

# SHORT CIRCUIT

Newsletter of  
the Canberra Mathematical Association INC

## Coming Events:

November 10 CMA Annual General Meeting, 7pm Canberra Club, Civic

November 10 The 314th day of the year—another Pi day!

3—7 July, 2011 AAMT-MERGA Conference, Alice Springs

13—21 August, 2011 National Science Week: "React to Chemistry"

19—20 August, 2011 CMA Conference

## CONFERENCE 2010 WRAP-UP

The 2010 CMA conference was held from Friday afternoon to Saturday, August 20-21, with keynote speakers Dr Hugh Possingham, Dr Pep Serow and Sasha Jovanovic. As well, there were some 21 other workshop presenters who, by all accounts, ran stimulating and relevant sessions.



Sasha Jovanovic

The CMA committee greatly appreciated the contributions made by the businesses who brought their trade displays to the conference. Texas Instruments was particularly generous in their provision of conference satchels that included a scientific calculator.

The committee is also grateful to the Australian Catholic University for making their excellent venue available

Opinions will vary, but for me a highlight was Hugh Possingham's remarks about the importance and the difficulty of teaching students to do mathematical modelling, and the ensuing discussion about how to achieve this.



Dr Hugh Possingham

The opportunity for sharing ideas and experiences with colleagues from near and far was, as usual, of great benefit.

The 'happy hour' at the end of the conference was well

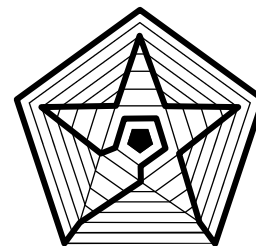
attended. Animated conversation was interspersed with charming choral performances by the group *A Chaired Sound*, and the principals of the first batch of Maths Active Schools were presented with their certificates by CMA president Jurek Paradowski. (See page 2.)



Dr Pep Serow

Planning for next year's conference is already under way. Ideas and suggestions from members are welcome.

PT



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

OCTOBER, 2010



Jurek Paradowski

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the CMA includes automatic affiliation with the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers and a free AAMT journal.

Members are entitled to cheaper rates for CMA professional development events and the annual conference.

A membership application form for the CMA can be downloaded from our website:

[www.canberramaths.org.au](http://www.canberramaths.org.au)

## SHORT CIRCUIT

### FOUR MATHS ACTIVE SCHOOLS RECOGNISED

Four schools have been recognised as Maths Active Schools. They are:

Melba Copland Secondary School, Lake Tuggeranong College, Erindale College and Canberra College. All achieved accreditation in the 'silver' category.

Schools are invited to apply to the CMA to be recognised as Maths Active Schools at either the bronze, silver or gold level.

Maths Active Schools are able to use their accreditation in their marketing and it is hoped that the program will

lead to invigoration for schools and individual teachers in their endeavours in mathematics education.

A full description of this initiative can be obtained by contacting Jurek Paradowski or from the CMA website.



*Is yours a  
Maths Active School?*

### PROBLEMS

$$(-1) \times (-1) = 1$$

1. How would you convince a year 7 student that  $(-1) \times (-1) = 1$ ? Would you need a different explanation to satisfy a year 12 Methods student?
2. Is a "proof" really a proof if the only person who understands it is the one who wrote it? Does the situation change if just one other person understands the "proof"?

Your comments or solutions are welcome. Send them to either *Paul Turner* or *Jurek Paradowski*.  
Paul: [paul.turner@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:paul.turner@ed.act.edu.au). Jurek: [jurek.paradowski@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:jurek.paradowski@ed.act.edu.au).

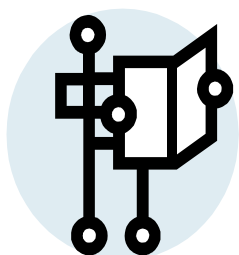
### ACARA UPDATE

In a statement issued on 28 September, ACARA Chair Professor Barry McGaw announced that 'The Australian Curriculum up to Year 10 for the learning areas of English, mathematics, science and history will be presented to the Council of Ministers of Education in December this year'.

'... the nature and timing of implementation is a matter for individual jurisdictions and schools as long as there is substantial implementation in all schools by the end of 2013.'

ACARA home page: [http://www.acara.edu.au/home\\_page.html](http://www.acara.edu.au/home_page.html)

Australian  
Curriculum,  
Assessment and  
Reporting  
Authority



*Come to the AGM*

*7 p.m.  
10 November  
Canberra Club,  
Civic.*

### MATHS BY EMAIL

*Maths by Email* is a free fortnightly email newsletter with news, activities, puzzles, web links and more! *Maths by Email* is produced by CSIRO Education and the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI); the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT) is a member of the reference group for this project.

To subscribe, go to:

<http://www.csiro.au/resources/Maths-by-Email.html>

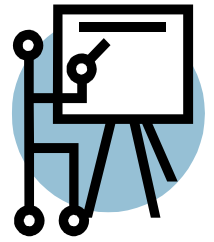
## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR TEACHERS

The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited is a company set up by the Federal Government. Its sole member is the Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and its stated aim is to promote excellence in the profession of teaching and school leadership.

From the Outcomes of the 5th Board Meeting of AITSL: “Work is underway to validate the redrafted **National Professional Standards for Teachers**. The validation project is being undertaken by the National Centre for Science and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia (the SiMERR National Centre). The design involves two separate surveys of teachers in selected schools and a series of focus group workshops involving teachers, teacher educators and subject associations in each State and Territory. It is expected that in excess of 10,000 teachers will be involved across the three phases of the process.”

