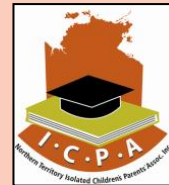


# ***DOWN THE TRACK***

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of the Northern Territory

## **NEWSLETTER**

Issue 79 August 2018



### **COUNTRY KIDS IN CAPITALS FEDERAL CONFERENCE CANBERRA**



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***

Hello all and welcome to another edition of 'Down the Track' newsletter. Wowzers what an amazing few months it's been since our last NTICPA newsletter went to print, this addition is sure to be bursting at the seams with information. I won't delve too far into events as there are comprehensive reports later in the edition.

The NT Minister for Education in the NT recently changed in a portfolio re-shuffle and in addition to the introductory letter I sent Hon Minister Uiibo in early July, (knowing how she loves to read 'Down the Track') I'd like to again take this opportunity to congratulate Minister Uiibo on her appointment as NT Education Minister.

I hope the shortened school holiday period didn't affect too many families...keeping in mind, during the October holidays we have two weeks with our gorgeous kids, not just the one as in previous years!

For those of you who headed to Canberra to attend the Federal ICPSA Conference, I hope you had an incredible trip. There is so much to be learnt from our inspirational counterparts in other Councils of ICPSA.

I hope you all enjoy the read,

Cheers for now, Tiani.



*Front Cover: NT members at Federal Conference in Canberra in August.*

## **Volunteers for Isolated Students Education Aussie Helpers**



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

**AHVISE are pleased to announce have recently launched a new 'virtual classroom' for families and volunteers, with confirmed/booked placements.**

**The virtual classrooms are serving as a communication tool to discuss everything school-related in one place. The classrooms are free and not compulsory to use, however, for the virtual classroom to be of value, both volunteer and family need to use it.**

**To participate, an email will be sent to you with your log in details and some supplementary training information on how to log in and use the classrooms.**

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](http://www.ahvise.org.au)**

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

Newsletter Editor: Ruth Woerle - [woerles@hotmail.com](mailto:woerles@hotmail.com)  
Printer: Hollands Print Solutions - McCourt Rd, Yarrowonga. NT.  
Our Newsletter is now printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper! Next step is to ditch the plastic postage bags!

## **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](mailto: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

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ARCHIVES &amp; DOWN THE TRACK NEWSLETTER</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ruth Woerle PO Box 728 Palmerston NT 0832</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0404 479534 <a href="mailto:woerles@hotmail.com">woerles@hotmail.com</a></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NT WEB MASTER</b></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 <a href="mailto:NTWebmaster@icpa.com.au">NTWebmaster@icpa.com.au</a></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



*Jessie and Jade Campbell*



From the ICPA Katherine Branch a massive **THANK YOU** to the Landmark team, and all of the incredibly generous sponsors and bidders at the Landmark Sundowner Auction held at the Show.

Our community raised \$70,000 (yep that's right!) for the Katherine Branch. We can't thank everyone involved enough. We will be using this money to directly benefit our bush kids and ensure equity in education no matter where you live.

Special thanks to Larissa Leslie, Ben Coutts, Andy Gray, Shaun Coutts, Kurt Hammer & Ben Hoar for your continuing support, and also the ICPA BBQ crew.

Thank you to everyone that purchased goods, and a special mention to Noel Chiconi for purchase of beloved donkey 'Cocoa Pops' and for purchase of a trailer of hay to be donated to the drought relief in NSW!  
*What a fabulous community we have!*



*Rebecca Osmotherly and Jack Andrews*



*Tahlia and Gary Riggs*



*Sophia Tapp*

## Charity Ride for Bush Kids saddles up to raise money for Dolly's Dream

ROXANNE FITZGERALD SEPTEMBER 5 2018

This October Horses for Courses Charity Ride for Bush Kids is gearing up to raise funds for Dolly's Dream.

Advocate for Rural and Remote Families Tiani Cook, along with more than 20 other riders, will be trekking from Glen Helen Resort on October 6 to ride through the spectacular MacDonnell Ranges.

This year, the annual charity ride has attracted more city slickers – further connecting the city to the country.

“Our ride has made people from the city really realise there are different struggles in remote locations,” Ms Cook said.

“We have a good cross-section of people from both the city and stations joining this year, which really gives people from the city an opportunity to interact with bush people to see what their reality is and share those stories at home.”

“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,” Ms Cook said.

Mother of four children, Ms Cook lives and works on one of the most geographically isolated cattle stations in Australia, Suplejack

Downs Station, 1020km south of Darwin.

She said she is hoping to raise \$5000 for the Dolly's Dream Foundation, a charity group established by family and friends of Dolly Everett, who took her life at the young age of 14.

“We are all Territory families, and I have children the same age – it just hit home on so many different fronts.”

“Having kids grow up in the bush where social isolation is a big thing, I found it was an important foundation to support.”

“Kids in the bush don't have sport after school or social interaction with other kids on a regular basis.”

“It is very different out here and we want to create that awareness,” Ms Cook said.

Last year the charity ride raised \$13,000 for the Isolated Children's Parent's Association.

Riding 20-30km per day, the convoy of riders is expected to arrive in Alice Springs on October 12 with a Mayoral Reception on the Council Lawns.



Nine delegates from the NT attended the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Federal ICPA Conference in Canberra at the beginning of August. If you've been to any ICPA conference you'll agree they are all intense and exhilarating, and Federal Conference is definitely as good as it gets.

Our Canberra hotel was only a few blocks from Parliament House, and the inside décor was plastered with huge photos of politicians, so we were all suitably immersed in what Canberra represents (to most of us outside of the ACT, anyhow).

The in-house breakfast (I say 'breakfast') was one of the poshest breakie's around, the question was, 'are we meant to eat the legs of ham propped up on the slicing machines, or are they just on display?' Another highlight was the War Memorial Conference Dinner. The setting was splendid and the speech by Dr Brendan Nelson AO was outstanding.

Once again, Federal Council deserves huge applause for the conference speakers. "*Are Robots Coming to Steal Our Children's Jobs?*" by David Faulkner and "*A Journey with Isolation – the insight gained & lessons learned while growing up with isolation*" by Nathan Kitto were my stand-outs, but to be honest, they were all excellent.

**In line with the theme COUNTRY KIDS IN CAPITALS** and during the program, the full-sized viewing screens played short media clips and photos of bush kids talking about why ICPA is important to them. It was a great touch and excellent representation of why we were there. Another point of difference this year was the presence of a professional photographer, and already you will notice the conference photos on Facebook are stunning.

And then there was the business of motions. When passed, motions become a policy position for Federal Council in their advocacy with stakeholders, be it with Federal Government or other agencies who can influence change to policy, process or position.

If your branch put a motion forward at Federal Conference, be congratulated. Motions begin the process to influencing change at the highest levels and this is why you, as a member of ICPA, are integral in the future of education for rural and remote kids. Read the motions here: <https://www.icpa.com.au/documents>.

A special thank you to the convening committee of this year's Federal Conference. It was perfect. Next year's conference will be held in Adelaide. If you've always wanted to attend Federal Conference, work on 3 days away in early August 2019.

Here is the list of the people who represent ICPA on Federal Council, and includes two of our very own Territory members. Thank you Sally and Sue.

