



KOKODA YOUTH FOUNDATION



ANNUAL REPORT





COURAGE ENDURANCE MATESHIP SACRIFICE

SPECIAL THANKS

TO OUR STAFF, DONORS, PARTICIPANTS & VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2025

Welcome

2025 marked a milestone year for the Kokoda Youth Foundation. As our 20th anniversary, we held a reunion picnic and gala ball to celebrate two decades of success.

Amidst the celebrations, we experienced a period of dynamic growth, launching our first Kokoda Challenge in Sydney and our Isurava Regional Reset Programs in the Gold Coast and Ipswich regions. We relocated our head office to Arundel and welcomed a number of new staff to support the expansion of our activities.

The ongoing success of our events and programs, and the resilience of our team through challenge and change, has been a strong testament to our enduring commitment to KYF's mission: *changing lives through the spirit of Kokoda*.

Across every initiative, we continued to empower people, foster resilience, and create meaningful impact - building on two decades of dedication, innovation, and success.



Contents

- 02 ABOUT KOKODA YOUTH FOUNDATION
- 03 BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT
- 04 CEO'S REPORT
- 05 2025 HIGHLIGHTS
- 06 YOUTH PROGRAM SUMMARY
- 07 YOUTH PROGRAM PHOTOS
- 08 KOKODA CHALLENGE YOUTH PROGRAM
- 09 ON THE RIGHT TRACK PROGRAM
- 10 ISURAVA REGIONAL RESET PROGRAM
- 11 DIGITAL DETOX PROGRAM
- 12 KOKODA KIDS' STORIES OF CHANGE
- 14 KOKODA CHALLENGE PHOTOS
- 15 2025 KOKODA CHALLENGE HIGHLIGHTS
- 16 KOKODA CHALLENGE FUTURE PLANS
- 17 OUTDOOR EDUCATION PHOTOS
- 18 OUTDOOR EDUCATION UPDATE
- 19 OUTDOOR EDUCATION IMPROVEMENTS
- 20 20 YEAR GALA BALL PHOTOS
- 21 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AWARDS
- 23 2025 VOLUNTEER PHOTOS
- 24 VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS
- 25 2025 FINANCES
- 27 BOARD MEMBERS

Values

COURAGE

To step outside our comfort zone and stand up for what's important.

ENDURANCE

To stay the journey and never give up.

MATESHIP

To act with integrity, embrace diversity and have each other's back.

SACRIFICE

To service a cause greater than self.

Who we are

Vision & Mission

-To change lives through the spirit of Kokoda.

The Kokoda Youth Foundation (KYF) is a registered Australian charity that has been operating since 2004. Our purpose is to support and empower young people aged 8–17 years by delivering fully-funded, adventure-based youth programs that build resilience, confidence, and leadership, as they instil the values of Kokoda.

These provide young people with real opportunities to develop essential life skills and personal qualities, including self-belief, tolerance, teamwork, discipline, and a community service mindset. With these attributes, young people can better navigate personal challenges and contribute positively to their communities.

The Foundation is predominantly self-funded by our flagship endurance events, the Kokoda Challenge. For over 20 years, these annual fundraising events have challenged participants physically, mentally, and emotionally while generating vital funding for our activities.

The core of every KYF program and event is the enduring legacy of the World War II Kokoda Campaign. KYF draws inspiration from the Australian soldiers who overcame extraordinary adversity, and we mentor young people to develop and embody the same core values of our soldiers.



From our Board Chair



As Board Chair for the fifth consecutive year, I continue to feel very proud of the life-changing impact our organisation makes. Throughout 2025, we achieved many milestones, including the effective delivery of three OTRT programs, three Digital Detox programs, KCYP in the Gold Coast and Brisbane, and the launch of our Isurava Program, representing 185 young lives changed.

It was also a busy and successful year for the Kokoda Challenge team, delivering four major events across four locations, for 8,384 participants. Highlights included our inaugural Sydney event, sold-out events on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane, and record numbers on the Sunshine Coast. I extend my sincere appreciation to the team and our dedicated volunteers whose unwavering support remains the lifeblood of these activities.

In recognition of our 20-year Anniversary, we hosted a series of special events for our community. I found these occasions a great chance to connect with our supporters and reflect together on the strength of the 'Kokoda family.' This sense of connection is evident in the many familiar faces who return year after year - whether as participants, volunteers, or staff. It is this spirit of family that underpins our success and will continue to sustain us into the future.

A key objective within our five-year strategic plan is to become an organisation of national significance. In 2025, we made real progress toward this goal by launching into New South Wales with our inaugural Sydney Kokoda Challenge and Digital Detox Program. We also featured nationally on ABC TV and Channel 9, highlighting our valuable work with Australian youth.

