabby Underwood (Treasurer), Vicki Priest, Lisa Southern (Immediate Past President), Margaret Fox. **Front Row:** Michelle Freshwater (President), Sandy and Rory Southern.

and met many new friends. Both of us were shocked by the amount of branches that attended and it made us realise that our branch needs to ensure we send someone to every conference every year to represent the branch and put our opinions forward.

We would like to thank both the State and Federal Councils for the terrific work they do lobbying on our behalf.

St George Branch wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and hopefully a very wet new year.

*Michelle Freshwater*

## WESTERN DOWNS BRANCH

### Busy Branch Happenings

A new name, fundraising ventures, donations to local small schools and publicity for ICPA... it has been a busy year!

**Branch change of name** - Much discussion around the desire to more aptly describe our members' locale and the investigation of ICPA protocols, our Branch members were asked to vote on a change of name for the Branch. A secret ballot was conducted during March with 89% of members returning a vote, all votes received were in the affirmative, both State and Federal Council accepted the name change and so we are now known as the **Western Downs Branch of ICPA**.

**Fundraising** - A most successful raffle was held during the year for a dressed, grain fed beast. This greatly enhanced our coffers, as branch members generously donated the beast and butchery!

The "Smoko Stand" at the Condamine Rodeo was again a success as a publicity stunt for ICPA. The sign read - 'buy a tea or coffee, eat home made cake and learn what ICPA is!'

**Conferences** - Western Downs was represented at both conferences this year, with Megan McNicholl OAM (Past Federal President) attending Federal Conference in Brisbane, while Branch President Kristen Coggan travelled to Cloncurry for the Queensland Conference.



Miles State School Prep student, Morgan Donaldson, with Western Downs Branch President Kristen Coggan.

**Small Schools** - We donated a signed copy of "A Curry for Murray", a delightful children's book, to the Miles, Condamine, Drillham and Dulacca State Schools.

Each year our Branch presents an individual award at the Speech Nights of three of the small primary schools in our area. A \$50 voucher for the purchase of books at the local Newsagency supports the town economy and is considered a special award by the recipients.

*Adele Hughes*

Secretary/Publicity Officer

## YARAKA/ISIFORD BRANCH

On behalf of all our branch members, congratulations to Kim Hughes on her election to the position of State President. We wish Kim all the very best and every success in her new position.

As you all know, our branch member Andrew Pegler stood down from this position at State Conference held in Cloncurry in September. He remains on ICPA Qld Council in the position of Immediate Past President and continues to head the Communications portfolio. Recently Andrew was a guest speaker at the 92nd annual Queensland Country Women's Association State Conference held in Gympie. The topic for the address was "Distance Education and Communications."

For many years, ICPA has been front and centre in our house and at no time more so than when Andrew was state president. Even though I will no doubt be accused of bias, I think he has done a wonderful job and always closest to his heart were improved educational outcomes for rural and remote children.



Sandra D-S, Jeff Little and me at State Conference



## COVERING THE CLAYPANS



Keen Punters at Melbourne Cup

To quote from Kim Hughes' Farewell presentation to Andrew at State Conference, "Andrew has given his all to ICPA. When business responsibilities and running a sheep and cattle property in drought could have easily consumed his focus, he has never let these pressures overshadow the leadership he gives our team and the effort he puts into our member's issues."

The Sir Wally Rae Sports Carnival was hosted at the Isisford Race Course Complex by the Isisford State School and the winners of the Linda Tindall Memorial Sportsmanship Awards were (Girl) Georgia Wright from Ilfracombe State School and (Boy) James Miller-Scott from LSOE. These perpetual trophies are funded by the Yaraka/Isisford Branch of an annual basis.

Sandra Dieterich-Silveira and I were branch delegates for the 44th ICPA Queensland State Conference held in Cloncurry. Our branch only had one motion which was carried. Branch members Jeff Little and Andrew Pegler also attended in their respective capacities as ICPA Qld. Inc. I.C.T. Advisor and State President.

Thank you to Cloncurry branch for celebrating your 40th Birthday by hosting such an excellent event – it was awesome. The opening address by Mrs Christine McDonald OAM was inspirational. Mrs McDonald was the inaugural Cloncurry Branch Secretary when the branch was formed in June 1975. The knowledge and wisdom, not to mention the experience of those who "pioneered" ICPA must never be underestimated and this valuable history must be preserved and treasured. We can all learn so much from listening to these incredible stories – all ICPA business being done with, if you were lucky, a phone, in later years maybe a fax machine and certainly no computers or email! What an incredible history we have to build on.

