

IMEB

International Music Examinations Board

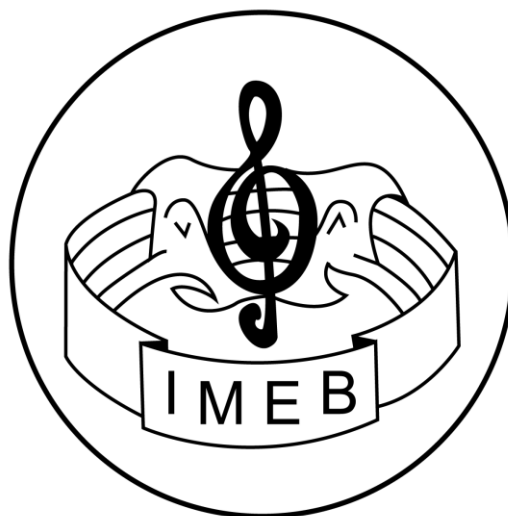
Patron: The Hon Bronwyn Bishop

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NEWSLETTER : February 2015

Greetings to all and we hope 2015 brings you much joy and satisfaction in all your endeavours, both personally and professionally with your association with IMEB.

2014 turned into a very busy year with development resulting from a steady stream of enquiries, and several new studios joining IMEB. Sometimes new teachers send only a small number of examinees to 'try us out' the first time, but are so pleased with their experience of the IMEB examining process and the attitude and personality of our examiners that they subsequently send larger numbers of students. Thanks you to all involved for the constant support and promotion of IMEB.

Malaysian Graduation: In November we held the first SE Asian IMEB Graduation for about 90 graduates who gained their diplomas over the past 5 years of IMEB exams held in Malaysia. It was felt that such a significant number warranted a ceremony 'locally' so that diplomates and their families and friends could attend. Due to its success it is envisaged that similar Graduations might be held every 2 or 3 years. The Graduation was highly successful and extremely well organized in a superb venue. Our President, Professor Kyunghee Lee, flew over to Kuching for the occasion to present the awards to the graduates.



A spectacular Concert was held following the graduation which showcased a range of highly impressive talent. The featured artist at the Concert was John Dip Salas, a Malaysian graduate of AICM, who is now a professional and well known Jazz pianist/performer in Kuala Lumpur. The number of Malaysian exam entries continues to expand with new studios presenting for exams each year.



This year we expect to conduct the first series of IMEB exams in Brunei following recent enquires and promotions held there in 2014. We are also now conducting exams in Public Speaking where there is great enthusiasm and commitment to the IMEB syllabus.

Our thanks to Thomas Ling and his faithful band of dedicated teachers who continue to work tirelessly to promote and expand IMEB in SE Asia.

IMEB MAIL/POSTAL Problems.

Again we are experiencing problems with mail deliveries at IMEB in Glebe. May we suggest that you send all entries which contain monies/cheques or any finance details to a PO Box we have acquired specifically for this purpose. Please address to:

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

Nursery Level Exam: To answer requests from a number of teachers, we introduced a Nursery Level exam in Speech and Drama for Pre-Schoolers in 2013 and this continues to expand in popularity with a large number of excited 'littlies' presenting their promising skills. Details are available on the web.

Fees: to answer some recent enquiries about examination fees: there was a **small** increase in 2013 but no change for 2015. The running costs continue to escalate. However, the hours of voluntary work by Tim and Darrell will ensure that the fees will still be lower than other exam systems. We are happy to contribute our time to IMEB (often clocking up about 30 hours each per week either here at the Office or at our homes) and we are rewarded by the outstanding success of the IMEB.

Examination Entry form: please ensure that the latest version of this form is used. It is available on the website. Entries last year continued to arrive in a variety of formats and highly individual spreadsheet styles which did not always indicate the required information re Grades, Levels, Performance, Teaching or Performing Diplomas etc. This makes our record-keeping method difficult and inconsistent. You can either complete this official, preferred Entry form by hand or, as many of you already do, scan it into your computer and type in the entry details. We do not mind whether it is hand-written or word-processed as long as it contains the required information and detail, **clearly and correctly spelt.** The IMEB Office holds a data base to correspond to the Entry Form and we have had difficulty trying to reconcile the info sent in different formats. Often it has been necessary to phone studios to seek clarification.

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 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 huge increase in entries, we are unable to arrange alternative dates. Despite this notification being posted in last year's Newsletter, there were still a number of entries which arrived at the Office in November with teachers expecting us to simply slot in their exam requests at a few days' notice. Please understand our position.

THEORY Exams From this year, 2015, there will be only **ONE** examination session arranged each year.

Theory exams 2015: IMEB Theory Exams, in both Music and Speech and Drama, will be held on **Saturday 6 Sept** at 255 Broadway, Glebe and will commence at 9.30am. **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. Last year several 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. 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 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 whose facilities we use for Theory exams.

