



ABN 14 351 828 453

# MATHEMATICS EDUCATION RESEARCH GROUP OF AUSTRALASIA, INC.

## **Draft AGM MINUTES**

*Fremantle, Sunday, 4 July, 2010.*

- 1. Present:** Di Siemon, Trevor Redmond, Barry Kissane, Jana Visnovska, Max Stephens, Janeen Lamb, Eduarda Van Vlingen, Philip Clarkson, Joanna Higgins, Bruce Moody, Kay Owens, Tamsin Meaney, Marj Horne, Len Sparrow, Robyn Jorgensen, Pete Grootenboer, Helen Forgasz, Gilch Leder, Peter Sullivan, Kaye Stacey, Jan Thomas, Jane Watson, Kim Beswick, Jodie Hunter, Helen Chick, Linda Galligan, Steve Thornton, Jenni Way, Vince Geiger, Bobbie Hunter, Gaye Williams, Merrilyn Goos, Gloria Stillman, Katie Makar, Julie Clark

- 2. Apologies:** There were no apologies.

- 3. Minutes of the AGM in Wellington July, 2009** (attachment 1)

*Motion: That the minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting held in Wellington be accepted.*

*[Moved, Steve Thornton; Seconded, Jodie Hunter; Carried]*

- 4. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

All matters arising dealt with in the reports.

- 5. Reports:**

### **5.1 President's Report:** Merrilyn Goos

The President, Merrilyn Goos, delivered an oral report. The Presidents report is attached to the minutes (Attachment 2).

*Motion: That the President's report be accepted.*

*[Moved from the Chair, Carried]*

### **5.2 Treasurer's Report:** Katie Makar

The Treasurer presented the financial report for 2010-2011. A copy of this report is attached to the minutes (Attachment 3).

*Motion: That the Treasurer's report be accepted.*

*[Moved, Katie Makar; Seconded, Jenny Way; Carried]*

**5.3 VP (Publications) Report: Colleen Vale**

The Vice-President (Publications) presented an oral report on activity during 2010-2011. A copy of the Vice-President's (Publications) report is attached to the minutes (Attachment 4).

*Motion: That the Vice-President's (Publications) report be accepted.*

*[Moved, Colleen Vale; Seconded, Helen Forgasz; Carried]*

**5.3 VP (Communications) Report: Julie Clark**

The Vice-President (Communications) presented an oral report for activity during 2010-2011. A copy of the Vice-President's (Communications) report is attached to the minutes (Attachment 5).

*Motion: That the Vice-President's (Communications) report be accepted.*

*[Moved, Julie Clark; Seconded, Marj Horne; Carried]*

**5.4 VP (Developments) Report: Gaye Williams**

The Vice-President (Developments) presented an oral report for activity during 2010-2011. A copy of the Vice-President's (Developments) report is attached to the minutes (Attachment 6).

*Motion: That the Vice-President's (Developments) report be accepted.*

*[Moved, Gaye Williams; Seconded, Peter Grootenboer; Carried]*

**5.5 VP (Conferences) Report: Bobbie Hunter**

The Vice-President (Conferences) presented an oral report for activity during 2010-2011. A copy of the Vice-President's (Conferences) report is attached to the minutes (Attachment 7).

*Motion: That the Vice-President's (Conferences) report be accepted.*

*[Moved, Bobbie Hunter; Seconded, Gilah Leder; Carried]*

**5.6 VP (Research) Report: Gloria Stillman**

The Vice-President (Research) presented an oral report on activity during 2010-2011. A copy of the Vice-President's (Research) report is attached to the minutes (Attachment 8).