With the launch of Isurava and our work in Sydney, came the need to expand our team. Throughout 2025, we increased staffing by 60%, growing from 25 to 40 team members. We welcomed many skilled individuals who have supported our growth and the increasing complexity of our operations. While such rapid change brought its challenges, Angie's calm and capable leadership ensured KYF went from strength to strength.

As we navigated these developments in 2025, the Kokoda Values shone brighter than ever. It was inspiring to see our team embody these values as they worked together to help an increasing number of young Australians reach their full potential.

I would like to thank Angie and the entire KYF team for their ongoing dedication and commitment. Their efforts ensure we continue to deliver on our core purpose: *Changing lives through the Spirit of Kokoda.*

Lynley Mangin
Board Chair



From our CEO



Over the past year, the Kokoda Youth Foundation has continued to make steady progress against its strategy, strengthening program delivery while expanding our reach into new communities.

During the year, KYF was honoured to receive the *Gold Coast Business Excellence Award for Education and Training*, recognition of the impact our team and volunteers continue to have in supporting young people and their families.

One of the highlights this year was the successful launch of the Sydney Kokoda Challenge, marking the first time the 96km event has been held outside the Gold Coast. It was an important milestone for the organisation and a strong sign that the Kokoda Challenge continues to resonate with new communities.

Alongside these developments, our core youth programs, including the Kokoda Challenge Youth Program (KCYP) and On The Right Track (OTRT) continued to support young people across the communities we serve. These programs remain central to the Foundation's work and rely heavily on the commitment and leadership of our volunteers.

The Digital Detox Program (DDP) continues to deliver as families look for practical ways to help young people step back from constant connectivity, and reconnect with challenge, community and the real world. During 2025 we also began exploring an opportunity with the University of Queensland to evaluate the outcomes of the program and strengthen the evidence behind the work.

We were also pleased to secure Queensland Government Regional Reset funding to deliver the new Isurava Program across two regions, providing structured support for young people at risk of disengagement.

Operationally, the organisation moved into new premises and established a presence in Ipswich, giving the team a stronger base to support the continued growth of our programs.

This year also marked 20 years of the Kokoda Youth Foundation. While the organisation has evolved significantly over that time, the mission remains the same, *changing lives through the spirit of Kokoda*.

None of this would be possible without the commitment of our volunteers and the dedication of the KYF team who continue to go above and beyond for the young people we serve. Thank you all.



Angie Debnam
Chief Executive Officer

2025 Highlights



In 2025 we launched two new important strategic initiatives. We added the **Sydney Kokoda Challenge** to our fundraising event portfolio and the **Isurava Regional Reset Program** to our Youth Programs offerings. Both have helped increase the reach and impact of our Foundation across Australia. Funds raised from the Sydney event enabled us to offer our first Digital Detox Program in Sydney, expanding this specialised program for teens in need. The Isurava program has given KYF the platform to leverage our organisation’s expertise in working with disengaged youth, to provide a 12 month, holistic program of mentorship and support using the Kokoda values to get them back on track.

YOUTH PROGRAMS	KOKODA CHALLENGE EVENTS	OUTDOOR EDUCATION
Kokoda Challenge Youth Program	Sunshine Coast 18km 30km 48km	Kokoda Park
On the Right Track Program	Brisbane 18km 30km 48km	Camp Kokoda
Digital Detox Program	Gold Coast 30km 48km 96km	
Isurava Regional Reset Program	Sydney 18km 48km 96km	

Number of people who completed our Kokoda Challenges in 2025:

 **8,384**





Number of students who completed our youth programs in 2025:

 **185**

Number of OE camps in 2025

51 

Program results*

-  55% reduction in problematic screen use three months after the Digital Detox Program.
-  Parents report healthier relationships with their children post-programs.
-  Increased positive interactions at school and in community, post-program.
-  A greater self confidence in their abilities and courage to lead and take responsibility.

*Taken from surveys of program participants

Youth Programs

KYF's youth programs deliver measurable impact by empowering Youth to overcome challenges in order to thrive.



In 2025, our youth programs supported **185** young people to develop resilience, reconnect with education, strengthen relationships, and build self-belief.



On The Right Track (OTRT)

Delivered in partnership with Laidley, Rosewood and Beaudesert State High Schools, **25** Years 8 and 9 students enjoyed six months as OTRT participants. They completed life skills training, physical challenges, and community service activities with a number of amazing local charities. They completed the program with greater confidence, higher levels of fitness and higher engagement with their education.



Kokoda Challenge Youth Program (KCYP)

KCYP was held in Brisbane and Gold Coast in 2025, providing an comprehensive nine-month life skills program for **24** young people aged 15–17, from diverse backgrounds. Our KCCYP Kokoda kids enjoyed physical training, mentoring, and personal development, a peak expedition experience in Borneo, and 3 months of community service. They developed greater discipline, teamwork, leadership and strong personal growth, as well as a strong connection with their peers.



