



PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

OF THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES, INC.

March

2008

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Calendar 2008

March

- 21 Good Friday
- 27 PAM Inservice, Take a Chance,
Glenwood

April

- 11 Newsletter 3 copy to Editor
- 25 Anzac Day

May

- 2 Mathsearch entries due
- 16 Newsletter 4 copy to Editor
- 17 PAM Inservice: Fun and Games,
Glenmore Park

June

- 9 Queen's Birthday
- 27 Newsletter 5 copy to Editor
- 30 Investigating: Mathematics entry forms
and fees due

July

- 25 Investigating: Mathematics entries due at
MANSW Office

From the President

Here we are, well into Term One 2008, and we find ourselves fully occupied taking care of business.... as usual. To our new members, a special welcome. I know that some of our new members are in their first year of teaching, and I wish them well. As teachers we all need to keep listening out for news about hot topics. For teachers of senior school, one such topic is progress of the Stage 6 suite of new courses; reportedly well into the writing stage with the draft syllabus in schools on 1st May this year.

Two MANSW Forums are planned to collect a host of opinions to pass on to the Office of the Board of Studies. These Forums are taking place at the MANSW 'residence', in the school hall of Kent Road Public school, just 1.5 km south of Macquarie University. There are two separate Forum days, one for General courses and one for the Calculus related courses, both on Saturday afternoons and both several weeks after the release of the draft syllabus in schools. Come and have your say, have your opinions registered, and see how many others share your opinions.

Another topic is National Mathematics Day, 23rd May 2008. This event is popular with mathematics teachers from Early Stage 1 to Stage 6. We use it to raise awareness of Mathematics in the wider community and to have a focus on our teaching and learning for one whole day at school. A range of related activities can be found on the AAMT website.

The Annual HSC and SC Feedback and Advice day, on 23rd February 2008 was well attended as usual. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the many volunteers and to the MANSW office staff who helped to make it a success. Special recognition goes to the presenters who brought their detailed knowledge of the sorts of misconceptions that candidates presented in the 2007 examination. Actual marking schemes remain confidential and this is a requirement of the Office of the Board of Studies. Very special thanks to Greg Murty, who organised the event from start to finish.

Each year when we mention this day our far flung MANSW secondary members wish they too could have the luxury of this detailed knowledge. As I mentioned in the last newsletter we trialled the videotaping of sections of the day and the MANSW executive will make a decision as to whether it is of suitable quality to stand up to editing, production and distribution. I remind members that markers' notes are available on the Board of Studies website, and you will find in those notes a summary of what was said on the Feedback and Advice day.

Who does MANSW really represent? I hear this question from time to time and the answer is most definitely both government and non-government teachers. I am referring to the MANSW website now, where you will find the list of MANSW Executive members (all volunteers). We have 6 teachers from 6 different government schools, 3 teachers from 3 different non-government schools, three academics, and two others not attached to a school or university. Professional officer Bernice Beechey also attends. There will always be a variation in the ratio of government to non-government schools being represented according to the makeup of the executive but this is the current team, and it remains our aim to represent all.

Also in this newsletter please find flyers about our fantastic Annual Conference in Wollongong, where the local staff cater very well for MANSW members. There is also an Primary Newsletter March 2008

advertisement for Investigating: Mathematics, a membership form and Luna Park excursion details. Our PAM Committee have provided information about the next inservice which they've called "Take a Chance". MANSW *e-news* is growing in popularity. If you are not receiving the emails and would like to, it's as simple as providing us with your current email address on your membership renewal. Should your email address change during the year please advise our MANSW office staff.

If you need to contact MANSW about the National Summer School for talented year 11 students, or you want details about Talented Students' Day, or the term 1 competition Mathsearch please consider checking our website. You'll find up to date information waiting for you.

I hope that the rest of Term One 2008 goes according to plan; perhaps I'll see some of you at a MANSW event soon.

DAVID KEANAN BROWN,
President

Primary Program

This Newsletter will reach you very shortly before our first inservice for the year, Take a chance, on Thursday 27 March. If you plan to attend, please hurry with your registration.

