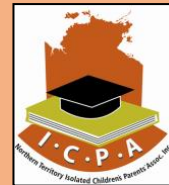


DOWN THE TRACK

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of the Northern Territory

NEWSLETTER

Issue 78 April 2018



Many thanks to the Connellan Trust and
SIBA Ships for their generous support of the
NT ICPA ventures in 2018



From our President - Tiani Cook

Welcome to another wonderful edition of *Down the Track*. It's been an action packed quarter and I've come to expect nothing less in the life of ICPA!

Online membership is up and running with lots of members choosing to renew their membership this way. I personally did mine online this year, it was simple and convenient. Sue Shotton has spent many hours ensuring the system works for all State Councils who've implemented the online system. Thank you also to our NT ICPA Treasurer Sarah Measey for her hard work and dedication to making the online system work so seamlessly for the Territory.

In mid-February, I attended the annual Federal and State Council Presidents and Secretaries face to face meeting which was held in Sydney. On the first day of meetings we gathered at the NBN conference room where we discussed many hot topics before a guided tour of the NBN Discovery Centre. It's incredible to see what can be accomplished with technology when you have the data to use it. On the second day we took advantage of the convenience of the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel's conference room for our meetings. It was an incredibly productive couple of days of networking and brainstorming with much coming from the meeting.

Our 36th Annual NT ICPA State Conference was held on the 21st March at 'Alice in the Territory' in Alice Springs. Lisa Goldsworthy convened on behalf of Alice Springs Branch. We had a good roll up of members and stakeholders attend. Minister for Education Eva Lawler and Shadow Minister for Education Mrs Lia Finocchiaro both sent through wonderful video messages to conference. We appreciate these ladies taking the time to speak to us. Please read more in our Conference Report later in this edition.

State NT ICPA Councillors are planning a F2F and mini delegation in Darwin in May. This will be a great opportunity to re-connect with departmental and ministerial personnel as well as other stakeholders including Telstra. We will also have the opportunity to discuss motions which were passed at our Conference.

I hope you enjoy reading this copy of Down the Track.

Cheers for now, Tiani.

*Front Cover and Back cover images—Katherine Branch
NTICPA Sports Camp, Mataranka.*

Photo Credits to Kerrie Scott, Katherine Branch President

NEW Volunteers for Isolated Students Education - Aussie Helpers



AHVISE (Aussie Helpers Volunteers for Isolated Students Education) is a newly established voluntary organisation that helps rural and remote children with their educational needs.

It has been established by a group of committed volunteers and is sure to be a great service to rural and remote children and families.

Retired Tutors/Teachers volunteer their time to go bush and help our rural and remote kids in the school room. Many of these kids have their own schoolroom on Cattle Stations, Communities, National Parks, Properties, Farms, Fishing Villages or even the odd remote island. Where there's help needed AHVISE will be sure to assist if there is a volunteer available.

***'Teamwork; it divides the task
and multiplies the success'***

Success is seeing rural and remote children receiving equity no matter where they live in Australia.

If you feel you can help our kids by volunteering, or if you are a parent requiring help please get more information and register by going to:

www.ahvise.org.au

Newsletter Editor: Ruth Woerle - woerles@hotmail.com

Printer: Hollands Print Solutions - McCourt Rd, Yarrowonga. NT.

NT WEBSITE – <http://nt.icpa.com.au>

Keep an eye on our website as news items, media releases and events will be posted regularly.

If your branch has something important to share with other NT members please email it to the
ntwebmaster@icpa.com.au

The NT webpage homepage has a Facebook feed which allows you to view the NT Facebook page without the added burden of increased data due to the ads.



Find us on
Facebook

'Northern Territory Isolated
Children's Parent Association'

Twitter -- @NTICPA



Isolated Children's Parents' Association

NORTHERN TERRITORY STATE COUNCIL Inc



2018 - 2019 Positions

Postal Address; PO Box 8346, Alice Springs 0871

Email: NTSecretary@icpa.com.au

Website: www.nt.icpa.com.au

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<p style="text-align: center;">VICE PRESIDENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sally Sullivan Cave Creek Station PO Box 4009 Mataranka NT 0852</p> <p style="text-align: center;">08 8975 4321 NTVicePresident@icpa.com.au</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NTICPA STATE PATRON Mrs Jan Heaslip NTICPA State Life Member Bond Springs Station PO Box 4 Alice Springs NT 0872 08 8952 9810 janiceheaslip@outbackretreat.com.au</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ASSISTANT SECRETARY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bec Cadzow Mt Riddock Station PMB 43 Alice Springs NT 0872</p> <p style="text-align: center;">08 89569963 Cadzow@rachnet.com.au</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PUBLICITY OFFICER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sarah Cook PO Box 1361 Alice Springs NT 0871</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0889569705 NTPublicityofficer@icpa.com.au</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">NTICPA STATE COMMITTEE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Anna Weir Amaroo Station Via Alice Springs NT 0872</p> <p style="text-align: center;">088956 9899 Sandoverpastoral@bigpond.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ARCHIVES & DOWN THE TRACK NEWSLETTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ruth Woerle PO Box 728 Palmerston NT 0832</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0404 479534 woerles@hotmail.com</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">NT WEB MASTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sue Shotton Douglas Daly Research Farm PMB 105 Winnellie NT 0822</p> <p style="text-align: center;">08 8978 2705 NTWebmaster@icpa.com.au</p>

PORTFOLIO POSITIONS

Allowances - Sarah Cook
Boarding - Sarah Cook
Communications & Technology - Tiani Cook
Curriculum - Bec Cadzow
Distance Ed - Bec Cadzow

Early Childhood - Anna Weir
Rural/Remote Schools - Sarah Measey
Special Needs - Sally Sullivan
Tertiary - Sally Sullivan
Training - Sally Sullivan
Miscellaneous & Across the Border - Tiani Cook



Special Needs in Isolation

Northern Territory Isolated Children's Parents' Association 36th Annual State Conference Alice Springs - 20-21 March 2018

If you were in Alice Springs on 20th March 2018, chances are you were gearing up for the Northern Territory Isolated Children's Parents' Association pre-conference dinner at the Double Tree, followed by the 36th Annual State Conference, themed '*Special Needs in Isolation*.'

If you weren't there, you missed a cracker, but here's an update.



Above & Right; Conference Convenor Lisa Goldworthy with some of her capable Alice Springs member team

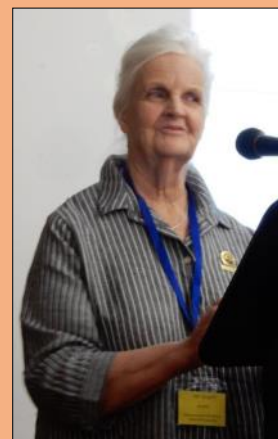
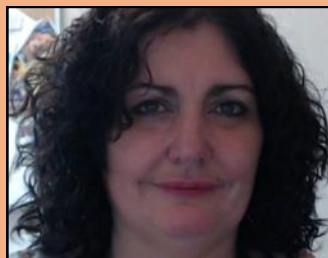


The conference was well attended, with in excess of 40 registrations and guests who travelled from Queensland, South Australia and all over the Territory. Conference was convened by Lisa Goldworthy on behalf of the Alice Springs Branch, and we were honoured with the presence of our Northern Territory Patron Mrs Jan Heaslip, Life Member Mrs Pat Elliott, Alice Springs branch delegates and members, Katherine and Lones branch delegates and members, 2017 NT State Councillors and invited guests.

NT State Council were also honoured to welcome several higher profile guests, including video messages from both the Northern Territory Minister for Education, Eva Lawler MP and Lia Finocchiaro, Shadow Minister for Education and Deputy Leader of the Opposition; and seats at the conference for Federal Member for Lingiari and Assistant Shadow Minister for Northern Australia Warren Snowdon MP and Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Education Vicki Baylis.

As we've come to expect, functions and proceedings were well organised, involving just the right amount of entertainment, covering all the business, including old and new faces and everyone feeling welcome, engaged and re-focused.

It was our great honour that Mrs Pat Elliott opened conference. Mrs Elliott's speech humbly highlighted how dedicated our founding members were and how much has been achieved by ICPA during its presence in the Territory. While conference marvelled over her recounts, we were left with no doubt that while it may seem ordinary at the time, one's efforts can actually become extraordinary feats, and leave an incredible legacy for the organisation. *(Pat Elliott top right)*



Sandy Russo (above) was our keynote speaker. Sandy is the director of SPELD SA, a not-for-profit organisation that helps people with specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia, and those that support them. Sandy specialises in problem solving the educational needs of students with specific learning difficulties, suggesting strategies, good teaching practices and assistive technologies that may help a student succeed independently in the classroom, university or workplace. Sandy's presentation was profound and left us in no doubt that like specific learning difficulties require so much more attention than the issue receives.



*Tiani Cooke with Tim Saul—(Head of NBN Local SA/NT)
Federal President Wendy Hicks and
Warrem Snowden—Federal Member for Lingiari)*

NBN local and Telstra Country Wide were among our speakers. ICPA are so grateful these service providers can attend our conference, not only do they better understand our situations, but we hear first-hand about their progress in improving communications in the bush.



