

# NEWS and Views

Isolated Children's Parents' Association Queensland Inc.



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## Front Cover Photo:

Winchester Foundation representatives  
Mrs Ruth Bethel, Mrs Beryl Nieslen & Mrs  
Judy Harris

## NEWS and Views

### CONTRIBUTIONS DEADLINES

**All contributions to be with  
the editor before:**

14 January • 1 April  
1 July • 1 November

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# NEWS & VIEWS

## OUR PUBLICATION DATES HAVE CHANGED

### TERM 1

Deadline 14th January

This will be the 'back to school' issue and will arrive in your mail early Feb

### TERM 2

Deadline 1st April

The 'pre-conference issue' will have all the important information in regards to conference

### TERM 3

Deadline 1st July

The 'post-conference issue' will have all the photos and stories from conference

### TERM 4

Deadline 1st November

Our end of year, Christmas issue will arrive at your place late Nov/early Dec



Contributions can be emailed to [qldnewsandviewseditor@icpa.com.au](mailto:qldnewsandviewseditor@icpa.com.au)



# A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...



Natalie Kenny

Dear Readers,

Term 3 is well under way for our school students and university students have started their second semester of the year. It always seems a bit of a grind this time of year, both for students and their parents or carers, and it's probably a time when we have to remind ourselves how important our role is in our kids learning journey.

The department of education quotes research which has shown "... that when schools and families work together, children do better, stay in school longer, are more engaged with their school work, go

to school more regularly, behave better, and have better social skills. Parent engagement also results in longer term economic, social and emotional benefits." In a nutshell, kids do better all round if their parents are interested in what they're up to :).

A slight change of dates for publication of News & Views has happened in the last few months, allowing us to give proper coverage of conference each year (both before and after the event). This edition includes photos of conference attendees, both members, guests and our wonderful sponsors. Without the support of many different people conference wouldn't come together as well as it does. A special mention to the energetic team from the Charters Towers branch who delivered a fantastic few days, even the cold weather couldn't dampen anyone's spirits.

Conference also saw several state councillors step down, a big thank you and farewell to Kim Hughes, Gillian Semple, Anna Appleton and Susan Bellingham, your efforts have not gone unnoticed. There are also three new team members who put up their hand and jumped on board. A big welcome to Amanda Clark, Kasie Scott and Sonia Spurdle. You can read more about these great ladies in the following pages.

You would have noticed that this edition of News & Views as been accompanied with a copy of Qld Health's new resource for parents. The 'orange book', Starting School in Rural and Remote Queensland, is a fantastic resource that ICPA Qld had input into - I would encourage all parents to look through it. If isn't something that is of relevance to you please pass it along to someone who might need it, or even drop it at your local school or kindly.

Natalie

Editor

## MEMBERS RECOMMENDATIONS



BOOK

### 'Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine'

by Gail Honeyman

Natalie Kenny, Belyando/Mt Coolon branch



BOOK

### 'Life As It Is'

by Rebecca Burge, a book written by one of our Charters Towers Members

Sonia Spurdle ICPA State Councillor



AUDIOBOOK

### 'Girl Wash Your Face'

by Rachel Hollis (also comes in paperback).

Kasie Scott, ICPA State Councillor



SCHOOL-ROOM

### Children Starting School in Rural & Remote Qld

a resource book for all parents with school age children, developed by Qld Health in conjunction with ICPA Qld.

Shannah Christensen, project officer and physiotherapist with Qld Health



MOBILE APP

### Emergency +

This app works on most Apple and Android smartphone and tablet devices that have GPS built in. It gives you your current address plus for those in the bush, your latitude & longitude coordinates. It is one of those Apps you hope you never have to use but it could be a life saver.

Jeff Little, ICT Adviser



*"When you're surrounded by people who share a passionate commitment around a common purpose, anything is possible"*

**- Howard Schultz**

**And surrounded by passionate people was exactly how I felt** at State Conference in the beautifully historic, yet unusually chilly, Charters Towers in June! From the time I attended my very first state conference as a delegate in Charters Towers in 2010, I have always found conference to be such an inspirational experience – one which leaves everyone who attends with a renewed energy to stand stronger and fight harder for our common purpose. I do hope that all those who were able to attend left feeling particularly pampered due to our very generous donors, Mr Tim Fairfax and Mrs Gina Fairfax, as well as Drought Angels. As State Council we really wanted to ensure that State Conference was a place where our members could gather together, share their stories and perhaps their hardships, as well as take away some valuable tips and tricks to fill their own cups. Despite needing a lap rug, a pair of slippers and a new coat, the entire conference was certainly a success in my eyes and a huge congratulations must go to the dedicated committee led by Rebecca Burge. Countless volunteer hours go into producing our conference each year, and State Council appreciates the efforts put in by each and every committee to ensure that the event goes off without a hitch! As with any community, our organisation could not run so successfully without our volunteers, and on behalf of all those who attended conference a huge thank you must go to the branch for their commitment to our cause. Congratulations!

Where to now? State Council spent the day after conference meeting face to face and creating action plans for each and every motion passed at conference. We now head to Brisbane for delegations in mid-August where we will meet with departmental representatives for Education, Transport and Health, as well as Minister Grace and the Leader of the Opposition. Visits to Brisbane are always opportunities for us to pack in as many meetings and networking opportunities as we possibly can in order to further motions and lobby for change. This particular delegation also allows for another face to face meeting where councillors adapt policy documents, create key issues for the year ahead and plan direction for continuing lobby. When you are in a room with other people who share this commitment to a common cause, we certainly come away feeling like we can make a change if we just keep rattling the cage! And that is what we will continue to do. One of Council's key focus points at this time is to reiterate the urgent need for an immediate and substantial increase in the



Tammie Irons

Remote Area Tuition Allowance under the LAFHAS. We will continue to be a constant reminder to our government that our children deserve equity in all areas of their education and that those with 'no choice' should be a priority.

