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# The Highest Common Factor



September 2023

## From the CEO's desk



Welcome to another edition of Highest Common Factor.

AAMT recently published, in partnership with AMSI and PivotPL, our 2023 Maths Engagement Report. This report was a product of a study which involved surveys of 80 teachers and 2,500 students analysing factors such as relationships, high expectations and positive classroom environments.

You can find a full copy of the report [here](#). In addition to publishing the report we delivered two webinars to discuss the report with experts in the field. You can access the recorded webinar for leaders [here](#), and if you're interested in the recording of the teachers' webinar, it is available [here](#).

AAMT is a member and I am a director of The Australian Alliance of Associations in Education. AAAE does lots of work in collaboration with, and on behalf of, professional teacher associations. Recently, in partnership with The Australian Professional Teachers Association (APTA), AAAE met with The Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education to discuss the vital role professional teaching associations perform to support teachers.

Key functions such as providing professional learning opportunities, fostering communities of practice and mentoring were among the topics covered. Crucially, we also addressed strategies to enhance teacher associations' involvement in shaping education policy emphasising the need for collaboration, ensuring that decisions are made with, not just for, teachers.

I hope you find something useful in this edition of the Highest Common Factor. As always, don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of support or assistance. Wishing all the best of luck for a successful and rewarding last term of the school year.

Enjoy this newsletter.

Allan Dougan  
CEO

## Integrating financial education into the curriculum - Banquer High



As Australia grapples with soaring living costs, it's the low-income workers and our young people who bear the brunt. But there's a lifeline - introducing financial education into classrooms. This essential life skill helps to tackle social inequity by empowering individuals to manage their financial futures. Programs like Banquer High are leading the way, using gamification to make finance engaging and accessible. Read the article to learn more.

**Click here to read the article**



## Inspire kids to get excited about STEM

Future You is a free program from the Australian Government's Women in STEM Ambassador that combats stereotypes and misconceptions to inspire more children aged 8 to 12 to explore science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM).

The Pathfinders series showcases various individuals who have followed their interests to rewarding STEM careers. The series is supported with curriculum-aligned resources.

Imagining the Future is five short stories featuring young protagonists tackling urgent challenges using STEM principles. The stories are available in written, audio and audio visual formats and are accompanied by activity matrices.

Future You is funded by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

Visit [www.futureyouaustralia.com.au](http://www.futureyouaustralia.com.au)



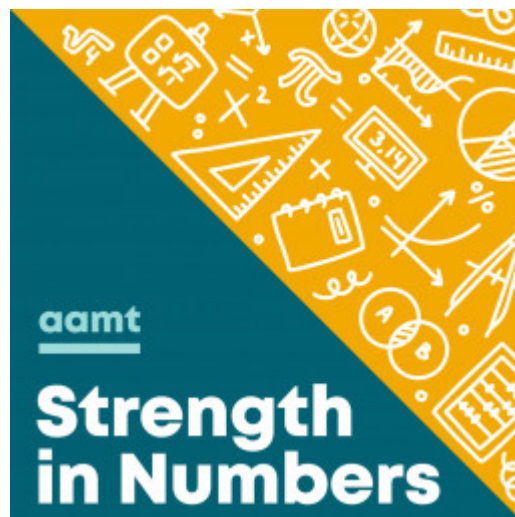
## **Strength in Numbers AAMT's Podcast**

Join us as we dive into the fascinating world of mathematics education with AAMT's new podcast, Strength in Numbers.

Listen in as our host, Allan Dougan (*CEO, AAMT Inc.*), converses with a fabulous range of inspirational guests.

Be sure to subscribe on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Amazon Music](#) or wherever you get your podcasts, if you haven't already!

[Click here to listen now!](#)



## **Maths300 Newsletter Your Ticket to the Latest Updates in Maths300**

We are thrilled to introduce the Maths300 newsletter, a new initiative to keep users up to date with what's happening with Maths300.

Once a term we now publish a newsletter that highlights the best of Maths300 including resources and community news.

Our goal is to help you support your students to learn through enquiry, to collaborate and most of all to think like mathematicians, whilst keeping an eye on the curriculum changes happening around the country.

We published the first Maths300 newsletter early this term, and are delighted to share that the response has been exceptionally positive.

