

NEWS

and Views



Downlands College

TOOWOOMBA QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

**2021 Academic, All-Rounder and
Performing Arts Scholarships**

Applications close 10 February 2020



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

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NEWS and Views

Front Cover Photo:

Levi O'Sullivan, grade one student at Charters Towers SDE, and his chook; photo taken by Amelia Kenny

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1 July • 1 November

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers

Well an unexpected start to 2020 with COVID-19 coming to visit! With so much information already floating about I'll just touch on things that are directly related to ICPA. Sadly, the annual ICPA Qld conference has been postponed. The conference has been rescheduled for the 20th/21st October 2020, still in Roma, and state council will keep everyone up-to-date as information comes to hand.

Many ICPA members are very well rehearsed in online learning, however state council have

produced a series of videos that share hints and tips for 'at home learning'. Visit the facebook page and check them out, may be pass them onto a friend who is experiencing this for the first time.

You'll also find included with this edition a fun home learning resource. The wonderful Rebecca Sparrow has kindly let us reproduce her list of well researched online and offline activities to keep kids busy and learning. Rebecca is an Australian author known for her best-selling books for teenage girls designed to help them navigate those tricky high school years. I'd recommend checking her out on social media, she has some fantastic resources available.

I wish you all the best as we negotiate our way through term 2. It definitely wasn't how any of us planned it, but right now I'm relishing in having my four children

home together. Although it's busy and squashy and there's plenty of frustration some days, it's not something we get to do very much any more so I'm seeing it as the silver lining to the dreaded COVID!

Until Next Time

Natalie

Natalie Kenny
Editor



MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS



PODCAST

Spot Family Podcast.

If you have a family, are a teacher, a health professional or are remotely interested in development, health, or learning, this is the podcast for you! The Spot Family Podcast cuts through the snake oil and deep dives into the science behind supporting children (and adults!) to reach their potential. So, if you're looking for tips, tricks and straight-forward tools to get there this is the podcast for you.



BOOK

The Resilience Project, by Hugh van Cuylenburg.

The book promotes Hugh's program, The Resilience Project, but along with the promotion of his program it tells stories of life, family struggle and general inspiration. It's a good opportunity to have conversations about being grateful and practicing mindfulness.



MOBILE APP

App: Borrow Box

This is a way to borrow books, for free, with your library membership. Has a large range of titles available for adults, young adults and children alike.



PODCAST

Motherland Australia.

Motherland shares real, raw and unbelievable stories of motherhood from ladies on the land. Each week a mum from somewhere in regional Australia shares her story including an honest account of what it's like raising kids in the country. You'll hear stories of true grit, resilience, grief and pure joy. Motherhood is the most life changing and transformative journey a woman can go through, and it's not always easy.



BOOK

The Dream Daughter, by Diane Chamberlain

A story that is about family, fantasy and love. A story following a mother on her journey to keep her child safe.



YOUTUBE

Art for Kids Hub.

Rob uploads new art lessons M-F, every week! Kids can follow along and learn how to draw plus other fun art lessons for kids.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Every cloud has a silver lining so remember that there will be no silver linings if there are no clouds." Anonymous

As I write this piece today, I sit here and still struggle to comprehend the enormity of the situation we face in our world today. It was only a couple of months ago that Covid-19 was being mentioned and at the time we had no concept of the situation we were about to be thrown into. Yet I can confidently say that I have witnessed the silver linings, and I hope too that I have even been a part of somebody else's silver lining (I did donate toilet paper to a stranger in the shopping centre!) Acts of kindness are everywhere as long as we choose to see them, and you have to admit there are some very entertaining memes and videos coming out of the internet as a result of isolation and boredom!

State Council certainly didn't find the virus amusing during our recent delegation to Brisbane in March. Whilst we were able to have an extremely valuable face to face meeting, our meetings with Members of Parliament were either cancelled or moved to teleconference due

to lockdown. State Council had worked tirelessly to produce our new Position Statement as a key feature of our lobby in an election year, and it was disappointing to lose the opportunities to put it forward face to face.

Despite these hurdles, we put our best foot forward and led the way in teleconferencing procedures and skype meetings with Departmental representatives and some MP's. Conversations were positive and we appreciated them taking the time to meet with us despite the turmoil that was occurring within the Department at the time.

I would like to thank the Minister and the Department of Education for ensuring that ICPA Qld has remained an inclusive part of the consultation process throughout the difficulty of the past month. I can assure members that we have been kept abreast of issues involving our students on a daily basis and have had opportunity to put forward concerns personally with the Department and QCAA. These opportunities are highly valued and a result of the respectful relationship we share with all our stakeholders.

On behalf of Qld State Council, I would like to acknowledge the difficult position that Claire Butler (ICPA NSW President) and her State Council, along with the Moree Convening Committee, were placed in with their State Conference. What a heartbreaking decision to have to make under the circumstances and we understand that the disappointment for NSW members would have been overwhelming.

