

# BITS & PIECES

ICPA WA Newsletter



*Working together to ensure access  
to appropriate education for all  
regional Western Australians.*

# From the President's Desk

The past few months have presented challenges for a great number of people as we have all learnt to live with the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a time of great uncertainty but the one thing that has remained constant throughout is ICPA. Each State Council has supported each other with every hurdle that has had to be overcome in accessing an equitable education, with guidelines being implemented differently by each different department and organisation. So many decisions were made on the run as we all navigated the onslaught of COVID-19. Some of these decisions regarding access to education and boarding restrictions were less than ideal. ICPA WA are thankful of the WA Government, the Department of Education and relevant representatives for listening to parental concerns raised by ICPA WA and making adjustments. I feel grateful to have been in WA throughout this time as the disruption to our children's education has been minimal compared to some of the other States.

ICPA WA were involved in a stakeholder review of the return to education in term 2 and thank the Department of Education for the opportunity to share the issues that had been created around boarding restrictions, self-isolation requirements and the logistical return to school.

In addition to dealing with COVID-19 issues your State Council has been busily actioning motions from our State Conference, and at our October face to face members of State Council met with the Hon Sue Ellery MLC Minister for Education, Donna Faragher MLC Shadow Minister for Education and Peter Rundle MLA, The Nationals spokesperson for Education, to discuss ongoing member issues.

Planning is underway for our annual State Conference 'Educate not Isolate' on 19th March 2021 at The Ingot Hotel, Great Eastern Highway, Perth. Conference is being convened by the Gascoyne Branch and we remain hopeful that the event will go ahead as planned. Due to COVID-19 the 2020 Federal Conference was held as a web Conference. The event was a great success and ICPA WA would like to pass on their sincere thanks to ABSA (Australian Boarding Schools Association) for all their assistance with the Federal Conference. A great platform has been established should we need to follow this format in 2021.



By the time you receive this edition, the Year 12 students will be in the final days of their school years. 2020 has certainly provided a Year 12 like no other. Fortunately, most if not all, planned Year 12 events have occurred albeit some in a slightly different format. It is such an important time in their lives and 2020 has certainly been an unprecedented time. The whole education sector has faced many challenges as a result of COVID-19 and the acknowledgement of the impact on our Year 12 students through flexibility for post Year 12 pathways has been well received.

COVID-19 has shown the world what ICPA does so well, distance education. The advocacy of the past 50 years by ICPA has definitely contributed to the success of Australia being able to continue with educating our children during this pandemic. The additional online resources, improvements to internet connectivity and support to students and parents has been very welcomed. The importance of face to face learning has also become abundantly clear which I hope will aid ICPA in continuing its advocacy for regional, rural and remote families and schools in the future.

ICPA WA remain actively engaged in discussions with the Department of Education and have appreciated members being a part of the Education Conversations Forum that has occurred at various locations across all of WA. ICPA WA has also provided feedback to the Director General in relation to boarding students to enable a level of preparedness should the COVID-19 pandemic re-escalate.

A by-product of COVID-19 has been the opportunity for people to examine their lives and determine the things that are really important to them. The involvement of ICPA as an organisation in effecting change throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has caused me to ponder, 'Where would we be without ICPA?'

Who would be the voice for our children when allowances assisting our access to an equitable education are reduced?

Who would people turn to when either families or rural schools have issues with internet connectivity to access online programs?

Who will people turn to for help regarding Distant Education, Schools of the Air and Curriculum concerns?

Where would the help come from for Early Childhood programs and In-Home care issues?

Who will ensure our post-compulsory students are not overlooked or forgotten in their pursuit of their post Year 12 pathways?

Who would be the voice for our children when there are issues in our small rural schools and a lack of support for principals?

Who is going to ensure the continuance and access to the Schools of Special Education Needs for families in need?

Who is going to ensure that teacher training is relevant to our regional, rural and remote students' education?

Who is going to advocate for travel allowances to assist our children in accessing an equitable education, helping to relieve some of the burden on families?

Who is going to be the one voice that encompasses all the above? Who would you turn to for help with your concerns? Who is there that would help make a difference? I do not have the answer to these questions which highlights the importance of the role of ICPA in our children's education.

ICPA is developing a brand-new website that will be in place by the end of 2020. The website will have a new look but the ICPA brand remains the same. Our advocacy reaches to all corners of our communities and I ask that you consider making 2021 the year of PLUS 1. As an organisation that relies heavily on membership subscription, to continue to be your voice it would be fantastic if everyone could bring a Plus 1 to membership. This would increase our numbers which is important when advocating for change.

As this is the last edition before the end of year, I would like to congratulate everyone for making it through 2020. Hopefully 2021 will see life return to normality, whatever that new normal maybe.

Best wishes to all and we look forward to seeing you at our 2021 State Conference.

**Sally Brindal**  
ICPA WA President

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## FROM YOUR EDITOR



Hi everyone and welcome to your second, and final issue of Bits & Pieces for 2020.

