

MINUTES

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INCORPORATED

Convened at Griffith on Saturday, 6th February 2021

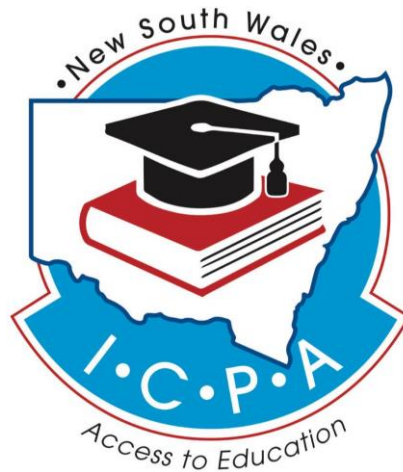
If attending: Quest Apartments Conference room,

Griffith NSW

Or VIA Zoom

Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/95587665942>



**Claire Butler
President**

**Deborah Castle
Secretary**

Welcome and opening of meeting.

Claire Butler, President

Welcome to the AGM of the ICPA-NSW, 2021. As you are all aware, the reason we are holding this AGM separate to conference is due to the need to ratify the proposed amendments in the Constitution. Most pertinent is to ensure that we can, if the situation requires, hold voting by electronic means which means, in the event of a change in the COVID situation, we can easily switch to an online Conference. It is hoped that we will not need to do this, however, it is important that we have this restriction fixed in the Constitution. Hay Conference is scheduled for March 10th and 11th and on behalf of ICPA-NSW I thank the Hay convening committee for organising a COVID safe gathering where we can all enjoy each other's company face to face. State Council has managed to convene many meetings throughout the year via ZOOM and we have stayed in close contact with the Department of Education and consulted with them on the recently announced Rural and Remote Strategy. State Council has submitted four submissions into Parliamentary inquiries on health, two education submissions and one on tertiary and we have given evidence at these enquiries on behalf of our members. State Council also sat on numerous advisory boards and our annual deputation consisted of us all converging on Dubbo where we split into groups and had over thirty ZOOM meetings with Ministers, Members of Parliament, stake holders, officials and our Patron, the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Margaret Beasley. We welcomed onto State Council, Bree Wakefield halfway through the year as a co-opted member to assist with border issues. We had a very challenging year lobbying the Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and NSW Governments to ensure access to education with the children, both day and boarding students and I would like to state for the record that it has been sent to me on numerous occasions, that, if it was not for ICPA where would the children be? So, I would like to acknowledge Federal Council and all of the State Council bodies who collaborated together. So, from 1971 until now that trust and that reputation certainly assisted us when we needed it the most. I would like to thank all the State Councillors for their hard work and commitment this year. The voluntary work involved is a huge undertaking but, as the old saying goes, "Team makes the dream work." There has been much achieved this year which will be showcased in greater detail at Conference on March 10th and 11th in Hay. Thank you to all the Branches for all your work this year. It is greatly appreciated and we hope to see many of you at conference in Hay. I will now hand over to State Secretary, Deb Castle, for continuation of the meeting.

Good afternoon everyone, my name is Deb Castle I am the Secretary of ICPA-NSW. Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of NSW, 6th February 2021.

Attendance in the Room:

Claire Butler
Deb Castle
Shennah joiner
David Butler
Libby McPhee
Gabby LeLievre
Irene Lund
Tim Fletcher
Anabel Strachan
Monique Watkins

Bree Wakefield
Laura Stally
Tanya Mitchell
Kerrie Johnston
Sue Kingwill
Kate Treweek
Pam Fletcher
Jim Strachan
Scot Mitchell
Craig McPhee

Attendance via Zoom:

Kate Warby
Alana Moller

Apologies:

Kelly Turnbull
Debra Nielsen
David Shrimpton
Jenny Shrimpton
Ellen Walker
Senator Perin Davey
Nicole Piper
Helen Rogers
Helen Dalton
Lindy Kitto
Sue Gordon
Jane O'Brien
Alison Glenn
Pip Ryan

Terese Davies
Libby Clarke
Annette White
Joyce Holburn
Jodie Stewart
Kate Yabsley
Toby Allworth
Cala Armitage
Heather Wigam-Reid
Heather Langfield
Sandra Hewit
Bruce Paynter
Katie Davies

Motion 00.02.21 *"That the apologies be received be accepted."*

Moved: Deb Castle

Seconded: Irene Lund

Carried

Claire Butler, President

Just before we go on to the adoption of the minutes, we do have two online participants, Alana Moller, the Federal President and Kate Warby from the Moree Branch and to reiterate, we cannot have any voting online but you are more than welcome to make a comment. If you do have a comment please state your name and Branch just for the record.