With Federal Conference looming I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Queensland Council to congratulate Mrs Wendy Hick on her time as Federal President and wish her all the best in her 'retirement'! Wendy has certainly put her heart and soul into the position and ICPA has been the recipient of countless hours of her time. Once again we are reminded of the time that we as volunteers invest into the things we love and I have to end with this quote from Sherry Anderson ~ Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.

Cheers,  
Tammie

# OUR RURAL SCHOOLS



## MISTAKE CREEK STATE SCHOOL



### Location:

70km west of Clermont on the Clermont-Alpha Road

### Number of Students:

13

### Our Teachers:

Ms Kim Robinson (Principal) and Andrew Chou + Hayden Smith (teacher aide and groundsman) + Traci Scott (teacher aide and admin) + Bruce Robinson (circulating PE teacher to our local schools)

Mistake Creek State School, the only school for at least 70km, plays an important role within the local community. The students who attend our school live on cattle properties in the schools vicinity, some catching the school bus and others being driven to school by their families. It is seen as a vital hub for many school and non-school activities. It is used as a meeting place for local organisations such as the Mistake Creek Progress Association and the Mistake Creek Playgroup.

Over the years the school has become a central focal point for fundraising events such as fetes, fun runs and community events like the traditional annual cricket match and tennis days. These community events also involve those children enrolled in Distance Education.

The first thing people notice about our school is its interesting name. So how did Mistake Creek get its name? Jerimiah Rolfe, who was one of the first people to settle in the area, named Mistake Creek after making a mistake about the location of his station. Rolfe believed that his station was on the Belyando River, but he soon learned that it wasn't, rather it was off a tributary. As a result of this mistake, he named this tributary Mistake Creek.



## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FOR PATREA



Patrea Walton was presented with an ICPA Qld Certificate of Appreciation, pictured here with State Councillors in Brisbane

## A WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENT

During 2018 **Andi-Claire Peglar** (daughter of Andrew Peglar and Mary Killeen, Yaraka/Isisford branch) studied externally through the University of New South Wales, undertaking a postgraduate degree. She now has a Master of Education in Gifted Education with Excellence and is currently teaching at Dara School in Adelaide.

Just goes to show that these bush kids CAN achieve great results!

Andi-Claire's parents are of course immensely proud of her achievements.



## NEWS FROM YARAKA/ISISFORD

**A very warm welcome to our three new member families,** Thomas and Teegan Mills, Dale and Christine Bignell and Jon and Deb Karger. Very exciting to welcome Jon and Deb as a second generation ICPA family. When they were children, both their families were involved with ICPA in the Northern Territory. It is great to see the tradition continuing! We hope that you'll enjoy your involvement with ICPA and we're always glad to see new faces join our branch.

On behalf of all branch members, an enormous THANK YOU to the generous sponsor who has provided financial assistance for registrations etc. for state conference. Also to those responsible for the assistance with travel and/or accommodation. Such amazingly generous gestures at a time when many members are struggling to cope with the hand that Mother Nature has dealt.

Congratulations to (now retired) Deputy Director General Mrs Patrea Walton who was presented with an ICPA Queensland Council Certificate of Appreciation for her wonderful contribution to the education of Queensland students including our geographically isolated ones. This presentation took place in Brisbane in February.

Some Yaraka Isisford families have been very fortunate to receive much needed rainfall earlier in the year. Our thoughts are with people who are battling the on-going aftermath of extreme flooding and those who are still waiting for decent rain.

It's always a proud moment when our members achieve outstanding acknowledgements and we'd like to mention Sandra Dieterich-Silveira, who has recently become an Australian Citizen. Congratulations are also in order for Anna Cochrane who was awarded Community Volunteer of the Year for Yaraka/Isisford at the 2019 Longreach Regional Council Australia Day Awards. Since moving to the district, Anna has become involved in almost every aspect of community life, dedicating herself to many community groups and contributing the community with ambition and intelligence.

Our amazing branch Life Member Fiona Owens is a woman of



Yaraka Isisford ICPA Table Banner made by Fiona Owens

many talents. She also happens to be President of the Longreach Branch of QCWA. The QCWA published a recipe book called In My Country Kitchen containing recipes contributed by members. Each QCWA Region had its own section in the book. Longreach Branch is in Central Region. Fiona wrote the blurb for the Central Region and one of her photos (of goats) was selected to illustrate the opposite page. She also had a recipe selected to be included in the book.

The State President and the Divisional Presidents of QCWA were invited to morning tea at Fernberg House, the residence of the Governor of Queensland. The Chef at Fernberg House had been given a copy of "In My Country Kitchen" and Fiona's slice was among those made and served for morning tea.

Fiona also made an excellent "table skirt" for when she and Ian Merritt were selling tickets in the ICPA State Art Union.

She's also a TV personality! QCWA Longreach is going to be part of a TV rail travel documentary featuring local stories with Griff Rhys Jones which is to be aired in Australia (November we hope) and the UK. Fiona and Ros had to make a Hummingbird Cake and set up the kitchen to replicate the "the original country kitchen!" The filming session focused on making the cake and talking of women's roles in the bush and QCWA. Ever modest Fiona said, "Just how did I, a quiet, in the background worker, get this position!!!"