*Davis Hall, Mark
Van Echtels and
Nic Dank with
Tiani Cook*

Special Needs in Isolation

Northern Territory Isolated Children's Parents' Association
36th Annual State Conference Alice Springs - 20-21 March 2018



We also heard from AHVISE - Lyn French, a powerhouse north Queensland woman who has kept VISE alive for the bush; Noelene Armstrong, COGSO representative and walking reference point for special needs and mental health, and several representatives for the Department of Education, including early childhood intervention and specials needs in distance education.



Above: Alana Moller, Wendy Hicks and Noeline Armstrong with Alethea Nichol.

After speakers, we debated motions. Branch executives and members, you are commended for the knowledge and effort you put into your motions, which very importantly form the basis of our organisation. By these motions, you are guiding change required to overcome the challenges in educating our future generations in rural and remote Australia, and State Council extends gratitude to Territory branches for your commitment to providing excellent motions for conference consideration, once again.



Above left, NTDLS Principal Marcia Harvey. Right - Sally Sullivan and Tiani Cook - who certainly have each others backs!

Conference proceedings were followed by the AGM, where Federal President Wendy Hick was our knowledgeable returning officer. Office bearers and council members were duly elected before conference closed and we all made our way to the Overlander Steakhouse for the post conference dinner.

Weaving her magic, conference convenor Lisa Goldsworthy organised an excellent post conference event, with plenty of entertainment including Benny Heaslip on the guitar and a music quiz which created



hours of friendly competition and lots of laughs. We auctioned one of the two iPhone 8's, kindly donated by Telstra, the other was won in a raffle during the conference (much excitement!). I later heard some of us had a rather long night, enjoying the company of friends and making the most of their time together.



Thank you and congratulations Lisa Goldsworthy and Alice Springs branch on a fabulous conference. Friends and members, if you are kicking yourself for missing out, don't. There's always next year. Katherine are hosting in 2019, so gather your neighbours, organise your mates and get involved in ICPA.

Education in the bush is not improved by some miracle or the passing of time. It is improved by the work of groups such as ours. Congratulations Northern Territory ICPA members on another successful year.

NT ICPA Publicity Officer, Sarah Cook. (below left, with Liz Bird)



NT ICPA Presidents Report – 36th Annual State Conference

Tiani Cook

Distinguished Guests, Members and friends; It's my pleasure to present the NT ICPA State Presidents Report here today at our 36th Annual NT ICPA State Conference. I thought last year was a whirlwind year...but in the wake of cyclone Marcus this year is shaping up to simply blow me away! Whatever did I do with my time before ICPA?

I can honestly say that the NT ICPA team representing our members is one of combined strengths, knowledge and assets. Together our NT ICPA State Council move forward as a respected and reputable organisation with a growing ability to connect with stakeholders and community groups in the effort to ensure an equitable level of education for our rural and remote kids.

This year our Conference is hosted by the Alice Springs Branch; the theme is '*Special Needs in Isolation*' and we have a great line up of speakers to discuss specific learning needs. We'll also be hearing from Telstra and NBN to discuss the fast-paced world of telecommunications which encapsulates the way in which our kids' education is delivered.

Sydney Annual State Presidents & Secretaries F2F, 2018

In February, I flew to Sydney for the annual State Presidents and Secretaries Face to Face Executives' Meeting. It was an enjoyable and productive couple of days of networking and brainstorming with much coming from the meeting discussions. We went on a tour of the NBN Discovery Centre and discussed the following:

Changes to the In Home Care Program

In Home Care (IHC) officially finishes in June 2018. Unsure what name they're replacing it with but it's certain it'll be locked into childcare. Places will be capped at 3,000. Carers are distributed through an agency. Previously families could find someone and register them, with the agency now they can't do that. At present there's a 12-month waiting list. IHC and Nanny Pilot Program is being blended together to form a Home Based Education Care (HBEC), Federal put in a submission in outlining the fact we can't get carers out in the bush.

The Assistance for Isolated Children's' Systems Glitch late last year

There was a glitch in their system due to its closing on Dec 31 and reopening Jan 1. What happened is that it generated a letter to recipients of the AIC saying it was cancelled. Second Home families also received a letter. It was a system problem causing undue stress to families. Please let me know so I can feed back to Federal if any members are still experiencing a problem with their AIC payments.

The Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education.

ICPA gave 3 recommendations suggesting funds be tied into the AIC and increased across all sections.

- Second house allowance with left overs going to 4 year olds
- Bursary's or grants available
- Rural Education Fund - similar to the Rural Indigenous Fund

Motions wording protocol for State Conference's

During discussions about State Conference motions we were informed that due to wording some State motions are unconstitutional in their wording/intent according to ICPA (Aust) Federal By-law 1.

Advice for State Council submissions into Federal Inquiries & Reviews

Regarding state submissions on federal issues; they need to be endorsed by federal council. Federal council must vote on it. Unless it's contradictory or there's a conflict of policy federal council shouldn't say they disagree.

Constitutional changes on the cards this year for Federal/ICPA Aust:

- Additional By-laws around Administration Policies
 - WWC Policy – CWA has a good policy around WWC. It's a good idea to have an ochre card (blue card) but presently we don't *need* to. Something for NT ICPA to think about also - updating our policy's re WWC.
 - Disputes Section: Disputes will be addressed by a policy/bylaw into the constitution
-

2018 Federal Conference

Alice Springs hosted a successful 46th Annual Federal Conference last year on the 2nd and 3rd of August, with the theme *'From the Heart of Australia for the Future of our Kids'*. The profits made at the conference have been paid to state and shared equally with Alice Springs Branch who convened on behalf of NT ICPA.

Online Membership

It's great to see that the ICPA membership renewals for 2018 using our online option seem to be working without problem. I renewed online, and the process was simple and easy. Well done to Sarah Measey our webmaster guru Sue Shotton and ICPA Federal Council in getting the system up and running smoothly.

Grants and Bursary's

NT ICPA's annual grants, bursaries and competitions include Siba/Wellard Grants, Post-Secondary Bursary, FRRR Back to School Vouchers and the Zoetis 'Pastoral Industry' Student Grant.

Both Alice Springs and Katherine ICPA Branches offer a further 4 bursaries each for their individual branch members. More information on grants and bursaries can be found on the NT ICPA webpage.

Submissions:

NT ICPA have been busy with submissions this past term, with Councillors jointly compiling a submission to the *'Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education'*, the *'NT Government's 10 year early childhood development strategic plan'* and a submission into *'The operation, regulation and funding of air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities'*.

NBN Multicast Trials:

NT distance education schools have been undergoing multicast trials over the last 18 months to ensure a smooth transition from the STARS network across to the NBN Sky Muster Satellite. Trials will ensure NBN can adequately handle the REACT program which all NT Distance Education Students use for the current delivery of their Interactive Distance Learning (IDL) lessons. The Department of Education's IT specialist Margaret Littler noted in her latest correspondence:

On 12th December NBN officially approved in writing an extension of the Satellite Multicast Technical Trial for Term 1 (13/4/2018) and they have extended their contract with FSG to that effect.

There are 5 KSA and 3 ASSOAs families with active NBN connections. A further 3 ASSOAs families are expected to be commissioned with an NBN multicast service in the near future.

I expect the next update will be at the conclusion of term 1 with the trial being ongoing...

We thank Marg Littler and REACT Developers Michael & Susan Wilson for keeping us in the loop in regard to the Multicast trials.

NT ICPA Presidents Report – 36th Annual State Conference

Tiani Cook

Delegations in Darwin 20th & 21st November 2017

In November last year, 4 NTICPA Councillors; Sally Sullivan, Kerrie Scott, Sarah Cook and I attended two days of meetings with government ministers and parliamentary representatives, relevant departmental officers and other important stakeholders in Darwin to address some of the issues affecting bush kids' access to education.

Every year, NT ICPA councillors delegate in Darwin to lobby on behalf of NT ICPA members and put forward the motions passed at our annual state conference.

I think I speak on behalf of all four of us ladies when I say it was an enjoyable and highly successful couple of days.

Minister for Corporate and Information's Services Digital Excellence Awards – 1st December, 2017

In December I attended the minister for Corporate and Information Services, digital excellence awards which showcased some of the many facets of the technology and telecommunications division within the NT.

The recent Northern Territory Government discussion paper, '*Towards a digital strategy for the NT*' stated that by 2030, one in two Australians will need skills in programming, software development and building technology to remain competitive.

It's never been more evident to me that we need to get our telecommunication issues in the bush right to ensure our kids don't get left behind when it comes to STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). It's rather ironic, when the very delivery of our rural and remote kids' education, so heavily relies upon technology and communications working sufficiently in the first place.

AHWISE

With VISE no longer available, Lyn French has worked tirelessly to develop a new program. Lyn is speaking at our conference here today to tell us all about the new AHWISE program - Aussie Helpers - Volunteers for Isolated Students Education (AHWISE) is a newly established voluntary organisation that helps rural and remote children's' educational needs.

If you're a parent wanting help through the AHWISE program you can register through the webpage; www.ahvise.org.au

Down the Track

Our 'Down the Track' state newsletter produces 350 copies, three times per year, which is distributed to all members, parliamentary representatives, rural and remote schools and our sponsors. Thank you to Ruth Woerle for her ongoing dedication to editing, collaborating and distribution of each *Down the Track* Issue.

