



ABN 14 351 828 453

MATHEMATICS EDUCATION RESEARCH GROUP OF AUSTRALASIA, INC.

AGM MINUTES

Wellington, Tuesday, 7 July, 2009.

1. **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, Merrilyn 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

2. **Apologies:**

3. **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]

4. **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]

 - 5.2 **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]

5.3 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]

5.4 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]

5.5 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]

5.6 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: Merrilyn 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: Merrilyn 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: Merrilyn Goos; Seconded: Vince Geiger, Carried by acclamation]

The meeting closed at 5.09

Attachment 1

MERGA President's Report to the AGM: July 2009

Judy Mousley

I would like to start with sincere thanks to the Executive members of MERGA. Each one has carried out her or his responsibilities throughout the year, and provided valuable advice to me as well as helping each other willingly. Three new members of the Executive started in January, and the previous members organised a smooth handover with as much advice and continued support as was necessary.

Our thanks are also due to Robyn Jorgensen, Peter Grootenboer and Ray Brown for taking over and performing well as editors of MERJ, and to Sandra Frid, Merrilyn Goos and Len Sparrow for their work as editors of MTED.

Once more, I wish to thank AAMT (and Melinda in particular) for their ongoing assistance with the membership database and journal mail-outs as well as some conference support. It is not only good to have AAMT undertaking this work so capably and reliably, but it is wonderful to have a like-minded and supportive AAMT President and Council, enabling us to work together on major issues. You also would have noticed that your membership details are now accessible on line, if you wish to change them, that you could pay for this conference on-line, and that when you fill out forms for MERGA some fields are likely to be pre-populated with your name, contact details, research fields, etc. This was all initiated by AAMT and is supported by their database procedures.

We owe a particular debt of gratitude to Andy Yeh. Andy worked with Bill Atweh to get the proceedings and journals online and fully searchable via the MERGA site. Anyone who has watched their citation index quadruple over the last few years like I have will appreciate the value of having their publications readily accessible in the world's biggest library. If you want evidence of this, type your name into the publications search box on the MERGA website and be astounded by the hundreds of people who have downloaded your own publications.

The full content of conference proceedings and journals is now available on line and this is now being made available on key databases like ERIC and EBSCO Host has increased citation rates for our members. We have received unanimously positive feedback on this move from MERGA members and people from other countries, so we all owe a debt to Bill Atweh for his foresight about putting the articles online as well as to Helen Forgasz and Colleen Vale who negotiated with the database companies. During 2009, Helen's research student, Calvin Taylor, scanned about 12 years of MERJ and MTED journals, and Helen changed every article into optical character recognition format so they are searchable on the website. Andy uploaded every one of those papers to the website, which is no mean feat because they need to be listed individually under authors and journal issues as well as uploaded in full text.

Further, last October Andy approached the Executive with some ideas for the MERGA website, and these have also lead to significant "added value" for members. Andy had given the site a brighter, more modern look and now added four new areas. The first is a repository for Executive papers so that on-going and historic records can be posted there and accessed at any time in the future. This is much better than keeping files on the computers and filing cabinets of Executive members, especially since Executive

membership changes over time, and it has already proved very useful. The second area is an Executive forum, where we can post drafts of papers and hold on-line discussions, although I must admit that we mainly do this work with email— but it is there if needed. Hopefully, you all know about the third area: the members' forum where discussions were held recently about the two journal questions. It's great to have an area where feedback on important issues can be sought. The fourth area now available is a general forum area where non-members can participate in discussions, and that has not yet been used.

The forum areas are currently controlled by the Executive questions, and Andy was keen to have more general wiki-like spaces where people could discuss topics like ICT or the use of problem solving in mathematics education. The Exec felt that there are already lots of these available on the web and it is not MERGA's role to add to them, deciding to keep the MERGA forums for MERGA business only — but of course that feeling could change in the future with future Exec members so it's really up to the members. It is only a matter of such a motion being put to the Policy Meeting. However, it is now easy to create spaces where groups can engage in discussion and co-operative writing — perhaps SIGs or groups of members working together on a common research project. It is only a matter of creating a password-protected page and any group of members (perhaps with some outsiders) will be able to use it for discussion, writing, limited storage of relevant documents, etc.

