# DOWN THE TRACK

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of the Northern Territory

# **NEWSLETTER**

Issue 81 April 2019







Many thanks to the Connellan Trust and SIBA Ships for their generous support of the NT ICPA ventures in 2019



## Goodbye and Hello from our Immediate Past and Present Presidents

Hello Everyone,

It is my absolute pleasure to sign off with this, my last president's brief for Down the Track, and hand over to incoming NT ICPA President Sarah Cook.

My last three years as State President have been wonderful, I have fostered some amazing relationships right across the country, and friendships within the ICPA community which will be long-lasting.

NT ICPA Council have achieved a few milestones during my term as president which I'm very proud

of and will carry on for some time to come. As I step into the Immediate Past Presidents position for the next 12 months, I'd like to let everyone know I am retaining the Technology and Communications Portfolio and welcome anyone with an issue



relevant to my portfolio to email me directly on nt icpa ipp@outlook.com

I would like to wish Sarah all the very best for her term. The current NT ICPA State Council, voted in at our recent State Conference in Katherine, are a strong and incredible group of passionate parents who will no doubt be of constant support and motivation. Welcome to the new councillors Amanda, Kerrie and Amber who join returning councillors Anna, Bec, Suzanne, Sally, Sarah M, Sarah C and myself.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me in my role during the last three years.

Cheers for now, Tiani.

Well, this is a bit overwhelming!

Firstly, I extend my personal appreciation to Tiani Cook for her dedicated & committed past three years as NT ICPA President, during which time Tiani led NT ICPA forward, notably setting up valuable networks and connections that lend precious support to rural and remote families achieving Equity in Education Outback,

leaving a strong legacy and big shoes to fill. Bravo Tiani. NT ICPA are fortunate for your three solid years of commitment.

So, I'm your 'newby' President! Here's a brief bit about me and we'll include the biographies of all ten NT ICPA Councillors in the next edition of Down the Track.

I live 140km north of Alice Springs, my husband & I have been managing Aileron Station for a corporate investment company for nearly 4 years. We have one son; he's a senior boarder at a QLD school. I grew up on properties in the Kimberley and NT, where I completed my entire primary via

School of the Air (SOA), and attended boarding school for secondary.

A personal career highlight were the five years I spent in the insurance industry, mostly in middle management, before I studied my Bachelor's degree as a mature age student at Charles Darwin

University, supported by a Chief Ministers Women In Study award. At university, my major was marketing (Consumer Behaviour), but mostly I loved the elective units in politics & law.

Afterwards I snagged a graduate program and worked in policy with the Northern Territory Government, before my little family moved back out bush – to start the SOA journey again, this time as the

home tutor for my son (which I really sucked at). So I guess you could say, advocating for equity in education outback is a natural fit for me, and I've travelled some roads to support this passion.

The best part of being President is being surrounded by a super-strong council of ten bloody fantastic, talented, committed experts in educating rural & remote children. It's quite inspiring to think of what we can achieve for our members!

Right now, 2 weeks after State Conference, NT ICPA's 10 Councillors are busy settling into council positions and portfolios. We will soon begin

preparations for our first delegation meetings in Darwin. Pick up the phone or email a Councillor and share your thoughts with us—it's what we're here for.

Sarah Cook.



# Volunteers for Isolated Students Education Aussie Helpers

AHVISE 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

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

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### 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.



'Northern Territory Isolated Children's Parent Association'



Twitter -- @NTICPA

# The Man Period Production of Part And Andrews

# Isolated Children's Parents' Association NORTHERN TERRITORY STATE COUNCIL Inc 2019 - 2020 Positions

Postal Address; PO Box 8346, Alice Springs 0871 Email: NTSecretary@icpa.com.au Website: www.nt.icpa.com.au

#### PRESIDENT

Sarah Cook Aileron Station PO Box 1361 Alice Springs NT 0871

0889569705 NTPresident@icpa.com.au

#### **SECRETARY**

Rebecca (Bec) Cadzow Mt Riddock Station PMB 43 Alice Springs NT 0872

08 89569963 NTSecretary@icpa.com.au

## TREASURER & LONE MEMBER OFFICER

Sarah Measey Ceres Downs PMB 271 Winnellie NT 0822

08 8978 2155 NTTreasurer@icpa.com.au

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Suzanne Wilson 122/8 Gardiner Street Darwin NT 0800

0418830214 NTVicePresident@react-live.com

#### NT ICPA STATE PATRON

Mrs Jan Heaslip NT ICPA State Life Member Bond Springs Station, PO Box 4 Alice Springs NT 0872

08 8952 9810 janiceheaslip@outbackretreat.com.au

#### **PUBLICITY OFFICER**

Amanda Murphy Kalala Station PMB 203 Katherine NT 0852

89 8975 9784 NTPublicityofficer@icpa.com.au

#### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Tiani Cook Suplejack Downs Station PMB 42 Alice Springs NT 0872

08 8956 8764 NTPresident@icpa.com.au

#### NT ICPA STATE COMMITTEE

Sally Sullivan - Cave Creek Station 08 8975 4321 cavecreek2@bigpond.com

Anna Weir - Amaroo Station 08 8956 9899 Sandoverpastoral@bigpond.com

Kerrie Scott - Mountain Valley Station 08 8975 4064 Icpa.kscott@gmail.com

Amber Driver - Elkedra Station 08 8956 9889 elkedrastation@gmail.com

#### LIFE MEMBERS

Jan Heaslip	8952 9810
Pat Elliott	8971 2116
Chrissie Holt	Deceased
Deneise Edwards	3
Del Harlan	0417 835504
Kate Schubert	9305 5857

#### NT WEB MASTER

Helen Kempe NTWebmaster@icpa.com.au

#### DOWN THE TRACK NEWSLETTER

Annika Bell C/- PO Box 728 Palmerston NT 0821

0403729814 dtt@icpa.com.au

#### PORTFOLIO POSITIONS

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

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

## 37th Annual State Conference - Katherine April 2019



This years State Conference started with early registrations and pre-Conference drinks on the Monday afternoon followed by dinner at Knotts Crossing Resort, where this years Conference was held.



Conference Day started with the National Anthem and we were honoured to have our Official Opening by Hon Selina Uibo, MLA and NT Minister for Education - pictured below with President Tiani Cook and Vicki Bailis, NT Minister for Education.



Tiani read her final report, as the ICPA President, summarising her last year in the role, and we thank her for providing great leadership over the last three years, wishing her the best for future endeavours - her report can be read on page 7.

Throughout the day other reports presented were:

- Secretary and Home Tutor Report by Suzanne Wilson,
- Branch reports by respective presidents,
  - \* Amber Driver—Alice Springs Branch
  - \* Kerrie Scott Katherine Branch
- Federal ICPA was represented this year by the Federal Assistant Secretary, Jane Morton, and Kristen Coggan (Councillor and Communications Portfolio) and we thank them for joining us. Jane updated us on federal matters, in her report.

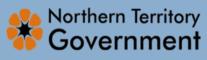
Also as part of the important matters discussed during the Conference, a number of motions were presented to the members present, voted on and will now be forwarded for further consideration.

Our 2018 ICPA Post Secondary Bursary recipient, Dean Sullivan, presented his report by video which can be accessed by scanning the QR code on page 17.

It was announced that the 2019 Post Secondary Bursary winner is Zara Milton of Umuwa, Central Australia. Zara has chosen to study a Batchelor of Nursing at Flinders University, and her application can also be found on page 17. Congratulations Zara!

The other items and parts of the conference can be found in the following sections and throughout the newsletter—there were some excellent guest speakers, a Q&A with the NT Boarding Schools Panel, and some great networking opportunities at the pre and post conference events.

Our thanks go to the fabulous Katherine Branch Members team, led by Julie Richter who convened this years event.





#### **Question and Answer | NT Boarding Schools**

The NT Boarding Schools Q&A saw a series of questions put to the panel, made up of the following schools.

This was informative and a positive step towards a better understanding of the boarding environment in the NT.

St Philips College Alice Springs - Tony Knott represented St Philips and is the Director of Boarding. This is a day and boarding school with a 75 year history. Currently their boarding house is not at capacity and applications for students to join are welcome. The boarding house is an environment for all students and currently 70% of the boarders are indigenous. St. Phillips is a round square school with international partnerships and exchange programs. They boast extensive sporting and musical extension programs allowing students to pursue these ventures interstate. Bursaries and scholarships are available for students to attend St. Philips College.

Haileybury Rendall School in Berrimah, Darwin- Ian Smith is the Head of Aboriginal Community Relations. This is a day and boarding school with a vision to be a Tier 1 School in Darwin. The boarding house currently houses mainly indigenous students with 3-4 non indigenous boarders. In the future they would like to open the school up to Chinese students and move to an international schooling environment. There are scholarships available at the school

**Callistemon House in Katherine** - Jayme Kit is the Head of Boarding. Callistemon is a boarding facility in Katherine which ICPA has had a long relationship with since its inception in 1997. Students boarding at Callistemon House have access to multiple secondary schools in Katherine, for example Katherine High School and St. Josephs. Currently there are

approx. 40 students in the boarding house. The boarding fees at Callistemon House are no higher than AIC Payments.





