President's Report – Annual General Meeting 2026

Suzuki Talent Education Association of Australia (NSW) Limited
Presented by: Takao Mizushima, President
Reporting Period: October 2025 – October 2026

1. Opening Remarks

Dear Fellow Board Members, Educators, Parents, and Suzuki Community,

Thank you all for attending our Association's Annual General Meeting today. It is an honour to present this report as we reflect on another year of dedicated service, artistic growth, and educational excellence across New South Wales.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Board members for their thoughtful leadership, strategic vision, and tireless commitment throughout the year. My deep appreciation also goes to our administrative team, whose dedicated efforts behind the scenes support our extensive calendar of events, teacher accreditation, and daily operations.

Most importantly, I want to thank our vibrant community—our passionate teachers who embody Dr. Shinichi Suzuki's philosophy every day, and our dedicated parents who walk alongside their children on this transformative musical journey. Your unwavering dedication remains the foundation of everything we accomplish.

2. Membership Overview

Monitoring membership trends remains a central focus for the Board as we work to build a strong, engaged, and sustainable community. Below is a comparative summary of our membership figures for 2025 and 2026:

Category	2025	2026
Teachers	141	134
Affiliate Members	12	17
Family Members	1,062	1,196
Associate Members	-	6

Category	2025	2026
Total Members	**1,215**	**1,353**

We are delighted to report an overall increase in total membership to 1,353 members this year, driven primarily by strong growth in family memberships. At the same time, we remain vigilant regarding the slight decrease in active teacher members and are actively developing initiative programs and recruitment strategies to support and expand our educator network.

3. Summary of Major Events & Key Accomplishments

The past year featured a comprehensive array of workshops, festivals, recitals, and professional development programs that enriched our community:

- **Sydney Suzuki Festival 2026 (July 2026):** A landmark gathering featuring 284 student participants and approximately 140 teachers in Professional Development (PD) sessions. We were deeply privileged to welcome distinguished international guest tutors—Mr. Nakajima (Cello), Prof. Seizo Azuma (Piano), and Mr. Koen Rens (Violin). We also express our sincere gratitude to Kawai for their essential sponsorship, providing grand pianos, upright pianos, and keyboards to support our learning environment.
- **Spring School (September 2025 & Upcoming September 2026):** Held at Abbotsleigh Girls Primary School, offering focused masterclasses and ensemble experiences for violin, viola, and cello students.
- **47th Annual Graduation Concert & Recitals (October – November 2025):** Celebrated student milestones at the prestigious Sydney Opera House Main Concert, Utzon Room Recitals, and final level graduation solo concerts.
- **Play-Ins, Workshops & Tutorials:** Held regular instrument-specific play-ins (Strings and Violin), Piano Tutorials, Book 1 Twinkle Awards, and quarterly Suzuki Recital Days to foster student performance confidence and community fellowship.
- **Teacher Training & Accreditation:** Advanced our Book-by-Book repertoire training model under the guidance of the Teacher Training Committee (TTC). We proudly welcomed new trainees and celebrated teachers successfully completing Certificate IV level accreditations.

4. Honouring Our Legacy: Yasuki Nakamura Memorial Fund

Following its official launch, the **Yasuki Nakamura Memorial Fund** continues to serve as a cornerstone of inspiration for our Association. Honouring Nakamura Sensei's lifelong dedication to nurturing young minds through Suzuki education, this fund represents much more than financial assistance.

It embodies the spirit of our movement—ensuring that opportunities for musical growth and

encouragement are accessible to all children. In parallel, our ongoing recognition of Mrs. Yoshiko Nakamura as a Life Member of STEAA reflects our deep respect for their enduring legacy in Australia.

5. Strategic Vision & Operational Sustainability

As we look to the future, the Board is engaged in a comprehensive strategic review focused on **long-term financial sustainability, operational efficiency, and digital modernization**:

- **System Integration & Modernization:** We are evaluating integrated, cloud-based database and member management solutions (CRM) to streamline membership renewals, event registrations, and financial reconciliations. Replacing fragmented systems will significantly reduce administrative overhead and eliminate excessive manual workloads.
- **Evidence-Based Operational Management:** In close collaboration with office leadership, we are documenting workplace processes and task workflows. This evidence-based approach protects organizational continuity, balances staff workloads, and establishes clear performance benchmarks.
- **Balanced Work Environment:** We are committed to restructuring operational schedules—particularly regarding weekend event management—to eliminate structural overtime liabilities and ensure a fair, supportive work environment for our office staff without compromising event quality.
- **Community & Engagement Growth:** Sustainable success requires more than numerical growth. We remain focused on building a united, inclusive community that honours Dr. Suzuki's vision: developing noble hearts and nurturing humanity through music.

6. Closing & Acknowledgments

In closing, I offer my deepest gratitude to all of you—our members, teachers, parents, volunteers, and Board colleagues—for your continuous trust, energy, and commitment to the Suzuki Talent Education Association of NSW.

Together, we have built a vibrant legacy, and together, we will guide our Association toward a resilient, harmonious, and inspiring future.

Warmest regards,

Takao Mizushima
President, Suzuki Talent Education Association of Australia (NSW) Limited