

Newsletter No. 191
February, 2003

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PD Application Form

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39th Annual Conference

The 39th Annual Conference, held on 5 and 6 December, 2002, was attended by 2,100 mathematics educators from around Victoria and Australia, as well as many international visitors. Thanks to everyone for your constructive feedback - it certainly will assist us with planning for 2003. And congratulations to the winners of our Passport and Evaluation Competitions - see page 3 for details.

MAV Awards

Each year the MAV Council offer two research scholarships and professional experience awards to MAV members. At the Conference Dinner on 5 December 2002, the winners for study in 2003 were announced. Drum roll please ...

Rebecca Cronin

MAV Research Scholarship to work at RMIT University to undertake an investigation into the teaching practices that enhance positive educational outcomes in numeracy for young urban Aboriginal students in Queensland.

Brian Doig

MAV Research Scholarship to work at Deakin University to work on the construction and validation of a common scale for summative and formative information for school mathematics.

2003 Membership Subscriptions

2003 Membership information and application forms were included with the November 2002 mailout. **To renew your membership for 2003 you will need to complete the new application**

form. If you haven't received your copy, please contact the MAV office on 9380 2399 or download it at:

<http://www.mav.vic.edu.au/assinfo/member.htm>

Membership renewal payments (together with your completed application form) for the 2003 subscription period (1 January - 31 December) are **due by Friday 28th March, 2003.**

The 2003 Maths Talent Quest

Applications close Friday 2 May, 2003, and the entries themselves need to be submitted on Friday 25 July. The information booklet with application form is included with this mailout. For further information please contact our new Student Activities Professional Officer, Doreen Forrest, on 9389 0304 or email dforrest@mav.vic.edu.au

PD OPPORTUNITY

The MAV is hosting a series of FREE PD sessions focussing on the MTQ and how you can use it to challenge and stimulate your students. There are primary and secondary sessions, held at various metropolitan and Geelong venues during March - see the enclosed flyer and page 6 for full details. **Bookings essential!**

VCE Maths PD Day

La Trobe University, Bendigo, Mon 24 Feb

This day is filling fast but there are still places available.

For full program details, and an application form, please visit our website at www.mav.vic.edu.au/pd/pd2003.htm or contact the MAV office on 03-9380 2399. **To make a booking please phone the office ASAP with your session preferences.**

From the President

Welcome

Welcome to the new school year. 2003 promises to be a challenging year for the Victorian education system. We will all need to respond to emerging developments in education policy at both the State and Federal level. This, no doubt will include governmental responses to the discussion we have all been part of over the past eighteen months or so about teacher shortages in the area of mathematics and the attendant issue of qualification guidelines.

It is clear that there are no immediate solutions to the difficulties schools report in attracting and retaining qualified and capable mathematics educators. Interestingly, we are witnessing a growth in Mathematical Association of Victoria membership figures. I would hope that at least some of that growth is because your MAV has continued to be of relevance and value to mathematics educators overall. It might also be because we have actively promoted the idea that there ought to be minimum qualification standards for those teaching mathematics in schools and that this has struck a cord with both our individual and school members. You can rest assured that the MAV will continue to be active in this arena.

We will also continue to advocate programs and courses designed to help teachers retrain or to upgrade their mathematics education qualifications. Likewise, the MAV will work to ensure that teachers of mathematics are able to regularly upgrade their mathematics education through professional development and other programs of study. The MAV sees this as a partnership between teachers and employing authorities. That is, it is a legitimate expectation of employers to expect teachers to engage in professional development and expansion. But then there is a consequent obligation upon the employing authority to provide time release and financial support to enable teachers to undertake this development and expansion.

