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May 2025

From the CEO's desk



Dear all,

Welcome to another edition of Highest Common Factor. As we navigate another busy period, I want to keep you updated on the exciting developments and initiatives at AAMT.

As you would know, our position paper on pedagogy, Pedagogy in Mathematics (available for download <u>here</u>), was released in late January. This has proved to be a valuable resource for teachers, school leaders and decision makers across the country.

It is supported by a dynamic resource list (available for download <u>here</u>) which we aim to refresh regularly so as to make it an ongoing useful resource. In conjunction with this, we've produced a range of resources, including posters, to support educators in implementing effective teaching practices. You'll read more later in the newsletter about upcoming professional learning opportunities which will delve deeper into the paper's insights and applications.

In the months ahead we've got other professional learning opportunities. Peter Liljedahl will be sharing his insights into 'Leadership for Building Thinking Classrooms' in Adelaide and the Gold Coast. Ollie Lovell and Craig Barton will be presenting professional learning in Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide over the coming months too.

Looking further ahead, we're pleased to share that plans are underway for our 2026 study tour to Singapore. This tour will offer a unique opportunity to immerse yourselves in Singapore's renowned mathematics education system. If you're interested in joining us, we encourage you to register your interest early to secure your place.

Plans are well underway for the next season of the Strength in Numbers podcast. If you haven't already, I encourage you to have a listen to previous seasons in preparation for the arrival of season 4. And, of course, if you have suggestions of guests you'd like to hear on the podcast, please don't hesitate to reach out.

AAMT continues to work hard to advance mathematics education, and we appreciate your ongoing support and dedication. Thank you for being a part of the AAMT community.

Allan Dougan

CEO, AAMT Ltd

AAMT Study Tour to Singapore – July 2026

Following our highly successful 2024 Study Tour to the US and Canada, we're excited to announce that we're heading to Singapore in July 2026. The tour is scheduled for the week

commencing 6 July, aligning with the winter break in many states and territories, to make it easier for teachers from across Australia to join us.

We're building a rich itinerary that includes school visits, conversations with local educators and system leaders, to give you time to explore Singapore's renowned curriculum and classroom practices. It's an ideal professional learning experience for both primary and secondary teachers who want to reflect on their own practice. Participants will learn from one of the world's consistently high-performing systems, with a community of educators from across Australia.

Email us at <u>office@aamt.edu.au</u>, or click on the link below and register your interest to stay informed. Be among the first to receive the full itinerary!

Click here to register your interest

Pedagogy in Mathematics - what next?

If you've read AAMT's highly regarded *Pedagogy in Mathematics* paper, you'll know it brings together three core practices that are central to excellent maths teaching, in a clear, practical framework. We're continuing to build upon the paper with a range of new resources and professional learning options to help you embed these practices into your classroom.

The Reading Group

Join our live, facilitator-led reading group across five virtual sessions starting on 17 June, with a special launch price and limited spaces. Click on the link below and register now to secure your place on this unique professional learning experience!

Click here to read more

Posters

AAMT have made available for purchase, two sets of posters as a companion to the highly regarded paper. Download and print our poster series to keep the three practices in plain sight in your staffroom or classroom.

Click on the link below to preview the posters and to place your order.

View Pedagogy Posters

Peter Liljedahl's Leadership for Building Thinking Classrooms 2025



Spots filling fast!

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).

Don't miss your chance to be part of this powerful learning experience — registrations are still open, and places are filling quickly!

AAMT affiliate members receive a discount of \$100 on the registration fee.

Click here for more information

MERGA - Teacher Reads Turn Left, Turn Right: An Embodied Perspective on Children's Difficulties with Left/Right Spatial Orientations by Jennifer Way and Katherin Cartwright



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.

Turn Left, Turn Right: An Embodied Perspective on Children's Difficulties with Left/Right Spatial Orientations by Jennifer Way and Katherin Cartwright

This research paper focuses on children's difficulties with left/right spatial orientation. The authors investigated how first-grade Australian students respond to and give verbal instructions involving left and right turns. Through task-based interviews with 36 children, they assessed both egocentric (moving their own body) and allocentric (directing a robot) understanding of these directions. The results showed that while most children could identify left and right, significantly fewer could correctly turn left or right, and giving directions was generally harder than following them. The study highlights that mastering left/right orientation is complex and suggests further investigation into teaching strategies that incorporate embodied representations.

Click here to read the paper

Becoming a Better Maths Teacher with Craig Barton & Ollie Lovell

As a part of our commitment to help teachers develop a diverse repertoire of teaching strategies, AAMT is supporting Craig Barton and Ollie Lovell in sharing details of their *Becoming a Better Maths Teacher* tour. This professional learning series will see them deliver a range of workshops across Australia this June.

These full-day sessions are designed for upper primary and secondary maths teachers and explore practical strategies to enhance everyday teaching—covering lesson openings, worked examples, feedback and ongoing growth.

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 <u>here</u> to secure your spot today.

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

For more details and to register, visit: https://www.tickettailor.com/events/ollielovell.

First Nations Australians

This time of year offers important opportunities to recognise and celebrate the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples - and to reflect on the role each of us can play in advancing reconciliation in Australia.

AAMT continues to collaborate with mathematics associations nationwide to drive cultural change and create meaningful, systemic improvement in mathematics education for First Nations students. This commitment is outlined in our joint *Commitment Statement* available <u>here</u>.

