



PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

OF THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES, INC.

**October
2007**

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Vale Lindsay Grimison

It saddens us greatly to announce the passing of our friend Lindsay Grimison on 3rd September 2007, aged 60 years. Lindsay was a gentle, caring man who faced a long battle with cancer for over 17 years. His courage, his determination and his strong faith throughout this struggle will be remembered by all those who knew him.

Lindsay was a highly respected mathematics educator – passionate, enthusiastic and dedicated to his students. Most recently, he held the position of Senior Lecturer in secondary Mathematics Education at The University of Sydney. Throughout his career, Lindsay was motivated by a desire to see everyone – teachers and students alike – achieve all they could in their mathematical teaching and learning.

His work at the University of Sydney saw him working with many cohorts of secondary mathematics teachers, who all speak of his kindness, his generosity and his compassion. Over the years, Lindsay was also involved in other projects, such as a report for the Board of Studies supporting the use of mathematical investigations in a previous Stage 5 course. He also edited a number of publications for both pre-service teachers, such as *Teaching Secondary School Mathematics: Theory into Practice* and also publications for school

students, such as various textbooks and mathematical dictionaries.

Over the years, Lindsay was a mathematics teacher who was well known for his commitment and passion for Mathematics education. He made a significant contribution to MANSW, particularly as President in 1985-86, and we will all miss him terribly. MANSW extends its deepest sympathy to Lindsay's family, friends and colleagues.

Calendar 2007

October

- 18 Annual General Meeting, MANSW Office
- 27 National Mathematics Talent Quest judging at MANSW Office

From the President

Welcome back to Term 4! I hope that you had a relaxing, refreshing holiday and are ready for the challenges of our last term for 2007.

The 2007 MANSW Annual Conference at Port Macquarie was held over the recent holidays and was an outstanding success. There were more than 100 sessions presented over the three

days of the long weekend, over 1000 registrations and many exhibitors illustrating the latest resources available to assist teachers in the classroom. Congratulations and sincere thanks to our conference convenor, Margaret Bigelow, and her team – their planning and organisation ensured it was a high quality professional development opportunity for all who attended. We are also particularly grateful to our workshop presenters who are so generous with their time. As usual, conference papers will be published in the combined edition of *Reflections* and *Square One* at the beginning of 2008. Next year our Annual Conference will return to Wollongong in September and I hope to see many of you there!

In early September, I had the pleasure of attending the presentation of the awards for *Investigating: Mathematics* this year. This year the entries were of a particularly high standard, presented in many different formats, such as models, posters, original games, technology entries and films. It was lovely to meet some of our young mathematicians at the presentation ceremony and to talk to them about their projects. Congratulations again to all the winners in each category. These were announced in the last newsletter and will be submitted in the National Mathematics Talent Quest later in the year. We wish these entrants well in the national competition.

I would like to remind everyone that the MANSW Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 18th October and all current members are invited to attend. It is a great opportunity to meet the volunteers who run the association on your behalf and to have your say. Our Annual Report also provides significant detail about the activities and services provided by MANSW for all members and I hope you take the time to read this important document. I would also encourage anyone who would like to become more involved in the association to consider joining one of our many sub-committees. It is a professionally rewarding experience that gives you the opportunity to take part in many of your association's activities and we would encourage anyone interested to contact the MANSW office.

Sadly, this is my last 'From the President' column as my term concludes at the Annual General Meeting. It has been such an honour to hold this position and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the MANSW Executive for their energy, their enthusiasm, their dedication and their support. It has been a pleasure to work with you all. I would also like to thank our great team at the office – Peter, Ann and Bernice – for all that they do for MANSW and its members. Over the last two years, I have thoroughly enjoyed this role and am proud of all that we have achieved for mathematics education in NSW. Interesting times lie ahead for mathematics educators over the next few years and while many things may seem uncertain, I am confident that MANSW will continue to do what it has always done best - to promote quality mathematics education for all.

Lastly, I hope Term 4 is kind to you and I look forward to talking with you at a MANSW event soon!

HOLLY GYTON,
President

Member of the Month

This month's lucky winner is Liz Bambrick of Hamlyn Terrace. Congratulations Liz, please contact the MANSW Office to claim your book voucher prize.

Pamphlet News

Please note that last month we sent out a new version of Pamphlet No. 67 to replace the original, which was missing page 5. This completes the collection of *Mathematics Fun Days* Pamphlets.

Primary Program: Term 4 Inservice

Fraction Action at John Purchase PS (Cherrybrook)

Thursday 1st November 2007

Teachers know that many of their students have a fragile understanding of the concept of fractions. This understanding is placed under great pressure when computation with fractions is taught in upper primary mathematics lessons. This inservice will emphasise the importance of developing a strong conceptual understanding of fractions, based on identifying, quantifying, drawing and discussing fractions in everyday contexts. Ed Lewis will present the plenary session, to be followed by workshops aimed at each Stage.

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@det.nsw.edu.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

REMINDER: Annual General Meeting
MANSW Annual General Meeting will be held
at the MANSW Office
7:00 pm Thursday 18 October 2007
Guest Speaker: Dr Eric Sowe *The beguiling
ways of bad Statistics*

Summer School for Teachers

The Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, has announced the successful providers of Summer Schools and has called for teacher applications for the 2008 Australian Government *Summer Schools for Teachers*.

"Up to 1000 of Australia's best teachers will have the opportunity to attend an all expenses paid ten day residential course to enhance their training in one of five areas, Literacy and Numeracy, English, Mathematics, Science and Australian History."

Applications for the Summer Schools close on 17 October 2007. For details and application forms go to www.summerschools.dest.gov.au.

FREE Resources

The science/maths team at the *Centre for learning Innovation* have just started an exciting initiative to support maths and science students and teachers called *Science talk*. We will be involving real scientists and mathematicians - some young, some prominent, some young and prominent - in interesting kids in the opportunities that studies in science and mathematics have to offer.

If you would like a sneak preview of the website (very early days), containing some science and maths resources suitable for a whole range of students, go to www.cli.nsw.edu.au/cli/sciencetalk/index.htm.

- Each week 2 new mathematics problems with detailed worked solutions for use by senior mathematics students are posted on www.chemas.com

- FREE 48 page Olympic Maths workbook "In the Running for the Olympics"

Excellent for year 6 / year 7 mathematics classes in preparation for Beijing 2008. To receive the workbook send an email to chemas@chemas.com giving teacher name and school mailing address.