

MERGA Vice President's Report (Development) to the AGM: July 2011

This report focuses on the Beth Southwell Practical Implications Award (BSPIA), the Early Career Award (ECA), the Newcomers' Function, and MERGA's contributions to the development and implementation of the Australian Mathematics Curriculum.

Beth Southwell Practical Implications Award

As a result of two years (2009, 2010) without a BSPIA awarded, Merrilyn Goos (MERGA President) and I (VP Development) ran a lunchtime session at MERGA 2010 to encourage more applicants for the BSPIA in 2011, and make transparent high quality aspects of papers of previous winners. In 2011, there were more submissions for the BSPIA, and more than one of high enough quality to be a contender for this award. This renewed interest in this prestigious award augers well for 2012 and beyond.

Early Career Award

This award continues to be highly sought after with the number of applicants for the ECA increasing between 2009 and 2011. The 2010 ECA research topics were diverse, and judges heard many favourable comments about various presentations. The judging panel discussions in 2010 again identified many high quality aspects of various papers and presentations. The 2011 ECA papers suggest Early Career Researchers will again present some interesting studies.

Newcomers Function

The MERGA Newcomers Function was introduced at the MERGA Conference in 2009. Positive feedback resulted in the inclusion of another Newcomers Function at the 2010 Conference. This function will not be part of the 2011 AAMT/MERGA Conference (due to logistics associated with the combined conference). MERGA intend running a Newcomers' Function at MERGA 2012 and beyond.

National (Australian) Mathematics Curriculum

a) The National Curriculum Forum at MERGA 2010 was intended to stimulate interest about areas of research to support the implementation of the Australian Mathematics Curriculum. It was well attended and many areas of focus were identified.

b) Soon after MERGA 2010, the Senior Years Feedback for the National (Australian) Curriculum was required. My thanks to the many MERGA members who contributed to the development of this feedback, which can be found in the Development section of the MERGA Website <http://www.merga.net.au/node/49>

Thank You for Your Support

This is the final report for my time as VP Development for MERGA. I thank MERGA members including MERGA Executive members for the contributions they have made to the reports and feedback I have submitted for MERGA over this time, and for their willingness to contribute, and ongoing collegiality.

Gaye Williams, 24 June 2011