



# MATHEMATICS EDUCATION RESEARCH GROUP OF AUSTRALASIA, INC.

## THE MERGA LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD 2023

It is with great pleasure that the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia hereby announces the MERGA Life Membership award to Jaguthsing Dindyal (Daya), National Institute of Education, Singapore. This life membership recognises Daya's substantial contributions to the MERGA Community for nearly two decades.

One of Daya's major contributions was in strengthening MERGA's foundation as "Australasian" by leading a strong delegation of active members from Singapore to the heart of MERGA. MERGA35 in 2012 was held in Singapore, the first outside of Australia and New Zealand. This milestone not only reflects the reality of the "Australasia" representation in MERGA, but more importantly, it signifies the beginning of a new chapter in MERGA's move towards a greater international presence. Ken Clements, in his keynote, described the MERGA 2012 Conference as a "watershed", "highly significant" and "groundbreaking" event that has brought MERGA to the wider international community of mathematics educators. Daya was instrumental in convincing the MERGA committee at that time to make this bold and courageous move. He served as one of the co-chairs of the Local Organising Committee and as the Lead Editor for the conference proceedings that year.

Daya has always demonstrated dedication for MERGA's activities, particularly in his editorial work. In particular, he has served both on the Editorial Board and the Editorial team of MERJ, and remains one of its most active reviewers. Daya also chaired many review panels for the MERGA conferences as part of the Singapore team and conducted several workshops as part of MERGA conferences. Daya always took a special interest in making new MERGA conference attendees feel comfortable. This is especially the case for new researchers from other parts of the world, beyond Australia and New Zealand, again adding to the significance of MERGA's Australasian reputation. He was happy to connect newcomers to more experienced MERGA members with similar research interests and took on an informal mentorship role for many of the early career researchers from Singapore.

In his own quiet and unassuming way, through his exemplary and sustained engagement and leadership within the MERGA community, Daya has substantially enhanced MERGA's standing in the mathematics education community. Professor Jaguthsing Dindyal is therefore an exceptionally worthy recipient of the MERGA Life Membership in 2023.