The Yaraka Sports & Progress Association Inc. combined with the Yaraka/Isisford ICPA to host the annual Yaraka Melbourne Cup Luncheon. The community wishes to acknowledge and thank The Department



Andrew at QCWA conference



Kaye Albrand & Ian Merritt at Melbourne Cup Yaraka

of Communities for the drought relief funding the committee received to assist with hosting this event. This funding was distributed through the RAPAD Board and the Longreach Regional Council. Despite the wretched drought, the event was reasonably well attended and such a fairy tale finish – what an amazing young lady! A dream come true for her and her brother.

Thanks to Rebecca and Stacey for a great job of editing News & Views - the first editors for "N & V" in colour! Welcome Zabby and we look forward to working with you.

*Mary Killen*

# PHOTO COMPETITION

## For all those talented photographers out there - Photo Competition for new line of ICPA Qld greeting cards, 2016.

Our last competition asking for ICPA Qld members to submit photos for our greeting cards produced such amazing photos that we did a reprint and sold 2000 cards (200 packs) in 5 months. These cards will still be on file for another print at a later date.

We have decided to conduct another competition for a new line of greeting cards. This time it will be titled **"Weather & Water"**. Please submit no more than 5 photos per person and attach your name and name for photo with submission. Please email to [FundraisingOfficer@bigpond.com](mailto:FundraisingOfficer@bigpond.com).

Once again the completion is open to all ICPA Qld members and you are still eligible to submit photos even if you were chosen last time.

**ENTRIES CLOSE ON FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 2016**

### RESULTS 2015 ICPA QLD MINOR ART UNION.

1. Emma Barbeler, Taroom Q	Ticket No 7771	\$5000 Cash
2. Melissa Donaldson, Redlynch Q	Ticket No 984	\$1500 Cash
3. Margi Greenway, Prince Henry Hts Q	Ticket No 9314	\$1000 cash
4. Donna Miller, Kabra Q	Ticket No 7736	Socket set & toolbox - \$600
5. Claudia Hadenfeldt, Dirranbandi Q	Ticket No 8457	\$500 Cash
6. Narelle Minett, Cundletown NSW	Ticket No 9732	String Pearls - \$250
7. Amanda Burnett, Clermont Q	Ticket No 8623	Rivet Rack Shelving - \$180

Branch Books Seller Prize, Belyando/Mt Coolon - \$25 Coles Myer Card

A huge thank you to our sponsors: BHP Billiton Cannington, Rabobank Qld, Iplex Pipelines, Central Highland Tools, Pearls for Girls, Multi Rack Mackay and Target Country



## MUNCHKIN MUSINGS



Lola Dennis

"Sisters are like streetlights along the road, they don't make the distance any shorter but they light up the path and make the walk worthwhile."

When I look at each of my brothers, I see two things. First, I see the next place I want to leave a rosy welt as payback. Second, I see a good man who will always be there, no matter how hard life gets for us both. Then, I get out of the way because I realize they are coming at me with a wet dishtowel. GRRRRRRRR!!

However funny this scene may sound, I share this banter with my sisters often but our emotional attachment is at a deeper level. We have unreservedly banded together as the official Dennis sisterhood of life. We are there for each other no matter what...we have each other's backs in good times and bad. It is the unspoken words in their smiles, the touch that makes all the problems disappear; it is the spoken words of support straight from the heart. These traits are so unconditional, only sister can understand their power. Yes but I admit the highlight of my childhood is making my sisters laugh so hard that food comes out of their noses, despite this foolish play the level of love is unparalleled. This is because a sister is someone who is both a mirror of ourselves and very much

not ourselves- a special kind of double. Having a sister is like having a best friend you can't get rid of. You know whatever you do, they will still be there.

*Lola Dennis*



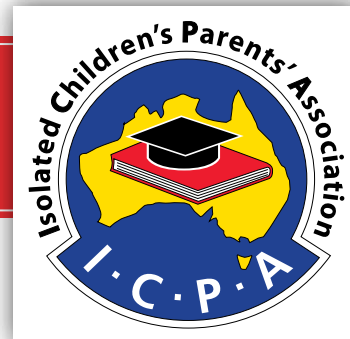
Lola with her sisters & brothers

If anyone has children that would like to share a poem, short story or something similar in News & Views please email to [qldnewsandviewseditor@icpa.com.au](mailto:qldnewsandviewseditor@icpa.com.au) with a photo of child that wrote the article and another photo relevant to the article would be great!! Thank you and happy writing little ones!!



# ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION QLD INC

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