Two key events on the horizon are National Reconciliation Week (starting 27 May) and NAIDOC Week (early July). You can access a range of resources on culturally inclusive teaching <u>here</u>, along with links to classroom maths activities that highlight Aboriginal ways of knowing and doing.

We're also pleased to share details of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mathematics Alliance Biennial Conference, to be held from 1–3 October 2025 on Lunawuri (Bruny Island), Lutruwita (Tasmania). For more information and registration details, visit: <u>https://atsima.zohobackstage.com.au/ATSIMA2025BiennialConference</u>.

ATSIMA is offering a number of scholarships for Indigenous educators to attend the ATSIMA 2025 Conference. Click <u>here</u> for more details.

Grattan Institute's The Maths Guarantee Report

Last month, the Grattan Institute released *The Maths Guarantee: How to boost students' learning in primary school.*

We've created a one-page infographic summary to help you easily access the report's key recommendations, how AAMT's current work aligns with its findings, and what we believe needs to happen next. Click <u>here</u> to view the infographic, and click <u>here</u> to access the full Grattan report.

National Maths Talent Quest



The National Maths Talent Quest (NMTQ) is AAMT's annual competition celebrating student curiosity, creativity and excellence in mathematical investigation.

However, students can't enter NMTQ directly. Instead, entries are submitted through state and territory-level competitions, with only the most impressive investigations selected to advance for judging on the national stage.

In 2024, 43 outstanding entries were considered at the national level. Fourteen students from five states were awarded national prizes, with another 14 investigations receiving highly commended recognition - an impressive showcase of mathematical talent from across the country.

With local competitions open in the different states and territories, now is a great time to encourage your students to take part and to enter an individual, group or class investigation.

Click here to learn more

The ATO's Tax, Super + You competition is back!



This is a chance for students to be creative while learning about tax and super.

Write it, make it, or film it! Students could win a share of prizes for themselves and their school.

Students can use the ATO's online Tax, Super + You resources to help with their entries. It's free, provides all the info they'll need, and aligns to the Australian Curriculum.

Learn more @ www.taxsuperandyou.gov.au/competition

Ecstra Foundation's Financial Wellbeing Network



<u>Ecstra Foundation</u>'s next Financial Wellbeing Network event will launch the results of Ecstra's 2025 Financial education in schools survey.

The results provide new and valuable insights into what money topics students want to learn more about, teacher feedback on how to make financial education more effective, parents views on financial education and digital financial literacy.

Join Ecstra and <u>YouGov</u> on Tuesday 20 May at 12.30pm to learn about the survey results, the current challenges and future opportunities to ensure more Australian students have access to effective money lessons and guidance when they need it.

Ecstra's Head of Policy & Engagement <u>Stephanie H.</u> will discuss key results of the survey with YouGov Australia's Research Director <u>Fumin Rianto</u>. Ecstra Foundation CEO <u>Caroline</u> <u>Stewart</u> will host the discussion.

Register here: https://bit.ly/3Y23XIv



Numberland primary resource - prize draw!

We're pleased to offer our newsletter readers a chance to win this <u>Numberland</u> <u>Set</u>, a hands-on resource, designed to support early learning in numbers and counting for lower primary students.

The set includes a range of wooden number people, number houses and <u>two maths</u> <u>picture books</u> written by Queensland primary teacher and Deputy Principal Mark Hansen, who featured in Season 1 of AAMT's *Strength in Numbers* podcast (<u>listen here</u>).

We're grateful to Mark and the team at Grocorp for donating the prize, for an Australian teacher to enjoy in their school.

To enter, simply provide your name, school, and work email address <u>here</u>. The lucky winner will be announced on 20th June, and will be informed via email.

Gems from our bookstore

Highest Common Factor May 2025





Engaging Maths: 25 Favourite Lessons by Doug Clarke, Anne Roche

This full-colour volume aims to enrich the mathematical experiences of primary school students (and their teachers) through enjoyable, challenging and active lessons.

Why not explore grid coordinates and compass directions through a piratical 'Treasure Island' map, or introduce simulation through a 'Throwing the globe' activity, or play a few rounds of 'Colour in decimats'?

Each lesson follows a similar pattern, beginning with an engaging 'hook'.

There are clear instructions, interesting professional musings (including highlighting common misconceptions) and ideas for pulling the lesson together at the end. The lessons are complete, with reproducible activity sheets and further professional references.

Reflections from the authors highlight some of the key pedagogical aspects and assessment potential.

Engaging maths, indeed!

Engaging Maths: 21 More Favourite Lessons by Doug Clarke, Anne Roche, Matt Sexton

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! Teachers can use Concept Cartoons to develop geometry understanding, enhance visualisation through Look Make Check Adjust, build mental computation through 4Up!, provide real challenge with Cubes in My Pocket, or head outside for Footy Angles.

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!

Click here to order now

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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 Facebook or on Twitter @aamtinc.

Connect with <u>AAMT Ltd</u>, our <u>CEO Allan Dougan</u> or <u>Education Specialist Denise</u> <u>Halliday</u> on LinkedIn.

Our quarterly newsletter is delivered right into your mailbox. Past newsletters can be found on our website under the **<u>About Us/Newsletters</u>** section.

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

Kind regards, AAMT Team

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