

MERGA Treasurer's Report to the AGM: July 2011

Annual Statement

As this conference is held right after the end of the financial year, the audited 2010/2011 balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure are not released before the conference. However, preliminary figures indicate a deficit this year, as forecast in last year's budget. This is partially due to a sharp decline in 2011 library memberships as we transition to Springer, some large invoices paid out of cycle (one late, one early), and increases in a number of expenditure categories. Subscription income collected for 2010-11 is lower than last year, about \$35000 (\$10000 for 2010; \$25000 for 2011 so far), with about \$5000 from library subscriptions. Some funds (\$5000) towards 2012 subscription income have already been collected due to the availability of two-year subscriptions; these funds will appear in the 2011-2012 Financial Summary. Income from non-conference publications this year was low, under \$500. Copyright distributions and interest were both higher this year.

Expenditures have increased from last year in most categories. Journal costs were higher in 2010-11 due to late arrival of journal printing bills from 2009 and 2010. Travel costs and website costs were higher in 2010-11. This was primarily due to greater representation of MERGA in national initiatives and the campaign to digitise MERGA's publication library. Finally, the fee charged by AAMT to handle subscriptions (library and individual), membership services, sales of publications, and database support for the Executive was increased to \$15 per member after many years at \$10. Additionally, two year subscriptions are now (correctly) costed as two years of membership (\$30/member). The services provided have worked very well for a number of years now.

Annual Conference Accounts

Congratulations to the team for organising the Fremantle conference of 2010, which returned a surplus of about \$10 000. Attendance exceeded expectations, with approximately 200 delegates. Several unexpected outcomes resulted in a higher income and lower expenditure than anticipated:

- (1) 50 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 \$5000 from copyright.

Term Deposits

Rates have doubled this year in the term deposits as a result of two effects. One is higher interest rates than in the previous year. To take advantage of better rates but retain the flexibility to access funds when needed, the TD accounts were re-organised into 12-month terms spread out over the year so that one TD matures every four months. This allows us to capture much higher interest rates (currently 6%). \$7 500 was transferred into the TD this year due to a high account balance over the year.

Changes in Income

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

Katie Makar, 24 June 2011

MERGA Treasurer