State Manager’s Message

A big thank you to all our teachers who have provided such positive feedback on the development of the AMEB’s online processes. As we continue to develop new features on AMEB Connect, you will find that the enrolment process, report downloading and communication with your students will become easier and less time consuming.

As I write, the new online enrolment feature on AMEB Connect is being piloted by a number of teachers and schools. We are very excited about this development and once you are able to log on to the new AMEB Connect, you will see why. It is planned to have the new online enrolment feature live for the 26 July closing date.

Please ensure that your email address is up-to-date on our database so that you will receive information about how to enrol using this convenient new method.

The online written examinations developed by the Federal office of AMEB have proved to be very popular nationally. As a consequence, the traditional written examinations usually held in May for Theory and Musicianship will cease from 2014.

For more information about these issues, see the State News section of this newsletter.

Please remember that examination reports will be uploaded onto AMEB Connect only, ie they will no longer be posted. It can sometimes take up to two weeks before the reports will be available.

I respectfully request that teachers and/or parents not phone or email the office about reports until at least two weeks after your students’ examination date. The time taken to answer phone calls and respond to emails diverts staff from scanning and printing of certificates, which delays the results being uploaded.

Written examination results take longer to disseminate as the process involves collating thousands of papers allowing for our specialist team to mark them. The papers then have to be collated again into teacher numbers so that results can be entered and papers, where applicable, can be posted with certificates. Please allow eight weeks for this process to occur.

The AMEB (NSW) runs written examinations in over 35 different centres throughout NSW and ACT each year. It is a huge undertaking to organise this and I thank the dedicated team at the AMEB (NSW) office who successfully perform this onerous task.

We wish our teachers and their students all the best with their preparations for forthcoming examinations in both country and metropolitan areas from now until December.

MAREE LUCAS, STATE MANAGER

2012 AMEB Teaching Shield Winners

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Winner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Teacher Pianoforte Category</td>
<td>Marie Elisabeth Cull</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary to Sixth Grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Teacher Pianoforte Category</td>
<td>Bradley Evans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seventh Grade to Licentiate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Teacher Instrumental/Vocal Category</td>
<td>Jocelyn Edey Fazzone</td>
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<td>Preliminary to Sixth Grade</td>
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<td>Private Teacher Instrumental/Vocal Category</td>
<td>Alex Todicescu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seventh Grade to Licentiate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Teacher Written Category</td>
<td>Helen Lowry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary to Licentiate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Teacher Speech Category</td>
<td>Erin Joy Bubb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary to Fifth Grade</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Teacher Speech Category</td>
<td>Victoria Clancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth Grade to Licentiate</td>
<td>Sydney Grammar School</td>
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<td>Schools Category</td>
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Erin Bubb and Jack (John) Walker
Board News

Dr Karl Kramer, Dean and Principal of the Sydney Conservatorium and Chairperson of AMEB (NSW) since 2012, has reluctantly relinquished his position as the NSW Government’s representative on the Federal Australian Music Examinations Board due to the extent of his current workload. The Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP, Minister for Education, has now appointed Professor Jennifer Shaw to this role.

Professor Shaw is the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of New England and Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. She is also the founding Director of the Arts New England Centre for Research and Innovation in the Arts and currently serves as deputy chair of the Board of Directors of the New England Conservatorium of Music.

Jennie Shaw has been a member of the AMEB (NSW) Board for the past two years, and AMEB (NSW) welcomes her appointment as our state’s representative to contribute to decision-making at the Federal level. State Manager of AMEB (NSW) Maree Lucas believes that ‘Jennie will be an excellent advocate for the issues that teachers and candidates face in NSW and the ACT. We are particularly pleased that she will provide a voice to support the arts in regional areas.’