*Compiled by NT State Publicity Officer, Sarah Cook.*

### ICPA FEDERAL COUNCIL 2018-2019

PRESIDENT - Wendy Hick

VICE PRESIDENT - Sally Sullivan (NT)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - Judy Sinclair  
Newton

SECRETARY - Sue Wilson (NT)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY - Jane Morton

TREASURER - Lisa Slade

PUBLICITY OFFICER - Nikki Macqueen

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER - Jane O'Brien

FEDERAL WEBMASTER - Nikki Macqueen

#### COUNCILLORS:

Di Skene

Alana McFarlane Moller

Caroline Robinson

Kate Thompson

Kristen Stahlhut Coggan

Christie Goddard



*Sarah Cook and Sarah Measey, representing NTICPA*



**2018 Federal Conference  
PORTFOLIO REPORTS**

## Award of Merit to Sue Shotton



Sue Shotton served on the ICPA Federal Council for 6 years, from 2008 until 2014, and held the positions of Vice President for a year and Treasurer for two years.

Since retiring from Federal Council, Sue Shotton has been instrumental in the establishment and maintenance of the ICPA website and has for a number of years assisted Federal Council, State Councils and branches to establish a website that reflects those groups' individual needs but also remains uniform and consistent with ICPA goals.

Sue has worked tirelessly to ensure the website is secure, modern and utilises as many tools as possible to engage ICPA members.

Recently, Sue has committed herself to assisting with the development of an online membership system to offer ICPA members a method to renew their memberships or join ICPA directly from the website, as well as to allow for more efficient, quicker and smoother membership transactions. Sue has gone above and beyond the expectations of Federal Council in her role as Web Manager and she has continuously made herself available to Federal Council, State Councils, Branches and members who have had questions regarding the new online process. Sue has provided numerous documents, explanations and information to create an understanding at all levels of ICPA regarding the online membership. She has spent many hours in the process of explanation and exploration of ideas so that no stone has been left unturned as Federal Council worked towards online membership being available for members.

Sue has also made herself openly available to all State and the Federal Web Masters and assists them frequently with their work on the various areas of the website.

In addition to her work around the website and online membership, Sue has also volunteered her time at Federal Conferences and assisted Federal Council.

At the 2017 Federal Conference, Sue took on an AV assistant role and set up AV for presentations, motions and portfolio reports and assisted the AV person at the conference with the numerous PowerPoint presentations, slides, videos and other technological wonders that helped make Federal Conference more engaging. She is also doing so again at this year's conference.

Given the extraordinary commitment, time and dedication that Sue Shotton has demonstrated in her assistance of Federal Council as well as State Councils, branches and members, it is with great pleasure that we present Sue Shotton with the Federal Award of Merit.

## ***Northern Territory Government Student Assistance Scheme Interstate Boarding Allowance***

NT State Council, in response to motions submitted by branches to NT State Conference each year, has been advocating the Northern Territory Department of Education for a Living Away From Home Allowance, similar to that in other States.

We are pleased to inform our members that, during recent State Council delegation meetings in Darwin, the Department of Education, through the Minister for Education, approved an Interstate Boarding Allowance under the Northern Territory Government Student Assistance Scheme, worth \$2000 per student, annually. Applications for this allowance must be received by the Northern Territory Department of Education (DoE) before September 30, each year.

While this is an excellent win for Territory bush families, the scheme guidelines limit the allowance to 'specialist curriculum offerings that aren't offered at a NT Primary, Middle or Secondary School'. We encourage all families whose children attend an interstate boarding facility to apply for the allowance, stating the reasons why your family chose that particular facility. In addition to specialist curriculum offerings, your reasons might include location of family, social and emotional support, extra curriculum activities offered by the school, preference for a single sex facility, or your proximity to airports with travel options and routes accessible to your family. Each application will be assessed by a DoE Curriculum Officer.

The DoE has expressed a willingness to support rural and remote families with this allowance, and State Council understands the DoE Curriculum Officer will give due consideration to each application. While we cannot anticipate the outcome for each application, it is important the Department understands the various, relevant reasons why families have chosen the facility they have.

State Council has worked hard on advocating for a Living Away From Home Allowance. We'd like to thank NT branch members for your work in preparing and submitting these motions, and for taking the opportunity individually to talk to your Local Members about this issue. The motions you present at State Conference guide State Council on advocacy and we welcome your thoughts via email or telephone, at any time.

Our contact details are on the website

**<https://nt.icpa.com.au/>**.

***For assistance with the Interstate Boarding Allowance, please call Boarding and Allowances Portfolio Leader Sarah Cook on 0889569705.***

Tiani Cook

NTICPA President

Suplejack Downs Station

Madam President, Federal Councillors, Distinguished Guests and friends, it is my pleasure to present the Northern Territory President's Report at the 2018 Federal ICPA Conference being held in our Nation's Capital.

The Northern Territory ICPA State Council continue to move forward as a respected and reputable organisation with a growing ability to connect with stakeholders and community groups in the effort to ensure equitable levels of education for bush kids right across our great territory.

I feel honoured to be part of the inspirational, motivated and respectable group of people who make up the ICPA team, representing rural and remote families spanning Australia.

### 2017 NTICPA STATE Conference and State Council Member Update

NTICPA held our annual Conference on the 21 March 2018. Hosted by, and held in Alice Springs, the theme was 'Special Needs in Isolation'.

We had a great line up of speakers to discuss specific learning needs, including SPERA, Carers NT, Department of Education Reps and AHVISE. We also heard from Telstra and NBN discussing the fast-paced world of telecommunications which encapsulates the way in which our kids' education is delivered.

At our AGM we said goodbye to State Secretary Alethea Nicolle and Councillors Kerrie Scott and Leza Cook. NTICPA welcomed Sue Wilson; Secretary, Bec Cadzow; Assistant Secretary and Anna Weir; NT Councillor who joined me along with Sally Sullivan; Vice President, Sarah Measey; Treasurer and Sarah Cook; Publicity Officer returning for the 2018/19 term on NTICPA State Council.

We are privileged to also have the services of Sue Shotton as NT Web Master, Ruth Woerle as Newsletter Editor and Alethea Nicolle as Home Tutor Register Coordinator. Sue Shotton also kindly put her hand up to help with updating our Policies and By-Laws which were very much in need of contemporising.

NTICPA consists of 3 branches; Alice Springs and Katherine along with the Lone Members branch which is governed by state. ICPA membership in The Northern Territory is \$50 per annum.

**Down the Track, NTICPA Magazine** The 'Down the Track' State Magazine 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.

**Grants Program:** NTICPA bursaries, grants and competitions include the Zoetis 'Pastoral Industry' Student Grant, the Post-Secondary Bursary and the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal 'Back to School' Competition. Donations from the Siba Ships and The Wellard Rural Export Group continue to allow NTICPA to offer the 'Bridging the Gap' grants program. Awarded in February and August each year - the grant assists in the costs associated for a young person between the age of 15 & 22 years to attend an educationally based activity, purchase relevant study or career materials or undertake personal development activities.

Alice Springs ICPA Branch offers a further 4 bursaries for branch members and Katherine ICPA Branch now offers 5 with the release of a new bursary for branch members called 'The Extraordinary Opportunity Grant' (EO Grant). The EO Grant was designed last year to provide financial support to students wishing to pursue an extraordinary opportunity in the fields of sport, arts, music, agriculture, or academics, with the emphasis on applicants not being necessarily gifted, but with a driving passion and proven commitment to their chosen field.

