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The Highest Common Factor

**February 2025**

From the CEO's desk



Dear all,

It's hard to believe that we are midway into February already. The year is off to a busy and exciting start at AAMT, with a range of initiatives designed to support and strengthen mathematics education across Australia.

At the heart of our work is our newly launched position paper, *Pedagogy in Mathematics*. In an era where debates about mathematics education can often be polarising, this paper cuts through the noise to provide a clear perspective on effective mathematics teaching and learning.

It offers practical guidance for teachers and leaders navigating an increasingly complex landscape and serves as a crucial resource for schools looking to refine their approaches.

The response so far has been overwhelming. Educators, leaders, researchers, and policymakers alike have engaged with the paper, recognising its value in shaping meaningful, high-impact teaching practices. If you haven't yet read it, I strongly encourage you to do so.

[Click here to read the position paper](#)

To extend the impact of the paper, we've also curated a **dynamic resource list** - a growing collection of peer-reviewed articles, blogs, podcasts, and other materials that provide deeper insight into the ideas explored in the paper. Whether you're a classroom teacher, faculty leader, or policymaker, this list is designed to provoke thought, stimulate discussion, and support professional growth.

[Explore the companion resource list here](#)

We're not stopping there - we're actively working on more ways to support teachers and leaders in implementing the ideas within the paper. Stay tuned for professional learning opportunities and further resources.

Our professional learning program is already in full swing. Last year, we hosted **Peter Liljedahl's Leadership for Building Thinking Classrooms** event in Canberra, bringing together educators from across Australia to explore the potential of thinking classrooms. These sessions provided deep insights into how leadership can shape the culture of mathematical thinking in schools. In August this year, we are bringing this event to two amazing locations - Adelaide and Gold Coast. More details on these events can be found in this newsletter.

We're also thrilled to be supporting **Craig Barton's Aussie Tour with Ollie Lovell - 'Becoming a Better Maths Teacher'**. This series of events in **Sydney, Perth, Melbourne, and Adelaide** offers a fantastic opportunity to learn from two of the best minds in maths

education. If you're looking to refine your teaching practice and gain insights from two highly respected educators, this is an event not to miss.

Our **Strength in Numbers** podcast continues to provide a platform for critical discussions in maths education, featuring insights from leading educators, researchers, and policymakers. If you haven't tuned in yet, now's a great time to catch up on past episodes. Expect more thought-provoking conversations throughout the year.

Beyond professional learning, AAMT remains deeply committed to advocacy, working closely with policymakers, education departments, affiliates and partner organisations to ensure that mathematics education stays at the forefront of national discussions.

This is shaping up to be an exciting year, and we're just getting started. Thank you for being part of this journey with us. I encourage you to explore the position paper, and stay connected with us as we continue to champion mathematics education across Australia.

Allan Dougan

CEO, AAMT Ltd

Remembering Jeff Baxter

Jeff Baxter played a pivotal role in the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers from the 1970s to the mid-2000s, helping transform it from a small voluntary organisation into a highly respected professional body.

A major turning point was the Fifth International Congress on Mathematics Education (ICME5), held in Adelaide in 1984. Jeff was instrumental in securing the bid and played a crucial role in its organisation, serving on all five key committees. ICME5, the first in the Southern Hemisphere, attracted nearly 2,000 delegates from over 90 countries, strengthening Australia's global connections in mathematics education.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Jeff provided strong leadership within AAMT, serving as Treasurer and later as President (1986–88). He was central in resolving structural challenges, fostering collaboration among state affiliates, and enabling direct communication with members. Under his leadership, AAMT established its first office in 1988, initially located at his home.

Jeff's vision extended to resource development, ensuring Australian teachers had access to quality materials from around the world. As AAMT's Resources Coordinator, he forged partnerships with organisations such as the UK's Shell Centre, the NCTM in the USA, and COMAP. His efforts led to the expansion of AAMT's catalogue, supporting both its finances and professional impact.

After a short hospitalisation, Jeff passed away on 24 January 2025, surrounded by his family. He will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.

Will Morony, Max Stephens, John Mack, Ann Belperio, and Andrew Fergusson have penned an obituary honouring Jeff Baxter. Click [here](#) to read.

The Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers at ICME-15

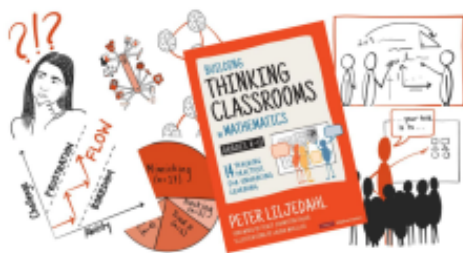
At ICME-15, AAMT led a discussion group on teacher development and retention in mathematics.

Collaborators from multiple countries shared insights, followed by small group discussions on key retention factors.

The sessions reinforced existing research and outlined next steps. The detailed article below explores the key themes and proposed actions to strengthen teacher retention globally.

[Click here to read the article](#)

Peter Liljedahl's Leadership for Building Thinking Classrooms 2025!



Following the excellent experience of delegates at the 2024 workshop, we're excited to bring back Peter Liljedahl's **Leadership for Building Thinking Classrooms** workshop - this time in two fantastic locations!

This year, we're headed to **Adelaide (August 14-15 2025, Pullman Adelaide)** and to the **Gold Coast (August 25-26 2025, Sofitel Broadbeach)**.

Join us for two days of transformative learning with Prof. Liljedahl, where you'll gain practical strategies to revolutionise maths education, to empower your team, and to build thriving thinking classrooms.

Sign up early, and save on the registration fees! AAMT affiliate members enjoy a further \$100 discount.

[Click here for more information](#)

Don't miss this opportunity to elevate your teaching and inspire your students. Let's build classrooms where thinking thrives!

MERGA - Teacher Reads

Beliefs about the Active, Bodily experience Mathematics learning activities: an explorative teacher survey in Australia?



Teacher Reads are one-page extracts of research findings from MERGA conference papers. The purpose of Teacher Reads is to disseminate aspects of research that are meaningful to teachers, such as mathematical tasks, assessment tools, strategies for teaching, considerations for student learning, findings of research that may impact classroom practice, etc.

We hope teachers will draw inspiration from these Reads and follow up with details from the conference papers for research-informed classroom practice.

Teacher Read: *Beliefs about the Active, Bodily experience Mathematics learning activities: an explorative teacher survey in Australia* (By Alessandra Boscolo, University of Genoa)

This study explores Australian primary and secondary mathematics teachers' perspectives on Active, Bodily experience Mathematics (ABM) learning activities, which integrate movement and sensory experiences to enhance understanding. While teachers recognize ABM's benefits—such as improved engagement and conceptual learning - they face barriers like classroom management challenges, time constraints, lack of resources, and pressure from standardised testing. Secondary teachers are more resistant due to curriculum demands. The study calls for strategies to overcome these barriers and better integrate ABM into teaching practices.

[Click here to read the paper](#)

Becoming a Better Maths Teacher with Craig Barton & Ollie Lovell

If you missed this in our last newsletter, AAMT is excited to be partnering with two highly respected mathematics teacher / author / podcasters, the UK's Craig Barton and Australia's Ollie Lovell, for their 2025 Australian professional learning tour.

In a full-day intensive learning experience, Craig and Ollie will guide you through practical, evidence-based strategies to elevate your classroom practice. Highlights of the day include:

- Maximise learning in the first 10 minutes – setting the tone for an effective lesson
- Design worked examples that work – ensuring clarity when introducing new concepts
- Make feedback more efficient and impactful – streamlining the way feedback is given and used
- Sustain professional growth – stay inspired and continually develop your maths teaching practice

The event is designed for secondary and upper primary mathematics teachers looking to refine their classroom practice, engage in discussions, and take away ready-to-use lesson strategies.

Craig and Ollie will be holding events in Perth (20 June 2025), Melbourne (23 June 2025), Sydney (25 June 2025) and Adelaide (27 June 2025). Seats are limited, so click [here](#) to secure your spot today.

You can follow Craig's work by listening to his podcasts [Mr Barton Maths](#) and [Tips for Teachers](#) or by checking out his many websites including [Diagnostic Questions](#) and [mrbartonmaths](#). Ollie's [Education Research Reading Room](#) podcast and [website](#) explore his work in more detail.



Nominations for the new Prime Minister's Prize for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Knowledge Systems are open now!

2025 marks the first year the Prime Minister's Prize for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Knowledge Systems will be awarded – and this is the first call for nominations.

Nominations are open until **5pm AEDT Tuesday 18 March 2025**.

This new **\$250,000** prize celebrates the contribution of Australian Indigenous peoples' knowledge systems to science, our nation and humanity. It recognises Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander-led projects that benefit Australian Indigenous peoples, communities or places, and contribute to solving a significant challenge through the practice and preservation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems.

