

**Wednesday 19 January 2005**

## **Rural and regional teachers are making mathematics vital in Sydney**

More than 400 mathematics teachers from schools across Australia have assembled in Sydney this week to take part in the Making Mathematics Vital conference at the University of Technology, Sydney.

For 11 of these mathematics teachers, the opportunity to attend the conference has been made possible through the Commonwealth Bank Foundation Teacher Support Program in collaboration with the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT).

Hosted by the AAMT, and sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank Foundation, the 20<sup>th</sup> biennial conference is an opportunity for teachers to undertake professional development and to be brought up to date with the latest industry trends and teaching practices.

Offered in conjunction with the conference, the Foundation's Teacher Support Program awarded 11 mathematics teachers from rural, regional and remote areas throughout Australia the opportunity to attend the conference and present their work to their peers.

The 11 teachers were granted more than \$1,000 each to support their attendance at the conference and have travelled from as far away as Kununurra and Cue in Western Australia, Alice Springs in the Northern Territory, and Fregon in South Australia.

AAMT President, Mr Barry Kissane, said the recipient teachers were chosen for their outstanding commitment to their local community, significant contribution to the profession and innovative teaching practices.

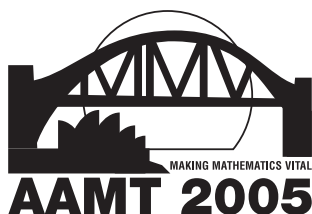
"The AAMT is delighted to be partnered with the Commonwealth Bank Foundation in making the 2005 AAMT conference more accessible to teachers from rural and regional areas," Mr Kissane said.

"The awards make it possible for these teachers to reap the significant benefits of attending the conference and it's an opportunity they, and their students, may not have otherwise had."

Mr Kissane said professional training and development for mathematics teachers had become recognised worldwide as crucial for the improvement of students' numeracy and problem-solving skills, and the development of scientific and technological capability.

"Mathematics is now considered the key science subject that all students must understand and appreciate to ensure their long-term career opportunities," he said.

The Commonwealth Bank Foundation Teacher Support Program covers each teacher's conference registration fee, attendance at the conference dinner and accommodation. The Teachers Support Program is one of a suite of programs the Foundation offers in support of education, in particular financial literacy education.



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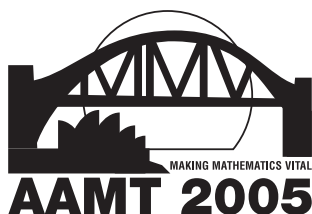
The Commonwealth Bank Foundation is the major sponsor for the 2005 Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT) Conference – *Making Mathematics Vital* – at the University of Technology Sydney Broadway campus from Monday 17 January to Thursday 20 January 2005.

**Recipients of Commonwealth Bank Foundation Teacher Support Program for the 2005 Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers conference**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School, location</b>	<b>Title of presentation</b>
Angela Booy	Fregon Anangu School, Fregon, SA	Getting Excited About Maths In The Outback
Belinda Lewis	Year 3 & 4 teacher, Leigh Creek, SA	<i>Teaching Mathematics In A Multi-Level Classroom</i>
Bridget Haley	Woodbridge School (Kindergarten Class Teacher), Tas	<i>Families Understanding Numeracy</i>
Jamie Furner	Cobar High School, NSW	<i>Incorporating Graphics Calculators Into The Mathematics KLA; Mathematics In Rural And Isolated Areas And The Introduction Of Graphics Calculators</i>
Jan Ladhams	Specialist Teacher of Numeracy, Kununurra District High School, WA	<i>Teaching Children To Understand Operations In Early Childhood</i>
Judith Falle	Lecturer in Mathematics Curriculum, Armidale, NSW	<i>Take 'Em Out Of The Equation: Student Understandings Of 'Cancelling'</i>
Karen Wood	Kinaesthetic Learning Teacher, Cue, WA	<i>Catering For The Diverse Mathematics Needs Of A Multi-Age Rural Classroom</i>
Matt Skoss	Alice Springs High School, NT	<i>Maths On A Mat With Matt</i>
Meredith Logan	St Joseph's School, Walgett, NSW	<i>Solving Problems Beyond The Classroom</i>
Neville Barnard	Author of mathematics educational books, Queenstown, Tas	<i>"Performaths"</i>
Sandra Spencer	Year 7 & 8 teacher, Kirton Point Primary School, Port Lincoln, SA	<i>Exploring Perception, Influencing Attitudes</i>

**Ends**

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## About the Commonwealth Bank Foundation

### **Supporting the Australian Community**

The Commonwealth Bank has supported education and financial literacy for more than 70 years and in 2003 strengthened this commitment with the establishment of the Commonwealth Bank Foundation.

The Commonwealth Bank Foundation seeks to encourage developments in education, particularly the financial literacy skills of all young Australians, and aims to create awareness, skill and understanding of the benefits of a more financially literate community.

The Commonwealth Bank Foundation believes that education is the key to empowering individuals to take effective decisions to achieve their financial goals.

### **How the Foundation is supporting education**

The Foundation supports activities developed directly by the Foundation, although from time to time, it may consider partnerships with organisations and groups where these are consistent with Foundation objectives. At this stage it is developing its own education programs through consultation and in collaboration with education groups, authorities and teaching associations across Australia and is not seeking applications. Foundation programs include:

### **Commonwealth Bank Foundation Financial Literacy Grants**

In 2004, the Foundation invited all Australian secondary schools to apply for up to two grants of \$3,500 each to help develop the awareness, skill and understanding of financial literacy in students from Years 7 to 12. Through the Financial Literacy Grants program, the Foundation awarded 100 grants to schools from all across Australia, in many small, remote rural communities in addition to major towns and big cities. Schools from

### **Commonwealth Bank Foundation Schools Financial Literacy Curriculum Resource**

The Foundation is working with education departments, authorities and teaching associations across Australia to develop a Financial Literacy Curriculum Resource. The resource will have a cross curricula focus, support financial literacy education in Years 7–10 and be made freely available to all schools in 2005.

### **Commonwealth Bank Foundation Financial Literacy Assessment**

The Foundation is developing, with a leading educational group, an annual Financial Literacy Assessment for secondary students to provide teachers with a tool to assess and develop student skill and to assist students identify their individual financial literacy strengths and weaknesses. The Assessment is scheduled for August this year.

### **Commonwealth Bank Foundation e-Learning Grants**

The Foundation believes that the teaching of life skills must start from an early age. Therefore, since 2002, the Foundation has offered the e-Learning Grants program which aims to encourage the development of important literacy and numeracy skills through the use of technology. Since the program commenced, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1 million to 210 primary schools throughout the country.