This year also saw NT ICPA again receive a \$10k donation from the Australian Hotels Association (AHA) NT Branch which was split between Alice Springs and Katherine branches for Social Development Camps for Children within the member areas. Katherine held a second hugely popular 'Mataranka Sports Camp' and Alice Springs is working towards holding another STEM workshop, due to the positive feedback from last year's program of the same nature.

**Tom Curtain CD Launch – 14 November 2017:** NTICPA were very grateful to Annabel and Tom Curtain for their incredibly generous donation of \$2 from every CD and Digital Album sale made from Tom's album 'Territory Time' for the period from the launch date - Tuesday 14 November 2017 through until the end of the 'Territory Time Tour' which wrapped up 10 March 2018. Tom and Annabel's donation totaled an incredible \$1,182.00.

'Territory Time', debuted at Number 1 in the Australian Country iTunes Music Charts and Number 12 across all genres. We feel proud and honoured to have been a part of this journey with Tom and Annabel who are champions of bush kids.

**AHA Luncheon - 21 November 2017:** Kerrie Scott and I attended the AHA NT Presidents Luncheon in November 2017. There were approximately 400 people at the event. AHA NT CEO Des Crowe acknowledged and commended the ongoing work NTICPA does on behalf of remote students in the Northern Territory bringing awareness to our organisation within a group of people who weren't previously aware of the work NTICPA do. This is the second year AHA NT have donated funds raised at their luncheon which have gone toward Social Development Camps held by both the Katherine and Alice Springs ICPA Branches.

### Minister for Corporate and Information's Services Digital Excellence Awards – 1 December 2017:

I was privileged to receive an invitation to attend the Minister for Corporate and Information Services, Digital Excellence Awards late last year 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) and creating competitive futures for RR students moving forward.

It's rather ironic, when the very delivery of Rural and Remote kids' education, so heavily relies upon technology and communications working efficiently in the first place.

### Annual State Presidents & Secretaries F2F, Sydney – 13 & 14 February 2018:

In February I flew to Sydney for the annual ICPA State Presidents and Secretaries Face-to-Face Executives' Meeting. State and Federal Representatives were also privileged to go on a tour of the NBN Discovery Centre. It was an enjoyable and productive couple of days of networking and brainstorming with much coming from the meeting discussions including updates on the following:

- In Home Care Program - what we can expect for June 2018 when changes are implemented, trusting all goes to plans.
- Assistance for Isolated Children's' Systems Glitch: the December 2017 Centrelink computer systems hiccup, which caused undue stress to families.
- The Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education - ICPA Australia's Submission.
- Online Membership Progression – an update on the system.
- Motions wording protocol for State Conferences.
- Advice for State Council submissions into Federal Inquiries & Reviews.
- ICPA (Aust) Constitutional changes - an insight to the suggested changes and updates.

**NTICPA Submissions:** NTICPA have been busy with submissions this past term, with Councillors jointly compiling submissions to:

- Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education.
- NT Government's 10-year early childhood development strategic plan.
- The operation, regulation and funding of air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transports References Committee, Senate Inquiry into Regional Air Services, Formal Public Hearing – 4 April 2018:** NTICPA Councillor and Boarding Schools Portfolio Leader, Sarah Cook attended the hearing in Alice Springs speaking with Senators, taking about NTICPA's recommendations presented in our submission. Senator Rex Patrick, Senator Glenn Sterle, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy and Senator Barry O'Sullivan were all very interested in the recommendations made in NTICPA's submission, making comment and asking questions regarding how long ICPA had been lobbying for more equitable flights. The Senators were keen to learn why NTICPA hadn't received traction or agreement from the Northern Territory Government on discounted airfares. Disappointingly, comments made, suggested the senators felt subsidized airfares were a Northern Territory Government responsibility, but we should strongly seek an audience with airline companies in a follow up to the Senate Inquiry.

**National Review of Teacher Registration Expert Panel Members Forum – 6 April 2018:** NTICPA Treasurer and Small Schools Portfolio Leader, Sarah Measey along with NTICPA Secretary Sue Wilson attended the hearing in Darwin speaking with the panel's chair, Chris Wardlaw, in regard to the consultation for the National Review about NTICPA's member views. All Australian Education Ministers agreed to the review and the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) was tasked with undertaking the National Review of Teacher Registration. The Review focused on existing arrangements for teacher registration across Australia, and the role that the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers play in driving quality teaching through registration. NTICPA has had an ongoing motion over the last couple of years requesting that NTICPA monitor the NT Teachers Registrations Board's teacher registration process to ensure rural and remote teachers are able to maintain their teacher registration. This forum was an excellent opportunity for us to share members' issues surrounding teacher registrations.

**NBN Multicast Trials:** NT distance education schools have been undergoing multicast trials for almost two years in the effort to ensure a smooth transition from the STARS network to NBN Sky Muster Satellite. The NT Minister for Education recently advised NTICPA that an evaluation report will be finalised by July 2018. So, by the time this report is printed we expect to have been notified and consulted, as promised by the Department, with respect to the proposals for exploring future options.

**The Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee Forum - 5 June 2018:** RTIRC held their first roundtable session in Katherine 5 June 2018. This was an excellent platform for me to speak candidly with committee members: Sean Edwards, Kylie Stretton and Paul Weller discussing member issues and incorporating state conference motions into the consultations on the day. The official RTIRC Issue paper was also released. The committee were especially chuffed to learn I drove over 700kms to attend their forum. NTICPA plan to either feed into the ICPA (Aust) Federal Submission or submit our own, due before 5 August 2018.

**Broadband for the Bush Forum – 7 & 8 June 2018:** The B4BA Forum was held in Darwin this year and I was given the opportunity to present to conference on the '*Value of Effective and Reliable Digital Technology for Social, Emotional, Physical, Financial and Educational Productivity of Families living in the Bush*'. I had tremendous positive feedback from my presentation and was delighted at the conference program content and calibre of information being presented by the other speakers.

I also had an opportunity to discuss telehealth trials in partnership with the Charles Darwin University; Northern Institute of Research fellow Marianne St Clair, who is enthusiastic about working together to expand access to telecommunications and telehealth in remote areas through the trial. Cathy Van Extel from Radio National chaired a panel to discuss '*Big Ideas from the Bush and what constitutes a truly*

*digital Australia where no individual or place is left behind*'. Daniel Featherstone, General Manager, IRCA (indigenous remote communications association) and Jim Wyatt, principal at Optimi Digital along with myself were the panellists, the segment aired on ABC Radio National in late July.

**NTICPA Delegations in Darwin 20 & 21 November 2017 & Mini Delegations 11 & 12 June 2018:** 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, NTICPA Councillors attended delegation in Darwin at the end of the year to advocate on behalf of members and put forward the motions passed at our Annual State Conference earlier in the year.

In June this year, NTICPA embarked on a second, 'Mini Delegation' with 5 Councillors: Sarah Measey, Sue Wilson, Sally Sullivan, Sarah Cook and myself, making the trip to Darwin. We anticipated speaking with relevant stakeholders closer to State Conference, with issues still fresh in our minds, more beneficial and it most certainly appeared that way.