Branch member Des Deighton is currently Acting Principal at Blackall State School. On 29/01/19 he wrote the following post on Facebook and it is with his permission that I share it. To me, this article epitomises what teaching is all about:

*40 years ago today I was an excited and very nervous young teacher counting down the hours until my*



## NEWS FROM YARAKA/ISISFORD

*first day's teaching on 29 January 1979 wondering whether I could handle my class of thirty-three!*

*This morning I am sitting in the office at Blackall SS still with that sense of excitement as I count down the hours until my stint as Acting Principal kicks into gear with kids back tomorrow - 40 years to the day since I started and I still love it.*

*Looking back over 40 years the high points definitely outnumber the tough times (and there have been a few of those), I have had the opportunity to work with hundreds of wonderful teachers and other school staff, tireless P&C volunteers, Departmental colleagues and made some lifelong friends.*

*It's been a great ride and I wouldn't have swapped it for anything.*

*I couldn't have done it without the support of my wonderful wife Leonne and my 3 fantastic daughters Kate, Rebecca and Alex who have, at times, had to put up with me being a "grumpy old man" as work wore me out and ultimately led to my retirement from being a full time Principal.*

*I still love being able to contribute to schools. My career has taken me to Dalby, Mitchell, Charleville (twice) Cunnamulla, Yandina, Bli Bli, Cooroy, Longreach (twice), Caloundra, Mooloolaba and now Blackall (and St Helens for 8 days). Roll on tomorrow!*

Condolences to Andrew and all the Pegler family, following the sad passing of Andrew's brother John in December 2018. We also remember at this time, Tony (Welford Anthony) Pegler (late of Toowoomba and formerly of Corowa Downs Quilpie) who passed away recently. He was one of the founding members of the Quilpie Branch of ICPA.



Des Deighton is currently Acting Principal at Blackall State School

Yaraka/Isisford Branch member Leslie Single was elected President of the Queensland Association of State School Principals for 2018 and 2019. Leslie has been a member of QASSP for more than 20 years and a member of the management committee for many years. She was awarded Life Membership of QASSP in 2016.

Mary Killen

(on behalf of Y/I Branch PO Officer Ingrid Miller)



Yaraka/Isisford branch member, Leslie Single, with students from Park Ridge State School. Photo credit Ben Ashmole.



# THARGOMINDAH IS BACK IN BUSINESS

ICPA Thargomindah Branch is excited to announce that after branch numbers and involvement dwindled over the last few years, things are looking up and they are finally operational again!

Branch Mentor, Jessie Persse, travelled to Thargomindah to drum up interest in reforming the branch, which was originally formed on 3rd March 1972, with Hamilton Chambers taking on the role of Foundation Chairman. Jess offered an information session explaining who ICPA is and what ICPA does, this was followed by an AGM. Nine people attended the meeting, with many more interested parties expressing their support and intent to join the reformed branch.

We wish to thank the following people for their dedication in taking on positions that will make this transition so much easier:

- **President** – Kitsa Warner
- **Vice President** – Mel Byrnes
- **Secretary** – Kate Dandridge
- **Treasurer** – Louise Hoch

Thank you also to Alison Petty, who was on the branch executive last time the branch was active, and who still took the time to join the meeting to ensure the new executive felt supported.



*Jessie Persse, ICPA State councillor and Thargomindah branch mentor speaking at the AGM*

Thargomindah currently identify air travel subsidies, LAFHAS increases, AHVISE, In-Home Care and small schools as being areas that affect most of their members.

ICPA Thargomindah Branch look forward to welcoming more members and sharing more about their growth as a reformed branch.



*The Thargomindah members attending the AGM*



**Victorian education minister James Merlino's announcement** mobile phones will be banned for all students at state primary and secondary schools is certainly a bold move.

The policy has been justified as a direct response to mounting levels of cyberbullying, concerns over distractions and schools struggling with discipline relating to students' misuse of phones.

Students will have to switch off their phones and store them in lockers from the start of the school day until the final bell. In case of an emergency, parents or guardians can reach their child by calling the school.

The minister said in a statement:

The only exceptions to the ban will be where students use phones to monitor health conditions, or where teachers instruct students to bring their phone for a particular classroom activity.

Whether to allow student use of mobile phones in school is certainly a hot topic in education. The Victorian announcement follows a French government ban on mobiles in school in 2018. Debates on the issue are also taking place in Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

There is considerable public support for banning mobiles. In our recently conducted survey of more than 2,000 Australian adults, nearly 80% supported a ban on mobile phones in classrooms. Just under one-third supported an outright ban from schools altogether.

Support for a classroom ban was remarkably consistent across different demographics, including political affiliation and age group.

But while banning phones from classrooms, and from school

altogether, might seem sensible, there are number of reasons to be cautious. It's clear we need to carefully consider how we want to make use of digital devices being brought into schools. But previous experience, such as in New York, suggests a blanket ban might introduce even more problems.

And the little research evidence that addresses the issue is mixed.

## WHAT'S THE EVIDENCE?

Reports of cyberbullying have clearly gone up among school-aged children and young people over the past ten years, but the nature and precedents of cyberbullying are complex.

Research suggests there is a large overlap between cyberbullying and traditional forms of bullying, which wouldn't then follow that digital devices are somehow causing these behaviours.

Cyberbullying also often takes place outside school hours and premises. There is a danger banning phones from classrooms might distract education staff from having to continue with



efforts to address the more immediate causes of cyberbullying.

There is also a growing literature exploring the links between digital devices and classroom distractions. The presence of phones in the classroom is certainly found to be a source of multi-tasking among students of all ages – some of which can be educationally relevant and much of which might not.

But the impact of these off-task behaviours on student learning outcomes is difficult to determine. A review of 132 academic studies concluded, it is difficult to determine directions and mechanisms of the causal relations between mobile phone multitasking and academic performance.

There is also a strong sense from classroom research that issues of distraction apply equally to laptops, iPads and other digital devices.

All told, the sense from academic literature is that the realities of smartphone use in classrooms are complex and decidedly messy. Our own research into how smartphones are being used in Victorian classrooms highlighted the difficulties teachers face in policing student use (what some teachers described as requiring “five minutes of firefighting” at the beginning of every lesson).

