
Publicity/Webmaster Report

Madam President, distinguished guests, members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen it is with great pleasure that I present the Publicity/Webmaster report for 2021.

2020 State Conference

Unfortunately, the first casualty of the COVID epidemic for ICPA-NSW was the 2020 conference which was to be held in Moree. Due to constitutional restrictions, we were unable to hold any form of online conference and this then started a year of firsts for our team. The Annual General Meeting was held via teleconference and as I had already made the decision a few days prior to conference to attend remotely due to the escalating situation with COVID, (unsure as to how that was going to look) I loaded Facebook posts and did what I could to assist Council from afar. My fellow councillors became my roving reporters providing me with photos from Moree.

Facebook

In the year when social media has become ever more of a source of information for us as a population worldwide Facebook has been such an important information channel for our branches and state council to utilise. As we all are continuing to evolve in our changing world that has been 2020, Facebook has been a tool that we have used to pass information to the majority of our members on a regular basis.

Top Wire and Pedals

A great deal of appreciation needs to be afforded to the amazing Editors of these magazines for the amazing job they do in bringing these together for us to read. Both Kerrie at Top Wire for NSW and Raelene at Pedals for Federal do many hours in the preparation process that we never see. During the year I have supported both publications with articles and photos.

Main Deputation

Another first for NSW state council in that we gathered in Dubbo as a council and had majority of our meetings via zoom. Our contingent in Dubbo consisted of President Claire Butler, Secretary Deb Castle, Vice Secretary Kellie Turnbull, Vice Presidents Libby McPhee and David Butler, Treasurer Shennah Joiner, myself, and fellow Councillors Irene Lund, Annabel Strachan, Tanya Mitchell, Tim Fletcher, Bree Wakefield, & Monique Watkin with Councillors Deborah Nielsen and Laura Stalley joining in for various meetings from home via zoom.

Over the course of the few days in Dubbo State Council divided into different meeting rooms for our meetings with various Ministers, Members of Parliament, Shadow Ministers and senior advisors and various industry. Among the topics discussed were conversations on #nobordersforboarders, drought and long term recovery, small rural school transport, School Drive Subsidy for preschoolers and tertiary students, better access to technology, preschool needs in various small rural schools, tertiary travel allowance, telehealth and connectivity, Mobile Black Spot program, local road conditions, Child Care Subsidy, NBN SkyMuster, access to counselling for rural and remote schools, 2nd year Visa criteria to allow governesses to assist Distance Education, NSW Curriculum, graduate teachers, establishment of government girls Boarding school and provision of vehicles for very remote schools.

Although it looked a lot different than usual our deputation this year was no less hectic or successful. It was also a chance for our state council to actually be face to face after months of only zoom meetings.

New Logo

The Deputation was also an opportunity to unveil the new logo for ICPA-NSW. The logo is very user friendly and branches are encouraged to use it with all their correspondence. State Council is also in the process of updating our brochures and banners to a more modern, concise format to assist in the promotion of our association – incorporating portfolios from Preschool through to Tertiary.

Other Media

During the year ICPA-NSW has been once again well supported by various media and as a result we were able to be heard on pressing issues via various media both print & radio.

I can say with certainty that 2020 was the year that no one saw coming and with it has brought a wave of issues that state council has had to navigate.

With the emergence of COVID-19 in 2020, the issues surrounding border closures and interstate borders became a focus for ICPA-NSW with the still continuing #nobordersforboarders. We gathered photos & footage from our boarding families and started the campaign to allow boarding school students to have two way access to home & their respective boarding schools out of state without having to quarantine. As a result of many hours of hard work & tenacity from ICPA-NSW State Council exemptions were awarded to affected students followed by directives implemented by state governments highlighting the need for boarders to be allowed such access from school to home and back again without the need for quarantine. Unfortunately this cross border issue continues into 2021 and with previous arrangements being revoked it just further highlights a need for a permanent, concise, coordinated & consistent solution for the families and students affected by this.

This year saw the launch by ICPA Federal Council of the Geographically Isolated Distance Education Day on 1st December. Such an awesome initiative by their team with the day recognising and honouring the ongoing plight of the geographically isolated families who must educate their children at home.

ICPA Australia Federal President Alana Moller said “Geographically isolated distance educated families, often across generations, have dedicated themselves to educating their children at home. This needs to be recognised and lauded”.

The Geographically Isolated Distance Education Day is a day to honour those in distance education classrooms across remote Australia and their ongoing commitment and resilience.

Phil Jackson said “*The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team*”. I am incredibly proud of our team, NSW-ICPA State Council and the achievements we have made in spite of what 2020 threw in our direction, led by our amazing President Claire Butler. It has been a hectic year for all.

They say “Team work makes the dream work”. Well, we certainly have an awesome team.

ICPA-NSW continues to strive to provide a strong voice advocating for our rural and remote families driven by passion, tenacity, pride and a want to make a difference for our members.

Thank you.

Gabie Le Lievre

Publicity Officer/Webmaster

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