

**Vale**  
**Beth Southwell**



It saddens us greatly to announce the passing of our dear friend Dr Beth Southwell on 1 August 2007. She was well known to many generations of MANSW members for her commitment and passion for Mathematics education.

Elizabeth Gwen Southwell was first and foremost a woman committed to Mathematics education. She was a passionate, talented teacher of Mathematics, who started her career at Penrith High School in the early 1950s. In her 77 years, Beth's adventures in mathematics education are too numerous to count, but these diverse experiences took her from her childhood in the Tamworth area, to her research in Papua New Guinea, her Ph.D. studies in London, her work throughout South-east Asia and more recently to her students

at UWS. Her research ranged across a number of areas including problem-solving in mathematics, the impact of beliefs and attitudes on mathematics learning, and teacher professional development. Throughout her career Beth was driven by her desire to see everyone—teachers and students alike—achieve all they could in their mathematical teaching and learning.

Always the first to put up her hand to help, Beth had an active involvement in many different professional associations over the years including MANSW, PAM, MERGA, AAMT, and the Australian College of Educators, to name just a few. She was President of MANSW in 1983–84 and was made a Life Member in 1992. On our current executive, she held the position of PAM Liaison officer, often providing the quiet, calm voice of experience and wisdom when we needed it most.

At the MANSW annual conference in Leura in 2001, we celebrated Beth's 50th year in Mathematics education—a simply extraordinary achievement. The cover of that particular edition of *Reflections* (Vol. 27, No. 1) visually records the conference dinner and our very own 'Queen Beth' in her golden jubilee robe.

Many teachers will remember fondly her willingness to give of her time to provide professional learning experiences for mathematics teachers—both preservice teachers and those already in the profession—always with enthusiasm, a smile, and those softly spoken words of encouragement.

Beth was quite simply a wonderful woman and a mentor to many of us. Many will say that their professional lives have been touched by Beth and we will all miss her terribly. MANSW extends its deepest sympathy to her family, friends, and colleagues.

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<b>Calendar, Terms 3 and 4</b>	
<b>August</b>	
29	Investigating: Mathematics Awards Ceremony, MANSW Office
<b>September</b>	
30	Annual Conference, Brighton-le-Sands
<b>October</b>	
18	Annual General Meeting, MANSW Office

## From the President

The highlight of Term 3 is nearly here once again: the MANSW Annual Conference! Margaret Bigelow and her team have assembled a fantastic conference program for Panthers Port Macquarie from 30 September to 2 October, with many great keynote addresses and workshops. We hope you will join us for the River Cruise on Sunday night and of course the infamous conference dinner (complete with a Jungle Theme) on Monday night. Registrations will close on Friday 31 August, or earlier if the conference is full, so there is no time to waste! As always, all the information you need is on the MANSW website.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week is only a few weeks away, but it is not too late to involve your students in some of the exciting mathematical projects being held this year. AAMT has organized a number of free activities for students of all ages that will occur during the week 3–9 September. Whether it is the Reach For the Stars project or Let's Be Fair, a new initiative in 2007, we would love all our students to focus on their numeracy during this week. Visit <http://nlw.aamt.edu.au> today for more information, including online registration.

Can you help us out? Increasingly, MANSW is called upon to provide written submissions to a range of projects, conducted by private industry as well as both state and federal governments, often on a rather short timeline. To assist in the collation and preparation of these submissions, we are looking for a pool of MANSW members who might be able to work on these important projects on a casual basis. If you have a little spare time on your hands, a working knowledge of MANSW, good IT skills and strong written communication skills, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the MANSW office for further information and to let us know you're interested!

I would also like to remind you that the MANSW Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 18th October and all current members are invited to attend. Our guest speaker this year is Dr Eric Sowe, who will speak about The Beguiling Ways of Bad Statistics. The AGM is a great opportunity to meet the volunteers who run MANSW on your behalf and to have your say. I would also encourage anyone who would like to become more involved in the Association to consider standing

for a position on the executive committee. It is a professionally rewarding experience that gives you the opportunity to take part in many of your association's activities and we would welcome nominations from any current members.

The Federal Government has provided more than \$1.1 million in prize money for the 2008 National Awards for Quality Schooling. These awards recognize and reward teachers, principals, support staff and schools who, in their different ways, make an exceptional contribution to their school community and to outcomes for students. There are seven categories of award including Excellence by a Teacher, Excellence in Teacher Leadership, Excellence by a Beginning Teacher, Excellence by a Principal, Excellence by a Support Staff Member, Excellence in School Improvement and Excellence in Family-School Partnerships

We would encourage all members to consider nominating your colleagues and/or schools for these awards. MANSW would love to see the hard work, dedication, commitment and professionalism of the NSW mathematics teaching community being recognized in the list of winners. Applications close on 15 October, 2007 and further information is available in the awards section of the Teaching Australia website:

<http://www.teachingaustralia.edu.au>

I hope Term 3 is kind to you and I look forward to chatting with you at the MANSW conference at the end of the term - if not before!

