

Special MERGA 40 Conference 2017

Jan Thomas*

The Mathematics Education Research Group of Australia was formed in 1976. An anniversary conference will be held at Monash from 2–6 July with special guest Professor McKenzie (Ken) Clements, currently in the Department of Mathematics at the State University of Illinois. Ken was co-founder of MERGA and organiser of the initial conference held in May 1977 at Monash.



Ken Clements

The organisers are trying to contact participants at the early conferences. If any *Gazette* readers are previous participants, or know of previous participants, the 2017 organisers would love to hear from you. Details at <http://tiny.cc/merga40>.

Ken has a special connection to the broader mathematical sciences community and to the foundation of AMSI. Ken was President of MERGA when the Australian Mathematical Sciences Council (AMSC) was formed under the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS)¹ umbrella. Ken sent me along as the MERGA representative and that was my entry into the Canberra political scene. All the other societies were represented by their presidents. I can't imagine how I would have subsequently become FASTS Vice-President, AustMS Executive Officer and co-writer of the AMSI proposal and business plan without this entry to the policy arena.

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¹Now *Science and Technology Australia* (STA)