Over the four years that I have been president of MERGA, there have been some other major changes of practice. Papers are reviewed now by panels, instead of individuals, and I am delighted to announce that nearly every author who submitted a paper this year had it accepted for presentation, even though many were not published in full. New members were also given information about getting papers accepted and published, not only in the Proceedings but in journals too. You will also have noticed that even authors of papers that were accepted for publication were given advice about the next stage: re-writing for a journal. I encourage people to take that advice and to flood MERJ and MTED editors with their improved articles. I know a couple of people whose papers were not accepted have already submitted their re-written papers, and that is heartening news — I salute their tenacity and am confident that their much-improved papers will be accepted for journal articles.

Journal issues are now all up to date, and at the AGM we will be making two very important decisions: whether to continue producing two separate journals, and whether to continue with hard copy issues as well as on-line publication. These have been points discussed in various areas for a few years now, so it will be good to bring some closure to these debates. Not everyone will be happy with the decisions, but the majority will be satisfied, and all will have had a chance to have a say — and that is the best that can be expected with democratic processes.

The Teachers' Bursary was made available for the first time this year, and it is delightful to welcome the two inaugural recipients of these awards to the Wellington conference.

Thanks to Gloria Stillman's initiative this time last year, and after discussion in the AGM, two new research awards — the MERGA Career Research Medal and the MERGA Research Award — have been introduced. At the time I am preparing this

report, there have not yet been applicants so I encourage people to read about the purposes and selection criteria then consider nominating themselves or someone else.

The Recent Graduate Award that we have had for many years now to encourage new graduates to join MERGA has been changed to a fixed amount now (\$500), and the cap has been raised to \$5000 per annum so that more applicants can be catered for. The RGA is an excellent way of attracting recent maths education graduates to MERGA and over the years I have noticed how MERGA's RGA and Beth Southwell ECA awards that support young researchers have paid dividends. It is just wonderful to be able to work on the Executive with energetic and imaginative young people whose level of initiative and dedication is noteworthy.

During the year, the Executive was notified by AAMT that we had quite a bit of stock that was unlikely to sell, especially since past journal articles are now available online. Julie Clark collected these from AAMT and they were sent off to eight countries in Africa. It was delightful to receive appreciative emails to MERGA such as the following:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for a donation of books you have just made to our institution. I am head the Department of Foundations in Maths and Science, a bridging programme aimed at increasing access to the University of Namibia. I have a number of staff who are pursuing Masters degrees in Maths and Science Education. Indeed the journals will be very useful to them and for research purposes for the staff and students. Thanks once again to MERGA.
Elizabeth Ngololo, Namibia

Over the past 3 years, I have continued to represent MERGA on the HATOM committee of management. This AAMT group assesses the work of Highly Accomplished Teachers of Mathematics. Currently there is a large group of applicants being sponsored by the Catholic Education Office in Melbourne. Another little job I have been doing is writing a history of MERGA. The latest draft is on the website, <http://www.merga.net.au/node/75>, and I would really appreciate it if some of the longer-term members could have a look at it to suggest corrections or additions. There is a list on that webpage of people who have already made contributions, and I appreciate their help.

My last vote of thanks is to the universities that have supported MERGA in many ways throughout my period as president. This has ranged from support for conference organisation and attendance, to postage and photocopying, to the valuing of the editorial and administrative work that members have contributed—as well as the research and teaching that we value so highly. It has been delightful to see evidence of this valuing of members' contributions to MERGA in many promotions and community service awards over the past few years.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being President of MERGA, and thank all of its members for giving me the opportunity to have this experience.

Attachment 2

MERGA Treasurer's Report 2008/2009

Annual Statement

As this conference is held right after the end of the financial year, the audited 2008/2009 balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure are not released before the conference. However, preliminary figures indicate a higher than expected surplus (\$20 000). This was mainly due to profit from the MERGA 31 conference held in Brisbane in 2008 (a net profit of about \$25 000) and lower than expected expenses from journal printing. Subscription income for 2008 is \$38000, down about 5% (\$2000) from last year. This could be a result of the 30% increase in subscription rates passed at the AGM last year. Some funds (\$5000) towards 2010 subscription income have already been collected due to the availability of two-year subscriptions starting in 2009. Income from copyright distributions this year is about \$3400, up from last year due to the new release of the RMEA book (4-year Review). Expenditure this year is significantly less than in 2007/2008, mainly because of higher than usual costs last year (additional production and purchase of publications last year, and one-time costs of travel for the first year of the new review process for conference papers) and lower production costs this year of the journal due to a new printer (Griffith) combined with a decrease in the numbers of copies printed.