Conference evaluations

On page three we give you results of the prize draw we ran as an incentive to Conference participants to return their daily evaluation sheets. We received almost 900 returns, so the information they provided was very useful. Our keynote speakers seemed to be have been

popular choices, with approval expressed for the practical ideas and advice they tended to provide. Likewise, participants made it clear that they appreciated the opportunity to hear and learn from other practicing teachers and those who understood the realities of modern day teaching. People are in search, it would seem, for methods, activities and examples that can be readily integrated into their own teaching practice. I was impressed to read, though, that MAV conference participants wish to *extend* as well as improve their own practice. This augurs well for mathematics education over the next few years.

Of the conference itself, those of you who attended endorsed it wholeheartedly. You reported that it was well run and met many of your professional development needs. Some found it difficult, especially given the weather, to find their way around Monash University. But then, many expressed appreciation for the work of guides and others in helping participants find their way. Some want a little more time to network or to visit the displays. Others, though, want us to make the day longer so that we could fit in more sessions! Some expressed concern that a few sessions, just a few, were overly commercial in their orientation. I was interested to see that 57% of conference participants believe that the conference proceedings book is either extremely useful or useful and that only 5.5% felt it was a waste. Yet over 80% of participants say they would not buy a hard copy of the book if they were given a CD-ROM version as part of the conference satchel.

All of this certainly gives the incoming MAV 2003 Annual Conference Planning Committee, chaired by MAV Councillor Sharon Taylor a lot to think about as they sit down to set the new year agenda.

MAX STEPHENS

President

Common Denominator Deadlines – 2003

Receipt of copy: Monday 10th February 2003
Receipt of inserts: Monday 25th February 2003
For mailing on: Monday 4th March 2003

Products and services advertised and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor or the MAV.

National Maths Talent Quest Success

Victoria had great results in the 2002 National Maths Talent Quest, held in Adelaide last November. Congratulations to all the winners!

OVERALL WINNER PREP:

Prep: Class Prep M, Darley Primary School
Maths is Amazing

WINNER AWARDS:

Year 2: Taylan Reeves, Penleigh & Essendon GS
The Great Gippsland Earthworm and Friends

Year 2: Class 216 Willig, Kingsley Park PS
All Creatures Great and Small

Year 3: Alexander Gregory-Allen, Melbourne Grammar
Around Australia on 500 000 Points

Year 5: Class 5D, Malvern Primary School
Topsy Vale

Year 7: Peter Urukai, Eltham College of Education
Proposed Suspension Bridge for Williamstown

MERIT AWARDS:

Prep: Patrick Griffiths, Mt Martha Primary School
Measuring Length, Width and Area of My Body with UNO Cards

Year 1: Gemma Scott, Mornington Primary School
In the Kitchen Cooking for My Family

Year 1: Class Prep/1R, Ashby Primary School
Bear's House

Year 3: Georgia Germinder & Daniel Shandler, Bialik College,
Maths in the BFG

Year 3: Grade 3, Tyabb Railway Station PS
Lizards

Year 6: Luke Dawson, Scotch College
The Maths in My Maths Garden

Year 6: Grade 6, Darley Primary School
Be Game

Conference Competition Winners

The MAV conference was host to some hugely popular competitions. Thank you to all the exhibitors who contributed such wonderful prizes. The winners were:

Passport Competition

Primary:

Andrea Eales, Albert Park Primary School
Rod Besley, Chandler Primary School
Jennifer Holland, Colac High School

Secondary:

Louise Ankers, Bundoora Secondary College
Karen Boyce, Red Cliffs Secondary College
Sarah Baranowski, Gippsland Grammar

Evaluation Prizes

Primary:

Nola Rucker, Tallarook Primary School

Secondary 1:

Ivan Barryman, Wodonga High School

Secondary 2:

Andrew Howlett, Kangaroo Flat Secondary Coll

Printer:

Norma Pollock, Mooroopna Secondary Coll

Individual:

Tim Egan, Mallacoota P-12 College

Maths Games Days 2003

Year 5 Maths Games Day

Venue: St Catherine's School, Toorak

Date: Wednesday 21 May, 2003

Contact: Julie Parton, julie.parton@stcatherines.net.au

Year 10 Maths Games Day

Venue: Methodist Ladies' College

Date: Tuesday 12 August, 2003

Contact: Allason McNamara,
mcnamaam@mlc.vic.edu.au

If you are planning to host a Maths games day in 2003, and would like the MAV to promote it or provide any advice/assistance, contact Doreen Forrest at the MAV on 03-9389 0304.

