

From the President



If you are reading this column, it can be assumed that you take an interest in your professional association. Ultimately, the reputation of professions is determined by their actions, and especially ways that professional associations represent and serve their members. Of course, AAMT welcomes initiatives by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) and the actions of the various State-based institutes of teachers to establish standards and regulations. In the end, though, the esteem in which teachers of mathematics are held is a product of the actions of our profession. In this, my final HCF column, I wish to acknowledge the voluntary and generous contributions of members of AAMT and its affiliated associations. To give just a few examples:

- I recently attended the conference of MANSW. On the final day, a Sunday at the start of the holidays, the auditorium was nearly full at 1.45 pm. I have been fortunate to attend the conferences of most affiliates over the last few years and this commitment and professionalism has been evident in every one.
- Earlier this year, the MAV scheduled a Saturday meeting to discuss plans for teacher professional development in the next year. Over 25 people, some of them beginning teachers, spent the best part of a Saturday voluntarily discussing options and planning.

- The AAMT–MERGA conference was attended by over 500 people, in most people's holidays, probably paying the costs of accommodation, travel and registration from their own money, and the sessions were very well attended.
- A research project recently included a link to a survey in an AAMT newsletter. This was an extensive and time-consuming survey, even though it did touch on important issues for us. Over 250 people have already taken the time and trouble to reply.
- There are three AAMT journals and other journals of affiliates that are edited by volunteers (some receive a small stipend) and for which the articles are contributed by volunteers whose only motivation is to share their ideas about teaching mathematics with others.
- The conferences and workshops of the affiliated associations only happen due to the goodwill of the many volunteers who plan and then run those conferences.
- The councils and committees of AAMT and the affiliated associations are all volunteers who give their time willingly in the interests of our profession.

Even though professional associations are facing very real challenges, AAMT is well placed to address the challenges and to continue to make an important contribution to Australian education. This is due to the commitment of our 5000 members to collaborative professionalism. To aid in

addressing the challenges we are facing, AAMT and its affiliates have been working to develop a constitution that will define new ways of working.

The creation of both the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and AITSL would indicate that policy development on many issues will now be undertaken on a national scale, and consultation about those policies will also happen nationally. In response, a proposal will go to the AAMT Council in January that recommends a new way of working for AAMT and much greater involvement of representatives of affiliated associations in the management and directions of AAMT. Each affiliate will nominate a Councillor, and Council will meet regularly to lead the Association. The reason for proposing a single affiliate in each State/Territory is to make the representation better balanced and to facilitate communication and administration. It is intended that all affiliates represent and serve all teachers of mathematics.

I am delighted to be handing over the Presidency to Kim Beswick. Kim has been President of the Mathematics Association of Tasmania, and editor of the journal *Australian Primary Mathematics Classroom*. Kim is ideally placed to lead AAMT into this next exciting phase of the development of our professional association, and is especially able to represent the interests of regional members. I have very much appreciated the opportunity to contribute to our profession as President and look forward to continu-

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ing my contribution in some way in the future.

I want to acknowledge the vision that Will Morony has for the association and the collaborative way he enacts that vision. I also acknowledge everyone in the AAMT office for the effective and professional way they undertake their roles. But most of all I celebrate the contribution of our members.

Peter Sullivan, *President*

From the CEO

Elsewhere in this newsletter is the announcement of the financial literacy project being undertaken by a consortium of national professional teaching associations. It is an important project designed to provide high quality support for the task of developing sound financial skills and responsible attitudes among our young people. I commend it to you and hope that all AAMT members are able to benefit from the project.

The project—and the fact that it is being undertaken by a group of professional associations—is symbolic in several ways. I understand it is the first major national project to develop materials that support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum since its adoption by all the States and Territories in December 2010. We could interpret this as an indictment of the commitment to collaboration between the jurisdictions, and it is in my view—but that is a discussion for another day. The fact is that AAMT and other like organisations are leading in this way.

This project sees five national professional associations, all of them passionate about their teaching area, able to come together in a genuine partnership in the interests of young people and broader educational goals. That is symbolic, too—we all argue strongly in the interests of our subjects, but in the end it is the welfare of our students that is the most important consideration.

It is also symbolic that our Consortium has been awarded this contract at the end of a competitive tendering process. The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), the government agency involved, conducted an extensive and

exhaustive process that resulted in us being deemed the best bidder in a field that I can only imagine contained serious competition from publishers, universities and other educational organisations. We—a group of professional associations of teachers—were able to convince ASIC that we have the necessary organisational and management capability to match our considerable educational credibility. ASIC is essentially an organisation that is about compliance—I can assure you that I learnt more about the world of compliance through this process than I ever thought possible!

