

IMEB

International Music Examinations Board

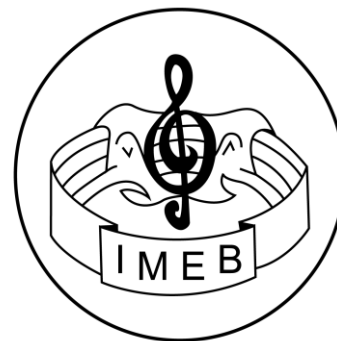
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NEWSLETTER : February 2018

NB : NEW FORMAT PAGE 1

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday 1 September 2018
THEORY EXAMS in Australia for
both Music and Speech and Drama.

In Sydney, exams will take place at
255 Broadway, Glebe commencing
9.30am on **Saturday 1 September.**

Please arrive 15 mins before the starting time of 9.30am and make your way to Floor 3 via the lift at 255 Broadway. Please do **NOT** arrive or try to enter the building before 9:15am This is highly important as the building is electronically keyed at stipulated times by the security personnel for the premises. Previously some students arrived too early and used the lift several times causing a meltdown at security HQ and rendering the lift to malfunction for a lengthy period. **Teachers please advise your graduands.** An IMEB staff member will be on hand in the foyer of the building at 9:15 to give students access to the building. It is **not** permitted for parents and friends to try and gain access to the exam premises **due to insurance conditions.**

PLEASE NOTE that all Theory exams in Australia will now be held on **Saturday mornings** to prevent the candidates taking time out from school or work and to fit in with the schedule of the High School in Sydney whose facilities we use for Theory exams. **NB: requests for both Theory and Practical exams to be taken outside the designated time/date cannot be considered for reasons stated in previous Newsletters.**

COUNTRY and SOUTH AUSTRALIAN THEORY EXAMS are to be arranged with the local area Supervisor as usual. Please advise IMEB asap of current country supervisor's name and address for mailing of Theory exam papers. S.A. contact Mr Alan West as usual.

PRACTICAL EXAMS

PRACTICAL Exams for both Series 1 and 2
are by arrangement as usual with IMEB Office.
CLOSING DATES as per Entry Form

SERIES 1 : 1 MAY

SERIES 2 : 1 OCTOBER

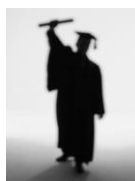
PRACTICAL Exams: may be arranged with the IMEB by teachers. Once again may we ask you to avoid requesting specific dates. Please give us an indication of preferred weeks or time frame as early as possible. Most of you continue to do this superbly, and we will do our best to accommodate your wishes as usual.

Closing Dates: for all examinations must be strictly observed. There still appears to be the perception that because we aim to be flexible and considerate to individual needs, we will accede to any requests and rules need not necessarily be complied with. Due to the steady increase in entries, we are unable to arrange alternative dates. Despite this notification being posted in recent Newsletters, there were still a number of entries which arrived at the Office in our absence O/S in Nov 2017 with teachers expecting us to simply slot in their exam requests 'before Christmas' at a few days' notice. Please understand our position.

No exams will be conducted in Australia after 30 Nov

2018 GRADUATION CEREMONY :
2pm on Saturday, 14 April at our
IMEB Headquarters: 3rd Floor, 255 Broadway, Glebe.
Advice notification will be mailed out to teachers/studios with eligible candidates

PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR GRADUANDS TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT OCCASION. IF SOME OF THE GRADUANDS CAN GO TO THE TROUBLE AND EXPENSE OF FLYING IN FROM OVERSEAS THEN SURELY LOCALS CAN ATTEND



However, all are welcome to attend, of course. We are congratulated each year on the dignity and high quality of the presentations contributing to a very meaningful occasion

Greetings to all.