It's hard to believe this crazy year is nearly over. Let's hope that 2021 sees a return to life as close as it can be to it's pre pandemic days.

For so many of you in the farming areas of the state it is harvesting time

and I hope all is going well. As usual the weather hasn't played nice for everybody so keep an eye on your mates who might be doing it tough or working too hard. They might just need someone to remind them nothing is worth their life.

Further north we are heading into the summer heat and my whinge o meter goes into overdrive. However if the rain comes as we hope for, every year, then it will be worth the long hot days.

It's that time of year when so much changes for many of our students. Some will be coming to the end of their educational journey whilst others will be entering different levels. Some of our little ones will be getting geared up to start for the first time in 2021.

Regardless of where your children are at I hope they are well and healthy leading into 2021 and you, as parents, give yourself a pat on the back for getting them through another year.

Don't forget to renew your memberships for ICPA (see p9), apply for your BAHA and check out the allowances you may be able to access (p18).

Thanks to our State Councillors for their continued hard work on behalf of all members.

Wishing everyone a very merry Christmas and may everything align for you in 2021.

**Raelene Hall**  
Editor

### Cover image:

**Kimberley Air Branch ICPA member Matt Wood with son Harrison at the Kimberley Picnic Races. Matt, with wife Connie, manage Blina Station in the Kimberley. Connie is also President of the Kimberley Air Branch ICPA**

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# Kimberley Picnic Races

The Derby Bullarama and Kimberley Picnic Races on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> August were the first public events for the Kimberley since prior to COVID restrictions. They will be two of only a few events the region will see this year. Organisers worked extremely hard to get the two events up and running in a short amount of time. Being the first events no one really new how they would go but were pretty sure it would be bigger than usual. And so they were! There were record crowds of 1000+ patrons at both. A huge congratulations and thanks goes to all organisers and helpers who volunteered their time in planning and running of the massive weekend.



**Fashions on the Field for the men**  
Photo courtesy of Emma Moss

The Picnic Races is an event for local station horses and riders (no professional riders or horses only) to battle it out on the dusty Derby racetrack whilst socialising and having a great day out as well as raising funds for remote education in the Kimberley. It is a huge event for station workers and families as well as townies. This year people travelled from all over the Kimberley, Pilbara and even from as far as Perth in support of the great event. The usual crowd sure was exceeded with more than 1000 people in the gate. Thanks goes to all the patrons for their patience while waiting at the gate for entry and in queues for food and drinks while we stocked up on more, buying out many supplies from the small Derby supermarket and bottle shops!

This year the fashions were certainly out. Many race goers donned some very fine outfits while others chose the more Kimberley casual dress. But it wasn't all about the fashions and the socialising; there were horses to be raced on the best looking dirt track in the west! There were 6 races

across the day. The head honchos race was specifically for station owners, manager and head stockman; the stockman's races for anyone except them; a ladies race and some open to all riders. Connie Wood, Kimberley Air Branch's president, proudly rode in two races, enjoying the friendly competition and comradery between fellow riders and friends. Go Connie!

The KSOTA P&C take on the catering for the day, not an easy task this year with the increasing patron numbers. By around 1.00 pm the famous pulled pork rolls had been sold out and dashes to the shops 4 or 5 times to stock up on more sausages, bread and onions were needed. KSOTA merchandise- tea towels, workshirts and drink coolers were sold as well. All in all, it was a fantastic, all hands-on deck day and the P&C managed to raise \$5,000+ just from the stall, which is amazing.

Previously there has been a ball following the races. In 2019 Kimberley Air Branch ICPA did the set up and clean up for the ball resulting in a generous donation from the profits of the day. The funds support ICPA members to attend state and federal conferences. This event was not held in 2020 due to time restrictions in planning but it may return in 2021.

The funds raised each year for the P&C assist the KSOTA students to be able to partake in extracurricular school activities, such as valuable school camps, where the students get to be with their classmates and have face-to-face class time with their teachers for a week - a highlight for all students. The P&C also assist in a number of other

**The children enjoying their foot race**  
Photo courtesy of Emma Moss



activities and camps, such as year 5 and 6 camps to Canberra and leadership camps that are held in Perth. Another way P&C use funds is to contribute to training and development for the home tutors and parents to be able to aid and assist in their kid's learning- not a straightforward task as parents all over the world may appreciate at the moment.

The Picnic Races started back in 1999 by two mums of the KSOTA P&C and it was held at Halls Creek. It was moved to Derby in 2008. From the beginning it was designed to be a fundraiser for ICPA to support remote Kimberley kids with their education. The organising committee has changed over the years from the KSOTA P&C and ICPA to the Derby Rodeo & Horseriders Association and the Derby Turf Club. Troy and Mon from Meda Station have taken over the reins since 2019. With their many community connections they bring in much expertise and volunteer power. What champions they are! We hope they can continue this huge effort into the future and can be assured the best education when their young children get to Kimberley School of the Air.

