SHORT CIRCUIT

Newsletter of
the Canberra Mathematical Association INC

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY, 2012

Coming Events:

February 24	*Welcome drinks function. ACU Rose garden—4:30 p.m.*
March 5	*Committee Meeting—Hawker College, 7 p.m.*
August 17-18	*CMA Annual Conference. Australian Catholic University*
November 9	*The 314th day of the year—Pi day!*
November 14	*CMA Annual General Meeting*

FROM THE EDITORS

With the new teaching year well under way, we would like to remind you, esteemed readers, to renew your CMA memberships very soon to avoid a delay in receiving your journals and other mailouts from AAMT. Follow the link to our website where you will find the membership form, or come to the welcome function on 24 February to sign up in person.

For 2012 the cost of CMA membership will be unchanged from last year.

Primary teachers may be interested in a professional development opportunity organised by Origo Education on 21 July at Narellan Vale. See the advertisement on page 6 for details.

Readers are invited to submit items for publication in this newsletter. Submissions could include:

* Reports or commentary on events and developments related to mathematics education in your school or system.
* Short articles about mathematics education or about mathematics itself.
* 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

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6205 8104

or to

jurek.paradowski@ed.act.edu.au

0433 647 694

Alternatively, you can use the CMA mailing address:

PO Box 3572,
Weston ACT 2611.

We welcome your feedback.

WELCOME

The Welcome drinks function is on **today**, 24 February, 4.30 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the Australian Catholic University, Antill Street, Watson.

Find us on Facebook

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.

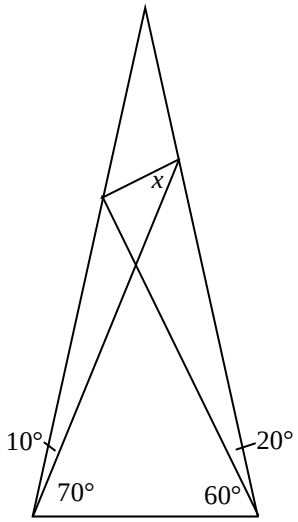
A membership application form for the CMA can be downloaded from our website:

www.canberramaths.org.au

Note:
Receipts for membership payments are normally sent out by e-mail. If you have paid for your membership but have not received a receipt or if your AAMT journal(s) have not been arriving, please advise CMA treasurer, Paul Turner, or a committee member.

SHORT CIRCUIT

PROBLEM



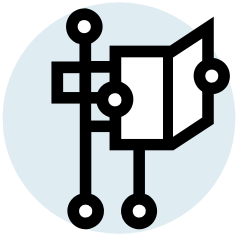
This problem has appeared recently on the AAMT e-mail list.

It is claimed that the value of angle *x* can be deduced by basic geometric methods—parallel lines, similar triangles and the like. The problem is notoriously difficult.

It can be solved using 3 applications of the sine rule and one of the cosine rule, but as the problem was originally posed, trigonometry is not allowed.

Basic geometry

?



MOSADDEQUE ALI FAMILY FUND

From Kerrie Grundy, Principal Narrabundah College
Dear Colleagues
If you wish to support the young family of Mos Ali who passed away unexpectedly last December please find below the account details.
The account details for the Mosaddeque Ali family are:
Westpac BSB / Account : 732729 / 625092
Account designator: ATF Mosaddeque Ali
We will close this account in early March 2012.
Regards
Kerrie.
Kerrie Grundy, Principal
Narrabundah College

USEFUL LINKS

EMPHASiS, newsletter for the Scientists in Schools(SiS) program, and its sub-program Mathematicians in Schools(MiS). Latest edition:

http://www.scientistsinschools.edu.au/downloads/newsletter/EMPHASiS_Issue_05_September_2011.pdf

Australian Curriculum website: http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Mathematics/Curriculum/F-10

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

AAMT: http://www.aamt.edu.au

Australian Bureau of Statistics project: Census at School http://www.abs.gov.au/censusatschool

ABS news: http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1330.0?OpenDocument

