

# Using Desmos to facilitate collaborative, online tutorials

**WATTLE Teaching Circle  
Presentation**

## **WATTLE EVENT**

If you are looking for a way to improve student engagement in your online tutorials, Desmos might help. Join this session to learn more, see a live demonstration and hear UOW user perspectives.

**5 AUGUST 2022**

Time: 3:30-4:30pm AEST via Zoom

Register at: <https://wattle-using-desmos.eventbrite.com.au>



UNIVERSITY  
OF WOLLONGONG  
AUSTRALIA

## WATTLE Teaching Circle

### Showcase: Using Desmos to facilitate collaborative, online tutorials

If you are looking for a way to improve student engagement in your online tutorials, Desmos might help <https://www.desmos.com/>.

This website has some clear advantages for delivering interactive and collaborative teaching activities, in comparison to alternatives such as Conceptboard or H5P. Our WATTLE Teaching Circle ran a pilot of Desmos in first-year mathematics and statistics subjects and we were very pleased with the results. We used Desmos in online Zoom/WebEx tutorials, where the students were divided into breakout rooms to work on assigned exercises. Although its main strength is for mathematical notation and graphing, we believe that it has potential for broader application in other subjects, such as engineering, physics, and chemistry.

**We will give a live demonstration to get you started, so that you can experience Desmos from the perspectives of both a student and an instructor.**

We will also showcase some of the tutorial exercises that we have created for our own subjects, as well as discussing how the students responded.

## Presenters

### A/Prof Caz Sandison is a

leader and innovator in the teaching of mathematics, having implemented significant change at individual subject level, led large-scale curriculum renewal and developed specialist service teaching programs for a range of disciplines. Her teaching approach maximises student engagement and learning through modularised content, use of diverse assessment techniques, group-centred learning environments that allow for differences in learning styles, and curriculum and resources tailored to disciplinary and professional contexts. Caz has received two OCTAL awards and an OLT citation for her dedication to improving the student learning experience. She is currently chair of the School Education Committee and Head of Students for mathematics and physics.



### Dr Carole Birrell is currently a Senior Lecturer in the National Institute for Applied Statistics Research Australia (NIASRA) within the School of Mathematics and Applied

Statistics. Her interest in teaching mathematics and statistics has progressed from her time as a high school mathematics teacher. She has a particular passion for teaching statistics and has implemented change in many subjects to improve student engagement and reflect real-world problems in assessments. She has presented at discipline specific education conferences and run workshops internationally. Carole has received one OCTAL award and has been nominated for two others. She currently serves on the School Education Committee and previously served on the team for the school's major curriculum review.

### Dr Matt Moores is a WATTLE Associate Fellow. He joined the School of Mathematics and Applied Statistics in 2018 with a continuing lectureship in

statistical science. He is currently the Academic Programme Director for the Bachelor of Data Science and Analytics and the Graduate Certificate in Principles of Data Science. Matt is actively involved in subject and course development, including Work-Integrated Learning for the capstone of the BDataSci degree.