*Motion: That the Vice-President's (Research) report be accepted.*

*[Moved, Gloria Stillman; Seconded, Max Stephens; Carried]*

**6. Election of Officers**

**6.1 Secretary**

Nominee: Vince Geiger

*[Elected unopposed]*

**6.2 Treasurer**

Nominee: Katie Makar

*[Elected unopposed]*

**6.3 VP (Conferences)**

Nominee: Bobbie Hunter

*[Elected unopposed]*

**6.4 VP (Communications)**

Nominee: Julie Clark

*[Elected unopposed]*

**6.5 VP (Research)**

Nominee: Gloria Stillman

*[Elected unopposed]*

**7. Other Business**

**7.1 Early Career Award**

This announcement was deferred until the upcoming keynote address.

**7.2 Life Membership**

*Motion: That Judy Mousley be awarded life membership of AAMT.*

*[Moved from the chair; Carried by acclamation]*

The meeting closed at 5.15

Attachment 1



ABN 14 351 828 453

# MATHEMATICS EDUCATION RESEARCH GROUP OF AUSTRALASIA, INC.

## AGM MINUTES

*Wellington, Tuesday, 7 July, 2009.*

5. **Present:** Vince Geiger, Judy Mousley, Gloria Stillman, Julie Clark, Jodie Hunter, Gaye Williams, Helen Chick, Jaguthsing Dindyal, Joan Bufitt, Anthony Bill, Philip Calrkson, Bill Barton, Fiona Phillips, Kim Beswick, Janeen Lamb, Marilyn Goos, Paul Woodward, Sharyn Livy, Sue Wilson, Peter Sullivan, Gloria Stillman, Peter Grootenboer, Rohain Mohamad, Rosemary Callingham, Linda Makin, Colleen Vale, Katie Makar, Roberta Hunter, Jill Brown, Tricia Forrester, Vicki Steinle, Ester Loong, Ingrid Cheueng, Helen Forgasz, Dianne Sieman, Harj Horne, Jan Thomas, Shelley Dole, Len Sparrow, Judith Falle, Gilah Leder, Joanna Higgins, Glenda Anthony, Katie Makar, Max Stephens, David Ellemor-Collins, Brenda Bicknell, Matt Sexton, Louise Hodgson, Peter Saunders, Hazel Tan, Ng Luan Eng, Ya Ling Lee, Angela Jones

6. **Apologies:**

7. **Minutes of the AGM in Brisbane June, 2008**

*Motion: That the minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting held in Brisbane be accepted*

*[Moved from the Chair, Carried]*

8. **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

All matters arising dealt with in the reports.

5. **Reports:**

5.1 **President's Report:** Judy Mousley

The President, Judy Mousley, delivered and oral report. Notes from this report are attached to the minutes (Attachment 1).

*Motion: That the President's report be accepted.*

*[Moved from the Chair, Carried by acclamation]*

5.7 **Treasurer's Report:** Katie Makar

The Treasurer presented the financial report for 2008-2009. A copy of this report is attached to the minutes (Attachment 2).

*Motion: That the Treasurer's report be accepted.*

*[Moved: Katie Makar, Seconded Max: Stephens, Carried]*

**5.3 VP (Publications) Report: Colleen Vale**

The Vice-President (Publications) presented an oral report for activity during 2008-2009. A copy of the Vice-President's (Publications) report is attached to the minutes (Attachment 3).

*Motion: That the Vice-President's (Publications) report be accepted.*

*[Moved: Colleen Vale, Seconded: David Ellemore-Collins, Carried]*

The Vice-President (Publications) raised a series of issues related to two MERGA journals – MTED and MERJ.

*Motion: That this meeting of MERGA members agrees that MERGA should continue to publish MTED.*

*[Moved: Katie Maker, Seconded: Julie Clark, Carried]*

*Motion: That this meeting of MERGA members agrees that MERGA should increase the number of MTED issues to two/three issues per year.*

*[Moved: Katie Makar, Seconded: Gloria Stillman, Carried]*

*Motion: That this meeting of MERGA members agrees, in principle, to enter into an agreement with Springer in the first instance to publish MERJ.*

*[Moved: Coleen Vale, Seconded: Peter Grootenboer, Carried]*

*Motion: That this meeting of MERGA members instructs the MERGA Executive to negotiate a favourable agreement with a publisher.*

*[Moved: Colleen Vale, Seconded: Peter Grootenboer, Carried]*

*Motion: That this meeting of MERGA agrees to publish MTED freely online only, through the Merga website.*

*[Moved: Helen F, Seconded: Peter Grootenboer, Defeated]*

**5.8 VP (Communications) Report: Julie Clark**

The Vice-President (Communications) presented an oral report for activity during 2008-2009. A copy of the Vice-President's (Communications) report is attached to the minutes (Attachment 4).

