



# PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

OF THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES, INC.

November  
2008

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## Calendar 2009

### March

26 Primary Inservice *Motivating Measurement* at Holy Cross Primary, Glenwood.

## From the President

The Annual General Meeting was held at the MANSW office in Kent Road, Eastwood on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October. All executive committee members for 2009 were re-elected except for Diane McPhail, Manager of Primary Programs. After many terms of dedicated service we thanked Diane McPhail for her contribution to the work of MANSW. Diane and her colleagues from the PAM committee have been an invaluable team, ensuring that MANSW keeps a focus on the professional development needs of members working in the Primary years. Stepping up to the role of Manager of Primary Programs, we welcomed Cathy Attard back to the Executive after a short break. Cathy was elected to this position for 2009. Another change to MANSW Executive was the switching of roles between Sue Thomson and Sharon London.

I would like to acknowledge again the wonderful efforts of all volunteer members of MANSW, particularly the executive committee

members, editorial committee members, and members who organise regular events. Thank you also to Peter Gould, Manager of Mathematics at the Department of Education and Training, who spoke at our AGM. Peter's talk was inspiring. He drew our attention to special features of Japanese Lesson Study with selected video segments. Thanks also to Bernice Beechey, and Peter and Anne Dinning who work so well together keeping the MANSW office running smoothly, and who put in many extra hours whenever major events such as our conference, or Investigating Maths competition are being planned, implemented and evaluated.

Also at the AGM, I announced the very saddening news that our Professional Officer, Bernice Beechey, will retire from full time employment at the end of this calendar year. We have come to rely on Bernice over the 8 years that she has been employed. She is just the most fantastic Professional Officer we know of. Volunteer positions at MANSW are mostly occupied by full time teachers and academics, and these people have all been supported superbly by the fabulous work of Bernice. She will remain closely associated with MANSW, in fact Bernice will work in a part time capacity next year, to update the history of MANSW. The last time our MANSW history was written was 25 years ago. As we approach the centenary celebration of our association, we are most fortunate that Bernice, with her extensive network of people linked in one way or another to MANSW, will be writing our history.

Feedback from participants of this year's Annual MANSW Conference held at the Novotel at Northbeach, Wollongong indicates that it was our most successful in many years. Participants felt engaged in sessions and left with lesson ideas to discuss and implement back in the classroom. Paul Brock, our keynote speaker was both entertaining and enlightening. His talk, addressed to a packed ballroom, had the audience on the edge of their seats, and he included visuals displayed simultaneously on three floor-to-ceiling screens, which were expertly timed to add humour and reality to his message. The 2009 conference plans are underway, and will be held in Brighton, Sydney. More details from our Conference Committee will be passed on to members in our next newsletter.

Professional development (PD) that reaches the extremities of our state, is a priority. At MANSW we have undertaken to work closely with DET to use video conferencing facilities. As a first trial, during this term 4, 2008, we will present one of the most popular presentations from the Wollongong Conference. A few rural centres will be chosen to pilot this PD opportunity, with plans already to expand in 2009. Teachers who are located near the chosen rural centres will be informed of the opportunity, and we expect a good turnout. In another initiative for 2009 we are working towards having our PD sessions endorsed so that participation is recognised.

I would like to remind all members that there is a very important website we all need to be visiting: <http://www.ncb.org.au>. On this site, we find the very latest information about the National Curriculum. Along with Holly Gyton, Vice President, and Jim Grant, representing the interests of Primary Mathematics members, I participated in a set of round table discussions, thrashing out issues such as the meaning of Numeracy, the place of Working Mathematically, and so on. This event is mentioned on the ncb website, along with plans for the future. I encourage all members to stay informed.

I trust that the last few weeks of term 4 will be productive, and you will glide into a well  
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earned Christmas Holiday. Your next newsletter will arrive in 2009, so on behalf of MANSW let me wish you a safe and relaxing break, ready to return refreshed for another year.

DAVID KEANAN BROWN,  
President

## Primary Program

Our Term 4 metropolitan inservice, *Linking Maths to Life* was held on Thursday 30 October, Week 3, at William Clarke College in Kellyville and was very successful. We thank the school for hosting the session and the presenters for giving up their time to share their skills and knowledge.

Our one-day conference program presented at the CSU Dubbo Campus, on 1 November was a great success with teachers from many schools giving up their Saturday to participate in the event. The theme of the day was 'Motivating and engaging our students so that 'too much' maths is 'never enough'' and the feedback indicated that participants were kept motivated and engaged throughout the day. Again we thank the presenters who were involved, and in particular, Diane McPhail for organising the event and Kay Owens from CSU for her help in the organisation as well.