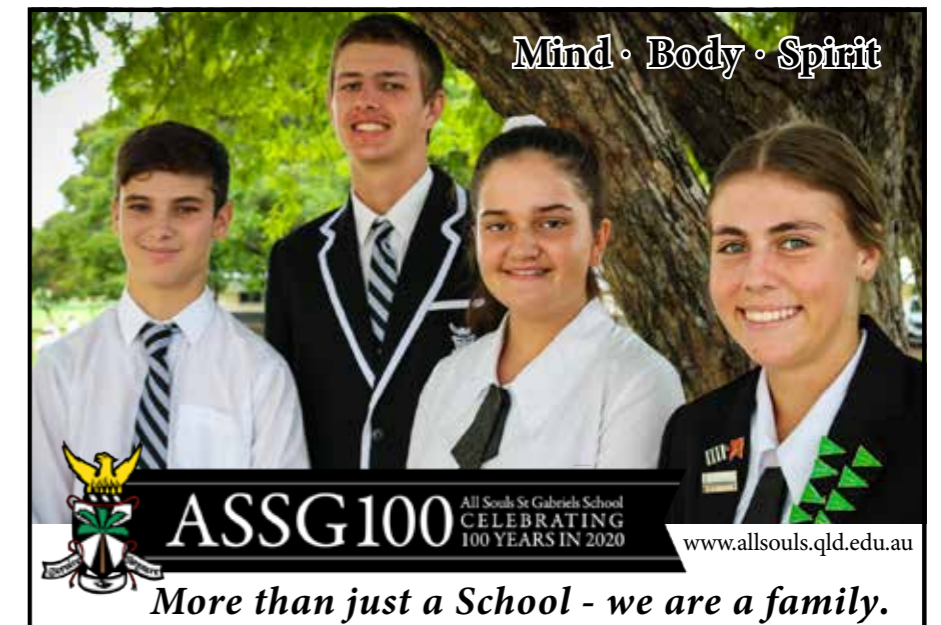
In light of NSW decision, we feel confident that we have made the best decision possible to postpone our own State Conference to 20/21 October forgoing any further complications. We sincerely appreciate the flexibility of the Roma Convening Committee in working with State Council around these changes and thank all those businesses and sponsors also impacted.

Even at a time when we struggle to see a brighter side to life, we have to believe that it is there. I am so happy that we've been able to show Queensland our brighter side through this difficult journey – we've been able to share some amazing tips and tricks for home learning from our members – the experts! It is our members who are currently leading the way in the education of children, and our members who I place the utmost faith in coming out of this as strong as before.

"When nothing is certain... anything is possible!" Mandy Hale

Tammie

Tammie
President



Celebrating 30 years providing rural Allied Health

Speech Pathology + Occupational Therapy

Experienced in providing assessment and individualised treatment programs for children who live rurally!

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- Understanding and using language
- Attention
- Social interaction
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- Stuttering
- Writing
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Based in: Charleville | Roma | St George | Goondiwindi | Dalby

www.vitalhealthqld.com.au 07 46224322

Telehealth available

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www.icpa.com.au



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WELL DESERVED LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTED

The heart of a volunteer is never measured in size but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others. Recently, our branch acknowledged a very special lady who has been involved in our community on various committees for the good part of half a century.

Margaret Maloney has been involved, and continues to be involved, in the Belyando / Mt Coolon ICPA Branch for the past 35 years.

Margaret joined ICPA in 1977, firstly as a member of the Bowen/ Collinsville branch and then as an inaugural member of the Belyando/Mt Coolon branch when it formed on 24th August 1984.

Over the years, Margaret has remained an important member of the Belyando/Mt Coolon branch taking on many executive positions including Vice President 1984 – 1985, Treasurer 1986 – 1992 and Publicity Officer 1994 – 2003. Margaret always encourages new families in the district to become members of our branch and takes younger members under her wing to offer guidance and support.

From the inception of the Belyando/ Mt Coolon branch, Margaret has and still continues to be an active member of the branch and always attends any fundraising activities,

from making delicious plum puddings for bring and buy stalls to catering for many different events. Margaret's tireless efforts at various functions assists our branch in holding many successful activities throughout the year. Margaret can always be relied upon to help. This kind of support is extremely valuable to our organisation.

Out of the goodness of Margaret's heart she has been helping in the kitchen with camp catering at the Clermont ICPA Sports Camp for over 15 years. Margaret has perfected the art of making scrambled eggs for over 150 people every morning and creating delicious smokos for the kitchen staff.

Margaret has attended many State & Federal conferences over the years travelling Australia wide including Adelaide, Broome, Broken Hill, Charters Towers, Clermont, Darwin, Longreach, Mackay, Townsville & Yeppoon. She has also assisted neighbouring ICPA branches along with other branch members, in the running of a State Conference in Mackay and Clermont. In 2014, Margaret also helped when the branch ran the Townsville State Conference.

Having home schooled her own four children through Distance education, Margaret is extremely passionate



Mrs Margaret Maloney presented with Life Membership of the Belyando/Mt Coolon branch

about lobbying for education equity for rural and remote students and is not afraid to stand up and say so at every opportunity. Although Margaret's children have all grown up and she is not actively involved in education at the moment she is keen to stay involved and fully supports the aim of ICPA – "Working together for equality of access to education for all students who live in rural and remote Australia".

Her tireless support and dedication at a Branch level ensure the Branch can assist both State and Federal ICPA to continue lobbying. For this, we believe Margaret's dedication, countless hours of volunteering and continued support of the Belyando/ Mt Coolon branch and ICPA in general, deserves recognition. On behalf of the Belyando/ Mt Coolon ICPA branch we are privileged to award Mrs Margaret Maloney, a most worthy recipient, a "Branch Life Membership".

Amanda Clark & Goscelyn Sullivan



Harry & Sue Shann, Lyndy & John Heelan, Margaret, Thelma Powell, Ros & Terry Kenny, and Marian Fletcher



Goscelyn Sullivan (branch secretary), Margaret Maloney, Marian Fletcher (branch life member) and Amanda Clark (ICPA Qld treasurer)



Mrs Patricia Mitchell OAM presenting retiring Secretary, Kaye Albrand with her life membership badge.

YARAKA ISISFORD BRANCH NEWS

The word unprecedented has been used a lot lately and it certainly does sum up the situation we are facing around the country. We're all very aware of the impacts this virus is having just on ICPA alone and given the circumstances, our Branch and the wider region is shaping up to be having a quiet and hopefully, healthy, year ahead.

