

## Preface

These are the proceedings of the 27<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia Inc. The theme for this conference is *Mathematics Education for the Third Millennium, Towards 2010*. We are delighted to have keynote speakers from France, New Zealand and Australia. Their addresses should focus our thoughts and conversations on MERGA as a community of practice, how Australian students are performing compared with students in other countries, and the challenges that mathematics education faces with developments in technology now and towards 2010.

We welcome delegates to only the second MERGA conference to be hosted in North Queensland, the first being in 1987. Delegates reflect the international community of mathematics education researchers with people from France, Germany, New Zealand, Mauritius, Singapore, Vanuatu, the United Kingdom, and Australia. An Early Bird Reviewing procedure, designed to assist early career researchers in their efforts to write publishable conference papers, applied again this year. Authors could submit their full paper for peer review by experienced researchers, and receive feedback in time to revise the paper and submit it again as a regular research paper. Authors applying for the Early Career Award were required to go through this Early Bird process but there were some other authors who took this opportunity as well.

Each of the research papers and papers submitted for a symposium were peer reviewed (without the author(s) being identified) by two experienced mathematics education researchers who followed strict guidelines. The Editorial Committee sought to match papers with corresponding expertise of reviewers for all papers. Where reviewers disagreed about the acceptability of a paper, another blind review was called for without the third reviewer seeing the previous reviews. Only those papers that were accepted by two reviewers have been included in the conference proceedings.

The Proceedings of this conference are published by MERGA and are available for purchase from the MERGA Publications Office. Included with this set of proceedings is a CD-ROM disc. The Table of Contents has hyperlinks to each of the papers. On the CD is a list of reviewers, and the CD and conference program have advertisements for some of the companies that provided financial support for the conference.

A considerable amount of time and energy has gone into the planning of the conference, the reviewing of these papers and the preparation of the proceedings. As chair of the conference coordinating committee and editorial committee I would like to thank the other members of the team, Rhonda Faragher, Mal McLean, and Mary Klein for their commitment to the task and their untiring support. Thanks also to Reuben Winstanley for his work on the website, Judy Winstanley for her technical assistance with the publication of these proceedings and Nola Judd, Jenny Gromkowski, and other members of the School of Education administration who helped to make it all happen.

Ian J. Putt  
Chair  
Conference Organising Committee