Despite this, we also found instances of students using smartphones for a range of beneficial purposes – from impromptu information seeking to live-streaming lessons for sick classmates.

These benefits are also reflected in classroom studies elsewhere in the world. Research from Stanford University has demonstrated, for instance, that with proper support and preparation, teachers in even the most challenging schools can “build on the ways students already use technology outside of school to help them learn in the classroom”.

There is now a whole academic field known as “m-Learning” where researchers have explored the pedagogical and learning advantages of using mobile devices (including phones) in lessons.

But what about a blanket ban from school altogether? Experience from elsewhere suggests enforcing a mobile ban in schools may not be as easy as it sounds.

## WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM OTHERS

The New South Wales government announced a review into the benefits and risks of mobile phone use in schools in June 2018, led by child psychologist Michael Carr-Gregg. At the review's completion, the government said it would only ban mobile phones from the state's primary schools, leaving secondary schools free to make their own choice.

It noted:

*We recognise that technology plays an important and increasing role as students progress through their education [...] We want to give secondary schools the flexibility to balance the benefits and risks of technology in the way that best supports their students.*

Perhaps the most pertinent example is the ban enforced in New York City from 2006, that was eventually lifted in 2015. The reasons

given for this reversal highlighted several of the concerns the new ban in Victoria will likely face. They include practical difficulties of enforcing a ban in the classroom being exacerbated by banning of phone use during break times and lunchtimes.

First, it was clear the New York ban was being inconsistently enforced by schools – with better resourced schools in more affluent areas more likely to bend the rules and permit student use. In contrast, schools in lower-income areas with metal detectors were more likely to be rigidly enforcing the ban.

Other motivations for lifting the ban were concerns over student safety such as the need for students to contact family members during break times and lunchtimes. Families were also incurring costs to store phones securely outside of the school. There was also a recognition teachers should be trusted to exercise their professional judgement as to how they could be making good educational use of devices in their lessons.

At the same time, it was reckoned government resources were better directed toward supporting students to learn how to use technology responsibly through cyber-safety lessons.

All these reasons are as relevant now to Victorian schools as they were to New York City schools in 2015. The use (and non-use) of mobile phones in schools is certainly an issue we need to have a proper conversations about. But it might not be as clear-cut as the recent policy announcements suggest.

**Neil Selwyn**

*Distinguished Research Professor,  
Monash University.*

[www.theconversation.com](http://www.theconversation.com)

**DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:** Neil Selwyn receives research funding from the Australian Research Council, Australian Government Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT), Australian Communications Consumer Action Network & AuDA Foundation

# WONDERFUL WINCHESTER



*Mrs Beryl Nielson with her team members Mrs Judy Harris and Mrs Ruth Bethel at the recent ICPA Qld Conference*

At conference this year Mrs Beryl Nielson, founder of the Winchester Foundation, was presented with an ICPA Qld Certificate of Appreciation. Beryl established the John and Beryl Nielson Winchester Foundation in 2011 to assist rural and remote children with educational expenses. Since starting the foundation, Mrs Nielson has provided almost \$1.1 million in bursary's to over 160 students living in rural and remote Queensland. This financial generosity is to be commended in selflessness and genuine good spirit in providing support to rural and remote students. Mrs Nielson's bursaries help to ease the financial burden of families who have children boarding away from home (whether attending school or university away from their regions).

Beryl and her late husband John lived at Winchester Downs, situated just outside of Moranbah, and where Beryl still resides. The foundation started following John's death when Beryl wanted to give something back to rural communities - and so the Winchester Foundation was established. Mrs Nielson was motivated by a feeling that bush children's education, both secondary and tertiary, can suffer due to location.

Her support allows families to provide equal access to education where the financial burden is great, alleviating stress to families

through her generous bursaries. Mrs Neilson's Winchester Foundation not only supports individual families with schooling and university costs but also supports events where country children gather such as the Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival at the Whitsunday Anglican School.

What started off with a group of 93 students from the Brigalow Schools west of Mackay in 2013, has now developed into an event where over 400 students from the Brigalow Schools, Pioneer Valley Schools, Country Schools north and south of Mackay and also students from the Capricornia School of Distance Education and the Charters Towers School of Distance Education attended. The Winchester



# WONDERFUL WINCHESTER

Foundation pays for all expenses for the children travelling to and attending the sessions. Students and staff are also provided with morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, together with a Winchester Foundation shirt.

Along with financial support, Beryl offers an opportunity for families to connect by hosting an event, that has become known as "Winchester Day", on her property. Past and present recipients and their families are invited to the luncheon, which gives recipients an opportunity to say thank you to Beryl and her team in person. Due to the ongoing drought throughout Western Queensland, the many families that Beryl has helped now covers a large part of Queensland. Some families travel for several days to attend and show their appreciation to Beryl in person.

Her support does not stop there, she also provides support to ICPA state conferences in the form of sponsorship where she can network with current and prospective families while helping to further equal access to education for rural and remote students. The Winchester Foundation has been a wonderful supporter of ICPA for the last 5 years by being a major sponsor. The final personal touch that Mrs Neilson adds to the support offered to families is via her personal and genuine interest in following the children's progress via regular individual correspondence with bursary recipients. She enjoys celebrating the success and growth of recipients. It is a privilege for families to share their successes with her and foster her connection to rural and remote children.