NTICPA Webpage

There have been reports from federal and states that due to limited band width and an increasing volume of material being stored on the website, some older minutes have been dropped. Federal is looking into increasing website bandwidth as state motions and minutes go up on the webpage with state conferences now underway. Thank you to Sue Shotton for her expertise and continued efforts towards ensuring our webpage remains relevant and up to date.

I hope you all have an enjoyable conference.

Thank you, Tiani.



ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS ASSOCIATION NORTHERN TERRITORY STATE COUNCIL INCORPORATED



SIBA SHIPS–WELLARD RURAL EXPORTS 'BRIDGING THE GAP' GRANTS PROGRAM

A donation from Siba Ships and the Wellard Rural Export group has allowed NT ICPA to offer the 'Bridging the Gap' Grants program.

WHAT ARE THEY?

These grants shall be awarded in February and August each year to assist in the costs associated for a child to attend an educationally based activity, purchase materials, which are relevant to their current studies or chosen career path or undertake personal development activities.

They are intended to cover course costs, books, equipment, travel and study aids. This is also extended to include activities that relate to student's study course or personal development: leadership skills, information gathering, networking with peers, and course extension activities.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

1. The applicant's family must be geographically isolated and have been a Branch or Lone Member within the NT for at least two years.
2. The applicant must be aged between 15 to 22 years at the 1st January in the year of application.
3. Applicants do not have to be enrolled in fulltime study.

CONDITIONS OF APPLICATIONS

As part of the claim the applicant must provide a 500 word (approx) application which would include:

How are you or your family isolated

Details of family membership with the ICPA in the NT

Details of costs and how the activity or materials that you are applying for will benefit you and what is its relevance to the course you are studying; or your career pathway; or personal development.

Payment will be made in the form of a cheque payable to the successful recipient or guardian, once the application has been deemed successful or alternatively, when a receipt or invoice has been presented to the NTICPA Treasurer, pertaining to the activity or materials from the educational body.

Retrospective applications can be made for an activity or cost associated that has occurred within the previous semester.

The successful applicants will be required to provide a brief written report outlining the content and achievements obtained, for inclusion in the following NTICPA 'Down the Track' Newsletter. (photographs encouraged)

A successful applicant may not apply for consecutive bursaries.

SELECTION PROCESS

All applications will be strictly confidential. The names of the applicants will only be known to the current State Council Assistant Secretary, who will not be eligible to sit on the selection panel.

If in the opinion of the selection panel no suitable application is received, grants will not be awarded and the budgeted amount rolled over into the next semester. Amounts awarded each semester will be decided by the panel, ensuring that any single payment is not under \$750 and with the annual amount available to the grants being reviewed and allocated after each AGM.

The decision of the selection panel will be final. Parents of applicants shall not be eligible to sit on the panel.

CLOSING DATES

January 31st July 30th each year.

The application must be received by the Returning Officer by C.O.B. on the closing dates. Please forward the application along with your current address, email and contact phone number to:

NTICPA Secretary:
Helen Harding
Gorrie Station
RSD MS 1953
Katherine NT 0852
T: 8975 9965
E: hardingnt@bigpond.com

Note: As this mailing address is in a remote location, please allow plenty of time for delivery - email is preferred.

*It is advisable that you ring to ensure that the application has been received.
If sending by email, please ensure you have a 'read receipt' on your outgoing message
and that your email is confirmed as received.*

**Agenda Motions Due for Federal Conference:
5th June 2018.**

If you have an issue relating to educating your children you would like to address at the Federal Conference, please advise us so we are able to add it to the agenda. All motions have to be moved and carried at a branch meeting and submitted to ICPA Federal Council by June 5th. It would also be worth noting that you can go onto the ICPA webpage and find out about outcomes of previous motions and also get an idea of other issues other branches experience across Australia.
www.icpa.com.au

Attending Federal Conference: 31st July to 3rd August

This year the ICPA Federal Conference is being convened and hosted by NSW, held in Canberra.

The Conference runs on the 1st & 2nd August (the day before Harts Range – our major 4 day fundraiser)

A quick calculation gives an estimate of approximately \$1750 per person to attend the Federal Conference from Alice Springs. Flights & Accommodation need to be booked ASAP to ensure we keep the cost per person at a minimum.

As a branch, we will set a budget for assisting to send members to Federal Conference at the next meeting.

If you are interested in attending the 2018 Federal Conference, please advise the branch secretary in writing so we have an idea of interest: secretaryasicpa@gmail.com

**ICPA Canteen at Harts Range Races, Rodeo & Camp
draft: 3rd - 6th August**

This is the Alice Springs Branch - Major Four Day Fundraiser for the year. We raise approx. \$14,000 at the ICPA Harts Range Canteen each year.

The money generated by this fundraiser goes towards:

- The yearly, multiple bursaries our Branch offers; \$7,500 is able to be allocated each year
- Sending members to State and Federal Conferences.
- When approached and approved, funding is allocated to schools providing Distance Education.

ICPA has been running the kitchen at Harts Range for decades with many of our mothers and in-laws making up the rich history of serving race goers at Harts Range.

This year we are looking for members to form the Organising committee for the Harts Range Weekend.

Our previous coordinator Jodie, who graciously volunteered her time over the past many years to continue the Harts Range ICPA canteen tradition, (Huge thank you to Jodie) has comprehensive notes for the food ordering & logistics that would be handed to the new coordinator.

If you would like to have a crack at coordinating the 2018 ICPA Harts Range Kitchen, please let us know in the lead up to the meeting.

If you would like to offer your help in any way for the Canteen duties, please get in touch with the secretary prior to the meeting if you are unable to attend in person.

Bronco Branding: 14th - 16th September 2018

Sarah from Aileron Station expressed her interest at the last Branch meeting to coordinate the national finals Bronco Branding catering at Undoolya Station. We will be asking for members to express their interest in helping Sarah cater for this event at the branch meeting. Undoolya is very close to town (under 30km) and this may attract more helpers as you can drive back to town at night if you are not a camper. We will decide as a branch at the next meeting if we are able to go ahead with the offer to provide the catering for this event.

AHA NT- Sports / Science camp: Date to be confirmed

Our Branch has \$7265 allocated in 2018 to assist in running a Sports / Science (or educational based learning experience) for our children. Natasha was the Coordinator for our first AHA Sports, Science & Family day that was held in the lead up to

‘Swim Week’ in December last year.

We are putting the call out for any member that would be interested in organising this event in 2018 and any members who would like to lend a hand in the lead up or on the day. The 1st & 2nd October has been a suggested date to run the AHA program over 2 days.

This date falls in the ASSOA, SA Boarding School & QLD Boarding School, school holidays.

A quick survey will be emailed out to all members after 20th April and prior to the branch meeting on the 15th May to capture the preferred date for the AHA NT Sports / Science Camp.

We welcome any further feedback and suggestions for the programme and running of the camp.

Tennant Creek Rodeo: 6th October

Amber from Elkedra Station has taken up the offer from the Barkly Rodeo Association of returning to 'man the bar' at the Tennant Creek Rodeo 2018. A team of ICPA members did this last year and they were able to donate \$1500 to the branch in return for an evening of bar work. If you are interested in this event, please get in touch with the branch secretary or Amber: 08 89569889

Alice Springs ICPA Branch Bursaries

Our branch offers five bursaries to our members children each year. Emails are sent out to members families during the year giving details of how to apply for the bursaries that our branch offers and also giving examples and ideas of different personal development opportunities that your children could consider doing. I urge each member to encourage their children to utilise these bursaries. If you would like to know more about how to apply, who to talk to, or anything to do with the Alice Springs Branch Bursaries, please contact the Branch Secretary or the 2018 Bursary Secretary e: aurichtmob@gmail.com

Alice Springs School of Air - \$1500 for a member's child leaving ASSOA (Year 6, 7, 8 or 9)

St Philip's - \$2000 (towards boarding) for a member's child currently enrolled at St Philip's College.

Secondary Bursary - \$2000 to member's child in a secondary school, other than St Philip's.

Senior and Junior Personal Development Bursaries - up to \$1000 (for each age group) to a member's child per year to assist with the costs associated to attend an educationally based seminar, course or activity of their choice.

How to contact the Alice Springs ICPA Branch:

President: president.as.icpa@gmail.com

Secretary: secretaryasicpa@gmail.com

Bursary Secretary: aurichtmob@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ICPA-Alice-Springs-Branch-244176069319215/>

Webpage: <https://www.icpa.com.au/branches/view/66/alice-springs-nt>



E. J. CONNELLAN AWARD

The Chairman of the Connellan Airways Trust, Mr. Mark Coffey, today announced Mrs Jessica Coolwell to be the winner of the 2018 E.J. Connellan Award. She will receive \$20,000 over the four years of her degree.

Jess (nee Sullivan) comes from Cave Creek Station via Mataranka in the Northern Territory. Having completed a Bachelor of Health Sciences in 2017 she commenced her Doctor of Medicine with Flinders University in Darwin in February 2018 involving four years of full time study followed by a four year return of service obligation with the NT Government. Jess plans to become a rural general specialist so she can work as a doctor in rural and remote areas of the NT.

Jess says 'I grew up witnessing the many disadvantages people living in remote NT face and I am determined to be a doctor who takes primary healthcare to places most people don't want to go and to bush people like my own family. I want to serve beyond the consultation room as a Territory community member to promote and enable preventative health and wellbeing at a community level'.

