

## **Associate Professor Beth Southwell**

Beth Southwell taught in Sydney schools, but travelled to the UK for her doctorate in mathematics education. Her research in Papua New Guinea and Australia focused on curriculum development, problem solving, affective factors in mathematics learning, and language in mathematics for ESL students (especially adults).

Beth took a “connectionist” approach to teaching and learning and was particularly interested in forms of assessment that capture and further develop student understanding. With painstaking attention to detail and a passion for successful teaching of mathematics, she continued to contribute to books, conferences and journals until her last few weeks. She also continued to supervise students and teach at the University of Western Sydney for as long as possible.

Beth was passionate about academic's rights, and successfully fought for tenure to continue beyond the age of 65, for reasonable workloads for all staff, and for the recognition of quality teaching. She also made an impact by publishing under a pseudonym about women in academia.

Through her work with Department of Education curriculum reviews, MANSW, the Primary Association for Mathematics, the NSW Institute for Educational Research, MELA, MERGA, PME and AAMT, Beth made significant contributions to mathematics education. Beth had a longstanding involvement with the Mathematical Association of New South Wales (as well as other professional associations) and served as an AAMT councillor.