



Welcome to the newsletter of the Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT). Our vision at AMT is that all young Australians have the opportunity to realise their intellectual potential in mathematics and informatics. Through this newsletter we want to provide teachers with inspiration and resources for the classroom and highlight the endless possibilities and creativity of mathematics and informatics.

2015 AMC and MCYA Challenge and Enrichment

The Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank will be held this year on Thursday 30 July. It is not too late to [enter](#) students and we encourage all schools to enter students in this fun competition.

To prepare students for the AMC, the AMT offers a variety of materials for training and practice. Our online [bookshop](#) offers past paper sets and books with 7 years worth of papers and solutions.

Online preparation tools include practice questions and the [GetSet AMC](#) courses. The GetSet AMC courses are available

at a discount price when schools enter students into the AMC at the same time as purchasing GetSetAMC.

All these materials are valuable resources for preparing students for the AMC but are also very beneficial for general classroom activities and discussion.

The [Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians \(MCYA\)](#) is a staged program designed to help teachers motivate, stimulate, encourage and develop mathematically interested students in Years 3 to 10. The MCYA is an ideal program for extension studies and for students who would benefit from greater challenge.

Both Challenge and Enrichment are still taking [entries](#).

CAT Results

The CAT was conducted on 24 March and over 2000 students from over 100 schools sat the online option.

Whilst things ran smoothly for most schools, there were a number of technical issues which impacted on some individuals and schools. These sometimes related to the entry process and the provision of access codes to the competition. Obviously there needs to be some security around competition access but some schools found this problematic. Other issues related to the competition experience itself. We are trying to ensure that the competition environment works on all devices using a variety of internet browsers and there were some devices and browsers which proved more problematic than others. We also thanks our test schools and teachers completing the CAT online survey.

With NAPLAN going online in the not too distant future, and other competitions already experimenting with online formats, we know that this is an important development for us and we appreciate the patience and

feedback of those schools that did experience problems. With that feedback, we are confident that these issues can be overcome and that there will continue to be an important place for online competitions within the Trust.

A further 5000 students took the pen and paper version of the competition. The new division for Upper Primary students was well received by schools with approximately 800 students entered. We are encouraged by the growth of this competition and believe it will continue to grow.

Results and solutions to this years CAT can be found on the AMT website at www.amt.edu.au/informatics/cat-results/.

GetSet CAT and GetSet AMC

[GetSet CAT and GetSet AMC](#) are online courses that were introduced over the last year to provide training for both the CAT and AMC competitions.

The GetSet courses are purchased by subscription, giving the buyer 6 months access from the time of purchase while the CAT and AMC competitions are one day events requiring separate entry.

While we encourage schools to enter both GetSet and the

CAT or AMC, we want to clear up any confusion there may be in regard to them.

Some schools have purchased the GetSet course thinking they have entered either the CAT or AMC and vice versa. If you have entered students into GetSet courses or the CAT or AMC, we recommend you check your entry carefully to ensure you are enrolled in the correct event. If you find there is an error, please contact the AMT office by [email](#) and we will correct any mistakes.

Olympiad Training Schools

During April some of the nation's brightest students were invited to attend selection schools for the international Olympiads. There were 26 students who participated in the AMOC Selection School which focuses on mathematics. A team of six were chosen to compete at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO). There were 18 students invited to attend the AIOC Selection School to determine the four team members to represent Australia at the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI). These two teams along with four teams from various disciplines of

science will be announced by the Minister for Education and Training, The Hon Christopher Pyne on June 15 at Parliament House.

The IMO will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 4 to 16 July. Further details can be found at the official IMO 2015 website at www.imo2015.org/.

The IOI will be held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from July 26 to 2 August. Further details can be found at the official website at www.ioinformatics.org/index.shtml.

AMT Professional Learning

We are about to launch a range of professional learning opportunities for teachers. These will include workshops which help teachers understand how to use some of the AMT's enrichment materials, along with workshops on mathematical content and/or good mathematics pedagogy. Workshops will be offered at central venues, or, by request, a presenter will come out and work with a particular school or cluster of schools. We have trained and experienced presenters in each state and territory. All attendees will receive certification outlining Australian Professional Learning Standards.

Presenters are working on a voluntary basis, but we will make a small charge of \$30 per participant for resources, refreshments and administrative costs. If presenters have

to travel to a school, travel costs may be added.

The current list of available workshops is:

- Introduction to MCYA Challenge stage
- In depth study of MCYA Enrichment books (primary)
- In depth study of MCYA Enrichment books (secondary)
- Introduction to algorithmic thinking
- Keeping problem solving at the centre
- Constructing a school enrichment program
- Convergent and divergent thinking
- Algebra as story telling

Keep an eye on the AMT website for more details of this exciting new initiative.

Program Director: Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (0.2 FTE)

In 2015/2016 for the first time the Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) and Australian Science Innovations (ASI) will be jointly establishing and running a national program to inspire and challenge 60 high achieving girls in years 8, 9 and 10 in science, technology, engineering and maths. The purpose of the program is to identify talented students from under-represented groups and promote their interest in pursuing STEM pathways. The students will participate in a residential program held during either December or January, with a follow-up session in July, supported by a one-on-one mentoring in the period between the residential schools.

The Program Director will establish the program and

manage and coordinate its operation. Reporting to the Executive Directors of AMT and ASI, you will be responsible for recruiting and managing your team of staff, organising a teaching curriculum for the residential components of the program, and working with the mentoring consultant to establish a six-month mentoring program for each of the girls. You will be supported by a program manager who will work closely with you and manage all the logistics and administration associated with the program. The successful applicant will be appointed on a part-time basis (0.2 FTE) for a two-year period.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Australian Museum Science Festival

AMT will participate in this year's Australian Museum Science Festival (AMSF), the nation's largest and most diverse science program, during National Science Week. During the three-week festival, leading science institutions and prestigious universities partner with the Australian Museum (Sydney) to inspire future generations of scientists and educate the wider community.

This collaboration creates a unique and engaging program which works towards creating a more scientifically literate Australian community.

From 3-21 August primary and secondary school groups can take part in hands on workshops and exciting science displays and presentations at the Australian Museum. The AMSF provides cutting-edge interactive

experiences that complement curriculum subjects such as biology, physics, mathematics and chemistry, and encourage upcoming generations to get excited about the science they encounter every day. This year the AMSF will include community events, night events, dedicated over 7s day and video conferencing options. For more details and to book online go to www.amsciencefestival.net.

CommBank Teaching Awards

Would \$10,000 help your financial learning program? The CommBank Teaching Awards recognise and reward teachers from schools across Australia who are making an outstanding contribution to developing the essential

money management skills of their students. Applications open on 11 May 2015 and more information can be found at www.teachingawards.com.au/.