Mr Coffey said 'Jess has demonstrated a strong commitment to assist people in outback Australia which is an important factor in determining the EJ Connellan Award. The delivery of health services in outback Australia is always challenging so we are very happy to support Jess in her endeavours to become a doctor with a passion to work in the bush as this epitomises the values of the Connellan Airways Trust.'

The Award was established in 1988 by the Connellan Airways Trust in honour of the founder of the Trust, the pioneer Northern Territory aviator, Eddie Connellan, who was a man of strong and passionate character, with special abilities attuned to trail blazing. He was a successful pastoralist and a visionary business man; he played a prominent role in Central Australian affairs. He was a legend in his own lifetime.

The award aims is to assist people over the age of 16 years who live in the remote areas of Australia. Since the Alice Springs based Trust commenced in 1981, it has been able to provide more than \$3 million to the residents of the Outback.

The Connellan Airways Trust will fund the E.J Connellan Award again next year, with applications closing on 31 January 2019.

The Trust welcomes donations, which are tax deductible.



*For further information contact
Kaye Clapin, Executive Officer*

Ph: 1800 733 810

or visit the Trust's website:

www.connellanairwaystrust.org.au



ROGER CONNELLAN AWARD

*The Chairman of the Connellan Airways Trust,
Mr Mark Coffey announces the 2018 opening of the
Roger Connellan Award for excellence in aviation.*

*The Award is the result of a generous donation by
the Connellan family in memory of Eddie
Connellan's son Roger Connellan.*

*Roger was a bush pilot who rose to Chief Check and
Training Captain of Connair when they employed
120 commercial pilots and helped establish the Alice
Springs Aero Club in 1964.*

The award is a perpetual annual award.

*The Award gives the opportunity, by the provision of
financial support of up to \$20,000, to people living
in Outback Australia for skill development in an
aviation related field excluding initial licensing.*

*The Award will be made to an applicant for further
qualifications and professional development
programs in a recognised aviation field.*

*Applications open on June 1 and close on
July 15 2018.*

*Application forms can be downloaded from
Connellan Airways Trust Website*

To find out more about the Award;

www.connellanairwaystrust.org.au

Kaye Clapin on 1800 733 810

info@connellanairwaystrust.org.au

Getting to know our State Councillors....

PRESIDENT Tiani Cook

*Portfolios: Communications and Technology,
Miscellaneous /Across the Border*



Tiani Cook is mother to 4 children, three daughters aged 15, 17, & 21 and a son aged 19. Tiani's eldest daughter lives in Alice Springs with her fiancé and youngest three live, work and school from home on the family cattle station, 'Suplejack Downs' 730kms north west of Alice Springs NT.

Tiani has been part of the Distance Education family for a very long time now. Firstly as a kid herself with a stint at Alice Springs School of the Air (ASSOA) then with her own children. Tiani's youngest two daughters are currently finishing their schooling years through Northern Territory School of Distance Education; Darwin (NTSDE) completing Yr12 and Yr10.

Over the last two years as NT ICPA State President, Tiani has thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being part of the dynamic and intuitive group.

Tiani's passions include horse riding, travelling and proudly advocating for 'Bush Kids'.

TREASURER AND PUBLIC OFFICER Sarah Measey

Portfolio: Rural and Remote Schools



Sarah Measey's family live on a property in a small mixed farming region two hours south of Darwin, and have done so since 2004.

In 2013 Sarah, as a Katherine Branch member, keenly went to her first ICPA State Annual Conference and AGM in Mataranka and came home on State Council. She said it wasn't a hard decision to join council as she felt that it meant in some small way she could give back to a group that has done so much for children in rural and remote areas, and personally supported Sarah's family to better her children's education. With her three children attending a small rural school the Rural and Remote portfolio was a natural fit.

In 2015 Sarah was unable to attend the AGM and Conference in Alice Springs and thought she should step down and provide the opportunity for someone else to benefit from the wonderful experience of being on State Council. However Sarah received a phone call shortly after the AGM asking if she could re-join, as a newly elected member had to step down. She took the opportunity, retained the Rural and Remote Schools portfolio and picked up the Boarding Portfolio which was a timely addition as her eldest had just started at boarding school in Queensland.

In 2016 Sarah took on the role of Treasurer and Public Officer and felt she had big shoes to fill, however Ruth (the outgoing treasurer with big feet) was willing to support Sarah in the role and is still doing so today. Whilst all Sarah's children now attend boarding school she is still very interested in rural and remote schools and continues to hold that portfolio.

VICE PRESIDENT Sally Sullivan

Portfolios: Special Needs, Tertiary and Training



Since 1998, Sally Sullivan and husband Rohan have lived on Cave Creek Station, a stone's throw from the famous Mataranka Thermal Pools.

Sally joined the Katherine Branch of ICPA that year when the oldest of her five children was doing Preschool through Katherine School of the Air. She has held Branch and later State Council ICPA executive positions ever since then.

In 2018, Sally and Rohan have one son still at school, as a Year 12 boarder at St Philip's College in Alice Springs, 19 year old at Uni in Melbourne, and their three daughters; the eldest is a mustering helicopter pilot, another studying her second year of an Assoc Degree in Farm Management through Marcus Oldham College and the third is studying medicine at Flinders University in Darwin. Having experienced the emotional, educational and fiscal challenges of many facets of regional education (distance education, a small rural school, boarding, tertiary and VET systems); Sally is very appreciative of those who have come before her in ICPA.

Sally is on State Council because she seeks to maintain the 'fight' to preserve and extend gains and ensure regional students are not forgotten by policy makers.

In her spare time!!!! Sally likes to paddle in the river in her canoe, commune with nature and wet a line. Needless to say, Sally's family mostly eats beef.

SECRETARY Suzanne Wilson



Suzanne (Sue) Wilson and her husband Michael, live in Darwin's CBD, NT. They have four adult children and 4 grandchildren – 2 boys and 2 girls. Suzanne immigrated from England to Australia in 1983 and has lived in several states/territories both in cities and rural and remote parts of Australia. The highlight of remote living was on a yacht cruising the remote northern shores of Australia for 6 years. No internet, no mobile phone, no Sat' phone and only HF and VHF radios for contact. The Customs plane flying overhead daily was the only regular form of contact with authorities should she have needed rescuing – she didn't! Sue has been active in adult education both in the VET sector and at university level, having worked for a Registered Training Organisation as a Course Co-ordinator and as a university lecturer at Charles Darwin University. She completed her Masters of Business Administration (MBA) in 2004 and puts her skills learned into running the small company she owns with Michael, M & S Consultants Pty Ltd - specialising in Distance Education software used for Interactive Distance Learning.

Sue and Michael have been keen supporters of ICPA for many years attending both state and federal conferences and more recently as members of NT Lone Members Branch. Keen to further the cause of parity in education for remote and rural students, she decided to further her support for ICPA by accepting the challenge of Federal Secretary at the Alice Springs Federal Conference in 2017.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY Rebecca Cadzow

Portfolios: Distance Education and Curriculum



Rebecca Cadzow her husband Steven, and her three girls; Gabrielle 15, Bridgette 13 and Imogen 8 live at MT Riddock Station 200 km north east of Alice Springs along the Plenty Highway. They run Poll Hereford cattle and too many horses! Rebecca has been an ICPA member for the last 10 years through her local Alice Springs branch. She has an active interest in ICPA and believes it is a great place to meet isolated parents, an organisation where you can give back to remote students and find so much knowledge in where, when, how and why we can get information for funding for our children's education.

Rebecca has attended two state conferences, last year via IDL, and several years ago in person in Alice Springs. Last year she put her hand up to help her local branch host the 2017 Federal ICPA Conference, as a member of the convening committee. Rebecca said "this was a very huge learning curve for me, allowing me to see just how much passion and commitment there is in ICPA from all across Australia. I am incredibly proud to be a member of both the local and state level of ICPA. I hope to be able to give my ideas, and better my understanding of how I can help our state and branch ICPA organisations"

PUBLICITY OFFICER Sarah Cook

Portfolios: Boarding and Allowances



Sarah Cook, Alice Springs Branch member, was a student of Katherine and Alice Springs School of the air, back in the days when school work came in 'sets', class chatter took place over a dodgy radio and there was always the opportunity for extra-long stints in the stock camp, which Sarah took because she loved to get ahead and get out of the school room!

Sarah later boarded at St Phillips College in Alice Springs and ironically, so did her husband, although their paths didn't cross until many years later. Having grown up in the bush, and after some career time in the big smoke, Sarah came back to School of the Air as a parent and now, with a son in boarding school, she is a boarders Mum.

Not only has ICPA been in Sarah's family for many years (her mother was an ICPA member and Sarah fondly remembers reading the magazines) but she has always believed in ICPAs purpose and need, maybe more deeply because fairness, or equity, is one of Sarah's defining values.

Sarah loves being involved in ICPA because it's something she learns from and believes in. "I like progress. And if everything is going well, we still need to meet with decision makers and stakeholders, to share what it's like to educate your children in rural and remote Australia. Most people don't understand our circumstances but a simple decision behind a desk in the city can make a big difference to us in the bush. So we must continue to share our stories, to let them know we're here".

In October 2017 I finalised my application for the AgriFutures™ Rural Women's Award. Between October 2017 and 21st March 2018 I had attended phone hook-ups, online webinars and exchanged lots of emails back and forth to the AgriFutures Network - which is Australia's leading award, acknowledging and supporting the essential role women play in rural industries, businesses and communities.