Isurava Regional Reset Program

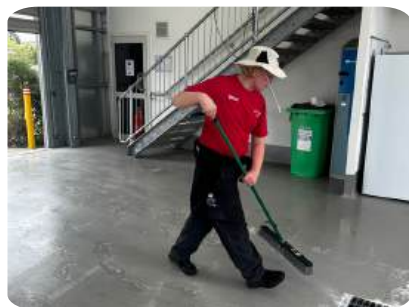
Our Isurava Regional Reset Program was launched in 2025 with the first intake of **36** young people in December. This 12-month phased intervention program for Ipswich and Gold Coast youth aged 8–17, began supporting at risk youth with funding from the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support. KYF worked quickly to build a robust 7-phase early intervention program that would transform the lives of over 650 youth over the four year contract period.



Digital Detox Program (DDP)

Three DDP eight-day camps were held in 2025 program, for **100** young people aged 12–14. These incorporated adventure-based therapeutic activities that helped participants disconnect from technology, strengthen wellbeing, and establish healthier technology habits. We had the ABC come to our June program to film a story for their 7.30 Report, with national exposure.

2025 Youth Programs



Kokoda Challenge Youth Program



It got tough, but I never actually thought to myself that I should give up. What kept me going was the support from the leaders and knowing that even though they were definitely struggling too, they were still holding themselves together and putting us first and they weren't going to give up either.

- 2025 KCYP Participant



GROWING LEADERS BEYOND LIMITS

The Kokoda Challenge Youth Program (KCYP) continues to be one of the most demanding and transformative experiences delivered by KYF. Over a nine-month journey, our 2025 cohort of 'Kokoda Kids' committed themselves to this program as they were challenged physically, mentally and emotionally. Challenge brings growth and we witnessed our participants develop new leadership skills and a more positive mindset that we know will help them continue to thrive beyond their KCYP graduation.

In preparation for the 96km Kokoda Challenge, our KCYP participants undertook three months of structured training that tested and improved their endurance, determination and teamwork. Beyond their physical preparation, participants also dedicated time to community service projects, giving back while building a deeper understanding of civic responsibility. They travelled to Borneo for a 10-day overseas Peak hiking experiences which was a highlight for many of them. These experiences reinforced the Kokoda values of courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice - principles that continue to guide participants into adulthood.

KCYP PEAK EXPERIENCE

In the September School holidays, our 2025 KCYP participants embarked on their Peak Experience to Malaysia.

During their overseas adventure, the KCYP Kokoda Kids came face-to-face with orangutans, went white water rafting and hiked through intense heat and dense jungle. This was all to honour the memory of the Australian diggers, who perished as POWs during the second World War. This experience continues to be one of remarkable personal growth and have an enduring positive impact that our Kokoda Kids carry with them for life.



On the Right Track Program



REBUILDING CONFIDENCE, ENGAGEMENT & RESILIENCE

In 2025, the On the Right Track (OTRT) Program continued to deliver strong outcomes for young people at risk of disengagement, providing a structured, adventure-based experience that builds resilience, confidence, and connection to education. Grounded in the values of the Kokoda spirit, the program supports participants to overcome personal challenges, develop essential life skills, and strengthen their sense of belonging within their school and community.

A total of 25 young people graduated from the program across three school locations, including 8 participants from Rosewood, 12 from Laidley, and 5 from Beaudesert. These results reflect not only successful program completion, but meaningful growth in each participant's confidence, engagement, and future outlook, reinforcing OTRT's continued impact within regional communities.



TESTIMONIALS



Through the OTRT program, we have seen many young people become leaders who may not have seen themselves as leaders before. We see students' attitudes about school change in a positive way as they learn and understand the Kokoda values. It's also great to see our students gaining new skills in new environments, being challenged to do things they've never done before.

As a school, it's been pleasing to see all of our students come out of this program with their own learning and growth. We're enormously proud of our Kokoda students, families and staff, achieving 100% graduation rate for the program in 2025.

– Mr Michael Clarkson
Principal, Laidley State High School
(OTRT program partners since 2021)

I used to have trouble making friends because I lacked self confidence. After doing OTRT, I make friends more easily and I'm not afraid to go and chat to people I don't know well.

