

**Media release: 15 May**

## **The Australian Music Examinations Board turns 100**

The Australian Music Examinations Board (AMEB) celebrated 100 years of service to the music community at a Government House reception today. Her Excellency, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC hosted a morning tea with invited guests, including former and current Board members, teachers and examiners.

Mr Graham Bartle OAM, who recently retired after nearly 50 years as an AMEB examiner, said: “It’s an honour to be invited to Government House to celebrate 100 years of AMEB – a very pleasant occasion - I took my first exam as a boy of age 10”.

In 1918, the NSW State Conservatorium of Music joined with the universities of Adelaide, Melbourne, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania to create a national organisation offering public examinations in music. The first meeting of the central board was held in Sydney on 15 May, when the name ‘Australian Music Examinations Board’ was adopted.

Regarded as the benchmark for assessing skills in music, speech and drama in Australia, AMEB provides nationally recognised awards celebrating achievement in practical and theoretical subjects. AMEB syllabuses provide the framework for studies leading to secondary school certificates, university entrance and the establishment of careers in musical performance and teaching.

Over the past 100 years, millions of Australians have benefitted from participating in AMEB graded examinations in music, speech and drama – from beginner to advanced grades and on to Diplomas.

The centenary year was marked at a special Conferring of Diplomas Ceremony, held at Melbourne Town Hall on 21 March, where 122 Diplomas were awarded to the high-achieving candidates of 2017.

Alwyn Mott, AMEB Victoria General Manager, said: “AMEB has made an enormous contribution to the musical life of this nation. If you hear a professional symphony orchestra, a school band, a choir or a musical production, a large number of the performers will have taken an AMEB exam.”

The Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC said about the centennial: “across that century, AMEB has ignited and nurtured the passions of millions of young Victorians...to learn, to play and to listen to music.... there is barely a street across Victoria that hasn’t heard scales or sonatas practised in anticipation of an AMEB examination.”

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Images of the Government House event available.