***The certificate of appreciation is but a small token to a very well deserving lady, thank you Mrs Beryl Nielson.***



ICPA Qld Treasurer, Amanda Clark, and ICPA Qld Publicity Officer, Melissa Illand met up with Mrs Nielson at the Winchester Day during the school holidays



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# Downlands College

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YEARS 4-12 | COEDUCATIONAL | INDEPENDENT | CATHOLIC | DAY & BOARDING



# 2019 ICPA CONFERENCE



## The 48th ICPA Qld conference was held in Charters Towers

on the 5th & 6th of June. Hosted by the wonderful Charters Towers branch, and led by convener Rebecca Burge, it was a spectacular success that not only saw robust discussion of rural and remote education, but

also showcased the great community of Charters Towers and the surrounding districts. Congratulations must go to the Convening Committee for their hard work and smiling faces throughout the entire event.



*The fantastic Charters Towers branch convening committee*

The event began on Tuesday evening when, after a day of travelling from near and far, delegates and guests gathered at the Stock Exchange arcade for for the **Pre-Conference Dinner**. A fantastic, casual evening catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.







# 2019 ICPA CONFERENCE







ICPA QLD 48th ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE 2019  
HOSTED BY CHARTERS TOWERS  
"A WORLD OF CONNECTIONS"  
5th and 6th June 2019



A very special thanks to all of our wonderful sponsors for your generous support. The organisations and businesses sponsoring this event are helping children in remote regions of Australia to have access to quality education, equal to that of children growing up in major centres.

### DIAMOND SPONSORS



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### BRONZE SPONSORS





# 2019 ICPA CONFERENCE

Conference proceedings got under way early on Wednesday morning with president Tammie Irons welcoming everyone to the two day event. The national anthem was beautifully performed by the All Souls and St Gabriels School choir and delegates and guests were welcomed to Charters Towers by Mayor, Cr Liz Schmidt. The 2019 Queensland State Conference was then officially opened by His Excellency the Honourable Paul De Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland.

Motions were presented and debated over the course of each day and there were updates from some of our conference guests. Ryan Williams, **nbn Local**, was on hand to give conference an update on all things nbn and Skymuster. Ryan has cultivated a fantastic working relationship with ICPA Qld over the last three years and continues to take onboard advice and feedback from members.

**Telstra's** Rachel Cliffe, Regional General Manager Nth Qld joined conference to talk about how Telstra can assist their rural and regional customers. There was discussion on the dedicated call centre established for rural customers which has 150 staff in Adelaide and Townsville and also takes the 1800 RADIO numbers which are automatically sent to Townsville. This call centre has been in operation for 12 months and Telstra is looking for more feedback.



Daniel Grenne and Rachel Cliffe from Telstra at their trade display

At the end of last year we saw great upheaval in the proposed closing of

the **Queensland Agricultural Colleges**. Alison Mobbs, Director QATC Transition Project was at conference and updated members on the discussions taking place in this space. To keep up to date with this transition visit <https://rdafcw.com.au/news/the-department-of-agriculture-and-fisheries-qatc-transition-project-management-office-stakeholder-update-3-june-2019/>

Conference was also addressed by Jacqueline Wilson, Director of the **Qld Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA)**. Ms Wilson spoke about the new ATAR system for senior schooling in Queensland and took questions from the floor. For information regarding the ATAR system you can visit <https://www.qtac.edu.au/atar-my-path/atar>

There was also a very special ICPA Certificate of Appreciation given to Mrs Beryl Nielson of the **Winchester Foundation** (see separate article to read about Mrs Nielson's wonderful contribution to rural students and ICPA).

Early Thursday morning delegates convened for the **Annual General Meeting of ICPA Qld Inc.** With 32 branches in attendance the new council for 2019/2020 was elected by the members:

**President** Tammie Irons, **Vice President** Louise Martin, **Vice President** Wendy Henning, **Secretary** Kelly Ostwald, **Treasurer** Amanda Clark, **Assistant Secretary** Kim Donaldson, **Publicity Officer** Melissa Illand, and **councillors** Louise Winton, Jessie Persse, Michelle Freshwater, Kate Bradshaw, Kylie Camp, Sonia Spurdle and Kasie Scott.

With wonderful financial support from **Drought Angels** ICPA was



Dean Barnett, Christine Barnett and Michael Draper representing Drought Angels - sponsors of the Q&A Panel



# 2019 ICPA CONFERENCE



Q&A Panelists Nigel Fairbairn, Montana Spurdle, Fleur Anderson, Fiona O'Loughlin, Jade Lord, Charlie McKillop and Susan Harrison showing off their #iamicpa skills

able to gather a fantastic cross section of people to sit on a Q&A Panel to discuss Taking Care of Yourself so You Can Take Care of Your Children. This Q&A Session had a focus on member's wellbeing and self-care, something that is extremely important in times of upheaval, such as during drought or in the recent flood events. It is apt that a charity such as Drought Angels, who have stood up to ensure rural and remote families have been cared for and supported during this tumultuous time, made this event possible. Drought Angels also gifted every member attending a pamper pack that they could take home to enjoy. ICPA Qld extends a very heartfelt thank you for the support given to our conference.

Also speaking to conference attendees was Linda Eager, from the Kelvin Grove **Teacher Education Centre of Excellence (KGTECE)**. The KGTECE is based at Kelvin Grove State College and works closely with the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and aims to improve teacher preparation in Prep to Year 12 with exposure to rural or remote placements. The program is targeted at high quality final year preservice teachers who are interested in working in a Queensland state school with a Transfer Rating of TR4 to TR7.

Thanks also to the Department of

Education who brought along their tech team to provide support to members over the two days of conference. A big thank you to these guys who sorted out 14 sick laptops, connected a car kit and answered all our questions relating to digital technology.