– 2025 OTRT Participant



Isurava Regional Reset Program

The Foundation received a significant Queensland Government grant in 2025 to deliver two **Regional Reset Programs**. KYF will provide these programs to at-risk youth in the Gold Coast and Ipswich regions, as part of the government's *Making Queensland Safer Plan*. KYF named the program 'Isurava,' after a significant Kokoda battle site in Papua New Guinea. The program was intentionally designed to achieve lasting behavioural change through a structured 12-month program, spanning 7 key phases. Isurava activities are centred around intensive mentoring, challenging camps and hikes, education and outdoor experiences that build the Kokoda values of courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice. The program draws on KYF's established expertise in delivering transformative youth programs and supports 8-17 year olds who are disengaged from education and community, or who have demonstrated early patterns of criminal or anti-social behaviour.

KYF officially launched the Isurava Regional Reset Program in December 2025, commencing with an inaugural intake of **36 participants**: 20 from Ipswich and 16 from the Gold Coast. Early observations have been encouraging, with participants demonstrating improved engagement with their communities, and meaningful personal growth. This high-impact program will continue to deliver sustained, long-term support for both young people and their families, helping shape healthier communities and improved life outcomes for participants.



The Queensland Police Service is very excited about the start of the Kokoda Youth Foundation's Isurava Program for youth who are at risk of entering the Youth Justice System. The Isurava program's goals of strengthening resilience, improving personal growth, and providing one-on-one mentoring and case management to at risk young people over a 12-month period, is such a valuable opportunity for our community.

- Nathan Boddy, Detective Acting Inspector,
Queensland Police

IPSWICH	GOLD COAST
Intake 1: Dec 2025	Intake 1: Dec 2025
Intake 2: April 2026	Intake 2: March 2026
Intake 3: May 2026	Intake 3: March 2026
Intake 4: July 2026	Intake 4: May 2026



Digital Detox Program





The Digital Detox Program (DDP) continues to play a vital role in supporting young people and families to build a healthier, more balanced relationship with technology. Through a combination of immersive outdoor experiences, targeted education, and family engagement, the program fosters improved wellbeing, stronger social connections, and greater awareness of the impacts of excessive screen use. Its evidence-informed design supports lasting behavioural change and promotes a more mindful approach to technology in everyday life.

In 2025, the program achieved significant reach and impact, with four camps delivered and **100 graduates**. Each camp provided a structured and supportive environment for participants to disconnect from digital devices, build resilience, and develop practical strategies for maintaining healthier habits beyond the program. Family involvement remained a key component, reinforcing learning outcomes and supporting sustained change at home. 2025 also saw increased nationwide media interest in DDP, with the ABC's 730 show filming and airing the program in August. 60 Minutes also initiated a story to film and feature in 2026.

Outcomes from the program continue to demonstrate meaningful improvements in wellbeing, behaviour, and family dynamics. Participants show increased awareness of technology use, improved emotional regulation, and stronger connections with peers and family, while parents report greater confidence in guiding healthy digital habits. These results highlight the program's ongoing effectiveness in strengthening relationships and contributing to positive long-term outcomes for families.



DDP OUTCOMES

-  35% reduction in internet addiction (measured by PCIAT scores three months post-program).
-  55% improvement in emotional regulation, as measured by Heart Rate Variability (HRV).
-  75% of parents felt better equipped to manage their child's screen time.
-  88% of families reported having stronger relationships and improved communication.



DDP was life changing, I wish every child could have this opportunity... its such a great program run by great people.”
- Parent of Participant DDPI3

Stories of Change



Lachlan Rigg

Lachlan joined the 2025 OTRT program as a quiet young person who was unsure of himself, relied heavily on electronic devices, and sometimes struggled to regulate his emotions. Although he attended school regularly, he found aspects of learning challenging and rarely spoke for himself. Throughout the program, Lachlan underwent a remarkable transformation. He grew into a confident young man who displayed strong leadership qualities and earned the respect of both peers and leaders. The friendships he built and the teamwork experiences helped him step out of his comfort zone, become more active, and develop a real sense of belonging. While he faced setbacks – particularly during the demanding 48km challenge where he chose to withdraw – the experience became a powerful learning moment that strengthened his determination and self-awareness. Lachlan’s mum shared that the program sparked a sense of adventure in him and helped him get off devices and enjoy being active. Most importantly, Lachlan learned the value of teamwork, resilience, and believing in himself when facing challenges, skills that will support him well into the future.

Japji Bassi

Japji joined the 2025 OTRT program openly admitting she lacked confidence in her physical ability and doubted she could complete even the smaller hikes, often saying she would “never make it through the 48km challenge.” Despite being a strong student and active in her community, Japji struggled with self-belief and carried significant responsibility at home due to family health challenges, often facing these pressures without much support. Throughout the program, however, Japji experienced remarkable personal growth. She quickly became a vibrant and chatty member of the team, naturally stepping into a leadership role and forming strong connections with her peers. As she embraced the program’s challenges, her confidence grew and her self-doubt faded—transforming her mindset from “I can’t do this” to confidently tackling obstacles, often joking “was that even a hill?” Japji frequently reminded herself that “you grow through discomfort,” using this mindset to push through challenges. Reflecting on her experience, Japji shared that the program gave her a much-needed break during a difficult year and helped her build meaningful friendships while discovering new strengths within herself. The experiences and resilience she developed through OTRT will continue to support her as she faces future challenges.