Well, 2017 raced by at tremendous speed and we all seemed tired but generally satisfied with the process of running this exam system successfully for yet another year. That said, the end of year break gave opportunity to reflect and consider a few small changes in an effort to revitalise and update some sections of the syllabuses. Several of these modifications are out-lined in the next paragraph, but it is likely that there WILL be further changes to append to this Newsletter following a scheduled meeting with teachers in February. If for some reason they are not appended to this Newsletter, the information will be mailed out to S and D teachers in the near future. **In any event, the changes will not be mandatory for implementation until 2019 when they will be compulsory.**

The **main changes** referred to above relate to the Historical Drama sections in some Grades, in particular *Restoration* and some specific *Shakespeare* questions. Sight Reading and Talk on Voice Production in Grade 8 will be eliminated. Set works (poems and prose) specified for 19th and 20th century may also include 21st century. Whilst some teachers adhere religiously to the suggested literary examples in syllabus grades, all teachers need to be reminded that they may substitute works of similar literary value and standard if specified works are unobtainable /regarded as unsuitable for age. **This is indicated in the Introduction to each syllabus.**

We are considering substituting **B+** assessment for the 80 - 84 range to commence in 2019.

NB. A reminder that S and D Theory Grade 6 Exam is two and a half hours, not two hours.

IMEB continues to grow with new studios enrolling each year. Mostly this development is the result of word-of-mouth recommendations and we are grateful to those of you who promote IMEB in this way.

OVERSEAS NEWS:

The success of IMEB in **MALAYSIA** continues to grow with each trip to that region due to increased number of teachers and candidates.

Thank you **Mr Thomas Ling** for the consistent high level promotion and management of the IMEB. It is always a pleasure to visit the studios and teachers there who by now are our good friends and who host us splendidly. Several IMEB teachers in Malaysia intend flying over to Sydney for IMEB 2018



Graduation and hope to meet as local NSW teachers as possible to help close the physical gap between our two countries. We are sure that our local IMEB teachers present at the ceremony will make them feel welcome and part of the IMEB 'family'. Several studios in Sarawak insist on their teachers attaining IMEB Teaching Diplomas as they feel their credibility as music educators is greatly enhanced and validated by our Diplomas.

A wide range of exams are conducted throughout Malaysia from Piano Beginners to mature age Opera singers. All candidates regard their exams as special events in life and always present themselves beautifully.



Mr Casey Koh of *Broadway Academy* in Kuala Lumpur is currently still in the process of arranging for IMEB exams to be established in *Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat University* in Bangkok, **Thailand** where he is lecturing in Vocal Studies. It is a long, complex process to establish business partnerships between institutions in foreign countries and many conditions have to be reciprocated and fully sorted out at legal, academic and industrial levels. This takes a frustratingly long time.



Together with **Nana Yusnaldi**, he arranged for the first entry of Show Choirs in IMEB Choral exams in 2017 and the performance was spectacular, dynamic and very professional by the young choristers.



In Sibiu, **Mme Loi** operates an *English Speaking Class* where the pupils enrol in IMEB Public Speaking Exams. All their work is memorized to an exceptional level and this is remarkable considering English is their second language.

EGYPT is the latest venue for IMEB exams and Tim visited the *Tchaikovski School of Performing Arts* in Alexandria in June for Practical and Theory exams.



This is a new music institution for Egypt established by **Mr Adham Molokhia** and run by a very dedicated team of high calibre musicians and teachers. The enthusiasm for each candidate's own development in musicianship was infectious and they made me feel most welcome. In addition to their practical and theory exams, the students also presented an evening of music in a beautiful concert hall in Alexandria with performances of their piano and violin exam pieces plus ensemble items and local Arabic music including eastern musical instruments.



Adham informs me that the students are currently working hard both in the studio and the garden for their second IMEB exam session next July (see next photo). They are also rehearsing for a 'Winter' Music Concert in mid-February where they will present pieces on piano and violin plus their Arabic music ensemble selections in the concert hall. I know they will definitely enjoy making and performing their music. We wish them well.



There is great interest in both this new music school and IMEB in Egypt. Adham and Dr Tim took the opportunity to promote them both in a tv interview with Ms Engy Helmy.



AND WAIT ... THERE'S MORE GREAT O/S NEWS :

As a result of **Mrs Merryl Lloyd** being invited to adjudicate a *Public Speaking Competition* in **SRI LANKA**

last year, she took the opportunity to talk about and promote IMEB to the S and D teaching network in that country. The Director of the Sri Lankan Speech Competition, **Ms Hashni Perera**, was so impressed with the IMEB syllabus that she immediately undertook our Licentiate Diploma exam which she passed with well-



deserved Distinction. The word has now spread and 90 candidates are currently being prepared for IMEB exams this year in Sri Lanka. Ms Hashni Perera has been invited to give the Occasional Address at the IMEB Graduation on 14 April when she will also receive her Diploma. **Congratulations to Merryl** on this wonderful outcome.