*Motion: That the Vice-President's (Communications) report be accepted.*

*[Moved: Julie Clark, Seconded: Colleen Vale, Carried]*

**5.9 VP (Developments) Report: Gaye Williams**

The Vice-President (Developments) presented an oral report for activity during 2008-2009. A copy of the Vice-President's (Developments) report is attached to the minutes (Attachment 5).

*Motion: That the Vice-President's (Developments) report be accepted.*

*[Moved: Gaye Williams, Seconded: Marj Horne, Carried]*

**5.10 VP (Conferences) Report: Bobbie Hunter**

The Vice-President (Conferences) presented an oral report for activity during 2008-2009. A copy of the Vice-President's (Conferences) report is attached to the minutes (Attachment 6). In addition to this report the Vice-President (Conferences) announced that the 2011 MERGA conference will be held in Alice Springs. Discussion will be held with the Australian Association of Mathematics teachers in relation to the possibility of holding a joint conference at this time.

*Motion: That the Vice-President's (Conferences) report be accepted.*

*[Moved: Gaye Bobbie Hunter, Seconded: Jill Brown, Carried]*

**5.11 VP (Research) Report: Gloria Stillman**

The Vice-President (Research) presented an oral report on activity during 2008-2009. A copy of the Vice-President's (Research) report is attached to the minutes (Attachment 7). In this report the Vice-President (Research) highlighted the creation of two research awards – the MERGA Career Research Medal and the MERGA Research Award. Details of both of these rewards are found in the report.

*Motion: That the Vice-President's (Research) report be accepted.*

*[Moved: Gloria Stillman, Seconded: Glenda Anthony, Carried]*

**6. Election of Officers**

**6.1 President**

Nominee: Marilyn Goos

*[Nominated: Katie Makar, Seconded: Vince Geiger, Carried]*

**6.2 VP (Developments)**

Nominee: Gaye Williams

*[Nominated: Jill Brown, Seconded: Bobbie Hunter, Carried]*

**6.3 VP (Publications)**

Nominee: Colleen Vale

*[Nominated: Peter Grootenboer, Seconded: Marilyn Goos, Carried]*

**7. Other Business**

**7.1 Early Career Award:**

Winner – Jodie Hunter

**7.2 Motion: That a vote of thanks be extended to the President, Judy Mousley for her contribution to MERGA during the term of her presidency.**

*[Moved: Merilyn Goos; Seconded: Vince Geiger, Carried by acclamation]*

The meeting closed at 5.09

## Attachment 2

### MERGA President's Report

In my first 6 months as President it's been interesting to reflect on the similarities and differences I see between my previous experience on the MERGA Executive, as Treasurer from 1999-2004, and the way MERGA now operates. The similarities lie in MERGA's continuing value to the mathematics education community. Colleagues in other countries and other disciplines envy the support, development and networking opportunities that MERGA provides to its members, whether early career researchers or "old hands". They also admire the quality of our conference and our journals as means of disseminating our research. So what is different? MERGA is now more actively involved in a wider range of activities and, therefore, a more complex organisation to run. We are fortunate to have administrative support from the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers, an expert webmaster in Andy Yeh, members who are willing to edit journals and organise conferences, and a hardworking Executive who devote so much of their time to MERGA. I thank all these people for their support. I would also like to acknowledge the sterling contribution of Judy Mousley during her recently concluded term as President. Judy continues to be a source of advice and institutional memory, and she is taking steps to ensure this memory is preserved via initiatives such as the MERGA Conference Handbook and a history of MERGA available on our website.