“You grow through discomfort.”

–Japji

Stories of Change



Braxton Rathborne

Braxton joined the 2025 OTRT program after experiencing significant challenges in his early life, including exposure to domestic violence and time spent in foster care with extended family. Prior to the program, Braxton had recently been involved in a family incident that required police intervention, and during his initial interview he spoke very little, with his aunty largely answering on his behalf and seeking support for him. Despite these challenges, Braxton maintained good school attendance and grades and enjoyed playing footy and spending time outdoors. Throughout the program, Braxton demonstrated strong commitment, consistently attending and actively participating in activities. Over time, leaders noticed meaningful growth in his behaviour and self-awareness, particularly in how his words and actions impacted others within the team. He embraced the program's challenges with determination and showed a genuine willingness to learn and grow. Reflecting on his experience, Braxton shared, *"Don't aim for perfection, aim for progress,"* highlighting how the program helped him develop perseverance and teamwork. He especially enjoyed the Peak Experience, where he could hear everyone's journey and see how far the group had come together. Braxton recognised that frustration and conflict can weaken a team, and that determination is the key to overcoming obstacles—an insight he plans to apply to challenges he faces in the future.

“Don't aim for perfection, aim for progress.”

-Braxton

Nicholas Adams

Nicholas joined the 2025 OTRT program lacking confidence and at risk of disengaging from school. He struggled with motivation for learning, was achieving lower grades, and often experienced anxiety, anger, and frustration when facing challenges. Nicholas was also uncertain about his future pathway after school and frequently used negative self-talk, doubting his ability to succeed in difficult situations. Throughout the program, however, Nicholas experienced significant personal growth. His confidence and self-belief increased dramatically as he began replacing negative self-talk with a more positive and optimistic mindset. One of the most important turning points in his journey was successfully completing the demanding 48km Challenge, proving to himself that he was capable of far more than he initially believed. Leaders also noticed remarkable improvement in Nicholas's interpersonal skills, particularly in his communication and ability to work effectively as part of a team. Reflecting on his experience, Nicholas shared that completing the hikes made him feel like he “could do anything,” and he especially enjoyed the community service activities where he connected with elderly members of the community. Through the program he has become more confident speaking with friends and people in the community, and he believes this new confidence will help him as he begins looking for part-time work and planning his future.



“Now I feel like I can do anything!”

-Nicholas

The Kokoda Challenge



2025 Highlights

Our fourth **Sunshine Coast** event was held in the Imbil State Forest. We increased participant numbers by 20% and fundraising by 25%. Heavy rain before the event threatened its viability, but the event went ahead and was a great start to our 2025 event series.

For the 15th year, our **Brisbane** event took Challengers through some of Brisbane hinterland's toughest terrain and welcomed more than 3,000 participants in June. Year 11 student, Cooper Gray, who lives with Cerebral Palsy, exemplified the Kokoda Values, completing this event in his multi-purpose wheelchair and capturing the attention of the 9 News crew.

Our 2025 **Gold Coast event** marked 20 years of the Kokoda Challenge. With record attendance, this event proved that the Kokoda Challenge is still getting bigger and better, two decades on.

Our highly-anticipated inaugural **Sydney** event had 500 participants for a solid first year. The course through Heathcote and Royal National Parks, with its coastal beauty, soon became a favourite among Challengers.



SUNSHINE COAST

1,269
 \$200,177

BRISBANE

3,003
 \$474,163

Gold Coast

3,621
 \$858,854

Sydney

491
 \$218,546



8,384: TOTAL Challengers
\$1,852,100: Funds raised



Sunshine Coast: 25% ^ funds
Brisbane: 8% ^ in participants



Gold Coast: 20-year celebration & Sold-Out event



Sydney: 500 participants in first year

2026 & Beyond

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR KOKODA EVENTS

Our aim for 2026 is to increase Kokoda Challenge participant numbers and fundraising totals, across all events. We hope to raise 96km participation numbers in the Gold Coast and Sydney, as our flagship course. We will continue to focus on increasing awareness in the Sydney market with an emphasis on school participation across the region.

In late 2025, the Board approved the decision to decrease 2026 Kokoda Challenge entry fees for Sunshine Coast and Sydney, with the aim of increasing participation. In Brisbane and Gold Coast, we will increase school entry fees (for the first time in 10 years) to align with the high volume of registrations and administrative demand from school teams.