Very fortunately and well before event restrictions came into place, the Yaraka Isisford Branch was able to host our highlight event for 2020, being our 40th Birthday celebration. Held at the Yaraka Hall on the 22nd February, it was a wonderful afternoon of festivities and atmosphere where past and present Branch Members shared stories on the achievements of the Branch. Attended by 80 people, those present heard from founding Branch Members, Mr Mike and Patricia Cobb and the State Patron of ICPA, Mrs Patricia Mitchell OAM. All spoke of the evolvement of ICPA over the years and the continued relevance and necessity of ICPA's work even after 4 decades.

After stepping down from the role of Secretary in 2019, Mrs Kaye Albrand was awarded with Life Membership during the gathering. Kaye, a member since 2001, dedicated 13 years of service in the role making her much deserved and worthy recipient of such an accolade. We again thank Kaye for her tireless and longstanding dedication to the Branch.

A very sincere and genuine thank you must be extended to the hardworking branch members and the wonderful catering ladies who worked behind the scenes to create such an enjoyable and momentous occasion. Happy 40th Birthday to Yaraka Isisford Branch – a wonderful achievement for one of most remote ICPA Branches.

At the beginning of the year we said farewell to a few member families including the Peterson and Mills family who have relocated from the area and to Des Deighton who has moved back to the coast. Thank you very much for your contributions to our Branch.



Cr Tony Martin, Dale Bignell - Isisford, Jon Karger - Yaraka & Ross McKinnon - Australia Day Ambassador



Cake Cutting for 40th Birthday L-R: Billy Edwards, Isisford with founding Branch Members Theresa and Mike Cobb

Despite having moved on, two of our former branch members received prestigious awards earlier in 2020 including Sam Peterson who was named LSOE School Captain for 2020 and to Jamie Mills who received the Isisford Junior Achievement Award on Australia Day. Congratulations also to Branch Member, Dale Bignell on receiving two awards during Australia Day Celebrations including Isisford Community Volunteer of the Year and Isisford Citizen of the Year for 2020.

Luckily, even though some families move on from our Branch, we are always very excited and pleased to welcome new members. So far in 2020 we extend a very warm welcome to Joe & Bel McKillop, Paul & Michelle Hockings and Louise Cameron. We look forward to your involvement with ICPA and our Branch. In closing, we wish all ICPA members and your families all the best in health and safety in the challenging times ahead.

Ingrid Miller - Publicity Officer



More can be learnt about Sumatran tigers with better search techniques

DON'T JUST GOOGLE IT!

Searching online has many educational benefits. For instance, one study found students who used advanced online search strategies also had higher grades at university.

But spending more time online does not guarantee better online skills. Instead, a student's ability to successfully search online increases with guidance and explicit instruction.

Young people tend to assume they are already competent searchers. Their teachers and parents often assume this too. This assumption, and the misguided belief that searching always results in learning, means much classroom practice focuses on searching to learn, rarely on learning to search.

Many teachers don't explicitly teach students how to search online. Instead, students often teach themselves and are reluctant to ask for assistance.

This does not result in students obtaining the skills they need.

For six years, I studied how young Australians use search engines. Both school students and home-schoolers (the nation's fastest growing educational cohort) showed some traits of online searching that aren't beneficial. For instance, both groups spent greater time on irrelevant websites than relevant ones and regularly quit searches before finding their desired information.

Here are three things young people should keep in mind to get the full benefits of searching online.

1. SEARCH FOR MORE THAN JUST ISOLATED FACTS

Young people should explore, synthesise and question information

on the internet, rather than just locating one thing and moving on.

Search engines offer endless educational opportunities but many students typically only search for isolated facts. This means they are no better off than they were 40 years ago with a print encyclopedia.

It's important for searchers to use different keywords and queries, multiple sites and search tabs (such as news and images).

Part of my (as yet unpublished) PhD research involved observing young people and their parents using a search engine for 20 minutes. In one (typical) observation, a home-school family type "How many endangered Sumatran Tigers are there" into Google. They enter a single website where they read a single sentence.

The parent writes this "answer" down and they begin the next (unrelated) topic – growing seeds.

The student could have learnt much more had they also searched for

- where Sumatra is
- why the tigers are endangered
- how people can help them.

I searched Google using the key words "Sumatran tigers" in quotation marks instead. The returned results offered me the ability to view National Geographic footage of the tigers and to chat live with an expert from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) about them.

Clicking the "news" tab with this same query provided current media stories, including on two tigers coming to an Australian wildlife park and on the effect of palm oil on the species. Small changes to search techniques can make a big difference to the educational benefits made available online.

2. SLOW DOWN

All too often we presume search can be a fast process. The home-school families in my study spent 90 seconds or less, on average, viewing each website and searched a new topic every four minutes.

Searching so quickly can mean

students don't write effective search queries or get the information they need. They may also not have enough time to consider search results and evaluate websites for accuracy and relevance.

My research confirmed young searchers frequently click on only the most prominent links and first websites returned, possibly trying to save time. This is problematic given the commercial environment where such positions can be bought and given children tend to take the accuracy of everything online for granted.

Fast search is not always problematic. Quickly locating facts means students can spend time on more challenging educational follow-up tasks – like analysing or categorising the facts. But this is only true if they first persist until they find the right information.

3. YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THE SEARCH, NOT GOOGLE

Young searchers frequently rely on search tools like Google's "Did you mean" function.

While students feel confident as searchers, my PhD research found they were more confident in Google itself. One year eight student explained: "I'm used to Google making the changes to look for me".

Such attitudes can mean students dismiss relevant keywords by automatically agreeing with the (sometimes incorrect) auto-correct or going on irrelevant tangents unknowingly.

Teaching students to choose websites based on domain name extensions can also help ensure they are in charge, not the search engine. The easily purchasable ".com", for example, denotes a commercial site while information on websites with a ".gov"(government) or ".edu" (education) domain name extension better assure quality information.