The inaugural newsletter carried handpicked activities covering both primary and secondary maths, showcased the software and highlighted a newly added resource.

**[Click here to download the newsletter](#)**

## **AUSSEF 2023 / ISEF 2024**

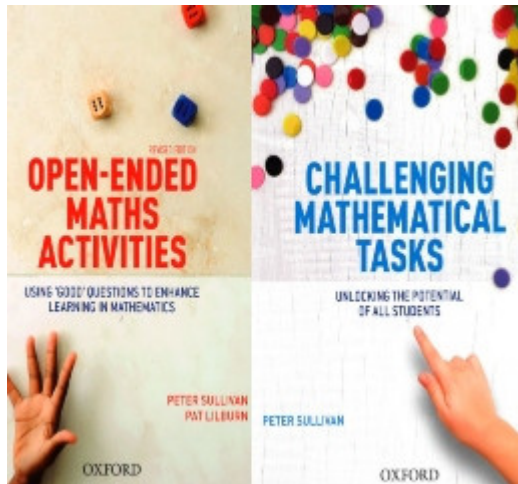
AUSSEF invites Australian school students from Year 9-12 who have completed a substantial project in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics to enter their project into the 2023 edition of AUSSEF.

The Australian Science and Engineering Fair (AUSSEF) is a national STEM Fair, who are encouraging the best STEM Year 9-12 projects from all over Australia to compete for the chance to win an all-expenses-paid-trip to Los Angeles, California to compete at the 2024 Regeneron Science and Engineering Fair, May 11-17.

There is no entry fee for this online competition and entry and competition details can be found [here](#). The deadline for entries is Friday 17th November so seriously consider entering your excellent project into this new AUSSEF competition.

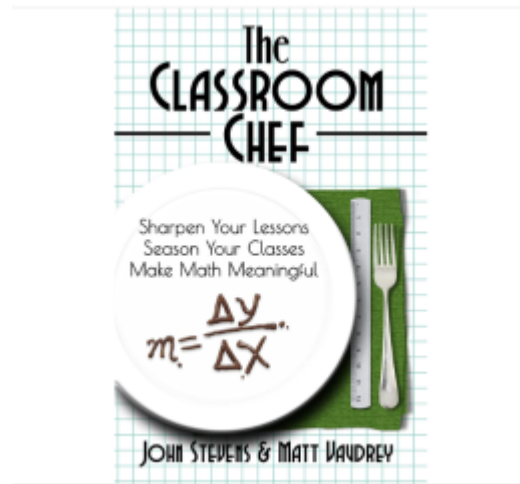
In 2023, one of the winners of the 2022 National Maths Talent Quest, competed in Dallas at 2023 ISEF as part of the nine-strong AUSSEF team.

### Gems from the bookstore



We recommend two books by Peter Sullivan - Challenging Mathematical Tasks, which offers a selection of unfamiliar tasks and problems to promote sustained thinking, decision-making and risk-taking and Open-Ended Maths Activities which includes a range of activities and guidance on how to create open-ended tasks and ask the right questions. These books are all you need to get you and your students thinking!

[Click here to order now!](#)



The authors use the analogy of cooking as a means to creating engaging lessons: preparing the kitchen, setting the table, choosing a delicious appetiser, making a satisfying main course, finishing with dessert. In a mathematics lesson that translates to establishing a positive class culture, being thoroughly prepared, selecting a mathematical taster to build interest, creating a substantial and intriguing task, and finishing with assessment. Written in a conversational style, this is an easy-to-read volume packed with wisdom about real classroom experiences, including recounts of failures as well as successes. It will speak strongly to any teacher who wants to improve their lessons to genuinely engage their students.

**Get your copy with a 15% discount by applying code HOLIDAYS15 during checkout.**

[Click here to order now!](#)

### Want to work with AMT? Here's your chance!

AMT are looking to recruit a new European Girls' Olympiad in Informatics (EGOI) Team Leader.

Click [here](#) for the position description for this role.

Any interested parties should contact Nathan Ford (nathan.ford@amt.edu.au) for further information.







