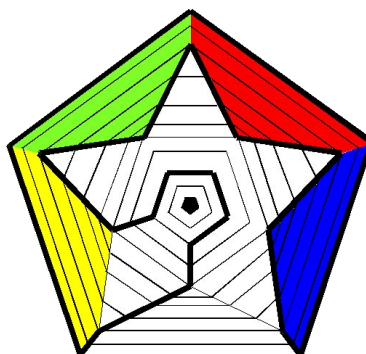


# Short Circuit

2010 Number 1  
February



Newsletter of the  
Canberra  
Mathematical  
Association

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## Coming Events

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|--------------|--|
| March 3      | Keys to Canberra. Centre for Teaching and Learning, Stirling. Multipurpose Room, 3pm-5pm.  |
| March 10     | CMA Get-together for mathematics co-ordinators. Erindale College. (Flyer to be distributed)  |
| March 12     | All day PD with Tracey Hughes-Butters for years 7-12 and upper primary teachers. Copland College 9:30am. Contact Evelyn Ashcroft: <a href="mailto:evelyn.ashcroft@ed.act.edu.au">evelyn.ashcroft@ed.act.edu.au</a> . |
| August 20-21 | CMA Annual Conference. Australian Catholic University. Keynote speaker: Professor Hugh Possingham.   |
| November 10  | CMA Annual General Meeting   |

## News

### Maths Active Schools

Following the lead of the Queensland Association of Mathematics Teachers and with the endorsement of the AAMT, the CMA committee has decided to adopt the Maths Active Schools program.

Schools will be invited to apply to the CMA to be recognised as Maths Active Schools in one of three categories – bronze, silver or gold – according to their level of involvement and achievement as measured against a set of mathematics education related criteria.

Schools will then be able to use their Maths Active School accreditation and logo in their marketing. 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 will be circulated shortly. In the mean time, further information and details about how your school can be involved, can be obtained by contacting Jurek Paradowski.

### National Curriculum

According to the Australian Curriculum and Assessment Reporting Authority (ACARA), phase one of the curriculum development is well under way.

Information about progress on the National Curriculum is available from the ACARA's website: [http://www.acara.edu.au/home\\_page.html](http://www.acara.edu.au/home_page.html). It is also possible to subscribe to an e-newsletter called *ACARA Update* about ACARA's activities.

ACARA was created by act of parliament, the *Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority Act 2008* to, among other things, be responsible for 'A national curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 12 in specified learning areas'.

(Another area of ACARA's responsibility is NAPLAN. The 2009 NAPLAN report is available from the ACARA website.)

For the very keen, the Act itself can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/ACARA-Act-2008>

The ACARA site asserts that:

'ACARA welcomes and encourages your input and involvement in the development of the Australian curriculum.'

There will be a consultation website and

'In the week of 22 February 2010 this consultation website will be available for everyone to read, review, download or print the draft K-10 curriculum. It will also be the place where members of the education community can provide feedback and where the on-line feedback survey can be completed.'

In March 2009, The Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers provided a formal response to the *National Mathematics Curriculum: Framing Paper*, (<http://bit.ly/Framing-paper>) a precursor to the current draft curriculum. The AAMT's response to the Framing Paper can be downloaded from the AAMT site <http://bit.ly/AAMT-Framing-Response>.

The consultation process announced by ACARA concerning the current Draft Curriculum will involve people from the ACT Education Department at least one of whom is a CMA member. In a message distributed through the AAMT e-mail list, CEO Will Morony has said that ‘The AAMT will be taking opportunities to provide input, and offering members a chance to have their say’.

## 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 <http://www.canberramaths.org.au>.

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## Short Circuit

This is the first of what the CMA committee intends will be a regular newsletter. The plan is to have four editions per year.

We invite contributions of material for the newsletter from readers. Suitable submissions would include

- Notices of coming events of interest to mathematics teachers
- Reports and commentary on events and developments
- Short articles relating to mathematics education
- Short articles relating to mathematics
- Interesting problems, puzzles and educational activities suitable for primary, secondary and college students
- URLs and reviews of useful websites.

Short Circuit is jointly edited by Paul Turner and Jurek Paradowski.

Contributions can be sent by e-mail to [paul.turner@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:paul.turner@ed.act.edu.au) or to [jurek.paradowski@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:jurek.paradowski@ed.act.edu.au). Alternatively, you can use the CMA mailing address: PO Box 3572, Weston ACT 2611.

Enquiries may be directed to Paul Turner at Erindale College on 6205 8104 or Jurek Paradowski at Calwell High School on 0433 647 694.

## Problem

Instructions to find a buried treasure on an island are given as follows:

*Go to the south end of the island and you will find a large Pine tree, large Oak tree and some Gallows.*

*From the Gallows, walk directly to the Pine, counting your steps as you go.*

*Then turn right (90 degrees) and walk the same number steps. Stop and stake this position.*

*Now go back to the Gallows and walk to the Oak, counting as you go.*

*This time turn left (90 degrees) and after walking the same number of steps, stop and stake.*

*Half way between the stakes lies the treasure, buried under the ground.*

The problem is, however, that time and weather have completely obliterated the gallows. Is finding the treasure hopeless, or is there a solution?

The best solution sent to either *Paul Turner* or *Jurek Paradowski* will be announced in the next edition.

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).

## 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
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	Paul Turner	Erindale College
	Andy Wardrop	Erindale College
	Heather Wardrop	Lake Tuggeranong College

The website of the Canberra Mathematical Association is at <http://www.canberramaths.org.au>