

## President's Report

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It is with honour that I report on the activities of Kodály Australia and member achievements for 2021. Our association has continued its mission despite the ongoing challenges presented by COVID-19. While the coronavirus pandemic at times disrupted our work, National Council, branches, and chapters have all persisted to the benefit of members. I am especially proud of how our community continues to come together and support one another through [a culture of contribution](#). This report reflects our national community striving towards the musical enrichment of Australians' lives inspired by the lifework of Zoltán Kodály.

### Membership

At the end of the 2020-2021 financial year<sup>1</sup>, our association continued to have over 1000 active<sup>2</sup> members. However, our national financial membership saw a small decrease during this period. We believe there are numerous reasons for this decline, including restrictions and economic uncertainty caused by COVID-19 and 2021 being a non-conference year. Our membership numbers by category for the financial year were as follows:

<b>Total Financial Members</b>	<b>831</b>
Concession / Retired	23
Corporate	87
Ordinary	574
Student	107
Honorary Life members	40

Honorary Life Membership is our highest accolade and is awarded in recognition of an individual's substantial service to Kodály Australia and contribution to the Australian Kodály movement. Congratulations to [Tricia Casey](#) (QLD), awarded Honorary Life Membership in 2021. Citations celebrating our honorary life members continue to be uploaded to our [national website](#) providing a source of inspiring models.

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<sup>1</sup> The financial year of the Kodály Music Education Institute of Australia Incorporated is from 1 October to 30 September.

<sup>2</sup> Active membership includes all financial members in addition to those whose membership has lapsed within a previous three-month period.



Tricia Casey being presented Honorary Life Membership of Kodály Australia  
Honorary Life Members [Deb Brydon](#) (Kodaly QLD President), [Tricia Casey](#),  
and [Jill Green](#) (Mackay Chapter President)

### **Reconciliation**

We are making steady progress with our [reconciliation](#) efforts. Members now have the option to answer the following questions in our membership database under the heading of Reconciliation:

1. I am an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Person. Yes/No?
2. Can we contact you to share your perspective? Yes/No?
3. Do you teach Indigenous students? Yes/No?

Work has started on drafting a National Statement on Repertoire and a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Both documents represent thorough discussion and reflection throughout the year. I thank all members of the Reconciliation Committee for their sharing and contribution.

### **Branch and Chapter Activities**

Branch and chapter activities during 2021 were impacted by ongoing restrictions and uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Despite these challenges, branches offered a range of relevant and uplifting face-to-face and online events featuring local, national, and international presenters. Many past webinars can still be purchased from the host branch directly, and I commend these to you. On behalf of all members, I extend my congratulations and thanks to all branch and chapter committees for their tireless efforts in serving members.

### **National Council Committees**

The committees of the National Council are the think tanks of our national association. The Education, Finance & Strategic Planning, Reconciliation, and Scholarships & Awards Committees have all been active in their work this past year. I have enjoyed vigorous discussions across these diverse groups and working towards positive solutions to better serve our association, members, and Australian music education. I sincerely thank fellow convenors, Tess and Catriona, all members of our committees, for their generous offering of time and expertise.

### **National Administrator Check-in**

In May, Jason Boron (Vice-President) and I met with our National Administrator, Sue Beech, to formally “check-in”. This meeting was an important opportunity to review the evolution of the National Administrator role, including current workload, rewards, challenges, and future direction. We noted that the National Administrator hourly rate had remained unchanged since 2015, and we are pleased to report that we adopted a four-year plan to gradually increase the hourly rate of the National Administrator in line with market value. As always, I would like to acknowledge Sue’s dedication and enthusiasm for her role.

### **Australian Kodály Certificate Courses**

2021 saw the responsive and innovative delivery of [Australian Kodály Certificate \(AKC\)](#) courses by Kodály Vic, Kodály WA, Kodály SA, and the [Cuskelly College of Music](#). All courses required some form of transition to online delivery, which allowed lecturers and mentors to Zoom in from around the country and world. Towards the end of 2021, the Cuskelly College of Music began advertising an entire online suite of AKC early childhood, primary and secondary courses for 2022. Kodály QLD has also been planning an innovative

hybrid delivery of a Primary 1 AKC Course specifically to cater for teachers in regional and remote QLD. I thank all course providers for their commitment to AKC course delivery during 2021.

I offer my personal congratulations to the following members who were awarded the [Australian Kodály Certificate](#) in 2021: Stephanie Eaton (Secondary), Rita Fitzgerald (Primary), Melissa Karakaltsas (Primary), Susan Searle (Primary), Lisa Sheppard (Primary), Nickea Warrener (Primary), and Wendy Wood (Primary). Stephanie Eaton (SA) became an [Accredited Lecturer](#) for the AKC. Peter Shanahun, Kimberley Lloyd, and Hilary Price (WA) completed AKC Lecturer Accreditation Mentoring. I also offer my sincere thanks to Tess Laird and the Education Committee for their leadership in overseeing the planning and delivery of AKC courses.

