

IMEB

International Music Examinations Board

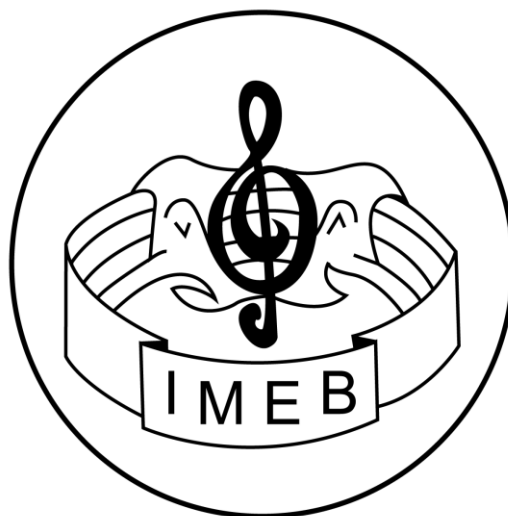
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NEWSLETTER : February 2017

Greetings to all and we hope 2017 brings you much satisfaction in all your endeavours, both personally and professionally with your association with IMEB.

2016 turned into a very busy year with development resulting from a steady stream of enquiries, and several new studios joining IMEB whom we warmly welcome. Thank you to all involved for the constant support and promotion of IMEB.

OVERSEAS NEWS: IMEB continues to expand in **Malaysia** due to the sterling efforts and promotion by our agent **Mr Thomas Ling** and his established network of studios and teachers who provide an enormous variety of music styles in their exams in both Classical and Modern. In 2017 **Mr Alex Lau**, one of Thomas's students, gained his IMEB Fellowship in Singing. A very fine performance.



Promotions in Kota Kinabalu, and the first session of very high standard Music exams in **Brunei**, took place last June and we hope to further develop our base there.



Mr Casey Koh of *Broadway Academy* in Kuala Lumpur is currently 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. He organised a Vocal Masterclass with IMEB examiners during the November visit to SE Asia and the students involved, (below with Casey in the centre back,) are now preparing for exams at the end of May. It is to be hoped that *Show Choirs* in **Thailand** will also enroll in the latest IMEB Syllabus for *Show Choirs*. There is much interest with many choral presentations in Thailand and Casey is very keen for IMEB to be involved in this competitive scene.



Egypt is the latest venue for IMEB exams in June and we are looking forward to meeting **Mr Adham Molokhia** who runs the *Tchaikovsky School of Music* in Cairo and the *Musicians' Factory* in Alexandria. The students are enthusiastically practising for their exams after recently presenting their first Christmas Concert. Adham and his staff have been most diligent in their teaching and preparation for their first session of IMEB exams both Practical and Theory. We wish them well and look forward to being with them in June to encourage them in their music development.



MAIL

The mail system seems to be working reliably now after our delivery problems in 2014/5 with the Glebe branch of Australia Post. However, there has 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

EXAMINATION FEES 2017

As advised last year, there has been a very small change to the fees schedule this year for Australian exams. It is a tiny increase which will help to cover our ever-increasing costs and overheads. The last increase was 4 years ago. The new fees are indicated on the latest IMEB Entry Form on the website. We are still cheaper than other Examination Board fees.

2017 GRADUATION CEREMONY : is scheduled for **2pm on Saturday, 8 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

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. *Little Boy Blue*, *Wee Willie Winkie* and *I'm a Little Teapot* are popular choices in **Kristie Thorne's** Bathurst Studio.



It has been suggested that possibly a similar Nursery Level exam in Music might be designed, but for the time being the Preliminary Music grades will suffice as they are specifically prepared for 'Beginners'.

New Syllabus: SHOW CHOIRS and ENSEMBLES

This new exciting syllabus is designed for participating choir candidates to develop individual performance skills and ensemble awareness by working through a graded structure of levels and choral repertoire. Choristers are expected to contribute their time, talent, effort, energy, passion, commitment and self-discipline to the team's goal. Benefits to be gained would include increased music knowledge and vocal technique, experiencing the interpretation process and lifelong appreciation of Choral music in all its varied forms.