We have received offers to host the Term 3 and Term 4 events, and our thanks go to Santa Maria Del Monte (Strathfield) and William Clarke College (Kellyville). Our 2008 program will now include:

Term 2 – 22 May, *Fun and Games: Card games and dice games* at Caroline Chisholm College

Term 3 – 14 August, *Measurement matters* - Santa Maria Del Monte

Term 4 – 30 October, *Linking maths to life* - William Clarke College

Count Me In Too 2008

We have received several requests for *Count Me In Too* training early in 2008. Currently, we have interested schools from the Penrith area, and also the Eastern Suburbs. If your school is interested in registering a school team for *Count Me In Too* training, please contact Diane McPhail for further details (diane.mcphail@optusnet.com.au). The duration and cost of the *Count Me In Too* course have recently been revised. The course will now consist of one full day of initial training and two follow-up workshops each of two hours. The cost will be \$440 per teacher or \$2,200 for a team of six teachers. The course fee will include the provision of essential teacher resources.

DIANE McPHAIL
Primary Program Manager

Member of the Month

This month's lucky winner is Jodie Bennet of Warriewood. Congratulations Jodie, please contact the MANSW Office to claim your book voucher prize.

Premier's Genworth Financial Mathematics Scholarships

Each year, the NSW Government awards a number of *Premier's Teacher Scholarships* to teachers working in any school or TAFE in NSW. Two scholarships, for teachers of Mathematics in primary or secondary schools or TAFE NSW Institutes, of \$10,000 will be awarded in 2008, with one of these specifically designated for a teacher in non-metropolitan NSW. The purpose of the Premier's Teacher Scholarships Program is to promote teaching excellence in NSW by providing travel scholarships to NSW teachers to undertake a study tour overseas or in Australia. In 2008,

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Mathematics is again one of the areas being targeted for these scholarships thanks to the generous support of Genworth Financial. Applications close on 2 May 2008 and must include a detailed study proposal of 1,000 words or less setting out how the proposed study will promote teaching excellence in NSW. For further information, see <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/awards/scholarships/index.htm>

We hope many MANSW members will consider applying.

International Statistical Literacy Competition

So far, students have registered from South Africa, Portugal, Italy, China, Brazil, Argentina, New Zealand, Spain, Mexico, Chile, USA, Colombia, Costa Rica, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Nigeria and Russia - but none yet from Australia! Entry is free and open to students from 10 to 18 years.

Further information and registration for the competition can be found at the competition's web site:
www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/competition



Did you find the choice of sessions at the Conference so great last year that you had to miss some that you would have liked to attend?

Look on the MANSW website www.mansw.nsw.edu.au to see if the presentation notes are available for the sessions you are interested in.

CensusAtSchool is available throughout 2008

Data collection for 2008 is now open for your students to submit their responses to the questionnaire. You can access lots of real, raw data about Australian students! Over 12,000 students are in the database. This provides a wonderful resource of a large database of relevant, up to date data about Australian students, **FREE online**.

Schools can register by completing and returning the Registration Form on the CensusatSchool website. **FIND OUT MORE** at www.abs.gov.au/censusatschool.

2008 MANSW Conference at Novotel, North Wollongong 19-21 September 2008

Remember to put the conference into your school calendar and professional development budget.

Mathematics Education Conferences in 2008

MERGA 31

Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia conference

The theme of the 31st annual MERGA conference, "Navigating currents and charting directions" takes advantage of Brisbane's image as the river city whilst investigating flow of mathematical education research.

Venue: University of Queensland, St Lucia

Dates: June 28 - July 1 2008

Note: MERGA conference dates are earlier than usual to facilitate travel to ICME in

Mexico. There are direct flights from Brisbane to Los Angeles that could bear investigation.

Further details on

<http://addon.edu.au/merga31/>

ICME-11 - International Congress on Mathematical Education

Between 3000 and 4000 professionals in the mathematics education area, from 100 countries will gather in **Monterrey, Mexico, July 6 - 13, 2008**.

The congress will

- Show what is happening in mathematics education worldwide, in terms of research as well as teaching practices
- Inform about the problems of mathematics education around the world
- Learn and benefit from recent advances in mathematics as a discipline

More details, registration forms and call for papers at <http://icme11.org/>

The 57th Korean Meeting of Mathematics Education

Korea will host the 12th International Congress on Mathematical Education (ICME-12) in 2012.

In preparation for ICME-12 the Korea Society of Mathematical Education (KSME) is opening the national meeting to international presenters and participants.

The meeting will be held at Seoul National University on May 16-17, 2008. The conference languages will be English and Korean If you are interested in submitting a paper, written in English for oral delivery at the meeting, or a poster session contact Prof Young H Choe yhchoe1940@yahoo.co.kr for further information.