

The Highest Common Factor



December 2022

From the CEO's desk



Welcome to the final AAMT Newsletter of the year. In the last month, I had the opportunity to attend both the Mathematical Association of Western Australia (MAWA) and the Mathematical Association of Victoria's (MAV) annual conferences. It was exciting to see so many practitioners gather face-to-face, many for the first time in a few years, engaging in professional learning with such enthusiasm and excitement. It was such a rich experience for me to have the opportunity to meet and discuss mathematics education with so many of you.

These insights are so valuable in the life and work of AAMT.

As I reflect on the year, AAMT has had a busy and productive year in 2022. We've contributed to the many national conversations on a variety of subjects from new curriculum to teacher workforce, we've strengthened our working relationships with many key stakeholders both in Canberra and across the country, and delivered projects that you should see published in the new year.

I am excited about what 2023 has in store for AAMT and its affiliates. We have some exciting initiatives in the pipeline that I look forward to sharing with you in the new year. Additionally, I look forward to Denise Halliday joining us on staff to fill the role of Education Specialist at AAMT.

I hope that you find something useful in this newsletter. I'd encourage you to participate in the survey that we are doing in partnership with AMSI and PivotPL (more details below).

On behalf of the team and AAMT Council, I thank you for your commitment to Mathematics Educations across our country and wish you a refreshing and revitalising summer break.

Allan Dougan
CEO

Romolo Cirillo receives AAMT Life Membership

It is with great pleasure that the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers hereby announce the awarding of Life Membership to Romolo Cirillo, in recognition of his dedication, commitment and unwavering advocacy on behalf of Mathematics Education at a National Level.

Rom's official contribution to AAMT as a Councillor and later Treasurer began in 2015. However, his engagement, support and loyalty goes back much further.

Romolo has been an asset to Mathematics Education in WA as an ardent advocate for students of all ability.

Rom served faithfully as a AAMT Councillor from 2015 through to 2022. From 2017 he served as AAMT's Treasurer. He invested a significant amount of time, energy and financial acumen on behalf of AAMT. His time as treasurer saw the organisation have to navigate some challenging fiscal and operational environments. Without any doubt, our organisation would not be as healthy, vibrant or impactful an organisation as it is if it were not for his diligence, wise counsel and sage advice. [Click here to read more.](#)



Doug Clarke talks about his new book

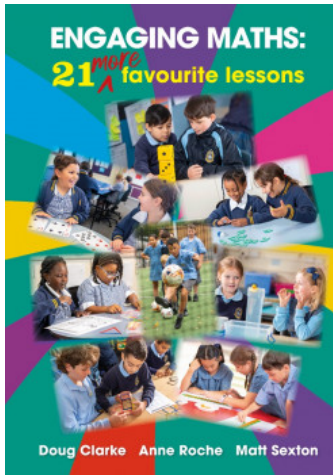
I am an Emeritus Professor of Mathematics Education at Australian Catholic University(Melbourne). In a nutshell, this means that I've been around a long time, I'm retired, but still get to work on projects of interest as well as experiencing all the joy which five grandchildren bring. I was a high school maths teacher for quite a while, a mathematics consultant for a bit, a methods lecturer and tutor at Monash University for a time, worked with Charles Lovitt on the Mathematics Curriculum and Teaching Program (an incredible opportunity) in the 1980s and then had 30 years at ACU before retirement.

I've had the privilege to work with and learn from some of the giants of mathematics education research, but when it all comes down to it, I am happiest (professionally) working in classrooms alongside mathematics leaders, teachers and students, trying out and refining lesson ideas, and sharing what we find with teachers in professional learning contexts.

One of the great challenges is documenting mathematics lessons in such a way that paints a picture of practice and possibilities. This is not easy, but when you feel you have 'nailed it', it is incredibly satisfying. Of course, no lesson is truly finished, and that is half the fun of it.

In 2014, Anne Roche and I wrote a book titled *Engaging Maths: 25 Favourite Lessons*, and this year, we have collaborated with Matt Sexton on a follow-up, **Engaging Maths: 21 More Favourite Lessons**. AAMT is distributing both books, and further information is provided below. A feature of our approach is the use of photos from the classroom, showing the lesson in action. The latest book has 160 such photos. Our lessons are just starting points which we hope teachers will take and make even richer as they adapt them for the needs and interests of their students.

Check out the book at AAMT's Mathstore



Engaging Maths: 21 More Favourite Lessons

This book follows the success of Engaging Maths: 25 Favourite Lessons (“the Blue Book”) which continues to stimulate a lot of interest from teachers, mathematics leaders, and pre-service teachers alike. There are 21 brand new lessons, across Foundation to Year 8. This full colour volume with over 160 classroom photos encourages both physical and cognitive engagement, with lots of fun thrown in!

With Matt Sexton joining the writing team, new features include an extended introduction with topics such as rethinking ability (achievement) grouping, using enabling and extending prompts, valuing productive struggle, and the importance of recording.

More engaging maths? Yes please!

[Order your copy here](#)

Calling all Maths teachers!

As a part of an exciting new national research project, AAMT/AMSI in partnership with Pivot Professional Learning is looking to survey 1000 maths teachers in Australia and New Zealand on their maths teaching practice, professional learning (PL) and relationships with students.

We’re undertaking this important research to help us understand and promote excellence in the teaching of maths. It will help further our understanding of how to develop great maths teachers, and result in the provision of practical advice and strategies to support teachers, school leaders and system leaders.

What do you have to do?

It’s easy! If you are a maths teacher in Australia or New Zealand, simply answer a 5-10 minute survey about your maths teaching practice.

In exchange, you will receive free licences to explore Pivot’s platform for your maths teachers* for Term 1 2023, with targeted resources to support your professional learning as well as goals, observations and quick-start pulse check surveys for your students to complete:

1. survey your students using an anonymous survey link,
2. a confidential, personalised insights on your mathematics teaching and
3. priority access to the research report AND follow-up, practical activities hosted by AAMT and AMSI based on the findings of the research

Please share this opportunity with maths teachers in your school. Pivot will provide a school-level trend (aggregated) report to the Department Head of any school where three or more teachers have participated.

Please note that this survey will close on 23rd December 2022. Watch out for more email updates about how to find out about the survey results and take part in the 2023 survey early in the new year.

[START SURVEY HERE](#)



Virtual maths PD event coming soon!

Texthelp will be kicking off 2023 with a free virtual maths PD event.

Here's an opportunity to explore all things maths teaching and learning, dyscalculia, and using technology in STEM classes. Be the first to know all the details.

[Click here to sign up now!](#)

Carly Sawatzki & Jill Brown's article in Teachers magazine

Carly and Jill have a new article in ACER's Teacher magazine: **Supporting teachers as financial educators.**

This piece went live early this month and is being promoted via Teacher, Deakin and REDI socials. It will be complemented by a Teacher podcast scheduled for back-to-school time.

Click [here](#) to read.



Access Talk Money resources

Talk Money has a range of resources for teachers, students and parents, all designed to help young people learn more about money at school and home. This includes lesson plans, posters, work sheets and fact sheets, plus helpful external websites.

[Access the resources here](#)

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