

# The Highest Common Factor



June 2024

## A Message from the President



It is a great privilege to be writing to you as the new President of AAMT. I would like to acknowledge the outgoing President, Michael O'Connor, for his leadership of AAMT over the past two years. For those who don't know me, I am a Professor of Mathematics Education at Western Sydney University, and prior to my career as an academic, I was a primary school teacher. I have been actively involved in the Mathematics Association of NSW (MANSW) since 2003, including a term as President.

I have also served as President of the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia (MERGA) and I'm a past editor of AAMT's The Australian Primary Mathematics Classroom journal (APMC).

I am fortunate that my role at the University allows me to work closely with school systems, leaders, teachers, and students, thus keeping me informed of the current contexts that teachers and students are experiencing.

My term as President of AAMT begins at an interesting and challenging point in time for mathematics education and, indeed, for AAMT. The current stresses influenced by teacher shortages across all systems and levels of schooling combined with the introduction of new curricula and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, has resulted in significant pressures on schools and individual teachers. Mixed messaging about effective practice in mathematics education and system strategies to alleviate teacher workloads are influencing how mathematics is taught and how students experience mathematics education.

These challenges and the continuing changing landscape of education in Australia means there has never been a more important time for AAMT to represent all who are involved in mathematics education as a unified, informed, and influential voice. It is also a critical time for AAMT to evolve alongside the changing landscape of mathematics education.

I look forward to leading an evolving AAMT over the next two years and to working with the AAMT Council and our members to promote excellence in mathematics education.

Catherine Attard

President, AAMT Council

## Notice of General Meeting of AAMT Inc.

Notice is hereby given that an extraordinary General Meeting of Members of The Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers Inc., ABN: **76 515 756 909** will be held on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7:30pm (AEST). The meeting will be held at the office of The Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers Inc., WOTSO Building, 490 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602 and online.

The Full Notice, including details of the Special Resolutions for consideration, can be found by clicking [here](#).

Proxy forms can be found by clicking [here](#).

The proposed Constitution can be found by clicking [here](#).

A video from AAMT's Council can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Registration for the General Meeting is requested for both in-person attendance and online attendance. Please go to <https://aamt.edu.au/sgm-2024/> to register to attend the meeting. Registrations will close at 5pm (AEST) on Friday 6th September 2024.

An online forum (Zoom) will be held for members to discuss the proposed changes in advance of the meeting. This will be held on Monday 19th August 2024 at 7:30pm (AEST).

Interested members can join this Zoom forum via this link :

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83741266935?pwd=UTkFLjlfDCMxQkQGVtBxAZE355jxys.1>

Allan Dougan

Chief Executive Officer

24th June 2024

### Focus on Maths grant program - Round 3 now open

Our Focus on Maths program funds professional development initiatives for educators in maths pedagogy. We target schools with the greatest need and since launching last September, we have approved eight projects covering most of the states/territories of Australia. Initiatives are tailored to local needs, and ongoing projects include building culturally responsive pedagogy, upskilling learning support staff in numeracy strategies and supporting out-of-field secondary maths teachers to develop mentoring relationships.

Funding Round 3 is now open to applications for projects to start in Term 1 2025. We've revised our application guidelines to clarify the kinds of projects we can support and you can read more on our website [here](#).

The round will close on 30 September 2024. So if you believe your school meets our eligibility guidelines and you have a maths professional learning initiative that you want to implement, start thinking about your application!

### Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mathematics Education

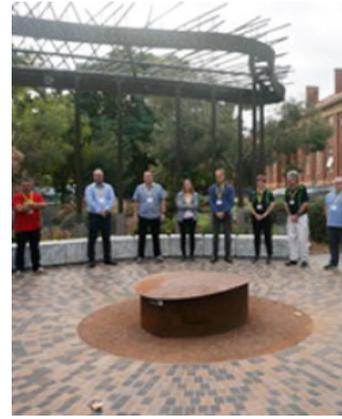


In April, AAMT and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mathematics Alliance (ATSIMA) co-hosted a National Summit at the University of Adelaide, bringing together mathematics leaders from each of our affiliated state and territory mathematics associations of Australia.

The purpose of the Summit was to mobilise the mathematics education community to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education in mathematics. As a first step, all delegates at the Summit created and signed a Commitment Statement, which is being used as a basis to develop Action Plans in each state and territory to improve mathematics outcomes for First Nations students.

This NAIDOC Week (7-14 July 2024), we'll also be featuring resources on our facebook page [here](#) to help 'Keep the fire burning', supporting teachers in celebrating the enduring strength of Indigenous cultures in their mathematics teaching and learning.

You can learn more about this important initiative and read the Commitment Statement on our website.



