

Lifetime Contribution Award

Lauren Beams

October 2025

It is with great pleasure that the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers Ltd (AAMT) awards the Lifetime Contribution Award to Lauren Beams, in recognition of her exceptional leadership, enduring commitment, and outstanding service to mathematics education in Australia.

Lauren's professional journey reflects a deep and consistent dedication to advancing mathematics education at classroom, state, and national levels. A passionate educator, she has always kept teachers and learners at the heart of her work, balancing vision and pragmatism with a generosity of spirit that has earned her the respect and admiration of colleagues across the country.

As President of AAMT from 2020 to 2022, Lauren led the Association through one of the most challenging periods in its history. Her presidency coincided with the global COVID-19 pandemic — a time that demanded resilience, creativity, and decisive leadership. Under her guidance, AAMT remained connected, agile, and steadfast in its mission to support mathematics teachers nationwide. Lauren's calm and measured leadership provided stability and reassurance to all stakeholders, ensuring the organisation continued to serve educators when they needed it most.

Recognising the need for new forms of professional connection, Lauren championed AAMT's pivot to online professional learning. She oversaw the introduction of webinars, virtual conferences, and online forums that enabled teachers across all jurisdictions to continue engaging in high-quality professional learning, even amidst unprecedented disruption. This commitment to accessibility and innovation ensured that professional growth in mathematics education did not pause during the pandemic, but evolved and expanded.

Lauren's contribution extended beyond program delivery. She played a vital role in maintaining the integrity and continuity of AAMT's governance during a period of uncertainty. Through her leadership, the organisation adapted AGMs and Council meetings, to virtual formats, ensuring transparency, accountability, and engagement with members across Australia. Her steady hand and thoughtful communication style strengthened relationships within and between affiliates, reinforcing the unity and collaborative spirit of AAMT's federated structure.



A significant feature of Lauren's leadership was her stewardship of AAMT's constitutional reform — guiding the organisation through its historic transition from an incorporated association in South Australia to a Company Limited by Guarantee. This complex process required deep consultation, careful navigation of legal and governance frameworks, and an unrelenting focus on modernising the Association's structures to ensure its long-term sustainability. Lauren's vision and attention to detail throughout this transition laid the foundation for stronger national governance, greater accountability, and a renewed sense of purpose within AAMT.

Another defining feature of Lauren's presidency was her guidance through a period of executive transition. She led the Council and organisation with poise through the recruitment and appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer, ensuring stability and clarity of purpose for staff, affiliates, and members. Her leadership during this transition reflected her deep understanding of governance and her unwavering commitment to continuity, collaboration, and trust.

Lauren's influence also extends well beyond her national presidency. As a longstanding and active member of the Mathematical Association of Tasmania (MAT), she has made significant contributions to mathematics education within her state. Her leadership and enthusiasm have been instrumental in sustaining flagship initiatives such as the state-wide Maths Relays, which have inspired students and fostered community engagement in mathematics. Through her work with MAT, Lauren has nurtured teacher networks, promoted professional learning, and supported initiatives that bring joy, challenge, and creativity into mathematics classrooms.

Nationally, Lauren has been a strong and articulate advocate for the role of mathematics in Australia's educational and economic future. She has represented AAMT in national forums, conferences, and media, consistently ensuring that mathematics remains central in conversations about STEM and educational reform. Her capacity to communicate complex ideas with clarity and authenticity has helped position AAMT as a credible, professional, and trusted voice in national education policy discussions.

Colleagues describe Lauren as warm, inclusive, and deeply collegial. She leads with humility, listens with empathy, and always places the needs of teachers and learners first. Her leadership style exemplifies the relational and service-oriented values that underpin AAMT's mission. Through her thoughtful contributions, she has helped shape the national narrative on mathematics education — one that balances rigour with compassion, and ambition with practicality.

Lauren's tenure as President left an enduring legacy. She strengthened AAMT's national presence, modernised its operations, and helped embed a culture of adaptability and collaboration that continues to guide the organisation today. Her example of leadership has inspired those who have



followed her in governance and continues to influence how the Association engages with affiliates, partners, and the broader education community.

In recognition of her exceptional leadership, sustained contribution, and enduring advocacy for mathematics education across Australia, Lauren Beams is an eminently worthy recipient of the Lifetime Contribution Award of the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers Ltd.

Allan Dougan
Chief Executive Officer
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