After being notified that I was shortlisted as a finalist of the award I could no longer keep the news under wraps. I did a radio interview with our local ABC reporter, Katrina Beavan, and there were other media releases on social media and a wave of support from far and wide followed. This in itself is a very humbling experience. The award provides a platform to inspire and support Australian women to use and develop their skills to benefit their industries and communities. The award is open to all women involved in rural industries, rural and regional businesses and rural and regional communities - location is no barrier!

Shortly after being notified that I was one of three finalists, the date for the award night was set... 21st March 2018, in Darwin... I am sure many of you would remember that this was the exact date of the 2018 NT ICPA State Conference. Our Branch hosted and convened the Conference on behalf of NT ICPA State. This news took the wind out of my sails to a certain degree as I knew I would not be able to attend the ICPA state conference that our Coordinator, Lisa and her team, worked so hard creating for us. I was disappointed that I would not be able to read out our Branch Motions that I had spent many hours working through with our branch and then on proposed changes. I also felt disappointed that I would miss the opportunity to thank each of our many, many sponsors face to face for their generous donations of funds or goods for our Conference. However, dwelling on the 'downside' of things is just not my style, so I chose to turn those feelings around. It was an opportunity for members within our branch to really shine as they worked together to welcome guests, present our branch motions, run a successful conference, raffle & auction and acknowledge the sponsors and delegates on my behalf. I'd like to thank all our amazing Alice Springs ICPA Branch members who so readily give their time and energy, on a voluntary basis, to chip in when and where needed to deliver the ICPA message - #youareICPA #gratitude #thankyou.

With this new positive outlook regarding the clash of dates for the ICPA Conference and the AgriFutures Award ceremony, I was feeling quite excited about my departure for Darwin to represent Central Australia. Leading up to the Darwin trip, cyclone Marcus struck and really left his mark... flights in and out of Darwin had been cancelled for the two days prior to my flight and I managed to have a conversation with a very helpful taxi driver who was able to inform me via his networks that all

Darwin flights would be open again the following day (the day I flew out). Upon arrival in Darwin I experienced the aftermath of Marcus first hand! Little footage or story line had been aired on

our TV screens in the days following Marcus which gave me a sense that everything must be pretty good up there; it was a different reality that met me when the taxi took me from the airport to my hotel. The News had been much focused on reporting the bushfires that had ripped through the Bega/Tathra coastal area, these news items dominating each headline and yet here I was in Darwin seeing the aftermath of Cyclone Marcus - he really did make a mess! My taxi driver was really happy to dive straight into detailed conversation after learning that this was my very first trip to

Darwin and he took much interest in pointing out everything along the way to the city. He was also a Cyclone Tracey survivor. We chatted all the way via a scenic route (I think we saw every upturned tree in Darwin) to the Hotel; he wished me luck for the award, and charged me a very minimal fee - considering all the scenic driving around we just did. I was lifted by his up-beat attitude and the resilience he showed towards the massive clean-up effort and thousands of houses without power. I met that same type of resilience with each local I met.

Once settled at the hotel, I hit the walking tracks around the esplanade to photograph the many upturned trees, talking to tourists and locals. There are many great things about advances in technology and the one I was thankful about while I was in Darwin was the ability to share files and folders via google drive - I was able to return to my room and get busy finalising the sponsors logo page for the NT State Conference - *I am not sure how* - but they all fitted on one page and the wonderful convening team were able to set up camp in Chansey Paech's office in Alice Springs to complete all the printing requirements for the Conference.

When in Darwin, I met the other two ladies who were the finalists, Annette Howie and Linda Blackwood; together we attended media training. While walking to the building I received a phone call from my eldest child's Boarding School in Adelaide... 'Sonny has hurt his arm today at lunch time and we have sent him for x-rays at the hospital'. That familiar sinking feeling swept over me as this was potentially the third time Sonny had broken his arm (in the same spot) in the last 2.5 years. I went into the media training hoping and praying that I would get some good news when I was finished... During this training we experienced the 'joy' of impromptu TV interviews. Each of us were interviewed on the spot and then were played back to every attendee for a round table critique. I'm glad they didn't add that in the media training description as I am sure a level of anxiety may have crept in!





On the day of the 21st March, we presented our speech/ PowerPoint to the AgriFutures panel. This was done individually and was an experience that I really enjoyed. Finally it was time for the award ceremony at Parliament House; I met Linda and Annette, with their husbands, in the foyer and we all enjoyed the short walk to Parliament House.

This was such a great networking experience and I was fortunate to catch up with some familiar faces. The level of support in the room for all three of us, as finalists, was very obvious. Everyone who attended the awards ceremony were people who wanted to 'lift you up' and support your ideas. 'Life attracts Life', and I know that I will gravitate to the networks and people I met during the AgriFutures journey. Positive people are so inspiring.

Linda Blackwood was the successful recipient of the NT AgriFutures award and I can't wait for her to represent all of us at the national finals in Canberra on the 12th September.

After the awards ceremony we all headed back to our hotel and were joined for dinner by ABC Rural reporter Lydia Burton. It was such a great way to finish off the trip to Darwin.

I finally excused myself from the table, thinking an early night would be a good idea as I had my alarm set for 4:30am to get to the airport, only to discover that it was already 11:30pm! Time really does fly when you're having fun.

Post Script: After Sonny waited at the Royal Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide for 9 hours, he was told that his arm only sustained bone & ligament bruising and that he was to return the next week for follow up x-rays. A removable wrist brace was supplied and problem was solved. A week later (the week before the School Holidays) Sonny returned for his follow up appointment. New x-rays were taken and the Doctor could not quite understand why Sonny was not in plaster - his arm was in-fact quite clearly broken and he was sent straight for plaster. One devastated boy! Arm in plaster for all of the Easter school holidays - no motorbike riding and he missed out on the William Creek Motorkhana too! Not a great way to celebrate his 13th Birthday either.... does anyone have a good brand of calcium supplement?!

If you want to create impact, innovate and make a difference and/or contribute to enhancing the prosperity of rural and regional Australia, then Agrifutures Australia want to hear from you!

<http://www.agrifutures.com.au/people-leadership/rural-womens-award/>

Amber Driver

Alice Springs ICPSA - Branch President

"Elkedra Station"

When you set a boundary as a parent, you show that you care *By Steve Biddulph*

One of the best books I ever read about changing the life of boys was simply titled *Tom*, by Melbourne youth worker John Embling. One night, Embling and his young charge were sitting in a car in a quiet street, talking and watching the sun go down. The boy finished his soft drink, and threw the can out of the window clattering onto the street. Embling got out of the car, good naturedly enough, and tossed it back onto the boy's lap. The boy tossed it out again. Embling tossed it back, and said, I mean it.

Within seconds, an almighty fight had broken out, and luckily, since the boy was a skinny 12-year-old, he was not hard to subdue. But then something happened which will be familiar to many parents when you pick up on a small thing your child has done, behind which is a big thing they can't bring themselves to tell you about directly.

Suddenly the kid was weeping, and raging and clearly off someplace in the past. What came out was a torrent of horrific mistreatments by his father. Philip Adams made a film of this story, and in one scene, the father cut the throat of a horse while his six-year-old son looked on, not realising this had been his father's plan in bringing him to his workplace. This lost father had somewhere in his own parental aims perhaps wanted to toughen the boy up. Or at least, eliminate any shreds of tenderness. It's hard to think of a more misguided way to raise a son.

Without Embling's long term involvement with this boy, I have little doubt he would have ended in prison, and very likely for killing someone. I met and worked with boys in similar shape in my own job, and the stakes were similarly high.

The thing is, Embling drew a line. He took a stand, gentle and good naturedly, on throwing stuff on the ground. On not caring. When we do that, we show that we are caring, and it brings out a great many things.

The greatest lie in the self-presentation of every adolescent boy or girl, especially those in trouble, is that they don't care. They actually care more than they can bear. And it's the same in our comfortable middle-class homes. When we have boundaries, take a stand on screen time, or on the way our son just spoke about women or girls, and we do it without anger but with a patient resolve, and when we sit back and are willing to talk about why and what feelings come with that, then it changes them.

Your son or daughter will have their life on the line some day, with some drunken friends getting into a car, or planning some idiotic act or other, all the natural result of teenage hormones plus frustration and lack of adult presence. And something in them will say "that's stupid", "no, I want to go home", "leave that girl alone, she's had too much to drink, let's get her back to her house".

It will change the direction of their life.

Recently, Tim Winton wrote some wonderful stuff about how men don't, but should, give clear valued statements to teenage boys, who are hungry for direction in a culture that doesn't seem clear about anything.

He says it like this: "Sadly modernity has failed to replace traditional codes with anything explicit, coherent, or benign. We're left with values that are residual, fuzzy, accidental or sniggeringly conspiratorial". (How interesting that he sees values as benign. As much a part of nurture as affection or food.)

We men need to step up. We need to have some "gravity and sense of responsibility". How else can our youngsters relax or feel safe in this world? How else can they learn to be good women and men?

Katherine Branch President's Report - State Conference March 2018

Good Afternoon members and guests. Congratulations to Alice Springs Branch on convening yet another professional ICPA event. It is a pleasure to travel down to represent Katherine Branch and on behalf of the branch, we thank you for hosting another successful conference.