Other 2026 plans

- Volunteer recruitment and child-safe implementation (Blue Cards)
- Macro Mike to return as Gym Cup sponsors to attract more Gym teams
- Anaconda, CSI and TechnologyOne to return as major sponsors.



2026 Event plans

Sunshine Coast: 9 May, 2026 – *Kenilworth and the Imbil State Forest*. This is on Mother's Day weekend, so we will target mums and schools. This event has upcapped numbers, so we hope to increase by 20% and achieve 1,500 participants.

Brisbane: 13 June, 2026 – *Brookfield and the D'Aguilar Forest*. This event is increasingly popular with schools. We have raised school entry fees but hope to attract more schools and sell out again.

Gold Coast: 18–19 July, 2026 – *Gold Coast Hinterland and the Nerang National Forest*. As our most popular event, we will continue to refine logistics, drive volunteer recruitment and sell out.

Sydney: 19–20 September, 2026 – *Heathcote and Royal National Parks*. As our second year in this location, we will focus on building growth and brand awareness, with targeted campaigns to schools, gyms and repeat Challengers. We are aiming to double registrations to 1,000 in 2026.

Outdoor Education Photos



Outdoor Education

2025 was an exceptional one for our Outdoor Education team, marked by growth, achievement, and renewed commitment to our values of Courage, Endurance, Mateship and Sacrifice. Each program, camp, and activity we delivered reflected these principles both in spirit and practice, helping students and teachers alike discover the transformative power of the outdoors.

We reached several new and exciting goals this year. Our camping programs expanded to include new locations and more challenging itineraries, allowing students to build independence and resilience. Through activities such as hiking, abseiling, the flying fox, challenge courses, and high ropes. Participants developed confidence and teamwork while pushing beyond their comfort zones. These experiences not only tested endurance and courage but also encouraged a sense of mateship, supporting one another through every climb, step, and leap.

A key achievement was our focus on *education through experience*. We worked closely with teachers to model safe, engaging, and effective outdoor practices, equipping them to lead excursions with confidence. Our sessions emphasised the importance of preparation, environmental stewardship, and respect for nature, ensuring that every participant gained both practical skills and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

The success of our programs in 2025 was a testament to the dedication and sacrifice of the team. From long hours in planning and setup, to the energy and enthusiasm shown during every camp, our instructors went above and beyond to create memorable and meaningful experiences for all involved.



LOOKING AHEAD

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building on our successes and continuing to inspire young people to embrace challenge, work together, and find strength in the outdoors. Through endurance, courage, mateship, and sacrifice, our team will keep guiding others toward growth, connection, and adventure in the natural environment we're privileged to share.

Angie, CEO

System Upgrades

We introduced a new administrative system in 2025, 'VenueLife' which has transformed the way our school groups register their attendees for our camps. They now have control of registrations and can chase up any registrants that they need to. The school (or parent) can enter the students' medical, behavioural and emergency contact information and digitally sign waivers for every student attending. It has proven to be a great success, reducing the administrative load on the OE team, and making it easier to keep track of all registrations.

The Maintenance team have been extremely busy at Kokoda Park finishing the ablution block ready for all to use. It looks clean, fresh, modern and is being used for programs. Phase I of the Challenge Course has also been completed.

With the departure of our Outdoor Education Manager Justin Gregor, in 2025, the team had to regroup and become the most independent they have ever been. They excelled by stepping in to fill gaps and ensuring every program was delivered with the upmost professionalism. They worked continuously to ensure the safety of themselves and the participants remained at the forefront of their minds each and every program.



I had a great time at Kokoda Park. The bunk room and bathrooms were clean and there were plenty of places to pitch a tent... Large lounge for events and a big kitchen.... Nice area surrounded by bush.



- Kathleen Perry



Thank you Justin

We want to recognise and thank Justin Gregor for his commitment to Kokoda Outdoor Education. He spent many years building up Camp Kokoda and Kokoda Park to become renowned outdoor education facilities across Queensland and NSW. We appreciate Justin's dedication to our Foundation in helping keep the Kokoda Spirit alive among staff and camp participants. He has left a lasting legacy and will be greatly missed!



20 Year Gala Ball



2025 MAJOR AWARDS



20TH ANNIVERSARY MAJOR SPONSORS' AWARD **Presented to The Spring Waterman**

This award recognised one of our most significant ongoing sponsors – a small business that has had a huge impact on the Kokoda Youth Foundation. When the Kokoda Challenge first began, KYF knew we would need a lot of drinking water for participants. Kevin and Greg Wilson from the Springwater Man became sponsors in 2005 and have generously donated thousands of litres of water to our Challenge events ever since.

