

Letter to the Editor

The "A" in MERGA

Congratulations on MERJ 10(1), which represents an excellent start for the new editorial team.

One small point about the editorial. In 1976, MERGA was formed as the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australia (not Australasia). As far as I can remember, there was only one New Zealander at the first Conference at Monash. Hence the title of the first publication, *Research in Mathematics Education in Australia*, should not have offended New Zealanders.

A few years along the track, the MERGA Executive decided to attempt to get New Zealanders involved, and the Executive suggested that the last letter in MERGA should stand for Australasia instead of Australia. This was duly approved by an annual meeting, probably in 1982. However, for quite a few years less than a handful of New Zealanders attended MERGA conferences—sometimes, none at all. I think the first time New Zealanders attended in considerable numbers was at Hawkesbury in 1992, but I could be wrong on that. Bill Barton was a keynote speaker in 1993.

Now, in the late 1990s, the Kiwis are vital contributors to all aspects of MERGA's work. The 1997 Conference at Rotorua was, of course, a magnificent and memorable event. I still think, though, that we need at least one person from the land of the Long White Cloud on our Executive.

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