AAMT handles all subscriptions (library and individual) and this continues to be working well at a reasonable fee (currently at \$10 per member). Sales are higher overall this year for publications, with most sales coming from RMEA.

Annual Conference Accounts

Congratulations to the team for organising the Brisbane conference of 2008, which returned a gross profit of about \$39 000 (net is closer to \$25 000). An audited statement is expected in time for the AGM in July.

Copyright Distributions

MERGA joined the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL) organisation as a Publisher Member in February 2001. CAL is a not-for-profit organisation that manages licensed copying of printed works on behalf of authors and publishers. One of CAL's functions is to distribute money collected as licence fees to copyright holders. 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. In the first two years MERGA received over \$12 000. In 2007 it was \$1200; 2008 it was \$1500, and this year it is expected to be about \$2100.

Changes in income

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

Katie Makar
Treasurer

Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia Incorporated

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT for year ended 30 June 2009

| INCOME | 2009 | 2008 |
|---|-----------|------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Subscriptions | 38,772.14 | 40,665.64 |
| Conference income | 38,750.99 | 22,132.20 |
| Sales of publications | 3,412.12 | 1,249.73 |
| Copyright distributions | 2,136.67 | 1,426.29 |
| Bank interest received | 4,297.49 | 4,172.70 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 67,369.41 | 69,646.56 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Journals | 14,665.80 | 45,864.90 |
| Newsletters | 0 | 0 |
| Membership Directory | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Production and purchase of publications | 23,506.91 | 11,203.87 |
| Sales office expenses | 5,017.74 | 3,124.11 |
| FASTS affiliation & Annual Statement fees | 946.25 | 1,136.20 |
| Awards & grants | 4,095.00 | 4,249.75 |
| Teleconferences | 288.72 | 286.70 |
| Administration | 3,971.00 | 4,934.61 |
| Bank charges | 204.00 | 606.74 |
| Auditing/accounting fees | 627.00 | 605.00 |
| Travel & accommodation | 5,600.90 | 12,039.17 |
| Web | 158.75 | 600.73 |
| Miscellaneous | 0.00 | 2,475.59 |
| Conference | 8,427.22 | 6,000.00 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 67,509.29 | 93,127.37 |
| Nett Surplus for year carried to Accumulated funds | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 19,860.12 | -23,480.81 |

Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia Incorporated

BALANCE SHEET as at 30 June 2009

| | See note | 2009 | 2008 |
|--|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| ACCUMULATED FUNDS | | | |
| Accumulated Funds brought forward | | 89,771.48 | 113,252.29 |
| Add surplus(loss) for year | | 19,960.12 | -23,480.81 |
| = Accumulated Fund carried forward | | <u>109,731.60</u> | <u>89,771.48</u> |
| Represented by | | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Cash at bank | | 71,385.14 | 31,192.23 |
| Term deposit, A/c 9857-30015 | 1 | 29,672.30 | 33,441.46 |
| Term deposit, A/c 9857-29997 | 1 | 14,846.85 | 14,107.90 |
| Term deposit, A/c 9872-89753 | 1 | 22,120.53 | 20,902.53 |
| Subscriptions due but not received | | 0.00 | 2,200.00 |
| Advance on future Conferences | | 6,500.00 | 6,000.00 |
| Other Sundry Debtors & Payments in Advance | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Unexpired subscriptions c/fwd | | -21,004.50 | -18,072.64 |
| Other Sundry Creditors | | -288.72 | 0.00 |
| Provision for publications | | -13,500.00 | 0.00 |
| | | <u>109,731.60</u> | <u>89,771.48</u> |

Notes to & forming part of the Balance Sheet

1. **Details of Term Deposits**

A/c 9857-30015 is at 3.60% and matures on 1 July 2009

A/c 9857-29997 is at 2.5% and matures on 1 August 2009

A/c 9872-89753 is at 2.5% and matures on 1 August 2009

Attachment 3

2009 Annual Report from MERGA VP Publications: Colleen Vale

I. Publication Activities 2008-2009

a. MERJ Editors

Since the previous AGM the MERGA Executive appointed a new editorial team for MERJ. The successful applicants were:

Prof. Robyn Jorgensen (Griffith University)

Dr. Peter Grootenboer (Griffith University) and

Dr. Raymond Brown (Griffith University).

