

Minutes from the MERGA AGM 9 July 2003, Geelong

1 Present

Judy Anderson, Glenda Anthony, Bill Atweh, Jack Bana, Andy Begg, Kim Beswick, Brenda Bicknell, Janette Bobis, Jill Brown, Tim Burgess, Rosemary Callingham, Helen Chick, Carmel Diezmann, Shelley Dole, Judith Falle, Helen Forgasz, Peter Galbraith, Linda Galligan, Merrilyn Goss, Peter Grootenboer, Gilah Leder, Tom Lowrie, John Malone, Tamsin Meaney, Mike Mitchelmore, Judy Mousley, Engelbert Niehaus, Steven Nisbet, Bob Perry, Ian Putt, Peter Rawlins, Esther Loong, Di Siemon, Tracey Smith, Beth Southwell, Vicki Steinle, Max Stephens, Gloria Stillman, Steve Thomson, Jenni Way, Gaye Williams, Bruce White, Robyn Zevenbergen

2 Apologies

David Clarke, Heather Mays, Ken Milton, Jane Watson

3 Confirmation of minutes from the AGM in Auckland, 2002:

Motion: That the minutes from the 2002 AGM meeting held in Auckland be accepted.

Moved: Andy Begg

Seconded: Glenda Anthony

4 Matters Arising from Minutes

The following item was noted for the members:

- 4.1 Institutional members will be set at 3 times the individual rate in 2004 because the intended issues of MERJ have been delivered on time.

5 Correspondence

Nil

6 Reports

6.1 President's Report

The President presented a written report and elaborated on the following points.

- Deakin University was thanked for announcing the Glen Lean trust at the Conference
- The Organising Committee was praised for conducting a stimulating and well organised conference. In particular, the President recognised the round-table session and panel discussion initiatives introduced at the Conference.
- Phil recognised the growth of the Early Career nominations, and the student bursary awards.
- Phil also raised concerns about the fact that membership subscriptions were lower than usual and the fact that some members had not returned conference article reviews in a timely manner. It was recognised that members had a responsibility to
- Phil recognised the valuable contributions Judy Mousley, Helen Forgasz and Helen Chick had undertaken in their respective roles on the Executive.

The following two motions were moved from the Chair.

6.1.1 *Motion: That the members of MERGA thank Judy Mousley (6 years VP Teaching), Helen Forgasz (3 years VP Research) and Helen Chick (3 years VP Membership) for their valuable and lasting contributions to MERGA over the years, but particularly in the last few in their respective positions as members of the executive.*

The motion was moved from the Chair.

Supported unanimously with applause

6.1.2 The President indicated that two long-standing members of the Association had passed away during the past twelve months. The President formulated the following motion.

Motion: That the MERGA membership express its sympathy to the passing of John Foyster and Jack Briggs and remember with affection their involvement and ontribution to MERGA activities.

Motion moved from the Chair.

Unanimously supported.

6.2 Treasurer's Report

Merrilyn Goos' Treasurer's report was printed in the conference proceedings. The Treasurer presented the financial report to the AGM. The following points were highlighted.

- There was a Deficit of \$5300 for the financial year.
- Sales and publications were lower this year but such figures are usually variable. The production and purchase of publications is abnormally high however this will reflect higher sales (future income) in the next financial year.
- It is no longer a legal requirement to keep public liability insurance. For the next year the insurance would be more than \$2000. There was discussion as to whether MERGA should continue with this insurance in the future. It was agreed that the Executive would get legal advice before making a decision about whether or not such coverage should be sought in the future.

The report was moved by Merrilyn Goos and seconded by Helen Chick

6.3 VP Publications

Gloria Stillman's report was in the conference proceedings but one component of the report has been incorrectly printed. The report will be reprinted in the next newsletter.

Acceptance of the report was moved by Gloria Stillman and seconded by Bob Perry

After the report was moved the following motion was constructed.

Motion: That Gloria Stillman be commended on her tireless work in ensuring that the Association's journals are produced in a professional manner and disseminated within the intended timeframe.

The motion was moved by Helen Chick and seconded by Helen Forgasz

6.4 VP Teaching

The report was printed in the conference proceedings.

Acceptance of the report was moved by Judy Mousley and seconded by Peter Galbraith
Carried.

6.5 VP Conferences

The report was printed in the conference proceedings.

Peter Grootenboer, described the format for the conference in Townsville 27-30 June, 2004.

Expressions of interest were officially called for hosting the conference in 2006.

Acceptance of the report was moved by Peter Grootenboer and seconded by Mike Mitchelmore. Carried.

6.6 VP Membership

The report was printed in the conference proceedings.

Acceptance of the report was moved by Helen Chick and seconded by Rosemary Callingham.