Problem of the Month

Puzzle about Puzzles

Ann, a very competitive person, decides to give herself 2 points for every crossword puzzle in her daily newspaper that she completes correctly and to forfeit 3 points for every crossword in the paper that she completes incorrectly or cannot complete.

After 30 days of working the puzzles, Ann has a score of zero. How many puzzles has she solved correctly?

Last Issue's Solution:

$25938 + 25938 = 51876$

Web Review



<http://www.quickmath.com/>

QuickMath is an automated service for answering common math problems over the Internet. When a question is submitted to QuickMath it is processed by Mathematica. The answer is then sent back to you and displayed right there on your browser, usually within a couple of seconds. It is 100% free!

QuickMath will automatically answer the most common problems in algebra, equations and calculus faced by secondary and tertiary students. There are many sections including the following:

- Algebra
- Equations
- Inequalities
- Calculus
- Matrices
- Graphs

Note: there is very little or no working shown, generally just the question and answer, however it would make an excellent checking tool.

New commands and information are being added all the time, so this site is well worth a look.

Upcoming Conferences

International Conference organised by the Mathematics Education into the 21st Century Project: "The Decidable and the Undecidable in Mathematics Education"

Where: Brno, Czech Republic

When: 19-25 September, 2003

Contact: Alan Rogerson, arogerson@vsg.edu.au

MAV 40th Annual Conference

Where: Monash University, Clayton

When: 4 & 5 December 2003

A call for options form for presenting at the conference will be on our website, www.mav.vic.edu.au, in March, and the conference program will be available in August/September.

Publication Review

Everything you want to know about Outcomes Focussed Mathematics Education and what it means for your classroom (Years K to 12)

by Thelma Perso



A collection of readings and discussion papers for classroom teachers of mathematics.

Chapter titles include:

- Outcomes Focussed Education in Mathematics
- Working Mathematically
- Reporting Issues
- Understanding the Outcomes
- Assessment and Planning.

Published by The Mathematical Association of Western Australia.

#126 \$16.50 (inc. GST) + postage (120 pages)

Seen at the Conference:

Veronica Rose Rogers, newly arrived (24th October 2003, weighing 7lb 11oz) daughter of our Professional Officer, Pauline Rogers (now working from Mildura on the MAV's Exam Services) and husband Adam. We wish the new family all the best!

New at the MAV Office

Welcome to Emma Fogarty who has joined us as Membership Services Officer, replacing Jo Howard who will shortly be wending her way (with all of our best wishes) to Dublin. Emma brings expertise as a writer and editor to the MAV as well as the considerable organisational skills we require of the Membership Services Officer. Direct your membership enquiries to Emma, either by calling the MAV office (03 9380 2399) or by e-mail (efogarty@mav.vic.edu.au).

2003 Professional Development

During 2003 we will host a variety of full day events, as well as after school PDs and series - details will be made available in The Common Denominator and on our website (www.mav.vic.edu.au) as events are finalised.

Term 1 PD

Date/Venue/Time	Description	Cost
Mon 24 th February 9am-3:20pm La Trobe Uni, Bendigo	VCE Maths Teachers' Day Sessions will be broken into Further, Methods, Methods (CAS) and Specialist. Sessions will be presented by practicing teachers, focussing on different aspects of the courses, including course content, assessment material and technology. For full program details and registration form contact the MAV office or visit our website at www.mav.vic.edu.au/pd/index.html	\$120 per person for members \$150 per person for non-members \$100 per person for member schools sending 4 or more staff (all prices include GST)

