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# Fond memories and future directions

My history with the AMEB goes back to the 1970s when Miss Muriel Shepherd entered me for the AMEB Grade 3 piano examination in Melbourne. I still remember the examiner's encouraging comments! I completed many more AMEB exams in NSW—in piano and musicianship, with Mrs Valda Lang, and in oboe under teachers at school and the Conservatorium. Later I entered my own oboe students in examinations. Now my 10-year-old son has completed AMEB examinations in piano and cello in NSW, and this year he will take them in South Australia.

That sense of tradition, shared experience, reliable standards and high quality are all important. But it is also important that the almost century-old AMEB adapts. Last year the AMEB entered an exciting partnership with the UK-based Rockscool which means that the AMEB now delivers Rockscool Australia examinations. In addition to new syllabus launches for piano, double bass and percussion, the AMEB also launched its brand new musical theatre syllabus.

For five years I have served the AMEB at state and federal levels. It is a privilege to be part of an organisation whose mission is to provide high quality music and speech resources and assessment training and opportunities across Australia. Many of our intrepid examiners have become annual fixtures in our regional cities. I am also mindful that the AMEB is only as good as its network of teachers, examiners, advisors, associations and schools. It is wonderful teachers such as Muriel and Valda, both loyal to the AMEB for decades, who passed that love of music and appreciation for AMEB repertoire, standards and challenges to their students.

Many thanks to our long-term AMEB supporters, and for those of you new to the AMEB, welcome!

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