### Focus on Maths Update



Focus on Maths is AAMT's grant program which helps improve equity of access to quality maths education by supporting disadvantaged schools. The program provides funding for teacher professional learning in mathematics content and pedagogical knowledge to build capacity in maths teaching and learning.

The Focus on Maths program launched last month and our first funding round recently closed with over 30 schools applying for funding. We are in the process of reviewing these applications and are excitedly anticipating some of our first projects going live in Term 4!

### Obituary - Vale Andrew Roland Edwards 20 Jan 1952 - 16 Dec 2022

Andy Edwards was a valued contributor to AAMT journals over his career both as a solo writer and in collaboration with colleagues. In recent years he wrote a number of Short Activities published in AAMT's Australian Mathematics Education Journal (AMEJ). In 'How to appear clever without having to try too hard', the opening paragraph attests to his sense of humour:

*"Pick out an elderly relative at a dull family gathering. Preferably go for one who already likes you and thinks you are smart. At least fairly elderly is good because they will have had their times tables mercilessly drummed into them at school when it wasn't considered child abuse."*

In 2020 in the AMEJ 2(4) Andy wrote about 'Zombie Composites'; composite numbers which are not divisible by any of their digits. Looking back through the AAMT journal archives, there are plenty of examples of his work. Perhaps most notably, he wrote a fine article on 'Ormiston Pairs' (AMT, 2002), and co-authored 'Beyond Naplan testing; Nurturing Mathematical Talent' (Dharmadasa et al., AMT, 70(2), 2014).

Just a few years ago, Andy was considering co-editing the APMC. After looking closely at the offer, he "reached the conclusion that, much as I am flattered ... I fall so far short of the requirements in several key areas that I ought to withdraw my application" (email, Jan 23, 2019). In his humble way, Andy declined but went on to assist with reviews and writing Short Activities.

Andy was a delight to work with; always eager to help where he could, often (unnecessarily) apologetic, ever clever and kind. AAMT was lucky indeed to have his contributions over the years. Our condolences go out to his family.

*Below is a summary of the heartfelt tribute written by Kevin McAvaney, Maths Challenge Chair, with the assistance of Bruce Henry, Mike Newman, Peter Taylor, Judy Hartnett, Lorraine Mottershead, Mike Clapper, and Ian Roberts. Click [here](#) to view and read the full text.*

Andy, a remarkable mathematics teacher and an inventive problem-solver, hailed from Melbourne, and was raised in a family of intellectual curiosity. He earned an Economics and Statistics degree from Monash University in 1972, followed by a Diploma in Education.

He launched his teaching career at Mornington High School, where he met his wife Genevieve and later Bruce Henry, resulting in various joint publications. Andy's educational journey led him to Mildura High School in the early 1980s, where he flourished for nearly two decades. Actively engaged in workshops by The Mathematical Association of Victoria and The Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers, he also broadened his horizons with an exchange in Canada.

In 1999, Andy assumed the role of Head of Mathematics at Ormiston College in Brisbane. He later joined the the Queensland Studies (now Curriculum and Assessment) Authority, serving as a Senior Testing Officer until his retirement in 2019. His contributions extended beyond the classroom, co-authoring textbooks and developing test items for educational programs.

A stalwart contributor to the AAMT email discussion list, Andy's wisdom reached teachers nationwide. His pivotal role in the Mathematics Challenge Committee, spanning 33 years, left an enduring legacy. His passion for numbers and patterns yielded significant contributions to number theory research, exemplified by the O'Halloran numbers and Ormiston Pairs.

In 2001, he received the Bernhard H. Neumann Award for his dedication to the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians. Andy is cherished in the memories of his wife Genevieve, sons David and Kane, and grandchildren Nicolas and Indiana. Though he is dearly missed, his influence lives on.

Thank you for subscribing to the AAMT newsletter.

Here are a few other ways to stay updated on the latest in maths education in Australia:

Follow us on Twitter [@aamtinc](#) for weekly maths puzzles, fun facts and news or on [Facebook](#).

Connect with our [CEO Allan Dougan](#) or [Education Specialist Denise Halliday](#) on LinkedIn.

Our quarterly newsletter is delivered right into your mailbox. Past newsletters can be found on our website under the [About Us/Newsletters](#) section.

And if you like what you read, please tell your colleagues about us!

Kind regards,  
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