Our first inservice for 2009 'Motivating Measurement' will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at Holy Cross Primary School, Glenwood and will focus on the key aspects of learning to measure, as described in our K-6 Syllabus. Be sure to mark this date in your diary!

CATHY ATTARD  
Primary Program Manager



## Student Services

### National Mathematics Talent Quest

The National Mathematics Talent Quest is the national version of our NSW project-based competition entitled Investigating Mathematics. The winning entries from the NSW competition are submitted to the national competition for judging. This year, NSW has done very well at the national level, with a large number of winners and merits across the range of categories. In particular, Veronica Sebesfi from Abbotsleigh was awarded the Overall Winner in the Years 5 – 8 Category with a project called “What is the best sized rainwater tank for homes in Sydney?” and Calvin Tam from North Sydney Boys High School was awarded overall winner in the Years 9 – 12 Category with his entry on “How can we send yottabytes across optic fibres?”. Congratulations to Veronica, Calvin, and all of the students receiving awards and participating in this worthwhile competition. Also thank you to the many teachers involved in supporting their students in Investigating Mathematics. The full results list is included at the end of this newsletter.

### Dates for 2009

Now is a good time to write down all of the exciting MANSW student activities in your planning diary for 2009. Activities relevant to Primary students are listed below – note that some dates given here are approximate, with firm dates available on the MANSW website and in the first newsletter of 2009. Be prepared because some of our regular activities have been moved to much earlier in the year, next year.

### Investigating Mathematics

- A project-based competition for individuals, groups and whole classes
- For all school students from Pre-school to Year 12
- Registrations due in early Term 2

- Student projects to be submitted early Term 3 2009 for judging.

### Mathematics at Luna Park

- A day at Luna Park where students work mathematically as they ride.
- For students in Years 5 – 12 and their teachers
- A large range of 2009 dates are available

### Member of the Month

This month's lucky winner is Barbara D'Angelo of Willoughby. Congratulations Barbara, please contact the MANSW Office to claim your book voucher prize.

### Institute recognition for professional activities

Did you know that you can record involvement in professional association activities with the Institute? Activities like presenting or organising a professional development activity, writing a Reflection or Square One article, writing the association's activities for students, judging entries in Investigating maths, or committee membership. If you are a teacher accredited at Professional Competence, these activities can be entered into your professional experience record via the My Account section of the Institute's website at [www.nswteachers.nsw.edu.au](http://www.nswteachers.nsw.edu.au).

### 2008 MANSW Conference



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

Look on the MANSW website [www.mansw.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mansw.nsw.edu.au) to see if the presentation notes are available for the sessions you are interested in.