The mail system seems to be working reliably now after our delivery problems in previous years with the Glebe branch of **Australia Post**. However, there has still been the occasional hiccup to the system. Teachers, if they prefer, may send mail to IMEB's dedicated mail box address. This may be the wiser action if you are including cheques or monies.:

Dr Darrell Hines or Dr Tim Smith
IMEB, PO Box 1363
CRONULLA NSW 2230

Regarding postage: Teachers will be aware that there are now different prices/stamps for different speeds and modes of delivery. Sometimes it has taken 12 days between the franking date on the envelope which bears only minimum \$1 postage stamps, and the actual delivery to the PO Box (which is emptied daily.) Please bear this in mind when you are dealing with deadline dates etc. IMEB cannot be held responsible for AusPost services.

With regard to **Electronic Banking Transfers**, there have recently been some problems with this system. Some teachers have sent us the Receipt Number, the amount transferred and date of transaction, which is the usual procedure. However, some teachers have not observed this protocol and do not even advise us when funds have been transferred, which does not assist us in our attempts to keep satisfactory records.

Consequently it has been decided that when entering candidates for exams, teachers must :

1. Submit the list of candidates names and grades as usual on official IMEB Exam Entry Form,
2. Transfer the money electronically, include the Receipt number indicating amount and transfer date on the Entry Form **OR** include a cheque or moneyorder to correspond to the TOTAL at the end of the official IMEB Exam Entry Form

Only when these two steps have been completed will requested exam dates be considered. Do NOT send in lists of candidates for examination unless they have paid you in advance, in full, for their exams. (ie: we will no longer accept messages from teachers claiming that they are still waiting for some students to pay up, or that they will send the outstanding balance later !)



Some IMEB examiners relax at Christmas 2017



NURSERY LEVEL EXAM (Speech and Drama)

This continues to be highly popular with increasing numbers of youngsters delighting the examiners in presenting their nursery rhymes, stories and fairy tales etc so imaginatively and capably. Their developing confidence alone justifies the existence of this syllabus. *There was a crooked man, Little Bo-Peep* are popular choices in **Kristie Thorne's** Bathurst Studio.



Toad from Toad Hall (alias Toby Gough) from Bathurst proudly demonstrates his sports car to the judge after his speeding incident in *Wind in the Willows*.

PLEASE NOTE: that Examiner's decisions are final regarding reports and assessments of candidates in exams. No appeals will be considered except in the case of an obvious error, eg: miscalculation in adding the marks, or a spelling error of the candidate's name etc.

**Talk about making an entrance in Sibu, Sarawak !
Just exactly where is the door ?**

(Is this Sibu's special appropriation of *Harry Potter* or *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*?)
What would be on the other side?



.... A Waiting Room, of course



In Toowoomba, Queensland *Bel Canto Singing Academy* produces some very fine vocalists under the tutelage of **Elaine Coates** seen here with the Hardy family singers.



Cherie Runciman and **Courtney Feldman** also operate highly successful studios and their students achieve very high results as noted in previous Newsletters.

I have no wish to reiterate my concerns about the **importance of accuracy** in every sense ... but the problem does continue ... and surprisingly some teachers do not regard it as important and appear sometimes to take a lighthearted view of the matter. New teachers are requested to **read p3 of the 2017 IMEB Newsletter for clarification and guidelines** which is on the web: www.imeb.com.au

ABSENCES FROM EXAMINATIONS

Where there is good reason for an absence from an examination (eg: Sickness or misadventure of some kind), on production of evidence of this fact, a candidate may be allowed to re-enter without payment of a 2nd fee in the next Series. If there is a personal reason (eg: death in the family etc) the same rule will apply. If a candidate simply does not present for examination without good reason, the fee is forfeited. **This advice replaces previous regulations about Exam absentees.**