All this indicates some of the strengths of professional associations as they have evolved in Australian education. Collectively they make a powerful contribution to the health of schooling in this country. This is as true for the smaller, all-volunteer associations in some States and Territories as it is for major national groups like AAMT. The messages from this for me are: *do not be shy*—associations do have a lot of great strengths that others simply do not know about or appreciate; *work together*—we are strengthened by genuine collaboration; *have a go*—associations represent those with commitment to their field, and the leaders of associations owe it to them to try be involved in everything they can, in ways that reflect their aspirations and needs.

Strong associations can do amazing things, including winning major national contracts in extremely competitive settings. AAMT and the State and Territory associations have only one way we can go if they are to be true to their principles and commitments: upward and onward—together.

Will Morony, *Chief Executive Officer*

Festive season office closure

The AAMT office will be closing for the festive period at midday on 21 December 2011 and will re-open on 4 January 2012. The AAMT Council, Executive and office staff would like to wish all members a safe and happy festive season.

Helping Our Kids Understand Finances

AAMT is pleased to announce that it is the lead agency in a consortium of national professional teacher associations contracted by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) to develop a Professional Learning Package to support the development of young peoples' consumer and financial literacy knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours.

The consortium comprises the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT), Australian Association for the Teaching of English (AATE), Australian Literacy Educators Association (ALEA), Australian Science Teachers Association (ASTA) and Business Educators Australasia (BEA).

ASIC has been tasked to implement the Australian Government's initiative, Helping our Kids Understand Finances (HOKUF), and one component of HOKUF is the development of a Professional Learning Package that will build teacher capacity to deliver consumer and financial literacy across the Australian Curriculum from Foundation to Year 12. Specifically the Package will be designed to:

- equip teachers with the knowledge and skills to be able to integrate confidently and effectively consumer and financial literacy into and across relevant learning areas of the Australian Curriculum;
- provide teachers with the tools and resources to support effective teaching of consumer and financial literacy to students through real-life contexts;
- strengthen teacher capacity to engage their school community, including parents, in consumer and financial literacy education.

AAMT is the lead agency, with CEO Will Morony as Project Director. The organisations are delighted to be able to undertake this important work, and look forward to the project making a significant contribution to supporting teachers and schools in the area of consumer and financial literacy.

Australian Curriculum

On Friday 14 October, the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) approved the Foundation to Year 10 Achievement Standards for the first four learning areas of the Australian Curriculum (English, History, Science and Mathematics) as well as the latest version of the paper, *Shape of the Australian Curriculum*. Go to www.australiancurriculum.edu.au for more information and to read the paper.

You can stay informed about the latest developments in the Australian Curriculum by signing up to receive ACARA's free e-newsletter at www.acara.edu.au/news_media/subscribe.html.

Maths Roadshow pilot —and continuing in 2012

In early October, AAMT, in conjunction with the Mathematical Association of Tasmania, piloted a touring professional learning one-day conference through Tasmania. The Roadshow presented to over 130 teachers in Hobart, Burnie and Launceston on the topic of "Number and algebra: Teaching for understanding".

Plenary and workshop sessions for both primary and secondary teachers were run by Professor Mike Askew (Monash University) and Ms Pam Sherrard (Department of Education, WA). Teachers who attended the sessions—and thoroughly enjoyed them, judging from the feedback—were presented with all manner of thought-provoking ideas, practical teaching hints, explanations of concepts, and an understanding of how basic concepts introduced at primary level develop into more complex ideas covered at secondary levels.

AAMT intends to work with other State and Territory associations to tour Roadshows on different content strands of the *Australian Curriculum: Mathematics* in other metropolitan and regional areas of Australia in 2012. If you have ideas about Roadshows and topics you would like to see brought to your area, then contact your local association or Toby Spencer (08 8363 0288; tspencer@aamt.edu.au) at the AAMT office.

Leading Curriculum Change program

The Leading Curriculum Change professional learning program was launched in September this year by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL).

The program is a fully facilitated, online, national community of practice which has been developed by The University of Queensland in collaboration with AITSL, and aims to build teachers' knowledge, skills and confidence to lead curriculum change, particularly local implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

This program is for all teachers with formal or informal responsibility for curriculum leadership, and the learning opportunities provided will enhance a teacher's knowledge, confidence and skills to lead curriculum change. All educators are invited to participate in the program—from every State and Territory, every sector, every phase of schooling and geographic region. Up to 2000 teachers can be accommodated in the first round of the program, and over 1100 have already submitted expressions of interest.

There are no direct costs for the first round of the program and there is a small financial acknowledgement paid to schools when teachers from that school complete 9 of the 12 structured learning modules.

