Contents

Preface xi

Credits xiii

Part 1. A day in Australia 1

Chapter 1. A puzzling Australia Day 3

Chapter 2. The biggest pineapple in the world 7

Chapter 3. The Nullarbor conundrum 11

Chapter 4. The revenge of the lawn 13

Chapter 5. A Greek in an Italian restaurant 17

Chapter 6. Please say hello to Adelaide and Victoria 19

Part 2. Sports rules! 23

Chapter 7. The problem of cricket points 25

Chapter 8. Matthew Lloyd vs. Brendan Fevola 27

Chapter 9. The perfect rugby conversion 29

Chapter 10. The Socceroos and the group of death 33

Chapter 11. The greatest team of all 37

Part 3. Aussie heroes 41

Chapter 12. Around the world in 80 (plus 129) days 43

Chapter 13. A prime mathematician 47

Chapter 14. Rubik's cube in ten seconds or less 49

Chapter 15. The wonderful Function of Michael Deakin 51

Chapter 16. A Webb of intrigue 55

Part 4. Melbourne, City of Mathematics 59

Chapter 17. A very peculiar Storey 61

Chapter 18. Federation forensics 69
Chapter 19. More forensicking 75
Chapter 20. Excavating a mathematical museum piece 79
Chapter 21. AcCosted at Healesville 81
Chapter 22. The Klein Bottle Beach House 85
Chapter 23. Waiting for the apple to fall 89

Part 5. A Lotto gambling 91
Chapter 24. A bucketful of two-up 93
Chapter 25. We get a Lotto calls 95
Chapter 26. Winning the Lotto by the Melbourne method 99
Chapter 27. The super-rigging of poker machines 101
Chapter 28. How much is a $100 free bet worth? 103

Part 6. Keeping the bastards honest 105
Chapter 29. Tomfoolery and gerrymandering 107
Chapter 30. Tally up the votes that count 111
Chapter 31. Green, with envy 115
Chapter 32. Do prime ministers share their birthday cake? 119

Part 7. Canned life 121
Chapter 33. The perfect box 123
Chapter 34. Crunching can numbers 125
Chapter 35. An added dimension to can crunching 127
Chapter 36. Cool Kepler cat cans 129

Part 8. Money, money, money 133
Chapter 37. Taxing numbers take the law into their own hands 135
Chapter 38. Right on the money for a change 137
Chapter 39. Triangulating the Queen 139

Part 9. Family life 141
Chapter 40. Sex, lies, and mathematics 143
Chapter 41. Mathematical matchmaking 145

Chapter 42. Living in the zone 147

Part 10. Here, there, and everywhere 149

Chapter 43. Proving a point on speed 151

Chapter 44. The Maths Masters' Tour de Victoria 153

Chapter 45. The Ausland paradox 157

Chapter 46. Schnell! Snell! 159

Part 11. TV snacks 161

Chapter 47. The Choice is Right! 163

Chapter 48. Maths MasterChefs 165

Chapter 49. Maths Masters under the Scope 169

Chapter 50. How to murder a mathematician 173

Chapter 51. A show devoted entirely to numbers (and letters) 177

Chapter 52. Bloody Numbers! 179

Part 12. The Australian math wars 181

Chapter 53. Irrational thoughts 183

Chapter 54. The best laid NAPLAN 187

Chapter 55. Divide and conquer 191

Chapter 56. Educational Barbs 195

Chapter 57. The statistical problem of greedy pigs 199

Chapter 58. The paradox of Australian mathematics education 203

Part 13. The critics at work 207

Chapter 59. The golden ratio must die! 209

Chapter 60. Newly done? Bernoulli done! 213

Chapter 61. Will math kill the rhino? 217

Chapter 62. Shooting logarithmic fish in a barrel 221

Chapter 63. Sliding downwards 225

Chapter 64. Parabolic playtime 229

Appendix 235

Solutions to the puzzles 237