The role of the President is described in MERGA's constitution as providing leadership for the attainment of the purposes of the Association, which are to:

- promote quality research in mathematics education;
- disseminate information on recent mathematics education research and teaching developments;
- seek to influence decision makers at all levels to take into account research findings in mathematics education;
- provide means for members to communicate with each other on matters concerning mathematics education; and
- maintain liaison with other organisations with interests in mathematics education or educational research.

Some of these purposes have been at the forefront of our activities in the past twelve months. In particular, MERGA, as an organisation, has contributed to many of the consultations feeding into the development of the *Australian curriculum – Mathematics*. Members of the Executive have represented MERGA at ACARA consultation workshops for the K-10 and senior secondary curricula, and MERGA is making its own submissions to ACARA as part of the consultation process. My thanks to the many MERGA members who have contributed to these submissions. As President I was invited by the Australian Council of Heads of Mathematical Sciences (representing Mathematics Departments in Australian universities) to join a small working party that wrote the ACHMS submission on the K-10 curriculum, and I'll do likewise for the senior secondary courses. Gaining insights into mathematicians' perspectives on the curriculum is important if MERGA is to work productively with this group. MERGA also contributed to the organisation of the

AAMT *Ways forward* conference that brought together mathematics teachers and curriculum developers, mathematicians, mathematics education researchers and teacher educators, and publishers to discuss ways of supporting teachers in implementing the national curriculum. Many MERGA members also participated in this conference. Also, at this MERGA conference in Fremantle, Gaye Williams will be convening a round table session on the national curriculum for delegates to discuss future directions for research and teacher education in the light of MERGA's submission to ACARA.

A highlight of the past year has been the announcement of the award to Gilah Leder of the prestigious ICMI Felix Klein Medal in recognition of her more than 30 years of sustained, consistent, and outstanding lifetime achievements in mathematics education research and development. Gilah is a MERGA past President and Life Member who has influenced and supported the careers of many MERGA members. She will be presented with this award at the next ICME in Korea in 2012, but we will be making our own presentation to Gilah at the Fremantle conference to honour her achievement.

Two other achievements of a different kind are indicative of MERGA's work in disseminating quality research and in liaising with other organisations with similar interests. First, MERGA has just signed a contract with Springer to publish *MERJ* – the *Mathematics Education Research Journal*. This will make the journal available to a much wider international audience while maintaining a favourable financial position for MERGA. Colleen Vale, VP Publications, deserves our congratulations for seeing negotiations through to a successful outcome. Second, MERGA and AAMT will be holding their first joint conference in Alice Springs in 2011. The organising committee is already hard at work, and we look forward to a stimulating and collegial event that will offer us new ways of sharing our research with teachers.

MERGA is a thriving organisation, but it is no more than its members make it. I encourage all members to look for ways of involving themselves in MERGA's activities, whether this is through reviewing or writing articles for MERGA publications, attending the conference, or becoming a member of the Executive.

Merrilyn Goos, 29 May 2010  
President



## **Attachment 3**

### **MERGA Treasurer's Report 2009/2010**

#### *Annual Statement*

As this conference is held right after the end of the financial year, the audited 2009/2010 balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure are not released before the conference. However, preliminary figures indicate that the small surplus that was budgeted for the year will be higher than expected. This is partially due to an increase in delegates attending the 2009 MERGA conference resulting in a net gain of \$13 000 from the conference. Subscription income collected for 2009-10 is also higher than last year, about \$45000 (\$13000 for 2009; \$32000 for 2010 so far). Some funds (\$4000) towards 2011 subscription income have already been collected due to the availability of two-year subscriptions; these funds will appear in the 2010-2011 Financial Summary. Income from publications this year is under \$1000, down from last year due to having initial sales of the 2008 release of the RMEA book (4-year Review) now past. Copyright distributions, however were higher this year.