In the December Katherine Branch Report delivered at our AGM, I spoke of the branches phenomenal fundraising results and community sponsorship, and as I have the privilege of speaking directly at State Conference, I'd like to recap on what the fundraising efforts of the Katherine community have meant to our branch.

In July 2017, the Landmark Auction held during the Katherine Show raised in excess of \$60,000 to enable the branch to support our members to work toward equity in education for our remote students. This was a record breaking result, and although the stars were definitely aligned that day to produce such a remarkable outcome – possibly helped along by the Landmark Bar - it was one that I feel was by no means 'accidental'. Our members have worked very hard and for a very long time, to give the community such a strong level of confidence to support the branch in its efforts. With such enormous encouragement and financial support, it makes our long list of goals achievable. When you consider that the Katherine School of the Air itself has, on average, a 70% turnover of students (and the families that they belong to) each year, you can begin to understand how valued that community support is, and how important our 'coacher mob' that keep those cleanskins coming in really are!

Sustainability of our projects is one of the branches priorities and we have been fortunate enough this year to again have Roper Gulf Shire Council, and the Australian Hotels Association, come onboard with community grants and sponsorship to ensure our now annual ICPA Sports Camp in Mataranka is the event our isolated children deserve, and one that does not put added financial pressure on families. We have also been lucky enough to have Santos come on-board, and with already 85 children registered to attend – along with around 35 adults, teachers and Govies, from one side of the NT and the Kimberley to the other, it is looking like not only a fantastic event, but reassures us that we are putting our energy where it needs to be. Access to sports and social interaction with peers for our kids is critical in promoting good mental and physical health and is vital to instilling a sense of community to our isolated families. We are so unique in that our community boundaries are not defined geographically, or by where we work, or by our financial status, or what school our children are enrolled in, but by the isolation, the hardships of distance, and the fact that we've all chosen not to take the easy road, or perhaps chosen the road less travelled...or perhaps after the wet season, the road you can't travel...and that character is what unites us.

In addition to the Landmark Bursaries, won last year by Tess Ford, Wes Wortley and Sasha Bowman and Personal Development Grants offered each year by the Branch, we are very proud to announce the 'Extraordinary Opportunities Grant' now in place. The aim of the grant is to provide financial support to students wishing to pursue an extraordinary opportunity, whether it be sporting, academic, music, art or agriculture. This is financial assistance that can be applied for as circumstances arise and we hope it can help some of our kids be involved in opportunities that may have otherwise been out of reach.

With a strong focus on the benefits of involvement in sports for our kids, the branch is continuing to sponsor the Sports Medals for the KSA athletics and swimming carnivals and ribbons and prizes at various Gymkhana's across the Territory. Not only do we feel fortunate to be able to encourage our children in their sporting endeavours, we are proud to be able to step up and support the organisations and people that support our families. Following the Mataranka Campdraft Gymkhana in May, the branch will be tossing a few sausages on the BBQ with gold coin donations going to Dolly's Dream Foundation, a cause very close to our hearts. We are also very fortunate to continue to administer the Val Utley Memorial Award, which last year was received by Charlie Murphy, Shae Ford and Becky Miller. Thank you very much to Roylene Hill for her continued support of our budding artists with the yearly art awards and we will also be hosting the Biggest Morning Tea during in-school in honour of dedicated member, Carol Armstrong.

The branch was also very proud to be able to donate \$3000 to the Katherine Isolated Childrens Services mobile playgroup. As I continue to say, this service is vital to delivering an early years learning program to our families and not only plays an integral part in enabling access to early childhood education, it remains a valued chapter of our community story that we need to ensure doesn't get lost in the shuffling of Federal Budgeting paperwork. There aren't many kids that don't get excited by the KICS trailer rolling in, and there aren't many people that have lived in the Katherine remote regions and beyond that don't have a KICS anecdote or fond memory to share, and we are very happy to continue to support KICS.

Finally, on behalf of the branch, I would like to extend congratulations to Mrs Patricia Elliot, co-founder and long serving member of the Katherine Branch of the ICPA, on receiving a much deserved Order of Australia Medal this year. To borrow Sir Peter Cosgroves words "These are our nations honours, reserved for those that are often unsung, quietly working away to uplift our nation. Their qualities - compassion, dedication, generosity, selflessness, tolerance, and energetic ambition, inspire and motivate us". Mrs Elliot, we thank you for your hard work and inspiration over many years reminding us that regardless of where we live, our children deserve access to the best education and opportunities we can give them. I also thank you for your 'compassion and tolerance' every time you've sat through one of the branch meetings I've Chaired!

Thank you to all the 'coachers' and 'cleanskins' that have made the past 12mths so successful, none of what we have achieved is possible without the people on the ground putting in the hard yards. We look forward to another rewarding, and challenging year ahead.

Thank you, Kerrie Scott - Katherine Branch President.



ICPA Katherine Branch Sports Camp - Mataranka

ICPA Katherine Branch again hosted the Mataranka Sports Camp which was held at the Mataranka Sports & Recreation Grounds over the 12th & 13th April. It was a resounding success very well received by the community, with a big jump from 60 children in attendance last year, to 96 children registered this year! The children along with their Parents and Home Tutors, Teachers and Sports Development Officers were there, so in total approximately 160 people were onsite.

All of the children involved were Distance Education students, Mataranka and Douglas Daly School students ranging from preschool to Yr 9. The Sports Camp followed the KSA mini-school, so kids were in Mataranka for the whole week.

Everyone camped at the Territory Manor, enjoying afternoons spent in the pool, feeding the barra in the dam and swimming at the nearby Hot Springs.

Katherine Isolated Childrens' Services (KICS) Playgroup was in attendance along with the Mataranka Families as First Teachers, who worked with the younger children.

There was a focus this year on team work, good sportsmanship and 'having a go'. AFL, soccer, touch football, basketball, gymnastics and softball development officers delivered the sports in a round robin style. We have had some amazing feedback from the participants and community, with many residents of Mataranka contacting myself to pass on their thanks for organising the event.

The Member for Arnhem, Selena Uiibo was in attendance on behalf of Minster Moss, and there was coverage of the event through local media. Katherine Times were onsite on behalf of Fairfax Media and published a story highlighting the benefits of the camp, which some of you may have seen already.

This being our second Sports Camp, it is hoped the event will become an inaugural one and we are ever thankful to our amazing sponsors, Santos, Roper Gulf Regional Council and the Australian Hotels Association for their support.

Katherine Branch President – Kerrie Scott



KSA Student, Nick Lovering (Assistant Principal KSA), Selena Uiibo (Member for Arnhem), Kerrie Scott (Katherine Branch President).

2017 POST-SECONDARY BURSARY RECIPIENT REPORT - MARGO SULLIVAN



In 2017 I started an Associate Degree of Farm Business Management at Marcus Oldham College in Geelong. It was a huge decision to make and pretty nerve wracking; heading off to university where I would know absolutely no-one. I had never lived outside of the NT and heading from the heat of the top end to the city that has four seasons in one day was a rude shock.

One of the biggest stresses associated with uni was the fees. I was required to pay \$45,000 over the coming year and while I had some savings from the two years I spent working, it was never going to be enough to cover my fees. I had studied a Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing over my two gap years which made it difficult to save as I had to complete 480 hours of unpaid placement.

In April 2017, I was lucky enough to be awarded the NTICPA Post – Secondary Bursary. This bursary was a huge help to me and it was fantastic that NT ICPA has been able to support myself and other isolated students pursuing a tertiary education. I have always had my sights set on an agriculture-based university degree and had my sights set on Marcus Oldham since Year 11. While you can learn so much working on properties, a tertiary education opens doors that you may never have considered and allows you to build friendships that will last a lifetime. Marcus Oldham has an excellent reputation as a business-based agricultural college and this reputation sees many graduates offered jobs that would never have been available to them had they not chosen Marcus. Marcus Oldham has a huge network of people across Australia and the world in all aspects of agriculture and this allows them to take students on domestic and international tours to see new farming practices and successful agricultural businesses. The agricultural industry involves such a huge network of people and being able to have the opportunity to attend a college that allows me to connect with people within this network is so important.

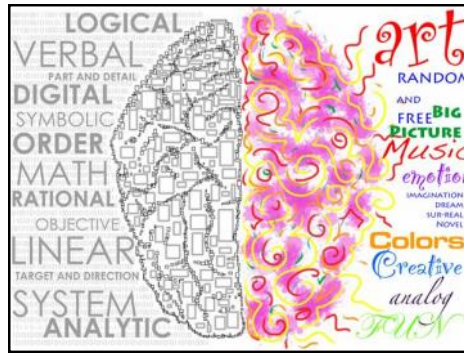
I had all my finances carefully planned before heading off to college foolishly believing that I would be able to get additional financial assistance from Centrelink in a timely manner. How wrong I was. According to Centrelink's instruction manual on classifying youths, working for two years, paying my own way and living independently of my parents was not enough. I struggled through phone call after phone call, two-hour waits on hold and just when I thought it couldn't get any worse, Centrelink did what they do best - refer to their book on how to make someone cry (from frustration mostly). I started dealing with Centrelink in late January and was unable to get any support payments until late June. During this period, the bursary I received was such a relief as it helped me keep up with my university payments until Centrelink kicked their behinds into gear. I still didn't ever get any rent assistance because I was too traumatised to deal with them anymore.