HOLLY GYTON

<p align="center"><b>Annual General Meeting</b> MANSW Annual General Meeting will be held at the MANSW Office Thursday 18 October 2007 7.00 p.m.</p>
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## Investigating: Mathematics

We were pleased to receive so many wonderful entries and to see that so many students enjoyed investigating an area of mathematics that interested them. All first-place and second-place winners will be displayed at the Award Ceremony at Kent Road Public School at 4 p.m. on Tuesday 29 August 2006. The full list of awards is printed in this newsletter.

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## Items of Interest

### FREE 2007 Financial Literacy Teacher Development Workshops

The Commonwealth Bank Foundation has engaged the Australian Curriculum Studies Association to provide free one-day workshops across the country to provide teachers with the knowledge, resources, and ideas to deliver innovative financial literacy programs for their students. The Sydney workshop will be on Wednesday 12 September at Citigate Central Sydney. For further information see the MANSW website

[www.mansw.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mansw.nsw.edu.au)

in the What's New area.

### FREE Resource for Mathematics and Science Teachers

The science–mathematics team at the Centre for Learning Innovation has just started an initiative to support mathematics and science students and teachers called *Science Talk*. It will involve real scientists and mathematicians—some young, some prominent, some young and prominent. If you would like a sneak preview of the website, go to [www.cli.nsw.edu.au/cli/sciencetalk/index.htm](http://www.cli.nsw.edu.au/cli/sciencetalk/index.htm). It contains some science and mathematics resources suitable for a whole range of students.

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## Mathematical Olympiad

Australian Mathematical Olympiad Competitions (AMOC) NSW EXTENSION PROGRAMS. Terms 3 and 4 in 2007.

This year, because the results of contests such as the AMC for the Westpac awards, AIMO, etc. are appearing later than in previous years, there is a difficulty in identifying potential participants in time for them to join AMOC NSW Extension activities.

Schools are invited to encourage outstanding, interested students in Years 8 and 9 to apply for entry to the AMOC Extension programs. The number of places is limited by the availability of experienced markers. Years 8 and 9 are the most suitable new entries though really outstanding Year 10 students are encouraged to apply.

Contact person. Geoff Ball at University of Sydney, email: [geoffb@maths.usyd.edu.au](mailto:geoffb@maths.usyd.edu.au).

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### Member of the Month

This month's lucky winner is Bruce Llewellyn of Murwillumbah. Congratulations, please contact the MANSW Office to claim your book-voucher prize.

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**Copy for Newsletter No. 7 is due by 21/9.  
Publication date is 8/10.**

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### Are you registered yet for the MANSW Annual Conference at Port Macquarie?

Registrations will close when the conference is full, so if you haven't registered yet, put it on the top of your To Do list. This year our keynote speakers are Professor Geoff Masters and Dr Rosemary Callingham. See the enclosed brochure for more conference details, including a registration form. Be sure to register and book your accommodation to avoid disappointment! All of the presentation synopses are available on the MANSW website so that you can see the wide range of topics addressed. The draft program for the conference is also now available on the website: [www.mansw.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mansw.nsw.edu.au)

**30 September, 1, 2 October**  
**Port Macquarie**

*We hope to see you there*

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**INVESTIGATING: MATHEMATICS 2007 RESULTS**

<i>Award</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Investigation Title</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Name(s)</i>
First	Class	K	Architects at work—How can we work as a team to re-design our classroom?	Santa Sabina College	Kindergarten Niland
Merit	Small Group	K	Busy Ants—Do ants come out of their nests according to the weather?	Mount Lewis Infants' School	Matthew Proskurin, Hussein Baddah, Jacob Moussa, John Kim
Merit	Class	2	Don't be a drip! How much water is wasted from a dripping tap?	Mount Lewis Infants' School	2KT
Merit	Class	2	Can you trust a shadow?	Santa Sabina College	Year 2 Wellington
Merit	Small Group	2	Paddlicious	Loquat Valley School	Jasmine Bal, Charlotte Hatton, Lucy Scutts, Jenna Shreere, Elaine Turnbull
First	Small Group	4	Food drive for Penrith Kitchen	St Joseph's Primary School	Eliza Yau, Michael Tselepis, Sienna Grady, Jaycob Turner, Rachana Deshpande, Raghavender Srinivas
First	Indiv.	5	Popcorn problems that pop-up in life	Balmain Public School	Ella Spear
Second (eq.)	Indiv.	5	What do you do after school?	Abbotsleigh	Michaela Wong
Second (eq.)	Indiv.	5	Half empty or half full.	Abbotsleigh	Clare Offord
Merit	Indiv.	5	Healthy junk food	Abbotsleigh	Selena Liu
Merit	Small Group	5	Is your jump perfect?	Abbotsleigh	Natalie Ho, Jessica Langley, Kim Bunis, Jessica Lau
Merit	Small Group	5	On average, how much money does a subscriber to pay TV waste on advertisements per hour?	Abbotsleigh	Caitlin McCartney, Jessica Ledger
First	Indiv.	6	A comparison of CFL and incandescent lighting	Balmain Public School	Priyanka Banerjee
Second (eq.)	Indiv.	6	Computer usage at home and for leisure.	Abbotsleigh	Elizabeth Sheahan
Second (eq.)	Indiv.	6	Ideal pencil case	Abbotsleigh	Shannon Brass
Merit	Indiv.	6	Pest detective	The Hills Grammar School	Karla Hart
Merit	Indiv.	6	Evaporation experiment	The Hills Grammar School	Alexander Vince
Merit	Indiv.	6	What is the best dog for older children?	Abbotsleigh	Alison Lee
First	Small Group	6	Children of St Joseph's: busy after-school hours.	St Joseph's Primary School	Callan Grady, Nicholas Tselepis, Umaimah Nizami, Sarah Cooling, Sami Joshi, Emily Ling
Merit	Small Group	6	Fashion fever	Abbotsleigh	Tiffany Cheng, Emily Langford
Merit	Small Group	6	The truth about soft drinks.	Abbotsleigh	Rosalind Berry, Anya Premaratna, Alycia Robertson, Grace Patterson