This team brings extensive publications and editorial experience, and has introduced a new editorial section called “Voices from the Field” to the journal. Also the new editors have changed the production process and printer of MERJ resulting in an almost 50% saving. MERGA would like to thank Griffith University for the administrative and editorial support that they have provided the editors of MERJ. This support has assisted the editors in the management of submitted manuscripts and helped to smooth the processes for printing and distributing the journal.

b. Developments on the MERGA Publications website

You will have noticed that along with the new look of the MERGA website we have made some changes to the publications pages. These pages now have links to important information about the journals. Information and requirements for submitting articles are now consistent with that on the printed version of our journals and the Editorial Board is now included also. A list of past editors can also be found on the journal pages of the website. In this way we hope to properly acknowledge the contribution of many MERGA members and others to our publications. I would like to thank Andy Yeh very much for his work on the MERGA website.

You will also notice that all the volumes of MERJ and MTED are now available online! If they are not all there yet, they soon will be. Our special thanks go to Helen Forgasz and Andy Yeh, our website designer and manager, who have enabled all this to happen. During 2009, Helen’s research assistant, Calvin Taylor, scanned 12 years of MERJ journals and Helen changed every article into optical character recognition format so they are searchable on the website. Andy uploaded every one of those articles to the website, which is no mean feat because they need to be listed individually under authors and journal issues as well as uploaded in full text. All authors of MERJ and MTED articles can now look forward to greatly increased numbers on your citation index.

We have plans to further develop the publication pages. Calvin and Helen are currently scanning earlier conference proceedings so that the website will have a complete full-text record of MERGA members’ research reports. Forthcoming special issues will be included on the journal pages and we plan to provide more details and some chapters on the four yearly MERGA reviews page. Kay Owens has provided electronic versions of the 1996 review chapters. We hope that these will soon be available on electronically from the website. We should at least be able to provide listings of

contents from earlier reviews. The two most recent reviews were published by commercial publishers but we will negotiate with them to provide some details of these books on our website and the possibility of publishing electronically when they are out of print.

c. MTED on ERIC data-base

Since the previous AGM, MERGA has signed an agreement with ERIC to include the MERGA conference proceedings and MTED articles in their data-base. This is another great boost to the citation index for all authors of these MERGA publications.

d. New Publication Agreements

Due to the increasing demand from authors and their institutions for permission to include copies of articles and papers published by MERGA in institutional research repositories we have amended the publication agreements to approve such publication by authors. The current Publication Agreement with authors can be viewed on the MERGA website.

e. MERGA 4-yearly review 2008-2011

The MERGA Executive has recently called for expressions of interest for a team of MERGA members to edit the next 4-yearly review, *Research in Mathematics Education in Australasia 2008-2011*, and hope to finalise the editorial team before the end of 2009. So if you're interested get a team together and start preparing your EOI.

The previous team, headed up by Helen Forgasz, paved the way for an on-going arrangement with Sense Publishers to publish the reviews and the Executive will be seeking to confirm this arrangement for the next review.

Timeline for the review

June 2009 Call for expression of interest for editing the review

Nov 2009 Appoint editors

April 2010 Call for expression of interest for contributors and chapter authors

June 2010 Sign contract with publishers

June 2012 Publish review

II. MERJ: A report from the Editors

In mid-2008 a new editorial team comprising Robyn Jorgensen (Chief Editor), Peter Grootenboer, and Raymond Brown, commenced a three-year term as editors of the Mathematics Education Research journal (MERJ). The first year has involved a lot of hard work as we have come to terms with all the demands of the role, but it has been a rewarding and engaging experience. There is a significant amount of work involved in editing a quality journal and we have been very fortunate that the Griffith Institute for Educational Research has provided a great deal of support by providing an editorial assistant. The editorial assistant is Andrea Kittila and she has done most of the administrative work associated with the journal, as well as formatting and proof-reading articles. We are extremely grateful to Andrea for her outstanding work and her commitment that always extends beyond her 'paid hours'. We would also like to

express our gratitude to Colleen Vale (VP Publications) and the executive committee for their support, and to the previous editorial team of Margaret Walshaw, Gloria Stillman, and Gail FitzSimons who made the transition smooth by generously sharing their resources, ideas and experience.

