



Keys of Life

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Keys of Life Ltd.

ABN 506 1488 3162

**Trading as:
KEYS OF LIFE**

Using music to
transform the lives of
children with disabilities
and diverse learning
needs

www.keysoflife.com.au



Keys of Life Ltd

Using music to transform the lives of children with disabilities and diverse learning needs



Directors

Michael Tucker, Chair
Alexandra Devine
Joseph Proietto
Gerard Wright
John Jeffreys
Carmel Jacobson
Dinesh Kuhadas
Liz Kofoed (Appointed 8th February 2025)
Szelin Foong (Resigned 8th January 2025)

Officeholders and Supporters

Company Secretary

Joseph Proietto

Company Treasurer

Gerard Wright

Legal Advisers

Lander and Rogers lawyers
600 Bourke Street
Melbourne, 3000

Web Site

www.keysoflife.com.au

Registered Office

84 Tyne Street
Box Hill North
Victoria, 3129

Bankers

Bank Australia

Chair's Report

Report on activities in the year ending 30 June 2025

Keys of Life (KoL) aims to transform the lives of children with diverse learning needs through music.

Two significant projects have been developed this year and, thanks to the generosity of donors, funding for them has been achieved. Both projects have an online educational focus and are currently being prepared for delivery.

The first project, 'Teaching in Action', is an online module for instrumental music teachers, using a series of case studies showing piano lessons taught by Daphne Proietto. This project came about because teachers told us that observing how Daphne works with her students was one of the most helpful things in providing them with practical strategies.

The second project is also an online resource, supporting parents who have a child with a disability or diverse learning need and are commencing instrumental music lessons. (A Parent Pack). This project came about because parents whose children have commenced lessons or those considering commencing lessons for their children were wanting to better understand what they can do to support their child.

KoL's mission of using music to transform the lives of children with disabilities and diverse learning needs remains the same. However, our primary energy in practice in the last few years has been directed to training and supporting teachers.

As another part of our overall strategy to increase the numbers of those who can access quality teaching, the development of our 'Parent Pack' project will better support parents and families to commence and continue in their instrumental musical journey.

2024/25 TEACHER TRAINING & SUPPORT

A group of teachers got together in early December 2024 at Daphne's to discuss the idea of a Teachers' Forum. It is planned for this group to get together every 6 months or so to share experiences and build a network.

A 3-day intensive teacher training course was held in January 2025 at Daphne's house. It was a great success. Sixteen participants attended, alongside 8 guest speakers, 3 KoL

associated teachers' presenters and 10 student performers. The absolute highlight was the student panel. Four students (with autism, ADHD, cerebral palsy and vision impairment) gave very articulate views on what music teachers could do to support their needs.



The feedback was very strongly supportive. Such a great result would not have been achieved without some tremendous preparation and work over the 3 days led by KoL's part time workers George, our Education Co-ordinator and Katy, our Administrator. The course work was supported by a Course Participant Handbook that distils the critical elements of Daphne's student-centred approach that includes a focus on flexibility and patience and parent involvement.

In May 2025, a free online 3-hour training course was held with 31 attendees. A comprehensive supporting booklet was also available to be purchased and around half the attendees took up the booklet purchase option. Feedback from attendees was once again very positive.

EFFECTIVENESS

Over 400 teachers of instrumental music have attended in person or online training since KoL commenced in 2017. This training of teachers has had a positive impact on improving the quality of music education provided in Melbourne, Victoria and beyond. This belief is based on the feedback we have gathered from teachers who have attended KoL's courses.

Measuring the effectiveness of Daphne's method is however not a straightforward matter.

In late 2023 KoL received a Report from the Melbourne Disability Institute from [Grace Thompson](#) (the Head of Music Therapy at the University of Melbourne) and Melissa Raine (research associate at the University of Melbourne). The Report is on the [KoL website](#).

The research and subsequent Report investigated the impact that learning a musical instrument has on the lives of students living with a disability and/or diverse learning needs, as well as the barriers that stop people with a disability accessing instrumental music lessons. It provided some excellent evidence of the success that Daphne's teaching approach can have. Articles produced from this Project have been accepted for future publication.

Some excellent documentation work about Daphne's teaching approach was first undertaken between Daphne Proietto and George Katsikas in 2023. Daphne and George worked together to gain new insights into what and how Daphne teaches. They then documented the approach taken. In 2024 this material was further updated to consolidate ongoing insights into what helps make Daphne's methods so successful. KoL continues to seek to gather evidence and testimonials on the effectiveness of Daphne's teaching methods.

CONCERT

The annual concert was held in November 2024 at Caulfield Grammar. As usual there was a wide range of music and capabilities. We had students emcees who did a terrific job, plus a guest choir from 'With One Voice' choirs. The concert is a celebration of student achievement and a chance for a wider community of families and supporters to gather and enjoy music.



WORLD PIANO DAY

KoL was offered the opportunity to conduct an event at Westfield Doncaster to celebrate World Piano Day (WPD). The event was held on Saturday 29 March 2025 and more than 30 students and the Social Music Group performed from 10am to 3pm. The students of several different teachers, including a group from Geelong, entertained shoppers and families and KoL supporters.

The Board had 3 objectives for the event. Firstly, providing a public performance opportunity for students. Secondly, raising awareness of KoL and its work and thirdly, raising money. Over \$2500 was received via sponsorship of student performers and donations.

The Board felt that these 3 objectives were achieved to varying degrees. Given this was the first time such an event was conducted there were some things learnt about how to make an event even better next time. Westfield's support was much appreciated, and the Board hopes to conduct a similar event in March 2026.