THEORY Exam 2015: Saturday 6 September 9.30am, at 255 Broadway, Glebe. Details as above. **Closing date: 1 August** (as per Entry form)

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 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

No exams will be conducted in Australia after 30 Nov

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 : At last! Everyone seems to have got the message about the correct use of palm-cards. Thank you for all your co-operation. Long may it continue. In summary, 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.

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.

2015 GRADUATION CEREMONY is scheduled for **2pm on Saturday, 11 April** at our new 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

New Syllabus: 'ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE': We had the first cohort of entrants in 2014 for this exciting new syllabus which contains a whole different approach to the study of Drama world-wide. Congratulations to those teachers who have taken the first step towards embracing this new syllabus and encouraging their students to enter these exams. They report that they enjoyed researching new areas of drama together with their students.

This syllabus covers **World Theatre and Drama** and is a separate syllabus option from the other syllabi offered by IMEB (Speech and Drama, Public Speaking, Theatre Performance for the Individual, Speech and Drama Performance). This syllabus has been specifically designed following requests from some S and D teachers recently for a syllabus that focusses on **World Drama** and a **History of Theatre** in varied depth and breadth. It caters for Grade 1 – Associate Diploma level. This is an exciting and imaginative syllabus which should satisfy all students and teachers who have a passion for 'Theatre' in the broad context. This syllabus is due to be posted on the IMEB website. It is more suited to the more mature candidate eg High School age range and older.

PLEASE NOTE: As previously advised, the Speech and Drama syllabus was adapted slightly in content and marking range in 2014. The new questions are of a general nature regarding History of Theatre and both teachers and students apparently enjoyed researching these topics. This revision of the syllabus, which resulted from a number of requests from S and D teachers in 2013, has proved to be very successful in the recent examination series. The new topics were well researched and enthusiastically presented in exams by the candidates.

Expansion: We are always open to referrals to new contacts in New Zealand and S.E. Asian countries as well as other Australian states. If any teachers can help us in these endeavours through your contacts and networks in these areas, we would be pleased to hear from you with your suggestions.

Reminder: To all music teachers that the graded works of composer Rosalind Carlson are highly recommended for use in IMEB examinations. They are graded in lists for instruments. For further information: 9653 1066 or 0407 370 313. Email orders to info@rosalindcarlson.com

Accents: Congratulations to the many students who presented characterization work with appropriate accents to add conviction to their performances eg Irish, British, American and even French.

Choice of material: in particular requiring candidates to present specific and familiar characters in definite situations. There were several instances in the last series where the examiners felt that the students were too young (eg aged about 13) to know how to present some mature-aged characters. It was felt that many students simply memorized and delivered a passage of dialogue with little or no expression or dynamic variety, or understanding of the content or context.

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.

We wish to record our appreciation to the office staff, especially Tullia and Marta, who take your messages and assist with the successful and smooth running of the IMEB, and to Gloria Shen our Bursar. Thanks also to Louis Liu our IT expert.

Every good wish to all teachers and students for a happy and successful 2015

Professor K Lee
Chairman

Dr Darrell Hines
Secretary

Dr Tim Smith
Syllabus Consultant

PLEASE READ AND KEEP THIS NEWSLETTER SAFELY FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

CENTRAL WEST NSW

is a hive of activity in Music and Speech and Drama studios from Dubbo, Wellington, Bathurst and Orange to Gulgong and Mudgee.

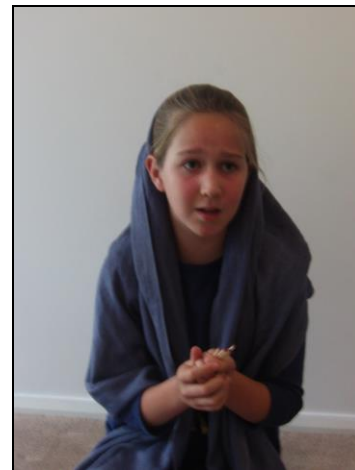
The Dulhunty Academy of Speech and Drama in Dubbo is run by Eileena Pierpoint, pictured below, with some of her students with Dr Darrell and Dr Tim. This studio is the only one of its type in the Orana region which is known as the 'Hub of the West.' Eileena is passionate about the importance of combining articulate speech, gracious manners and social etiquette. These are particularly important for those who face the challenges of our competitive world and the corporate sector. She ran a weekly column in the local press for many years as well as presenting a regular Community Radio program.



