

EDITORS' NOTE

MERGA 20

The Twentieth Annual Conference of the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia (MERGA) is being held in Rotorua, New Zealand, 7-11 July 1997.

Welcome

The Conference Committee welcomes you to Rotorua. This is the first time the MERGA annual conference has been held in New Zealand, and we trust you will enjoy your time. The quality and range of papers is substantial. There is something in this Conference for all mathematics educators.

The conference is organized by mathematics education staff at the University of Waikato, Hamilton. We acknowledge especially the work of Andy Begg as chief organizer.

Paper selection

For the first time these proceedings include abstracts of the short communication papers and posters - there are 28 papers in this category.

The guidelines for presenting papers at MERGA were used to select papers. Two independent reviewers were used for each paper. Where there was disagreement a third reviewer was consulted.

Papers have been published largely as submitted by authors. While care has been taken by the editors, some errors inevitably occur.

We offer sincere thanks to the reviewers of papers who were all mathematics educators from New Zealand. Your speedy and thorough attention to the task was appreciated.

Conference theme

The theme 'He Tangata, he tangata, he tangata' is Maaori for 'Tis people, tis people, tis people'. The expression comes from a proverb, a translation of which appears in the Programme booklet. A parallel is drawn between a flax bush and generations of people, and this symbolises a belief in the importance of human kind as a whole.

Fred Biddulph & Ken Carr
Editors
Hamilton
New Zealand
1997

Practical Implications Award

The Practical Implications award is sponsored by the Key Centre for Teaching and Research in School Science and Mathematics at Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia. It is open to all members of MERGA and is designed to stimulate the writing of papers on research related to mathematics teaching or learning or mathematics curricula.

The successful entrant this year is:

Lyn English

Seventh-grade students fail mathematics or does mathematics fail disadvantaged students?