SOCIAL MUSIC

A community focused initiative called Social Music Making run in Northcote has continued to evolve and develop. With the assistance of a Grant from State Trustees we were able to engage a Music Therapist Luke to assist Judy in conducting the Thursday evening activities. A very generous donor has recently provided 3 lightweight keyboards to help with the sessions. The group made their festival debut at the National Celtic Festival in June, to much acclaim.



OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

We continue to offer online teaching modules for sale via the website. A student scholarship scheme which covers lesson fees, and a weighted keyboard continued with existing recipients. The Board hopes to identify more recipients for student scholarships.



The Board continues to actively oversee the work and activities of Keys of Life. An annual planning process is undertaken, and we have a Risk Management Framework that guides us in our decision making.

THE FUTURE

KoL would like to provide more opportunities for students with disabilities and diverse learning needs to have a quality musical education. Increasingly we consider that training, developing and supporting teachers is our principal means to promote this mission.

KoL will continue to seek opportunities to collaborate and partner with like-minded organisations and groups.

COMMUNITY AND DONOR SUPPORT

So much of the work of KoL relies on dedicated families supporting their child in their musical journey. An important feature of Daphne's student-centred teaching approach is the close involvement of families to support a student's learning. We saw that in a meaningful way with the participation of students and families in our World Piano Day event.

The Barr Family Foundation has once again been incredibly supportive of KoL. In August 2024 Barr agreed to fund our 'Teaching in Action' online education module. This is in addition to their two substantial Grants in 2018 and 2022 which have been critical to our development and growth.

Thanks to other donors including Janus Henderson, The Kempen Family Foundation, The Lyle Foundation, Belgravia Foundation, Westfield and some very generous individuals. Thanks to Lander & Rogers who provide legal support and advice when required. Thanks to our ongoing Board members Alex, Joe, Gerard, John, Carmel and Dinesh. Welcome to our newest Board member, Liz Kofoed, who brings a range of skills and a love of music to KoL. The Board is continuing to seek to recruit new Board members to bring fresh perspectives to its work.

Special thanks to Board member SzeLin Foong who retired from the Board in January 2025 for her major contribution to KoL since it commenced in 2017.

Thanks to our part-time Administrator Katy Addis. Katy has continued to provide great support to the Board and Daphne.

The Board was very pleased to be able to obtain the part-time services of George Katsikas early in 2023. George is an experienced music teacher and educator, and he has done some tremendous work for KoL as our education co-ordinator. His work with Daphne on putting together and upgrading a Framework Document that seeks to capture the essence of Daphne's teaching approach has been a critical step in KoL's journey. George has also done important work on preparing the high-quality Course Participant Handbooks provided to attendees at training courses.

Daphne Proietto's ongoing dedication to teaching children continues to be an inspiration to families of children with disabilities and diverse learning needs (and the members of the KoL Board).

Thank you all for your support.

Michael Tucker
Chairman
Keys of Life Board

Directors' Report

The Directors have pleasure in presenting their report together with the accounts of The Keys of Life Ltd. for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Result of operations

The net operating position of Keys of Life Ltd. for the financial year ended 30 June 2025 was a surplus of \$2,324 (2024: loss of \$30,517). As of 30th June 2025, the Keys of Life Ltd had net assets of \$54,796 (2024: \$52,472).

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.



M Tucker
Chairman

G Wright
Director

23rd July 2025
Melbourne

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Keys of Life Ltd.

Statement of Profit and Loss for year ended 30 June 2025

Revenue	2025	2024
Trading income	\$	\$
Course fees	5,450	2,370
Donations	9,940	8,800
Grants	43,500	8,000
Interest	1,618	684
Sales	1,378	726
Total Income	61,886	20,585
Expenditure		
Wages & Superannuation	40,453	32,674
Administration	5,078	8,198
Program Costs		
Concert Expenses	1,166	3,118
Course expenses	1,961	1,058
Scholarship Expenses	2,713	2,093
Subscriptions	936	245
Video editing	960	-
Social music making	6,295	4,716
Total Operating Expenses	59,562	51,103
Net Profit	2,324	(30,517)

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at 30 June 2025

	June 2025	June 2024
Assets		
Bank		\$
Keys of Life Ltd.	4,945	53,435
Total Bank	4,945	53,435
Current Assets		
Keyboards and stands	1,047	-
Term Deposit	100,000	-
Total Current assets	101,047	-
Total Assets	105,992	53,435
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accrued Expenses	2,000	
Advance (Project Grants)	47,800	
Superannuation Payable	1,396	963
Total Current Liabilities	51,196	963
Net Assets	54,796	52,472
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	2,324	(30,517)
Retained Earnings	52,472	82,989
Total Equity	54,796	52,472

Keys of life Ltd.
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2025

1. Summary of significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Act. The committee has determined that the not-for-profit Association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

(b) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(c) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses, and assets are recognised inclusive of the amount of GST. The GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of assets and liabilities are shown inclusive of GST.

2. Retained Profits

	2025	2024
Retained profits at the beginning of the financial year	52,472	82,989
Net Surplus	2,324	(30,517)
Retained profits at the end of the year	54,796	52,472

1. Events Occurring after the reporting date

No other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the Company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

Statement by Members of the Committee

In our opinion:

1. The accompanying financial report as set out on pages 1 to 4, being a special purpose financial statement, is drawn up to present a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association at 30th June 2025 and the results of the Company for the year ended on that date.
2. The accounts of the Company have been properly prepared and are in accordance with the books of account of the Company.
3. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:



M Tucker
Chairman



G Wright
Director

Dated this 23rd day of July 2025