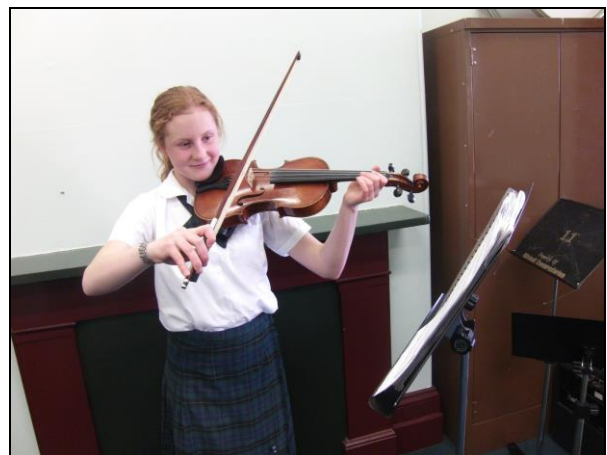
The Ryan family, below, travel 7 hours for their lessons with Eileena. Their home near the western NSW border is on 40,000 acres and they described to the examiners how it takes 2 days to travel round the perimeter of the property on a motorcycle to check the fencing.



Speech and Drama students in other Central West studios enthusiastically prepare for their IMEB exams and enjoy the opportunity to use accessories to help get inside characters in their drama performances as seen, above, with *Pirate Peg* from **Hating Alison Ashley** and *Lady Teazle* from Congreve's Restoration comedy **The Way of the World**, and below, the *Little Match Girl*.



At the Mitchell Conservatorium of Music in Bathurst, the rooms are alive with the sound of music!



NB. SPECIAL FEATURE:

'Out and About with ... SOIE LAN CHANG'



Soie Lan Chang has taught piano in Sydney for more than 40 years. She studied pianoforte at Sydney Conservatorium of Music with Miss Elizabeth Coleman. She has also taught piano at St Vincent's Potts Point. She currently operates her studio from Burwood where she teaches on an *August Foster* piano, ranked one of the top 6 pianos in the world, giving her students excellent facilities in comfortable surroundings. Soie

originated in Jakarta, coming to Sydney to further her piano studies and career. She estimates she has taught many hundreds of students over the years, each to a very high standard, as is evident in her IMEB results.

Out and About also with ... DAVID CORDOVA BMus



David studied for his BMus at AICM in Guitar. His musical family originated from Chile with his father a drummer and uncle a classical guitarist. He is a regular performer as well as a peripatetic guitar teacher in the Western Suburbs of Sydney. David enters his students for IMEB exams in drums as well as modern and classical guitar. In his spare time David enjoys playing tennis and fine dining.

Also Out and About with ... PAMELA HERRING

DipMusEd, LMusA, FSME, DipMus (HC)(AICM)



Pamela trained to be a Secondary music teacher in the NSW Dept of Education, attaining the position of Head Music teacher, before lecturing to Tertiary students in Music Method at Sydney University. She is a highly accomplished pianist and singer and teaches privately at her Dural studio. She is widely sought as an adjudicator throughout Australia and examines in music for the IMEB. Pamela originated from

Newcastle where she began her music training until she enrolled at Sydney Conservatorium of Music as a Teaching student. Pamela is also a highly respected music accompanist. She enjoyed life in Batlow as a beginning music teacher where she married her late husband Michael, an orchardist, before moving to Dural where she maintains an award-winning garden.

Out and About too with ... TRISHA NOBLE

*PDipTheatre Performance (IMEB),
Cecchetti Medal Classical ballet (DipTeach)
Cert:Voice and Communication (High Distinction)(AMEB)*



Trisha Noble has had a very successful world-wide career in all aspects of music, drama, dance, movies, TV and Theatre Performance in Europe and USA. On her return to Australia she conducted a Speech and Drama studio in Sylvania as well as appearing in various leading roles in a number of recent professional productions including, *Pippin*, *Dusty the Musical* and *Dr Zhivago*.

Trisha joined the IMEB as an examiner in 2011.

Studios welcome her for her expertise, encouragement and sympathetic manner with IMEB exam candidates. She is currently living on the NSW Central Coast where she is available for teaching and coaching in all aspects of Theatre Arts and Performance.

... and with MARLENE JONES



Marlene began teaching piano at a very early age. She taught at St Ignatius College Sydney where she was head of music in the Junior School. She also taught at Young Regional School of Music and Orange Conservatorium. In 2000 she relocated to Wellington NSW to live where she runs her studio. Marlene also teaches choirs and special needs classes at Wellington PS and plays organ

for two churches, retirement and nursing homes. Her students have had great success including Hugh Francis in *Tosca* at Covent Garden and Tamsin Carroll in the title role of *Dusty the Musical*. She says she will continue to teach while ever her health permits, including preparing many students for IMEB exams. She has deservedly been the recipient of various Federal Government awards for services to music and the community.

... and LEIGH FOPP



Leigh commenced teaching guitar in 1979 in Adelaide. He teaches in many schools in SA as well as privately, and is also at Elder Conservatorium of Music at Adelaide University. He recently received a WEA Certificate of Achievement for 10 years of service to the guitar community. He plays professionally in guitar ensembles, bands and musicals.

Leigh prepares students aged from 8-80years, individually and in groups, in Theory and Music exams for IMEB and international organisations with students consistently achieving high awards nationally. He is currently extending his own experience with recording artist and teacher Jason Waldron.