Thank you Emma Moss for the beautiful photos. Check her out Emma Moss Photography [www.emmamoss.com.au](http://www.emmamoss.com.au)

**A crowd of lovely ladies lined up for Fashions in the Field**  
Photo courtesy of Emma Moss



**The ladies drop their shoes for a hotly contested foot race**  
Photo courtesy of Emma Moss



**Jack Laverty in his SOTA shirt with bow tie and DIY races hat**



# OPEN DAY AT MORAWA AG

by Sally Brindal

The Western Australia College of Agriculture offers education and training programs coupled with residential facilities, for students in Years 10, 11 and 12. There are currently five residential campuses located near Cunderdin, Denmark, Harvey, Morawa and Narrogin.

Having lived in the Midwest for more than 20 years I decided a visit to the WA College of Agriculture Morawa was well overdue, so attended their Open Day on September 4th, 2020.

The annual open day is an opportunity for students to showcase the College to parents, friends and prospective students.

Due to COVID-19 the College had to modify their traditional open day format, however; there was still plenty to see and the weather was simply perfect, blue skies, sunshine and not too many flies! There were a number of primary schools in attendance as well as family and friends. I was fortunate to have a guided tour by the Deputy Principal Norah Flanders.

The Open Day program included

- demonstration stations showcasing
  - Horticulture
  - Engineering workshop
  - Automotive workshop
  - Shearing and wool handling
  - Pigs
  - Lambs – new automated ear tag recognition lamb weighing cradle
  - Equine
  - Cropping
  - Feedlot
  - Cows and calves
- Farm tours via bus
- Classroom displays of students work
- Interactive classroom displays
- Food sampling – Paddock to plate (home grown and made lamb sausages)



**Principal Dean Carslake, Dusty the College dog, Year 11 Kylan Scally, Wongan Hills, with the College Mascot**

All students are involved with the day with duties ranging from parking, facilitating a demonstration station to being a student guide.

The College has a full program of enterprises including sheep, pigs, cattle and broadacre cropping. Agriculture WA uses the Morawa College Farm for a program of large area cropping trials with students monitoring results. Other trials on new technology and farming practices are carried out regularly. The College facilities also include a modern abattoir, with the College supplying lamb to the local supermarkets.

I was extremely impressed with the facilities and resources available to the students. The Agricultural College offers Schools Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) accredited subjects at both Year 11 and Year 12 levels. The Year 10 course, introduced in 2005, includes five learning areas as defined by the Curriculum Framework.

In November of 1999 Morawa was first validated as a Registered Training Organisation and this means that they are registered to deliver Nationally Recognised Certificates in Agriculture, Engineering Pathways & Automotive Vocational Preparation.

The WA College of Agriculture – Morawa began in 1978 on a 200ha farm with the students living in quarters originally occupied by the single men working on the iron ore mine nearby. In 1984 the Department of Education declared the farm an Agricultural Wing of the local District High School and, with two further land purchases, brought the farms' total area to 2838 hectares. The neighbouring 400 ha property "Granville's" was purchased in 2001 giving a total of 3242ha.

A new Residential Campus was built in 1992 and in 1995 the College separated from the District High School. On January 1st, 2001 Morawa joined the four other Agricultural Colleges to form the Western Australia College of Agriculture. The College has a boarding capacity of 72 students.

If you are considering continuing your education at a WA College of Agriculture, I would recommend to take a tour of their facilities, attend their open day and some even offer a one week free trial.

**Below: Josh Browner (Yr 10) of Margaret River with College horse 'Jed'**



**Below: Jordan Wallbank (Yr12), of Kadathinni, giving a student from Morawa DHS a lesson on header operation**



**Jaydan Knight, Morawa, checking the piglets**



**Jamie Sadler (Yr 11) of Three Springs answering questions from Morawa DHS Students**



**Morawa Agricultural College wool shed display at their open day**



**Jasmine Glass (Yr 12), of Calingiri, throws a fleece in a shearing demonstration**



# Memberships 2021

ICPA annual membership subscription renewals for 2021 open on 15th November.

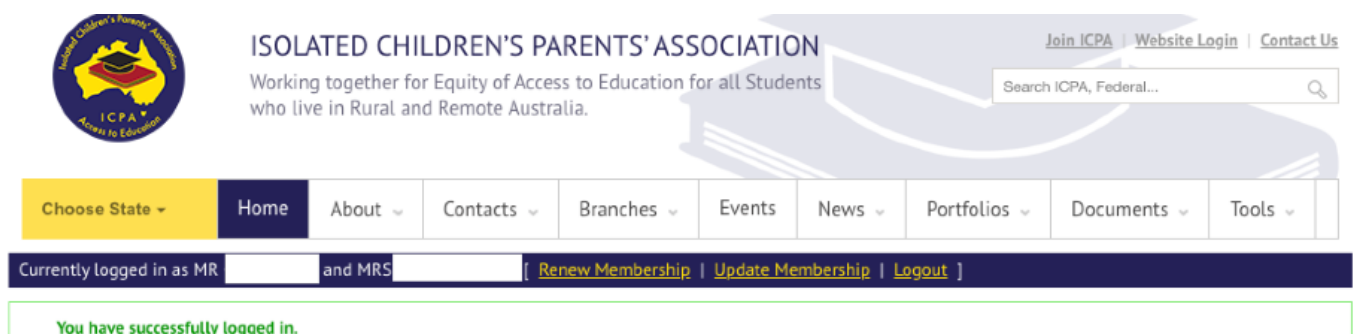
Memberships run as per the calendar year so all subscriptions are due by 1 January 2021

A renewing member can pay their annual membership through the online payment system and can pay via the PayPal gateway either by credit card, debit card or their PayPal account.