We met with representatives from Qantas and Virgin as a follow up to the Senate Inquiry into Regional Air Services - Formal Public Hearing, Ministers, Stakeholders and the Department of Education. The Mini Delegation was a huge success, with positive and promising feedback resulting from previous discussions finally coming to fruition. We've learned you definitely don't underestimate the power of face to face discussions!

Mini Delegations are set to become a permanent fixture in NTICPA's calendar (finances permitting) in the first half of each year with follow up delegations in November as usual.

**NT Ministerial Cabinet Portfolio Re-Shuffle:** Late June 2018 saw the NT Minister for Education change in a portfolio re-shuffle. Hon Eva Lawler has been replaced as Minister for Education by Hon Selena Jane Malijarri Uibo. NTICPA Councillors are yet to meet Minister Uibo but are hopeful we will have a productive relationship, as we did with Minister Lawler.

Through the DoE and Minister's office we have had a couple of very encouraging wins in the last few months, because of years of hard work and persistence:

- As a response to NTICPA's ongoing request for more equitable early childhood identification of specific needs - parents and home tutors have been granted access to the Department's online professional learning course for teachers of students with specific needs. The online training sessions on '*Understanding Dyslexia and Significant Reading Difficulties*' is comprised of blended learning, with a component of the delivery via video-conferencing or tele-conferencing capability.
- In the pursuit of a more equitable NT Living Away from Home Allowance – NTICPA was super excited to receive the news of assistance for rural and remote Territory students who board interstate. Students boarding within the NT have received a boarding subsidy for some years and now the Northern Territory Department of Education has approved an Interstate Boarding Allowance of \$2000 per year that will provide financial assistance towards boarding costs for students attending an interstate boarding facility.

Regrettably I haven't been able to attend this year's conference in Canberra in person, but I hope everyone has a wonderful time catching up with old friends and making new ones.



Using this QR code, download and watch Tiani present her speech to Federal Conference from her home at Suplejack.



# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> July 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.*

## ICPA Siba Wellard Bridging the Gap Application

### Sally Shaw - Spring Creek Station

***Congratulations to Sally who is the latest recipient of the Siba Ships Wellard Rural Exports 'Bridging the Gaps Program'***

My family own a cattle station (Spring Creek) in the East Kimberly region of Western Australia which my parents purchased together 20 years ago. This property is located 250km from our closest town of Kununurra along both gravel and highway roads. The geographical location of our home physically places myself and my family in isolation from resources and other people.

My family first became involved with the ICPA in 2002, my whole family has since then every year been a member of ICPA. We have personally as a family greatly appreciated the work of the ICPA over the years in bringing people in rural areas closer together and providing them with continual support and assistance through the hardships associated with living in an isolated area.

From prep to year 5 I was enrolled in Katherine School of the Air, where schooling was done from home, at first over a two-way radio and then in later years via a computer web-cam. From years 6-12 I was enrolled in Geelong College in Victoria.

After completing year 12 in 2017, this year I am attending The University of Western Australia in Perth where I am studying undergraduate medicine. This will hopefully lead me down a career pathway of becoming a medical professional in rural areas of Australia, such as the one where I grew up. Hopefully sometime in the future I will be lucky enough to be part of a group, or establish a group that travels around isolated and rural parts of the country, ideally the Kimberley region where I am from.

To pursue my chosen education path, I must move interstate to attend university in Perth which is a significant distance away from my home; fees associated with travelling to university and back to the station during holidays to visit my family are significant and having any kind of financial support during this time would be greatly appreciated and valued by both myself and my family. The generous ICPA grant, should I be lucky enough to receive it will be used in part to purchase air fares back to Kununurra which would be greatly

appreciated by both myself and my family. In cases of formal university events where parents and family can attend, I would be very grateful for my parents to be able to come to Perth and visit me. The additional funds from this bursary would be used for both me to visit my family and home and for my parents to visit me.

Moving interstate has meant that living on campus in one of the university residential colleges is the best option for me in the first few years of my course. Living in an unfamiliar city and making new friends and relationships in university I believe is made a lot easier by living on campus with a large group of similar young adults. I feel that the lifelong friendships that are often formed during university can be formed during the first few years of my course and I think that being part of a College at university will provide me with an inclusive environment where the formation of friendships are fostered.

Unfortunately living in a college is very expensive at \$20,000 per year. While I am lucky enough to have a family who are willing to make the significant sacrifices necessary for me to enrol in a college, the cost is significant and the bursary from ICPA will be put to good use in assisting with the cost of living on campus at the University of Western Australia this year. I will still be required to find a job so that I can pay for a proportion of the living costs, potentially working in a café in my free time this semester while I am not studying, this way I can assist with some of the costs associated. Given this situation, support in the form of a grant would significantly relieve the financial pressures placed upon my family.

Completing a six to eight year university degree involves the purchasing of many text books and academic resources. While second hand textbooks are much cheaper, and I am looking for ways to minimise the costs of tertiary resources, the expenses of such essential books are incredibly large and difficult to afford every year. Any form of financial support would be well utilised in assisting me to purchase such books and other stationery items that are crucial for the completion of my course. Ensuring that I am able to afford the books and resources necessary to complete my degree is very important and I feel that the generous bursary will enable me to have the funds required to purchase such items. Thank you for considering my application.



**Sally at home with the poddies**

## ICPA Alice Springs Branch Fundraiser at Harts Range By Amber Driver - Alice Springs Branch President

Although I have been frequenting the ICPA Canteen at Harts Range since early 2000's with many different roles, this was my first year of completing the orders for the ICPA Canteen. It was a challenge for me as the lead up to Harts Range is always our busy time with mustering.



Days at the homestead in business hours are few and far between. Never the less, the ordering was done and everything (nearly) made its way out to Harts Range to the ICPA Canteen. Our Branch Vice President, Emma Chalmers pioneered the online Canteen Roster and managed to have the Canteen full of volunteers for the whole weekend – there were

several scratching's at last minute, but Emma rallied the troops and ensured we had plenty of hands on deck throughout the weekend.



*Emma Chalmers (Vice President Alice Springs ICPA) and Andrew Barret (Elders Alice Springs)*

The Northern Territory Fire Service, Alice Springs (NTFS) kindly donated their 40 foot refrigerated container / trailer and their staff took delivery of the stock as it arrived at their yard in the week leading up to Harts Range –thank you Ian Trotts and NTFS for your kind and generous support.



*Malcolm Chalmers*

Malcom Chalmers from Hayson Haulage offered his time & prime mover (truck), to pick up the trailer from NTFS and cart it out to the ICPA Canteen for us. This meant that his source of income (driving his truck) was sitting idle, parked at our ICPA Canteen from Friday until Tuesday – when Malcom helped load up the truck, returned to town, unloaded all the excess stock, and returned the trailer to NTFS. Again, thank you Malcom Chalmers and Hayson Haulage for your kind and generous support.



*A team of volunteers from Jindalee*

I also must point out that there are many, many people who make the ICPA canteen a success year after year. Support is shown by our members and friends working a shift (or several) in the ICPA Canteen, donating cakes, slices & chips to sell, helping load and unload the stock, with some members making a monetary donation as they were unable to attend our Major fundraiser. All contributions regardless of number of hours spent in the Canteen or donation are greatly appreciated and bring the team together.