Show Choir performances combine singing with dance and theatre format either with or without a thematic framework. Available on the IMEB website.

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. Incorrect information (eg *Classical or Modern, Grades or Levels*) can also result on the certificates. 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.

Thanks to those teachers who submit their lists in *alphabetical* or *grade order*. So easy to follow and identify

I always seem to be complaining in every IMEB Newsletter about the **importance of accuracy** in Entry Forms and results Names, spellings, details etc. The result of inaccuracy is time consuming and wasteful. Last year's suggestion to prevent this problem did not work and old habits of individual Entry Forms did not help **We are at a loss to know what to do** ... SO ... we have decided that this year we will revert to relying on **original** Entry Forms sent in by teachers, and not subsequent notes/modified lists, nor changes made by examiners.

Surely teachers enroll students with careful spelling when they start at their studio, so presumably they have records of all names and details etc. We have heard some amazing excuses *'the child wasn't sure how to spell the surname,' 'she wasn't sure whether it is an uppercase letter or not,' 'not sure whether there's a space between the two surnames' etc*

Over the years I have listed samples of name variations. I have no wish to bore you by repeating same. However as a reminder, some common faults are the use of **upper/lower case letters, spacing and apostrophe** :

Eg: *De Stephano.... de Stephano.... D'Stephano.... D'stephano.... di Stephano. ...Distephano*

Mackenzie (is a new and popular girl's name)
McKenzie.... MacKenzie.... (I've seen three variations to date)

.... and*Alex* (is it *Alexander* or *Alexandra*?) do the parents want the shortened or full name?

.... and don't get me started on *Taylor* and *Madeline* etc!

.....and so on. Variations are imaginative and endless!

There are countless variations in name spellings. My advice is NOT to presume a particular spelling but to ask how to spell the name. Ask the parents as they are the first to complain, of course, and naturally so since they have paid for the exam and resulting certificate .

I try hard not to make errors in printing the certificates but sometimes human frailty rears its head especially when I'm overloaded with hundreds to produce. Often I have

problems reading handwriting and have difficulty deciphering the differences between **c** and **e** and also **r** and **n** and **u** and **v**. Also blends can be problematic when letters are not completely formed but merge in to each other. I usually have to make an educated guess or phone the teacher for clarity. I really don't enjoy writing all this at all, but what it amounts to is a request for clarity please. If your style of handwriting is for uppercase, then please indicate clearly which letters are to be lowercase.

I have received two offers of help with the production of certificates at the end of 2017 if the load is as heavy as last December, when I was pressured for time due to cross-checking names, (*against names on original entry forms, modified drafts, exam timetable name lists and examiner lists which all sometimes vary*), and trying to identify possible errors. Normally I can cope perfectly well under pressure, but if the errors recur to the same degree this year then I will happily accept their offers of help and they will experience the reason for my frustration and know that I am not exaggerating this problem.

Bottom line: teachers will be billed \$15 for each error.

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 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 at the end of 2016 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

THEORY Exams There will be only **ONE** examination session arranged each year.

Theory exams 2017: IMEB Theory Exams, in both Music and Speech and Drama, will be held on **Saturday 2 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. 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. 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. **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

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 give their own Studio Awards. **A+** will still appear on the 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.

Vale : LISA CHENG



It is with much sadness that we report the recent passing of Lisa Cheng. A gifted musician and engineer, Lisa established *Joy Music Studio* in Melaka in Malaya. She was bright and engaging company, a talented teacher who was dearly loved by her students and their families. She leaves her husband and two small children Ethan and Hannah to whom we send our sympathy.

We are pleased to know that Lisa's legacy of music teaching in Melaka is continuing by **Sharmane Raphael** (teaching Theory) and **Bernice Han**.