I really felt the financial pressures of uni at the end of the year when I left college headed for my second-year work placement job in central QLD with \$50 in my account. If it were not for the ICPA bursary I would have ended Uni in a much poorer state.

I would like to thank ICPA for everything they have done to support me through my studies and wish all the best to the next recipient of this bursary as it will go a long way to helping you get one step closer to where you want to be.

How you talk to your child changes their brain

Most parents know that talking to their child helps them develop. But a new study has revealed that it's *how* you talk to your child that really matters for their brain growth. Rather than just spewing complex words at them, or showing flashcards in the hope of enriching their vocabulary, the key is to engage them in "conversational turns" – in other words, a good old chat.



In a study of children between the ages of 4 and 6, cognitive scientists at MIT found that such back-and-forth conversation changes the child's brain. Specifically, it can boost the child's brain development and language skills, as measured both by a range of tests and MRI brain scans. This was the case regardless of parental income or education.

"The important thing is not just to talk to your child, but to talk with your child. It's not just about dumping language into your child's brain, but to actually carry on a conversation with them," said Rachel Romeo, a graduate student at Harvard and MIT and the lead author of the paper.

The finding adds an important twist to what we know about language and development. In 1995, a seminal study established that children from the wealthiest families hear about 30 million more words by age three than children from the poorest families. The authors of that study argued that the "30-million-word gap" set the children off on fundamentally different developmental trajectories that affected their experiences later on.

Today, there are countless educational apps and toys devoted to filling that word gap and expanding children's vocabulary from day one. However, trying to inundate children with millions of words may be missing a crucial factor in development: human relationships, and social interaction.

In fact, the MIT study suggests that parents should perhaps talk less, and listen more.

"The number of adult words didn't seem to matter at all for the brain function. What mattered was the number of conversational turns," Romeo said.

The children in the study wore recorders at home that registered each word they spoke or heard. Scientists then analysed these recordings for "conversational turns", or back-and-forth exchanges between an adult and the child. They found that the number of conversational turns correlated strongly with the children's scores in a range of language tests. It also correlated with more activity in the area of Broca's area, the area of the brain involved in speech production and language processing, when the children listened to stories while their brains were being scanned. These correlations were much stronger than between the number of words heard, and test scores or brain activity.

"The really novel thing about our paper is that it provides the first evidence that family conversation at

home is associated with brain development in children. It's almost magical how parental conversation appears to influence the biological growth of the brain," says John Gabrieli, a professor of brain and cognitive sciences at MIT and the senior author of the study.

The study noted that while children from wealthier families were exposed to more language on average, children from poor but

chatty families had language skills and brain activity similar to those wealthier children. This was an important finding that prompted researchers to encourage parents from all backgrounds to engage with their children - including interactive chatting with babies, for example by making sounds back and forth or copying faces.

"One of the things we're excited about is that it feels like a relatively actionable thing because it's specific," Gabrieli said. "That doesn't mean it's easy for less educated families, under greater economic stress, to have more conversation with their child. But at the same time, it's a targeted, specific action, and there may be ways to promote or encourage that."

The idea of learning through social engagement and emotional bonding chimes with other research on how infants learn language. Babies tend to learn by watching and copying the adults they are most attached to, which is why singing and cuddling are much more effective than high-tech educational tools when it comes to development. Later, children learn most effectively through play, for example imaginary role play with friends or adults.

Chatting also requires more complex cognitive skills than only listening, or only talking. According to the MIT researchers, having a conversation allows children to practice understanding what the other person is trying to say, and how to respond appropriately. This is very different from merely having to listen.

Roberta Golinkoff, a professor of education at the University of Delaware School of Education who was not involved in the study, said the study added to evidence that language development went far beyond filling the word gap.

"You can talk to a child until you're blue in the face, but if you're not engaging with the child and having a conversational duet about what the child is interested in, you're not going to give the child the language processing skills that they need," said Golinkoff.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/02/how-you-talk-to-your-child-changes-their-brain/>

There are over 2.86 million unpaid carers in Australia - 1 in 8 of the population – 78,000 of which are under the age of 15 and 30,000 living in the NT. These people care for someone with a disability, a mental illness, a chronic condition, a terminal illness, a drug or alcohol issue, or who is frail aged. They're mums, dads, grandparents, kids, siblings, friends, neighbours - unpaid carers who devote their lives to caring for a loved one or friend. No one sets out to be a carer, but the birth of a child with a disability, a car accident, a fall at work, the diagnosis of a terminal illness or the increasing frailty of age can result in anyone becoming a caregiver or care recipient at any time. Nearly everyone knows someone who's a carer or relies on one, and it's inevitable you'll be one of those people at some time in your life. ***How would our health system cope if those carers didn't do what they do? The answer is that it couldn't. So it's crucial that we support carers in any way we can.***

Carers NT is a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity with offices in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs, and inclusive of all carers and the people they care for, no matter their age, background, ethnicity, religious beliefs or sexual orientation.

With a vision of having a community in which carers are recognised and valued as significant assets, Carers NT provide ways in which carers can have access to timely and appropriate services, by promoting awareness with government funders and the broader community, giving them access to services like respite, counselling, social support, advice and information, emotional support, education and advocacy, helping carers build their own capacity and ease some of the pressure for them and their families.

Carers NT supports Carers

- ◆ Aged 5 and over
- ◆ Regardless of whether Centrelink is providing a carer payment or allowance
- ◆ Without needing proof of diagnosis for the person receiving care
- ◆ Who have their own health needs
- ◆ Who might also be in a dual caring/receiving care role
- ◆ Who may be in a family or informal network of people providing care

Carer Funded Services for Remote and Very Remote Carers

- ◆ Raise community awareness
- ◆ Respite – short term and emergency
- ◆ Carer counselling
- ◆ Carer education
- ◆ Information and referral
- ◆ Peer support
- ◆ Remote respite for indigenous carers
- ◆ Young carer program

Respite is designed to give the carer a break, or at least to free up some of their time. The relief may bolster the mental health and wellbeing of the care, so they can sustain their role. NT Carers receives government funding to provide short-term and emergency respite. Short-term respite for remote carers may be;

- ◆ Travel for a family member elsewhere to come and support the carer in their own home
- ◆ Overnight community respite involving a short term stay at a venue within our pricing guideline
- ◆ Woolworths fuel vouchers where the carer might be travelling by road to another location to have a break
- ◆ Vouchers for a carer to compensate someone they have organized personally to provided respite

- ◆ Use of the Carers NT remote respite cottage when coming to Darwin for respite
- ◆ Respite bookings at aged care facilities for care recipients with ACAT approval.

Organisations funded to provide respite may vary from region to region. To find a service in your area:

<https://www.carergateway.gov.au/find-a-service>

Counselling for Carers:

- ◆ Phone or Skype counselling by Darwin based Carers NT counsellors or an option to fund carers to attend locally based counselling.
- ◆ Six sessions of counselling to assist the carer in their caring role. Eight sessions for young carers. Option to extend for a further two sessions.
- ◆ Counsellors are registered and are experienced working with carers.
- ◆ Specialist counselling can be arranged where in house counselling is not servicing the need of the carer/s. Case Study: Carers NT brokered a clinical psychologist interstate who specializes in eating disorders to provide Skype counselling for a family of carers. ARRCS also provides counselling in Central Australia and the Barkly.

Carer Education

The purpose of carer education is to increase the education and skills of carers to assist them in their caring role, as well increasing self awareness of their own mental health.

In Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs Carers NT offer;

- ◆ Standard Mental Health First Aid
- ◆ Youth Mental Health First Aid
- ◆ Carer National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Information Sessions
- ◆ Suicide intervention workshops

Peer Support Programs

Carers NT & AARCS Peer Support Programs include;

- ◆ Individual carer support (face to face or by phone)
- ◆ Regular peer support groups in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs
- ◆ Themed information sessions driven by carers interests and needs

Carers NT & AARCS programs can also fund activities instigated and organized by groups of carers and activities by partnering with organizations supporting carers.

Young Carer Program (Carers NT, ARRCS & Anglicare NT)

- ◆ Young carers are aged 5 to 25 and providing care for a family member with a long term illness, disability, mental health issue, substance use issue, etc.
- ◆ Young carers may not provide the level of care that an adult carer provides. The young carer program acknowledges the challenges, unique circumstance and missed opportunities often faced by young carers.
- ◆ The Young Carer program helps young people with respite, help at home, getting to sport or other activities, social engagement, tutoring or school related support.
- ◆ The program may include: school related expenses, school camp and excursion fees, sporting fees, movie vouchers, school holiday programs, social support programs

You can register with Carers NT and ARRCS if you live in Central Australia or the Barkly. Register with Carers NT and Anglicare NT if you live in East Arnhem.

Mental Health First Aid - MHFA



Mental health first aid is the help provided to a person developing a mental health problem, experiencing a worsening of an existing mental health problem or in a mental health crisis. The first aid is given until appropriate professional treatment is received or until the crisis resolves.

MHFA training follows the successful model of conventional first aid, training members of the public to give early help to developing mental health problems and assistance in crisis situations, however is not therapy and does not teach participants how to diagnose.