In our first year we have made two changes to the structure and publication of MERJ. First, we are now printing the journal through Griffith University Press and this is proving to be an economical option. We would like to express our thanks to Alan Pettitt, David Steele and Heather Steele from Griffith University Print for technical expertise, support and patience.

Second, we have added a new editorial section called 'Voices from the Field'. In this section we have asked a small number of teachers and/or administrators to comment on the articles within an issue. These comments are then synthesised by the editorial team and published as a 'second editorial' at the start of each issue. The contributors to this section have engaged with their task enthusiastically and thoughtfully and provided a valuable addition to the journal. We have found it interesting and enlightening to read and reflect upon the thoughtful insights of these individuals 'from the field'.

As we now enter the second year of our editorial role we believe that it is important to once again review the editorial board of the journal. The membership of the editorial board is always subject to change as the capacity of members to undertake the tasks associated with being a member of the editorial board change. However, we also need to consider the impact that the quality of the editorial board has on the international status of the journal, particularly in the measures of research productivity that are currently being used in Australasia. Also, the high labour costs associated with the manual processing of papers, and the status of journals being published by Associations, we think that it would be prudent for the Executive to consider shifting the publication of MERJ to a commercial enterprise such as Springer. This would enhance the status of the journal, make it more available to an international audience, and make it a more expedient and less labour intensive process for the editorial teams

Special Issues

MERJ 20(2)

The 2008 special issue edited by Mike Thomas from the University of Auckland focussed on 'the transition from school to university mathematics'. This significant issue had eight articles from a wide range of international authors.

MERJ 21(2)

The 2009 special issue is being edited by Joanne Mulligan (Macquarie University), Max Stephens (University of Melbourne) and Colleen Vale (Victoria University, Australia) titled 'Understanding and developing structure: It's importance for mathematics learning', will be printed shortly. Although two of the editors are North Melbourne supporters the quality should be good.

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.

Statistics for MERJ July 2008 – June 2009

During this period we have published 3 issues of MERJ: Special Issue 20(2); Issue 20(3); and, 21(1). The numbers below were calculated on 10 June 2009.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Articles Published | 17 |
| Submissions | 30 |
| Articles ready for 21(3) | 2 |
| Manuscripts requiring minor changes | 1 |
| Manuscripts requiring major changes | 6 |
| Manuscripts Rejected | 12 |
| Manuscripts currently under review | 9 |

During this time about 38% of the articles published were written by Australasian authors.

We would like to conclude by expressing our most sincere thanks to the members of the Editorial Board and the reviewers who have generously given of their time and expertise in reviewing manuscripts. Without the high quality feedback provided by these people, MERGA would not be able to publish high standard research articles in MERJ. Editing MERJ has given us the privilege to work with our colleagues in the mathematics education community.

Robyn Jorgensen, Peter Grootenboer & Raymond Brown

III. MTED: A report from the Chief Editor

At the time of preparing this report Volume 10 of MTED is being printed. It is anticipated that we will be able to have Volume 11 ready for print by the end of August. There are enough accepted manuscripts for Volume 11, but some are still in need of some revisions. That will bring MTED publications up to date. Beyond that, there are currently 2 additional manuscript submissions that are in the process of review. In addition, a proposal for special issue for 2010 is being considered by the MERGA Executive. The tables below provide data on the number of submissions and the acceptance rate as well as on the national origin of the authors of papers submitted to MTED since the present Editorial team began their duties in April 2005. Data for the special issue Volume 8 is not available.

Table 1 shows that acceptance of manuscripts varies from 33 – 45%. Table 2 shows that there has been an increase in the number of international authors of accepted papers. Some of these are collaborations involving Australasian and international authors.