**[Click here to read the Commitment Statement](#)**

### Conference roundup

Part of the work we do at AAMT is meeting with and learning from teachers, leaders, researchers and other individuals involved in maths education at conferences around the country. This term has been a busy time for conferences!

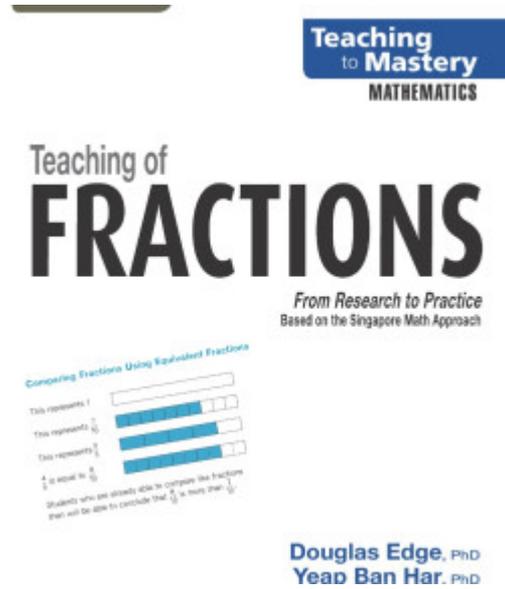
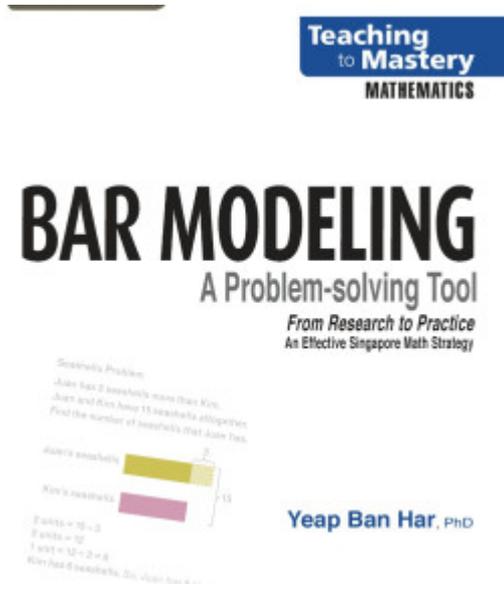
In May, our CEO Allan Dougan presented at Steamposium 24 on Balancing creativity, curriculum and reporting in STEAM. At the end of May, Allan headed to the Mathematical Association of Tasmania's annual conference to talk about building engaging and equitable classrooms for early career teachers and on effective pedagogy in maths classrooms.

July sees Allan and our Education Specialist Denise Halliday in attendance at the Queensland Association of Mathematics Teachers and the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australia conferences on the Gold Coast. There we'll be presenting the Beth Southwell Practical Implication Award to a very worthy recipient. Of course, that's not forgetting ICME-15.

It doesn't stop there, as next term, we'll be heading to Australia's largest festival of education, EduTECH in Melbourne. On 13th August, there are lots of maths education seminars that are free to attend, including Allan talking about the role of authentic data in maths education, so hopefully we'll see you there.

If instead, you would rather attend the full conference, there are sessions led by over 350 inspiring speakers, including keynote Sal Khan and you can get an exclusive 30% discount on your full conference pass by using the code AAMT at checkout: <https://www.terrapinn.com/exhibition/edutech-australia/index.stm>

**Teaching to Mastery**  
Gems from the bookstore



**Bar Modeling A problem-solving Tool: From Research to Practice An effective Singapore Math Strategy**

A professional development book written for mathematics educators who are interested to learn more about bar modeling as a problem-solving tool in mathematics.

Backed by research studies, this book will help educators see how various types of bar models can be used to solve mathematical word problems and learn the techniques of deriving, drawing and manipulating bar models.

With extensive examples, guided questions, and practice problems, this book provides insights into the pedagogy of the model method.

[Click here to order now!](#)

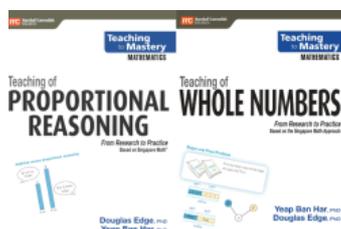
**Teaching of Fractions: From Research to Practice Based on Singapore Math Approach**

Teaching of Fractions provides learning opportunities in both content and pedagogy.

Backed by research studies and learning theories, this book includes mathematical tasks as well as pedagogical ones to help readers link content and pedagogy.

Mathematics educators will find this an invaluable resource to help develop in students a comprehensive understanding of fractions and how fractions relate to whole numbers. and basic operations involving fractions.