### **South Australia Music Education Strategy**

We were again pleased to partner with the [South Australia Department for Education Music Education Strategy](#) in 2021. The SA MES fully funded the delivery of the 6-day Musical Foundations course and registration for Primary 1 and Secondary 1 of the Australian Kodaly Certificate to South Australian music teachers. I am very pleased to report we have already signed a 2022 agreement with the SA MES. Warm congratulations are extended to Gaby Freer, Stephanie Eaton, Jason Boron and Kodály SA for their unwavering dedication to this project.

### **Postgraduate Studies in Kodaly-inspired Music Education**

Kodály Australia is proud to celebrate members completing postgraduate studies in Kodaly-inspired music education. Congratulations Bonnie Gibson (Qld) and Elizabeth O'Leary (Vic), who completed studies at the [Kodály Institute](#) of the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, Hungary, and [Dr Aleta King](#) (NSW) who completed the Doctor of Musical Arts at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, The University of Sydney.

### **International Kodály Symposium 2021**

The [25<sup>th</sup> International Kodály Symposium](#) hosted by the Polish Kodály Society was held online from 9-13 August. An engaging program was prepared, and sessions were timed to cater for different time zones. While not the same as in-person, it was still wonderful to catch up live with friends and colleagues from around the globe. Congratulations especially to the following Australians who presented:

Jennifer Gillan: Addressing Gaps in Harmonic Understanding (workshop), and Songs and Games for the Secondary Classroom (workshop)

John Goulter: Cultural Connections: Student Perspective of Repertoire Choice (lecture)

Jason Goopy: Australian Kodály-inspired music teachers: Beliefs, values, and identities (lecture)

It was an honour to provide a brief report on the 2020 activities of Kodály Australia at the General Assembly of the International Kodály Society. Our work was met with international praise and gratitude. It was announced that the 2023 International Kodály Symposium would be held in Los Angeles, California, to commemorate 50 years since the founding of the society in California in 1973.

### **Kodály Online Hangout**

On Tuesday, 26 October, I represented Kodály Australia at a [Young Choral Academy](#) (Malaysia) Kodály Online Hangout. This session was in partnership with the [International Kodály Society \(IKS\)](#), intending to continue nurturing our international community, particularly during this current time. By request, I showcased Australian repertoire that could be used in various settings, including primary and secondary classrooms and choral ensembles. [Dr James Cuskelly OAM](#) presented on primary school classroom music pedagogy in his capacity as an IKS representative. Over 200 people from over 20 countries attended the session, including Australians, and it was very positively received.

### **Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO) Application**

In December, we applied to the Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO). This application was quite extensive and if successful, will allow us to receive tax-deductible donations. It is anticipated we will be able to launch "giving" campaigns where donations can be used for specific purposes, such as scholarships and commissions. Shortly after submitting, we were advised of an updated process requiring us to register with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) for the application to progress. This work is ongoing, and I thank Adele Hadgraft for her leadership on this important project.

## **Draft Australian Curriculum Consultation**

We are committed to working with the Australian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (ACARA) Arts team to develop a world-class music curriculum that our children and young people deserve. On behalf of members, Kodály Australia submitted a [survey response](#) and [written submission](#) for the Music curriculum. I thank the following National Council members for their assistance in drafting our submissions: Jason Goopy, Jason Boron, Tess Laird, Susan Fredline and Deb Brydon. In addition, I would like to thank all members for their engagement in the consultation process. To create the change we aspire towards, we must all advocate for Australian music education.

## **Quality Initial Teacher Education (ITE) Review**

Kodály Australia is deeply concerned regarding the current state of initial music teacher education in Australian universities. The last decade has seen a sharp decline in the provision of specialist music teacher education across the country, particularly for early childhood and primary school settings. As a result, graduate teachers are unprepared to effectively deliver the music curriculum and offer school performance music programs. On behalf of members, Kodály Australia made a [written submission](#) to the review. I thank the National Council Education Committee for their assistance in drafting our response.

## **Alberts Tony Foundation – Music education: Right from the Start**

For the past two years, the Alberts Tony Foundation has been preparing to significantly invest in advancing access to valued and quality primary school music education in Australia. The project was initially motivated by the spotlight placed on music education by the ABC miniseries, *Don't Stop the Music*, and a commissioned report ([Music Education: A Sound Investment](#)) led by Dr Anita Collins. I have been involved in this project as an Advisory Group Member and represented Kodály Australia. The Alberts Tony Foundation will soon release the final strategy for *Music Education: Right from the Start*, and it is expected to include opportunities for Kodály Australia to assist in the upskilling of generalist and specialist music teachers.