Adoption of the Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting:

Motion 01.02.21 *"That the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting as circulated electronically be accepted as a true and accurate record."*

Moved: Libby McPhee

Seconded: David Butler

Carried

Business arising from the Minutes: Nil

Correspondence: Nil

Secretary Report

Madam President, distinguished guests, fellow members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I present my Secretary's Report.

I have found this year challenging, as I suspect others have. I would have predicted that this pandemic would have been long over by now but here we are looking to amend our constitution to enable us to have future conferences using a different platform with voting options. I am looking forward to my first conference in Hay as Secretary as last years was sadly cancelled.

State Council have had another busy year advocating for equity of access to education on behalf of rural, remote and very remote families. We needed to adjust to a different format, we have had lots of zoom meetings, phone calls and letter writing this year. Main deputation looked a little different with us all being able to converge on Dubbo and conduct our meetings via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. Ironically, it was the Stakeholders and ministers that had trouble with the technology and connectivity during our meetings. We have still been able to conduct face-to-face council meetings with social distancing this year, enabling us to continue to advocate on behalf of you all. With the use of technology being used so much this year, we even convinced Irene to get Facebook and messenger on her new phone!

Main deputation was held in October with a busy schedule planned over the four days. State Councillors split into groups and attended 33 meetings. Meetings were held with The Governor of NSW, Deputy Premiers Office, Ministers Taylor, Mitchell, Toole and Hazzard, Shadow Ministers Veitch, Car, Washington and Harrison, Member for Barwon, Royal Far West, NESSA, ACCAN, BCEF, CCSP, Telstra, Transport for NSW, Bus NSW, Australian Independent Schools, Local Government NSW, UAC, DPI, CCSA, CONTACT, Open Support/Country care link and the NSW Department of Education. This is a very useful way of getting issues most affecting our members heard at both a parliamentary level and to key educational stakeholders.

It is appreciated that these organisations make the time to meet with ICPA-NSW to listen to concerns and State Council look forward to further associations with them in the future.

Some of the main issues ICPA-NSW discussed were focused on border closures, boarding students and COVID, counselling, telehealth, distance education, travel, and communications. Many issues raised in Dubbo were brought to the ICPA state council at previous conferences as we had no conference in Moree to present motions. State council portfolio holders liaised with Branches to ensure new motions could still be raised as 'relevant issues' for that branch. It is important that issues be brought to State Council so that they can then be researched and followed up on. In saying that, issues do not have to be carried at a Conference to be raised at State Council. ICPA-NSW Councillors are available all year round to listen and advocate on behalf of its members, as was demonstrated throughout the year with COVID issues.

Some of the feedback from our meetings was that these organisations and parliamentarians see our organisation as a great source of information for them as this helps with their decision making and strength in services, they can deliver to you as members.

I would like to finish with a quote from Brian Tracy, "There are no limits to what you can accomplish, except the limits you place on your own thinking".

Deborah Castle
ICPA-NSW Secretary

Motion 02.02.21 *"That the Secretary's Report be accepted."*

Moved: Deb Castle **Seconded:** Shennah Joiner **Carried**

Shennah Joiner, Treasurer

The Treasurer explained that the Auditor's Report was not available until last night due to the AGM being brought forward and so apologized that the Financials were not available to all members in time for the AGM but will be available after the AGM.

Treasurer's Report

Madam President, distinguished guests, fellow members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I present the Treasurer's Report for the 2020 Financial Year.

These audited financial statements, with accompanying auditor's report, have been prepared by Kellie Nulty, Accountant in Mildura.

