

Preface

This is a record of the proceedings of the 30th annual conference of the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia (MERGA). The theme of the conference is *Mathematics: Essential research, essential practice*. The theme draws attention to the importance of developing and maintaining links between research and practice and ties in with the joint day of presentations with the 21st biennial conference of the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT). This special feature highlights the benefits of collaboration between researchers, practising classroom teachers, and curriculum developers.

We are pleased to welcome conference participants who are attending MERGA for the first time. We hope you will make yourselves known so you can be made welcome and introduced to others who share your research interests. Authors from nine countries are represented in these proceedings, as well as from nearly every university in Australia and New Zealand with education programs. There are also participants from state and private school systems and government ministries of education. We look forward to the dialog that will emerge from the varying perspectives brought by participants, especially through the forums that will take place on the joint day shared with the AAMT.

All research papers and symposia submitted were blind peer-reviewed (without the author/s being identified), by two experienced mathematics education researchers who followed strict guideline that have been honed over a number of years. Where the two reviewers, who did not know the identity of the other reviewer, disagreed about the acceptability of a paper, another blind review was carried out by a third reviewer. For consistency, a small panel of highly experienced reviewers undertook the task of reviewing papers in this category. Only those research papers that were accepted by two reviewers have been included in these conference proceedings. The abstracts for short communications and round table discussions were read by two reviewers, who provided feedback and advice to authors on the MERGA guidelines for these types of presentation.

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Kim Beswick
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