Federal News

New syllabuses for double bass and percussion

AMEB is proud to announce the launch of two new syllabuses later this year: Double Bass and Percussion. The new syllabuses will be printed in the upcoming 2014 Manual of Syllabuses and will be available for examination in all states from 2014. Both syllabuses will be accompanied by a series of grade books as well as technical workbooks and a sight reading book, the first AMEB grade books ever published for these instruments.

Surveys for new syllabuses

Online surveys for the recently introduced Violin, Classical Guitar and Bassoon syllabuses (2012) are open until 12 July 2013. We encourage all teachers of violin, classical guitar and bassoon to be actively involved in the syllabus process by providing their feedback to the Federal AMEB during these evaluations. Access the survey relevant to your instrument via the link from the ‘Latest News’ section of the Federal AMEB website:
www.ameb.edu.au/content/surveys-new-syllabuses

New resource now available for Theory 6th Grade

An AMEB analysis of Beethoven’s Eroica Symphony (Symphony No. 3 Op 55) is now available as a digital download to assist students preparing for the Set Work section of this exam. To order this product from the Federal AMEB online store go to:
http://www.ameb.edu.au/content/eroica-analysis

Staff News

AMEB (NSW) welcomes our new permanent Client Services Officer, Jennifer Fatiaki. Jennifer may already be a familiar face to many of our clients as she has worked at AMEB (NSW) on a casual basis since 2009 while completing and recently graduating from a Bachelor of Health Science. In her new role, she is responsible for reception duties and the processing of examination results and certificates. She brings a winning smile, a keen eye for detail and excellent customer service skills to the AMEB (NSW) team.

Another welcome addition to our organisation is Kirsty Campbell. She recently joined AMEB (NSW) as Administration Officer – Marketing & Communications, working three days a week. Kirsty has a background in Marketing and Communications in the Financial Services industry and for the past five years she has been working at North Sydney Boys High School, managing their bulletins, yearbook, website and other communication.

On 24 May, Bernadette Gunning completed her last examination timetable before celebrating her retirement. For over a decade, Bernadette had been an integral part of the AMEB (NSW) team, undertaking the daunting and complex task of scheduling tens of thousands of NSW and ACT examinations each year. Her skill, dedication and depth of knowledge will be sadly missed and we hope she enjoys travelling and pursuing her favourite hobbies in this new phase of her life.
State News

Online enrolments

In response to customer feedback, the AMEB (NSW) has now developed the ability to enrol candidates online via AMEB Connect.

At the time of going to print the new system is being piloted, and it is expected that you will be able to enrol your candidates online during the week leading into the 26 July closing date.

Visit AMEB Connect and you will find it is a more convenient and user-friendly alternative to downloading paper enrolment forms.

The development of AMEB Connect will also include a feature for teachers to keep a record of their candidates’ email addresses. This will allow you to forward reports to your students and add a personalised congratulatory note, with the click of a button!

Written examination sessions

From 2014, the AMEB will no longer offer written examinations in the May (01) session.

The decision to hold traditional written examinations in August only was made by AMEB State Managers nationally due to the huge uptake of online written examinations. It is expected that the following examinations will be available to complete online by May 2014:

- **Music Craft** Preliminary to Grade 4
- **Musicship** Grade 1 to Grade 6
- **Theory of Music** Grade 1 to Grade 6

Dates for the August (05) session in 2014 will be published in the *2014 Enrolment Handbook* available from the AMEB (NSW) website from November 2013.

Diploma Presentation Ceremony

The Annual Diploma Presentation Ceremony this year was held on Sunday 10 March, with 212 Associate Diplomas and 47 Licentiate Diplomas awarded to musicians and 6 Diplomas to Speech and Drama students.

Spectacular performances were given by a variety of outstanding musicians who received their LMusA diploma with Distinction, along with a performance by Natasha Petzel, a talented young performer who received the rare honour of two Licentiate awards for Speech and Drama at this year’s ceremony.

This year, for the first time, the decision was made to notify teachers who received a ‘top 5’ placement in each Teaching Shield category. We hope this inspires teachers who might come close to winning their category year in and year out, and yet have previously been unaware that they were truly ‘in the running’!