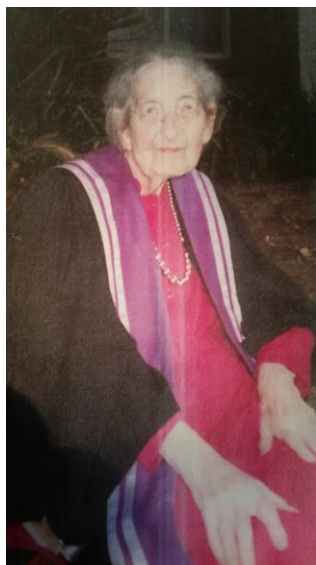
PALMCARDS : should contain ONLY the following information: *headline notes, titles, names, dates, foreign words, quotations etc* and are to be submitted to the examiner prior to the talk/speech. Palmcards which contain the text of the content will incur a zero mark for that component of the examination.

RIBBONS: In line with other Exam Boards, Ribbons or Distinction Certificates (for 96-100: A+) will no longer be issued by IMEB. It is suggested that individual teachers may like to produce their own Studio Awards. **A+** will still appear on the candidate's individual IMEB Report and Examination Certificate.

Grade 6 Music: Please note that Ear Tests requiring the naming of consecutive notes after the tonic is played will be confined to the key of C major.

Grade 2 Music: There is an error in the Sight Reading. Instrumentalists are required to **play**, not sing or hum, the notes as per syllabus.

MIRIAM HYDE AO, OBE (1913 – 2005)



Australian composer **MIRIAM HYDE** was a great supporter of IMEB from its inception and is seen here after being awarded an Honorary Degree from our International Conservatorium of Music.

IMEB has always been most appreciative of the encouragement and advice she offered when this new examination system was in its infancy. She left us with a lasting legacy.

Miriam was born in Adelaide and studied at the *Elder Conservatorium of Music* before winning a scholarship to *Royal College of Music* in London where she won several prizes for composition.

Miriam composed over 150 works for piano, 50 songs, and other instrumental and orchestral works. She also performed as a concert pianist with eminent conductors. Her many acclaimed prizes and recitals include *Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto* with London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Malcolm Sargent, and her own *Piano Concerto No 2* under Constant Lambert. She was associated with many great musicians of the 20th century: Rachmaninof, Stravinsky, Prokofiev and Yehudi Menuhin

After returning to Australia in 1936 to marry and raise a family, she continued to compose and perform. Many of her compositions from the post-WW2 era focussed on Australia ... her works are regarded as highly descriptive of this country's landscapes, birdlife and waterways. IMEB Piano syllabus lists contain works by Miriam Hyde.

Her individual, recognizable compositional style is generally regarded as free of fashion and trends.

She also made valuable contributions to the Advisory Board for NSW. Other activities included examining, mentoring, demonstrations and workshops, and advising on syllabus content. She also wrote music educational material and 500 poems.

Miriam celebrated her 80th birthday by giving a series of recitals across Australia. At the age of 89, she gave the last performance of her *Piano Concerto No 2*, and in the following year her 90th birthday was marked with concerts and broadcasts throughout the country.

Before giving a recital Miriam liked to repeat one verse of a poem she had written;

*God, make these hands of mine, now pressed in prayer
Thine instruments of love, soon to release
Such torrents of fine sounds into the air
That will replace the strife I've known, by peace.*

JULIE ANDREWS : To commemorate her recent 80th birthday, at NY Radio City Hall the actress/vocalist sang this version of *My Favourite Things* from *Sound Of Music*

Botox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in string,
These are a few of my favourite things.
Cadillacs and cataracts, hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent, and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golfcarts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favourite things.
When the pipes leak,
When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favourite things
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heating pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favorite things.
Back pain, confused brains and no need for sinnin',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames
When we remember our favourite things.
When the joints ache,
When the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had
And then I don't feel so bad.

MUSICAL DEFINITIONS

Concert: a place where people go to cough and sneeze

Conductor: a man who can follow many people at once

Oboe: an ill wind that nobody blows good

Phrase: what teaching music does to your nerves

Trombone: a slide whistle with delusions of grandeur

Fermata: a girdle made especially for opera singers

Cut time: when everyone else plays twice as fast as you

MUSICAL QUESTIONS

How do you get a guitarist to play more slowly?