Free Maths Talent Quest PDs

The 2003 Maths Talent Quest is a fantastic way to motivate and challenge students to take part in maths investigations. These **FREE** sessions will include examples of students' work, how to get started, topic ideas, time management, resourcing, type of entries, and how to incorporate MTQ into the school reporting system. **Bookings are essential - see enclosed flyer or page 8 for an application form.**

Date/Venue/Time	Description	Cost
Tue 4 th Mar, 4:30-6pm Kingsley Park PS, Frankston	Primary (P-6) Maths Talent Quest PD presented by Peter Wyatt & Heidi Willig, Kingsley Park PS	FREE (bookings essential - application form page 8)
Wed 5 th Mar, 4:30-6pm Ashby PS, Geelong West	Primary (P-6) Maths Talent Quest PD presented by Rhonda Santuccioni, Ashby PS	FREE (bookings essential - application form page 8)
Wed 5 th Mar, 4:30-6pm Werribee Secondary College, Werribee	Secondary (7-12) Maths Talent Quest PD presented by Robyn Crockett, Camberwell Grammar	FREE (bookings essential - application form page 8)
Tue 11 th Mar, 4:30-6pm Ivanhoe Boys' Grammar Junior School, Ivanhoe	Primary/Middle Years (P-8) Maths Talent Quest PD presented by Jennie Droge, Head Judge, 2002 MTQ	FREE (bookings essential - application form page 8)
Thur 13 th Mar, 4:30-6pm Mackellar Primary School, Delahey	Primary (P-8) Maths Talent Quest PD presented by June Penney, Darley Primary School	FREE (bookings essential - application form page 8)
Mon 17 th Mar, 4:30-6pm Brighton Sec College, East Brighton	Secondary (7-12) Maths Talent Quest PD presented by Gerard Cameron, Brighton Secondary College	FREE (bookings essential - application form page 8)

MAV Publications Order Form

TAX INVOICE

To order any of the publications advertised in this newsletter, fill out the details below and return this form with your payment to the MAV at 61 Blyth Street, Brunswick, Vic, 3056 or by fax on (03) 9389 0399.

Contact Name: _____

School: _____

Address: _____ Post Code: _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____ Fax Number:(____) _____

Please supply:

Qty	Title	Total
Postage and Handling inc. GST For orders: less than \$40 - \$5.00, from \$41 to \$100 - \$7.00, over \$100 - \$10.00. For overseas orders, contact the MAV office for rates.		
TOTAL PAYABLE INC. GST		

Method of Payment

Please note: orders will not be processed until we have received full payment or you have quoted your school's purchase order number below.

1. Cheque: I enclose my cheque/ money order for \$_____ (made payable to the MAV)

2. Credit: Bankcard Mastercard VISA

Card Number:

Signature: _____ Expiry date: _____

Cardholder's name: _____

• Purchase Order Number: _____

The Mathematical Association of Victoria - ABN 34 004 892 755
61 Blyth Street
BRUNSWICK VIC 3056

Professional Development Application Form & Tax Invoice

School: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Principal's Endorsement (if required): _____

MAV Membership: Institutional Individual Non-member

JCSAN Member: If member, name of Association: _____

Please reserve places for the following:

Date	Title of Session	Name of Attendees	Cost (inc. GST)
TOTAL COST INC. GST			

Method of Payment:

I enclose a cheque/money order/purchase order for \$_____ (made payable to MAV)

Purchase Order No. _____

OR

Please charge \$_____ to my: Bankcard Mastercard VISA card

Card Number:

Name on card: _____

Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please return this form to:

The Mathematical Association of Victoria (ABN 34 004 892 755)

Cliveden, 61 Blyth Street, BRUNSWICK VIC 3056, Tel. 9380 2399, Fax. 9389 0399

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT LETTERS

Letters of acknowledgment are only sent out to attendees for full day professional development sessions. Those people attending after school professional development sessions will only be notified if a place is not available.

CANCELLATION:

If you are unable to attend a session that you have booked into, refunds will not be issued if you cancel your booking less than 48 hours prior to the session. Bookings are transferable to another person.