Mathematical Association of WA on-line quiz: http://www.havesumfunonline.com

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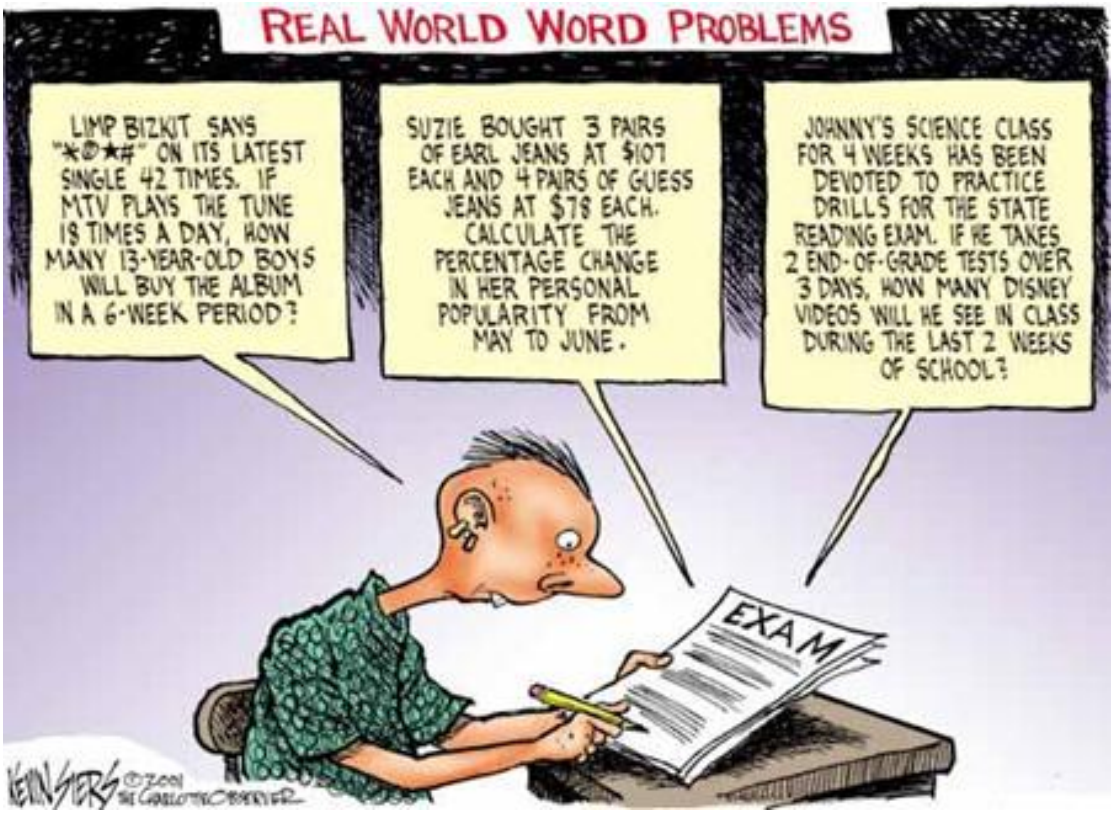
MATHS ACTIVE SCHOOLS

Is yours a Maths Active School?

If not, talk to Jurek Paradowski about what it means and how it's done.



AAMT

NEW AAMT CONSTITUTION

A new constitution was approved by the AAMT Council at its January meeting which has now come into effect. One of the changes affecting New South Wales and South Australia is that each State/Territory is now represented by a single association. AAMT no longer has an Executive, and instead is governed by a smaller Council made up of a representative of each State/Territory affiliated association, along with a Treasurer (new Treasurer David Keanan-Brown, NSW), President (new President Kim Beswick, Tas.), and either President Elect or Immediate Past President (Peter Sullivan, Vic.). Contact your local association to contact your AAMT Councillor.

The new constitution is available at http://www.aamt.edu.au/About-AAMT/Constitution

KEEP INFORMED

Anyone, member or not, can sign up to receive emails from AAMT with news of events and developments -- so why not invite other staff members in your workplace to receive them directly. Contact Toby Spencer at the AAMT office (tspencer@aamt.edu.au) or go to http://www.aamt.edu.au/News for instructions. Alternatively, you can like AAMT's Facebook page (http://www.facebook.com/aamtinc) or follow @aamtinc on Twitter (http://twitter.com/aamtinc)

NEWSLETTER OF THE CANBERRA MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION INC

PO Box 3572
Weston ACT 2611
Australia

E-mail: canberramaths@yahoo.com.au

We're on the Web!
http://www.canberramaths.org.au

ABOUT THE CMA

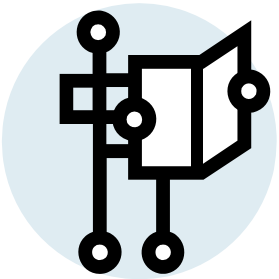
The Canberra Mathematical Association (Inc.) is the representative body of professional educators of mathematics in Canberra, Australia.
It was established by, among others, the late Professor Bernhard Neumann in 1965. It continues to run - as it began - purely on a volunteer basis.