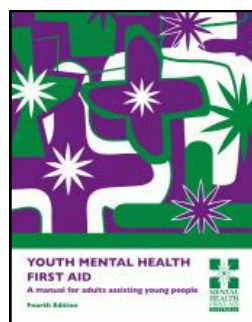
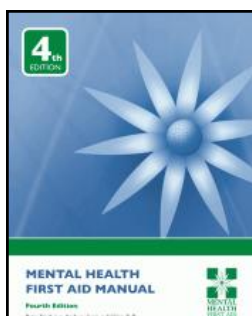
Standard MHFA Course content covers:

Mental health problems in Australia
Mental Health First Aid Action Plan
Depression
Anxiety problems
Psychosis
Substance use problems
Mental health crises
Suicidal thoughts and behaviours
Non-suicidal self-injury
Panic attacks
Traumatic events
Severe effects of drug or alcohol use
Severe psychotic states
Aggressive behaviours

There is a **Youth MHFA Course** suitable for adults working or living with adolescents - PLUS adolescent development and eating disorders. This is vital as the *median age for the onset of mental illness is 18. One in seven young Australians experience a mental health condition - getting early help improves outcomes.*

*A **Teen MHFA course** is also available developed in response to research indicating that young people have a preference for sharing problems with their peers. This course is completed over three 75 minute interactive classroom sessions, for years 7-9 and 10-12. Students learn how to recognise the signs of a developing mental health problem; recognise the signs of a mental health crisis, particularly suicide. They learn how to get responsible and trusted adults to take over as necessary.*

***If you need immediate assistance
call Lifeline on 13 11 14***



<https://mhfa.com.au/mental-health-first-aid-guidelines>

- ♦ Mental health problems are common
- ♦ Many people are not well informed
- ♦ Many do not seek help
- ♦ Mental health problems come with a high level of stigma and discrimination
- ♦ May not realise that they need help or that effective help is available
- ♦ Professional help is not always immediately available
- ♦ The helpers actions may determine how quickly the person gets help or recovers
- ♦ MHFA has resulted in better knowledge, attitudes and help-giving.

Approach the person, assess and assist with any crisis

Listen and communicate non-judgmentally

Give support and information

Encourage the person to get appropriate professional help

Encourage other supports

Mental Health Services in the NT—Clinical Services

- * Top End Mental Health Service and Central Australia Health Service - 24 Hour NT Mental Health Line - 1800 682 288
- * Inpatient Services in Darwin & Alice Springs
- * Outpatient/Community treatments services including Case Management in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs, Barkley, East Arnhem, with a remote team also based in Darwin.

Headspace – Early Intervention Youth Mental Health Service: for young people aged 12 to 25. Can self refer or be referred by agency. Available in Darwin, Alice Springs, coming soon to Katherine.

REMOTE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Royal Flying Doctor Service – SA/NT - A rostered on-call doctor available to take calls 24 hours a day over the phone or HF radio to attend to cases ranging from medical emergencies to general health queries from people remote. Mental Health clinicians provide culturally appropriate in-field treatment of mild to moderate diagnosable mental illness to outback communities where there is little or no other clinical mental health service.

MEDICARE - Telehealth Access to Specialists and Consultants Provides Medicare rebates to access a specialist, consultant physician, or consultant psychiatrist using telehealth or skype services. Accessible by referral through your GP - Bulk Billing providers are available.

Negros Occidental Delegation Visit to NT School of Distance Education

On Thursday 12th April, delegates from the province of Negros Occidental in the Philippines visited NTSDE to explore a possible mutually beneficial education partnership. Negros Oriental, also called Oriental Negros or Eastern Negros, is a province located in the region of Central Visayas, in the Philippines.

The delegates took a tour of the building to see the facilities and to view a 'live' IDL lesson. Delegates then gathered in the Conference room for a number of presentations:

questions of each other. Thank you to the students for taking the time to participate in the lesson.



The Mayor of Sagay City, the Honourable Alfredo Maranon III, was then presented with a piece of artwork which featured a crocodile. All delegates received a bag of goodies which included the Outpost yearbook, an NTSDE mug, some Tim-tams and a USB of a video of their time at NTSDE.

Conclusion of the tour included lunch in the multipurpose room. Thank you to the delegates from Negros Occidental for visiting NTSDE. We look forward to future events!



Deanna Ther, eLearning Instructional Designer, showed the delegates some examples of NTSDE Moodle courses. The delegates were then given a laptop so they could have the experience of using a Moodle course as a student. They even got to participate in a Moodle quiz.



Anthony Chan, IT Manager, explained how our weekly lessons in IDL work. Bev Wilson, Student Coordinator and a number of students then had a live lesson with the delegates. The students introduced themselves and explained where they lived and showed photos of their home locations. Everyone had the chance to ask

Hon Alfredo Maranon III - Mayor of Sagay City

Dr Fe Maranon - Wife of Mayor of Sagay City

Mr Juan Antonio Villaluz - Director, Southland College

Ms Villa Tupas - Principal, Sagay National High School

Dr Maria Cristina Orbecido - Administrator, NOLITC

Attorney Ryan I Bonghanoy - Department Head, Liaison Officer International Education

Maria Charry J Chiu - Executive Assistant Coordinator of Engagement.

Article and photo credits to Bev Wilson NTDLS

‘HORSES FOR COURSES’-Ride for Bush Kids

Gearing up again for 2018

In its inaugural year ‘Horses for Courses’ founder Tiani Cook along with Qld friend Natuccia Walker; rode their horses 1,000kms from Tiani’s home at ‘Suplejack Downs Staion’ in the Northern Tanami across the NT all the way through to Darwin. Along with support crew, Rod & Norma Litfin and Marg & Dennis Kelly, who were there every step of the way, the girls were in the saddle for over a month!

This year Tiani is saddling up again to continue raising awareness and telling stories from the lives of Aussie Bush Kids. 2018 see’s the completion of the ‘Horses for Courses’ - Ride for Bush Kids wrap up in Alice Springs. Tiani will head a group of riders, who’ll leave from Glen Helen Resort with a fantastic celebratory launch-event on the 6th October. They’ll ride through the spectacular West McDonald Ranges and finish up with a Gala Dinner on the 12th October 2018, just in time for the Alice Springs Masters Games.

‘Whilst the distance we are riding this year has decreased, the energy around raising awareness has not. We’re hoping to include as many people as possible through some good ol’ fashion hospitality; campfire cook ups, sing-alongs, the sharing of horse riding tips and as much fun along the way as we can muster up.’ Tiani says ‘Together we’re raising awareness of the issues Aussie Bush Kids face; educational inequities; boarding school blues, distance education challenges and social isolation implications effecting mental health. Bush Kids are tough and resilient, but we want them to know they’re not alone’ Tiani emphasises.

This year ‘Horses for Courses’ Ride for Bush Kids is proud to support the ‘Dolly’s Dream Foundation’ #doitfordolly if you’re interested in Sponsoring the ‘Horses for Courses’ – Ride for Bush Kids please contact Tiani:
tiani.cook@live.com or www.horsesforcourses.net.au

For further information and comments please contact: Tiani Cook | P: 08 8956 8764 | Mb: 0429 826 054 |





Isolated Children's Parents' Association

NORTHERN TERRITORY MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2018

DUE JANUARY 1ST EACH YEAR.



MEMBERSHIP TO YOUR LOCAL BRANCH IS ONLY \$50/FAMILY/YEAR

- Entitles you to branch meeting voting, minutes and branch bursaries qualification.
- State and Federal conference voting rights and attendance (paid for by your branch or the lone members).
- Free access to the NTICPA run Home Tutor Register.
- Qualification for the NT ICPA State Council Bursaries.
- Free subscription to Publications- NTICPA 'Down the Track' and Federal ICPA 'Pedals' magazines.
- A voice in your children's education.

If you're not receiving these publications regularly, check with your treasurer- you may not be a financial member for 2017.

If you still want to keep in touch, but not be associated with a particular branch, then **Lone Members** is for you!

Please fill in this form and forward with a cheque, to one of the below treasurers.

Make it payable to the "**Branch** (e.g. Alice Springs) **ICPA**" or "**NT ICPA**" for Lone Members.

If paying by Direct Deposit method, please use your first initial and surname with the word 'Membership' as the reference to help the treasurer. (e.g. 'J Bloggs Membership') and fax, post or email your family details.

These are important to use for bursary qualifications and for ICPA lobbying purposes.

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BRANCH:		
TITLE:	FIRST NAME :	SURNAME:
ADDRESS:		
PH:	FAX:	EMAIL:

Please advise your Branch Secretary and Treasurer of your change of postal or email address

Your children's details

(this information is retained by the Branch and State Council Treasurers and Secretaries and used for Bursary qualifications and lobbying purposes)

Names (of Children)	Age (turning in 2018)	Year Level (in 2018)	School/University/College Attending

I give ICPA permission to use photographs of my children for use in ICPA Publications and Newsletters, including the NTICPA Facebook Page ☐ Please ✓

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Position Vacant

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Bev Seidel

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NTICPA LONE MEMBERS

This is a group who wish to be informed
of ICPA issues, but do not wish to
belong to a 'branch' as such.
Anyone who lives anywhere can be an NT Lone
Member.

The Lone members do not hold meetings,
but they do hold two votes at conferences
(State & Federal).

If you would like to receive regular
publications from state council
'Down the Track' and Federal Council
'Pedals' then Lone Members is for you!

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Carmel Wagstaff

Robyn Peatling

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Royelene Hill
Janelle and Blue Pugh

*ICPA Katherine Branch - Sports Camp in Mataranka
12th & 13th April*