Follow the steps below to pay online:

Log In through the Federal ICPA website at: [www.icpa.com.au](http://www.icpa.com.au)

Once a member logs in they will see the following:



Click on “Renew Membership” and a new page will appear.

The form is pre-filled by the information on the database and if there are errors you can update this information during this renewal of membership process.

If you have changed address or you wish to change your Branch membership, this can be updated through the dropdown menus. Your current email, which is your login ID, will be displayed and you can update it now and you must confirm email to proceed.

All boxes with an asterisk must be filled in.

Online payment is preferred though manual payments are accepted by contacting your Branch Treasurer.

Please note: The new ICPA website is due to be operational in December 2020, so the membership renewal may look a little different when this occurs.

# STUDENT TRAVEL

At the ICPA State Conference, in March this year, there was some discussion around making claims for student travel and how hard it is. I mentioned that in the Gascoyne it is very easy because our local travel agent arranges our trips and also organises our claims. It is a great service and the lovely ladies at Everywhere Travel are fantastic to deal with. All you need to do at the beginning of the year is supply them with the students completed and signed travel forms and then just notify the travel agent of all your children's travel dates as required. Once booked there is nothing to pay and the reimbursement is done through the agent. I have spoken to 'Everywhere Travel' Carnarvon and if you would like to use this service they are more than happy to assist anyone in the State. See below for contact details and happy travelling.

**Alys McKeough**  
Gascoyne Branch President



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# Acres of Fenceline

By Alexandra Ayers

This was the fence I built last summer.  
Cold strands of wire supported me  
as I climbed.

The reverberations of my touch  
echoed a c r o s s a c r e s  
and ran thick through the town  
like the liquor inhaled at the three pubs  
and the gossip that followed.

It was the middle of December  
the boss woke me,  
the earth was black but movement stirred.  
Brand new wire cutters  
heavy in my unskilled palm.

The bushy breeze hovered  
unsure of whether to begin moving  
perhaps, waiting for the sun's fingers  
to rake the earth.  
Red dirt clouds mistaken for smoke  
as men hustled to finish combing their gold.

A small girl, salty with sweat.  
Cut blisters and searing liquid  
forcing bruised hands to hold harder  
onto slipping pliers,  
the last ties on the ringlock falling.

I rolled the twisted, stretched wire  
like the stomach of a pregnant mother.  
Barbs to be feared as much as Standbacks

with their needles as thick as twine,  
the colour of the native gum  
but not so friendly after all.  
I planted the new steel into the earth,  
body rising with the silver posts  
growing out of the nurtured soil.  
Forever steel pickets  
speckled the horizon.

An inescapable barrier shaped to endure  
the drowning of the flood,  
the cracked earth of the drought,  
the attack of feisty feral pigs storming through it  
as if it were a spiders web,  
or the ricochet of a grey's back leg  
on the top wire, the thrash,  
bone on steel ringing across paddocks.

This is the last time I will climb.  
Last time I will be heard in the whistle of the Eucalypts.  
I wasn't coming home  
but I knew how to survive  
after all, I had a fence to guide me.

## Glossary:

Standback: formerly known as *Acacia Tetragonophylla* is a hardy, drought resistant species of tree located in semi-arid areas in Western Australia.

Grey: Grey kangaroo

Steel pickets: steel fence posts used for the construction of outback fences, usually to keep stock in a paddock.

Ringlock: prefabricated fence wire used for stock control and boundary fencing.



# STATE COUNCIL OCTOBER FACE TO FACE (F2F) MEETING

State Council held face to face meetings on the 14th and 15th October at SIDE (School of Isolated and Distance Education), Leederville.

On Wednesday we were fortunate to have Peter Rundle MLA, The Nationals spokesperson for Education attend and discuss several issues including the continuation of BAHA and travel related concerns. We also met with Telstra representatives Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager WA and Eva Colic Regional Engagement Manager, where we discussed Telstra's Black Spot Programme and the turning off 3G.



**Secretary Kym Ross, Councillor Chandra Ridley, Minister for Education Sue Ellery, President Sally Brindal, Councillor Sam Greay, Councillor Naomi Obst**

Thursday, we met with nbn Local representative Naomi Evans, Head of Regional Community Affairs where we discussed how the Skymuster and new Sky Muster Plus service was working for families and what improvements could be made.