Put music in front of him.

Why did the bass player get mad at the drummer?

He turned a tuning peg, and wouldn't tell which one.

Why can't a gorilla play a Sousaphone?

Gorillas are too sensitive.

What's the difference between a fiddle and a violin?

A fiddle has beer stains.

Who is the patron saint of accordionists?

Our Lady of Spain.

Musician: "Did you hear my last Concert Performance?"

Music Critic: "I fervently hope so."

For other information please refer to previous issues of IMEB Newsletter.

Many thanks from the examiners to all the studios for providing morning teas and lunches to keep them going during long days of examining. Such thoughtfulness is much appreciated and delicious!

Out and About with COURTNEY FELDMAN BCA(Hons)



In addition to Bachelor of Creative Arts with Honours degree, Courtney holds Certificate Levels I, II, and III in *Somatic Voicework The Lovetri Method* and runs a successful studio in **Toowoomba** Queensland. Her students achieve high grades in IMEB Vocal examinations which reflect her varied background music experiences including classical, jazz, gospel, and chamber music, in both voice and piano plus musicology. Courtney has given a number of public performances in Queensland. She recently was Co-ordinator of USQ *Shakespeare in the Park Festival* featuring school and University troupes from Toowoomba and the Greater Darling Downs. In addition, Courtney holds executive positions in National Singing and Music Teacher Associations. Her varied current research interests include the ongoing impact of professional development and vocal improvisation techniques. We are delighted to welcome Courtney and her students to IMEB.

Out and About in Sarawak with .. PETRA and ALVIN HII



Petra Hii and her son Alvin who run 'Rhythm Music Studio' in Sarikei and teach a variety of instruments

Also Out and About in Sarikei with LAU GAU



Lau Gau recently opened her new 'Music Centre' in the heart of Sarikei where she teaches piano to enthusiastic young pianists

And in Sibü, Out and About withCHRIS YEK



Chris Yek teaches violin in Sibü. His students enjoy and thrive on his friendly attitude and energy. In his spare time Chris enjoys cake decorating.

We wish to record our appreciation to the office staff, **Ali**, and **Kathryn** who take your messages and assist with the successful and smooth running of the IMEB, also to **Belinda** our Bursar and **Louis Liu** for IT assistance..

Every good wish to all teachers and students for a happy and successful 2018

Professor K Lee
Chairman

Dr Darrell Hines
Secretary

Dr Tim Smith
Syllabus Consultant

GREAT NEWS: The next new venue for IMEB exams is **NEPAL** with the inaugural IMEB session scheduled for May with **Mr Ashish Rai** who is Head of the Music Department at *Trikal Art Academy* in **Kathmandu**.

An exciting and varied raft of performing arts subjects is offered at the Academy and the students enrolled are busy preparing for their first IMEB exams. **Mr Rai** has also been very proactive among the local music teachers encouraging them to enter IMEB music exams. We look forward to meeting **Mr Rai** in May and forging a close association between Nepal and Australia, through music and performing arts education.

..... introducing

Mr Ashish Rai



Mr ASHISH RAI is a classically trained musician and teacher in Kathmandu, Nepal and is in the process of entering candidates for the first session of IMEB exams in May 2018.

He started playing guitar a very early age and studied music through Trinity College London. He also trained at the *Melody Academy* in India under such highly renowned music teachers as Mr Jiwan Pradhan in practical performance and classical theory under Mr Suraj Mani Barnay.

Mr Rai founded '*Holistic Music Media*' which deals with formal training in music, provides music theory and many other music activities such as studio works, documentary movies and various workshops. As a professional musician and teacher he instructs classical students and teachers for examinations. His vision is to broaden the general awareness of western classical music and raise the standard of music in Nepal.

Mr Rai also takes a keen interest in jazz-blues music and although playing this particular style for a number of years he still regards himself as a student in this genre.

His dream is to provide the essence of classical music in every educational institution related to music in Nepal and enhance the quality of music to greater heights.



We welcome **Mr Rai** and his network of music teachers in Nepal to IMEB, and look forward to meeting in person in May and establishing a successful and mutually fruitful association.