Expenditures have decreased overall from last year with no non-journal publication expenses this year (e.g., RMEA). Some expenses were up, particularly travel costs, awards/grants and website costs. This was primarily due to a number of initiatives - national initiatives which required MERGA's representation, a drive to attract new research graduates to MERGA and an ongoing campaign to digitise MERGA's publication library. AAMT handles all subscriptions (library and individual), membership services, sales of publications, and database support for the Executive and this continues to be working well at a reasonable fee (currently \$10 per member).

#### *Annual Conference Accounts*

Congratulations to the team for organising the Wellington conference of 2009, which returned a net surplus of about \$13 000. Attendance exceeded expectations, with approximately 190 delegates. Several unexpected outcomes resulted in a higher income and lower expenditure than anticipated:

- (1) 45 more delegates attended than expected, resulting in higher level of income received;
- (2) some fixed expenditures came in below initial estimates by the providers.

#### *Copyright Distributions*

The Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) distributes money collected as licence fees to MERGA for copyright charges it collects on our publications. The amount available for distribution each year depends on how much of the printed work copied is captured in CAL's random audits of licence holders. We also earn copyright funds from the US and European copyright agencies. This year we earned approximately \$4000 from copyright.

#### *Term Deposits*

Rates have been quite a bit lower this year (around 3% per annum) in the term deposits. This was compounded by the short duration of their terms (3-4 months each, for three separate accounts). To take advantage of better rates but retain the flexibility to access

funds when needed, the accounts have been re-organised into 12-month terms spread out over the year so that one of the TDs mature every four months. This will allow us to capture much higher interest rates in future years (currently 6%). About \$15 000 was transferred into the TD this year due to a stable account balance over the year.

*Changes in income*

A detailed look at MERGA income and expenditure will be outlined at the AGM.

Katie Makar

MERGA Treasurer

## **Attachment 4**

### **2010 Annual Report from MERGA VP Publications:**

#### *MERJ to be published by Springer*

Since the previous AGM, the MERGA Executive has reached agreement with Springer to publish MERJ, *Mathematics Education Research Journal*. The contract was signed in May, 2010 and Springer will publish commence publishing MERJ from January, 2010. The first issue will be MERJ 23(1). We have agreed to publish four editions each year.

For the remainder of 2010 we will be making arrangements for the transition to the new publishers.

According to the agreement we have made with Springer, MERGA members will continue to receive a hard copy of each issue and will be able to access electronic versions from the Springer website.

The term of the current editors is drawing to a close and a call for new editors will be made during 2011.

#### *New MTED Editors*

I am pleased to announce the appointment of the new team of editors for MTED: Jenni Way, Janette Bobis and Jude Anderson of the University of Sydney. This team has a strong record in teacher education research and are experienced journal editors.

The team plans to publish two issues of MTED each year, one of which will be a special issue. We are meeting during the Annual Conference to develop processes for identifying special issues and strategies for increasing the number of manuscripts submitted. We will also be reviewing the Editorial Board. We hope that the membership will continue to support the journal by submitting articles and promoting it among research colleagues.

On behalf of the MERGA membership I would like to thank the previous team of editors, Sandra Frid, Len Sparrow and Marilyn Goos, for their commitment to the journal over an extended term and for developing its quality and status.

#### *Review of Mathematics Education in Australasia MERGA 2008-2011*

Since the previous AGM, the MERGA Executive received expressions of interest for the editing of the next four-yearly review.

The editorial team will be lead by Tom Lowrie and Bob Perry from RIPPLE at Charles Sturt University, and includes Amy MacDonald, Tracy Logan and Jane Greenlees.

The Editors have recently called for expressions of interest from MERGA members to lead or join a team of authors for a chapter in the review.

The team is preparing a publishing proposal for Sense Publishers. The review is due to be published in 2012.

#### *MERJ: A report from the Editors*

During the period of our editorship, we have sought to promote an international journal with many papers coming from abroad and a wider reviewing base inclusive of

researchers from a wide range of countries. In this report, we draw attention to the country of origin of papers.