6.7 VP Research

The report was printed in the conference proceedings.

Helen announced that there were joint winners of the Early Career Award.

The winners of the ECA were: Ester Loong (University of South Australia) and Shehenaz Adam (University of Auckland)

Helen acknowledged AAMT for sponsoring the Practical Implications Award

Engelbert Niehaus, from Germany, described an Institute for co-operation between PhD students who have work in progress. The membership felt that this was an important initiative that should be developed.

Acceptance of the report was moved by Helen Forgasz and seconded by Carmel Diezmann. Carried.

7 New Business

7.1.1 Items for Policy meeting

Mike Mitchelmore, on behalf of several members, presented a motion for consideration relating to the proposed restructuring of the Department of Education in NSW.

The motion was moved by Mike Mitchelmore and seconded by Bob Perry.

There was considerable debate concerning the motion and it became apparent that the motion needed to be modified in order to vote on the motion. Consequently, the Chair suggested that the motion should be presented in an alternate format in order to establish consensus from MERGA members.

The following amended motion was presented by the original mover and seconder.

Motion This Annual General Meeting of the MATHEMATICS EDUCATION RESEARCH GROUP OF AUSTRALASIA, convened at Deakin University on 8 July 2003:

NOTES the recently announced plans to restructure the NSW Department of Education and Training, and

URGES the NSW Government to ensure that current levels of support for innovative programs, collaborative research and development, and high quality professional development in mathematics education are fully maintained.

This meeting further:

CALLS ON the NSW Premier and the Ministry for Education and training to meet a delegation of MERGA members to discuss MERGA's concerns about the implications of the proposed restructure in relation to the above issue.

The amended motion was carried.

It was suggested that a delegation of MERGA representatives and a member of the Executive meet with the Premier of NSW and the Minister of Education to address these issues. Mike Mitchelmore, along with the Secretary, was given responsibility for

contacting the Department and organising the possible meeting between the MERGA delegation and the Members of Parliament.

7.1.2 Length of Executive Committee Appointments

It was suggested from the floor that the length of Executive appointments be reduced to two years, with the possibility of two more terms (i.e. four years in total). This would give people the chance to have one or two shorter terms and would encourage more nominees. This would require a change in the constitution. There seemed to be general agreement from the meeting, so the executive will consider the ideas and keep the membership abreast with developments.

7.1.3 Shadow Position for VP (Teaching)

It was suggested that there may need to be a shadow Vice President (Teaching) position established on the MERCA Executive since most of the current business is Australian and teaching matters in New Zealand are different and it is necessary for local people to speak to politicians, etc. The proposition was that if the VP (Teaching) is Australian, then a New Zealander would be co-opted; and vice versa. The issue will be considered at the next Executive meeting with the possibility of a motion brought to the 2004 AGM.

7.2 Subscription Fees

Merrilyn Goos brought the following motion (associated with the increase of subscription fees) forward from the Policy Meeting.

Motion: It was proposed that the Australian/New Zealand individual subscription rates will be increased from \$60.00 to \$70.00 from 2004. All other subscription rates will maintain their established relationship with the individual rate. The postage rate from overseas individual subscriptions be increased from \$10.00 to \$15.00.

The motion was moved by Merrilyn Goss and seconded by Helen Chick.

The motion was carried.

8 Election of Officers

Three elections for Office Bearers on the Executive took place. The VP (Research), Helen Forgasz, has completed a three-year term on the Committee and did not seek re-election. Judy Mousley (VP Teaching), had completed two terms on the Executive and consequently was required to relinquish the position. Helen Chick resigned from the position of VP (Membership) after four years on the Executive.

8.1 VP (Research)

Carmel Diezmann was elected VP (Research)

8.2 VP (Teaching)

Robyn Zevenbergen was elected VP (Teaching)

8.3 VP (Membership)

Jenny Way was elected VP (Membership)

After the election of Office Bearers the following motion was presented.

Motion: That the MERGA community thank Judy Mousley, Helen Chick and Helen Forgasz for their outstanding commitment to the Association and insightful initiatives over the course of their tenure.

Moved: Peter Grootenboar

Seconded: Merrlyn Goss

The motion was carried with spontaneous applause.

9 Other Business

9.1 It was suggested that MERGA should establish a display of Australasian books and journals at the ICMI Conference. Volunteers would be sought by the Executive.

9.2 There was strong support for establishing a Panel Discussion at a future MERGA Conference that would focus on strategies for accommodating for diversity in relation to Indigenous education, disabilities, ESL and socio-economic status.

There was also a view that the pre-conference could be established to address such issues. These suggestions will be forwarded by the Secretary to Ian Putt and the VP (Conferences).

Next Meeting: To be held in Townsville, June 2004