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.

THE 2012 CMA COMMITTEE

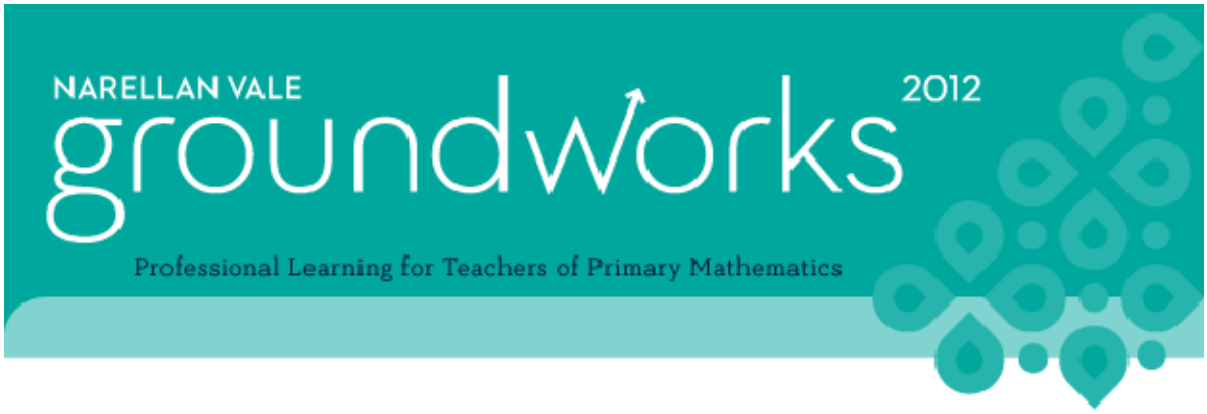
President	Erin Gallagher	Hawker College
Vice Presidents	Jurek Paradowski	Calwell High School
	Sue Wilson	Australian Catholic University
Secretary	Theresa Shellshear	Australian Catholic University
Treasurer	Paul Turner	Erindale College
Councillors	Claire Hirschfeld	Lyneham High School
	Heather Wardrop	Lake Tuggeranong College
	Andy Wardrop	Erindale College
	Toby Hartley	Hawker College
	Evelyn Ashcroft	Melba Copland Secondary School
	Jo Kellow	Stromlo High School
	Patricia Tandy	Melrose High School
	Jeffery Mansfield	Melrose High School
	Peter McIntyre	University of NSW—ADFA
	Igraine Ridley-Smith	Calwell High School



Find us on Facebook

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Canberra-Mathematical-Association/110629419011275

Advertisement: ORIGO Education



Saturday 21 July 2012 – Narellan Vale, NSW

Register today for your choice of sessions presented by:

Brian Tickle • Anita Chin • Rob Nickerson • Peter Stowasser

Session Topics

Session 1
• Games that Develop Understanding of Chance and Data - *Brian Tickle*
• Be Strategic: Building Computational Fluency for Addition/Subtraction - *Rob Nickerson*
• Developing a Deep Understanding of Fractions (And Decimals) - *Peter Stowasser*

Session 2
• Misconceptions: From Misunderstanding to Deep Understanding - *Brian Tickle*
• Problem Solving: A Way of Thinking - *Rob Nickerson*
• Differentiating Instruction: Place Value Concepts - *Anita Chin*

Session 3
• Be Strategic: Building Computational Fluency for Multiplication/Division - *Rob Nickerson*
• Thinking and Talking Like a Mathematician - *Anita Chin*
• Using Number Puzzles to Promote Number Sense and Mental Computation - *Peter Stowasser*

For more information and to register, visit www.origoeducation.com/groundworks