



Educational Events, Opportunities and Competitions 2017

Please note: many 2017 dates were not available at the time of publication.
Event organisers should be contacted for further details.

Aeronautical Velocity Challenge

This is a STEM initiative focusing on addressing Australia's shortage of scientists and engineers. Challenges include: fighting balsa model propeller powered planes; bottle rockets' distance travelled, maximum velocity attained, precision firing & overall aesthetics. Students compete in teams of four to design, produce, test & evaluate their prototypes. Teams are required to justify their design & engineering decisions verbally to the judging panel. This competition is an ideal opportunity for schools, students, teachers, community and local industry to engage in practical numeracy and literacy activities in a fun and innovative engaging environment.
<http://iiate.asn.au/events/events-calendar/2017-avc-team-entry>

Australasian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiads

Olympiad registration opens early 2017. "Challenging Problem Solving Contests for Students aged 8 to 14." Olympiads begin in May and run once a month until September. www.apsmo.info

Australian Brain Bee Challenge

Online Registration opens early 2017. This is a three part neuroscience competition. Round 1, an online test held in schools takes place in March. Students scoring well will be selected to progress to Round 2 held at a University in your relevant state. Winners will progress to the National Final. See www.ans.org.au/abbc

Australian Informatics Olympiad (AIO)

A national computer programming competition held annually. Students write short computer programs to solve three problems that vary in difficulty. The competition does not test computer literacy or knowledge, but is focused on problem solving through programming skills. Registrations for this event open in February. There are two papers: Intermediate for students up to Year 10, and Senior for students up to Year 12. Each paper consists of three problems, and students submit the source code for their solutions online during the three-hour contest. For more details: www.amt.edu.au/informatics/aio

Australian History Competition

Entry/registration opens early 2017 and close 2 April 2017. Prepared by the History Teachers' Association of Australia the competition will be offered at two separate levels:

- A year 9 & 10 paper will be broadly based on the Australian Curriculum: History for Years 9 & 10.
- A year 7 & 8 paper will be broadly based on the Australian Curriculum: History for Years 7 & 8.

The next competition has been provisionally set for 24 May 2017

www.australianhistorycompetition.com.au

Australian Mathematics Competition

The AMC is a fun competition with many of the problems set in situations familiar to students and showing the relevance of mathematics in their everyday lives. Entries open from February 2017. Competition will be held on 27 July 2017 for Years 3 through 12. www.amt.edu.au/mathematics/amc

Australian Museum Eureka Prizes

Presented annually by the Australian Museum, the prizes reward excellence in the fields of science engagement, leadership, school science, research & innovation.

Key dates for 2017:

- 10 February: Entries open
- 5 May: Entries close 7pm AEST
- 28 July: Finalists announced online
- 30 August: Winners announced at the Award Dinner

<https://australianmuseum.net.au/eureka>

Australian National Chemistry Quiz

Conducted annually by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, the quiz is run on two junior levels (years 7 – 8 and years 9 – 10) and two senior levels for years 11 and 12. It is run in-school and promotes “Science for Everybody”.

Online entry information is sent to schools in February; registrations open in March and close on the 2 June. The quiz will be held on Tuesday 1 August 2017. For more information see:

<http://schools.raci.org.au/competition/ancq/#>

ASX Schools Sharemarket Game

While you teach your students about investing and the Sharemarket, they can put into practice what they are learning by playing the Schools Sharemarket Game. Students receive a virtual \$50,000 that they can invest over a 10 week period, in 200 companies listed on the ASX. The prices students buy and sell at are the same prices as they would get in the live market so this is as close to real life share trading as you can get. It is free to play and as a bonus students can win great cash prizes. There are teacher lesson plans and resources available once you register for the Game.

- Game 1 - Registrations open: 9 February Game play: 9 Mar - 17 May
- Game 2 - Registrations open: 20 July Game play: 17 Aug - 25 Oct

www.asx.com.au/education/sharemarket-games.htm

Big Science Competition

The Big Science Competition is held between 17 May and 24 May 2017. Registrations close 19 April 2017. An easy way to challenge students from years 7 to 10 and track their performance against state or national averages. Competition questions are aligned with the Australian Curriculum – Science.

www.asi.edu.au/programs/big-science-competition

Computational and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT)

This is a one-hour problem-solving competition 21 March 2017 which seeks to identify computer programming potential - something which students might not normally have an opportunity to demonstrate. There are various papers for Years ranging 5 through 12. www.amt.edu.au/informatics/cat

Dorothy Mackellar Poetry Awards

The aim of the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards is to capture the imagination of every school student in Australia, inspiring them with a passion for poetry. It is a unique National project, giving Australia's young people a voice and an opportunity to strive for excellence in literature. Prizes include a range of plaques, trophies and cash.