The inclusion of “Voices from the Field” has worked successfully with a range of practitioners and policy makers offering their views on the papers that have been submitted.

Perhaps the biggest challenge, and one that is increasing, is the timely review process. Not unique to MERJ is the issue that reviewers are not returning papers in a timely manner, which slows the review process. Discussions with editors from other journals indicate that this challenge is not contained to MERJ and is possibly symptomatic of the increased demands of academics. In the review process, we have also sought to include a much broader reviewer base that includes more international reviewers. This was undertaken to promote MERJ to a wider audience.

*Submissions to MERJ July 2009 – June 2010*

During this period we have published 3 issues of MERJ: Special Issue 21(2); Issue 21(3); and, 22(1). The data in the following tables shows the outcomes of the 36 manuscripts submitted in the last 12 months (since June 2009) for the general issues.

Manuscripts	All	Australasia	International
Submissions	36	13	23
Withdrawn or return to authors before review	5	3	2
Manuscripts currently under review	11	5	6
Provisionally accepted subject to minor or major amendments	10	3	7
Manuscripts Rejected	8	2	6
Accepted without changes	2	0	2

Country	Withdrawn or returned	Under review	Rejected	Provisionally accepted	Accepted
Canada		1			
Cyprus			1		
Greece				1	
Ireland				1	
Israel				1	
Malaysia			1		

Netherlands				1	
Singapore		1			
South Africa			1		
Table continued	Withdrawn or returned	Under review	Rejected	Provisionally accepted	Accepted
Sweden				1	
Turkey		1	1		
USA	2	3		2	2
USA/China			1		
USA/Croatia			1		

### *Special Issues*

#### MERJ 22(2)

In 2010 the special issue will focus on Applications and mathematical modelling in mathematics learning and teaching and will be edited by Gloria Stillman (University of Melbourne), Jill Brown (Australian catholic University) and Peter Galbraith (University of Queensland).

#### MERJ 23(2)

Also, the executive committee has accepted the proposal of Steve Tobias and John Pegg (University of New England) for a special edition in 2011 that has a focus on mathematics education in rural contexts. A call for papers will be issued soon, once a process is identified with the new publishers.

*Robyn Jorgensen, Peter Grootenboer & Raymond Brown*

#### *MTED: A report from the Chief Editor*

The new editorial team from The University of Sydney took over in April 2010, following a phone conference handover meeting. At that point Volume 11 (from 2009) was at the printers and has since been distributed.

Volume 12(1) is underway with two papers ready, one undergoing minor revisions, two rejected and three still under review. Of the three currently under review it is anticipated that at least one of them will be accepted, which makes it likely that Volume 12 will be produced before the end of the year – that is, on time.

Volume 12(2) *Special Issue: Leadership of reform in mathematics education* is being edited by Janeen Lamb. There are five potential papers, three of which are still under review, with a sixth paper rejected. Therefore it is possible that this issue might also be produced before the end of the year.

A number of structures and processes are currently under consideration including the composition of the Editorial Board, the role and management of special issues and strategies for promoting MTED and increasing the number of issues per year.

Dr Jennifer Way (Chief Editor), Assoc. Prof. Janette Bobis, Assoc. Prof. Judy Anderson

Table 1. MTED Manuscript submission data, Volumes 7 – 11 (2005-2009)

	Year published	Total # submissions	# Rejected prior to review	# Rejected	# Accepted	% Accepted
<b>Vol 7</b>	2005/6	15	4	6	5	33%
<b>Vol 8</b>	2007	<i>Special issue: Professional development in Mathematics Education</i>				
<b>Vol 9</b>	2007/8	12	1	6	5	42%
<b>Vol 10</b>	2008/9	12	1	7	4	33%
<b>Vol 11</b>	2009	9	3	3	4	44%

Table 2. MTED Authorship of submitted manuscripts Volumes 7 – 11(2005-2010)

	# Authors of submitted manuscripts but not accepted		# Authors of published articles		Total # authors
	Australasia	International	Australasia	International	
Vol 7	10	10	10	4	34
Vol 9	8	10	7	1	26
Vol 10	7	4	2	5	18
Vol 11	3	3	3	3	14
Total	27	27	22	13	90

*Sandra Frid*

Former Editor in chief, MTED on behalf of Merrilyn Goos and Len Sparrow

#### *Publications Committee*

The Publications Committee has met formerly on one occasion and will meet during the 2010 AGM. The main issues for discussion will be transition of MERJ publishing to Springer and MTED development. The Editors of RMEA will also conduct a meeting with prospective chapter authors during this conference.

