State Manager’s Message

Welcome to the first edition of the amebnews for 2011. There have been a number of changes at the AMEB (NSW) office since the last newsletter appeared. In the Staff News section of this edition you will learn about two important new recruits to the Office: Tammy Kelly and Kayl Miller. Betty Walker, who was acting in the position of Systems Administrative Officer until Kayl’s appointment has now been appointed to the position of Administration Officer (Written).

This year there are a number of new examiners in all categories. These well-qualified examiners have just completed their inductions and are progressing through our examiner training process. From there they gain probationary status for one year, or until such time as they have completed the required number of examinations. Thank you to Marion Sinclair, a previous State Manager of AMEB (NSW), who, along with advisors and delegates, came in to oversee the very important tasks of culling and interviewing applicants and arranging induction sessions with the successful applicants.

We would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of all AMEB (NSW) stakeholders to wish AMEB (NSW) State Manager, Maree Lucas, a restful few months and a complete recovery to good health in time for her anticipated return in August 2011.

Jennifer Carter
Acting State Manager

Diploma Presentation Ceremony

The Annual Diploma Presentation Ceremony this year was held on Sunday 13 March, with over 200 diplomas awarded to musicians and 11 diplomas to speech and drama students.

Spectacular performances were given by a variety of outstanding musicians who received their LmusA diploma with distinction at the ceremony. Footage of these performances can be viewed on our website: www.ameb.nsw.edu.au.

Our rural community had strong representation this year, with two outstanding country women honoured at the ceremony. Anne Jakes, a theory teacher from Cootamundra, received the Teaching Shield in the junior Written Category, and speech and drama student, Natasha Petzel, from Wagga Wagga, received the ADPA (Teacher) with Distinction. Natasha presented a compelling poem about life on the land from a woman’s perspective.

The AMEB (NSW) Schools Shield proudly displays the names of all of the schools that have won this award from 1928 to the present day and it has been 18 years since an all girls’ school has won this prestigious award. We congratulate the teachers and students of Pymble Ladies’ College on their first ever win in the Schools Category of our Teaching Shield awards. It was a double celebration for Pymble Ladies’ College this year as Victoria Clancy, a teacher at the school, also collected both the junior and senior Teaching Shields in the speech and drama category.
Nominations Open for AMEB (NSW) Board 2012

The AMEB (NSW) is now calling for nominations for six elected positions on its Board to take effect for two years from 1 May 2012. The Constitution provides for three private music teacher representatives, one speech and drama teacher representative and two examiner representatives to be elected as Board members. Your representatives play a key role in music and speech and drama education in NSW, enhancing the consultative processes which assist the Board’s operations, and providing wider opportunities for the music, speech and drama communities to participate in the development of policies and practices for the AMEB (NSW). The Board members elected in 2010 and currently occupying these positions are:

Private Music Teacher representatives – William Clark, Rita Crews, Anne Harvey
Private Speech and Drama representative – Victoria Clancy
Examiner representatives – Richard Morphew, Lyn Morgan

To be eligible to nominate or be nominated for election to the Board as a private music teacher representative or private speech and drama teacher representative, you must have enrolled at least one candidate other than yourself in an AMEB (NSW) examination in 2010 and/or 2011. To be eligible to stand as an examiner representative, you must be a current fully accredited AMEB (NSW) examiner. You may only nominate for one of these three categories.

If eligible, you are encouraged to give serious consideration to the contribution you could make as a Board member. If you wish to nominate for election, fill out the form accompanying this newsletter and send it, together with a half-page, typed biography, to the AMEB (NSW) by close of business on 21 October 2011. An information package and ballot papers will be forwarded to eligible voters in November, posted with your copy of the 2012 Teachers’ Handbook.

Teacher News

Online exams are here!
AMEB (NSW) candidates can now take their written examinations online for Music Craft, Musicianship and Theory up to second grade level. Visit <www.amebexams.edu.au> to find out more.