Search engines have great potential to provide new educational benefits, but we should be cautious of presuming this potential is actually a guarantee.

Contributed by Renee Morrison
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Teaching children to identify trustworthy news sources can help them avoid the effects of misinformation

THREE WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN THINK CRITICALLY ABOUT THE NEWS

Like adults, children use the news to learn about what's happening in the world. But the circulation of misinformation, such as the recent spread of fake news about COVID-19 (the disease caused by coronavirus), blurs our understanding of events and issues.

In 2017, we conducted the first nationally representative survey of how Australian children, aged eight to 16, consume news.

We found children as young as eight are interested in news. But there are few news media designed specifically for children in Australia.

The three national news programs for children are News Corporation's Kidsnews, an independent daily news podcast Squiz Kids and the ABC's longstanding Behind the News (BtN), which our research shows is popular with eight to 12 year olds.

Although children's news programs are important, safe and appealing, children are still exposed to other types of news. Our survey found 73% of children regularly consume the same news as their parents or guardians and 49% get news from social media sites, which increases with age.

Our survey also found only one third of young people felt they could distinguish fake from real news.

Here are three things you can do (whether you're a teacher or parent) to help children critically think about the news.

1. HELP THEM IDENTIFY RELIABLE NEWS SOURCES

In our research children considered a range of items – from breakfast morning television segments to

YouTube celebrity videos – as news. To help decide if a source is reliable they can ask the following questions:

is it clear who created this news? It's not possible to trust a source you don't know since you need to be able to be able to query the person or organisation about why and how they created the story

is this a straight presentation of the facts or does it include opinion? A fact is objective information, supported by evidence, and it can be checked to ensure it is right. Opinions are subjective thoughts about an issue nobody can prove are right. If opinions are presented as facts this is misleading

are the people essential to this story included? If a story makes claims about organisations or groups of people, they should be given the opportunity to reply to these claims.

There is a series of materials (www.abc.net.au/education/media-literacy/questioning-news/) from ABC Education can help children distinguish fact from fiction, including how to quickly identify fake videos and images. You may like to begin with their fun quiz (www.education.abc.net.au/res/media-literacy/fake-news/2018/index.html), which highlights how complicated it can be to identify real news from misinformation (for children 12+).

2. HELP THEM UNDERSTAND SOME MEDIA MAY EXPLOIT EMOTIONS

In our survey, 71% of young Australians said news often or sometimes upset them and 57% said it scared them. It's not all negative though, as 69% said news often or sometimes made them happy or hopeful and 48% said it motivated them to respond to the situation being reported.

Discussing how children feel about news can help them decide which programs are good for them and which they should avoid.

While it's natural for news about major events and issues to evoke emotions, sometimes people can also seek to exploit our emotional responses for their benefit. Research shows catchy, provocative and sensationalist news headlines are more likely to receive clicks online.

Media can trick you into having an emotional response by:

using sensationalist claims or headlines not supported by facts. These claims may say things like "The wonder herb that stops coronavirus!" or "Coronavirus spreading fast on Sydney trains!"

using emotive or dehumanising language when describing people (such as referring to asylum seekers as "queue jumpers") or

their ideas (calling them "idiotic") using a shocking or altered image (such as one that suggests a celebrity might be pregnant or in a new relationship when she is not).

You can also talk to children about some of the reasons people spread disinformation, such as:

- to influence how people will vote
- they may be racist, sexist, homophobic or wish to vilify people they do not like
- to discredit another person's or group of people's ideas to promote their own
- to create clickbait, which is a sensationalist statement designed to encourage people to click on it. This can make money for a website's owner if they include advertising, since they will be paid based on how many people see and click an advertisement.

3. DISCUSS HOW NEWS MEDIA TALK ABOUT DIFFERENT PEOPLE

In our survey, 38% of children said news does not treat people from different race and cultural backgrounds equally and 40% believed news does not treat men and women equally.

Parents and teachers can help children be on the lookout for stories where some people are represented in a denigrating way that does not present their ideas fairly. In these cases it's best to seek out other news sources to consider how they are reporting the story.

For instance, racist information has been presented as news in relation to coronavirus. Some sites claimed you could get it from eating Chinese food while others promoted the notion of it being a bioweapon made by China or the US.

This kind of misinformation contributes to discrimination.

In Australia people of Chinese heritage have experienced racist attacks while many Australians have now stopped eating at Chinese restaurants.

There is a short ABC sci-fi drama (www.abc.net.au/education/media-literacy/bias/10209092) that helps children aged 12 and older recognise media bias.



Discussing what children see in the news can help build their critical thinking skills

Trustworthy news is critical to society. We rely on it to help us make decisions about who to vote for, how we feel about events or other people, and how to manage aspects of our lives like our finances and health.

Identifying misinformation in the digital age is a challenge for everyone. As media literacy researchers, we have found listening to children's experiences is a valuable starting point for developing their critical literacy.

Contributed by
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Rebecca Benham, Jean Benham and Harriet Chambers

VITAL HEALTH CELEBRATES 30 YEARS IN RURAL ALLIED HEALTH

What started 30 years ago as a one-woman-show, has developed into a multi-generational family business that proudly provides local Physiotherapists, Speech Pathologists, Occupational therapists, Dieticians, Exercise Physiologists and most recently Psychologists in towns all across rural Queensland and parts of rural New South Wales.

Vital Health's story begins in 1990 when Jean Benham, a young physiotherapist from Bymount, living in Roma, had a vision of providing physiotherapy services to the west. It was then that Jean opened her original physio practice which delivered a standard of service that previously had only been accessible in the big cities.