*With thanks to Miranda Ryan, Mary Killeen, Kate Bradshaw and Melissa Illand for supplying photos from conference*



State Councillor Kelly Ostwald with Linda Eager, Kelvin Grove Teacher Education Centre of Excellence





# 2019 ICPA CONFERENCE





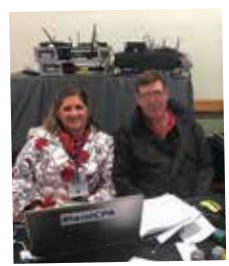
# 2019 ICPA CONFERENCE







# 2019 ICPA CONFERENCE





# 2019 ICPA CONFERENCE

Of course, the **Conference Dinner** was also a highlight of the week. Held on Wednesday evening at the Charters Towers School of Distance Education guests were entertained all evening. Starting with a wonderful performance from the Japanese Drummers prior to dinner and then belly-laugh entertainment from Melbourne comedian Fiona O'Loughlin.







# 2019 ICPA CONFERENCE





# 2019 ICPA CONFERENCE



L-R Kelly Ostwald, Jessie Persse, Louise Winten, Kate Bradshaw, Kasie Scott, Tammie Irons, Amanda Clark, Melissa Iland, Sonia Spurdle, Michelle Freshwater, Louise Martin, Wending Henning, Kim Donaldson

## THE TEAM FOR 2019

Introducing your ICPA Qld representatives, the team who will take your concerns to the people who need to hear about it. This year State Council is made up of 14 dedicated and driven women who will spend the next twelve months lobbying the motions carried at conference.

*Tammie Irons ~ President*

*Louise Martin ~ Vice President*

*Wendy Henning ~ Vice President*

*Kelly Ostwald ~ Secretary*

*Amanda Clark ~ Treasurer*

*Kim Donaldson ~ Assistant Secretary*

*Melissa Iland ~ Publicity Officer*

*Michelle Freshwater ~ councillor*

*Kate Bradshaw ~ councillor*

*Louise Winten ~ councillor*

*Jessie Persse ~ councillor*

*Kasie Scott ~ councillor*

*Sonia Spurdle ~ councillor*

*Kylie Camp ~ councillor*

## HELLO TO...

This year three new team members were welcomed to state council

**Amanda Clark** - Amanda lives on a family run cattle property south of Charters Towers (Belyando/Mt Coolon branch) with her husband and three children. Amanda & Mick have 3 children - the two oldest girls are completing their secondary education at boarding school in Townsville while the youngest boy is doing primary school through the Charters Towers School of Distance Education (and Amanda is teaching him). Amanda has been involved with ICPA at a branch level where she was secretary of the Belyando/Mt Coolon branch for many years and she is also an integral part of the Clermont ICPA Sports Camp committee.



**Kasie Scott** - Kasie lives 90km from Clermont on a family run cattle and grain property and joined ICPA 6 years ago as a member of the Clermont branch. Kasie and her husband Josh have 6 children aged between 15 and 3 - one at boarding school in Townsville, one at high school in Clermont, three doing school of the air through Charters Towers SDE and her baby has just turned 3. Kasie is treasurer of the Clermont ICPA branch and also of the local Twin Hills campdraft committee.

**Sonia Spurdle** - Sonia Spurdle is mother to four girls - two of them living in Townsville with their husbands and two still enrolled with Charters Towers SDE, in year 9 and 12. She, alongside her husband Graham, live on a cattle property 190 km South West of Charters Towers. Sonia wears many caps including ICPA Charters Towers Treasurer, CTSDE P & C Treasurer, Rabobank Client Councillor NQ and now ICPA State Councillor. She loves being heavily involved in the fundraising for her local branch and has a passion to take that next step to stand up and fight for everything that rural education deserves.

## GOODBYE TO...

There were also four state councillors who stepped down at conference. A fond farewell to **Kim Hughes, Gillian Semple, Anna Appleton and Susan Bellingham**. Below are the words delivered at conference to these wonderful ladies.

**Anna** - Anna stepped onto State Council in 2016 at Alpha Conference and has truly placed her stamp on the treasurer's position, overseeing St George, Winton and Charters Towers conferences. As the old saying goes, ask a busy person! During her time as Qld

State Treasurer for ICPA Anna has had 4 beautiful girls in the schoolroom, graduated with a degree in Business and Marketing, is a founding partner in the online network Teach Outback, is secretary of the Alpha Race club and treasurer of the Alpha ICPA branch, all while being involved in running a family business. And in her spare time Anna has taken the state council books online and has overseen the transition of the online memberships with federal council.

Thank you Anna, it has been great working with you and we wish you all the best with your many other roles.

*Presented by Louise Winten*

**Susan Bellingham** - I have the privilege to thank and farewell our good friend and councillor Susi Bellingham. Susi was an advocate for equitable education long before she joined the state council team and having her voice within state council has been



New ICPA State Council members Kasie Scott, Amanda Clark & Sonia Spurdle

# 2019 ICPA CONFERENCE



*Retiring state councillors Susan Bellingham, Anna Appleton, Kim Hughes & Gillian Semple ~ thank you ladies for your wonderful contribution to ICPA Qld*

wonderful. She has worked on the financial assistance portfolio since she arrived on council in 2017 at St George. As portfolio leader in financial assistance, with her team, she has gathered great information which assists with the continued LAFHAS lobby. Susi's passion for equity in education started when her children's education journey began, in the paddock, in a caravan, doing distance education. Susi has this year joined the empty nest club with her youngest heading off to boarding school and feels now is the time to leave state council and focus on her business and rapidly growing up family. We thank Susi for her strong voice for rural and remote kids and wish her well in the next chapter.

*Presented by Melissa Iland*

**Gillian Semple** - I first met Gillian at a mini-school when she had just moved to Richmond many years ago. She was head to toe RM Williams, and I was going through an alternate stage and had a toe ring and piercing in my upper ear. She wanted my quiche recipe, and the rest, as they say, is history.

