continued from previous page

confidence and competence to make smart decisions about money. Each year our facilitators go on the road to deliver workshops to schools in up to 200 rural and regional locations around Australia. In 2013 we will teach 275,000 students, from primary schools to TAFE colleges esential money management skills. We do this for free and in consultation with the education community to make sure there is pure educative value – not bank marketing. As far as we know, this is the largest face to face financial literacy program in the world.

According to Vanessa Nolan-Woods, General Manager Schools and Not for Profit Sector Banking, becoming the principal sponsor of the Australian Mathematics Competition is a natural fit for Commonwealth Bank’s focus on helping young Australians develop their financial literacy. “We are proud to be associated with the Australian Maths Competition, Mathematics is central to understanding finance and smart money management is a crucial skill to prepare students to be secure, successful adults.”

The Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) runs a number of competitions for all levels of students to challenge and encourage them in the understanding of mathematics and informatics (computer science).

Entry invitations for the 2013 Australian Mathematics Competition sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank (AMC), MCYA Challenge and Enrichment stages, Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad (AIMO), Australian Informatics Competition (AIC) and Australian Statistics Project Competition (available to Australian schools only) were mailed to schools in January. Information regarding the other open competitions will be sent to schools when appropriate.

Schools have the option to enter online or by mail but online entry is AMT’s preferred method. Login details for online entry were included with the entry invitation. Schools are able to add and review their competition entries and pay by EFT, credit card or cheque.

School passwords are updated each year for security reasons. Please contact us at mail@amt.edu.au if you do not have your login details.

The advertised dates for entry to all AMC competitions are recommended dates only. We will always accept entries after the advertised date provided there is time for the competition materials to reach your school. We would prefer a single complete entry from your school even if it is after the recommended date, as multiple mailings can be more costly and disruptive to our logistical processes.

Each school will also be able to access its results online later this year.

The table below shows all the open competitions for 2013 and their respective dates. More information about any of these competitions can be found on our website www.amt.edu.au/events.html. A wide range of publications are also available from our online bookshop including past AMC papers for classroom use. These are valuable tools for preparing students for the competitions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Competition Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCYA Challenge Stage</td>
<td>March - June 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCYA Enrichment Stage</td>
<td>April - October 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Informatics Competition</td>
<td>Thursday 9 May 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Mathematics Competition sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank</td>
<td>Thursday 1 August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad</td>
<td>Thursday 15 August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Informatics Olympiad</td>
<td>Thursday 5 September 2013</td>
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A number of award ceremonies were held last year for medallists and prize winners in the various Maths and Informatics competitions run by the Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT). The presentations were well attended by students, parents and teachers and are a mark of the keenness of students to take part in AMC competitions and programs. Awards were presented for the Australian Informatics Competition (AIC), the Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad (AIMO) and the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC).

The AMC medals were invited to a function in Melbourne at Government House where the Hon Marilyn Warren, AC, Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, presented the medals.

After the presentations guests and award winners were invited to a lunch hosted by the Commonwealth Bank where they announced their sponsorship of the AMC, Vanessa Nolan-Woods, General Manager, Not for Profit Sector Banking at the Commonwealth Bank, said, “We are delighted to be the principal sponsor of such a worthwhile program. Commonwealth Bank has a proud tradition of helping generations of young Australians to learn about the importance of saving and smart money management. By 2015, we aim to provide one million kids with a grounding in financial literacy to help them lead financially secure lives. We also recognise the importance of encouraging excellence in the study of maths.” Commonwealth Bank is the ideal partner to help us ensure the competition’s ongoing success and future growth. The AMC will become known as the Australian Mathematics Competition supported by the Commonwealth Bank.

In New Zealand, local AMC prizewinners and medalists were invited to Parliament House to receive their awards. The prizewinners were presented their awards by Gus Gale, AMC Director for New Zealand, and the medalists were presented with their medals by Minister of Education, Hon Hekia Parata.

In Asia, medals were presented in Hong Kong by Mr Paul Tighe, Australian Consul General in Hong Kong; in Indonesia by Professor Peter Taylor; in Malaysia by Professor Peter Taylor; in Philippines by the Hon Nick McCaffrey, Deputy Head of Mission of the Australian Embassy; and in Singapore by Australia’s Consul General, Mr Lyall Crawford.

Further details and photos can be found at www.amt.edu.au/news34.html. Contact us at: Australian Mathematics Trust University of Canberra Locked Bag 1 Canberra GPO ACT 2601 Australia Tel: +61 (02) 6201 5137 Email: mail@amt.edu.au Web: www.amt.edu.au

ANNUAL AMT AWARDS PRESENTATIONS
It is my pleasure to welcome schools to the 2013 academic year in my first year as Executive Director of the Australian Mathematics Trust. I also welcome the Commonwealth Bank as the new sponsors of the Australian Mathematics Competition which will now be known as the Australian Mathematics Competition sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank (AMC). The Commonwealth Bank has already shown a great deal of interest in the various activities of the Trust and we look forward to a long and productive relationship with them.