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

| | Total # submissions | # Rejected prior to review | # Under review | # Rejected | # Accepted | % Accepted |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Vol 7 | 15 | 4 | | 6 | 5 | 33% |
| Vol 9 | 12 | 1 | | 6 | 5 | 42% |
| Vol 10 | 12 | 1 | | 7 | 4 | 33% |
| Vol 11 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 45% |

Table 2. MTED Authorship of submitted manuscripts Volumes 7 – 11(2005-2009)

| | # Authors of rejected manuscripts | | # 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 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 14 |
| Total | 27 | 28 | 22 | 15 | 92 |

Sandra Frid

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

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee has met formerly on one occasion and been consulted throughout the past year. The main issues for discussion have been procedures for gathering information and membership opinion regarding journal publication policy and review of proposals for editors of special issues.

MERGA journal policy

At the 2006 AGM it was agreed that two issues concerning the publication of journals be considered at the AGM in 2009. These were:

having one MERGA journal only, and

having electronic journals only.

The MERGA Executive established two forums on the MERGA website to provide information to members and to enable members to share their opinions about these two policy matters. A report regarding each of these issues was prepared for the MERGA Policy Meeting and the AGM at this conference. These reports have been documented separately.

Attachment 4

2009 ANNUAL REPORT from VP (Communications): Julie Clark

As of May 2009 the individual membership was 188, with a further 20 expected to join via the July conference. The library membership is currently 82.

| Australian State of Country | Percentage of Membership |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ACT | 6 |
| NSW | 22 |
| Qld | 16 |
| SA/NT | 3 |
| Tas | 4 |
| Vic | 20 |
| WA | 3 |
| New Zealand | 16 |
| Rest of the World | 10 |

The 2009 membership is slightly increased from 2008 but is still below the average of the past 10 years. The on-line use of MEGA publications continues to increase and may partly explain the decrease in membership. During 2009, I will be seeking ideas for membership drives.

Email traffic is comparable to other years. I am currently developing a monthly newsletter and would welcome input from members.

Attachment 5

VP Development Report July 2009: Gaye Williams.

As VP Development, I represented MERGA in various ways in 2008-09 including:

- Respond to National Mathematics Curriculum documents
- Implement initiatives to increase new members and encourage practicing teachers
- Oversee several award and bursary processes
- Increase Australasian discussions around the nature of expert teachers
- Increase connections between MERGA research and other international research

As MERGA VP Development, I was one of five AAMT representatives at the National Mathematics Forum on the National Curriculum on Tuesday 14 October 2008 invited to work with Professor Peter Sullivan the next day to respond to forum feedback. This small working party (National Curriculum Professional Association Workshop) was an effective way to provide advice on integrating feedback into National Curriculum documents. The two written MERGA responses to NCB documents developed after the forum are available in the Development section of the MERGA website along with the individual submissions from MERGA members which were invaluable in framing these MERGA response. On March 18th 2009, I was invited to participate in a further consultation workshop about the National Mathematics Curriculum. Throughout the extensive consultations process, I had numerous opportunities to bring to the forefront the extensive research-based evidence available through MERGA.

The New Members Workshop that has been planned for MERGA 2009 is intended to introduce new members to the MERGA research community, and provide opportunities for them to meet the MERGA Executive. We are hoping this will encourage new members to continue their association with MERGA, and increase their participation over time. The workshop program has been planned to raise awareness of what is involved in educational research, and provide opportunities for discussion between new members.

At the time of writing this report, the Early Career Award process is underway with several promising applicants. One of the two Teaching Bursaries has been awarded to assist a practicing teacher to present her work at MERGA and another is still likely to be awarded. My thanks to the MERGA Executive for developing the criteria for the Teaching Bursary. The Beth Southwell Practical Implications Award (previously PIA) was not awarded in 2009. The four judges independently decided there was not a paper of high enough overall quality to receive this award. Applicants have been provided with feedback through the normal MERGA review process that is consistent with comments of the four judges (two from each of AAMT and MERGA). Hopefully, the absence of a BSPIA in 2009 will stimulate interest in 2010 submissions and provide a strong field for the next BSPIA.

The Teaching Standards Round Table for MERGA 2009, is intended as a start to Australasian discussions on what is involved in high quality teaching and that it will lead to closer collaborative links across Australasia around this topic. Glenda Anthony's involvement as Shadow VP Development will be crucial to this process.

