

Nomination for MERGA Life membership: Judith Mousley



Judy Mousley & Peter Grootenboer

Judy has been a long standing and MERGA member. For as many years as she has been associated with MERGA, she has been an integral part of its formal and informal activities. The extent of her contributions to MERGA and the wider mathematics education community is expounded in the following sections.

Leadership

Judy has held a number of significant leadership roles within MERGA and as MERGA's representative on other key organisations. She was President of MERGA for two consecutive terms from 2006-2009. During this time she organised and managed the Executive Committee and provided strategic leadership. As a special feature of her tenure as President, Judy focussed on recruiting and retaining members, with a particular concern for new and inexperienced researchers. This saw her organising and developing special events for new delegates and neophyte researchers at the annual conference each year. Strategically, she wanted to see MERGA develop and grow once the foundation members retire.

Judy also offered very practical support for MERGA members during her time as president, such as help given to conference committees when they hosted their first MERGA conference. It is also worth noting that during Judy's presidency she negotiated a closer and more significant working relationship with AAMT.

Judy's presidency followed her time as the inaugural MERGA Vice President (Teaching). Judy established and defined this position upon the merging of MERGA and MELA. Again, this was a strategic leadership position that saw her being MERGA's representative on FASTS, where she became Vice President and served on the FASTS Executive Committee.

Some of Judy's formal leadership roles in leading organisations in mathematics education have been:

- FASTS: Federation of Australian Science and Technology Societies (Board member, 1999–2008; Policy Committee member, 2003-4; Planning and Review Committee 2004-5, Membership Committee, 2005–2008; Vice President, 2003–2007).
- AMSC: Australian Mathematics Sciences Council (Council member 1996–7, 1998–2008; Vice President, 1998–1999; President 1999–2002; Treasurer 2003–2007).

- MELA: Mathematics Education Lecturers' Association (Executive Council member 1993–1997, President 1995–1997).
- PME: International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education (Vice President 1997-9; International Committee member 1996–9; Program Committee member 1996–7, 2004–5).

Innovation in MERGA's activities

One of Judy's key contributions was the establishment and development of the Vice President (Teaching) position — now the VP (Development). Having been President of MELA, she played a significant and integral role in the amalgamation of MERGA and MELA, and subsequently she ensured that the agendas and concerns of MELA were not lost in the merge. One way that this was ensured was through the establishment of the MELA journal. During her time as President, she initiated and took oversight over the redefining of the VP Teaching/Development, and VP Membership/Communication roles.

Strong support for MERGA's activities

Judy has been a regular and consistent supporter of MERGA conferences. She has presented a number of papers and edited conference proceedings, and co-ordinated the 2003 conference in Geelong. Judy has gone out of her way to meet, support and encourage new members. She has also been a strong supported of MERGA's publication activities as a contributor, reviewer and editor for some issues of MERJ, MTED, conference proceedings, and the four-yearly reviews.

In 1996, Judy re-made the MERGA website to align its pages with MERGA's key activities and to centralise policy information. She still maintains most of the website and has been pivotal in getting publications uploaded into the search facility.

Enhancement of the standing of MERGA in the mathematics education community

Judy has worked extensively to foster the status and role of MERGA in the mathematics community, the mathematics education community, and the mathematics teachers' community. She has done this at local, state, national and international levels. The senior positions Judy has undertaken in various organisations show that she is highly regarded and well respected in these forums, and she has enhanced the stature of MERGA by her involvement.

Service to MERGA

It is clear that Judy has been a long-standing and hard-working stalwart of MERGA. While her work in "up front" positions have been obvious to all, it has also been Judy's service in less noticed ways that have been vital to the growth and smooth functioning of MERGA. For example, before the Wellington conference, Judy could be seen in the back room stuffing conference bags and assisting the local organising committee with their last-minute tasks.

Through all her service to MERGA, Judy has not sought acclaim of recognition, but rather she has endeavoured to see MERGA grow and develop. Through her contributions to MERGA Judy has added significantly to the quality of the Association and its value to its members, as well as the mathematics education community at large.