Teachers can participate in the validation process by going to the SiMERR website: <http://www.une.edu.au/simerr> between 4 October and 29 October 2010 for access to the online survey. The AITSL home page is at <http://www.aitsl.edu.au/ta/go>.

### Validation



## ACT TEACHER QUALITY INSTITUTE

The interim chair of the ACT Teacher Quality Institute, Professor Denis Goodrum, has published a letter to principals and teachers—see [https://index.det.act.gov.au/information/fliers/101101\\_IntroductionLetterDG1.pdf](https://index.det.act.gov.au/information/fliers/101101_IntroductionLetterDG1.pdf)—advising that teacher registration will be introduced to the ACT in 2011. Existing teachers will be deemed to have met the requirements until 2013. It is claimed that registration will enhance the status of the teaching profession. Professor Goodrum’s letter follows the announcement in July by minister Andrew Barr of his appointment to the new institute.

## WAYS FORWARD: TEACHER SUPPORT AND THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM:

This was a conference organised by the AAMT, held 31<sup>st</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010, in Melbourne. CMA committee member Evelyn Ashcroft attended. The following is a slightly condensed version of Evelyn’s report.

“One hundred and ten people attended, thanks to some employers who assisted financially with costs and provided cover for classes. No financial support was received from government agencies.

“Mathematics is the only curriculum area to date in which the professional association has taken up the challenge of making the Australian Curriculum work in spite of its challenges.

### MONDAY

**Session 1** began with a Statement of Purpose and a report from ACARA on the feedback which has been received. There were five minute presentations from Judy Anderson, Denise Neal, Stuart Palmer and Helen MacGillvray, on the challenges ahead.

**Session 2** included presentations from Vince Geiger, Di Siemon, Richard Andrew, Colleen Vale and Matt Skoss about programs they are involved with regarding teacher support; e.g.

Brown and Garry Putland about resources that support quality teaching and are currently available; e.g., Journals and AMSI projects.

**Session 4:** A number of registrants shared their thoughts on the day.

### TUESDAY

**Session 5:** Groups worked on identifying research in Maths Education which would be relevant to the Australian Curriculum; and then all were asked to vote on the recommendations about Teacher Learning & Resources, which groups had submitted on Monday.

**Session 6:** From the voting, 12 topics were identified which people wanted to work on most. People joined discussions on their topic of choice to make recommendations to AAMT about what needed to be done. The topics were:

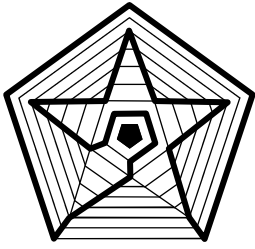
**Teacher Learning:** Pre-service education; Remote Access; Content of TL; Structure of TL; Quality Assurance.

**Resources:** Assessment; Modelling best practice; Mapping; Ensuring quality; Mechanisms for delivery; Teacher sharing.

**Session 7:** Further prioritising locating specific actions.

“Although, at times, it seemed that some people dominated groups with concerns of their own, facilitators always managed to bring recommendations from the whole group and as Day 2 progressed there was a great deal of satisfaction about the outcomes and the way it all came together.”

Mathematics is  
the only  
curriculum area  
to date in  
which the  
professional  
association has  
taken up the  
challenge...



NEWSLETTER OF  
THE CANBERRA MATHEMATICAL  
ASSOCIATION INC

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## ABOUT THE CMA

The Canberra Mathematical Association (Inc.) is the representative body of professional educators of mathematics in Canberra, Australia.

It was established by, among others, the late Professor Bernhard Neumann in 1965. It continues to run - as indeed it was initiated - purely on a volunteer basis.

Its aims include

- \* the promotion of mathematical education to government through lobbying,
- \* the development, application and dissemination of mathematical knowledge within Canberra through in-service opportunities, and
- \* facilitating effective cooperation and collaboration between mathematics teachers and their colleagues in Canberra.

**SHORT CIRCUIT** invites contributions of material from readers. Suitable submissions would include:

- \* Notices of coming events
- \* Reports and commentary on

events and developments

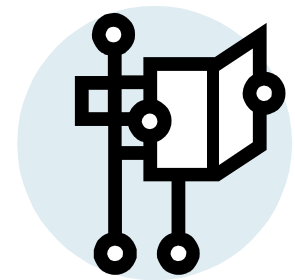
- \* Short articles about education and mathematics
- \* Interesting problems, puzzles and educational activities
- \* URLs of useful websites.

Contributions can be sent by

e-mail to  
[paul.turner@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:paul.turner@ed.act.edu.au)  
 6205 8104  
 or to  
[jurek.paradowski@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:jurek.paradowski@ed.act.edu.au)  
 0433 647 694

## THE 2010 CMA COMMITTEE

President	Jurek Paradowski	Calwell High School
Vice Presidents	Evelyn Ashcroft	Melba Copland Secondary School
	Sue Wilson	Australian Catholic University
Secretary	Theresa Shellshear	Australian Catholic University
Treasurer	Ian Ross	Lyneham High School
Councillors	Peter McIntyre	University of NSW—ADFA
	Margie Smith	Office of Spatial Data Management
	Ed Staples	Erindale College
	Paul Turner	Erindale College
	Andy Wardrop	Erindale College
	Heather Wardrop	Lake Tuggeranong College



*AGM*

*7 p.m.  
10 November  
Canberra Club, Civic.*

You can contact the Canberra Mathematical Association by e-mail:

[canberramaths@yahoo.com.au](mailto:canberramaths@yahoo.com.au)