As with many towns, the hub of the social circle is the ICPA Branch, so of course, this is where we were drawn. We found ourselves both signing up to be delegates for the 2011 Rocky Conference. It was at this Conference that I had a rush of blood and was co-opted to join the State Council team. As this was unexpected, we had to change our travel plans so I could attend the post conference meeting. Gillian was so supportive. She rang the airline and rebooked our flights, she found the address to the post conference meeting, and she made sure I got there. She was braving the wilderness with me, and I knew then that she was a unique human being.

On our way home from Rocky, as we re-hashed the Conference and all things ICPA, Gillian said – 'I reckon I could make a difference you know!' We were pulled up at the BP servo in Charters Towers. The following year Gillian took on the role of Publicity Officer.

This started our association with State Council. Gillian was PO for 4 years, and in that time, she took the public profile of the

organisation to the next level. A highlight of her time as PO was the campaign launch of the 'Life of a Country Kid' with Josh Arnold at the Townsville Conference in 2014. Her gifted writing ability meant she could write a seriously good Media Release, and she was constantly finding ways she could improve how she did things for the organisation.

By 2015 Gillian began to have itchy feet. The Secretary's position was becoming available in 2016, and, in true Gillian style, she decided that maybe she could 'give that a go'! Ironically, I had taken on the President's role the year before, so we now found ourselves strapped tightly in the driver and passenger seats of a big tanker that we weren't quite sure how to manoeuvre, but with a great team behind us, we were willing to give it our best shot!

Working so closely with Gillian over the last few years it has been such a pleasure to see her growth. Her commitment to ICPA is unwavering. Maintaining the professionalism and standing of the organisation, all the while ensuring her team, and all ICPA members are nurtured and supported, has been Gillian's MO. Coupled with her exceptional efficiency and amazing knowledge of how things are done, Gillian has become an extremely stabilising and calming influence in this team.

In true Gillian style, she's left nothing in the tank. She'll skid out of the Towers and leave rubber on the road, on to her next adventure, leaving a well-oiled machine in her wake. Job done.....and Oh what a difference she made!!

*Presented by Kim Hughes*



# A NOTE FROM nbn™



## NBN™ FIXED WIRELESS MADE EASY

An nbn™ Fixed Wireless connection uses data transmitted over radio signals to connect a premises to the nbn™ broadband access network. Data travels from a transmission tower located as far as 14 kilometres, to an nbn™ outdoor antenna that has been fitted to the premises by an approved nbn™ installer.

### **Standard install process**

The first step is to place an order for an nbn™ powered plan with the phone and internet provider of your choice. The provider will make an appointment for an nbn™ installer to attend the premises and test for a Fixed Wireless signal. Once the signal is acquired, the installer may put the nbn™ outdoor antenna on the roof of the main premises, under the eaves or on a wall. Thirty metres of cabling is allowed for by NBN Co in a standard install process.

### **Non-standard install process**

If the installer is unable to receive a suitable Fixed Wireless signal at your main premises, they will check whether one can be received at another appropriate location on your property. NBN Co advises customers to speak with their installer about options for non-standard installs.

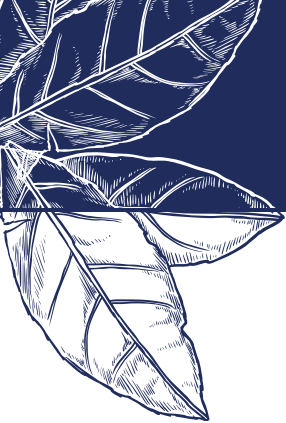
If a suitable signal can be located, your installer will advise whether a non-standard install may be possible, using up to 100 metres of cabling. For example, the nbn™ outdoor antenna can be put on powered buildings (like a shed or garage) close to the main premises, with the nbn™ connection box inside the same building. It may also be

possible for the outdoor antenna to be installed on a pole with the cable run through a trench to the main premises.

All non-standard installations, including the construction of any poles and associated trenching, must be carried out by an nbn™ approved installer. It's important to note that nbn will not be able to install nbn™ supplied Fixed Wireless equipment on any resident-provided, non-standard structure. It is not possible for nbn to determine whether infrastructure supplied or organised by a resident meets the necessary requirements. A non-standard installation will typically require a second appointment.

**For more information, visit**  
**<https://www2.nbnco.com.au/residential/learn/network-technology/fixed-wireless-explained>**





# BRANCH BITES

Once again our wonderful catering whiz, Lisa Southern, has put together a great selection of recipes to try during the cooler months. Also included is a special recipe from Fiona Owens (Yaraka/Isisford branch) which was served at Ferbberg House, the residence of the Governor of Queensland.

## FRYING PAN LASAGNE

500g jar tomato pasta sauce (garlic & red wine flavour is nice)	1 tblspn olive oil Salt & Pepper	250g dried instant lasagne sheets (broken into large pieces)
500g beef mince	400g can diced tomatoes	300ml thickened cream
1 onion finely chopped	2 cups water	½ cup grated parmesan cheese
1 tspn dried Italian herbs	1 cup grated mozzarella	

1. Heat oil in large deep oven proof frying pan over a medium heat. Add mince, onion and herbs - cook stirring to break up the mince until browned.
2. Add sauce, tomatoes and water, then season with salt and pepper. Add pasta. Bring to the boil and simmer covered for 10 mins. Take off lid and cook a further 5 mins or until pasta is cooked and sauce is slightly thickened. Remove from heat.
3. Combine cream and parmesan cheese in a jug. Pour over the pasta in the pan and sprinkle with mozzarella.
4. Cook in a hot oven (200C) for 15 – 20 mins. Allow to stand for 5 mins before serving.
5. Serve with a green salad.