#### **Telstra Country Wide**

Nic Danks, General Manager Country Wide, was on hand again this year to answer our questions and gave us an update on the Round 5 & 6 of Black Spot areas. The NT was successful with 5 towers in Round 1, 3 towers in Round 2, and 2 towers in Round 3. NT were not allocated any Black Spot towers in round 4 and we are urged to approach our Federal Members and make our voice heard for the implementation on Black Spot towers in the NT for round 5 & 6.

ICPA members get a \$50 discount on YAGI Mobile Booster Home Antenna and YAGI Car Boosters - members should follow this offer up with your Telstra store.

The Telstra call centre 132200 for rural and remote dients continues to be operational and is currently capturing 85% of the rural and remote areas.

There is an option for anyone in rural and remote Australia who is not in mobile service to self-fund their own satellite small cell mobile tower. This would see the individual (or company) provide the land for the tower, 10amp power and \$40,000 for the construction. Telstra would also contribute \$40,000. If you are interested in self-funding your own mobile tower, contact Nic Danks, Telstra Country Wide, General Manager NT.

We also heard about the WIFI on wings trail and its impact on opening lines of communication within groups of our community eg: 'grey nomads', natural disaster centres, and rural and remote communities.

## 37th Annual State Conference - Katherine April 2019



On the evening prior to Conference there was a quick workshop on Conference Procedures and how motions are presented and carried. This is great for new members first attending and also as a refresher for others. This was followed up with drinks and nibbles. Pre conference gathering is a very relaxed event when many first meet -

often for the first time since the last conference, or many years later. Its always lovely to have our 'founding' and long serving members join us. Many of these ladies got the NT on the map when it came to ICPA, and it was a whole lot harder back then, when much of the travel was by coach, and organisation without the internet, emails and reliable phones was at a whole different level!



Pauline Raynor, Helen Kempe (our new Web-Manager) Pat Elliot (State and Katherine Branch Life Member), Jan Heaslip (our Patron and Life Member) and Del Harlan.



Above Left - Barry Gershwitz (Rabo Bank) and Bec Cadzow.

Above Right - Tony Knott (St Philips College) with ex-student Philip Sullivan.

Right - Alice Springs ladies, Katherine Warby and Ley Kunoth.



Left - Katherine Branch (and part of the busy convening committee) Katie Payne, Julie Richter and Kerrie Scott relaxing briefly between events -Great work Ladies!!







Our Conference concluded with a fantastic evening spent at Katherine Outback Experience, where we were welcomed with champagne, wine and beer and an

impressive array of pre dinner nibbles; second to none.

After sneaking back for seconds (and thirds) we all gathered to watch Tom Curtain's incredible display of horsemanship and ability to work with his working dogs. He was easily able to have several of his dogs revolving around him in a clockwise direction while asking several of his other dogs to complete this task at the same time in the opposite direction! If only we could have this control of our children in the school room...

Tom's passion for animals and nurturing the talent of other young people within the industry was clear. He introduced us to a young girl, Breanna Cook, who showed us a Liberty routine with her horse, and we also heard from Grant, a ringer from the gulf chasing a dream of one day buying his own slice of this beautiful rugged country.

This evening was a perfect conclusion to a fabulous conference.





Above; Helen
Harding and Katie
Payne enjoying some
of Pete's Pure wine
at dinner



Pre-dinner drinks and wind down; Ley Kunoth, Anna Alexander & Sue Shotton







Above Left: Bec Cadzow and Ruth Woerle
Right: Enjoying dinner and wine - under the stars, in a spectacular
setting. Thank you Katherine Outback Experience!

# NT ICPA 37th ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE GUEST SPEAKERS

Conference always involves the presentation of reports and motions, which are a fundamental part of proceedings and keeping within our constitutional guidelines, and while these are important and informational, many highlights are from our guest speakers, who are always inspirational. This year was no exception!

#### **Key Note Speaker: Anna Fredericks**



Anna Fredericks is an Executive Officer at James Cook University in Cairns and was our Keynote speaker who certainly gave us all inspiration and something to think about. Anna was raised and spent many childhood years growing up in Alice Springs. Over the years she realised that your background and location should not define who you are or your ability to contribute, be recognised or have a seat at the table. Anna was chosen to take part in the International Leadership

Programme in 2016, of which there are only 30 places offered, and this cemented how important it is to have, maintain and use the networks you create through life.

## "...what I do with those networks is really important. Using social networks to connect..."

In this day and age we can live and work anywhere in the world. In the last five years we have seen more changes in technology than we have seen in the 20 years prior. How is this advancement in technology going to affect the rural industries, how are they going to change over the years?

Anna believes we are going into the 4<sup>th</sup> Industry Revolution. Automated and Tech savvy. There was a movie Anna referenced during this part of her presentation and urged anyone interested to seek it out: 'Black Mirrors'. Anna shared several statistics with us and we heard that over 30% of our population in Australia live in our regions with over \$700 million dollars being injected into the NT economy by the food and fibre industry.

Anna spoke at length about her passion for learning and rural and remote Australia. It is clear that our geographical location should not be a barrier for us to access education and keep our goals set high regardless of where or who we are. Thank you Anna for a thought provoking address.

#### **Dylan Lewis—Founder of Katherine Mental Mates**



www.mentalmates.org and Facebook

Dylan is the founder of the Katherine based 'Mental Mates'. Three years ago he and the community were deeply affected after losing two of his mates and local footy club members to suicide. Dylan spoke openly and honestly, with raw emotion, about his own battle with anxiety and depression and the impact that was having on his life working in

rural and remote NT.

Mental Mates offers training for community members on Mental First Aid, offering several courses ranging from a four hour course to a four day course. These courses give you the tools to be able to help someone as well as identifying some key signs to look for *Eg: being withdrawn / alone, changes in eating and sleeping habits*.

Dylan shared some important points we can adopt when approaching someone to ask if they are OK - Find a quiet place with no distractions, Be honest with your question and provide a sympathetic ear, Be direct – don't beat around the bush.

If you ask someone if they are OK and they reply 'No', Mental Mates courses give you the skills needed to follow up on this and get them the help they need.



Dylan also outlined how important it is for us to talk about mental health at an early age; teach kids how to disconnect from the pressures they face and show them how to switch off, reset and be calm. Breathing exercises and meditation helps reset; it is important to take time for yourself on a daily basis.

I think it is fair to say that he touched most people's hearts at the conference with his braveness and openness in talking about such an emotional topic.

# Vocational Education and Training (VET) Charles Darwin University: Alison Haines, Team Leader Agriculture & Rural Operations, Katherine Campus

Allison gave us an overview of facilities and courses on offer at the Katherine Rural Campus. The Campus has a 4440ha farm where they provide the hands on training their courses teach and also run cattle on this block. They offer many courses, some online, and are open to tailoring courses to suit the needs of the community.

We heard that if there was interest at a secondary school level (yr7-12) there could be an opportunity for students to attend the college and join in the courses that are being run. Contacting the KRC directly is the best way to find out more. A question was asked if non-Government schools could access the KRC to be included in the activities they provide, Alison said she was happy to be contacted about this and partnerships with schools like St. Philips in Alice Springs could prove to be beneficial in the future.

We heard that courses offered by KRC are also delivered off campus and again, Alison is happy to talk with schools, properties and individuals are able to discuss this with her further. Workplace assessments and school based apprenticeships are offered at the KRC which are signed off when students reach industry standard. For some students they are able to complete these courses in the set six month block, for others, it may take longer as they are only passed when all components are completed to a satisfactory standard.

Alison has a wealth of knowledge and is very happy to be contacted for additional information on courses and specific course needs.

#### Katherine Isolated Children's Service - Mandy Tootel.



From Mandy Tootel we heard how KICS are delivering a mobile play group for rural and remote families in the Katherine area.

Mandy shared with us the importance of learning through play and promoting early years development (prior to children attending school). KICS gives young children an outside structured play based area with many

different areas to explore and learn from.

Currently Federally funded, KICS is working hard to attract permanent funding. They conduct about 8-9 station play groups per week and also provide a number of school holiday events in the Katherine area.

Given the unique delivery of the play groups, KICS, when employing staff, need to be very specific in attracting the best people for the job. KICS staff spend 24 hrs a day together when they take the play group on the road—driving to remote stations and communities, camping together and working with families and children. So far they have been using the power of their network to attract staff and there were some questions asked about university students being able to join KICS for their practical study units.

It would be best to get in touch with Mandy directly if you are interested

in learning more about KICS or how we can support their longevity and the maintenance and expansion of mobile play groups into other remote communities.



This is my final President's Report, as my term comes to a close. The last three years on NT ICPA State Council in the President's position have been a journey of incredible opportunities and

**networking.** To say the learnings which come from being involved with ICPA are tremendous, would be an understatement. The comradery and diligence I've shared with fellow state councillors, acting on behalf of members' interests, has proved to be a privilege to be part of.