An exciting event this year will be the first hosting in Australia of the International Olympiad in Informatics (IIO). This prestigious event will take place in Brisbane in July and is jointly hosted by the Australian Mathematics Trust and the University of Queensland. Team selection in Australia is well under way with students having recently sat the Australian Invitational Informatics Olympiad (AIIO). Successful students in this competition will be invited to a training camp in April and the final team will be selected from there. A similar process is under way in Mathematics, with students who performed well in the Australian Mathematical Olympiad (AMO) invited to train with the prospect of being selected to the Australian team to compete at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) in Santa Marta, Colombia. Results of both competitions are available on the AMT website.

Of course, selection for these prestigious teams begins with competitions in schools and our largest event, the AMC for students in Years 3-12, is the starting point for the discovery of mathematical talent. All school students in Years 7-10 can also test their potential in Informatics through the Australian Informatics Competition (AIC) which requires no prior programming knowledge and is held each year in May. My strong advice is that students entering these (or other) competitions should try some of the practice questions available on the website (http://www.amt.edu.au/internet.html).

This year, AMC prize-winners in Years 7-10 will receive free entry into the following year’s Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad (AIMO). This competition, primarily aimed at students in Years 8-10, is an important step in accessing some of the opportunities to train for the senior olympiad contests with the potential for selection to the Australian team. Even if not aiming for these heights, it provides excellent practice in problem-solving for more able students. A practice AIMO paper is also available via the link above.

Younger prize winners (Years 5-8) will also be given the opportunity to attend a maths enrichment day which will be held during Term 4. Further details of these opportunities will be provided later in the year.

Preparation for the AIMO will also be assisted if students take one of the Challenge or Enrichment programs which the AMT provides. These are taken over an extended period of time and provide teachers with a structured course in problem-solving as an enrichment activity. This is certainly one way in which schools can address the Problem-Solving Proficiency strand within the Australian Curriculum.

There are certainly many teachers around Australia who make incredibly productive use of AMT materials to motivate students of all abilities. It is my hope that, in this and future edition of our newsletter, we can feature some of these initiatives. If somebody in your school has a story to tell, we would certainly appreciate knowing about it and, where possible, will publish it on the AMT website.

Mike Clapper
Executive Director,
Australian Mathematics Trust
Adjunct Professor,
University of Canberra

The Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) and the Maths Challenge for Young Australian (MCYA) are certainly designed to be challenging, but participation does not require Mathematics outside the curriculum.

From this year, all solutions and statistics books will be mapped against the Australian Curriculum to assist teachers in seeing how the competitions can be utilised as a part of their regular teaching programs. Taken as a package, the range of AMC competitions and publications provide comprehensive coverage of the Problem-Solving Proficiency strand within the Australian Curriculum.

Two new publications which may be of particular interest to teachers in this regard are: Mathematical Problem Solving, by David Kennedy and Problems to Solve in Primary Mathematics by Bruce Henry. See page 4 for more details. Full details of the range of AMT competitions and publications are available on the website www.amt.edu.au.

There are certainly many teachers in Australia who make incredibly productive use of AMT materials to motivate students of all abilities. It is my hope that, in this and future edition of our newsletter, we can feature some of these initiatives. If somebody in your school has a story to tell, we would certainly appreciate knowing about it and, where possible, will publish it on the AMT website.

This newsletter features a story from Don Robertson, a teacher at Great Lakes College Senior Campus, who has been using AMC, Challenge and Enrichment materials in his local cluster of feeder primary schools. Congratulations to Don on this work.

Great Lakes Learning Community comprises Bungwahl, Pacific Palms, Forster, Tuncurry, Niaiac and Hallidays Point Public Schools and the three campuses of Great Lakes College.

The numeracy project commenced in 2011 as a GLLC initiative. Each school appointed a staff member, to act as a Numeracy Champion to oversee numeracy projects in their school. Schools with National Partnership funding allocated a portion of funding to the employment of Mr Don Robertson, a teacher from the Great Lakes College Senior Campus, who initially worked with a group of Stage 3 GAT students from each school, doing the Australian Mathematics Trust Challenge and Enrichment programs.

During 2012, through the support of the GLLC, staff from all primary schools, with the assistance of secondary colleagues, worked collaboratively to develop their capacity to explicitly teach problem solving skills and strategies to Stage 3 students of all ability levels. Targeted support was also provided for students engaging in enrichment activities, including the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians.

The Numeracy leaders from each school attended a joint meeting each term and, in collaboration with Mr Robertson, developed a teacher support package of resources and interactive Notebook lessons to introduce and consolidate problem solving strategies and strategies. At this time, the problem solving package has been developed for Stage 3 students and will be expanded to cater for Stage 2 students during 2013 and Stage 1 students in 2014.

The culmination of the program was the Super Sleuth Challenge – a gala day giving teams of the Stage 3 GAT students from each school the opportunity to compete in a series of activities based on the problem solving strategies that they had learnt about during the year.

The Commonwealth Bank Foundation’s StartSmart program changes the way young people learn about money. By making financial education interactive, engaging and fun, we give students the skills they’ll use for the rest of their lives. Through the program children can bank at school, giving them a hands-on banking experience in a fun and interactive environment.

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