P Plate for Piano
P Plate Piano non-graded assessments can be undertaken in any examination series where grade examinations are conducted. Students play three pieces of their choice from a P Plate Piano book for their examiner and will receive a feedback sheet, certificate and sticker! It’s an innovative and enjoyable first step towards AMEB exams – perfect for new students not quite ready for exams, or students who are particularly prone to performance anxiety. Visit <www.pplatепiano.com.au> for more information.

Piano for Leisure – Series 3
Recordings for these grade book pieces are now available on iTunes. Rather than purchasing a CD of recordings as has been the case for past grade books, students, teachers and parents can now download recordings for Piano for Leisure Series 3 pieces by album or individual track. You can find these tracks by searching ‘AMEB’ or ‘Piano for Leisure’ in iTunes. These recordings can be played on your iPod or other electronic device.

Understanding ‘old’ or ‘new’ syllabus
Consult page 44 of your 2011 Teachers’ Handbook for a list of publications that relate to the old or new syllabus for your instrument. This will help the enrolment codes applicable to your students. Helpful colour diagrams illustrating the components of each instrument’s old and new syllabus can be printed from the homepage of our website: <www.ameb.nsw.edu.au>.

Diploma examinations
The timing for woodwind examinations has been changed for 2011, and many other syllabuses now also have strict timing requirements. Please check this detail carefully in the 2011 Manual of Syllabuses if you are preparing for a diploma examination later this year.

Changes to Written Teaching Shield/s
Due to a number of changes pertaining to the written syllabuses in recent times, the AMEB (NSW) Board has ruled that from 2011 onward there will now only be one shield awarded for the written category. This shield will be calculated according to the top ten teacher’s written results from: Preliminary Grade to Sixth Grade Music Craft, First Grade to Licentiate Theory of Music and First Grade to Associate Musicianship.

Syllabus Withdrawals

Piano
This is the last year in which piano teachers can enrol their students for the ‘old’ (2008) piano syllabus. From 2012, only the new technical workbook can be used for this syllabus and the Series 14 AMEB grade book will no longer be able to be used for List pieces in Piano examinations.

Viola
This is the last year in which string teachers can enrol their viola students for the ‘old’ (2006) viola syllabus.

Special Deliveries
April heralded the arrival of two possible future musicians! AMEB (NSW) Brass Examiner, Melanie McLoughlin gave birth to Hamish, her first child, on 2nd April 2011. Also a first time mum, recent LMusA recipient Eun Kyung Hur, welcomed her son Brian on 8th April 2011, a mere three weeks after her outstanding performance on violin at this year’s Diploma Presentation Ceremony.

We congratulate Melanie, Eun and their families and look forward to perhaps hearing Hamish and Brian play at AMEB headquarters in years to come.
Making Exam Day Less Stressful

With Saturday CBD venues constantly scheduled to full capacity, teachers should consider the advantages of a weekday examination at our Clarence Street studios.

Here are some of the benefits:

- **Rehearsal studios** – if you have students who wish to rehearse before their exam, examination room studios are often available for hire on weekdays. This is not possible on Saturdays, when the facility is operating at maximum capacity.

- **Serenity** – the waiting area on weekdays provides a more leisurely environment for students compared to the hustle and bustle of Saturdays. The tranquil atmosphere certainly helps to soothe pre-exam jitters!

- **Positive association** – a trip to the city on a weekday can provide an opportunity to share some special time with their parent, teacher or family friend (minus siblings!). Incorporating yum cha, shopping, a movie or a matinee concert makes the day special for the student and provides a fun bonding activity when the exam is done.

- **Special requests** – a weekday exam need not entail a full day off work or school. If requested on the enrolment form (subject to examiner availability), candidates are welcome to request a weekday morning or afternoon examination or even nominate their preferred weekday/s.