Phone: (02) 6740 2233

Email: dorothea@northnet.com.au

Web: www.dorothea.com.au

Extension History Essay Prize

Entry forms available early 2017. Please note that this competition has no link with the HSC exam. Closing date: 15 September 2017. www.htansw.asn.au/extension-prize

Future Problem Solving Program Australia

“Helps young people to learn how to think, not what to think.”

The program challenges students to apply their minds to some of the significant issues facing the world of today and the future, equipping them with the vision, skills and tools to design and promote positive futures for the society in which they live. Global Issues Problem Solving, Scenario Writing, Scenario Performance and Community Problem Solving. Open to Junior, Middle and Senior teams. Registrations close Friday 3 March 2017. Submission deadline dates vary depending on chosen topic. www.fpsp.org.au

HSC English Extension 2 Study Day

The English Teachers Association NSW will hold a HSC English Extension 2 Study Day on 19 March 2017. For more information and to register see www.englishteacher.com.au/Events.aspx

HSC English Paper 1 Student Day

HSC English study day is run by the English Teachers Association and will be held 24 February 2017. Online registration and further details available here: www.englishteacher.com.au/Events.aspx

HSC Mathematics Extension 1&2 Day

This is an annual event run for students by MANSW (formerly known as Talented Students Day). It is designed to be a challenging and intellectually stimulating occasion for students who are studying Mathematics Extension 1 or 2. Online registration and further information available at: www.mansw.nsw.edu.au/student-activities/hsc-mathematics-extension-1-2-day

HSC Mathematics Lectures – Metropolitan

MANSW's ever-popular HSC lectures at Sydney University will be back in 2017.

For further information visit:

www.mansw.nsw.edu.au/student-activities/hsc-lectures-metropolitan or contact events coordinator Zina Di Pino at zina@mansw.nsw.edu.au

HSC Mathematics Lectures – Regional

MANSW professional officers are available to deliver one day of HSC lectures for *Mathematics 2 Unit*, *Mathematics Extension 1* and *Mathematics General 2* in-school.

If you are willing to host a full day of HSC lectures in your region, please email Zina Di Pino on

zina@mansw.nsw.edu.au

www.mansw.nsw.edu.au/student-activities/hsc-lectures-regional

HTANSW HSC History Study Days

Program and Registration will open in April 2017. Workshop days will be held on:

- Thursday 15 June – Ancient History, Modern History and Extension History
- Friday 16 June – Ancient History and Modern History
- Saturday 17 June – Ancient History, Modern History and Extension History

For further information see the website: www.htansw.asn.au/hsc-history-studydays

ICAS Digital Technologies Competition/Assessment

Online Registrations close 7 April 2017 and the sitting date will be 23 May 2017. These competitions and assessments are run by Educational Assessment Australia in the University of New South Wales. Check the website for further details: www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/dates-and-fees

ICAS Science Competition/Assessment

Online Registrations close 2 May 2017 and the sitting date will be 30 May 2017. These competitions and assessments are run by Educational Assessment Australia, University of New South Wales. Check the website for further details: www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/dates-and-fees

ICAS Spelling Competition/Assessment

Online registrations close 16 May 2017 and the sitting date will be 14 June 2017. These competitions and assessments are run by Educational Assessment Australia, University of New South Wales. Check the website for further details: www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/dates-and-fees

ICAS Writing Competition/Assessment

Online 2017 registrations close 15 May. Although the sitting date will be Monday 12 June, students can sit ICAS Writing anytime during that week up to the 16 June, and still be eligible for UNSW Medals. These competitions and assessments are run by Educational Assessment Australia, University of New South Wales. Check the website for further details:

www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/dates-and-fees

Investigating with Mathematics

For all school students from Pre-school to Year 12, Investigating Maths is a project based competition on a mathematical topic of the participant(s)' choosing for individual students or for groups of students or for a whole class. For further information see website: www.mansw.nsw.edu.au/student-activities/investigating-with-mathematics or contact events coordinator Zina Di Pino on zina@mansw.nsw.edu.au

Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award

This competition is organised by The Arts Unit of the NSW Department of Education and is proudly sponsored by Australian charity Sydney Legacy.