*Colleen Vale*

VP (Publications) June 2010

## **Attachment 5**

### **2010 ANNUAL REPORT from VP (Communications)**

As of May 2010 the individual membership was 246 (this includes 31 students), with a further 20 expected to join via the July conference. The library membership is currently 66.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Percentage of Membership</b>
NT	6
NSW	27
Qld	16
SA	4
Tas	3
Vic	33
WA	6
International	5

The membership has been showing an upward trend over the past two years. The on-line use of MERGA publications continues to increase. The monthly newsletter has been well received and members are invited to make contributions. Suggestions for regular features and people who may be interviewed will be welcomed.

Julie Clark

VP Communications



## Attachment 6

### MERGA VP Development Report

This report focuses on: a) the Australian Mathematics Curriculum; b) MERGA Awards and Bursaries within the Development Portfolio; c) MERGA input to Evidence Based Policy; and d) New Members' Functions at MERGA 2009 and 2010.

*Australian Mathematics Curriculum:* various MERGA executive members attended ACARA forums during the development of the Australian Mathematics Curriculum drafts. MERGA members were informed as drafts were released, and have been providing feedback to the VP Development to inform the MERGA responses:

K-10 Submitted end of May 2010: available under 'National Initiatives' on 'Development' section of MERGA website.

Senior Mathematics Curriculum Draft is now available (MERGA responses to Gaye Williams by the 12<sup>th</sup> July, MERGA submission to ACARA 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010,).

The rich and varied responses from MERGA members on the K-10 draft have enabled the development of a report that addresses many areas needing attention. The succinct wording, and supporting evidence provided by many was extremely helpful in formulating the MERGA response. A substantial amount of the wording in the MERGA response was taken directly from the feedback MERGA members supplied (acknowledgement to these members are included at the end of the document). This feedback was extremely helpful and has greatly added to the quality of the response. There were also many others whose ideas were integrated in to aspects of the report and this was extremely useful in giving breadth to the areas addressed. As VP Development, I thank all who contributed for your efforts.

*Awards and Bursaries:* The Early Career Award has been attracting extremely high quality submissions, which is a credit to our early career research members and to those who have supported their development as researchers. Our Teaching Bursaries are becoming highly competitive with more high quality submissions than bursaries available. Unfortunately, as in 2009, the AAMT and MERGA judges of the Beth Southwell Practical Implications Award were unanimous that none of the submissions met the criteria a sufficiently high level to award the 2010 BSPIA.

*Raising MERGA's Profile in Evidence Based Policy Decisions:* As VP Development, I was invited to attend and present at an Evidence Based Policy Conference in Canberra. It became apparent during the conference that policy makers and their administrators find the reports of most researchers too difficult to understand, and thus have a tendency to disregard much research. It is important that we as researchers learn to communicate our work in ways that are accessible to policy makers (and to teachers). One of the purposes of the BSPIA is to develop this expertise amongst our members. Implications will be focused differently in addressing different audiences, and we need to learn how to communicate with all audiences. To inform the development of such expertise, Merrilyn Goos and I have analysed papers that have been awarded the PIA (2000-2008) and will discuss their findings with interested participants at the 2010 Conference in WA.

*New Members Function:* This was highly successful in 2009 and will occur again in 2010. New members appreciated opportunities to: to strengthen links they had started to

make with some new members, meet other new members, reflect on ideas presented by leading researchers, and meet executive members. The format has been modified slightly so that all aspects of this function occur in the same venue.