The more Jean worked with her clients, the more she understood the limitations of working as a sole practitioner. Although her patients were receiving quality physiotherapy, they still had to travel east for other allied services such as dietetics, exercise physiology, speech pathology and occupational therapy. The solution was simple, her small practice had to expand in order for the rural communities to have access to the same services as Toowoomba and Brisbane. In short - Vital Health was born.

In more recent years, with the commitment and expertise of a number of passionate team members, as well as the contribution of many local families, Vital Health have



Celebrating 30 years of Vital Health

opened further clinics in Dalby, Charleville, Inverell, St George, Goondiwindi and Kingaroy so that this integrated approach to treatment can be accessed on a permanent basis for rural and remote families from further afield. Vital Health also now provides a pathway for young professionals to grow in their field and share a passion for rural health and community engagement.

Jean's eldest daughter, Harriet Chambers, is now a Senior

speech pathologist, who has returned home to be based in Roma. Harriet is one of a number of young professional mums who work for Vital Health. She mentions the similarities to her mum saying jokingly "I never thought in a million years I would be travelling around the country side with a toddler in the backseat like she had" Harriet continues "I suppose you could say I inherited her passion." She went on to explain that "It's been my mum's life-long goal to ensure that rural and remote families have access to good quality health services... Being from the bush we understand how difficult it can be."

In celebration of our 30th anniversary, keep an eye on Vital Health's social media platforms, there will be spotlights on many of the local families, and communities.

Contact the Charleville or Roma office to book an appointment or to find out how the local teams are able to support you or your family.



TALWOOD BRANCH OFFERS BURSARIES

The Talwood Branch offered \$500 bursaries to two lucky students in the area that were going to high school in 2020. The names of the six applicants were put into a hat and drawn on the night of the Talwood Christmas Tree in December. Charlotte Luhrs, Mungindi and Bonnie Ladner, "Goolarie", Lundavra were the two students who received bursaries.

We wish these students all the best as they embark on their secondary school journey.



Charlotte Luhrs with Jocelyn Freeman, Talwood branch secretary, at the Talwood Christmas Tree



Bonnie Ladner with pet pig

TAROOM/WANDOAN BRANCH UPDATE

2019 saw another round of students from Taroom Wandoan graduate from their respective schools.

Abbey Staines graduated from Fairholme College Toowoomba. Abbeyhere with her parents Miffy and Ian Staines at her Valedictory dinner. Abbey is working at Anna Plains in WA below Broome. She has deferred from UNE where she was accepted to do nursing.

Angus Golden along with his mum and dad Stuart and Naomi Golden, attending the final

Churchie Goodwin House dinner. Angus is currently working at Brightlands Station, Cloncurry QLD for the McDonald family (MDH)

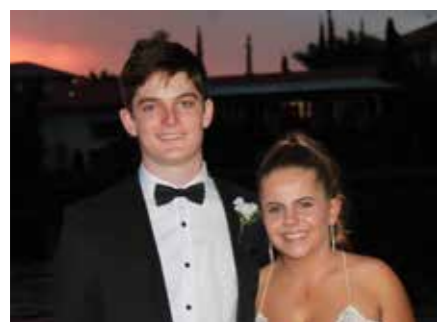
Ben Stuart from Taroom completed year 12 at The Southport School in 2019 his formal partner is Emily Waters (Bell) who completed year 12 at the Glennie School in 2019. Ben is currently on a gap year working for MDH on "Chatsworth Station" Boulia and plans to attend University in 2021. Emily is currently studying Agriculture and Business at UNE in Armidale.

Jane Thornton completed Year 12 at Glennie School Toowoomba. Jane was partnered by Peter Welsh to her formal, she is taking a Gap year Working for her parents at Morven during 2020.

Peter Welsh with parents Rachael and Matthew Welsh Taoom on his final day at Toowoomba Grammar School. Peter has gone on to do an apprenticeship Boiler Maker in manufacturing with Gessner Industries Toowoomba QLD.



Abbey Staines at her valedictory dinner with parents Miffy & Ian Staines



Ben Stuart & Emily Waters at the TSS formal



Angus Golden with his parents Stuart & Naomi attending the Churchie Goodwin House dinner



Peter Welsh with Parents Rachael & Matthew on his last day at Toowoomba Grammar



Jane Thornton & Peter Welsh at Glennie School formal

Delegation SNAPSHOT

ICPA Qld State Council experienced quite a different looking delegation in mid-March as we hit Brisbane at the onset of Covid-19. In the few days we were there, Parliament House went into lockdown and many of our scheduled meetings were either cancelled or transferred to teleconference. Whilst it was disappointing to lose the impact of a face to face meeting, we were able to continue with a number of crucial meetings as well as enjoy our own State Council face to face meeting.

We would like to issue a huge thank you to the Kelvin Grove Teacher Education Centre for Excellence (KGTECE – Rural and Remote) who allowed us to base ourselves there for a day of virtual Skype meetings with State Schools, to Carmel Nash (Catholic School Parents Qld) for again extending us the hospitality associated with using their meeting room for our face to face and to all those who met with us under the unprecedented circumstances we all found ourselves in that week!

SCHOOLS

There has been an update of the Department of Education's Behaviour Management Review. Updates involve student discipline procedure (focused on positive behaviour as well as disciplinary actions), the student Code of Conduct, and the procedures around restrictive practices. Principals

will have the full school year to work through this new program with their school community.

ICPA Qld is closely monitoring the dynamic school environment given the evolving COVID-19 situation in Queensland and Australia. We are communicating with relevant bodies on a daily basis and responding to any situations which affect our members directly.

TEACHER EDUCATION

State Council met with multiple divisions of State Schools and were able to generate discussion regarding a minimum standard of rental housing for those teachers in rural and remote areas who are placed into private rentals due to lack of DoE housing.

