

## Preface

This is a record of the proceedings of the 26th annual conference of the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia [MERGA]. The theme of this conference is *Mathematics Education Research: Innovation, Networking, Opportunity*.

We are pleased to welcome new conference participants from about ten countries. For this conference, a record number of papers was submitted for review. There were also more Early Bird submissions, applications for the Early Career Award, and entries for the Practical Implications Award than in previous years. The proceedings also include a symposium, short communications, and a new initiative: round table presentations. The printed proceedings commence with a tribute to Dr. Glendon Lean. This is followed by three invited plenary papers.

Each of the research and symposium papers accepted for the proceedings has been reviewed, without the author being identified, by two experienced researchers in mathematics education. Strict guidelines were followed. Where reviewers disagreed about the acceptability of a paper, a third reviewer has read the paper. Only those papers that were accepted by two reviewers have been included in the conference proceedings.

Papers submitted as entries for the Practical Implications Award underwent the review process, and accepted papers were then judged by a committee of four very experienced researchers. In 2003, this award is to be presented to Tracey Smith, for her paper “Using case stories as a tool for listening more and telling less in mathematics teacher education”. A further group of papers was submitted for consideration for the Early Achievement Award. The judges have copies of the accepted papers and will observe the conference presentations of the applicants before meeting to decide on the winner(s).

Included in this set of proceedings is a CD-ROM disc. The Table of Contents document has hyperlinks to each of the papers. The Index document enables papers to be searched by descriptor. Also on the CD is a list of reviewers, and the CD and conference program both have advertisements for some of the companies that were kind enough to provide financial support for the conference.

The 2003 conference was preceded by a week-long “Scholars’ workbench”, sponsored by the Deakin University Quality Learning Research Priority Area. This gave some promising young MERGA members an opportunity to write with experienced authors for a forthcoming book on evaluation and assessment of learning in mathematics classrooms.

A considerable amount of time and effort has gone into the review process, making arrangements for the conference, and preparation of these proceedings. As co-ordinator of the conference, I would like to thank all members of the Conference Committee—and especially the Editorial Committee—for their commitment and attention to detail; Kathy Savige for her tireless efforts, creative suggestions, and work on the MERGA and MERINO websites; and Carmel Wilde for efficient handling of registrations.

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