*Ben Wotton from Gemtree was helping out*

I draw attention to a few faces that frequented the ICPA Canteen over the weekend to help us cook, clean, look for things, put things away, serve the hungry mob, hunt for sauce and assist in the big end of weekend clean up - they brought smiles to the Canteen all weekend – Andrew Barrett, Brodie Anderson, Kathy & Darrel Fargher. These beautiful people are not ICPA members. They saw that

## ICPA Alice Springs Branch Fundraiser at Harts Range By Amber Driver - Alice Springs Branch President

we needed more hands on deck throughout the weekend and their support was ongoing. Thank you all very much for your time and help in the Canteen – not to mention the curried chicken and chow-mein! I think we should be sending you some ICPA membership forms!

A shout out to all the other volunteers that worked in the Canteen over the weekend as well!



*Tom McMasters from Gemtree,  
always happy to give a hand*

We saw ICPA Members, Member's Children (Tom Mc, Ben W, Gabby C, and all of Benj & Mel's kids), Govies, Dads, Grandparents, HRARC Committee Members, the team from BAE – I hope I have you all covered. THANKYOU.



*Kate Richards -ASSOA  
Govvies Rep*

On Saturday of Harts Range, the Variety NT team returned to run the Canteen for us. This is the third year they have accepted our offer to staff the Canteen for the day. It is a pleasure to have Brenda, Jo and their dedicated team on deck over the Harts Range Weekend. To show our appreciation and thanks, Alice Springs Branch made a \$4,000.00 donation to Variety.

Over the weekend we ran out of sauce! Yes that's right! – no Tomato or BBQ sauce to be found in the ICPA Canteen at all! The sauce SOS was broadcast over the loud speaker at the rodeo grounds for Harts Range race & rodeo goers to donate their sauce bottles to the ICPA canteen. And that they did. Such a simple gesture of support - many people in the crowd did not hesitate to offer their sauce supplies so our Canteen could offer everyone a steak sandwich or a hotdog with sauce.



*Flinders SA ICPA meet Alice Springs ICPA!*

The generosity ICPA receives from our community is humbling and heartfelt! The Crowd at Harts Range this year was much smaller than the last few years, but we still managed to turn a healthy profit for our branch. We cleared approximately \$14,000. Even with \$4,000 donated to Variety NT for their help in the Canteen, the Alice Springs ICPA Branch raised around \$10,000 in profit for our Annual Fundraiser at Harts Range.



*Tara Poulton*



*Alice Springs Branch President, Amber Driver*

**Horses for Courses Charity Bush Ride**  
**7th -12th October 2018**  
**Glen Helen Homestead to Alice Springs**

Hi families and friends of NT ICPA,

I'm super excited to personally extend an invitation to you to be a part of the 2018 'Horses for Courses' Charity Bush Ride. This year the 'Horses for Courses' Charity Ride for Bush Kids will head off from the Glen Helen Homestead on the 7 October 2018 riding through the spectacular West MacDonnell Ranges, camping under the stars for five fantastic nights and finishing up in Alice Springs on the 12th October 2018.

There'll be lots of evening activities planned and good Ol' fashion hospitality, camp-oven cook ups, campfire sing-alongs, boot-scooting boogie, bush poetry, Parks and Wildlife Ranger talk's and night walks, the sharing of horse riding tips and about as much fun along the way as we can muster up.

'Horses for Courses' raises awareness of the issues Aussie bush kids face; which I'm sure you're all too familiar with...social isolation implications affecting mental health, educational inequities, boarding school blues, distance education challenges, early childhood and specific needs issues, the list goes on...

So why not pack up the kids and join us for a week of wonderful horse-riding fun, make new friends and simply recharge the batteries. Never has there been a horse ride like this occur through the West MacDonnell Ranges!

This is a first...a 130kms horse trek through the Central Australian National Park. Other horse rides of this calibre cost upwards of \$2k, but with the help of our wonderful volunteers and sponsors we are able to offer this amazing opportunity to our bush families.

It is essential that riders bring their own horse, tack and horse-riding equipment along with feed and camping equipment. Riders who are staying for the entire duration will have their camping gear and horse feed transported each day to the new camp site.

Unfortunately, places are strictly limited and subject to strict criteria as per our insurance schedule. All riders must have at least 3 years riding experience under their belt and be able to trot and canter.

All under 18 year old's must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult at all times unless otherwise arranged with management.

Please register your interest to partake as a horse rider on the website:

<http://tianicook.wixsite.com/horsesforcourses/ride-itinery>

Other family members are welcome to join in overnight camping and activities. There will be a daily per person charge for meals and camping fees for all non-riders.

Anyone not a horse rider but wanting to join us along the way to camp under the stars please contact me directly. Camping is limited so places will be restricted.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via email at [H4C.BushCharity@gmail.com](mailto:H4C.BushCharity@gmail.com) or phone 0429 826 054. I'm more than happy to have a yarn and give you the low down.

Thank you everyone, I thoroughly look forward to catching up those of you who can come along in October for this incredible horse ride.

Cheers  
for now, Tiani.



**Email:** [H4C.BushCharity@gmail.com](mailto:H4C.BushCharity@gmail.com)

**Register:** <http://tianicook.wixsite.com/horsesforcourses/ride-itinery>

**Phone:** 0429 826 054



**THE ESSINGTON  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL DARWIN**

### **RESIDENTIAL BOARDING OPTIONS NOW AVAILABLE IN DARWIN**

The Essington School Darwin is a parent owned, non-denominational, co-educational school with a reputation for innovation and high quality learning outcomes at a national and international level - it is a Preschool to Year 12 facility with 1,250 students.

Being the Northern Territory's largest independent school the Essington International School celebrates its 30th birthday with the further development of boarding residential opportunities for remote and regional NT students.

The School currently leases houses with three or four students in each, including a residential house parent. In 2019 the program is expanding with additional houses accommodating boarders from regional Northern Territory destinations. School Principal, David Cannon, said: *'The School is keen to provide this opportunity to Northern Territory isolated families, and an alternative to some expensive southern boarding schools'.*

The school fees are affordable, and year 12 results are on par or higher than other highly priced schools, offering an affordable package for isolated families.

The School is targeting its unique high performing senior college located on the campus of Charles Darwin University, preparing students for university and post year 12 study options.

Essington also boasts a wide range of sporting and music and performing arts options, and opportunities for study and sporting tours to Asia.

***For further information on boarding  
and study options in 2019 at  
The Essington International School Darwin***

***Email: [enrolments@essington.nt.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@essington.nt.edu.au)  
Phone Jayne Lomas on Ph. 8985 0100  
<http://www.essington.nt.edu.au/>***



***This year the school celebrated the eighteenth year of its  
year 10 'Learn to Fly' program.***

### **HOTHAM HOUSE RESIDENCE LEANYER**



Hotham House (above) is in Darwin's northern suburbs close to public bus transport and with easy access to the Senior College on the campus of Charles Darwin University.

This area also provides proximity to Casuarina Shopping Centre for shopping, cinemas and entertainment, and part time work options in shops, McDonalds, etc. Students have a bike each, so they are mobile - some choosing to ride to school. One older, year 12 student has a license and car, and is quite independent.

