

Charleville BOTA Says it's Final Goodbye

On Sunday 9th June 2019, Charleville ICPA Branch of the Air gathered for the last time to remember and be grateful for the significant things achieved by many people over the last 43 years since our Branch's formation in 1976. Given the nature of our Branch, face to face gatherings are rare, but members made a special effort to gather for this day – held in Miles – to be there in person, via video link or by

sending apologies. As well as reflecting on the significance of our Branch achievements, we were also delighted to be able to acknowledge, in a special way, our Branch Secretary, Mrs Suzi Mc Queen. Despite our Branch closure we were very keen to bestow Life Membership on Suzi, which she will be able to carry with her to her new Branch.

Our Branch was formed in 1976 after a resolution was passed at a Charleville SOTA P & C meeting on 22 April of that year and then later the same year, another resolution for its formation was put to ICPA Qld at the State Conference in Longreach.

To quote one of our Life Members, Gillian Allen, the Branch "...was originally formed when Charleville School of the Air, as it was then, covered about one third of Queensland, from the NSW border to Winton and across to Sarina on the Coast. When the Branch was formed, ICPA was still opening branches in some areas and the last thing we wanted to do was to hinder that. It was really to disseminate information to whoever we could reach who didn't have the opportunity to hear of it otherwise."

The inaugural President of our Branch was Gillian Allen and Patricia (Trish) Mitchell became our first Secretary/Treasurer. During 1979, discussions were held between RFDS Radio Officer, Regional Office, Teacher-in-charge Charleville SOTA, Helen Shannon and the then President of P&C SOTA, Shirley Armstrong and consequently 'on-air' branch meetings were allowed - after school, once per term. Due to constitutional changes within ICPA in 1990, the SOTA Branch was re-organised into a regular branch and renamed Charleville Branch of the Air. Margaret Greenway became the inaugural President of the renamed branch and Nina McLeod was Secretary/Treasurer.

Throughout the years, some members of our Branch have had the honour of serving on ICPA Qld State Council in various capacities. These include Gillian Allen (also on Federal Council), Trish Mitchell (Federal Council and Federal President for four years), Shirley Armstrong, Zilla McAuliffe, Margaret Greenway and Judy Treloar. In more recent times, members who have served on State Council include Christine Stanford (deceased) (7 years), Deirdre Williams (4 years) and Suzi McQueen (State Fundraising Officer for 8 years.)

As previously mentioned, our gathering on the 9th June gave us a great opportunity to honour our wonderful Secretary Suzi McQueen, with Life Membership. Suzi first



ST HILDA'S SCHOOL
GOLD COAST



Your daughter's Boarding opportunity

St Hilda's School invites you to explore our Boarding Program first-hand, enjoy classroom experiences and activities, visit our state-of-the-art facilities and meet our community.

As an all-girls Boarding School on the Gold Coast, St Hilda's has been inspiring women from rural and regional families for more than a century.

To register for an upcoming Boarding Experience Day, contact our Head of Admissions on 07 5577 7232 or email enrolments@sthildas.qld.edu.au

www.sthildas.qld.edu.au

joined Charleville ICPA BOTA in 2004 when her son Ben was in Year 1 at Charleville School of Distance Education. She took on the role of Secretary in 2005 and continued until present time – almost 14 years! Suzi has been the mainstay of our Branch in that time and her secretarial role has been characterised by her super-efficient skills and her 'can do' attitude. Suzi, with the help of a Branch member or two, raised substantial funds for our Branch by taking on catering in the local area and organising the bar at Charleville SDE Sports Musters.

From 2011 until June 2019, Suzi also held the role of State Fundraising Officer for ICPA Qld Inc. This role saw her co-ordinate many Art Unions, source prizes and organise purchases and sales of souvenirs for ICPA Qld. All of this was of course carried out with Suzi's usual incredible dedication and organisational skills, ensuring everything was done with due diligence. During the time she held these dual roles, she and her family endured some personal challenges. Such challenges would have made many of us hand over the roles saying, "enough was enough", but not Suzi! She always remained positive and found solutions to all difficulties.



Suzi McQueen and husband Graham proudly holding Suzi's Life Membership award and flowers presented to her by the Charleville Branch of the Air as it closed its doors for the final time

are ready to move to other branches and continue their association with ICPA in that way. At the time of closure of our Branch, Deirdre Williams was President and Suzi McQueen was Secretary.

In the words of one of our Life Members, Shirley Armstrong, in her closing message to our Branch, "While the Branch of the Air Charleville is closing of necessity, the spirit in which it was formed will never diminish. Long Live ICPA."

Anne-Marie Flynn

Suzi, being our newest Life Member, now joins three other members whom our Branch have chosen to bestow Life Membership upon, due to their significant contributions in a variety of ways over the years. The other members who have had this honour are Gillian Allen and Shirley Armstrong in 1986 and Christine Stanford (dec) in 2013.

Although it is with heavy hearts that we have chosen to make this decision, times change, and we find this Branch has fulfilled its role and members