### 2008 National Mathematics Talent Quest Results (Primary)

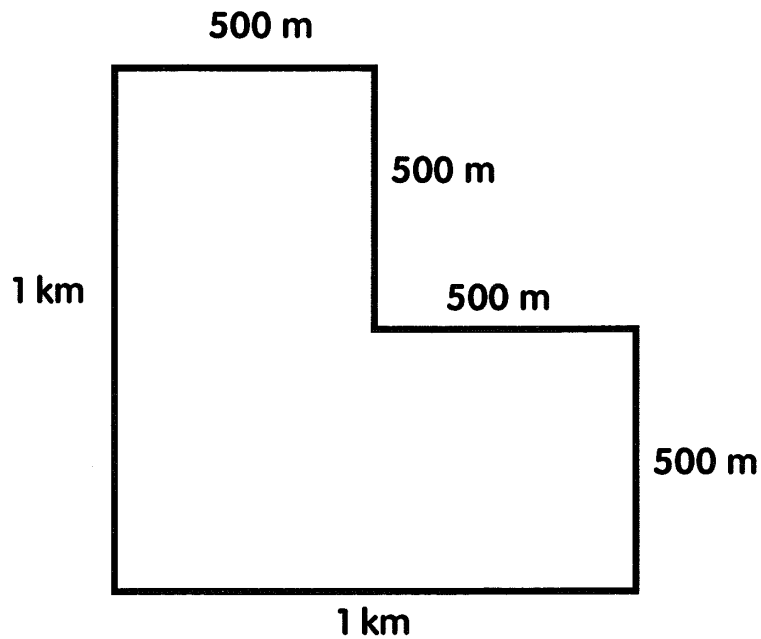
Award	Year	Category	Project Title	Name(s)	School	State
Winner	Prep	Class	Investigating Smarties	KJS	St Joseph's School - Kingswood	NSW
Merit	Prep	Class	How Many Wheels?	Prep 0MR	Serpell Primary School	VIC
Winner	Prep	Group	Clifford's Kennel	Lachlan King, Campbell Woods, Riana Alessi, Bradley Hearn, Austin Dean, Jackson Barker	Jells Park Primary School	VIC
Merit	Prep	Individual	Two weeks with a 5 year old mathematician	Bailey Clements	Immanuel Primary School	SA
Winner	1	Class	Where's the Maths?	Class 14A	Hendon Primary School	SA
Merit	1	Class	Our Healthy Class Party	Room 1	Thornlie Primary School	WA
Merit	1	Group	Mathematics in Healthy Snacks	Clarisse Wong, Zachary Finch, Jonathan Woods, Oskar Jakubowski	Sunrise Christian School - Paradise Campus	SA
Winner	1	Individual	Deal or No Deal	Jack Lee	Burnside Primary School	SA
Merit	1	Individual	Maths In Footy Jumpers	Ned Gentile	St Christophers	VIC
Merit	2	Class	Tank Maths	Room 3	Modbury West Schools	SA
Winner	2	Individual	Taking Maths Steps	Andrew Catley	Carey Baptist Grammar - Donvale	VIC
Merit	2	Individual	Maths Party	Asimina Gretsas	Burnside Primary School	SA
Winner	3	Class	Caring for our Environment	Mrs Kelly's Maths Group	St Peters Collegiate Girls School	SA
Overall Winner K-4	3	Individual	Little Athletics - Could I Be A World Record Holder?	Ally Rose Ogden	Carey Baptist Grammar - Donvale	VIC
Merit	3	Individual	Ballarat Camping Trip	Cassandra Ellis	Galilee Catholic School	SA
Winner	4	Class	How Does Your Garden Grow?	Grade 4C	Darley Primary School	VIC
Merit	4	Group	Puppy Diary	Ellie Williams, Emily Braggs, Georgia Naughton	Burnside Primary School	SA
Merit	4	Group	Queenie, One Elephants Story	Sophia Manalran, Blake Lloyd, Gurkrat Sidhu, Shaun McManus,	St Joseph's School Kingswood	NSW

				Anne Lovegrove, Jack Criss		
Winner	4	Individual	Maths and Beauty	Imogen Gerraty	Carey Baptist Grammar Junior School - Kew	VIC
Merit	4	Individual	Food: Weighing on my mind	Emma Cheney	Burnside Primary School	SA
Merit	4	Individual	Flags	Sarah Desmond	Marmion Primary School	WA
Merit	4	Individual	Painting Our House	Annalise Loveridge	St Joseph's School Kingswood	NSW
Merit	5	Class	Maths and Dance	Room 12	Northfield Primary School	SA
Winner	5	Group	Symmetrical Time	Bronwen Anderson, Joel Bendotti, Heather Kostiw- McFarlane	All Saints' College (Junior School)	WA
Winner	5	Individual	Sir Cumference and The Mathematical Quest of Maximus Radius	Cristian Stella	Carey Baptist Grammar - Donvale	VIC
Merit	5	Individual	Braille	Alannah Maclaurin	Presbyterian Ladies' College	WA
Merit	5	Individual	Dried Apple Business	Danielle Keyser	Sunrise Christian School - Paradise Campus	SA
Winner	6	Class	Humpty Who? HUMPTY DOO?	Yr 6 Piper	Humpty Doo Primary School	NT
Winner	6	Class	Chips & Lollies	Year 6 Maths Group	St Peters Collegiate Girls School	SA
Winner	6	Group	Council Waste Collection	Kate Worley, Heidi Grace	Sunrise Christian School - Fullarton Campus	SA
Overall Winner 5-8	6	Individual	What is the Best Size Rainwater Tank for Homes in Sydney?	Veronica Sebesfi	Abbotsleigh	NSW
Winner	6	Individual	Domino Magic Square	Samuel Alsop	Frederick Irwin Anglican School	WA
Merit	6	Individual	Deal or No Deal	Audrey Lim	Carey Baptist Grammar Junior School - Kew	VIC
Merit	6	Class	Soccer! Soccer! Soccer!	Yr 6 Watson	Humpty Doo Primary School	NT
Merit	6	Group	TASS	Tessa Ferreira, Alexandra Gnaden, Serena Ong, Sally Gilfillan	Methodist Ladies College	WA
Merit	6	Individual	2008 International Year of the Potato	Emily Prout	Family Entry	SA

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# Problem of the Week

The Dunk family own a property in the shape of an L as shown.



The property is to be shared between the four children so that each receives the same shape and area of land.

How can they do this?

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