ICPA Qld remains invested in ensuring the continuity of a program for preservice teachers at universities who have identified rural and remote teaching as their first preference upon graduation. The Kelvin Grove Teacher Education Centre for Excellence (KGTECE – Rural and Remote) had provided a program over the past few years with great success, however have been slated to cease at the end of 2020.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

The 7 Schools of Distance Education are working together to update all curriculum including eTeach to version 8. The schools hope to have this ready to deliver by 2021. Brisbane



Meeting with Agforce Qld L-R Sonia Spurdle, Dr Dale Miller, Peter Smith, Louise Martin, Cam Parker & Elisa Westmoreland

School of Distance Education is leading the rewrite of the prep curriculum which will be rolled out in all SDE's next year.

In regard to overcrowding issues within SDE's, ICPA Queensland have been assured that there is plenty of work going on behind the scenes in getting plans, reports, audits and data together to progress this matter and find a solution.

TRAVEL

Whilst there is still no progression around the issue of calculation Conveyance Allowance from the home garage, we are encouraged that Translink are seeking more data and supporting cases from ICPA.

Clarification around codes for rural bus routes and information on conveyance allowance criteria.

SPECIFIC NEEDS

The Specific Needs portfolio met with the Disability and Inclusion Branch of the Department via Zoom. Council's priority was ensuring our students with specific needs were considered in school's planning for the possibility of remote learning. We were assured materials were being produced to assist schools and students in this scenario.

The telehealth trial was also discussed and the results have been very positive. The department will investigate rolling telehealth out across the state. It was also reiterated that Catholic and Independent Schools can access the Reading Hub once it goes online. This is great news for all rural and remote students.

CURRICULUM

ICPA Qld met with QCAA and were assured that no student studying as a part of the new QCE system will be disadvantaged in the current environment of Covid-19.

QCAA provided a leaflet detailing the links to agriculture within the Australian Curriculum which is also available on their website - https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/aciq/science/teaching/aciq_ag_ed_primary_prod.pdf

Conversations around Agriculture in Curriculum were also held with Independent Schools Qld and Qld Catholic Education Commission.

COMMUNICATIONS

Unfortunately, our meetings with Telstra, nbn and The Education Department were cancelled at delegations. However, we continue to work closely with all sectors in ensuring our rural and remote students are being fairly represented and not forgotten during these extraordinary times. Nbn and Telstra have been very generous with extra data, unmetered sites and extra download in preparation for on line learning.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

State Councillors met with the Early Childhood Community Engagement team and discussed funding for Play Based Mobile Kindergartens, the continuing rollout of State Delivered Kindergartens and focusing on the impact to their communities and Transition Statements going to an online portal able to be uploaded by the incoming Principal (with parental consent). We also

met with the eKindy team who were able to share a draft re-write of the learning materials using the One Note platform, which is available to all through DoE Microsoft 365 licensing.

TERTIARY, TRADE & TRAINING

A very informative discussion was held with TAFE Qld around the Discover My Career Profiling, degree courses which are available, Trade Tasters for Year 10 students, the Agriculture Centre of Excellence (Toowoomba) and enrolment numbers in the South West region for 2020 being over 1100.

Unfortunately our meeting with VETiS was unable to proceed, however the TTT portfolio are continuing to maintain contact regarding any updates they may have with this program also being affected by the Covid 19 crisis.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Due to the impact of COVID-19 upon recent delegations, the ability to progress our advocacy on financial assistance matters, notably LAFHAS, was severely hampered. However, we do continue to raise this matter, as often as opportunity arises and it is one of the core tenets within our Position Statement which we are sending to politicians this election year. Please be assured that this issue remains at the forefront of Council advocacy.



Catching up with Outback Futures L-R Selena Gomersell, Michelle Freshwater, Kate Bradshaw, Sonia Spurdle and Pam Seymour



Tammie & Wendy meeting with the Independent Schools Qld



Wendy Henning, Jessie Persse, Kasie Scott on zoom with Yvonne Ries, Director Education (QCEC) and in person with Carmel Elliot.



Tammie Irons & Mel Bennet discussing teacher attraction and retention



Louise Martin, Melissa Iland & Kasie Scott meeting with the e-Kindy team from BSDE, Cath O'Connor & Bec Hurwood



QCAA team Kathryn Tully, Jo Gordon, Janis McDermott and Tim Roberts meeting with Tammie Irons, Wendy Henning and Kasie Scott



Australian Boarding Schools Association's Tom & Richard catch up with ICPA's Wendy, Tammie, Trish Mitchell, Kim Donaldson & Louise Martin.



State Council in Brisbane for delegations in early March



A NOTE FROM nbn™

Whether you're working and educating from home by choice or by necessity, NBN Co continues to monitor and augment the network as quickly as possible to meet potential demand surges.

You can stay up-to-date with all latest announcements as well as working from home tips and FAQs at www.nbn.com.au/workingfromhome

nbn increases Sky Muster™ data allowances, enhances Sky Muster™ Plus

NBN Co has unveiled new measures to support increasing capacity and data demand for nbn satellite services in regional and remote Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Customers on standard nbn™ Sky Muster™ services will have their data download limits

increased significantly, while for customers on nbn™ Sky Muster™ Plus services, nbn will implement an increased range of applications that will not count towards monthly data quotas.

Both standard nbn™ Sky Muster™ and nbn™ Sky Muster™ Plus services provide access to fast and accessible broadband across regional and remote Australia. With standard nbn™ Sky Muster™ plans, all data is metered and customers have a set amount of data each month. Currently, nbn™ Sky Muster™ Plus plans provide unmetered data for a select range of essential online activities.

nbn is offering these new measures to support retail service providers (RSPs) in passing on these benefits to their customers.

nbn™ Sky Muster™ data download limits significantly increased

Effective from 31 March for a limited period of up to three months, nbn will increase the download data limits that apply to RSPs for the standard nbn™ Sky Muster™ service, providing an additional 45GB* for each standard nbn™ Sky Muster™ service at no additional cost to those RSPs.