Gaye Williams

VP (Development)

## **Attachment 7**

### **MERGA VP (Conferences) Report to the AGM: July 2010**

I start by saying thanks to the other Executive members of MERGA. As a group of colleagues they remain supportive and knowledgeable when I have queries especially in relationship to the convening of the 2009 Conference in Wellington.

I want to express thanks to Brenda Bicknell as Co-Convenor with me of the 2009 Conference Organising Committee and the Massey University (Palmerston North) team for a very successful MERGA 32 Conference. Thanks go to my colleagues Brenda Bicknell, Tim Burgess, Margaret Walshaw, Glenda Anthony and Ngaire Davies who with the support of individual staff from Victoria University were able to convene a successful conference here in New Zealand. Even the Wellington wind and weather supported the conference!

Last year and this year we have continued the use of the 2008 conference process of reviewing research papers, symposia, and other types of contributions using panels. Each year ten panels have been convened using mathematics education researchers with appropriate expertise in Australia and New Zealand. Each paper is independently reviewed by two panel members, who then discuss their assessments and produce a single consensus report that provides the author(s) with detailed feedback. The panels all meet together and review the final decisions before being sent back to the conference organisers. Last year as a committee we looked at the review forms and modified them to provide more appropriate feedback to authors. The process will continue to be reviewed, as will the review process in an effort to ensure that conference papers are of a high standard but at the same time represent what they are; conference papers not journal articles. Discussion needs to continue about the role of MERGA papers, and the role of presenting and publishing in conference proceedings, given the current research climate in Australasia

My thanks go to the 2010 MERGA 33 Fremantle team led by Len Sparrow and Jack Bana. They have no doubt encountered problems along the way but have managed these situations with skill. The conference guidelines written by Judy Mousley have become important documents to use to shape MERGA conferences. Thank you Judy for this document which shapes a professional approach to convening conferences.

The 2011 Conference is to be held in Alice Springs

I am sure that this will be a well organized and most enjoyable conference.

We are currently in discussion about the venue for 2011 and this will be announced in due course.

Thank you again for your support.

Bobbie Hunter

VP Conferences

## Attachment 8

### 2010 Annual Report VP (Research)

A submission was made on behalf of MERGA members in relation to the Australian Research Council consultation paper on *ARC Peer Review Processes*. In an effort to generate more direct input from members several members representing particular levels of research experience within MERGA were approached personally to respond to particular subsets of questions. This was effective to some extent.

As VP(Research) I selected a small group of members to act as MERGA's expert consultative group to review the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) journal rankings after the general consultation process concluded. This process was completed confidentially late in 2009. Final journal rankings have now been released by the ARC. In the future it may be prudent for MERGA to investigate the inclusion of the MERGA conference proceedings in the rankings as has occurred in some other discipline areas especially as conference funding for members becomes scarce at some institutions.

This is another opportunity to remind members of the two research awards. These are the MERGA Career Research Medal and the MERGA Research Award. The MERGA Career Research Medal is to be awarded as required (not necessarily annually) to a long-term and active MERGA member who has made a sustained and distinguished contribution to research in mathematics education in Australasia and internationally. The award of this medal reflects MERGA's pride in a MERGA member's outstanding research. Nominations will be accepted at any time of the year. One nomination has been received to date this year. The MERGA Research Award is for an individual or a team that has made an outstanding contribution to mathematics education research in the previous 3 years. Nominations for the MERGA Research Award must be submitted to the VP (Research) by 1 September each year. No nominations were received in 2009. Forms and advice on how to make nominations for both awards are available from me. Email: gloria.stillman@acu.edu.au

A continuing project has been the publication of a list of masters and doctoral theses in mathematics education by Australasians from 2000 onwards on the website. The list is updated as members supply further thesis data. Please continue to send these in to me (title, supervisors, abstract or short description) at my new email address so this process can continue.

Gloria Stillman

VP Research, May 26, 2010