

BUSINESS EVENTS TASMANIA

MERGA-44

Mathematical Confluences and Journeys

A forum for raising important issues in
mathematics education and sharing research
findings



Direct Economic Contribution

\$330,300



When and Where

3-7 July 2022

University of Tasmania, QVMAG
Gallery, Hotel Grand Chancellor
Launceston.



Delegate Attendance

163 National and 44
International Delegates

Event Snapshot

When events such as the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia (MERGA) Annual Conference are held in Tasmania, local experts are offered the opportunity to connect with fellow researchers and academics in their fields, share research findings and cultivate collaborations that aid with progression in industry. They place Tasmania on the world stage, promoting the state's facilities, experts, and hunger for exploring the extraordinary.



MERGA 44 attracted 207 in person delegates, with 44 international delegates coming from Canada, England, New Zealand, South Africa, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States. It was the first face-to-face conference MERGA had conducted since 2019.

The theme for the event was mathematical confluences and journeys.

"[The theme] was chosen to recognise the nature of the conference as a mixing of our educational experiences and research, and the journey on which we all embark, both in coming to the conference, and our continued studies"

– Vice President (Conferences) and Launceston local, Professor Greg Oates.



Conference Legacies

Teacher's Day

One of the leading challenges faced by many Australian teachers is finding ways to increase the engagement levels of their students.

For keynote speaker Professor Peter Liljedahl (Simon Fraser University, Canada), this has been his research focus and purpose for over 15 years. During his time studying math lessons in Canada, his research revealed that up to 80% of students exhibit non-thinking behavior for 100% of the time in a typical hour-long session. An alarming statistic that led Peter to form researched based and tested solutions that could be easily and effectively implemented by real-world teachers.

Peter brought this findings and research-based solutions to the conference's inaugural Teacher's Day. This initiative was dedicated to providing local Tasmanian teachers with

rigorously researched ideas to help with the challenges they face and produce a platform for researchers to establish good rapport with active teachers to better understand the specific challenges they face.

Many of the teachers who attended described the information shared with them at this day as being, effective, easily applicable and relevant to the challenges they face.

"As soon as I returned to the classroom I began implementing many of the ideas presented. The students responded amazingly well to it. You could see the pressure lifted for many of them and it created a much more lively, energetic, and engaged classroom."

– Vanessa Wright (Science and Maths Teacher at Marist Regional College, Burnie)

For Nathan Duhig – Curriculum Lead for the Department of Education, Children and Young People – he had been well aware of Peter's work prior to MERGA and became ecstatic upon hearing that Peter was going to be a keynote speaker and the event provided him the chance to meet Peter in person.



With this introduction made and contact details exchanged, Nathan was able to organise for Peter to return to Tasmania. Upon his return Peter will be leading workshops across the state for 80+ mathematics teachers, as well as a day with some of Tasmania's math and numeracy lead coaches responsible for implementing the state's curriculum. An incredible opportunity for the professional development of our educational professionals which would not have been possible if MERGA had not been hosted in Tasmania.



Securing the Event

A key commitment for BET is targeting significant events that align with sectors where Tasmania possesses exceptional expertise. These events offer an opportunity for Tasmania to demonstrate its capabilities and cultivate an environment for the industries to continue to grow.



For MERGA44 there were three major driving forces for securing the event. The first came from the formal partnership we have created with some of Tasmania's truly extraordinary industry leaders and experts through our [Visionary Program](#).

Professor Greg Oates is one such individual and was the lead advocate for hosting the conference in Tasmania, he had this to say:

“Hosting MERGA in Launceston was a huge success, it helped raise the profile of work being conducted in Education in Tasmania, and has acted as a stimulus for colleagues in other discipline areas to consider Launceston for conferences. Feedback was highly positive, and many delegates observed they will return to Tasmania following their experiences here. The support from BET was fabulous at each stage, and vital to the success of the conference, from the pre-planning and securing the conference, through to funding and sponsorship support, and industry and tourism connections for venue, accommodation, and travel planning. Couldn’t have managed it without their help.”

The second was the famil program ran by BET early that year. These famils were hosted in north Tasmania for event stakeholders and professional conference organisers – with some involved in MERGA invited. They demonstrated the capabilities and exceptional experiences on offer in Tasmania and played a key role in securing the event.

Finally, there was the [Business Events Attraction Fund \(BEAF\)](#). This fund allows BET to offer financial support for business events hosted in Tasmania that will leave long lasting benefits to Tasmania (which MERGA 44 qualified for)

Working with BET

With a commitment to supporting strategically aligned business events, BET work passionately to help secure and organise conferences in Tasmania. Complimentary services are provided to assist with:

- **Funding** – Through the Business Events Attraction Fund, BET can access financial support for business events.
- **Support with the bidding process** – BET take a collaborative approach, working with you and a specialist pool of local conference organisers, to ensure that your bid stands out.
- **Support with conference organisation** – a small pool of professional conference organisers has been created, that are available to assist with full organisation services. Additionally, BET have resources to help promote the conference, boost delegate attendance, and connect you with local suppliers.

To find out more about how BET can help with your next conference be sure to get in contact with us today!



[Request a proposal](#)



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