Friday a delegation met with Hon Donna Faragher MLC, Shadow Education Minister to discuss students not returning to university after a gap year, travel allowance issues, rural student support for post compulsory education, the AHPPC (Australian Health Protection Principal Committee) guidelines in boarding schools and the need for these to be more specific with a more uniform implementation, and the Liberals position on reinstating the Boarding Away From Home Allowance (BAHA) if they win the State election in 2021.



**Above: Treasurer Michelle Abbot, Councillor Chandra Ridley, President Sally Brindal, Boyd Brown, Telstra, Councillor Sam Greay, Eva Colic, Telstra**

**Below: Naomi Evans, NBN, President Sally Brindal, Councillor Sam Greay**





**Councillor Sam Greay, Hon Donna Faragher MLC, President Sally Brindal, Councillor Naomi Obst, Secretary Kym Ross, Councillor Chandra Ridley**

Delegates also attended a meeting with Hon Sue Ellery MLC, Minister for Education and Training on Friday where we discussed the Schools of Special Educational Needs (SEEN) programme and how more parents could be made aware of this service. We also raised current issues surrounding school mobile Dental Therapy Centres, the School's Principal Professional Development Program and the on-going varying arrangements at boarding facilities. We also took the opportunity to thank the Minister for the co-operation and open communication from the Department of Education throughout this year.

The new ICPA website is progressing along well and soon we will have an updated site that will be easier for members to navigate.

An updated Child Protection Policy is still being formed and we appreciate members who have offered their feedback regarding the new policy. Thank you.

Planning for the 2021 ICPA WA State Conference 'Educate not Isolate' is well underway with a full agenda of panel discussions and engaging speakers. Gascoyne Branch will be convening this event to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> March at The Ingot Hotel, Great Eastern Highway, Belmont.

Remember you can access recent Portfolio Reports and Branch Reports by clicking on the Documents tab on the ICPA WA website [wa.icpa.com.au](http://wa.icpa.com.au).

Thank you to all our members for your continued support this year. It's been a year with many challenges but ICPA WA State Council are working hard to ensure appropriate access to education for all regional and remote families.

**Jane Hughes**  
**Publicity Officer**



**Councillor Sam Greay, Councillor Naomi Obst, Petere Rundle MLA, President Sally Brindal**





# You are never too old to learn new skills

This year has been like no other. Bushfires, ongoing drought and now the coronavirus pandemic. At Telstra, these challenges make us more determined to do what we can to support our customers and their communities.

**For many Australians, communicating through technology is part of their everyday lives as increasing numbers of us work and study from home, shop online and use telehealth services. We've embraced the digital world more than ever during the pandemic.**

But not everyone is benefitting. Almost three million Australians are not online, and many more are not able to take full advantage of online services. For those who aren't connected, the consequences of exclusion are increasing as our essential educational, health and social services move online.

As part of Telstra's commitment to responsible business, we don't want anyone left behind when it comes to digital access, affordability and digital ability. This is why we established the Australian Digital Inclusion Index. Started in 2014, the annual assessment continues to provide the most comprehensive picture of online participation in Australia.

The latest Digital Inclusion Index released in September 2019 shows that at a national level, the gap between our cities and the country narrowed slightly (from 9.6 points in 2015 to 8.1 points). But it also shows that when applied to specific states and territories, the gap varies considerably.

For example, in the 12 month period preceding the release of the latest Index, the city-country gap narrowed in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia but widened in Western Australia and Tasmania.

While everyone has a role to play to improve digital inclusion, Telstra has a range of measures in place to close the gap, including our increasingly popular Tech Savvy Seniors Program.

The online tools aim to improve digital knowhow and uptake among older Australians and features a series of short 'self-teach' videos to make it easy to learn at your own pace.

These videos cover everything from mobile devices like phones, tablets and e-readers to computers, the internet and online security. All videos have captions and subtitles that can be turned on from a button beneath the video window, and the option of a live transcript if you prefer to read.

The Tech Savvy Seniors online tools have become increasingly popular during the COVID pandemic. With millions of older Australians confined to their homes, digital communication has become a lifeline for many. If you'd like to start learning using our self-teach videos, go to <https://www.telstra.com.au/tech-savvy-seniors/start-learning>

We are also developing even simpler 'how to' information that will be curated especially for people with minimal skills.





# Goodlands Mobile Tower Launch

Communications is a priority topic for ICPA members. An ICPA letter of support was able to contribute a small amount to a massive community effort. On Monday 24th August 2020, the Hon Darren West MLC officially opened the Ross Leach Goodlands Mobile Base Station. This has been a project a long time in the making. Community advocacy letters date back to 2006. ICPA added to this advocacy at the 2018 State Conference with the following motion put forward by the Central Wheatbelt North Branch and 'carried' with unanimous support.

"That ICPA (WA) provide written support to the Goodlands Ag Committee in acquiring mobile coverage to the existing 178,000-hectare Mobile Black Spot area. School bus routes and conveyance spurs do not have communication when on route to geographically isolated primary schools within the region."