This additional 45GB will allow RSPs, in some cases, to effectively double the average monthly download limits on retail plans offered to many of their customers.

For an RSP's standard nbn™ Sky Muster™ services, nbn is increasing average wholesale download limits to 90GB* of data on average depending on the services that the RSP has ordered from nbn. This offer is an effort to support the anticipated higher volumes of traffic as people work from home and conduct schooling remotely.

Enhancements to nbn™ Sky Muster™ Plus

Available from 1 April on an ongoing basis, enhancements for nbn™ Sky Muster™ Plus plans will include an expansion of unmetered content. Once these enhancements take effect, all traffic on nbn™ Sky Muster Plus plans will be unmetered, except for video streaming and traffic via a VPN, both of which will continue to be metered.

Unmetered activities currently include web browsing, email and operating system updates. However, as part of these further enhancements, common social media applications such as Skype and Facetime will also be unmetered. These are just a few examples of where customers can now have additional peace of mind that staying in touch with family, friends and colleagues

will not count as part of their monthly data allowance.

In addition to this expansion of unmetered activities, nbn is also introducing a number of other enhancements to nbn™ Sky Muster™ Plus plans, including:

a new 25GB+ entry plan offering 25GB of peak data and 25GB of off-peak data for video streaming and VPN traffic, which will improve accessibility for lighter users (available from 1 April);

functionality to give RSPs greater flexibility to customise the data allowances on their retail plans in increments of 5GB (starting from 25GB of peak data and 25GB of off-peak data, up to 150GB of peak and 150GB of off-peak data) (available from 1 April); and

a new 'top-up' feature, which will provide RSPs with the option

of offering of 'top up' data, should their customers use their monthly metered data allowance (available in coming months).

nbn has been working on these enhancements since the initial launch of nbn™ Sky Muster™ Plus in August 2019.

Today's new measures follow nbn's recent announcement of a capacity boost across the nbn network for three months, to help RSPs support customers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

nbn is anticipating increased demand on the nbn network as more people need to spend more time at home during the COVID-19 response. nbn is working with industry and to monitor demand and any further potential required measures.

Branch BITES

MICROWAVE RUSSIAN CARAMEL FUDGE

1 cup sugar
100g butter
¼ cup golden syrup
400g tin condensed milk

1. Prepare a loaf tin by lining with baking paper.
2. In a large microwave proof bowl add all the ingredients. Stir till combined.
3. Place the bowl in the microwave uncovered for 10 mins. Check every 2 mins & stir. (the mixture will begin to boil & look split but this is fine)
4. At 8 mins check for the soft ball stage by dropping a small amount of mixture into a cold cup of water. If it immediately forms a ball it is ready. If not cook for the remaining 2 mins. (My microwave takes 10 mins).
5. Allow mixture to cool for 2 mins (add vanilla if you wish) & beat with a wooden spoon for 5 mins until the mixture begins to thicken & change colour – this is a good arm workout!!
6. Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin & spread to smooth.
7. Chill in the fridge for 1 hr before slicing into squares & storing.



CHOCOLATE FUDGE

2 cups sugar
½ cup milk
1 tspn butter
1 tblspn golden syrup
1 dstpn cocoa

1. Place all ingredients in a heavy based saucepan & stir to combine.
2. Bring to the boil whilst stirring & boil for 6 mins – still stirring.
3. Take off the heat & continue to stir until thick. Place into a greased & lined tin.
4. Allow to set before slicing into squares.

MA'S TOMATO RELISH

1lb tomatoes
1 lb onions
1 ½ cups sugar
1 cup vinegar (apple cider adds a nice flavour)
1 tblspn curry powder
½ tblspn mustard powder
½ tblspn salt
1 tblspn cornflour (heaped)

1. Dice tomatoes & onions. Add to saucepan the tomatoes, onion, sugar, vinegar, curry powder, mustard powder & salt.
2. Boil for ½ hr and thicken with the cornflour mixed with a little vinegar. Cook for a further 6 mins.
3. Bottle & seal when cold.



SELF SAUCING ANZAC PUDDING

1 ½ cups SR Flour	SAUCE:
100g butter	50g butter
½ cup rolled oats	½ cup syrup
½ cup sugar	2 cups boiling water
¼ cup coconut	
1 cup milk	
1 egg	
1 tspn vanilla	

1. Preheat oven to 160C & grease a pie dish.
2. Sift SR Flour into a bowl & gently rub in butter.
3. Combine rolled oats, sugar & coconut & combine with flour mixture.
4. Mix together milk, egg & vanilla & add to the flour mix & combine well.
5. Pour into greased pie dish.
6. Mix together all the sauce ingredients until butter has melted & pour gently over the back of a spoon to cover the pudding mix.
7. Bake for 30 mins or till golden & serve warm with custard & cream.



AROUND THE RIDGES

2020

APRIL

20th First day term 2 Qld State Schools
25th ANZAC Day
27th Agenda Motions Deadline for Qld Conference

MAY

4th Labour Day
15th Pedals Deadline

JUNE

~~9th/10th Qld State Conference, Roma-postponed~~
26th Last day term 2 Qld State Schools

JULY

1st News & Views deadline for term 3 edition
13th First day term 3 Qld State Schools

AUGUST

~~5th/6th Federal Conference, Hobart-Cancelled~~

SEPTEMBER

8th Qld ICPA conference motions due
18th Last day term 3 Qld State Schools

OCTOBER

6th Qld ICPA supplementary motions due
6th First day term 4 Qld State Schools
20th/21st Qld ICPA state conference



Queensland Government

COVID-19 FAQ'S FOR PARENTS

The Qld Department of Education has a new webpage which answers frequently asked questions from parents.