The NT ICPA state council team is one of combined strengths, knowledge and talent. A passionate team of rural and remote parents enthusiastically representing our member body to the very best of their ability. NT State Council are a highly regarded, respected and reputable organisation with an ever-growing ability to connect with stakeholders and community groups, ensuring an equitable level of education for our rural and remote kids.

I'd like to encourage everyone to take some time to read through the very comprehensive portfolio reports. Each report has outlined the dedicated work NT ICPA Councillors have done over the last 12 months and provide feedback to the motions passed at last year's state conference in Alice Springs. These portfolio reports have a wealth of information in them, building extensively on my President's Report for an in-depth expansion of the way in which NT ICPA have advocated members' issues.

Stakeholder Delegations: In 2018 NT ICPA State Council travelled to Darwin twice for Delegation. More regular face -to-face meetings ensure NT ICPA's relationship with very important stakeholders is maintained and members issues remain at the forefront.

This was particularly relevant last year, as not long after our June visit, NT State Government had a cabinet reshuffle, Minister Lawler was superseded by Hon Selina Uibo MLA as NT Minister for Education. We were able to meet with Minister Uibo at our second delegation and look forward to continuing to work closely with the Minister into the future.

During the 2018 delegations we also met with the Department of Education CE, Vicki Baylis and NT Engagement and Partnerships, Tony Considine, Minister for Corporate and Information Services, Hon Lauren Moss MLA, Shadow Minister for Education and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Lia Finocchiaro MLA, Department of Corporate and Information Services CE, Doug Cooke, Nic Danks from Telstra Country Wide, Tim Saul, NBN Local SA/NT, Tabby Fudge and Michelle Parker from the Council of Government School Organisations, and Virgin Airlines with whom we discussed issues and went over motions.

I'd like to make mention and thank you to Sue Wilson for the work she put into organising our delegations, and ensuring the meetings ran like clockwork.

I'm happy to report that the new Interstate Boarding Allowance has been approved, with the first round of the Interstate Boarding Allowance payment already being issued to applicants. Also, the NT Department of Education online training sessions to assist home tutors in early intervention with understanding dyslexia and significant reading difficulties, for distance education students, should be rolled out shortly with discussions underway.

NT ICPA have commenced regular teleconferences, connecting with the NT Department of Education and Minister for Education in February. We look forward to continuing with regular teleconferences in an effort to provide feedback, advice and keep both Minister Uibo and Tony Considine abreast of the issues affecting members.

In June 2018, I presented at the Broadband for the Bush conference in Darwin on 'The value of Effective & Reliable Digital Technology for Social, Emotional, Physical, Financial & Educational Productivity of Families living in the Bush'. My presentation was well received with lots of positive discussion around the many complexities faced by rural and remote families. It proved an excellent learning curve for the many people who attended, who weren't previously aware of the issues bush kids endure, in the effort to complete their compulsory education years.

Annual ICPA Joint Councils F2F – Melbourne 21 & 22
February 2019: Earlier this year, Assistant Secretary, Bec
Cadzow and I flew to Melbourne for the ICPA Joint
Councils Face-to-Face Meeting. Unfortunately, Tasmania
was the only state not represented as they are currently
undergoing some changes in their state council.

The annual Joint Councils Meeting is always an enjoyable and productive few days of networking and brainstorming. We get the opportunity to share our issues with ICPA (Aust) and collaborate across borders and brainstorm ideas on a united front for the betterment of all our members.

<u>Grants and Bursaries</u>: NT ICPA's annual grants, bursaries and competitions include SIBA SHIPS—Wellard Rural Exports "Bridging the Gap" Grant, NT ICPA Post-Secondary Bursary, FRRR Back to School Vouchers and the Zoetis "Pastoral Industry" Student Grant.

Zara Milton was the successful applicant for the 2019 Post -Secondary Bursary - growing up in Alice Springs she has chosen to study a Bachelor of Nursing at Flinders University. Zara works with the Alice Springs Hospital, as well as other remote medical practices within Australia.

vouchers of \$50 each to be used for Rural and Remote Families to purchase items for back-to-school. The vouchers have been distributed all over the Northern Territory. We thank The Foundation of Rural and Regional Renewal for their support.

In addition to the NT ICPA State Bursaries, Alice Springs ICPA Branch offer a further fout bursaries and Katherine branch five, for individual branch members. More information on grants and bursaries can be found on the NT ICPA webpage.

<u>Down the Track</u>: NT ICPA's 'Down the Track' state magazine produces over 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 amazing dedication to editing, collaborating and distribution of each Down the Track Issue. Ruth has been the Down the Track editor since 2006 and has recently expressed an interest to hand over the reins to her daughter Annika. So, after thirteen years of being the friendly face and hard-working editor of Down the Track it looks like Ruth will be taking a step back to let some fresh blood into the role.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ruth very much for her dedication and enthusiasm she puts into every single edition of the NT ICPA State Magazine.

<u>Constitution, Bylaws and Policies updates</u>: Following on from last years state conference it was identified that council would engage in updating NT ICPA's Constitution, Bylaws and Policies along with help of Sue Shotton, who

has been our wonderful webmaster to date.

We had hoped to have them completed by this year's conference but still have a good body of work to do. We look forward to releasing the updated documents once completed.

## NT ICPA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

37th Annual State Conference

Knotts Crossing Resort | Katherine 2 April 2019

The \$2000 bursary will greatly help with the cost of living on campus and purchasing textbooks and medical instruments that she requires for her degree. We are very grateful to Jan Heaslip and Nancy Gorey for judging this yearly bursary.

The successful applicant of the SIBA SHIPS - Wellard Rural Export "Bridging the Gap" Grant Round 2 in 2018 was Sally Shaw from Spring Creek Station in WA. Sally attends the University of Western Australia in Perth, studying undergraduate medicine. She is looking forward to becoming a medical professional and travelling around isolated and rural parts of the country, ideally the Kimberley region where she is from. Sally plans to utilise the \$1500 bursary to assist her to purchase text books and academic resources that are crucial for the completion of her six to eight-year university degree course. We would like to thank Jackie Harvey, Val Prior and Helen Kempe for judging these bursaries.

Brian Stockwell, Sunday Creek Station, was the successful applicant of both the SIBA SHIPS - Wellard Rural Export "Bridging the Gap" Grant Round 1 and the Zoetis "Pastoral Industry" Student Grant, for 2019. Brian will use the money to help cover the costs of studying a dual degree of Agribusiness and Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Queensland, Gatton. He hopes to use these degrees to prepare him for a successful career in the agricultural sector. Thank you to Zoetis Australia for their continued support and our judges Ross Wheelhouse and Pat Elliott.

This year we were fortunate to receive 108 Target

Hospitality NT Presidents Luncheon:

Formally known as AHA NT, Hospitality NT is the peak industry body in the Northern Territory for the hospitality industry. This is the third year Hospitality NT have donated \$10k from their Annual President's Luncheon toward the running of two Social Development Camps held by both the Katherine and Alice Springs ICPA Branches.

Suzanne Wilson and Sarah Measey attended this year's luncheon in Darwin, where CEO Des Crowe acknowledged the important work NT ICPA does on behalf of rural and remote students in the Northern

In Closing: This year's Conference is hosted by the Katherine Branch of ICPA, the theme, representative of the new NT ICPA tagline is 'Equity in Education Outback'. I'd like to congratulate Katherine branch for organising another wonderful conference. Julie, Hele and the convening committee along with NT ICPA council conference contact, Sarah Cook, thank you for all the work you've put into ensuring today's event is a success.

Again, I'd like to encourage everyone to take the time to read through the portfolio reports when you get home, but for now please enjoy the conference and our fantastic line up of speakers who are all passionate about ensuring Rural and Remote Kids receive Equity in Education Outback.

Thank you Tiani

Anna Fredericks was invited to be a guest speaker at this year's State Conference, to speak from her wealth of knowledge and experience as a highly

#### ANNA FREDERICKS

#### KEY NOTE SPEAKER | 37th ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

know that these skills alone won't lead to success.

We need to ensure that our children have the

foundational knowledge and skills needed in their chosen field, as well as supporting them to develop important thinking and enterprise skills: problem solving, critical thinking and communication skills. Understanding the world through the lens of areas beyond the sciences, through these

We also need to prepare our children for the new world of work through teaching them how to learn – and importantly, how to learn in a real world context. It is important that we support our kids to be entrepreneurial, autonomous and self-directed - all key skills in the future workforce. And while the education sector has a very important role to play (and organisations including the ICPA have responsibility to advocate for education that meets the changing needs of our children),

thinking, emotional intelligence, adaptability, teamwork, digital savviness.

we also as parents need to support our kids to develop the

'soft skills' they need to be successful. Creativity, critical

And resilience – which I believe growing up in the outback gives our kids in bucket loads.

attributes and the humanities, as well as focused preparation for the future professionals of the far north remains essential too.

There is much discussion about the roles and opportunities for the world's biggest cities (500,000 people or more) and mega cities with populations of 10m people or more

motivated and educated woman, a mother of four and an advocate for

The allure of big city lights to pursue success is not a new phenomenon, but

it is one that seems to be growing and on a global level, with the world's

biggest cities predicted to continue to grow (Shanghai in China had population growth of 12 million people between 2000 and 2018!!).

those living and working in regional and remote areas of Australia.