Explanation:

Goodlands is a broadacre farming district 50kms North of Kalannie in the Shire of Dalwallinu. This is a large area of the Central Wheatbelt North membership without access to mobile coverage. This impacts on equitable access to services, safety in transit for students, education staff and bus route communication. The Goodlands Ag committee are proactively engaged with various stakeholders and industry partners. As a council we hope that our written support will help draw attention to address these educational issues.

The final project was co-funded by a Digital Farm Grant from Telstra, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), Shire of Dalwallinu and a bequest to the Kalannie Community Association (KCA) from long time Goodlands/Kalannie resident Ross Leach. Ross was a big picture thinker and the KCA decision to utilise Ross's bequest for this purpose definitely contributed to the community's success in receiving funding. A big thank you to Boyd Brown, Regional General Manager WA, and the Telstra team for engaging at community level and helping the regions achieve equity. Thank you to the State Government for the Digital Farm Grant and the Shire of Dalwallinu for having the foresight to put aside a significant sum of money for when the opportunity of a co-funded model arose. Thank you to Ross and the Leach family for their generous bequest. Thank you to the Kalannie community for helping the Goodlands community join the 21st century.

In KCA President Joanna Ashworth words, "today was a wonderful celebration of what can be achieved when we dream big."

**Article submitted by the Central Wheatbelt Branch,  
President Amanda Nixon / Secretary Lisa Brennan.**

**Goodlands Mobile Tower Launch**



**The unveiling of the plaque at the opening of the Goodlands Mobile Tower**



# 2020 BAHA Applications

Reminder to those members who are eligible for the Boarding Away from Home Allowance, applications close Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

To download an application form, please go to the link:

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/dl/m9n8oq?t=1560404087608>

For further information, please contact:

Financial Planning and Resourcing Directorate,

Department of Education

151 Royal Street

EAST PERTH WA 6004

E: [student.allowances@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:student.allowances@education.wa.edu.au)

T: (08) 9264 4516.

## SIXTY AMAZING YEARS

Kimberley School of the Air is celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday this year!

The P&C are organising a celebration with the past and current KSOTA community on 11 November 2020 to be held at the Broome Camp School. If any past families, students, parents, tutors or teachers would like to be part of the celebrations please get in touch with the school, or contact ICPA member, and P&C president, Jessie Bray [jessierourke505@hotmail.com](mailto:jessierourke505@hotmail.com) for details and an invitation to be sent out to you. Likewise if you have any stories or photos from the past that you would like to share please get in touch, even if you cannot attend it can be shared on your behalf.

An anniversary cookbook made by the current school community has been completed and will be available from the Kimberley School of the Air for \$20 + postage



# SPEAKING YOLNGU

The sun still asleep,  
air particles frozen in time  
preserving the early serenity  
like a photograph for evidence later on.  
Hot humidity starts to trickle in  
sweat sticking between skin and singlet.

Thrash of tail bones beating the cage  
dogs blissfully unaware.  
Bruised, bloodied buckles of the chestplates  
contest the boars chest of armour.  
Chocking churn of the rusted cruiser  
patched shirt, footy shorts, thongs on  
tanned tough skin wraps his white body  
but his dark eyes combing the bush  
speak Yolngu.

The sour scent is wet, pads still fresh  
"sick em"  
muzzles trace the stench in waves  
tearing into the thicket  
trail barking, travelling miles.  
Closely monitoring the tracker  
the hunter runs,  
sticking knife flapping down his thigh  
308 on his shoulder.

Yam holes butcher the serene sculpture,  
suffocating  
clouds grinding darker.  
Lightning bolts flash down  
cutting open the sky,  
first drops of rain, moist and sultry  
fall out of the wound.

The attack on feisty feral pigs  
by praised hunting dogs  
soon revokes, as  
one brute of a boar charges  
thick black hairs hunched on his back  
tusks slicing malevolently,  
white bodies torn to scarlet  
gashed and gouged and gored  
pulsating red  
shoot the pig  
shoot the pig.

Breathless  
bitter taste of  
heavy air.  
The threatening deluge of rain  
pierces like firing bullets.

They call it the build-up.

**Alexandra Ayers**

In 2019, while in Yr 12, Alexandra wrote this poem and 'Acres of Fenceline' (p11). Both were shortlisted for the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Award (Senior Secondary). 'Speaking Yolngu' was also selected for inclusion in Primo Lux 2019. This is an annual poetry publication that showcases the best student poetry in WA. Alex is from Northampton and is now studying Engineering at Curtin.



## 2020 Allowances Guide

The following information has been compiled by ICPA WA, a voluntary, not for profit organisation which seeks to ensure that rural and remote students have access to an equitable education.

If this information is valuable to you, please think about joining our membership.

See the ICPA website for more information and details of how you can become a member.

