

Citation for Gilah's life membership

I am delighted to be saying a few words outlining Gilah's contributions to MERGA for which she is tonight being honoured as a Life Member.

Some people endearingly refer to Gilah as "Mama MERGA". She has certainly some credentials to support this claim.

She attended MERGA's birth – that is, MERGA 1, 1977 held at Monash University in Melbourne. At that conference as a PhD student – wasn't she born with a PhD? - she presented a paper entitled "Mathematics Performance and Future Occupation: Are They Related?"

Gilah served two terms as MERGA Treasurer from about 1980-1985. She was regarded as a strong advocate for MERGA at a time in which it was difficult for the fledgling MERGA to gain a foothold among Australia's established Mathematics and Science organizations.

Gilah also contributed to the inaugural MERGA 4-yearly review of, then, Australian research that was published in 1984. She wrote an Annotated Bibliography on Girls and Mathematics. With Dudley Blane, she co-edited the next 4-yearly review that came out in 1988.

Gilah had a break from the MERGA Executive until she was voted in as president in 1994-1996. During her period of presidency, among other things, MERGA and MELA merged, and MERGA became an incorporated entity.

Gilah tells me that she has not attended every single MERGA conference – I only know of one that she has missed – the one in which she was elected president: Brisbane in 1993. So, if you don't want to be president – Come to MERGA each year!!

Gilah, it gives me great pleasure to present you with this plaque that reflects your valued and on-going contributions to MERGA. Congratulations on your well-deserved honorary life membership.