This is some of what Anna had to share with us at the conference.

#### Did you know that there were 10 mega cities in 1990 and it is predicted there will be 41 by 2030!

Smaller cities and regions often seem to be forgotten in all of this, and it is important to remember that 75% of the world's population live in settlements of less than 500,000 people and produce nearly 40% of global GDP. Smaller cities, townships and regional areas provide the manufacturing, logistical, agricultural and other critical services that see the world's biggest cities functioning and growing.

So, where does that leave smaller cities, regional and rural areas? Especially given much of the conversation and rhetoric supporting the city centric views and perpetuating the ill-informed view that regions and small cities are stuck in cycles of low or no growth and not the place to stay if you want a successful career. This is especially important when thinking about our children's futures. And even more so when coupled with the changes that are underway in the workforce that will see forty percent of Australian jobs at high risk of automation in the next 10-15 years.

Jobs of the future is a topic that has attracted significant discussion in recent years: policy makers, CEOs, workers, students and educators the world over are rigorously debating what the jobs might be. While it can be difficult to predict what jobs will look like, we do have a good sense of the skills that the future workforce will need.

We know that jobs are changing rapidly due to digital disruption – which includes things like machine learning, artificial intelligence and automation. We have seen whole sectors change: think video stores that operated retail outlets, and over the past ten years have evolved to the world of Netflix. The jobs in this context have gone from retail staff to research scientists specialising in algorithms engineering, video encoding, user experience and machine learning for personalisation.

> Workers are now, and will increasingly, be spending more time solving problems, utilising critical thinking and judgement skills, using more mathematics and science skills, and more time using verbal communication and interpersonal skills.

They will need to develop an entrepreneurial mindset and spend more time learning on the job. There will be less time spent on routine tasks, and a lot more working with other people to gain value from technology.

> Science, Maths and Technology are widely recognised as being foundational skills in the future workplace, but we also



ANNA FREDERICKS

BBus, MIntMgt, GDipEd, GCertMigLaw

Born in Alice Springs, Central Australia, Anna is a mother of four and passionate about growing regional economies and opportunities for improved education and employment outcomes for future generations. Anna has built a successful career through experience living and working in regional

Australia, and is currently based in Cairns working for James Cook University as the Executive Officer to the Chancellery with a focus on whole of university policy and external relations.

Prior to joining JCU, Anna held a range of senior management roles in the public service, most recently the Director of Education Services with the NT Department of Education. In this role, Anna had responsibility for policy, regulation and funding of international education, higher education and non-government schools which included managing a budget of over \$250 million per annum.

Anna has over fifteen years' experience in public governance, project management and policy development, including leading policy development and systemic support for the implementation of education programs in regional and remote Australia and in Timor-Leste. She has participated in national forms and has been a representative on cross-agency and cross jurisdictional committees. Anna led a number of economic policy projects for the Northern Territory Government which included advocating for and supporting SME's and industry, with highlights including leading the redevelopment of the NT Government's 'buy local' policies and supporting the establishment of the letstar Hub in Darwin.

Anna has a Bachelor of Business, Masters of International Management, Graduate Diploma of Teaching and Learning and a Graduate Certificate of Australian Migration Law and Practice.

We highly recommend taking some time to watch or listen to Anna's TEDx Talk where she talks about these points and more.

Scan this QR Code to check it out.



# Katherine Branch Presidents Report 37th Annual State Conference

#### KERRIE SCOTT

On behalf of the Katherine Branch, I welcome all members, delegates, observers and visitors to the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual NT State Conference. Firstly, I would like to thank our convenor, Julie Richter, and the 2019 convening committee for their hard work and drive to make this such a successful event

I came across a quote the other day that said

"The obligation for working mothers is a very precise one: the feeling that one ought to work as if one did not have children, while raising one's children as if one did not have a job."

I thought – thank you Annabel Crabb, never a truer word spoken, and could we add "and educate one's children as if we one was neither a mother nor have a job!".

As conference rolls around again, it seems incredible that we still have so many issues sitting on the table that have been there for too long. It is hard to believe we are still fighting for financial recognition of the home tutor, introduction of a comparable and fair Living Away from Home Allowance to that of our interstate counterparts for our students that need to board, subsidies for our children that need to travel for specific learning difficulties, improved student assistance processing systems, and that with every change of Government, change of minister, change of Department of Education employee, we start again with the battle to show our struggles to educate our children in isolation.

## When they come up with catchy 'Developing the North' slogans, who do they think is out here developing it?!

Our members are out here bringing up families in some of the worlds most unforgiving environments, whilst contributing to the local economy, contributing to the country's economy, supporting and caring for the environment itself and the people living in it. We seem to be asking just too much for the support we need to educate our children.

But, we won't give up, we will be there to bang the drum until they have to listen – that all students living in isolation or remote NT deserve the opportunities of a good education and the true financial and emotional burden put on families to do this needs to be heard.

#### Grants, Bursaries and Awards - we are here to help

Our wet season in many areas of the top end hasn't delivered as hoped, and across the Barkly there's been very little rain recorded. Many of our members are at the beginning of what will be a tough year.

Katherine Branch will be here to support families in any way we can, and we will continue to offer financial support by way of the Landmark Bursaries, EO Grants, our Roylene Hill and Val Utley awards, as well as access to the NT ICPA grants and bursaries.

Please take the time to look at these emails as they come through. They are there to assist with education costs and all students fitting the criteria are encouraged to apply.

It is also a great chance to get older students learning the skills involved in understanding application processes, addressing criteria, completing tasks within a timeframe, and taking responsibility for their learning. Unfortunately, as we get older, we find out just how important those life skills are!

Right top: State Conference Convenors: Sue Shotton, Helen Harding, Katie Payne, Kerrie Scott, Julie Richter and Fiona McDonald. Right bottom: Kerrie, Fiona and Katie with the best conference satchels yet!

#### Mataranka Sports Camp

Our ICPA Mataranka Sports Camp is about to commence, and it is amazing to see the support we are getting from the schools involved, and the community in general. Sport is such an important part of improving mental and physical wellbeing.

With close to a hundred children registered to attend, over half of those are unable to participate in any sport, due to living in geographic isolation. We all know the value of play in early learning, yet the importance of the skills sport can develop emotionally, physically and socially in young people is often overlooked when it seems an almost impossible task to pull off. Unless it is your children missing these opportunities, you would barely give it a second thought.

When organising and explaining the event, I had a Darwin based Sports Development Officer say, "But why can't they? So they're disabled?". It had just never occurred to him that these children live in isolation, hundreds of km's from town, often on their own, or maybe a sibling or two if they're lucky (or unlucky depending on how they feel that day!) — no thought as to who they'd be playing sport with? How they were learning this sport or where they'd be developing their skills?

When I hear those comments, it just makes me fight harder, because without the ICPA, these children will be forgotten. The votes just aren't there for anyone to listen. (Photos of the Sports Camp can be seen on pages 20-21 and also on the back page, thanks to Amanda Murphy)

It's not all doom and gloom though, we're lucky enough to have the most creative, adaptable, resilient, funny, and capable children on the planet.

What these children can achieve when supported is magic. Lets continue to celebrate our wins, move past our challenges, and enjoy our close community despite distance.

I am looking forward to another fantastic year and can't wait to see our Katherine kids thriving. Thank you to our State and Federal Councils that are with us all the way, and once again, welcome to Katherine!

Katherine Branch President – Kerrie Scott







#### 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 <u>not</u> 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 NT ICPA 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 NT ICPA '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:

> NT ICPA 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.

### SIBA SHIPS - Wellard Rural Exports "Bridging the Gap" Grant

The successful applicant for the January 2019 SIBA SHIPS—Wellard Rural Exports "Bridging the Gap" Grant was Brian Stockwell of Sunday Creek Station.

There is a second grant that can be applied for, with the closing date 30 July 2019 - please refer to grant advert to the left. On page 10)

Below is Brian's winning application:

#### 'Bridging the Gap' Grant Application

Brian Stockwell - Sunday Creek Station

Hello, my name is Brian Stockwell and I would like to thank you for considering me for this grant. I live on Sunday Creek Station, a beef cattle station of roughly 80,000 hectares, just over half an hour drive from the remote town of Daly Waters. My family have been members with the Katherine branch of the ICPA since 2002.

I have lived on Sunday Creek for my whole life, leading to me growing up in a very isolated environment. My family and I are approximately three hours from Katherine, where we purchase the vast majority of food and business materials, and where I attended school until grade seven.

I attended Katherine School of the Air from preschool in 2003 to grade seven in 2012, after which I attended boarding school in Brisbane. My years at KSA saw the phasing out of radio lessons in favour of 'Interactive Distance Learning' (IDL) lessons over the computer, and the bringing in of new technology such as webcams. I completed work that was sent in the mail from the school under mum's supervision at home and had very limited interaction with my peers.