Allowances	Criteria	Years	Payment
<b>Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC)</b> (Federal)			
<b>Basic Boarding Allowance</b> Not income tested	*At least 56km from nearest appropriate Govt school <b>OR</b> * 4.5km from transport and 16kms from the nearest appropriate Govt school <b>OR</b> * Adverse roads for 20 days or return bus service exceeds 3 hours <b>OR</b> *Special needs category - remove from school, learning support, educational disadvantage	Primary & Secondary up to the age of 19	\$8,557 per year
<b>Additional Boarding Allowance</b> Parent Income Tested	Parental income tested after \$52706 - upper combined family income limit - contact Centrelink as it depends on number of siblings in each family (family pool) & boarding costs for each child. If boarding fees are less than \$7999, then only the Basic Boarding Allowance is paid		\$2,454 per year (reduces \$1 for each \$5 over \$52,706)
<b>Second Home Allowance</b>	Limited to a maximum of 3 children per family	Primary & Secondary	\$248.60 per fortnight, per student
<b>Distance Education Allowance</b> (State)		Primary & Secondary	\$4,278 per year
<b>Boarding Away From Home Allowance (BAHA)</b> (State)	Eligible to families that permanently reside in WA and qualify for the AIC Basic Boarding Allowance	Primary & Secondary	\$1,634 per year
<b>Student Subsidised Travel Scheme (SSTS)</b> (State)	*Students must be dependent upon their parents/guardian and not working full time *Not receiving Youth Allowance or Abstudy payments; and *Have both parents or sole parent living within the Defined Remote Area (DRA) *Applications must be submitted one month prior to travel	Primary, Secondary & Tertiary up to 26	Primary & Secondary students receive 4 return trips per school year.  Tertiary students receive up to 4 return trips depending on year of study.  SIDE students receive up to 3 return trips per school year depending on year of study.
<b>Road Travel Subsidy (RTS)</b> (State)	*At least 56km from home to the nearest appropriate Govt school with boarding facilities <b>OR</b> regular passenger transport (bus depot, airport) *Can claim up to 8 round trips per school year *Should only be claimed once at the end of the school year when all travel has been undertaken	Primary, Secondary & Tertiary	21.51 cents p/km per round trip after 112km (56km x 2)
<b>Conveyance Allowance</b> (State)	*Reside more than 4.5km from the nearest appropriate Govt school; <b>OR</b> *Required to travel more than 4.5km from home to the nearest School Bus Stop *Reside outside the designated Public Transport Area	Primary & Secondary	21.15 cents p/km
<b>Youth Allowance Dependent &amp; Independent</b> (Federal)	All applicants must check the Centrelink website <a href="http://www.centrelink.gov.au">www.centrelink.gov.au</a> for detailed information and eligibility criteria. *Earned at least 75% of the National Training Wage within a 14 month period since leaving school *Worked part-time (min 15 hrs each week) for at least 2 years since leaving school *Employed for 30hrs per week for 18 months in a two year period on leaving school *Age of independence - 22 yrs in 2018 (independent students - combined parental income limit. Contact Centrelink - depends on number of siblings in family) *Individual circumstance provision	Full-time Tertiary & new apprentices 16-24	<18 home \$253.20 <18 away \$462.50 >18 home \$304.60 >18 away \$462.50 per fortnight max
<b>Student Start-Up Loan</b>	Available to all Youth Allowance recipients Can only apply up to two loan payments each calendar year Loan periods are 1 Jan to 30 Jun and 1 Jul to 31 Dec each year		\$1,094 per loan period
<b>Relocation Scholarship</b>	Only available to Dependent Youth Allowance recipients and need to live away from home to study		\$4,626 1st year \$2,314 2nd & 3rd years \$1,156 4th year plus
<b>Fares Allowance</b> (Federal)	Available to eligible Youth Allowance recipients only who are enrolled in either On Campus or External Tertiary Studies.	Full time Tertiary	Up to 2 return trips per study year
<b>Living Away from Home Allowance</b> (Federal)	Available to eligible young people who have to move away from home to take up or continue with an apprenticeship or traineeship.  Not available if claiming Youth Allowance.	Full time or part-time apprentices or school based apprentices	1st year \$77.17 2nd year \$38.59 3rd year \$25 per week

\*\*\* This information was correct at the time of print but should be verified through the appropriate governing agencies.\*\*\*

## A PLACE TO PROSPER

Ethan March is used to the dry and windy conditions on the family farm in Horrocks, just north of Geraldton in WA's Mid-West, but he has quickly adapted to the leafy, coastal environment of Perth's northern suburbs as he attends Year 11 at St Stephen's School's Duncraig campus.

"At home I helped my stepbrother build a half-pipe in the shed, I ride motorbikes around the farm and take quad bikes to check on the sheep and head down the beach," Ethan said.

"Here, in Perth, it's a nice space and quite relaxing – I do spend a lot of time in my room studying but I enjoy being close to home after a big day... and catching up with friends is a lot easier, we go running, to coffee shops, down the beach and you're always close to the train station so it makes it really easy to get around."

