



Chair's Report 2011/12

ALM-19 in Auckland is not only our first New Zealand conference, it's the first southern hemisphere conference since ALM-12 in Melbourne in 2005, which was also the first ALM conference that I attended. It feels like there is a certain symmetry, then, in this being my last report as Chair of ALM, as I shall stand down prior to this year's AGM. After four years in the role, it's more than time to pass the torch – an appropriate thing for an Olympic year.

As I reflect on the past year (and, indeed, the past four years), I truly believe that ALM continues to make a positive contribution to the world of adults learning mathematics and, in small but steady steps, we continue to develop and mature as an organisation. Every year brings its challenges for the Board/Organising Committee and 2011/12 has been no different but improvements in affordable (i.e. free) communications technology have greatly enhanced our capacity for frequent contact in 'real time' and we have conducted Skype meetings almost monthly.

Highlights from that activity include:

- engaging a graphic designer to assist us in the development of new stationery and letterhead templates in a variety of formats;
- devising and adopting new financial procedures;
- undertaking a survey on various aspects of the ALM website;
- establishing the new role of Conference Proceedings Supervising Editor, including developing and documenting the functions, appointment principles and operating procedures for the role, calling for expressions of interest, and making an initial appointment, for which our congratulations go to Anestine Hector-Mason; and
- launching a major new project to broaden our membership base by targeted outreach to individuals and organisations in parts of the globe where we currently have little or no representation. This developed at the suggestion of Sonja Beeli following last year's Dublin conference and Sonja has generously volunteered to drive the project.

Of course, the great success of the Maths Eyes initiative from the Institute of Technology Tallaght, Dublin and the launch of the project website cannot pass without mention as a major highlight of the ALM year. Hearty congratulations to Terry Maguire and her hugely energetic team!

The ALM International Journal seems to be going from strength to strength under the very capable and enthusiastic editorship of Javier Díez-Palomar and it's always a great pleasure to see the publication of each new edition. In combination with our annual conference proceedings, this amounts to a substantial accumulation of a worthy body of work that is both a testament to the considerable expertise and commitment of ALM members and a lasting legacy for the benefit of the mathematics education community.



Adults Learning Mathematics - a Research Forum

Organising an international conference, even one as relatively modest as our annual 'family gatherings', is no small undertaking. As John O'Donoghue once noted, this is a flagship event for our Association, demanding much attention and care, and we are grateful to Diana Coben, Janet Hogan, and all those working in concert behind the scenes towards this co-operative venture by the National Centre of Literacy and Numeracy for Adults (NCLANA) University of Waikato and the Auckland University of Technology (AUT).

Once again, and for the last time, I wish to use this opportunity to draw members' attention to the many hour of voluntary work freely given by my friends and colleagues on the Board/Organising Committee and to give my heartfelt thanks for their good humour, support and dedication.

Ours is an organisation that cannot function without the few who are prepared to step up on behalf of the many to work towards furthering its aims. It's not necessary to take on the more formal responsibilities of Board/Committee membership – although we do encourage all members to consider this. Any contribution of ideas, expertise, or preparedness to simply 'help out' from time to time is worthwhile and *always* needed and welcome!

On which note, I also thank and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of those members and others (individuals and institutions) who have in various ways helped to advance and support ALM over the course of the past year.

Chris Klinger
Chair, 2011/12