Open to NSW government and non-government secondary schools for students aged 12 or above, but under 15 years of age on 1st January 2017.

Each school can enter a maximum of 2 contestants. Competition entries open January 2017, with the deadline being Thursday 23 March 2017. Entry forms can be completed online or phone (02) 8512 1172 for more information. For conditions of entry and registration details see website:

www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/speaking-competitions/public-speaking/legacy-junior-public-speaking-award-0

Mathematics Enrichment for Young Australians

Enrichment Stage April to September (16 Weeks). "Meet the challenge of a number of in-depth yet accessible problems." Further information and registration on website:

www.amt.edu.au/have-you-registered-for-mcya-enrichment

Maths Inspiration

"Inspire teenagers to pursue maths and other STEM subjects to HSC and beyond."

For school students aged 15 to 17, one of the largest mathematics enrichment programs for teenagers in the UK, is visiting Sydney. It's a chance for students to experience three entertaining and interactive mathematics speakers live, presenting mathematics in real-world situations.

The dates and venues for 2017 are:

Monday 24 July - Civic Theatre Newcastle

Tuesday 25 July - Bankstown Sports Club

Thursday 27 July - Concourse Chatswood

Friday 28 July - Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre

For further information see website: <http://www.mansw.nsw.edu.au> , or contact events coordinator email Zina Di Pino | zina@mansw.nsw.edu.au

Mathematics at Luna Park

Excursion for students in Years 5 - 12 and their teachers. These workshops are run throughout the year beginning 6 February 2017 and ending 15 December 2017. Refer to the Mathematical Association of NSW or their website for further details: www.mansw.nsw.edu.au/student-activities/luna-park

Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition

Online Entries open in January. Open to all NSW government primary schools. Two age divisions - Years 3 and 4 students and Years 5 and 6 students. Entries due by Friday 24 March 2017. Maximum 2 students from each school in each division. For more information see website:

www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/speaking-competitions/public-speaking/multicultural-perspectives-public-speaking-competition-0

National History Challenge- “Making a better world?”

The National History Challenge is a research-based competition for students. It gives students a chance to be an historian, investigating their community and exploring their own past. Students submit their research at school level and can progress through Regional, State and National finals.

For more information see www.historychallenge.org.au

National Mathematics Summer School

A two-week residential summer course held each January at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. For mathematically gifted and talented students from all over Australia. Nominations of Year 11 students for the 2018 Summer School should be lodged by July 2017. Further information on website:

www.nmss.edu.au

NSW Premier’s Sporting Challenge

The Challenge includes a range of initiatives with one common purpose – to have more students, more active, more of the time. Sporting Challenge Registrations are now open. For online registration and further details see <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/psc/home.html>

NSW Schools Titration Competition

NSW School Titration competition is a “A quantitative analytical competition open to NSW students currently enrolled in Senior Chemistry studying towards the Higher School Certificate.” The competition is held at a number of venues throughout the state. Registration opens early 2017. Competition is held and judged in June. Further information on venues and registration on website: www.nswtitration.com

Plain English Speaking Award

Entries open January. Open to NSW government and non-government secondary schools. Contestants must be between 15 and 18 years of age (inclusive) on 1 January and hold an Australian Citizenship or Permanent Residency. Entry closes 23 March 2017. For conditions of entry and registration details see website:

www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/speaking-competitions/public-speaking/plain-english-speaking-award

Premier’s Debating Challenges

Open to students in government schools. Debating challenges are available for different age groups and include:

- Years 5 & 6 Debating Challenge
- Years 7 & 8 Debating Challenge
- Years 9 & 10 Debating Challenge
- Year 11 & 12 Debating Challenge
- Year 11 Metropolitan Sydney Debating Competition
- Combined High Schools Debating
- Junior State Debating Championships
- Primary Schools State Debating Championships

Online Applications for Year 11 Metro and Year 11 & 12 close 15 February 2017, all other applications close 27 February 2017. See the website for further information about the challenges including dates and how to register your school:

www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/speaking-competitions/premiers-debating-challenge

Premier’s Reading Challenge

Booklists are available early 2017. The challenge runs from 6 March to 25 August 2017. Available to students from kindergarten – year 9 in all schools. Further information on website:

<https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

Premier’s Spelling Bee

The Premier’s Spelling Bee was introduced in 2004 as a fun and educational way for primary school students to engage in spelling. The 2017 Premier’s Spelling Bee will be launched in April 2017 and spelling lists, entry forms and other resources will become available for school use. The program includes activities to encourage all students to engage with spelling and to promote improved literacy in combination with the English K-6 Syllabus.

www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/speaking-competitions/spelling-bee/premiers-spelling-bee

Rostrum Voice of Youth

Rostrum is extremely proud to champion the public speaking skills of Australian young people through the annual Rostrum Voice of Youth student development program. This competition is open to all high school students across Australia who meets the age requirements and is conducted in senior and junior divisions.

Many schools conduct their own competitions to determine the students who will enter the Rostrum event. The Voice of Youth culminates in the National Speaking Competition which involves a prepared speech and an impromptu speech. Over 3000 students participate in the Rostrum Voice of Youth each year, covering over 500 schools.

For more details, visit www.rostrum.com.au/rvoy

Science and Engineering Challenge (Western Sydney University)

This is available to students in Stage 5 (predominately Year 10) with a minimum of 16 participants and a maximum of 32 per school. It consists of hands on competitive STEM challenges that aim to stimulate interest and increase elective choices in STEM into Stage 6.

Dates for 2017: Tuesday 27 June OR Wednesday 28 June

Watch the 2016 Science & Engineering Challenge video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Yzy58LLhHE
www.westernsydney.edu.au/scemevents

Science and Engineering Challenge

The Challenge is an outreach program held in various locations around Australia conducted nationally by the University of Newcastle. It is designed to inspire students to study science and engineering at a senior level". Challenge dates and venues available nationwide. For more information and challenge details see the website www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/engineering/community-engagement/challenge/

STANSW HSC Exam Preparation Days

The Science Teachers' Association holds HSC exam preparation days in regional NSW every year.

For more information see www.stansw.asn.au

STANSW Young Scientist Awards

Entries close in August. "Young Scientist offers students from kindergarten to year 12 worthwhile incentives to carry out scientific investigations". Teachers must register school students' project via an online submission form. For more information and project registration see website:

www.youngscientist.com.au

The College, Western Sydney University

Offers short courses and HSC lectures throughout the year.

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/hsc_study_sessions

The Simpson Prize

The Simpson Prize is for year 9 and 10 students to participate in a nationwide essay competition, giving them the chance to win an unforgettable 2 week trip to Turkey as well as a preparatory trip to Canberra.

See website www.htansw.asn.au/simpson-prize

Tournament of Minds

"Tournament of Minds is a problem solving program for teams of students from both primary and secondary years." This annual competition is suitable for all students and stems from the following disciplines:

- Science Technology
- Engineering Mathematics
- Social Sciences
- Language Literature.

Registration and further details on website: www.tom.edu.au

Western Sydney University – Schools Engagement

Schools Engagement offers various programs and full day events through the university and in partnership with other educational organisations. These include: Math IT, Young Writers' Day, Environmental Education Programs and organising Academic Speakers to visit schools. For further information please see our website at www.westernsydney.edu.au/schoolsengagement

Western Sydney University – School of Computing Engineering and Mathematics

SCEM offers a diverse range of STEM engagement activities. These include Engineering Frontiers, Impress Design Workshop, and other new and exciting workshops in computing and design. Access to their MakerSpace facility can be arranged by visiting www.westernsydney.edu.au/makerspace
To find out more about SCEM's programs, see www.westernsydney.edu.au/scemevents

If you are interested in arranging student excursions to Penrith Observatory please see www.westernsydney.edu.au/scemevents

“What Matters?” Writing competition

“What Matters?” is run by the Whitlam Institute at Western Sydney University. This competition gives students in years 5 – 12 in NSW and the ACT a chance to say what matters in society today. What actions do you think should be taken to build a better society? What would you change if you could? What do you want other people to care about?”

Online Applications close 5 May 2017. For further information and application forms on the website: http://www.whitlam.org/the_program/what_matters_writing_competition

Young Writers' Day

Young Writers' Day is run by Western Sydney University annually and aims to recognize the talent of local students, and give students the opportunity to meet and learn from established authors. For more information on content and venues please see website: www.westernsydney.edu.au/ywd

This document has been produced by:

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All hyperlinks and information contained within were current as at 5 February 2017