Statement of Income and Expenditure

There are several points of interest in this year's figures when compared to last year's;

- **Memberships:** The amount of \$11,573 is the total of all branch membership payments forwarded to ICPA-NSW in the 2020 year. Additional Membership income was received through the online PayPal payment method.
- **Donations:** Included in this amount are Branch Donations and a donation from Emerging Minds.
- **Government Grants:** The Educational Support Grant (ESG) for the 2020/21 financial year was received in October. The Educational Support Grant program is currently under review and we hope to have an indication of the continuance of this program shortly.
- **Funds Held in Trust:** \$2908.39 is being held in trust by ICPA-NSW for Cobar Branch and an additional \$4985.04 is being held in trust by Lone Members for Warrumbungle Branch. These funds will be absorbed by State Council if the branches do not reform within five years of going into recess. This occurs in 2022 for both branches.
- **Income:** Overall Income for the 2020 financial year was \$162,610. This amount is significantly higher than 2019 due to the incorporation of the ICPA-NSW Conference Account within the ICPA-NSW account list. This decision was made following the cancellation of the Moree 2020 Conference to aid in the ease of refunds which were completed by State Council.
- An additional category of Advertising / Promotional has been applied this year to account for the promotional calendars and Christmas Cards that were sent to members and stakeholders. This was a new initiative to try to increase the visibility of ICPA-NSW within the homes and offices of our members and interested parties.

Due to the lack of events in 2020, there have been no Merchandise Sales.

Expenditure: Overall expenditure for the 2020 year was \$109,171. This expenditure is also significantly higher than 2019 due to the incorporation of the ICPA-NSW Conference Account and the subsequent Conference Registration Refunds following the cancellation of the Moree 2020 Conference.

Within the spending was an increase in Computer Expenses. Due to the reliance on virtual meetings, ICPA-NSW purchased additional computers for councillors and engaged the services of a computer technician to install and set up the software required to optimize these devices. Subscriptions to both Zoom and Dropbox have also been purchased to enable virtual meeting.

Top Wire Costs have remained largely stable, both for the printing and postage. We have again had great success with the advertising in Top Wire with \$6750 being received for the 2020 year.

State Council's overall expenses were lower this year with many meetings attended via video link and teleconference instead of face to face. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, State Councillors have been given the option of single accommodation during this time to reduce the risk of exposure and this has increased the costs at the meetings that have been held physically.

The result for the 2020 financial year is a profit of \$53,439. This increase is largely due to the Conference Account balance.

Assets and Liabilities Statement

The overall equity position of ICPA-NSW for 2020 is as follows:

- Assets: The Unexpended Donation Account has not been utilised this financial year, the balance remains unchanged.
- Plant & Equipment: Five additional Computers were purchased during 2020.

Merchandise

ICPA-NSW merchandise has not recorded any sales 2020 year. This has been a difficult year for Merchandise sales due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. Many thanks to David Shrimpton for continuing to hold the stock items.

Lone Members

Irene Lund has once again shown great passion and commitment in her role as Lone Members Officer. Lone Members ended the 2020 year with 126 memberships. Irene has additionally held the role of Membership officer and her assistance is invaluable.

Sponsorship

ICPA-NSW is very appreciative of the continued support of Telstra through a community partnership agreement. We would like to also thank the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) for their generous grant towards the Moree 2020 conference. Despite the cancellation of this conference, FRR have kindly allowed unspent funds to be rolled over to the Hay 2021 Conference. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors, both major, and the just as valuable smaller contributors, your generosity helps make our conferences affordable for all members.

Membership

At the end of the 2020 membership year, ICPA-NSW had 25 financial branches (not including Lone Members), and five branches in recess.

Membership numbers for 2020 are slightly higher than 2019 at 847. The 2021 membership subs are coming in slowly, and I thank all members and Branch Treasurers for acting on their renewals. I would like to encourage members to use the online portal when paying your membership subs. This option reduces the workload of the Branch Treasurer and ensures your payment is received promptly. Please consider holding your AGM in October or early November so you can set your branch fees and get your memberships in by the due date. This has been problematic this year.

I would like to acknowledge our Auditor, Kellie Nulty. Unfortunately, Kellie has indicated that she will not be performing Audits moving forward and as such, we are seeking a replacement. Kellie instigated the move to QuickBooks and has been of great assistance during my time as treasurer. I wish Kellie all the best.

To my fellow State Councillors, a very big thank you, we have overcome some rather large obstacles this year and if anything, we are stronger and more determined. In conclusion, I would like to thank all Branch Treasurers for their patience and support. Whilst many of the Branch Treasurers remain unchanged from last year, there are also a few new faces. Please take the time to introduce yourselves if you are at the Hay 2021 Conference.

