



## Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad for Secondary Students 2010

**OzCLO** is the *Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad*, a state and national competition for secondary students. It introduces students to language puzzles from which they can learn about the richness, diversity and systematic nature of language, while exercising natural logic and reasoning skills.

**Linguistics** is a wide-ranging discipline that explores the nature of human language. It's concerned with what languages have in common and how they are different, how they are structured, how they are learnt, how they are used in different cultures and societies, and how they change over time. The particular focus in OzCLO is on logical thinking as it relates to discovering how languages work. See the sample problems in the *Preparation Package* (downloadable). No prior knowledge of other languages, linguistics or computer programming is necessary and the competition doesn't require the use of computers.

OzCLO started in 2008, attracting teams from schools in Victoria and New South Wales, and expanded in 2009 to cover most other states. Linguistics at UWA is organising the WA State Round and is looking forward to our best and brightest secondary students going on to compete in the National Round. We're also hoping that the top team will travel to Sweden to represent Australia at the international competition later in the year. The competitions in the other states will be held at the University of Melbourne, the University of Sydney, the Australian National University, the University of Queensland, the University of New England, and the University of Adelaide.

### **Who?**

The competition is designed for students from Years 9 to 12. Past experience shows that there is appeal across humanities and science interests. Students who like language and languages, maths, computers, or natural sciences are likely to be interested in this competition. In fact, any secondary school student who enjoys the sample problems in the OzCLO Preparation Package is a potential contestant! Secondary students don't usually know much about linguistics and computational linguistics, so they might not know if they are interested until they try a few sample problems themselves.

In the competition, all teams will complete the same tasks, but teams will be ranked within their age level: Junior (Years 9-10), or Senior (Years 11-12).

There will be a limit on the number of teams competing. So get in early! Any secondary school can enter two teams of four students each. The two teams from any school can be both Junior, both Senior or one of each. A third team can also be wait-listed in case an additional position becomes available.

