

MERGA Life Member: Ken Milton

Dr Ken Milton has a long and significant involvement in mathematics education. He is a founding member of MERGA and the Mathematical Association of Tasmania (MAT). As the history of MERGA shows, it all began in 1977 but the Group was not ‘constituted’ until 1980, at the conference in Hobart. Ken was organiser of that conference.

Following ‘constitutional formation’, Dr Graham Jones was elected the first President. Ken was the second President, serving 1985 – 1987 inclusive. This period was one of gaining recognition for MERGA in the Australian educational scene, and consolidating the established structural and operational frameworks of the Group. A key element in the process was creating friendly cooperation with the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT), which occupied a central role in research and practice. Acceptance of the separate and distinct roles of the two bodies as being complementary and mutually supportive, and not ‘competing’, was achieved during Ken’s presidency; this to the benefit of mathematics education generally in Australia.

Within the workings of MERGA, Ken has been a regular conference attendee and organiser. At one stage it was pointed out that he had attended the first 14 conferences without miss: and was still reasonably ‘regular’ after retirement. He was organiser of conferences held in 1980 (Hobart), 1986 (Launceston with Mike Dunphy) and 1990 (Hobart) where for the first time MERGA and AAMT had joint overlapping conferences with the purpose of having teachers of mathematics and researchers sharing and linking theory, practice and research.

On the broader educational and professional front Ken is:

- a Life Member of MAT,
- a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators (FACE),
- a Life Member ACE,
- holder of the Margaret Record Award for outstanding service to the ACE,
- a Fellow of UTAS University Colleges,
- a holder of a Distinguished Service Award from AAMT, and
- a member of the Royal Society of Tasmania.

Ken has been the author and developer of a range and variety of texts and teaching materials and has served as editor of state and national mathematics teaching journals: specifically *Delta* (Journal of MAT) and the *Australian Senior Mathematics Journal* (ASMJ).

At the time of being awarded Life Membership of MERGA, at the 1991 conference in Perth, Ken’s educational journey had included being:

- a teacher and senior master of mathematics, physics, chemistry and general science in Tasmanian High Schools,

- a lecturer and senior lecturer in Mathematics and Education at the Hobart Teachers College (HTC),
- a senior lecturer in Mathematics and Mathematics Education at the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education (TCAE), and
- a senior lecturer in Mathematics Education at the University of Tasmania

One could describe Ken's journey and educational commitment as reflecting grass roots practice with a desire to bring good, effective and relevant research into classrooms and curriculum designs.

MERGA's awarding of a Life membership to Ken Milton acknowledges these significant contributions to the association as well as the wider mathematics education community.