Activity 3   Pascal's triangle

Aim: Generate Pascal's triangle in a spreadsheet.

Build a spreadsheet based on the formulae shown and extended to 15 rows.

- Column A is 1's
- The diagonal starting in cell B1 is also 1's

	A	B	C	D
1	1	1		
2	1	=A1+B1	1	
3	1	=A2+B2	=B2+C2	1
4	1	=A3+B3	=B3+C3	=C3+D3

1. What are the elements in row 6?

2. Explain in words the formula for a new cell (where a formula is needed)

3. How is the spreadsheet connected to Pascal's triangle?

Learning notes

More work on Pascal's triangle will be done in the Methods course. This activity is aimed at practising/developing your spreadsheet skills and may be done on a computer spreadsheet.

If you are not familiar with Pascal's triangle, a little research will be helpful.