Apart from the few weeks when us school children would meet up in town (for camp or 'swim week', for example), I would very rarely have the opportunity to meet up and socialise with any of my friends. If I wanted to have a sleepover with some boys my age, the nearest of them were two hours drive away, near Mataranka.

If I were awarded this grant, I would use the money to help cover the costs of my university education, beginning in February of this year. I am attending the University of Queensland campus at Gatton, where I will be studying a dual degree of Agribusiness and Sustainable Agriculture over the next four years. Beginning these studies is very exciting to me as I believe they are the perfect meeting point between my experience and passion for agriculture and my academic strengths in maths and science. I wish to use these degrees to prepare me for a successful career in the agricultural sector, possibly in a career such as a consultant.

Costs involved in my attending of university involve both the fees for

university and accommodation. I am staying on college at campus fulltime, the annual fees for which come out to roughly \$10,000. In addition to these fees I will need to purchase study equipment and supplies, the most significant factor being a new laptop to replace the older model with which I completed high school, as it has become unreliable and prone to freezing and crashing.





## Celebrating International Women's Day 2019

#### MATARANKA STYLE

A small group gathered from across the Top End at the

Mataranka Hall/Chapel to celebrate International Women's Day. The night celebrated women everywhere and their support crew with the important message – that none of us do it by ourselves, we all need a team and we are all important. A most important and inspirational woman to me, my Mum Clair O'Brien, was made special mention of as she also shared the occasion with the celebration of her 70th Birthday. Clair's entire life has been one of giving,

nurturing and supporting her family, industry and wider community.

A Life Member of the North Queensland branch of ICPA, Clair spent our educational years strongly advocating for a better go for bush kids, both at NQ branch level as well as many years on Federal Council and fundraising and supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Now as an NT resident, Clair has lent her skills, experience and passion to Landcare, Brahman Breeders, Women in Agriculture, Local Government, Water Advisory Committee and the Mataranka



Clair O'Brien and Moira Lanzarin cutting Clair's 70th Birthday cake

Better Half Club, just to name a few that have benefitted from her commitment to rural families and working with, not against, our important natural environment.

Her attention to detail and great governance skills have kept many a group on the right track. Interestingly, it is the ICPA she has always credited and thanked for her strong grounding in due process and meeting procedure. We both were very much looking forward to catching up with the ICPA family at the NT annual Conference in Katherine.

Moira Lanzarin - Coodardie Station, Mataranka NT

## WOMEN'S DAY | 8 MAR

International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. International Women's Day first emerged from the activities of labour movements at the turn of the twentieth century in North America and across Europe.

Since those early years, International Women's Day has assumed a new global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike.

The growing international women's movement, which has been strengthened by four global United Nations women's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point to build support for women's rights and participation in the political and economic arenas.



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# 2019 FRRR Back to School Program

"As a "bush kid" I love being a part **Sports** Day at KSA In-school. I that the teachers other students encouraging to me and help me try new sports. I had never Jump High before and I even amazed

Pepper Wortley, 12, Year 7 - Ruby **Plains Station** 

how well

myself

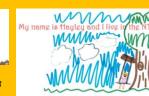
did."



Mackenzie Cook - Biggest Morning Tea prepara-



Bailey Hoar and George Dahl having fun and getting in to the spirit at



Hayley Richter 8



"I loved sports camp, soccer was my favourite."

Jesse Hoar 6, Year 1 -**Moroak Station** 

"I felt encouraged in my learning when my home tutor Steph, was helping me do the experiment for my project.

I feel like I can do it next time on my own because Steph helped me the first time.

I felt that I was being supported in my learning and encouraged to keep doing my best at school."

George Dahl, 9 **Sophie Downs Station** 



"I feel included when I get to play a part in School

"I feel included when I get to do rollerskating with my friends at Swim Week" Zahli Scott 6 - KSA





"I felt included when I was elected to be a Student Leader"

Isla Scott, 10 years - KSA



Emma Thompson





Suplejack Downs

"A time I felt included was last year @ Sports Day. I was very proud to be one of the Barrett house captains and we got the most points and won the trophy!!! But the best part was, it didn't matter what team you were on because we all cheered and encouraged each other to do our best and that really made me feel like I belonged!!!"

Larran Cook, Year 6 - Suplejack Downs



Last year I did a big horse ride Glen from Helen to Alice Springs. We did that SO people could see that bush kids are really clever and are very tough too. One night we did a painting class and that was lots of fun but most of all it was great to do something with my horse.

Assemblies."

Colt Scott, 8, Year 4 - KSA

Billy Cook, Year 2 -

Last year, with encouragement and support from my teacher and family, I hosted an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea event. It was so much fun and I learnt a lot of new skills like how to write invitations, how to make decorations and how to read and follow arecipe to bake stuff. I really loved doing something that will help sick people in my community.





Artwork by Darcy Payne, Preschool

Mackenzie Cook, Year 4—Suplejack Downs







included in."

"Miss Clancy was helping me float, because I couldn't do it, but now I know how to float. She told me to be a star fish then I would be able to float."

Jett Dahl 5 - Sophie Downs Station



Tia Blokland, 5, First day of Transition and first IDL





Artwork by Cambell Payne, 8, Year 2



Glen Helen to Alice Springs..... it took forever!!! But it was

fun to do and I learnt a lot ... like to hold on

tight when you ride down a steep hill." Matilda Cook, Transition

"Last year I went on a big horse ride with my Aunty Tiani and family. We rode from

"Our classroom is an inclusive learning area that we all feel

Shae 14, Tess 11 and Tia 9 Ford

Artwork by Charlie McGlynn







#### With Special Thanks to:

Suplejack Downs

The Foundation Of Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) Supported by ANZ, Audi Foundation, The Portland House Foundation,

The R.E.RossTrust, Perpetual Foundation The Julian Flett Endowment, Scenic World Shared, Aurizon Community, Dairy Australia and Target.

"I loved learning the colours of the rainbow."

Brody Hoar 4, Preschool-Moroak Station





Thank you Katherine Branch for hosting us at this year's state conference — I am so pleased to see that we have eight Alice Springs Branch members attending, including our NT ICPA Life Member and Patron Mrs Jan Heaslip OAM.

The Alice Springs Branch are brought together for branch meetings and events from far and wide.

While some members live in towns, others live literally hundreds of kilometres away from the next neighbour, and that can be over 1000km from town. Our branch membership covers a significant footprint as our members are located in SA, QLD and in the NT stretching from the WA border across to the QLD border.

At the moment we are seeing many new families joining our towns, schools and work places and we have had several new families join our Alice Springs ICPA branch. We have seen several members join from the Tennant Creek area giving us good representation of members in that area.

We are learning about the unique challenges they face and how the work of the ICPA can support them as rural and remote families educating their children.

At our last Branch meeting I talked about different aspects of our ICPA name and under Isolated I wrote the following:

I would like to encourage everyone to make an effort to introduce yourself to someone you have not met before and welcome them to your community. Although we cannot change the vast distances that keep many

of us from catching up 'for a cuppa' or play dates for the kids down at the park, we can change the feeling of isolation in our own community simply by saying hello to a family at the school drop off or a nervous mum (or dad) attending their first meeting. I have recently read a great article on this concept and I will share some snippets about the U.

chosen activity that she was able to complete with the funds awarded to her. Georgia wrote:

"I have gained so much knowledge through attending this education course and always come home with a wealth of new knowledge. It was extra special to me as I attended a expo FIRST EVER just with Herefords and many of you may know that's my stud breed. With this wonderful outcome of me winning intermediate champion for junior judging over 67 entrants, making the stock journal and now the Junior Development Bursary. I'm certainly truly humble and with all this, will allow me to go further. Thank you again ICPA Branch, I am hoping that I can travel this year to another expo." Georgia Auricht

It is a great feeling that our Branch is able to support members' children with the gift of a Bursary.

In October 2018 some of the branch members 'manned the bar' for the Tennant Creek Rodeo Committee. This was the second year we have taken them up on the offer and the Branch received a generous \$2000 donation for their hard work keeping the rodeo patrons hydrated.

Our ICPA members work very hard within the community to support events and we are always there with our ICPA shirts or aprons on ready to have a yarn and share our stories with the public.

I was invited again to attend as a special guest at the 2018 St. Philips year 12 Graduation Ceremony that was held on Friday 23rd November. I took my place in my reserved seat (right at the front) to be included in the assembly.

I was overwhelmed by the calibre of speeches made by the 2018 School

Captains – they were two truly inspirational young leaders who will be sure to continue with confidence into 'life after school'.

I loved being involved in such a special day and at the conclusion of the Graduation I left feeling uplifted and positive for the 2018 Graduates.

Alice Springs Presidents Report 37th Annual State Conference

AMBER DRIVER

"If you've ever felt that excruciating feeling of walking into a new place, of being surrounded with new faces... of being excluded, don't let those experiences go to waste. Turn it around and use them for something good.... use it to reach out an invite, or a hand, or some kind of nice gesture... It's not an easy thing to do getting out of your comfort zone... If it was easy, everyone would do it. That doesn't mean we should continue constructing our closed-off circles."