Advisor News

Sadly, after many years of service to AMEB (NSW) as our Woodwind Advisor, Mark Walton OAM retired from this position at the end of 2010. We are sure that examiners, teachers and candidates alike will join us in wishing him well for all of his future musical ventures both here and abroad.

Philippa Paige has also stepped down from her role as AMEB (NSW) Advisor for the Strings category, but will continue in her position with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and in various chamber groups.

We congratulate two senior AMEB Diploma examiners on their appointments to these positions. Examiner, teacher and multiple shield award winner Jocelyn Fazzone has been appointed as the new AMEB (NSW) Advisor for the woodwind category and a previous advisor and member of the AMEB Federal String Specialist panel, Denise Lawrence is welcomed to the position of AMEB (NSW) Advisor for the strings category.

Biographies for all AMEB (NSW) Advisors on our Specialist panel (including those of Mrs Fazzone and Mrs Lawrence) can be found on the AMEB (NSW) website under Teacher Support ➔ Advisor Profiles.

Vale

**Elisabeth Melin Taylor**

(1934 – 2010)

Known professionally as Elisabeth Dommett, Elisabeth played first violin in the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra from 1954 to 1980.

Over the years, she gained an exceptional reputation for her teaching and is widely remembered in the music communities in Canberra and Sydney for her unassuming and gentle personality, her total dedication to the violin and the success that she brought out in her pupils.

Elisabeth passed away on Monday 29 November 2010, ending a 70-year musical career filled with passion and sincerity. She is mourned by her husband, Björn Melin, her son and daughter and will be missed by all the students whom she has inspired over the years.

**Dr Eric Gross AM**

(1926 – 2011)

Eric Gross was a prominent composer, teacher and mentor. Born in Vienna, he graduated from the University of Aberdeen, before relocating to Australia in 1958. Eric then taught at the [then] NSW Conservatorium of Music before taking up a lecturing position at the University of Sydney in 1960, where he later became Associate Professor of Music. In 1998 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia.

A gifted multi-instrumentalist, composer and arranger, Eric's musical compositions cover a wide genre including film and opera. Many AMEB candidates have played and will continue to play his compositions, which appear in current AMEB syllabuses across virtually every instrument category.

Eric passed away peacefully at his Drummoyne home on 17 April 2011, six days after his beloved wife Pamela. He will be sadly missed by his friends, colleagues and former students.
Winners of 2010 AMEB (NSW) Shields

Private Teacher Pianoforte Category
Preliminary to Sixth Grade
Neta Maughan AM

Private Teacher Pianoforte Category
Seventh Grade to Licentiate
Neta Maughan AM

Private Teacher Instrumental/Vocal Category
Preliminary to Sixth Grade
Jocelyn Edey Fazzone

Private Teacher Instrumental/Vocal Category
Seventh Grade to Licentiate
Alex Todicescu

Private Teacher Written Category
First to Fourth Grade
Anne Jakes

Private Teacher Written Category
Fifth Grade to Licentiate
Elspeth Staas

Private Teacher Written Category
Sixth Grade to Licentiate
Victoria Clancy

Private Teacher Speech Category
Preliminary to Fifth Grade
Victoria Clancy

Private Teacher Speech Category
Sixth Grade to Licentiate
Victoria Clancy

Schools Category
Pymble Ladies’ College

Staff news

Kayl Miller (left) is our new Administrative Officer (Systems), where she will supervise the huge volume of examination scheduling that takes place in New South Wales and the ACT. Kayl has a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Hons) and has worked as the manager and designer at Snap Printing. She brings organisational and customer services skills that will be invaluable for her new role in the AMEB (NSW) office.

As our new Senior Administrative Officer, Tammy Kelly (right) will be responsible for the administrative functions of the office as well as managing and developing the AMEB (NSW) human and physical resources. Previously, she has worked in business operations and managed administrative teams within the Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council, Pollak Learning Alliance (NSW), Metropolitan Police Service (UK) and St George Bank. Tammy is currently completing a Diploma in Book Editing, Proofreading and Publishing.

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