The MERGA initiative to include an invited symposium at the 2008 MERGA conference was highly successful with many MERGA members attending the 'Tommy Dreyfus Symposium' and subsequent papers (see MERGA Development website). Contact the VP Development if you have an international visitor for whom this model could be relevant.

Attachment 6

MERGA VP (Conferences) Report to the AGM: July 2009. Bobbie Hunter

I begin with expressing my thanks to the other Executive members of MERGA and particularly our President Judy Mousley. Judy has provided amazing support for all members of the executive. She has given her wealth of knowledge willingly whenever asked and this has made the job of VP (Conferences) so much easier. Thanks also to my colleagues on the committee who have responded to any concerns or questions and given their advice readily.

To begin congratulations and our thanks goes to Merrilyn Goos as Chair of the 2008 Conference Organising Committee and her team for a very successful MERGA 31 Conference. Merrilyn chaired a collaborative team of MERGA members from all the Brisbane universities: Australian Catholic University, Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology, and the University of Queensland. The joint effort of a large group of individuals resulted in a conference on an attractive campus in much appreciated warmth.

In 2008 conference a new process of reviewing research papers, symposia, and other types of contributions was trialled. Ten panels comprising of mathematics education researchers with appropriate expertise were convened throughout Australia and New Zealand. Each paper was independently reviewed by two panel members, who then discussed their assessments and produced a single consensus report that provided the author(s) with detailed feedback. Convenors, panel members, and authors were all provided with opportunity to review this new process through a questionnaire. The positive responses provided us with the mandate to continue the same review process for the 2009 conference. All convenors, panel members, and authors have again been asked to complete a review of the process and we will need as a larger group to do a complete review again of the process. This year as a committee we looked at the review forms and modified them to provide more appropriate feedback to authors. The forms 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.

2009 has provided me personally with a huge learning curve as I have been part of the organising committee for MERGA 32. As Judy said a few weeks back "perhaps all VP (conferences) should experience organising a conference and I agree with this although do not advise it!. This conference has been organised by Massey University on our Wellington Campus by staff from the Palmerston North and Auckland Campus. This has held its own challenges. Thanks go to my colleagues Brenda Bicknell, Tim Burgess, Margaret Walshaw, Glenda Anthony and Ngaire Davies.

2010 MERGA 33 will be in Fremantle led by a team organised by Len Sparrow. The conference will be held at John Curtin College of the Arts in Fremantle where AAMT are holding their conference this year. The dates are set for Saturday 3rd July to Wednesday 7th July. Keynote speakers are Professor Dr Marja van den Heuvel-Pan Huizen, Professor Robyn Jorgensen and Barry Kissane. 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.

Attachment 7

2009 Annual Report VP (Research)

A stand was organised with AMSI, AAMT, and The Australian Mathematics Trust by Janine MacIntosh of AMSI at ICME 12 in Mexico. Several members volunteered and were in attendance at the stand throughout ICME handling many inquiries.

A submission was made on behalf of MERGA in relation to journal ranking. This submission was written by the President with input from the VP(Research).

Two research awards have been established. These are the MERGA Career Research Medal and the MERGA Research Award. Rules were drawn up by a small committee which included the President, VP(Research), Helen Forgasz and Phil Clarkson and then ratified by the MERGA Executive. These rules are available on the website.

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. There have been none to date. 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 must be submitted to the VP (Research) by September 1 each year.

Complimentary copies of the MERGA four yearly Research Review were sent to the Federal Minister for Education in Australia, Julia Gillard, to the Chair of Committee reviewing the Australian curriculum on request from Julia Gillard's office as well as several researchers in Europe. A copy was also given to a European researcher to write a review of the book for a major international journal.

Advice was sought from various universities on their policies with regards to the intellectual property of student researchers and their expectations with regards to writing with supervisors. A short report was prepared by the VP(Research) for the last Executive phone meeting.

MERGA's expectations with regards to ethical standards has been drawn up by the executive and placed on the website together with a list of contact details for ethics approval. 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 was begun by Judy Mousley and is being updated as members supply further thesis data. Please continue to send these in to me (title, supervisors, abstract or short description).

Gloria Stillman
June 16, 2008