## **2018 Australian Kodály Scholarship**

We wish to advise that Donna Cianciosi was, unfortunately, unable to complete any output from the 2018 Australian Kodály Scholarship due to health issues and has repaid the scholarship amount in full. We offer Donna our best wishes for her recovery.

## **2022 Awards for Excellence in Kodály-inspired Music Education**

The recently announced [2022 Awards for Excellence in Kodály-inspired Music Education](#) are an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding work of individuals in our community. We are keen to acknowledge people who may have gone unnoticed, so be sure to submit a nomination by 31 March. Thank you to Catriona Turnbull and the Scholarships and Awards committee for their work on this project.

## **2022 Kodály Australia Conference**

Preparations are steaming ahead for the [2022 Kodály Australia Conference “Spring into Song”](#), to be held from 26 – 29 September at Canberra Girls’ Grammar School. [Registrations are now open](#) for this special event, being the first time in four years that we have been able to come together as a national community. Thanks to Joel Copeland, Katharine Finlayson, and the Kodály ACT Team for their continued perseverance.

## **Thank You**

Tonight is the last Annual General Meeting that I will chair as President. I wish to sincerely thank all past and present National Council members for their continued support over these four years. I have become a better musician, teacher, leader, and person because of your friendship. I especially thank Jason Boron, Susan Creese, and Adele Hadgraft for their work in critical executive roles with the support of Susie Fredline and Catriona Turnbull. I also thank fellow standing committee convenors, Tess Laird and Catriona Turnbull, for their ongoing support and work. Congratulations to Deb Smith on your newsletter sharing initiative. I thank our National Administrator, Sue Beech, for her unwavering dedication behind the scenes. I extend my thanks to our Branch committees for their significant contribution to our core business of professional learning opportunities, resources, and support networks for our members. Thanks also to Joel Copeland and Katharine Finlayson for their commitment to two significant national events. I would also like to offer a special thank you to [Ann Carroll](#) for her guidance and mentoring over many years.

We also acknowledge other National Council members who are retiring from their positions this evening. Our Secretary, Susan Creese, finishes her time on Council tonight. Susan began as an Ordinary Council member in 2014. She then was Membership Secretary until it was assumed by the creation of the National

Administrator and has been Secretary since 2016 – a massive three terms in an executive role. Thank you, Susan, for your significant service and contribution to our national association.

[Deb Smith](#) is also stepping down from National Council this evening. Deb has served on the Council for the past two years, including on the Education Committee. We are especially thankful to Deb for establishing a national and collaborative process between branches for sharing newsletter articles. Thank you, Deb, for your service to Kodály Australia.

While [Tess Laird](#) will continue serving on National Council, she will not be seeking reappointment as Education Committee Convenor in this new term. Tess has made a monumental contribution as Education Committee Convenor. Our records indicate that she joined the Education Committee in 2005, and a handover transition occurred from Judy Johnson in the second half of 2009. Tess was formally appointed to convenor in 2010 and has held this role since. As convenor for over a decade, Tess has led several education initiatives for our association, including numerous responses to curriculum and government reviews. Of important note, we have seen the steady and substantial development of the Australian Kodály Certificate. This work has included overseeing the growth of course providers, online provisions, lecturer accreditation, curriculum and resource revisions, creating a mentoring program, processing applications, awarding certificates, marking teacher demonstration DVDs, and the list goes on. I am continually inspired by Tess' longstanding commitment, positivity, and enthusiasm for this work. On behalf of the National Council and members, particularly AKC graduates, I thank Tess for this substantial contribution and service to the Australian Kodály movement.

I have chosen to conclude this term by returning to the essence that fuels our work - music. Kodály, of course, had something to say about this:

*“With music, one’s whole future life is brightened. This is such a treasure in life that it helps us over many troubles and difficulties. Music is nourishment, a comforting elixir. Music multiplies all that is beautiful and of value in life.”*

(Kodály)

I encourage us all in our work and lives to keep music as our source of nourishment. Thank you again for your support this year. I offer my best wishes to the incoming National Council and you as we continue to work together for excellence in inclusive music education.

Best wishes



Dr Jason Goopy  
President  
Kodály Australia  
(Kodály Music Education Institute of Australia Incorporated)  
[www.kodaly.org.au](http://www.kodaly.org.au)

An affiliated national institutional member of the International Kodály Society  
[www.iks.hu](http://www.iks.hu)

*In the spirit of reconciliation Kodály Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.*