By nominating for this prize, you are acknowledging the value of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems to community, place and our nation.

Nominations can be made by community members, colleagues and peers.

[Click here to know more](#)

The ATSIMA 2025 Conference

The Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Mathematics Alliance (ATSIMA), together with Wayti Culture and Knowledge, has announced the 5th ATSIMA Conference, from 1st - 3rd October 2025 in lunawanna allonah (Bruny Island), Tasmania.

The theme for the ATSIMA 2025 conference is:

palawa kani pumili waranta rrala - Our Language Our Strength ... which speaks to the power of language.

Click [here](#) for more details, to register, or to lodge your abstract submissions for presentations.

Please note that registration will open soon.

Do share this information with your colleagues - whether they are interested in sponsoring, presenting, or participating.

Download the ATSIMA 2025 [sponsorship prospectus](#) for more details.

Financial Literacy in Action Awards \$2500 prize money for school!



As part of **Global Money Week 2025**, Talk Money with Ecstra Foundation is again offering the **Talk Money Financial Literacy in Action Awards**, to recognise and reward teachers who inspire the next generation of Australians to be confident in managing their money.

Global Money Week is an annual international campaign to raise awareness of the importance of financial literacy.

Its goal is to ensure that young people are financially aware and have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, and behaviours necessary to make sound financial decisions.

The four award categories include:

- Kindergarten to Year 6
- Years 7 and 8
- Years 9 and 10
- Years 11 and 12

The competition closes at **5pm on 28 February 2025**. The prize for each winning entry includes \$2,500 for the school. Winners will be notified via email and announced on the Talk Money with Ecstra Foundation social media.

Submissions should include a summary of the project idea, the lesson plan details, the purpose, objectives, materials needed, and the intended student outcomes.

Click [here](#) to enter the competition.

References for Global Money Week can be found [here](#).

More information is available at [Talk Money](#).

Please get in touch with **Dr Tracey West** (Financial Education Manager, **Ecstra Foundation**) at tracey.west@ecstra.org.au if you have any questions.

New in our bookstore

Teaching One-Pagers : Evidence-informed summaries for busy educational professionals

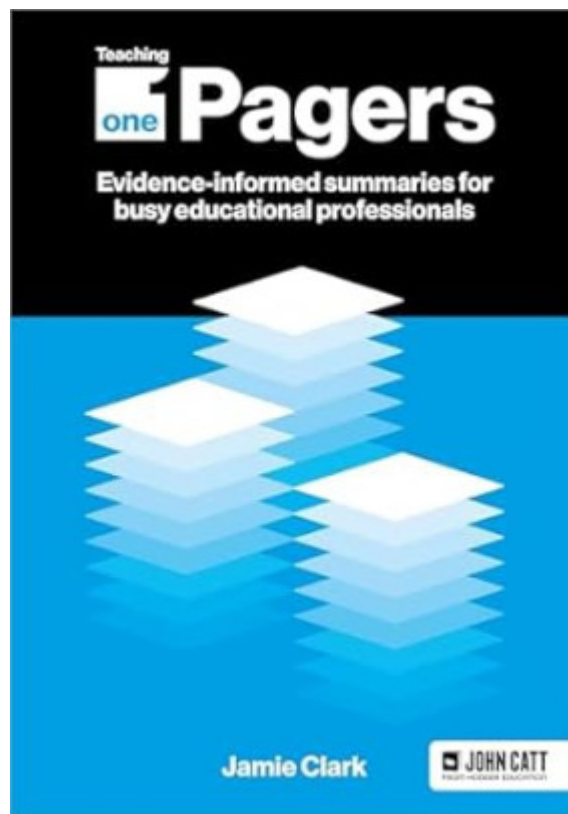
Ask any teacher and they would say workload is one of the biggest blockers to their professional development.

Simply put, most teachers are time-poor and too busy to engage with educational research to improve their classroom instruction.

One-pagers are ultra-concise, A4-sized summaries that share important ideas about good teaching.

In this practical volume, Jamie Clark presents more than 55 evidence-informed one-pagers that help educators reflect on their practice, build pedagogical knowledge, and prompt professional conversations with colleagues.

[Click here to order now](#)



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:

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Connect with [AAMT Inc](#) , 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,
AAMT Team

The Australian Association of Mathematics
Teachers
GPO Box 626 Canberra ACT 2601
Tel (02) 6188 5613
office@aamt.edu.au