Ethan is one of the first regional students to take up study at St Stephen's School and while he said he was naturally nervous at first, he was surprised at how quickly he settled in with his group of friends, got to know his teachers and enjoyed his academic pursuits.

"I previously came from a big school where the teachers would roughly know who you were but I feel like it is very relaxed and friendly here; you form more of a bond, not just with your friends, but your teachers who take a lot of time to help out and answer your questions; they are really passionate."

It is the School's relational nature that provided the motivation to create its new Home Away From Home (HAFH) program, which is a fresh take on traditional boarding arrangements.

Partnering with established student accommodation provider Talkabout Homestay, the HAFH program follows stringent processes to best match students with families in a home environment and conduct regular check-ins for all parties.

"Being a long way from home can be quite daunting for regional students and their families, so we structured our HAFH program with that in mind, ensuring it meets strict guidelines for peace of mind and fosters a strong relationship between the student, their family in regional WA, the host family and the School," St Stephen's School Principal Mrs Donella Beare said.

"Students have access to our holistic co-educational experience where learning and care go hand-in-hand at an affordable price in the comfort of a home environment."

Students in the HAFH program have access to all School activities and opportunities and are guided through their Secondary schooling by the St Stephen's School Care Team, Career Advisors and academic and vocational specialists, depending where their passion lies.

"For example, we may get a student who wants to qualify as a Heavy Diesel Mechanic or hone their business skills through Certificates in our Vocational Education and Training program before returning home to help run the family farm; or another who may be focused on achieving entry into one of Perth's universities," Mrs Beare said.

Another distinctive is the offer of a short-term trial, which may be two or four weeks, that sees the student take on all aspects of the program to see if the arrangement will work for them and their families.

"Even though it is in the best interests for their child's future, these families are undertaking a huge decision being so far from their loved ones, so we want to make sure we are the right fit for the families and that we can all work together to get the best outcome for all," Mrs Beare said.

While Ethan is yet to decide what he wants to study after school, he is focused on doing well in Year 11 and 12 and believes attending St Stephen's School gives him the best platform.

"At home it would take me an hour-and-a-half to get to school and then home again so that was a big factor in deciding to come here; I have more time to study, which is especially important in Year 11 and 12," he said.

"I would think I'm in the best place to become the person that I want to be."

**Give your child a place to prosper at St Stephen's School. Call 9243 2110 or email [homeawayfromhome@ststephens.wa.edu.au](mailto:homeawayfromhome@ststephens.wa.edu.au).**

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

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PLEASE SUBMIT A PHOTO TO  
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# SAVE THE DATE

## 49<sup>th</sup> Annual State Conference

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Ingot Hotel**



Great Eastern Highway  
Belmont



REVISE (Retired Educator Volunteers for Isolated Students Education) is a voluntary organisation that assists rural and remote children with their educational needs. The scheme provides tutors and retired teachers who volunteer their time to go bush to assist parents of rural and remote children in the supervision of their children's education received through the School of Isolated and Distant Education (SIDE) and regional Schools of the Air (SOTA). REVISE offers much needed relief at times when parents may find it difficult to adequately supervise their education.

Where help is needed REVISE will be sure to assist if there is a volunteer available. If you are a parent requiring help and would like more information please contact Sue Potter REVISE co-ordinator [revisewa@gmail.com](mailto:revisewa@gmail.com)

# ICPA WA Merchandise for Sale



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Glass Water Bottles .....	\$18
Stainless steel Water Bottles .....	\$15
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Postage to be added if needed to be sent to you *	
All items come in all three ICPA WA colours—Blue, Yellow and Orange *	
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\* \* \* \* \*



# ICPA WA CONTACTS

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For full contact details see ICPA website <a href="https://wa.icpa.com.au/">https://wa.icpa.com.au/</a>	<b>Webmaster:</b> Kym Ross Email: WAWebmaster@icpa.com.au

## PORTFOLIOS

First name is Portfolio Leader

### ALLOWANCES

Sam Greay  
Tash Johns

### FUNDING / SPONSORSHIPS

Sam Greay  
Sally Brindal

### STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Chandra Ridley  
Kym Ross

### COMMUNICATIONS

Sally Brindal  
Sam Greay

### POST COMPULSORY

Kym Burns  
Naomi Obst

### TEACHER TRAINING

Naomi Obst  
Jane Hughes

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Jane Hughes  
Chandra Ridley

### RURAL AND REMOTE SCHOOLS

Naomi Obst  
Chandra Ridley

### TRAVEL

Sally Brindal  
Kym Burns

### DE / SOTA / CURRICULUM

Chandra Ridley  
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### SPECIAL EDUCATION

Kym Burns  
Michelle Abbott



kindly thanks and acknowledges the following sponsors and donors of our 48<sup>th</sup> Annual State Conference.

13<sup>th</sup> March 2020. Hosted by Meekatharra Air Branch.

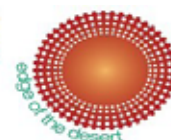
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