Allow a space in your conversation circles for people to join you. Make a U.

Our Branch members work very hard each year to raise funds at a number of local events. Up to \$7,500 per year is allocated to awarding Bursaries to our members children. All details of Alice Springs Branch Bursaries on offer each year, and how your children can apply, are displayed on our webpage.

In 2018 the Alice Springs ICPA Branch awarded 3 of its 5 bursaries. The Alice Springs School Of the Air Bursary recipient was Tom McMaster and I had the pleasure of Awarding Tom with his Bursary Certificate at the ASSOA Christmas Concert last year.

The Secondary Bursary was awarded to Brooke Weir who is in her final year of studies at Westminster School in Adelaide. Brooke wrote to the branch following her successful application:

"Dear Alice Springs ICPA, Thank you for awarding me the Secondary Bursary. With the money I am going to buy a new MacBook laptop that I will use for year 12 and university. In the future I am planning on studying to become a nurse, which my education has helped me with. Thanks ICPA for the extra opportunities you give people like me." Brooke Weir.

The Junior Personal Development Bursary was awarded to Georgia Auricht who kindly sent us a 'thank you power point' of her experience with her

We, the Parents of the ICPA...

It really is wonderful that ICPA can offer such a range of opportunity to us.

Our time in ICPA may be purely social, networking, getting to know other families or perhaps we will choose to take on an executive position with the thought that we can hone our skills on accounting software like Xero, or taking photos of functions as the Publicity officer. Or maybe, you have an interest in debate and public speaking and are working towards attending State and Federal Conferences to represent the 'voice of the branch', conveying the issues we face as families living in Rural and Remote Australia.

Wherever we fit into ICPA, we show our strength by working together and supporting each other in the voluntary roles we take.

I am always thankful for the members who put up their hand to take on executive and committee positions, I understand the roles may be daunting and learning the ropes may be tricky, but there is always support in ICPA to help you along the way.

We are seeing an exciting increase to the number of members who are attending branch meetings – it is a great sign that our branch is strong and we can collectively work together on many agenda items and motion writing.

All our 2019 executive and committee have been proactive in learning their roles and the support of the previous office bearers has been appreciated. As a branch we are learning how important it is to support each other and we are seeing the branch strengthen as a result.

The three branch delegates here with me today were all newly appointed into these roles at our last AGM in December: Lisa Kimlin is our Branch Vice

President, Ley Fitzpatrick our Public Officer, Katherine Warby is our Branch Treasurer – thankyou ladies for attending the conference with me, I hope you are taking some good notes so we can report all the great information of the conference back to the Branch.

Our new Publicity Officer Tash has been busy updating the branch Facebook page and sharing dates and ideas for how members can contribute to the Pedals or Down the Track magazine. It is really great to read about our members in the ICPA Magazines and lovely to see Ruth here at the conference.

Throughout the year our branch has been in a position to make several Donations, these include:

- \$4,000 Variety NT
- \$1500 to State Council
- Our branch has also pledged \$2000 to ICPA Families affected by the QLD floods to help minimise travel costs to attend the Federal Conference
- And a total of \$4000 paid to the 2018 Bursary Recipients

Once again, our branch members have worked hard to produce our motions for the conference today and we look forward to working with State and Federal Council to create positive changes for our children with the intent of every motion. Thank you State and Federal Council for your wording suggestions and thoughts for the motions we submitted today, and in advance, the hard work that follows when you present these motions to the relative ministers.

For the second year in a row, Hospitality NT gifted our Branch \$5,000. With this money we successfully, in December 2018, ran a Sports and Social Development weekend that saw over 30 children travel into Alice Springs to participate in workshops like cricket, footy, ballet, rock climbing, robotics workshops, tennis and many other activities. This was the second time we have delivered this opportunity to our members children and hope to continue to facilitate the Sports and Social Development weekend on a yearly basis.

The Branch has other fundraising events like the canteen at Harts Range, running the bar at the Tennant Creek rodeo, or serving dinner at the national finals of the Australian Bronco Branding.

We get to experience the support of the community, local and interstate associations and businesses support us by giving discounted rates, offering their services for free, volunteering their time and equipment to benefit the work ICPA is doing for the community.

It is nice to support the people that support the work of the ICPA. We can all help support the businesses and associations that support us.

I have learnt so much this year as the Alice Springs Branch President and have been fortunate to be mentored by several ICPA Branch, State and Federal Members. They have taken the time to pick up the phone when I call, provide me with support and guidance and call me to see how things are going. It is really important to know that when you accept an executive position, support and guidance is only a phone call away. ICPA has a wealth of people who are more than happy to provide positive and constructive advice - State and Federal Councillors are listed on the ICPA website for all to access.

Before I end my speech I would like to extend our heart felt condolences to Mrs Jan Heaslip OAM and her family after the recent loss of Jan's husband Grant. I feel that ICPA is like a second family and I would like Jan to know that we are here to support her and the Heaslip family.

There is always opportunity to learn more about ICPA and attending state conferences is a great place to start. I look forward to an exciting and knowledge filled 2019 in ICPA. -

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As mentioned in Amber Driver's President's Report, scan this QR Code to find the article about Making a U - it is well worth a read.

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On Monday the 11th of March we welcomed over 40 students to NTSDE for our first residential for 2019. Students came from across the Territory, including Batchelor, Bathurst Island, Jabiru, Mataranka, Ramingining, South Goulburn Island, Tennant Creek, Yuendumu and Yulara, stations in the Barkly, West Arnhem and Tanami regions, as well as locally-enrolled students from Darwin.

Morning Tea on Monday doubled as a fundraiser for the Royal Flying Doctors Service, organised by the Year 10 student cohort – thank you Year 10s! Parents were also invited to morning tea to meet with teachers and staff and it was wonderful to be joined by parents for the event. NTSDE welcomes these special opportunities to gather with the school community.

The residential week provides an opportunity for students to meet and work with their teachers and peers, in a structured study environment similar to that found in a 'face to face' school. Students participated in five lessons per subject, providing plenty of opportunity for teaching and learning across all subjects and increasing the likelihood of successful outcomes. The students enjoyed working together in their class groups, and many friendships were formed over the week.

A number of subjects also included excursions throughout the week. There were trips to Flip Out and the Life Style Studio, the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, and Merit Partners Chartered Accountants.

Students also participated in a range of after school activities, including a sports session in the Darwin High School Tank on Monday, ice skating on Tuesday, Casuarina Square and The Quarter on Wednesday and King Pin on Thursday. Many thanks to the teachers involved for organising these events; the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

On Friday, students celebrated the achievements of their peers at the Principal's Awards and Morning Tea. The 2019 Spirit of Learning Awards were presented to well deserving students for their diligence towards their studies, and to the year 10 cohort for the effort and engagement during the week. A new award, the 'Living Green Award', was presented to Cameron Dunbar and Kiralee Wade for their environmental initiatives. Several merit awards were presented to students in recognition of their efforts in after school activities, and a special 'Rock Scissors Paper Award' went to James Thomas. Well done to all students!

NTSDE would like to thank all students for their commitment and enthusiasm during the week, and all parents and carers for their support of the residential. We look forward to seeing everyone again in Term 3 for the year 10/11 residential and the year 12 completers residential.

The Student Services Team



Semester

# VAL UTLEY MEMORIAL AWARD

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This Award is sponsored by the Utley family and is available to all Members' children, seventeen years and under. The Award recognises, encourages and supports rural and remote NT youth in various endeavours, such as travel, enterprise, courses and educational or medical expenses.

Val Utley moved to the NT in 1969 with her husband Barry and four daughters. For many years she was Home Tutor for her daughters and a foster son with several schools of distance education, as well as working alongside Barry on cattle stations. Val passed away suddenly in November 2007. She is remembered for being a special friend to many people, being especially interested in the education and endeavours of young

people, and for her resilience and commitment to her many and varied interests.

This year's successful applicant of the Val Utley Award was Zahli Scott of Mountain Valley Station, and below is some information about how Zahli has spent the money. Congratulations Zahli I



Val with her daughters

#### Thank You - Val Utley Award

At swim week I was lucky to be one of the winners of the Val Utley Memorial Award. With my money, I have been able to purchase an egg incubator, and make a chicken pen and coop safe enough for little chicks when they hatch.

Dad put together the shed and shade, and Mum helped me with the wire. It is right near my school room, so I can check on them.

Thank you to Tiani Cook from Suplejack Station, who has given me some guinea fowl keets to get started.

I would like to get some eggs from my favourite chook, Maria, for my incubator, but she keeps laying them in places I can't find them!

Zahli Scott - Mountain Valley Station



Zahli with the chicken pen and coop she made with her family

St Philip's College, Alice Springs commends and congratulates the Class of 2018 on their results.

Dominic Boffa & Aidan Hookey placed in the Top 10 in the NT, and College Vice-Captain, Philip Sullivan, Sam Haywood & Chante Tabart placed in the Top 20 in the NT. Kaimani Hendry is also to be commended for being the Top NT Aboriginal NTCET completer.

