

ICPA-NSW Boarding Schools Newsletter 2010

*Welcome to the Boarding Schools newsletter for 2010. For those who have not met me, my name is Sharne Dutton and I was elected onto ICPA-NSW State Council in 2007 at our Walgett State Conference. I am the Convenor of the Boarding Schools, Agricultural High Schools and Hostels Portfolio. **If I can be of any assistance to you please do not hesitate to contact me using the addresses at the end of this newsletter.***

To all our new Lone members, welcome. Thank you to those who have renewed their membership for 2010.

***Memberships for 2011 will be sent out in November** by our new **Lone Member Officer, Caroline McDonald** who took over this role at our State Conference in March 2010. If you have any queries about your membership Caroline can be contacted on: NSWLoneMembers@icpa.com.au*

*We encourage all boarding schools to nominate a staff member to join ICPA. It is a great way to support your country boarders and be informed about the issues that affect the education choices made by rural families. If you are the nominated ICPA member and are moving on from your position could you please send me a quick email with the name of your successor, or a contact person within your school. This will ensure that your school continues to receive all communications. Remember, ICPA is a voluntary organisation. **If you need information about our association or allowances to give to parents who are joining your school, I am only an email away.***

BALRANALD CONFERENCE

We had another terrific conference at Balranald on 16th and 17th March 2010, hosted by the very friendly members (and fantastic cooks) of Balranald Branch. If you missed the conference you missed an exceptional “High Morning Tea” where we had morning tea under a white tent in an amazing “English” atmosphere of cup cakes, profiteroles, home made sponge cakes and many other goodies to many to mention. Another highlight was on the day of our AGM, where conference participants were taken out for a tour of Yanga National Park while delegates attended the AGM. After the AGM, delegates and guests enjoyed morning tea, which was served in the Yanga woolshed. This innovative idea was appreciated by all at conference and gave everyone a welcome break from formal proceedings, as well as a look at Balranald and its surrounding district.

*Representatives from 22 schools travelled to Balranald. **ICPA members really appreciate the support that schools give us by attending our conferences.** We also appreciate schools sending us an inability to attend as this helps the convenors to cater appropriately. I would also, at this point, like to thank the convenors, Marg Butler, and Fleur Turner, on a professional and wonderfully run conference.*

We had some relevant and interesting speakers this year. Mr David Houston AM opened the conference, speaking of his many years of association with ICPA and his involvement with Hostels. David is very well known in the Hostels field, and is so passionate about hostels that he was aptly named “Hostel Houston”. He was involved with “Claughton House” (in Hay) right up until last year when the hostel finally closed its doors to students.

Our other guest speakers included Ms Jann Kingston from, “The Royal Far West Children’s Services”, who gave a very interesting talk about this wonderful organisation. Our next speaker was Ms Jocellin Jansson from “The Country Education Foundation”. This is a national, not for profit

organisation set up in 1998 that provides rural communities with the knowledge and support needed to establish their own education foundation. These local foundations then provide grants to local youth who are leaving school and who need financial assistance to make the transition to further education or onto their chosen career. There are currently 25 local foundations in operation across NSW.

Mr Mike Tom from the "Department of Education and Training" also gave a presentation on CAP (Country Areas Program) and last to speak was Mr Andrew Cotterill from Telstra Country wide.

Marg Butler also wrote a welcoming poem which I must share with those who were not able to attend.

"Believe to Achieve"

Thanks all so much for coming our way
To highlight the cause of ICPA
The Balranald hospitality is great
But we are looking forward to some healthy debate
Two interesting days we hope are in store
Of motions, reports, guest speakers and more
Yes our numbers are down, but we must not complain
At last we've been blest with some beautiful rain
Its eleven years since we held this event
Some great things have happened, time and patience well spent
In '99 our conference was great
First time for many to this part of the state
So we're hoping this year in 2010
You'll all go home wanting to come back agen.

The many motions on allowances and the relocation of the Dalwood Assessment Centre and Palm Avenue School indicate that these two areas are of major concern to members. The education of rural and remote children remains challenging for parents in these tough economical times.

We also bid a sad farewell to Helen Rogers whom many of you know. Before she became State Secretary Helen held the portfolio of Boarding Schools, Agricultural High Schools and Hostels. Helen had been on State Council for seven years and we wish her well in her retirement. We also said farewell to Alison Campbell well known for her portfolio of Distance Education who was also Vice President. Alison is spending time with her young family but I am sure she will come back onto council in a few more years. Finally Wendi Carrigan who held the portfolio of CAP, also left us after voting had been completed. We wish them all a happy life without ICPA State Council. We then welcomed three new council members. Meg Merrylees from Hay, who is our new State Secretary, Sally Watson from Hillston, who has taken on the Transport Portfolio and Heather Druce from Tottenham, who has the Allowance Portfolio.