20TH ANNIVERSARY INFLUENTIAL SUPPORTER'S AWARD **Presented to Ros Bates MP**

Ros Bates MP has championed our cause since the beginning and has always been a proud advocate for the Foundation, our Youth Programs and Kokoda Challenge events. She shares our heart for impacting young lives for good and we are so grateful for her ongoing support.



KOKODA CHALLENGE LEGACY AWARD **Presented to Adam Turner**

Adam is a long-serving member of our community who embodies the Kokoda Spirit in every way. He is a talented musician who has officiated the proceedings at every Gold Coast Kokoda Challenge event by playing the Last Post on the Bugle.

DARYL TODD VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD **Presented to Tamara Jarrett (AKA Tammy)**

Every year, this award recognises a volunteer who shines the Kokoda Spirit. Tammy's journey began as a Kokoda Kid in 2012 and because the program changed her life in such a positive way, she has been a passionate KYF volunteer ever since. Tammy has helped at every Kokoda Challenge as an enthusiastic Checkpoint Captain, even with a newborn baby.



Anniversary Awards



DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Schools are critical to helping Kokoda Youth Foundation achieve our mission, and at the 20 Year Anniversary Gala Ball we recognised our *Distinguished School Partners* with these awards. This group of schools consistently go above and beyond to help instil the spirit of Kokoda within their schools, and help us grow our Kokoda Challenge events and youth programs.

Helensvale State High School: They were the very first school to join the Kokoda Challenge and the first to win our prestigious Stan Bisset Cup. They have been involved ever since.

St Andrews Lutheran College: Their 96km team came first overall in 2025, beating the Open teams in the Gold Coast Kokoda Challenge for the first time. St Andrews are an incredible supporter and have the record for most KC School Trophies won.

Kimberley College: This school raised an incredible \$28,077.64 for our Foundation through their 34 schools teams in our 2025 Brisbane Kokoda Challenge.

Lindisfarne Anglican College: Their entire school community have supported and embodied the Kokoda values for many years, with the Kokoda Challenge embedded in their school curriculum.

Brisbane South State Secondary College: They had 55 teams participate across our Brisbane and Gold Coast Kokoda Challenges in 2025.

Notre Dame College: The newest school to join the Sunshine Coast Kokoda Challenge, participating for the first time in 2025 with their entire Year 7 cohort. They have 50+ teams participating in 2026.

Cavendish Road State High School: 38 teams participated in 2025 and their numbers continue to grow year on year. Since 2021, the school has raised an impressive \$153,642 for the Foundation.

Laidley & Rosewood State High Schools: They were recognised for their outstanding partnership and ongoing support of our OTRT program, with ongoing involvement in this valuable school-based program.

We also acknowledged the outstanding support of:

- Tamborine Mountain State High School.
- The Lakes College
- Unity College



2025 Volunteer Moments



Volunteer Contributions

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEART OF OUR ORGANISATION
AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT

DOUG HENDERSON OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARDS

These awards were presented at the 20 Year Gala Ball to a group of people who have served and supported KYF continuously for decades:

- Leigh & Glenn Bartlett
- The Bevis family
- Leanne Bradshaw
- Sue Chapman
- Mark Pearce
- Karen Purdy
- Craig Sharp
- Jean Teamoke



97



number of roles filled
by volunteers in 2025

\$219,327*



The financial value of
our volunteers' time to
our organisation in 2025
(*ABS average hourly
wage of \$43.50 per hour)



5,042

number of
volunteer
hours in
2025



I volunteer because I love seeing the courage, endurance, mateship and sacrifice that every participant shows... I have also been lucky enough to witness the real difference Kokoda has made to so many young lives.

- Rodney

2025 Finances

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Revenue from contracts with customers	2,190,429	2,265,114
Donations	1,890,528	1,677,044
Government grants	973,877	5,000
Other grant revenue	104,765	464,245
Other income	7,051	1,235
Interest received	4,528	14,880
Employee benefits expense	(3,179,913)	(2,653,209)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(97,784)	(229,119)
Cost of sales	(27,010)	30,571
Interest Expenses	(33,722)	(6,103)
Other expenses	(2,633,967)	(1,919,871)
<i>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</i>	<u>(801,221)</u>	<u>(350,215)</u>

2025 Finances

Statement of Financial Position

As At 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	52,761	449,256
Trade and other receivables	32,775	15
Inventories	29,955	30,488
Other assets	80,647	172,657
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	196,138	652,416
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Trade and other receivables	30,900	47,557
Property, plant and equipment	3,669,693	3,555,484
Right-of-use assets	1,260,121	119,326
Other assets	27	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	4,960,741	3,722,367
TOTAL ASSETS	5,156,879	4,374,783
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	357,548	194,073
Borrowings	35,227	34,358
Bank overdraft	336,777	374
Lease liabilities	111,534	119,326
Employee benefits	200,884	137,147
Other liabilities	144,618	255,200
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,186,588	740,479
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Borrowings	130,484	165,711
Lease liabilities	1,167,859	-
Employee benefits	4,576	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,302,919	165,711
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,489,507	906,190
NET ASSETS	2,667,372	3,468,593
EQUITY		
Retained Earning/profit	2,667,372	3,468,593
TOTAL EQUITY	2,667,372	3,468,593