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.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Jan Creer** who recently won an **International competition** for writing a Comedy Play which was professionally performed by Toowoomba Repertory Theatre Company in Queensland. Jan's play is called **'All We Wanted Was A Roof'**

...and **CONGRATULATIONS** also to **Merryl Lloyd** who has been invited to adjudicate a prestigious Speech and Drama Festival in **Sri Lanka** in 2017. Merryl is one of IMEB's hard working teachers and examiners with a large studio in NW Sydney. Merryl hopes to promote IMEB to Sri Lankan teachers/studios while she is there.

Choice of material: in particular requiring candidates to present specific and familiar characters in definite situations. There have been instances in the previous 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.

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!

We wish to record our appreciation to the office staff, **Camille**, **Lexie** and **Ali**, who take your messages and assist with the successful and smooth running of the IMEB, and to **Belinda** our Bursar.

Thanks also to **Louis Liu** our IT expert.

NB. SPECIAL FEATURE:

Introducing our newest IMEB teachers

Out and About with ... **DANNI DA ROS** BMus(Hons)



Straight from Australia's Number One rated TV Show *The Voice Australia*, **Danni Da Ros** is one of Australia's most talented, versatile and dynamic vocalists. With her powerful, soulful tone, unbelievable range and demanding stage presence her name is synonymous with Sydney's live music scene. Danni has been performing for over 15 years throughout Australia, US, Singapore and the Middle East. She was highly praised by Keith Urban, Seal, Delta Goodrem, and Joel Madden. Danni operates her successful *Famous Performing Arts School* in Sydney's northern suburbs **with her sister ...**

CHIARA DA ROS Cert.IV who is also a passionate,



dedicated vocal coach whose upbeat energy brings out the best in the students. As may be expected from such talented and effective teachers, their students present high quality vocal items for their IMEB Exams. **Chiara** majored in *Contemporary Vocals*, and also *Music Events Management* ensuring that she knows what is involved in all aspects of professional music performance. She has appeared on various TV Shows for Ch 7 and Ch 9 and also dedicated time to perform for such charities as *Starlight Foundation*, *Heart Foundation* and *Kids Helpline* which gave her the opportunity to appear on stage with Olivia Newton John.

.... also Out with ... **MARCUS LEONG** LTCL, LRSM.



In 1971, **Marcus Leong**, was awarded a British Council Scholarship to study at Trinity College London under Prof Samuel Kutcher and obtained his LTCL and LRSM diplomas there. On returning home to **Kuching, Sarawak** he devoted himself fully to teaching the violin and established a small orchestra in the local community. His efforts did not go unnoticed, and in 1988 he

was appointed by the Ministry of Social Development and Urbanization Sarawak as *Resident Conductor* of the *Sarawak State Symphony Orchestra*. In 1995 the Sarawak Government rewarded him with the prestigious title '**Johan Bintang Sarawak**'. The following year, 1996, Marcus was honoured to receive 'Best Music Teacher' award from Australian Music Examination Board. Marcus currently sends his string candidates for IMEB examinations twice yearly where they perform to a very high standard. We are delighted to have **Marcus Leong** associated with us and he always welcomes us warmly.

Out and About with ... **HEATHER GORVIN** BAComm



Heather runs *Speech and Drama Central Coast* from her studio in Booker Bay NSW. **Heather** studied Speech and Drama with Jan Creer at Carlingford Youth Drama School from the age of 6 years following the AGMS Syllabus. She obtained her Associate Diploma (AAGMS) followed by a Bachelor Degree in Communications. During her working life, **Heather** has held public speaking positions which varied from guiding coaches through Europe to representing global brands at international trade shows. Her speech and drama skills proved critical in terms of delivering clear communication not only in everyday life but also in the corporate world. Heather has not lost her love and passion for drama and for performing at eisteddfods and with local youth theatre. Now with three young children of her own, she has been reminded of the importance of confidence, self-esteem and creativity in the formative years, and is passionate about giving children the same opportunities that she experienced through the study of Speech and Drama.