This leased house currently has four boys living in it under the supervision one of our basketball coaches as House Parent, who also works at the school assisting with our elite community sports program. He is Australian, a sports administrator by training and comes with experience in sports college residential facilities in Asia (Kuala Lumpur). A cleaner comes in twice a week and students are expected to keep their rooms tidy themselves and do their own washing.

Meals are ordered each day from our school canteen from a menu and dropped off to the House late in the afternoon for them to heat for the evening meal. If the students prefer to do their own meals or BBQs the food is provided and supervised by the House Parent. Students get their own breakfast from their choice of foods and they normally make their own lunch to take to school (or can access the canteen). A regular communal shopping trip with the house parent on a Sunday provisions the kitchen, giving students a say in what they want to buy and eat.

The house here is typical of the additional houses we plan to lease in 2019, in the Brinkin area, which is the suburb adjacent to the Senior College at Charles Darwin University campus. Housing is being sought with generous and separate/private ensuite for bedroom/office for House Parent. Students would occupy the four bedrooms using shared bathrooms and generous lounge-room/dining areas and separate, equipped kitchen. Outside undercover spaces and gardens are utilized for table tennis, and basketball etc.

## Mid-year Delegation – Darwin 11 & 12 June 2018

NT State Councillors Tiani Cook, Sally Sullivan, Suzanne Wilson, Sarah Measey & Sarah Cook attended delegation meetings in Darwin on 11 & 12 June 2018.

The first day, Monday 11th (being a public holiday) was a day-long council meeting,

ticking off policy and processes, record keeping, motion actions & replies, merchandise, promotions, budget and fundraising opportunities; not easy for us, given we are located across the branches and the whole Territory. If your branch has any fundraising ideas for State Council,

we'd love to hear them. We are always looking for ways to fundraise to cover delegation costs.

While in Darwin we met with:

- MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND LOGISTICS
- MINISTER FOR CORPORATE AND INFORMATION SERVICES, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, TOURISM AND CULTURE
- SHADOW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
- DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
- COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOL ORGANISATION (COGSO)
- TELSTRA COUNTRY WIDE
- QANTAS AIRLINES
- VIRGIN AIRLINES

2018 State Conference Motions are shared with invitees in advance of each meeting, and discussions during meetings centre on relevant motions. Each meeting varies and discussions depend on the issue within each motion.

For example, State Council might have to provide more background or contexts around a particular

motion, to enable a better understanding. Alternatively, a stakeholder might provide updates or outcomes on a motion we've discussed previously.

***State Council & families must stay connected. Stakeholders want to hear the stories behind ICPA motions, as they progress our issues.***

***Give State Council your feedback, guidance & advice.***

***Phone or email us.***

***Details on [nt.icpa.com.au](http://nt.icpa.com.au)***

### **Communications and Technology:**

Telstra advised NT ICPA they are currently doing trials to ensure the Radio Telephone technology which has a shelf life, will be replaced with better technology / infrastructure, and also that VoiP will not replace a fixed wire/radio telephone under the USO (The

Telecommunications Universal Service Obligation) or USG (Universal Service Guarantee). This partly responds to the motion requesting that all rural and remote students have consistent access to continuous and reliable telephone communications through the upgrade of obsolete infrastructure.

**Boarding and Allowances:** The chances of Virgin and/or Qantas considering a student fare are slim, as student travel concessions are a State Government responsibility, and Qantas and Virgin are national carriers. We were not able to secure a meeting with Airnorth this time, but will try again next delegation. NT ICPA understands a greater spend attracts a greater discount, therefore it would be advantageous if Territory families joined with ICPA members across



Australia and used a group booking system.

The challenge is 'if' and 'how' this might be logistically possible, and the suggestion was shared with Federal Council. These discussions flow from the motions regarding affordable/student fares for students attending educational institutions within Australia.

During meetings with the Education Minister (Eva Lawler, above with Sarah Measey, Sarah Cook, Tiani



**NTICPA Portfolio Reports  
can be accessed by using the  
QR Code (left) on your  
smartphone or Tablet**

## Mid-year Delegation – Darwin 11 & 12 June 2018

Cook and Suzanne Wilson) and the Chief Executive, Department of Education, State Council was also advised that the Interstate Boarding Allowance had been approved, (although we had to wait for the formal letter to arrive). This somewhat responds to the motions relating to the provision of a Living Away From Home Allowance for students attending boarding facilities outside of the Northern Territory. However this allowance is limited to students enrolled in curriculum offerings not available in the NT and NT ICPA acknowledge it doesn't extend to all Territory students boarding interstate. (For more detail go to page 7)

**Distance education:** The Chief Executive, Department of Education advised NT ICPA that all Northern Territory Schools have been given a budget for replacing equipment, using a rolling replacement schedule. This addresses the motion to ensure that all Northern Territory schools delivering distance education receive adequate funding to supply an appropriate computer/laptop for each child for the duration of their schooling when enrolled in distance education.



*Our hard working girls above, with Minister Lauren Moss.*

**Miscellaneous:** NT ICPA received a guarantee from the Education Minister that the presiding Territory government would never contemplate combining schools of the air. This responds to the motion that NT ICPA continues to advocate the importance, value and critical need of Katherine school of the Air and Alice Springs School of the Air being based in and part of their respective rural and remote communities.

Our second delegation is planned for later in the year, possibly November, and we will keep you updated with outcomes from those meetings.

***Delegation meetings are a core function of State Council. Meetings provide information and context and progresses a mutual understanding of rural and remote education issues in the most effective way possible.***

State Conference for 2019 will be held in Katherine. Please consider how you can assist State Council. You might consider becoming a Councillor (no experience required) or you might consider supporting State Council through your branch. Either way, together WE are working together for equity of access to education for all students who live in rural and remote Australia. Our effort is worthy. #ICPA.



*Delegation usually includes a visit with the fabulous team from COGSO (above) - who are very supportive of our organisation and our causes.*

*Below, whenever possible, a chat with MLA Lia Finocchiaro, who is always a support.*



## Home Care Programme

As of July 2nd 2018 there have been changes to the access of the In Home Care Program nationwide.

The *In Home Care* programme is funded by the Department of Education and Training and provides an educator in the home for families that are unable to access mainstream child care. The criteria that makes families suitable for In Home Care are:

- Geographically isolated - based on Aria Score, therefore cannot access an education and care setting
- The parents work non-standard hours and therefore no education and care setting is open
- The family faces complex and challenging needs and therefore the children are unable to attend mainstream child care

All families who access *In Home Care* must be enrolled for Child Care Subsidy (CCS) through My GOV and based on their level of CCS this will assist in the fees associated with *In Home Care*, some families may meet the criteria for additional *Child Care Subsidy*.

The suitability for *In Home Care* is considered and if the family meets the above criteria then a Family Management Plan is completed over the phone and documentary evidence needs to be submitted to support the application.

Documentary evidence can include; work rosters, contracts of employment stating non-standard hours of work, drivers license for those geographically isolated and documents written by a professional that outline the complex needs and why mainstream child care is not accessible.

Once the Family Management Plan is complete the family will receive contact details for the *In Home Care* services and the families contact details will be shared with the services.

The service and family will complete enrolment forms, fee schedules, recruit an educator that meets the needs of the family and complete a home safety check. Currently for the Northern Territory, it's the Longreach Regional Council, However, we are currently looking for a service provider in the Northern Territory who would be able to deliver the *In Home Care* support program, particularly north of Katherine and surrounds.