Board Members



LYNLEY MANGIN - Chair

Lynley has been involved with the KYF since 2006 both as a Challenge participant and a volunteer. Since 2009, Lynley has been a youth program group leader and has completed the 96km Kokoda Challenge 15 times. She has also completed the Kokoda Track in PNG multiple times. In 2021, Lynley was elected Chair of the Board. Professionally, Lynley works in IT and facilities management for a global medical indemnity group.

ERIC FLAMMANG - Treasurer

Eric is a chartered accountant with over 15 years' experience in business and taxation advisory and has been working with a wide range of businesses from different industries and non-for-profit organisations. Eric joined the board of KYF in October 2021, after assisting as a volunteer at the Brisbane and Gold Coast Kokoda Challenge events.



SOPHIE HOSKINS - Secretary

Sophie is an original 2005 Kokoda Kid and has been involved with KYF ever since. Sophie has a background in health and education, with interests in working with the community. Sophie is a paramedic with the Queensland Ambulance Service and has qualifications in community service, education, small business management and health science (Hons).

ANGELA DEBNAM - Chief Executive Officer

Angela is an experienced leader in early intervention and crime prevention, known for guiding high-performing teams and delivering evidence-based programs that support young people. As CEO of the Kokoda Youth Foundation, she champions collaboration, resilience, and partnerships, empowering communities and creating sustainable opportunities for youth development across Australia nationwide impact.



DOUG HENDERSON - Founding Director

Doug is a Vietnam Veteran who served as a medic with 6th Battalion RAR in 1966-67. He was wounded in service and medically discharged from the army due to his injuries. Doug has served on the Australian government's National Suicide Prevention Committee and Department of Veterans Affairs National Operations Working party. In 2004, he resigned from his 10-year tenure as a Veterans' Advocate to pursue his interest in Kokoda and supporting young Australians as founder of Kokoda Youth Foundation.

Board Members



BELINDA NORTHAM - Director

Belinda joined the KYF Board in November 2022. As a mother of two young boys, she knows all too well how critical the KYF values are to supporting young Australians in their journey into adulthood. Belinda has been practising as a property and commercial lawyer on the Gold Coast since 2006. She looks forward to using her experience to support the KYF team continue the vital work they do in the community.

MIKE TOBY - Director

Mike's involvement with the KYF began in 2006 via corporate sponsorship assistance. Since then, Mike has completed multiple Kokoda Challenge events as well various volunteer roles. Mike has studied at Monash University and is currently in a Queensland State Operations role focused on preventing corporate loss, risk and improving team capability. He was appointed to the Board in 2022 and is committed to utilising his skills and knowledge to assist the Foundation's strategic goals.



BARRY OLIVER - Director

Barry is a former leader in Finance at the University of Queensland Business School, where he holds an honorary position and continues lecturing in the Bachelor of Commerce program. He is the founder of Unorthodox Therapies Pty Ltd and CEO of Financial and Statistical Consultants Pty Ltd. Since 2020, Barry has volunteered with Lifeline as a Crisis Supporter and Disaster Recovery Team member and serves as Treasurer for Braille House. He brings extensive experience across finance, mental health, and the non-profit sector to the KYF Board.

SUSAN WRIGHT - Director

Susan is an accomplished senior leader whose expertise spans digital transformation and communications, international marketing, brand management, and stakeholder engagement across the public and private sectors, and alongside entrepreneurial business ventures. Her dedication to charitable organisations reflects both her personal values and her strong belief in giving back and fostering positive, lasting change. Susan has completed over seven Kokoda Challenge events and has volunteered as a leader and mentor in the Kokoda Youth Foundation's youth programs. Her profound respect for Australian veterans extends beyond her family connection to the Australian Defence Force. It fuels her commitment to preserving the ANZAC spirit and ensuring these important traditions continue to be honoured and respected by future generations.





♥ **THANKS TO OUR AMAZING SPONSORS**

**THE SPRING WATERMAN
TECHNOLOGY ONE
ANACONDA
SOK IMAGES**

**WILLIAM BUCK
THE SIGNAL GROUP
CSI CLUB SOUTHPORT
FIRST AID ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY**

**GC PHYSIO & SPORTS HEALTH
CITY OF GOLD COAST
ACCOR HOTELS
MACRO MIKE**

THANK YOU

For partnering with Kokoda Youth Foundation!

empowering young people