ADDENDUM:

A Closed Facebook page for IMEB teachers has been initiated by Rachel Brennan. You are encouraged to utilise this facility.

Subsequent to a recent meeting of Speech & Drama teachers at IMEB, 255 Broadway, Glebe, the following modifications were made to Grade information. These changes to the Syllabus will be mandatory from 2019 by which time the syllabuses on the internet will have been updated to include these changes.

Grade 3: Q1: clarification. The forward slash between 'descriptive/lyrical poem' represents 'and or'. Clarification of poetic styles:

DESCRIPTIVE poems mean exactly that Descriptive content, usually detailed language to create imagery of a person, animal or thing, sometimes using metaphors
eg: *Perfect Woman* : Longfellow
Summer Shower : Emily Dickinson

LYRICAL poems are musical, rhythmic and songlike, expressing personal emotions. The term is derived from 'accompanied by the lyre.'

eg: **Sonnet:** 14 lines with iambic pentameter
Shall I compare thee to ... : Shakespeare
eg: **Elegy:** moody, dark, flexible structure, metrical
Oh Captain, My Captain ; Walt Whitman
eg: **Ode:** dignified, positive topics, no fixed structure
Ode to the West Wind : Shelley

NARRATIVE poems tell stories, often recounted by a narrator about characters in a specific situation. Metrical.

eg: **Epic:** long poems/sagas, heroic, monsters, dragons and often mythical. Greek/ Latin origins
Iliad : Homer *Paradise Lost* : Milton
eg: **Ballad:** 4 line stanzas. Folk poetry telling a story
The Road Not Taken : Frost
eg: **Idyll:** pastoral, tranquil stories often descriptive
Idylls of the Kings : Tennyson
eg: **Lay:** romantic, chivalric, supernatural storyline
Franklin's Lay (Canterbury Tales) : Chaucer

DRAMATIC poems contain more than one character
eg: *The Raven* : Edgar Allan Poe

Grade 4: Q3: should now read:
Memorised prose passage from one of the following, or any work of similar literary value or suitability to candidate age or stage of development..

Grade 4: Q5: should now read:
Present one character in a memorised scene using speech and movement, from one of the following plays or ANY other play from ANY country written since 1850 suitable for candidate age or stage of development

Grade 5: Q4: *Commedia dell' arte* remains unchanged

Grade 5: Q6: should now include 21st Cent playwrights

Grade 6: Q8: *Restoration Theatre* removed to Grade 8 and replaced by *Shakespearean Tragedy* cf Grade 7 Q7

Grade 7: Q5: *Realism* remains unchanged

Grade 8: Q1 and 2: eliminate the specific lengths of the poems to suit the age and candidate level of personal development. No extra time necessary.

Grade 7: Theory Q2: Unnecessary to list specific faults. Candidates supply own selected faults and suggest remedy.

Grade 7: Theory Q 4: This includes modern parlance and individually selected modern use of language

Grade 8: Q4: to include any other suitable *Irish* play text from this modern era.

Grade 8: Q6: Explanatory Talk only on *Epic Theatre*.

Grade 8: Q7 and 8: Sight reading and talk eliminated to be replaced by *Restoration* (cf Grade 6 Q8)

Grade 8: Q9: *Coward* remains

Diploma Levels : request for 2 examiners will incur increased fees (Speech and Drama only)

Age Levels: for Associate Diploma: minimum of 16 years if birthday is in the year of exam

B+ to be awarded for 80 - 84 marks range.

Teachers were recently requested to increase exam timetables by 5 minutes for the earlier grades. In light of its effectiveness, we now recommend that 5 mins be added to EVERY grade in your examination timetables as some examiners feel the need for more time in which to complete the reports and admin tasks without feeling too rushed .

Examiners are reminded that it is not their task to dissect candidates' performances/talks etc or to give demonstrations on how differently the work might be presented. The responsibility of examiners is simply to assess the students' work by written report, marks, grading and verbal encouragement.

Please be aware that these updated modifications to Syllabus content, with relevant information and detail, will be made to Syllabuses on the website in due course. They will certainly be completed and posted before the end of the year in time for 2019 lessons and studio planning. Please do not contact IMEB office for further clarification until the changes have been made on the website: www.imeb.com.au