If you are interested or would like more information, please give us a call or send an email to us.

Please feel free to share this information with families and employees as *In Home Care* may be suitable for them.

To apply for 'In Home Care' families can do so at the link below:

<https://www.wanslea.asn.au/children-and-family/in-home-care-support-agency/northern-territory/>



*In Home Care Support Agency NT*  
Phone : 1300 164 20  
Email: [inhomecaresupportagencynt@wanslea.asn.au](mailto:inhomecaresupportagencynt@wanslea.asn.au)



## Tiani Cook selected for Course 25 of the Iconic ARLP:

### Rural Leadership Development Program

'Founder/Director of 'Horses for Courses' – Charity Ride for Bush Kids, NT ICPA President, NTSDE Chair, NRW CRT NT Rep and Passionate Advocate for Rural and Remote Families, Tiani Cook was selected to be part of Course 25 of the iconic Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP)' announced Matt Linnegar, Chief Executive of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF).

The ARLP is a 15-month leadership program which takes place across Australia and Indonesia. Thirty-one participants from all over Australia are selected and immersed in a series of unique experiences to develop their leadership capabilities.

"Our generous partners provide a \$55,000 scholarship for each participant to undertake the program. Our partners believe that investing in people is crucial for the greater good of rural, regional and remote Australia," said Matt.

Tiani applied for the program last year, inspired by the amazing accomplishments she'd witnessed previous graduates of the course accomplish! "The opportunity to network with likeminded, passionate people from right across Australia, all striving for a similar goal in leadership, is something which has me super excited," said Tiani.

"Tiani has taken part in a rigorous and competitive selection process to be chosen for Course 25 of the ARLP, and I'm excited to meet the entire cohort in July," said Matt.

"I can't wait to challenge myself, get out of my comfort zone and truly see what I'm made of! I'm a big believer that magic happens just outside your comfort zone, so here's to proving it right!" said Tiani.

Throughout the program participants will engage in challenging and lifechanging experiences. We'll provide time and space to reflect on their abilities as a leader. They'll be given the tools and capacity to influence change and make an impact in regional Australia.

They will form lifelong friendships, mentoring relationships, and a network that extends beyond their Course to the wider 1,000 plus alumni of the Foundation.

Tiani will commence her first session of the program in Darwin in July 2018, before travelling to the Kimberley region in WA for an outdoor experiential component of the program.

**For interviews and enquiries, please call Tiani Cook  
mb:0429 826 054 | e:tiani.cook@live.com  
or call ARLF Manager - Communications, Monique  
Brouwer mb:0400 913 813.**

## Katherine Branch President Report



The 2018 ICPA Sports Camp held in Mataranka in April was a smashing success. The kids had a really great time and were honestly giving 100% at each sport. The enthusiasm of the kids to try new things and practice the skills learnt last year was

infectious, and it was lovely to see them displaying great teamwork and nurturing friendships during the few days. The format of the camp seems to work well for families and is a fantastic way to finish what is always a hectic first term.

The collaboration of ICPA with both Mataranka School and Katherine School of the Air is a real credit to everyone involved. It is exciting to see the kids feeling confident that they can be involved in all sorts of sport. There is such a positive vibe during the camp, and a great way for new and old families to come together. This year the NT Dept of Education School Sports Coordinator, Glen Hayles, was super keen to get involved and did a wonderful job stepping in to run the AFL and warm up activities alongside the other dedicated sports development officers.

There has also been another exciting proposition of collaboration, with Toowoomba Grammar School offering sponsorship and coaching. This is certainly a step again toward sustainability and not only is a chance for our camp to utilise the resources of a prestigious school, it would also provide an avenue of discussion toward boarding school, which is a big, scary, expensive leap that a lot of our families are forced to face. The bigger the bridge we can build between each step in our kids' education the better, whatever, and however that may be! Santos and Roper Gulf have indicated their hope for continued sponsorship and are wholeheartedly behind the benefits the camp is providing to the community. Let's hope we can continue the momentum.

The NTICPA State Conference was held earlier this year in Alice Springs, and it was a real credit to the convening committee. Julie Richter (Katherine Branch Vice President) Sue Shotton and I travelled down representing Katherine Branch, to meet at 'Alice in the Territory' for an action-packed day and night discussing all things related to remote education. The theme of 'Special Needs in Isolation' was explored with keynote speaker Sandy Russo from SPELD SA delivering an informative talk on reading and learning difficulties and some of the resources our families could be accessing. There were reps from each of the key stakeholders on education and communication and it was great to see acknowledgement and attendance from Federal and State Members of Parliament.

Next year will be Katherine Branch's chance to convene the NT State Conference and I strongly urge anyone interested to get involved in conference – it is a great opportunity to broaden your knowledge and make a difference.

Our fundraising efforts have been chugging along, with a few dedicated members tossing sausages after the ICPA kids Funkana during the Mataranka 'Never-Never' Festival Campdraft. The branch raised over \$420 from a small BBQ at the bar, with half of those proceeds going to the 'Dolly's Dream Foundation'.

'Leisure & Lace' Katherine invited members to an exclusive wine and cheese promo shopping night with part proceeds going to Katherine Branch, and we've also instigated the 'Great Shirt Shootout', which hopefully helps members by cleaning out a few wardrobes and possibly filling a few, whilst making a few fundraising dollars.



'Big thank you to all the lovely ladies that joined in on the Leisure & Lace shopping night during inschool. KSA ladies were spoilt by staff with wine and cheese, promotional goodies and an exclusive look at the new website. 10% of all sales went to ICPA Katherine and \$240.80 was donated by just shopping! Good job ladies! And thank you to Leisure & Lace Katherine for a great night. Watch out for another fab Christmas shopping night during Swim Week.'

Whilst these small events might not be big money spinners, they are an important and fun way to give back to the community, raise our branch profile, and increase awareness of the challenges our families face educating our children.

Our number one supporter, the Landmark team, have again come onboard with all proceeds from the Landmark Sundowner Auction at the Katherine Show being donated to Katherine Branch ICPA. See page three for photos of this event.



By Kerrie Scott, Katherine Branch President

### Personal Development Grants

This term members' children were once again given the opportunity to apply for a Personal Development Grant. We had 50 successful applicants with some of the activities being camp-drafting, violin lessons, art, photography, AFL umpiring and a variety of other sports. The Grants were presented to the majority of applicants at the KSA In-school Assembly.

These grants are just one of the things made possible due to the Landmark Auction proceeds. See page 21 for some of the awardees.

### KSA Sports Day Medallions

Katherine Branch donated the medallions for Sports day and our President, Kerrie Scott, presented them to the winners in each age group.

### Biggest Morning Tea

During this In-school week, the Branch held their annual Cancer Council Big Morning Tea in memory of Carol Armstrong, a member who lost her fight with cancer many years ago. Carol was a fun-loving lady who volunteered much of her time to ICPA. Thanks to those who came along and supported the cause. The Branch collected \$152 on the day.

### Royelene Hill Art Competition

The Art Competition was organised through KSA and sponsored by the Branch. It was great to see our students' artistic talents on display around the school. The winners in age groups were presented at the In-school Assembly. Thank you to Salli Thomas for her organising of the competition and Katie Payne for her assistance.