<https://qed.qld.gov.au/about-us/news-and-media/novel-coronavirus/frequently-asked-questions-for-parents>



Queensland Government

LEARNING @HOME

The Department of Education has a dedicated website for parents to support student learning at home. This new learning@home site provides parent versions of the two week units of curriculum resources, as well as many other learning resources.

5		3						
2			3					
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		5	4				7	1
		4	2		1	8		
6	8				7	5		
1		7		6	9		3	
					4			6
						9		5



WHATSAPP

Keep up to date with the COVID-19 facts by downloading WhatsApp (oz.gov.au/whatsapp) and joining the chat.



COVID-19 APP

You can use the Australian Government Coronavirus app to:

- stay up to date with the official information and advice
- important health advice to help stop the spread and stay healthy
- get a quick snapshot of the current official status within Australia

5	8	6	3	7	1	2	9	4
9	1	7	4	2	5	8	6	3
2	3	8	6	9	8	7	5	1
4	2	5	7	3	6	1	8	9
6	9	8	1	5	2	3	4	7
1	3	9	8	4	5	7	6	
3	6	2	5	1	7	9	4	8
7	5	9	8	4	3	6	1	2
8	4	1	2	6	9	3	7	5

Conversations WITH...

MEGAN WOODWARD

Born and bred between the cane fields, cattle properties and coal mines of Mackay in north Queensland, Megan has had a successful career as a journalist including more than a decade in radio and television at the ABC. Megan filled the roles of reporter, presenter and Journalist in Charge, as well as filing for the ABC's flagship rural current affairs program, 'Landline'. She's a well-known and trusted face throughout Queensland's rural sector, with a reputation as a true story teller and an advocate for the bush. For the past few years she's jumped on the other side of the camera and turned her hand to communications, PR and public speaking. She now runs her own small media consultancy business and resides on the Sunshine Coast with her husband and two sons. A Friend of ICPA!

MY EARLIEST MEMORY IS....

Family Christmases at my grandparents' house in Bowen in north Queensland. It blows my mind now but every other Christmas, Grandma and Granddad would host an extra 15 family members (and often some extra orphans) in their little cottage that was one bedroom and a sleep-out! Lucky the house was on a huge block of land with massive mango trees to climb and it was right across the road from the golf club and the beach, so during the day we had plenty to do outside. But at night, you couldn't walk more than half a step without there being be aunties and uncles and cousins asleep on every square inch of the floor. My bigger male cousins would move the kitchen table each night and roll out their swags to sleep. My sister and I were the youngest cousins so we always got to sleep on a blow-up mattress at the foot of Grandma and Granddad's bed in their room under the big fan

(pretty lush stuff in the December humidity of north Queensland!!) We used to complain so much about Granddad's snoring but always felt totally privileged to be the spoilt ones to get to bunk in their room. We did that until we were teenagers.

I WENT TO SCHOOL/UNI...

I went to primary school at Eimeo Road State School in the northern beaches of Mackay. That area is so developed now but up until 25 years ago there was just a single unsealed road to get out to Eimeo. When my sister and I were little, whenever my Dad had to travel for work, Grandma would come down from Bowen to stay with Mum because she didn't want her alone "all the way out there with little kids"! Our house was built in the middle of sugar cane and pineapple farms and over the years became more and more built up with housing estates popping up around us. Our little primary school only had around 60 kids from Preschool to Grade 7 for the early stages of my education there and slowly grew in line with development in the area. I went to high school at Mackay North State High School where I was also school captain in Grade 12, and then I went on to study a Bachelor of Journalism at James Cook University in Townsville.

WHAT IS YOUR SPECIAL TALENT/SKILL...

I can find the personal angle in any story. I guess it helps that I'm a talker with Welsh blood in my DNA! I run a lot of workshops to help different organisations tell their story better and the basis of all good story telling is asking good questions. I whole heartedly believe that everyone has a story worth telling, and every story has an audience if it's told authentically and with skill. Second to that ... I guess my special talent would be a tie between karaoke and interpretive dance.



THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

My job these days is incredibly varied, working with everyone from the university sector to herbicide, pesticide and liquid fertiliser suppliers and everything in between! Best part of the job remains talking to people, telling their stories, and arming organisations with the skills to do it themselves as well!

I'M EMBARRASSED TO ADMIT THAT...

I never thought social media would take off ... !!

MY CHILDHOOD IDOL WAS...

I was incredibly enamoured by Jenny Woodward, the ABC Queensland weather presenter! Possibly the first seed that was planted around my plans to get on the telly one day ... she always looked to colourful and at ease in front of the camera, and everyone in my family took her words as gospel. (And for the record, I am not related to Jenny!) As a kid I had a real soft spot for John Williamson (the singer) too. I thought he was quite the rock star!

I WANT TO BE REMEMBERED FOR....

This is such a good question and I can think of a handful of things I'd like to be remembered for in a professional sense. However in this bizarre time living through Covid-19, when personal connection and reflection is such a huge part of learning to adapt to this 'new normal' for a lot of people, I have to say replying to this changes my focus quite a bit! At the end of the day I guess I'd most like to be remembered for raising good kids. Good kids that become good teenagers that become good men. I think that would be a great thing to be remembered for.

www.linkedin.com/in/megan-woodward-b836238b/ @meganwoodward23 hello@meganwoodward.com.au

NEWS

and Views



If undelivered return to :
ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS
ASSOCIATION QUEENSLAND INC
Amanda Clark
"Ibis Creek Station" Mt Coolon
via Colinsville Qld 4804
Print Post Approved PP100002576

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