**Also Out and About with ... OLENA BROWN DipPiano
DipPedagogy, BMus**



A member of NSW Music Teachers Association, **Olena** has over 30 years experience in piano performance, pedagogy and accompaniment. In Ukraine she attended a **Gifted Children's** music program after which she obtained her Diploma in Piano Performance and Pedagogy. After teaching music in Ukraine for 20 years, Olena moved to Australia where she completed a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance at the University of Tasmania Conservatorium of Music, and was selected by the French conductor Jean Louis Forestier to participate in Orchestral Studies. In 2016, Olena opened **Western Sydney Academy of Music** in Parramatta. The school incorporates Classical training from the Russian School of Music with new and innovative teaching techniques sourced from around the world. Her students achieve Distinctions in their exams and go on to study at various leading universities and tertiary institutions.

FOR EVERYONE's BENEFIT: NSW Naplan examination and HSC markers complained long and loudly about the handwriting following exams in 2016. Much of what had been turned in was illegible and in many cases indecipherable – the result, experts say, of too much screen time and not enough emphasis on penmanship in schools. IMEB examiners who mark Theory papers concur with this comment.



Evidence that IMEB examiners are warmly welcomed in studios!

To end on a LIGHTER NOTE with some humorous bon-mots

All the inspiration I ever needed was a phone-call from a film producer: Cole Porter 1891-1964

I don't know anything about music in my line of business you don't need to: Elvis Presley 1935-1977

I got the chance once to try playing the bagpipes. It was like trying to blow up an octopus: James Galway 1939 –

The flute is not an instrument that has a good moral effect – it is too exciting: Aristotle 384-322BC

Y'knowHere I am aged 100 years and I never did find out what Ragtime is: Irving Berlin 1888-1989

If it's necessary for you to have to ask what Jazz is, then you'll never know: Louis Armstrong 1900-1971

Give me a laundry list and I'll set it to music: Rossini 1792-1868

My kingdom is one of discord: Bela Bartok 1881-1945

I really don't know how, with no vibrato, Johann Sebastian Bach could have so many sons : Paul Hindemith 1895-1963

A musicologist is a person who can read music but not hear it: Sir Thomas Beecham: 1879-1961

Wagner's music is better than it sounds. His opera 'Parsifal' is much too long, yet I enjoyed it despite the singing: Mark Twain

R and R is the most brutal, vicious, ugly, sly, lewd, form of musical expression. In fact, it's just plain dirty: Frank Sinatra

JS Bach is the foundation of piano playing. Liszt is the summit. The two make Beethoven possible: Ferruccio Busoni 1866-1924

He has Van Gogh's ear for music: Orson Wells 1915-1985

Every good wish to all teachers and students for a happy and successful 2017

Professor K Lee
Chairman

Dr Darrell Hines
Secretary

Dr Tim Smith
Syllabus Consultant

**PLEASE READ AND KEEP
THIS NEWSLETTER SAFELY
FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**



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.



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.

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)*

Every good wish to all teachers and students for a happy and successful 2014

Professor K Lee
Chairman



Dr Darrell Hines
Secretary

Dr Tim Smith
Syllabus Consultant



Dr Tim, Prof Lee, Patron Hon. Bronwyn Bishop, Dr Darrell at the IMEB Graduation in May 2013

JAMES LAU runs the successful Symphony Music School in Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia specialising in strings, guitar and harp. Pictured below are **Ma Teck leck** who achieved High Distinction for his Violin Licentiate exam. **Wee Kim Yang** also attained High Distinction for his Guitar Associate Diploma exam. Both performances were of an exceptionally high standard. Congratulations to them and their excellent teacher. In addition to his music teaching commitments, James is the resident conductor of Miri Orchestra and Choir.



Harpist Jexandra Iryna Jau completed Pre-Grade 1



In Bathurst, NSW, **KRISTIE THORNE'S** student **Zachary Haynes** presented an entertaining account of Toad's driving escapades from *Wind in the Willows* as one component of his Speech and Drama: Grade 4 exam for which he achieved High Distinction.



Kristie provided delicious, novelty cakes for Morning Tea for the examiners, suitably inscribed for IMEB!!!



Thanks Kristie!

With Thomas Ling in Malaysia: Examinations, Competitions, Promotions make an exciting schedule