[Click here to order now!](#)



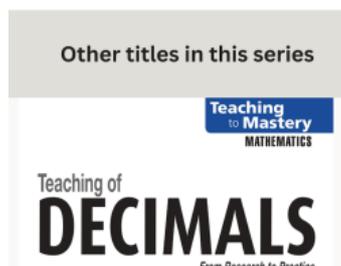
**Other titles in this series**

**Teaching to Mastery - Decimals** helps educators develop in students a comprehensive understanding of decimals in the context of associated place value, fractions, and whole number basic operations.

**Teaching to Mastery - Whole Numbers** helps develop in students a comprehensive understanding of whole numbers and the basic operations.

**Teaching to Mastery - Proportional Reasoning** includes mathematical tasks as well as pedagogical ones to help readers link content and pedagogy

[Click here to explore these titles](#)



**ICME-15 - Come and be counted**



The 15th International Congress on Mathematical Education is coming to Sydney in just a few weeks and we'll be there! ICME-15 gives Australian educators an exciting opportunity to hear from leading practitioners and researchers from around the world, exploring current global trends in maths education research and teaching practices, from early years right through to senior secondary and above. This year marks only the second time that this incredible global mathematics conference has been held in Australia. Running from 7-14 July, it's not too late to register and join the thousands of other mathematics educators and researchers in Sydney's ICC using the link: <https://icme15.org/registration/>.

Several of our Council members and our CEO Allan will be facilitating a discussion group on supporting teachers' development and retention on the Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning. Allan will also be talking about explicit teaching practices on Wednesday with Leanne Robertson from Education Services Australia. Finally we'll be hosting a joint stand in the Exhibition Hall with representatives from many of our associations across the country. If you are heading to ICME-15 drop in to the hall and say hello as we'd love to meet you in person and share more about our work!

### **Join us at the PRIME Workshop Culturally Responsive Mathematics Education**

We're excited to be partnering with four universities from the US and Australia in the Partnerships for Research and Innovations in Mathematics Education (PRIME) project.

Together, we will be hosting a PRIME Workshop on Culturally Responsive Mathematics Education this July, coinciding with ICME-15 and we are seeking teachers to take part in this exciting opportunity.

Are you passionate about fostering equitable learning experiences in maths for all students? Do you work with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander students or students from different language or community backgrounds? Are you interested in learning more and sharing your experiences teaching data science in the maths classroom?

The PRIME Workshop invites you to collaborate, share ideas and learn about culturally responsive maths education alongside fellow educators from the US and Australia.

Event Details:

- When: July 12 - 13, 2024
- Where: ICME-15 Sydney, and virtually via Zoom

A limited number of positions are available to take part in this supportive workshop forum. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your teaching practice and promote inclusive mathematics education! Register your interest for the PRIME Workshop by Wednesday 3 July by completing this EOI: <https://forms.office.com/r/ndrh8rNgKS>

**Tax and super competition now open!**



Are you looking for a fun way to teach high school students about tax and super?

The Australian Taxation Office has announced the opening of this year's Tax, Super + You competition. The competition is open to students in years 7-12 currently enrolled in the Australian education system – including Australian home school students!

It's a great way for high school students to express their creativity while learning essential life skills. Plus, students have a chance to win prizes for themselves and their school.

Get students to start creating and learn valuable life skills now! Competition closes 5.00pm AEST on 27 September 2024.

To find out more visit the [ATO website](#).

## Speak your mind

Teachers are one of the largest groups of professionals who rely on their voice for work and since they use their voice so much, they are also at high risk of developing vocal problems.

Flinders University has approached us as part of a research study, to help them gather the opinions of teachers toward their voice. This information may help improve services and support for teachers and their vocal care.

**Who can participate?** Kindergarten/early education, primary or high school teachers

**What is involved?**

- o Complete a demographic questionnaire (~20 minutes).
- o Attend a focus group with up to 10 participants (~ 60-90 minutes).
- o Read and provide feedback about the themes of the focus group (optional).

**Why participate?**

- o Provide valuable information and your opinions about support for your voice use, which could be used to guide the future development of support services.
- o Hear of other teachers' experiences and perspectives and learn about voice care strategies.

If you are interested in participating, follow the link to the participant information sheet [here](#), and then email [paige.abblitt@flinders.edu.au](mailto:paige.abblitt@flinders.edu.au) to express your interest.

## Copyright Agency Teacher Questionnaire

Copyright Agency is asking for your help by completing a short online questionnaire about materials you have copied and shared with your students in the past 12 months.

By completing the questionnaire you can enter a random draw to win one of five eGift cards from GiftPay worth \$500 each.

The information you provide will help Copyright Agency make copyright payments to writers, artists and publishers of the material you use.

The questionnaire will be live from 1 July 2024 to 15 September 2024 and should take you less than 10 minutes to complete.

Complete the questionnaire before 15 September 2024 to go into the draw!

[Click here to answer the survey](#)

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 **[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

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