I hereby request that this report and the audited financial statements be accepted. I also recommend that the state component of a Branch Family membership remain at \$18.00 for the 2022 membership year.

Shennah Joiner.
Treasurer.

Motion 03.02.21 *“That the 2020 audited financial statement of ICPA-NSW Inc. and the accompanying Treasurer’s Report be accepted.”*

Moved: Shennah Joiner

Seconded: Deb Castle

Carried

Comment:

Irene Lund, State Council. I just wanted to say thank you for the immense job that Shennah has done. She is always on the ball and she is always prompt and accurate.

Motion 04.03.20 *“That ICPA-NSW appoints a new auditor and notifies members of this appointment once finalised”*

Moved: Shennah Joiner

Seconded: Irene Lund

Carried

Motion 05.02.21 *“That family membership of ICPA-NSW remain at \$18.00 for the 2021 Membership year.”*

Moved: Shennah Joiner

Seconded: Irene Lund

Carried

Isolated Children's Parents Association of NSW Inc
ABN 68 132 394 867

Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 December 2020

Income Statement

Balance Sheet

Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Committee Statement

Independent Audit Report

ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC
ABN 68 132 394 867
INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
INCOME		
Sales of Merchandise		717
Memberships	11,573	15,795
Conference Registrations	31,290	-
Paypal	15,651	17,392
Donations	1,409	15,186
Government Grants	95,247	55,455
Sundry Income	631	5,804
Advertising	6,750	5,977
Interest Received	59	242
	162,610	116,568
EXPENDITURE		
Advertising/Promotional	2,196	-
Audit & Accounting Fees	1,341	1,500
Bank Charges	222	174
Branch Fee	3,717	7,228
Brochures & Badges	354	134
Computer Costs	3,983	863
State Conference Expenses	50,015	7,588
Meeting Expenses	22,028	34,661
Federal Conference Expenses	-	5,465
Federal Membership	6,460	10,164
Government Charges	83	97
Depreciation	1,684	609
Donations	708	605
Insurance	1,539	1,476
Merchandise Purchases	206	233
Newsletter	11,997	12,400
Postage	256	3,079
Printing & Stationery	52	305
Subscriptions	302	457
Sundry Expenses	2,028	717
Telephone & Internet	-	120
	109,171	87,875
Net Profit/(Loss)	53,439	28,693

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC
ABN 68 132 394 867
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECMEBER 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash on Hand	-	20
NAB Cash Management Account	89,021	48,756
NAB Cheque Account	64,696	88,971
NAB Merchandise Account	4,456	4,456
Westpac Lone Members Account	26,304	24,427
Unexpended Donation Account	9,494	9,494
Conference Account	33,654	-
Paypal	5,168	3,840
Opal Cards	399	399
Accounts Receivable	910	-
Stock on Hand	5,325	5,325
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>239,427</u>	<u>185,688</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Plant & Equipment	17,583	13,285
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(14,360)	(12,676)
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	<u>3,223</u>	<u>609</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>242,650</u>	<u>186,297</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
NAB Business Credit Card	955	18
GST Control	3,916	3,816
Income in Advance	-	-
Lone Members Trust	26,304	24,427
Unexpended Donation	9,494	9,494
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>40,669</u>	<u>37,755</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>40,669</u>	<u>37,755</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>201,981</u>	<u>148,542</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Opening Balance	148,542	119,849
Profit/(Loss) for the year	53,439	28,693
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	<u>201,981</u>	<u>148,542</u>

The accompanying notes form part of the financial statements.

ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC
ABN 68 132 394 867
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the members and Associations Incorporations Act NSW. The Committee has determined that the organisation is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

a. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

b. Revenue and Other Income

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtained over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

c. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

d. Plant & Equipment

Plant & equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all plant & equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Note 2: Related Parties

The names of the Committee members who have held office during the period are:

Claire Butler - President	Gabrielle Le Lievre - Publicity Officer
David Butler - Vice President	Kerrie Johnston - Top Wire Editor
Libby McPhee - Vice President	David Shrimpton - ICPA Merchandise
Deborah Castle - Secretary	Annabel Strachan
Kellie Turnbull - Assistant Secretary	Tanya Mitchell
Shennah Joiner - Treasurer	Tim Fletcher
Irene Lund - Lone Members Officer	Deborah Nielsen
Monique Watkin	Laura Stalley

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties.

ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC
ABN 68 132 394 867
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Note 3: Contingent Liabilities

At 31 December 2020 the Committee is unaware of any liability, contingent or otherwise, which has not already been recorded elsewhere in these financial statements.

Note 4: Capital Commitments

At 31 December 2020 the Committee is unaware of any capital commitments, which has not already been recorded elsewhere in these financial statements.

Note 5: Events Occurring After Reporting Date

Since the date of these financial statements, there have been no events occurring after reporting date which require specific disclosure.

ISOLATED CHILDREN'S PARENTS ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC
ABN 68 132 394 867
STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that these special purpose financial statements should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee the financial statements:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Isolated Children's Parents Association of NSW Inc as at 31 December 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Isolated Children's Parents Association of NSW Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

.....
Claire Butler, President

.....
Shennah Joiner, Treasurer

Dated this 3rd day of February 2021

General Business:

Revised Constitution.

Deb Castle, Secretary. The revised constitution including the original Constitution, the one with the proposed edit and then the revised Constitution including edits has been circulated throughout our branches and members and moved the following motion.

Motion 06.02.21 *“That the Constitution for the Isolated Children’s Parents’ Association of New South Wales, Incorporated be adopted, as circulated to members in the required time frame.”*

Moved: Deb Castle

Seconded: Shennah Joiner

Carried

Motion 07.02.21 *“That Motion 04.03.20 be amended to Motion 04.03.21.”*

Moved: Shennah Joiner

Seconded: Irene Lund

Carried

There was no further General Business.

Merchandise Report

Presented by Deb Castle

Due to the cancellation of ICPA conferences in 2020, there have been no sales of merchandise.

Prior to the 2020 state conference, stock was purchased so that all sizes would be available for purchase. Following the cancelled Moree Conference, I received a consignment of calico bags that had been produced for the event which will be used as carry bags for stock when sold.

I plan to attend the 2021 NSW State Conference in Hay and the 2021 Federal Conference in Longreach with merchandise. The merchandise stand will be well stocked, with all sizes of polos and shirts available. Please visit the stand and show you belong to ICPA by purchasing and wearing with pride the merchandise.

David Shrimpton

Merchandise Manager

NSW Membership Officer Report

Madam President, distinguished guests, members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I present the NSW Membership Officer’s Report.

- At the end of 2020 ICPA-NSW had 847 financial members which number includes 89 new members. At the end of 2019 we had 834 financial members
- Branches are informed of any new or renewing members who have used the online portal.

- New Member Welcome Packs are mailed to new members and changing school contact people within a short time frame of joining.
- We have an occasional new member who nominates one of the branches in recess. Anyone nominating one of these branches is looked after by NSW/Vic Lone members and an email sent to the new member explaining why and given the opportunity to perhaps choose another branch.
- Address labels for the Top Wire were printed and mailed to Kerrie Johnston.

Thank you to everyone for their help and support and particularly to the hard-working branch treasurers. Please don't hesitate to ask any questions if you need information.

Irene Lund
NSW Membership Officer

Lone Members Report

Madam President, distinguished guests, members of ICPA, ladies and gentlemen. It is with great pleasure that I present the Lone Members Report.

NSW/Vic Lone Members is the one of the biggest group of members within ICPA-NSW. Lone Members are usually members who live too far from a branch to attend meetings and may be involved in educating isolated children or interested in supporting those who do. A number of Boarding Schools in NSW and Victoria also hold membership as many of their boarders come from regional and remote areas and the schools wish to support the aims of ICPA.

With Covid-19 causing events such as Boarding Schools Expos to be cancelled, there was very little in person contact with members but we continued to be in touch via regular newsletters. We had an influx in numbers in the second half of the year with many new Lone Members who had been impacted by the border closures. ICPA-NSW was able to help many of them resolve issues over movement of students to and from interstate boarding schools.

At the end of 2020 we had a total of 72 family members and 54 school/organisation members.

It is always a pleasure to talk with a Lone Member, either by email or by phone. It is also a great privilege to be on State Council and count everyone as special friends. Thank you to all the Council members who have given me so much advice, help and encouragement during 2020 and in previous years and one day I'll get onto Messenger.