WHERE ARE THE MOTIONS?

Motion A23 "That ICPA- NSW urges the Department of Education and Training to fund NSW hostels that provide access to affordable local education for remote and isolated student."

Motion A24 "That ICPA-NSW requests the minister for Education and Training to provide recurrent funding for non-government school term hostels."

We received a reply from Verity Firth MP that "There are no plans to reintroduce payments at this stage, however, I have noted the position taken at your State Conference that such payments should be considered if funds become available in the future."

Motion A25 "That ICPA-NSW continues to lobby against the sale of any land at Hurlstone Agricultural High School and requests that the Minister for Education and Training release the recommendations from the Peters Inquiry."

The Peters Inquiry's final report was released in October 2009. Minister Firth has adopted the main recommendations, including abandoning plans to sell the majority of farmland, instead selling 10 hectares to fund a revitalisation of the school as an agricultural educational and boarding facility. Mr Peters' full report is available at: <http://www.hurlstoneinquiry.nsw.gov.au>

BOARDING SCHOOL EXPOS

The Boarding School Expos were once again a great success. The first for 2010 was held in Shepparton on the 16th & 17th April with myself and Trish Williams representing ICPA. This is the first time a boarding expo has been held in Victoria so this gave me a great chance to introduce myself to Victorian schools and reunite them with ICPA-NSW. There were 16 boarding schools, with 20 enquiries from parents at our stand. ICPA-NSW received 5 new Victorian school members with many more to come, I am sure. The second Expo was held in Wagga on the 21st & 22nd May with Anne Milliken and Ellen Walker volunteering their time. There was a record of 40 schools being represented at this Expo. The third Expo was held in Goulburn on the 18th & 19th June with myself and Caroline McDonald in attendance. There were 28 schools and 18 families visiting our ICPA stand. The last Expo I attended was in Narrabri on the 30th & 31st July where Heather Druce also volunteered her time. Parents had to travel over wet and slippery roads to come in and view the schools. This Expo was quiet compared to others as a lot of people could not get in because of the wet conditions but it was still a very successful Expo for the 28 schools. We had 39 people visit our stand with 26 people expressing interest in joining ICPA

In 2011, the Boarding School Expos will be held in Dubbo, 13th & 14th May, Griffith, 17th & 18th June and Tamworth, 22nd & 23rd July.

FEDERAL CONFERENCE

This year the Federal Conference was held in Fremantle, Western Australia on the 4th & 5th August. Once Heather and I finished the boarding expo in Narrabri, it was off to Fremantle. On the agenda at this conference were changes to Youth Allowance, the provision of a Tertiary Access Allowance, and the ability and affordability of how country students being able to attend a university. New South Wales had a strong representation. Also attending this conference was Pauline Turner from PLC Sydney, Malcolm Powys from Kings, Mr Peter Hauser, Rob & Margie Mitchell from Toowoomba Grammar thank you for supporting ICPA. There were also school representatives from Fairholme College, QLD, St Peter's Lutheran College, QLD, Open Access College SA, Rotary Residential College WA, Perth Modern School, WA and Country High Schools Hostels Authority, WA.

Next year the ICPA Federal Conference is being hosted by the Katherine Branch, Northern Territory in Darwin on 11th & 12th August 2011.

LIGHTNING RIDGE STATE CONFERENCE 2011

Next year the State Conference is being held in Lightning Ridge on 16th & 17th March 2011. Lightning Ridge/Goodooga Branch is hoping to do something similar to Balranald Branch when we

*hold the AGM, so if you missed out last year don't miss out this year. All accommodation will be booked by the convenors, Lightning Ridge/Goodooga Branch, for the conference so keep an eye out, in November, for the conference invitations and information. If you haven't attended conference before, you will find it is a great time for networking, meeting families and learning about the lifestyles of your country boarders. If you have any **staff changes** prior to the 2011 conference invitations being sent out, could you please let me know as soon as possible.*

*Finally it is getting close to the time I will be sending an invitation to have a **free advertisement in our "Top Wire" magazine, in our scholarship and bursary section.** Scholarships and bursaries are included in our November edition as an information service for schools and families. **These invitations will be sent out to you next month (September)** so please be ready for them as the closing date will be **30th September.** If you do not deal with scholarships or bursaries please forward this section of the newsletter to the appropriate person. Many thanks for your co-operation in this matter.*

Mrs Sharne Dutton
ICPA-NSW State Council
Boarding Schools, Agricultural High Schools and School Term Hostels Convenor
Ph: 02 68330638
Mobile: 0427 330636
Email: quillion@bigpond.com