Dominic Boffa and Philip Sullivan also received A+ Merit for English Literary Studies. St Philip's also congratulates those

# TWO STUDENTS IN THE TOP 10 AND 5 STUDENTS IN THE TOP 20 IN THE NT

students who completed Pathway subjects. The College is proud of the students who completed those subjects as St Philip's continues to develop the Pathways program and believes strongly in the opportunity to provide a broad based education crossing all areas.

Finally, we thank all of our teachers and staff whose dedication, commitment, hard work and support allowed all our students to excel, and also the immense support from the students' families and friends.



Dominic Boffa



Aiden Hookey



hilip Sullivan



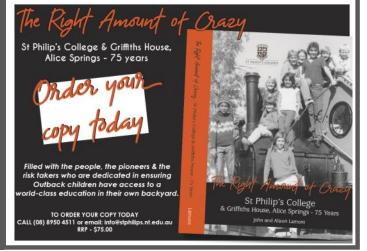
Kaimani Hendry



Chante Tabart



Sam Haywood



## **NTICPA Post-Secondary Bursary Winners**

2018

The successful applicant for the NTICPA Post-Secondary Bursary for 2018 was Dean Sullivan of Cave Creek Station.

Dean presented to the State Conference how the grant has helped him since he received it last year.

Below is a snippet of Dean's presentation, with the full presentation available to listen to by scanning the QR link at the bottom on this page.

"The grant I received from ICPA went towards covering the costs of books, transport and travel back home during breaks. The relief of some financial pressure helped immensely, particularly with travelling back to the NT after a long period away. One of my main difficulties in Melbourne is not seeing my family or home for extended periods of time. The adjustment from outback to city takes some time and I always miss being in the bush."



Dean Sullivan outside his university



Scan this QR Code to listen to Dean's full presentation

For information on how you or someone you know might be able to apply for the NT ICPA Post-Secondary Bursary, you can find out via the below options:

- an the QR Code at the bottom of this column
- Go to the NT ICPA Bursaries and Grants webpage: https://nt.icpa.com.au/ document/browse/22/nt-grant-and-bursaries
- Contact the NTICPA Bursary Coordinator via the details below:

Gorrie Station RSD MS 1953 Katherine NT 0852 Ph: 08 89759965 Email: hardingnt@bigpond.com



2019

It was announced at the State Conference that this year's successful applicant for the NT ICPA Post-Secondary Bursary is Zara Milton of Umuwa, Central Australia.

Congratulations to Zara; we look forward to hearing from Zara at next year's Conference. Read Zara's application below...

To whom it may concern.

My name is Zara Milton, and I am commencing my journey into university studies.

Since the age of 6 my family has lived in areas around the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands (APY). At age 11, my family moved to Umuwa (known as 'no-mans-land' where political meetings are held) where my dad is one of the head managers of the local mechanic workshop; where all the government's and community's vehicles are fixed. As well as making sure all the surrounding communities and home lands are kept dean and

My Dad joined the Isolated Children's Parents' Association (ICPA) branch in Alice Springs around 2014 after my Mum passed away the year before. He was recommended to join the branch by another family who lived in Kulgera, who told my Dad that the branch helped connect people who lived remotely; to make friends with different families who were living in similar

From year 7 through to year 12, I was a boarding student at St Philips College in Alice Springs. When I began at St Philips I was approximately two years behind my peers in regards to my education, [but] with hard-work and dedication I graduated with A's and B's as well as being the drama prefect.

I started out as a timid kid, from the lack of socializing due to living remotely, to blossoming into a confident young adult [with a] love of medicine and performing arts. High school helped shape my aspirations, from being offered to go on exchange programs in year 10, where I learnt about another country's school system; to the privilege of traveling to Vietnam on a service project, where I lived with villagers to help build a dam to improve their agriculture and ensure access to healthy food. This cemented my path into studying nursing and midwifery at university.

I chose to study a Bachelor of Nursing at Flinders University as it works with the Alice Springs Hospital, as well as other remote medical practices within Australia. Being able to conduct my placements in remote locations is important for me as I wish to go and work remotely after I receive my Registered Nursing license. My earliest memories are from living in my community, from having to travel hours to get into Alice Springs or to see my extended family in Adelaide; I know the value of having good health care professionals at remote clinics.

If I was to be the recipient of the ICPA Post-Secondary Bursary, it would greatly help with the cost of living on campus. \$2000 could cover my

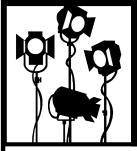
textbooks for the remaining year, pay for the medical instruments that I require for my degree and assist with on-going costs for my education. This bursary will help with these expenses and alleviate the financial pressure on my father.

Thank you for considering me as a recipient for the ICPA Post-Secondary Bursary.

Kind regards,

Zara Milton





# SPOTLIGHT ON

# New State Members

#### **Kerrie Scott**

Mountain Valley Station

**ICPA STATE COMMITTEE** 

# Amanda Murphy

Kalala Station

**PUBLICITY OFFICER** 

# **NTICPA State Council** 2019-2020







My name is Kerrie Scott and I live at Mountain Valley Station on the Central Arnhem Road with my husband Andrew, and our three children that are enrolled in distance education through Katherine School of the Air.

I am currently the President of the Katherine Branch and have previously sat on NT State council for two years. I am also a parent and ICPA representative on the KSA school council.

I am very passionate about educating our kids in the bush and making sure they get a fair go.

My children and husband are born and bred Territorians, and I've lived in the Territory for around 20 odd years on various cattle stations.

When I'm not busy with all the duties that come along with station life, I enjoy hanging out with friends and family at campdrafts across the top end. I love the close Territory community and even though it can be a tough slog at times, it is worth it.

My name is Amanda Murphy and my husband Tossa and I live at Carpentaria Downs, 200km south of Borroloola with our four kids, Maggie - Grade 5, Charlie - Grade 4, Georgie -Grade 2 and Jack in Transition.

We have recently moved from Kalala near Daly Waters, which helped with run husband's parents.

We also own road trains, for carting cattle.

As a family we enjoy attending campdrafts and rodeos.

I am a past student of distance education and boarding school, so have found it easy to be a part of the ICPA and continue insuring that isolated children get equity education.

Our Annual General Meeting took place at the conclusion to the conference. Elections were conducted and we welcome following members to State Council for the 2019-2020 term:

PRESIDENT: Sarah Cook

Suzanne Wilson VICE PRESIDENT:

Bec Cadzow SECRETARY:

TREASURER: Sarah Measy

PUBLICITY OFFICER: Amanda Murphy

Helen Kempe

WEB MANAGER:

DOWN THE TRACK: Annika Bell

COMMITTEE: Sally Sullivan

> Anna Weir Kerrie Scott Amber Driver

Amanda, Kerrie, Amber, Helen and Annika are new to state council - Amanda and Kerrie's bio's are here. Helen, Amber and Annika will be featured in the August edition.

the Northern Territory", ensures your child will be catered for through specific programmes.

The Territory's Education Act of 1979 stated:

"The government will make provisions for the availability of education of all people of the Northern Territory and, to provide for the access of all children to education programs appropriate to their individual needs."

Most parents believe their children are the most incredibly dever children in the world. They smile at three days instead of six weeks; they respond to stimuli with apparent understanding; they walk early; not necessarily talk early but show potential! Do you have that feeling of Deja-vu – this child has been here before! We all know our child is special and we have every right to believe that they are -BUT, are they gifted?

What is a gifted child? Here we have so many definitions it is difficult to pinpoint a definitive definition. The past indicated the prototype of the gifted child as one who was introverted, short sighted, wore glasses, and, overall, could be quite anti-social. Time, experience and studies have repudiated this, and we find gifted children come in all shapes, sizes and personalities. There are a number of characteristics that point to the possibility of giftedness, but how then do you identify them?

Over time, studies in many countries have identified a general list of guidelines for identification; however, the concept of giftedness depends on the values and expectations of any one community. A community where academic achievement, measured by success, is valued, will be diametrically opposed to the community whose basis is agrarian. So, it is important not to stereotype "the nerd".

The Northern Territory follows the generally accepted definition that encompasses a wide range

The official policy, "Education for Gifted Children in of abilities, though it is claimed that intellectual potential is its primary focus.

> Children living in geographic isolation are considered disadvantaged. They are further disadvantaged if they are

> The NT identification policy is a bit of a moving feast. Whilst "modifying procedures" to suit changing needs, it leaves open the danger of ill-equipped "instant experts" imposing personal ideologies and views that in today's interactive society, can be irrelevant and biased. Conflicting opinions about the difference between giftedness and a talent – does one develop from the other? Is there a difference? For example; the theory that all people have gifts and talents may be true, but in the context of identifying the top two and a quarter per cent of the profoundly intellectually able, this is a nonsense. This is the most neglected section of students in today's education system.

> If you are the parent of a child whom you believe to have advanced skills in any way, monitor it. In spite of your interest, or indeed, disinterest, the signs will emerge. They are nor superior beings, they have no illusions of grandeur, they just are, and their natural characteristics may differ from what we would normally expect.

