

Preface

This is a record of the proceedings of the 31st annual conference of the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia (MERGA). The theme of this conference is *Navigating currents and charting directions*. The theme reminds us that, although we are constantly pushed to account for the quality and impact of our research, we need to assert some control over our work by making our own research futures.

We are pleased to welcome any conference participants who are attending MERGA for the first time. We hope you will make yourselves known so you can be made welcome and introduced to others who share your research interests. Authors from many countries (e.g., Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Israel) are represented in these Proceedings, as is nearly every university in Australia and New Zealand with education programs. There are also participants from state and independent school systems and government ministries of education. We look forward to the dialogue that will emerge from the varying perspectives brought by these participants.

All research papers and symposia submitted were blind peer reviewed (without author/s being identified) by one of ten review panels comprising mathematics education researchers with appropriate expertise in the field. Review panels were convened throughout Australia and New Zealand by experienced researchers/reviewers who identified colleagues in their geographic region to join the panel. Panel convenors attended a training day where they reviewed earlybird papers according to clear reviewing guidelines that have been refined over a number of years. They then led their panels through the reviewing of a fixed number of conference papers. Each paper was independently reviewed by two panel members, who then discussed their assessments and produced a single consensus report that provided the author(s) with detailed feedback. For consistency, all reviews recommending that a paper not be accepted were reconsidered by two members of a small panel of highly experienced reviewers. Only those research papers accepted by two reviewers have been included in these conference Proceedings. The abstracts for round table discussions and short communications were also blind peer reviewed (without the authors being identified) by two experienced mathematics education researchers.

The most pleasing aspect of the organisation of this conference has been the spirit of collaboration between MERGA members from all the Brisbane universities: Australian Catholic University, Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology, and The University of Queensland. We thank the institutions that have provided free of charge various meeting facilities and other resources to enhance our planning. We particularly thank the Teaching and Educational Development Institute at The University of Queensland for providing sponsorship in the form of Kylie O'Toole, who undertook most of the administration associated with the reviewing process with grace, efficiency, and good humour.

Merrilyn Goos

Chair, Conference Organising Committee and Chief Editor

Ray Brown and Katie Makar

Editors