## MEXICAN QUICHE

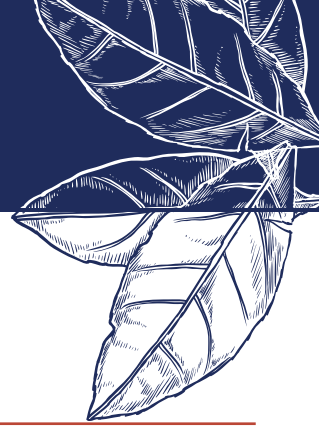
Chorizo diced	Taco seasoning mix	Red Onion diced
Capsicum diced	Butternut pumpkin cubed	Thyme
Kale leaves	Frozen shortcrust pastry	6 eggs
¾ cup cream	¾ cup grated parmesan cheese	

1. Preheat oven to 180C.
2. Grease flan pan or quiche dish & line base & sides of dish with pastry. Allow sufficient pastry to sit over the edges to allow for shrinkage. Prick base with a fork.
3. Saute chorizo, red onion & capsicum in frying pan and add taco seasoning mix for flavour. Continue to cook lightly making sure you have a good coating. Add to pastry base with pumpkin.
4. Mix together eggs, cream and cheese in a large bowl till well combined. Pour over vegetables. Top with kale leaves. Place in oven for 45 mins or until pastry is golden and egg mix has risen.
5. Top with thyme and serve with a dollop of sour cream and guacamole.





# BRANCH BITES



## OLD STYLE STEAMED SYRUP PUDDING

2 oz butter	½ cup sugar	1 egg
1 cup SR Flour	½ cup milk	2 tblspn syrup

1. Beat together butter and sugar.
2. Add egg and beat well.
3. Add flour and milk alternately until combined.
4. Place syrup in the bottom of a steamer tin and place mixture on top.
5. Steam for 1 ½ - 2 hrs.
6. Serve with custard and cream.



## OUTBACK SLICE RECIPE

180g Olive Oil Spread	½ cup sugar	1 cup plain flour
½ cup wholemeal flour	2 teaspoons Allspice	2 eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup cooked mashed pumpkin	1 cup crushed pineapple, drained	
¾ cup pecans OR macadamias OR other nuts, chopped.	¾ cup grated fresh ginger OR 2 teaspoons ground ginger – can be varied according to taste	

1. Cream olive oil spread and sugar until fluffy
2. Combine the flours and spices and fold in
3. Add pumpkin, pineapple, ginger and nuts
4. Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour

## POTATO & LEEK SOUP

1/4 cup oil	1 onion (diced)	1/2 cup thickened cream
700g potatoes	2 leeks (slice thinly)	5 cups vegetable or chicken stock
1 garlic glove (minced garlic works fine)	Salt & pepper to season	

1. Heat oil in large saucepan and cook onion and garlic until onion is soft
2. Add potato and leek and cook stirring until leek softens
3. Add stock and bring to the boil. Reduce heat and gently boil for approx 20 minutes or until potato is soft.
4. Blend soup mixture.
5. Add the cream and stir over low heat - season with salt and pepper.





## AROUND THE RIDGES

- **20 September 2019**  
Last Day Term 3 Qld State Schools
- **7 October 2019**  
Queens Birthday Public Holiday
- **8 October 2019**  
First Day Term 4 Qld State Schools
- **1 November 2019**  
News & Views deadline
- **15 November 2019**  
Last Day School for Year 12 Students
- **13 December 2019**  
Last Day Term 4 Qld State Schools
- **28 January 2020**  
First day term 1 Qld State Schools
- **3 April 2020**  
Last day term 1 Qld State Schools
- **20 April 2020**  
First day term 2 Qld State Schools
- **9 & 10 June 2020**  
ICPA Qld Conference Roma
- **26 June 2020**  
Last day term 2 Qld State Schools
- **13 July 2020**  
First day term 3 Qld State Schools
- **18 September 2020**  
Last day term 3 Qld State Schools
- **6 October 2020**  
First day term 4 Qld State Schools
- **20 November 2020**  
Last day school for year 12 students
- **11 December 2020**  
Last day term 4 Qld State Schools

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## ICPA QLD CONFERENCE 2020

At conference this year the wonderful Roma Branch put up their hand to host the 2020 ICPA Qld state conference. Mark it in your diaries **#iamICPA**





# CONVERSATIONS WITH:

## Hannah Christensen

Hannah Christensen is project officer and physiotherapist working for Queensland Health in the Queensland Child and Youth Clinical Network (QCYCN) team. Included with this edition of News & Views is a fantastic parent resource "Children Starting School in Rural and Remote Queensland" (orange book) that Hannah encourages all parents of young children to read through. The orange book was designed by parents of the ICPA in collaboration with the QCYCN.

It was great to have Hannah join us for her first ICPA Qld conference this year in Charters Towers. ICPA has a new friend in Hannah.

### Home to me...

is where my family and my Labrador Marley is, which is currently Brisbane, but my heart is still in the country.

### My favourite part of what I do ...

is supporting Queensland Health services in rural and remote areas to deliver the highest quality care in child development so that families do not need to travel to receive these services.

### Places I have worked ...

recently is in Roma as a physiotherapist for the last three years. I have also worked at the Mater Hospital and Queensland children's hospital.

### The best part of going to ICPA Qld conference ...

was hearing the voices of parents and school representatives about real matters and understanding the value of what the orange book has to offer in answering developmental questions.

### If I had one piece of advice to give ...

it would be for all parents with kids starting school please read and use the orange book. This is designed to help parents: identify if your child may require developmental support prior to school, provides assistance for parents to ask for the right information from health professionals and outlines who might provide assistance for their child with developmental difficulties.







# NEWS and Views

If undelivered return to :  
ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS  
ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND INC  
Anna Appleton  
"Islay Plains" Private Bag 9007,  
Alpha Qld 4724  
Print Post Approved PP100002576

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