We particularly congratulate two of our shield winners this year – Erin Bubb, a Speech and Drama teacher from the Wollongong area, who was awarded her first ever teaching shield, and Alex Todicescu, a violin and viola teacher from the North Shore, who celebrated a milestone – his twentieth AMEB (NSW) teaching shield. We also salute Speech and Drama examiner Jack Walker, who was awarded a shield to commemorate 25 years as an AMEB examiner.

AMEB (NSW) Board Nominations Open

The AMEB (NSW) is now calling for nominations for six elected positions on its Board to take effect for two years from 1 May 2014. 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 2012 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 2012 and/or 2013. 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 the three categories.

If eligible, you are encouraged to give serious consideration to the contribution you could make as a Board member. Nominations for election, using only the form enclosed with this newsletter, together with no more than a half page, typed biography outlining the qualities that you would bring to the Board, must be forwarded to the AMEB (NSW) by close of business on **11 October 2013**.

An information package and ballot papers will be forwarded to eligible voters in November, posted with your copy of the *2014 Enrolment Handbook*. 
AMEB (NSW) Flute Workshop

AMEB (NSW) Woodwind Advisor, Jocelyn Fazzone, presented a well-attended workshop on Sunday 5 May 2013 exploring the new Flute Syllabus. Examiners, teachers and students alike were treated to a magnificent introduction to this syllabus. Jocelyn had devoted many hours of preparation to the event where she not only covered the main features of the new syllabus and the differences in the technical work, but also summarised where and how pieces had been regraded. She also provided useful tips in the sourcing of CD performances of syllabus pieces.

Jocelyn pointed out to participants that ‘more diversity of styles are represented at each level in addition to standard repertoire – jazz, popular, avant-garde and extended techniques. Also, more Australian compositions have been included.’

There are more than 590 new syllabus pieces. Samples from the new grade books and the manual lists were performed for each grade level ranging from Preliminary to Licentiate, with many of the publications on display for teachers and students to look through during the day.

AMEB (NSW) would like to thank Jocelyn and her team of colleagues and students who helped to present such a valuable professional development opportunity for the flute community. We hope it left flute teachers and students inspired to start exploring some of the interesting repertoire in this new syllabus.

AMEB Teaching Syllabuses Workshop

More than sixty people attended a workshop jointly run by AMEB (NSW) and MTA (NSW) on Sunday 17 February at the Kings School to learn more about the teaching syllabuses offered by AMEB. Participants were keen to gain valuable tips regarding preparation for the folio submission and the written and practical components of the Certificate of Teaching, the Associate of Teaching and the Licentiate of Teaching. These are flexible alternatives for studio teachers wishing to gain a teaching credential without committing to full-time study.

AMEB supplied successful folios from past candidates and AMEB (NSW) Written Syllabus Advisor Dr Rita Crews kindly contributed a huge array of Pedagogy textbooks and other recommended support resources for teachers to peruse. Many thanks to Dr Crews and senior pedagogy examiner Richard Morphew for sharing their wisdom, advice and experience. We hope it left teachers motivated to embark on their journey towards better teaching practice and to achieve a valuable new credential and ‘string to their bow’.

The Music Teachers’ Association of NSW

How can membership of our association benefit you?

As a member, you have access to:

- building your studio by our successful referral service
- accreditation for instrumental and voice
- The Studio magazine published quarterly keeping you informed about your profession
- recommended teaching fees
- professional development workshops and conferences
- junior music festivals

2013 highlights include:

- scholarships for students to the value of $11,000
- the Miriam Hyde Music and Drama Festival
- the Annual Christmas Luncheon – North Ryde RSL

It’s time to join!

For further details please contact the MTA on 02 9570 1436
Toll free: 1800 021 436
Email: info@musicsnsw.com.au
Website: www.musicsnsw.com.au