For more information and to register your expression of interest, go to www.aitsl.edu.au/lcc or contact lcc@aitsl.edu.au.

AAMT Council Meeting

The Council of AAMT is its governing body. Each of the mathematics teacher associations in the States and Territories is represented on the Council, usually by two nominees. Whilst the Council is active on various matters throughout the year, the annual Council Meeting is the time for major discussion of progress and plans.

This year, the Council will meet in Newcastle over the weekend of 14–15 January. There is, as always, a very full agenda. However, the people from your State or Territory on the AAMT Council are your representatives: they are the means for getting national discussion of your ideas or matters that you care about.

One of the key decisions the Council has been working towards throughout 2011 is a radically different form for itself and its ways of working. This has been designed to forge stronger and more mutually beneficial links between the state and territory groups and AAMT as the national 'umbrella' in the context of the new national orientations in education. Look out for some big developments in 2012 and beyond. If you are interested in hearing more, please contact your Association's Councillors.



Mike Askew and Pam Sherrard leading workshops on the Tasmanian Maths Roadshow.

A special offer for AAMT members from Australian Teacher Magazine

Australian Teacher Magazine is the nation's largest education publication. AAMT members can take advantage of a special half price subscription offer to receive all 11 editions for 2012, plus the bonus subject supplements, for **just \$20.00 (normally \$39.95)**. Each month, the magazine is packed full of the latest education news and tales of exciting classroom projects. There is also an ICT section and advice, PD articles, hundreds of conference and workshop listings, careers news and jobs.

You can only take advantage of this offer when you subscribe online at www.schoolsdirect.com.au/subscriptions.html

Apply the discount code **'maths'** when selecting *Australian Teacher Magazine* (the price at checkout will be reduced to \$20.00). Note that you must pay either by credit card or Paypal.



DATES TO NOTE

- 1–2 December 2011
MAV Annual Conference
www.mav.vic.edu.au
- 21 December 2012
AAMT office closes
- 4 January 2012
AAMT office reopens
- 4–7 January 2012
American Mathematical Society (AMS) Annual Meeting
Boston, USA
www.ams.org/amsmtgs/national.html
- 14–15 January 2012
AAMT Council Meeting
- 2–4 March 2012
2012 T³ International Conference
Chicago IL, USA
<http://education.ti.com/educationportal>
- 19–20 April 2012
MASA annual conference
Adelaide, SA
www.masa.on.net
- 25–28 April 2012
NCTM Annual Meeting
Miami, Florida, USA
www.nctm.org/meetings
- 18 May 2012
National Mathematics Day
www.aamt.edu.au
- 2–6 July
MERGA 35
Singapore
<http://math.nie.edu.sg/merga2012>
- 8–15 July
ICME-12
Seoul, Korea
www.icme12.org
- 18–22 July 2012
36th Conference of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education (PME36)
Taipei, Taiwan, from
<http://tame.tw/pme36>
- 27 August – 2 September 2012
National Literacy and Numeracy Week
www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au
- 16–20 December 2012
The 17th Asian Technology Conference in Mathematics (ATCM 2012)
Bangkok, Thailand
<http://atcm.mathandtech.org>

“Mathematics, rightly viewed, possesses not only truth, but supreme beauty” *Bertrand Russell*

Problem Pictures Mathematics Calendar 2012

For your office or classroom wall, as a stimulus for a lesson, or simply as a gift, the Problem Pictures Mathematics Calendar 2012 contains 13 stunning photographs with related mathematics problems.

Problems generally appropriate for Years 4–10+

#AAM2012

- 1 calendar: \$27.50
- * **AAMT members \$22.00 ***
- 2–4 calendars: \$20.00 each
- * **AAMT members \$16.00 ***
- 5 or more: \$15.00
- * **AAMT members \$12.00 ***

Prices include GST and postage.

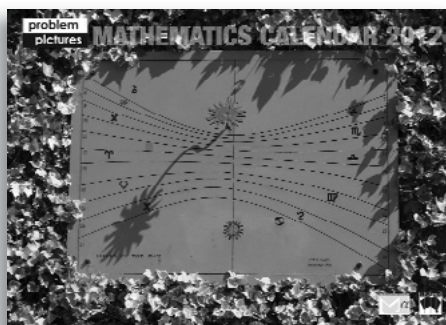
AAMT members said:

“They are fantastic problems and good decoration for the maths classroom.”

“I buy them for all maths staff and we love them.”

“Calendar relates maths very beautifully to the real world”

“This is an excellent product which I have used to motivate students.”



Order your calendars from the AAMT office by fax: 08 8362 9288; email: sales@aamt.edu.au; or go to: www.aamt.edu.au/Webshop