Irene Lund
Lone Members Officer

Top Wire Report

Madam President, Distinguished Guests and fellow members of ICPA. It is with great pleasure I present to you the Top Wire report for 2021.

As I looked over each of the four editions of the Top Wire magazine published throughout 2020 in putting together this report, it is clear that, despite all the challenges associated with Covid-19, ICPA-NSW has been consistent with lobbying the powers that be regarding the issues around an equitable access to education for rural and remote families.

Thank You to those branches who have contributed articles and photos to the Around the Waratah section in the Top Wire. We continue to love to read of all that is happening in the lives of members and branches around the state. I challenge all the branches out there in NSW – that's 31 branches - to contribute just one article each year to the Top Wire. Now wouldn't that make for some great reading?

Thank You to the schools who have supported ICPA-NSW again with advertising in the Scholarships & Bursaries section of the November edition as well as the quarterly contributions to the School Directory published in each edition of the Top Wire. Of course, we welcome more schools on board whilst reaching a diverse demographics of rural and remote families.

Once again – a MASSIVE thank you to our Rankins Springs branch members for coming together, often at a moment's notice, to collect the Top Wire from the printers and then to stick, tape and bag each Top Wire magazine in readiness for posting to you all. Sometimes we may be gathered few in number, but mostly we have around 10 people resulting in getting the job done in about one and a half to two hours. The Rankins Springs branch members manage to fit in this exercise amongst the busy-ness of life whether it be on the way home from town, coming in from the sheep yards covered in dirt, dust and grime, picking up the kids from school or leaving our harvest duties – the Top Wire packaging must go on and indeed it does! So, thank you, to each and every one of you that ensures ICPA-NSW members are kept up to date with all things ICPA.

Kerrie Johnston
Top Wire Editor

Publicity/Webmaster Report

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

2020 State Conference

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

Facebook

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

Top Wire and Pedals

A great deal of appreciation needs to be afforded to the amazing Editors of these magazines for the amazing job they do in bringing these together for us to read. Both Kerrie at Top Wire for

NSW and Raelene at Pedals for Federal do many hours in the preparation process that we never see. During the year I have supported both publications with articles and photos.

Main Deputation

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

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

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

New Logo

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

Other Media

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

I can say with certainty that 2020 was the year that no one saw coming and with it has brought a wave of issues that State Council has had to navigate. With the emergence of COVID-19 in 2020, the issues surrounding border closures and interstate borders became a focus for ICPA-NSW with the still continuing #nobordersforboarders. We gathered photos & footage from our boarding families and started the campaign to allow boarding school students to have two-way access to home and their respective boarding schools out of State without having to quarantine. As a result of many hours of hard work and tenacity from ICPA-NSW State Council exemptions were awarded to affected students followed by directives implemented by state governments highlighting the need for boarders to be allowed such access from school to home and back again without the need for quarantine. Unfortunately, this cross-border issue continues into 2021 and with previous arrangements being revoked it just further highlights a need for a permanent, concise, coordinated and consistent solution for the families and students affected by this.

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

ICPA Australia Federal President Alana Moller said “Geographically isolated distance educated families, often across generations, have dedicated themselves to educating their children at home. This needs to be recognised and lauded”. The Geographically Isolated Distance Education Day is a day to honour those in distance education classrooms across remote Australia and their ongoing commitment and resilience.

Phil Jackson said “*The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team*”. I am incredibly proud of our team, NSW-ICPA State Council and the achievements we have made in spite of what 2020 threw in our direction. Led by our amazing President, Claire Butler, it has been a hectic year for all. They say “Team work makes the dream work”. Well, we certainly have an awesome team.

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

Gabie Le Lievre
Publicity Officer/Webmaster

Election of Office Bearers

All positions were declared vacant and Susan Kingwill, the Returning Officer took the Chair for the elections.

Susan Kingwill, Returning Officer

It's wonderful to be together again and I have to say that before we start and I am sure you also share that feeling simply as a Council to have the ability to be face to face and sharing each other's time and company and achieving all the things that ICPA-NSW does so well. Humbly, I will have to say that I have heard consistently about the strong and wonderful team and I have to say from hearing your words in your reports it is an exceptionally strong team and I congratulate each and every one of you on Council for your efforts during the year in what you have managed to do. I'm not surprised but I think it should be acknowledged that you have done an exceptional job in challenging times. As Claire has said, all positions are duly declared vacant for the AGM of the State Council of NSW. I've received all the nominations for all the various positions including the Trustees roles and I can attest they have been duly signed and moved and seconded appropriately and I have had confirmation that all are financial members.