### In-school Meeting

Fourteen members attended the meeting to discuss a variety of issues. Next year Katherine Branch will be hosting the **NT State Conference** and a big thanks to Julie Richter who has offered to be the convenor.

At present we have 64 paid members, so we look forward to seeing a few of you attend the conference next April.

### ICPA Extra-ordinary Grant.

We are happy to announce that Yerrin Heaslip (right) has been granted \$1200 to put towards the costs of representing Katherine at the NT Links Netball held in Darwin in September and wish her all the best as our very first receiver of this Grant.

By Helen Harding,  
Katherine Branch Secretary



**My School Holiday Adventure**  
*by Isla Scott - Mountain Valley Station*  
**Year 4 Katherine School of the Air**



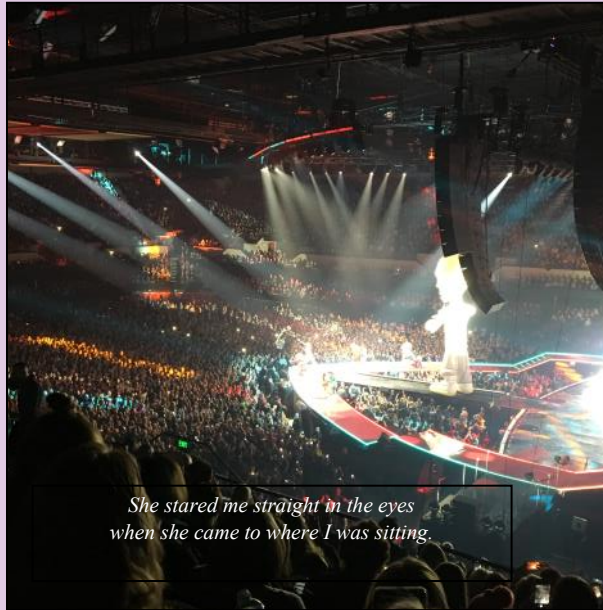
The next day we walked all over the city and I went ice skating at Victoria Square at the winter festival (above). After that, we went to Chinatown and got a donut at the markets and did some shopping (above, right).



Hello, my name is Isla and during the school holidays I went to see my favourite singer, Pink, in Adelaide.

It was a long drive to Darwin from Mountain Valley Station, and we dropped my little sister off in Katherine to stay with Grandma and Grandad. My brother got to stay home with Dad and do stuff.

We went to the airport, and it took us three and a half hours to fly to Adelaide, but it was worth it. We caught a taxi to the hotel and had pizza for dinner!



Then we hopped on a tram, which is like a train, and went to the Adelaide Museum. It was great, and there were lots of stuffed animals and displays from all over the world and giant dinosaur bones (below). We only had 6 hours of sleep before we had to travel home again.

It was so much fun. I loved Pink and I think it was worth all the driving and flying to see her.



That night we went to see Pink. It was very cold getting onto the tram, but it was lots of fun. There were lots of people there and Mum wasn't sure where to go, and the line up was very long. It didn't take much time though and we were inside. Pink's DJ played music and then her support band played, and then Pink came on!



***Katherine Branch Personal Development Grants***

**Tia Ford**  
**Year 3**  
**'Observatory'**

*Tia applied for funds to assist in the purchase of an astronomy telescope and the artwork she has produced (left) is looking through a telescope at an observatory and the night sky.*

## Katherine Branch Personal Development Grants

Ruby Plains Station  
PMB 130  
Halls Creek, WA, 6770

ICPA Katherine School of the Air Branch  
C/- Mrs Kerrie Scott  
mountainvalleystation@gmail.com  
5<sup>th</sup> September, 2018

Dear Mrs Scott and the ICPA Katherine Branch,

I would like to say thank you for the grant I received to help me compete at the Halls Creek and Fitzroy Crossing Campdrafts, Rodeos and Gymkhanas.

I was successful in sum events and won some ribbons and prizes. I am getting better at riding.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely

Pepper Wortley



### Shae Ford - Year 8 Fossil Downs Station

Each year I participate with my Sisters in Rodeo's and Campdraft's across the Kimberley. Each year I compete on my two horses, Cool Rock and Sarge. Last year I competed in Maiden, Ladies and Juvenile at three Campdrafts across the Kimberley's. Fitzroy is our home town rodeo, and we are a part of the rodeo committee. At this Campdraft I won The Junior on Sarge and placed third on Cool Rock. I also came third in the ladies.

Halls creek I also competed at, as well as Derby winning and placing in the Junior, and Ladies. This year we are going to Costello Yard, Fitzroy, Halls Creek, Kununurra and Broome.



### Nathan Richter Year 2 VRD Station

Nathan applied for funds to assist with upgrading his fishing gear.



*'I love to go fishing , it is my favourite thing to do. My favourite place to go fishing is Dashwood Crossing. The biggest fish I have caught there is 89cm.... That is EMOURMOUS!!*

*The Biggest fish I have ever caught is a 105cm catfish at the back of our house. If I had a new fishing rod and reel I could go fishing more with my family and I would catch more barra.'*

### Tess Ford - Year 4 Fitzroy Crossing Rodeo

*At Fitzroy Crossing Rodeo, the bulls and their riders fought for the glory of winning.*

*They all tried hard, but only one could win the fame.*

*The rider mounted the dark brown and white bull.*

*You could see the whites of its eyes from the grandstand, stainless steel panels.*

*It kicked the chute gate, wanting to be free from the sea of people surrounding him.*

*The announcer and the gate-man were holding the rope attached to the chute lever, game to see action, cautious of any movement around them.*

*The chute boss called names to chutes and ferocious bulls to get ready.*

*The white chutes enclosed the animals.*

*The gate opened as fast as a race car starting its race, and the bull darted out of the chute. The bull turned right in a brown flash. It bucked, kicked and spun.*

*The rider was obviously nervous, as they all were.*

*He pushed his chin into the front of his solid vest so he didn't jar his neck. His silver chaps flew around in the air, standing out against the brown body of the bull. His helmet was black and it had a silver guard where his mouth was. One of his hands was up in the air, the other clenching the dirty rope.*

*The clowns grouped the bull as the siren rang. They looked funny, with their bright, dashing clothes and rags hanging down around their knees, trying to attract the bulls.*

*The bull spun six times before the rider finished his time, as the winning ride, and dived into the sandy arena dirt on the left side of the bull.*

*He jumped up to avoid getting hurt as the bull kept bucking.*

*There, from behind the panels, the quiet was no longer and the applause came.*



**These grants are just some of the things made possible due to the Landmark Auction proceeds.**

*Brycen Johnstone (above) used his grant with the purchase a Kindle to encourage his love of reading.*

*Shae and Tess Ford, and Pepper Wortley applied for funding through the ICPA Personal Development Grants to assist them with the cost of nominations to rodeos and campdrafts . Others used the funds towards other sporting activities, such as netball. Hayley Richter purchased a sewing machine and materials, to learn sewing.*



## 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 2018.

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.

#### ALICE SPRINGS

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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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**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!

**BARKLY BRANCH LIFE MEMBERS**

Wendy Ohlsen

Carmel Wagstaff

Robyn Peatling

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Patricia Elliot  
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Janelle and Blue Pugh

Thankyou to all our wonderful Landmark Sundowner Auction Spon-