<i>Award</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Investigation Title</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Name(s)</i>
First	Class	7	Math-A-Mysteries	PLC Sydney	7 X
Second	Class	7	Shapes	Burwood Girls' High	7 A
Merit	Class	7	The Mathematics of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.	Kincoppal Rose Bay	7 ADV
First	Indiv.	7	The maths of building your dream home.	St Pius X College Chatswood	Jarrod Ballesty
Second	Indiv.	7	The maths about alexander rath.	St Pius X College Chatswood	Alexander Rath
First	Small Group	7	How many applications of Lipgloss does the average Yr 7 Bethany student apply and how long do they spend doing it?	Bethany College, Kogarah Campus	Verina Galdas, Frangia Najem, Cindy Tan
Second	Small Group	7	A mathematical journey of disasters.	St Ursula's College	Alysse Mak, Madeline Fisher, Naomi Mansel, Rebecca Gribble, Maryanne Daher
Merit	Small Group	7	Which sport burns the most kilojoules at Bethany?	Bethany College, Kogarah Campus	Emily Pullen, Natalie Murray, Ariana Maric, Patty Karanikolas, Ysabel Pasia
Merit	Small Group	7	Maths in playing Pool.	St Pius X College Chatswood	Jacob Burrows, James Beneng
Merit	Small Group	7	The Rise and Fall of Petrol.	St Pius X College Chatswood	Renzo Balboa, Hugo Loffhagen, Gaan Perera
First	Class	8	Trendy Maths	PLC Sydney	8X
Second	Class	8	'Alice in Wonderland—Uncut'	Tara Anglican School	8MAT1
Merit	Class	8	A to sit.	Canley Vale High	8M1
Merit	Class	8	Applying the past to the present: Who's bridge is it anyway?	Wagga Wagga High	8EEE
Merit	Class	8	How much air is in our school hall?	Burwood Girls' High	8B
First	Indiv.	8	The nuts and bolts of the backbone of a skateboard rider.	Hunters Hill High - Home School	Luke Shakespeare
Second	Indiv.	8	Is mathematics a successful tool for managing a healthy weight?	St Ursula's College	Nadin Azzam
Merit	Indiv.	8	Walking and maths.	St Ursula's College	Sarah Lansdown
First	Small Group	8	Has maths enhanced thorpedo?	St Ursula's College	Emily Booth, Caitlin Ethell
Merit	Small Group	8	Hit and run—crime scene.	St Ursula's College	Jamee Klapsogiannis, Katherine Chahoud
Merit	Small Group	8	Spaces in space	Arden Anglican School	Sophie Carrington, Tallulah Waterson, Sarah Campbell, Matthew Mitchell
First	Indiv.	9	What is the most cost effective use of labour to move irrigation handlines?	Loreto Normanhurst	Sophie Payten
Merit	Indiv.	9	Share-market game	Marian Catholic College	Paul Sartor
Merit	Indiv.	9	As time drips by (The PIP of a drip)	Hunter Valley Grammar	Conrad Bond
Merit	Indiv.	9	The power of one.	Hunter Valley Grammar	Cameron Marshall
Merit	Indiv.	9	What are the costs for a teenager with cerebral palsy?	Loreto Normanhurst	Stephanie Thomson
Second	Indiv.	9	You do the maths.	Loreto Normanhurst	Dorsa Banihashemi
First	Small Group	9	Superman v. Captain Marvel—who is more realistic?	Loreto Normanhurst	Hannah Panizzutti, Olivia Ell

<i>Award</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Investigation Title</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Name(s)</i>
Second	Small Group	9	Is there a relationship between speed, number of steps, and horse's gait?	Loreto Normanhurst	Michelle Whitford, Charlotte Iverach
Merit	Small Group	9	What mathematics is involved in human posture?	Loreto Normanhurst	Courtney Moses, Selina Foo
Merit	Small Group	9	Purchasing a franchise: Boost Juice Bars	Marian Catholic College	George Harriman, James Carney
First	Small Group	10	Global warming—Are we skating on thin ice?	St Joseph's Catholic College	Sarah Moore, Grace Cooper, Priyanka Singh, J. Thompson-Jones