I declare that there are nominations for all the positions which is a true sign of people feeling confident and wanting to be a part of such a great organisation.

To start I'd like to talk about the Trustees. Within your framework there are three Trustees positions and they remain as Trustees for a three-year tenure and they may renominate after three years.

Your Trustees to date have been Joan Treweeke, Anne Milliken and Lindy Kitto and Anne Milliken's three-year tenure is coming to a conclusion but she wishes to renominate this year for another three-year tenure.

Election of Trustee for 2021 three-year tenure:

Anne Milliken

Nominated by: Deb Castle

Seconded by: Libby McPhee

Carried

Trustees for 2021

Anne Milliken

Lindy Kitto

Joan Treweeke

Election of Officer Bearers and Committee Members for the State Council of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of New South Wales Incorporated.

President: Claire Butler nominated by Jamie Fitzgerald. Seconded by Deb Castle

Vice Presidents: (two) David Butler nominated by Libby McPhee. Seconded by Deb Castle

Libby McPhee nominated by Shennah Joiner. Seconded by Deborah Castle

Secretary: Deb Castle nominated by Kerrie Johnston. Seconded by Shennah Joiner

Treasurer: Shennah Joiner nominated by Irene Lund. Seconded by Deborah Castle

Assistant Secretary: Kate Warby nominated by Simone Cameron. Seconded by Irene Lund

Lone Members Officer: Irene Lund nominated by Shennah Joiner. Seconded by Claire Butler

Publicity Officer: Gabie Le Lievre nominated by Shennah Joiner. Seconded by Claire Butler

Election of Committee (six)

Tanya Mitchell nominated by Prue Ritchie. Seconded by Deborah Castle

Bree Wakefield nominated by Claire Butler. Seconded by Laura Stalley

Annabel Strachan nominated by Monique Watkin. Seconded by Deb Castle

Monique Watkin nominated by Deborah Castle. Seconded by Shennah Joiner

Tim Fletcher nominated by Pamela Fletcher. Seconded by Bernadette Moser

Laura Stalley nominated by Lois Stalley. Seconded by Shennah Joiner

That concludes all the nominations I have in hand so I think by acclamation I would like to congratulate everyone and say well done and have a great year ahead. Acclamation.

I would like to acknowledge Kate Treweeke as the Archivist. Thank you, Kate.

Claire Butler, President.

Thank you, Sue, for being our very trusted Returning Officer and congratulations to everybody who has been elected onto State Council. We hope to have a great year ahead of us with a few more challenges I suspect as well. We welcome Kate Warby onto State Council and I would like to make special mention to Kelly Turnbull who has stepped off State Council and thank her for all her hard work as well.

Kate Warby, Assistant Secretary

Thank you everyone and I am looking forward to the next twelve months. Hopefully we don't have the challenges of 2020 but if we do, we're ready to fight them head on.

Alana Moller, President, ICPA(Aust)

From up here in sunny Queensland I just want to congratulate all of the NSW State Council on what you've achieved in what has been an incredibly difficult and challenging year. Congratulations Claire. You've been an absolute gem and a treasure and that needs to be recognised. Congratulations on being re-elected and all those elected to State Council, on behalf of Federal Council I just wanted to pass that on. Welcome Kate to the team. It's wonderful to know that you have a new member on the team there. So, congratulations and best of luck for the upcoming Conference.

Claire Butler, President.

Thank you so much Alana. Thank you also for your unwavering support because without Federal Council's support behind us we couldn't do the job we do. So, thank you. We greatly appreciate it. We hope to see you face to face one day.

That concludes the AGM and thank you everyone for coming and continuing to support ICPA-NSW. I look forward to seeing everybody at Conference.

The 49th Annual General Meeting of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association of NSW Inc. held in Griffith, NSW was officially declared closed at 12:52pm.

.....
Mrs. Claire Butler

**President
ICPA-NSW**

.....
Mrs. Deb Castle

**Secretary
ICPA-NSW**