



# MATHEMATICS EDUCATION RESEARCH GROUP OF AUSTRALASIA, INC.

## MERGA LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD 2024

It is with enormous pride that the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia, as an organisation and more fittingly as a community, bestow MERGA Life Membership to Professor Tom Lowrie of the University of Canberra. Life Membership in MERGA is our highest honour. We offer this Life Membership in recognition of the substantial contributions that Tom has made to the MERGA Community for over 25 years.

A distinguishing feature of Tom's leadership in mathematics education was his determination to make sure that MERGA receive its due recognition on the international stage. Indeed, Tom is a champion of MERGA and the MERGA community. During more than ten years on the MERGA Executive, many years on the Editorial Board of MERJ, Co-editor of RiMEA, MERGA Conference Convenor (Canberra, 2006), judge for many of our prestigious awards, playing a part representing MERGA in bringing ICME-15 to Sydney and many other roles behind the scenes, Tom enhanced the standing of MERGA. He strengthened our affiliations with other leading national and international organisations interested in mathematics education. Tom's own stellar career included 21 consecutive years of Australian Research Council funding, service on the ARC College of Experts and substantial and enduring contributions to the way that we understand students' spatial, visual and geometric reasoning. This established respect and reputation as a scholar contributed to his ability to raise MERGA's profile.

In as much as Tom was behind a range of initiatives that advanced the mission of MERGA, he is beloved in MERGA for his commitment to mentoring and promoting the people within MERGA. His first MERGA conference presentation was in 1998 in Brisbane. He has presented at nearly every MERGA conference since then. And as he built his own career over the past several decades, he supported many, many early and mid-career members by creating opportunities for them to lead or co-lead initiatives, and pioneering events that brought together early career and experienced researchers to work to progress skills in scholarly writing. Many among our community who are now associate and full professors see Tom as instrumental in supporting and enabling them to move through their early and mid-careers into becoming leaders themselves.

We could go on. And on.

In conclusion, Professor Tom Lowrie has made an outstanding and ongoing contribution to the MERGA organisation and community through his sustained and high-level engagement in mathematics education research. Tom is a most worthy recipient of a MERGA Life Membership, and we formally bestow on him this honour.