Some gifted children demonstrate behaviour that one If these things are would expect to be far from "gifted" - stubborn, wilful, not so, we stand to uncooperative, but with a keen sense of justice at a very lose early age. Not all display creativity or scientific genius, valuable leadership or physical expertise. One thing we do know is resource. that if not challenged, they can become the classic underachiever, waste their abilities and by choice, become average learners - it's easier that way.

"Gifted", is the word alone a problem? The title, "Children of High Intellectual Potential" has been around for a while, but that too may evoke visions of elitism. Why? Of what are we

As the parent of a geographically isolated child, you face the same as other parents in the same situation, however, you have one or two added challenges:

- You are alone;
- There are no benchmarks;
- There are no comparisons;
- There are no conversations with specialist teachers;
- There is no immediate feedback.
- Are you experiencing difficulty in having your child identified/assessed?
- What are the processes available to you?

It has been stated categorically in the Northern Territory Gifted Education Policy that, "Special programs are needed to allow our children to achieve their full potential. Looking to the future we should see further expansion of programs in all schools as well as programs to cover children in isolated areas, children from different ethnic backgrounds and children with special abilities in specific areas"

My question for the ICPA - is this happening? As parents, do you feel the needs of your gifted child are being recognised?

Don't give up; as a parent, your recognition of giftedness and identification of your own child is accepted as being more reliable than any other source.

our most natural

Pat Elliot: State & Katherine Branch Life Member. Pat has a wealth of experience in education and we welcome her input to DTT.



## NT Government

# Financial help for isolated students

IMPORTANT: Applications must be submitted to the Department of Education by

30 September of each year

Claims can be made once your application has been approved by the Department of Education. Claims must be made by 31 March of the following year eg for the 2015 application year claims must be made by 31 March 2016. Late applications or claims will not be accepted.

#### Help with daily transport to and from school:

The conveyance subsidy scheme is available for help with daily transport for your child to and from school.

#### Help with distance education

The following schemes are available if your child attends a school of the air, the Northern Territory Open Education Centre (NTOEC) or other distance education:

- correspondence site allowance
- correspondence site allowance preschool
- correspondence materials delivery assistance scheme
- school of the air functions allowance.

#### Help with boarding

The following schemes are available if your child has to go away from home to attend school:

- education allowance for students with disabilities travel and boarding scheme
- isolated students education allowance

- mid-term travel scheme
- remote area travel allowance scheme
- student travel scheme
- supplementary boarding allowance scheme
- interstate boarding allowance (new).

#### Help going to university or higher education

The tertiary fares reimbursement scheme is available if your child attends university or higher education away from home in the NT or interstate.

In order to qualify for some NT student assistance schemes, you must first be approved for assistance under the Australian Government Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) or ABSTUDY Schemes.

#### CONTACT:

Department of Education student assistance officer. Student Assistance Officer.

Phone: 1800 019 157 or (08) 8901 4965 or studentassistance.det@nt.gov.au

For more information - NT ICPA State Council Allowances Portfolio Holder Sarah Cook 89569705 or see website for details

https://nt.icpa.com.au/contact.html To apply, or for more information scan the QR Code or go to

https://nt.gov.au/learning/student-financial-help-and-scholarships



In the last week of Term 1 the small town of Mataranka in the NT doubled in population with students from Katherine School of the Air attending a combined mini-school and the annual ICPA Sports Camp.

Fifty seven students from KSA enjoyed a mini-school on Tuesday and Wednesday, with kids engaging face to face with their teachers and class mates. Student Leaders organised a movie night and disco to make sure everyone was well and truly worn out and ready for bed each day.

The KSA kids were then joined by 46 Mataranka School students for the annual sports camp on Thursday and Friday, put together by the Katherine ICPA Branch. With a 'come and try' theme, the idea was to give remote students a go at sport that they cannot normally access due to their remote location.

Professional coaches for rugby union, soccer, gymnastics, Thai, softball and basketball from all around the country were sourced by our hard working President Kerrie Scott. This allowed each group of kids two sessions each at all sport categories. The coaches worked on basic skills and rules around each sport, developing the kids' understanding of the sport, and a lot of the time - team work - something that is not usually a requisite in the kids' remote homes.

It was a fantastic week, pulled together by the ICPA Katherine Branch, and mostly by our Chairperson Kerrie Scott – thank you Kerrie. Your tireless hours and dedication to ensuring bush kids get such an amazing opportunity is truly appreciated by everyone.

# 2 0 1 9 M A T A R



Jack trying his hand at softball



KICS was on hand to entertain the little ones



**Playground smiles** 



Hanging out and spending time together



**Fun with KICS** 



Soccer



There is always time for a hug



**Group Warm Up** 







Playground fun





Softball



YAY for Sports Camp!







**Smiles and good times at Sports Camp** 



**Basketball** 



Thank you to the tireless camp helpers and coordinators





Thumbs up for sports fun



**Gymnastics** 



Muay Thai was a hit amongst all the kids



**Rugby Union delivered by Firsts Coach from TGS** 



Together again - new and old friends



**Archie Thies and Jed Inglis modelling Sports Camp Shirts** 

Author and photo credit to Amanda Murphy



#### Isolated Children's Parents' Association

#### NORTHERN TERRITORY MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2019



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 2019. 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 KATHERINE LONE MEMBERS

Treasurer: Vicki McGlynn

PO Box 12 Camooweal QLD 4828 Mob: 0409925212 0747484966 E: vikki.mcglynn@outlook.com

> Westpac BSB: 035 303 Acct#: 510446

**Treasurer: Helen Harding** 

Gorrie Station- RSD MS 1953 Katherine NT 0852 Ph: (08) 8975 9965 Fax: (08) 8975 9906 E: hardingnt@bigpond.com.au

> ANZ BSB: 015 884 Acct#: 410 247 444

Treasurer: Sarah Measey

Ceres Downs PMB 271 Winnellie NT 0822 Ph: 08 89782155 E: ntlonemembers@icpa.com.au

> ANZ BSB: 015 884 Acct#: 264 118 512

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 2019)	Year Level (in 2019)	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 ✓

#### **ALICE SPRINGS**

#### LONE MEMBERS

#### **KATHERINE**

#### **PRESIDENT**

Amber Driver
Elkedra Station
PMB 157
Alice Springs NT 0872
08 8956 9889
Mob: 0407065055
elkedrastation@gmail.com

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Lisa Kimlin
Mt Ebenezer Station
PMB 273
Alice Springs NT 0872
0889546224 0438897736
lkimlin81@gmail.com

#### **SECRETARY**

Georgina Hamlyn

#### **TREASURER**

Katherine Warby Philip Creek Station CMB 10 Tennant Creek NT 0862 08 89644710 phillipcreek@hotmail.com

#### PUBLIC OFFICER

Ley Kunoth PO Box 2680 Alice Springs NT 0871 0889569171 0488410148 leykunoth@live.com.au

#### PUBLICITY OFFICER

Natasha McCormack natasha81h@gmail.com

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Leza Cook - candlcook@hotmail.com Sarah Cook - cscook74@gmail.com Emma Chalmers - mc.ejchalmers@gmail.com Vikki McGlynn - vikki.mcglynn@outlook.com Mary Bayly Benjamin Quillam -

benjamin.quilliam@ns.uca.org.au

#### ALICE SPRINGS BRANCH LIFE MEMBERS

Denise Broad Bev Seidel Liz Bird

#### LONE MEMBER OFFICER

Sarah Measey Ceres Downs PMB 271 Winnellie NT 0822 08 8978 2155 ntlonemembers@icpa.com.au

#### 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!

#### **PRESIDENT**

Kerrie Scott
Mountain Valley Station,
PMB 124,
Katherine NT 0852
08 8975 4064
kerrie scott@hotmail.com

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Julie Richter
VRD Station, PMB 19
Katherine NT 0852
08 8975 0795
vrd@heytesburycattleco.com.au

#### **SECRETARY**

Katie Payne Larizona Station RSD MS 1953 Katherine NT 0852 08 8975 0579 katie.andy@bigpond.com

#### TREASURER & PUBLIC OFFICER

Fiona McDonald PMB 38 Katherine NT 0852 0408520452 calfe@bigpond.net.au

## PUBLICITY OFFICER & SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER

Amanda Murphy
PMB 203
Kalala Station
Katherine NT 0852
tossa.amanda@bigpond.com

#### **BURSARY OFFICER**

Helen Harding Gorrie Station RSD 1953 Katherine NT 0852 08 89759965 Fax: 08 8975 9906 hardingnt@bigpond.com.au

#### FUNDRAISING OFFICER

Kaycie Desreaux

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Stacey Ford—fordhelicopters@bigpond.com Lauren Hoar—hoarla9@hotmail.com Annie Craig—annie.craig@bluegloss.com.au Renee Johnson—trjohnson3@bigpond.com Lea Hamilton—grantandlea@bigpond.com

#### ERS KATHERINE BRANCH LIFE MEMBERS

Ros Andrews
Jackie Harvey
Merrial Lawrie
Martha Swart
Patricia Elliot
Royelene Hill
Janelle and Blue Pugh

### BARKLY BRANCH LIFE MEMBERS

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