

November 4, 2009

Regards to everyone. I have attached a copy of a letter from the TAFTA Board of Directors that is being inserted in all magazines that have just been posted - the November edition (#96) of Textile Fibre Forum magazine. (For purposes of this document, posted on the website, the contents of the insertion, which were on letterhead, are pasted in at the end of the document).

At the recent Board meeting of 1st November, the Board realized there were several areas that needed clarification with TAFTA's membership in general:

(1) It's always good to remind people of what it says in the fine print regarding subscriptions/membership to TAFTA (on page 3 of every issue of the magazine and on subscription forms): *A subscription includes membership in the Australian Forum for Textile Arts, Ltd*

(2) As well, the Board saw an opportunity to stress that Janet De Boer is an employee of the Board and while she's been around forever (well, 23 years as the CEO to be exact), TAFTA is in fact a not-for-profit arts organisation which is owned by its membership and managed by a Board of Directors - and the Board's duty is to safeguard that reality through the annual audit, the legal requirements of ASIC, and through taking full responsibility for its decisions. And it's also good to let people know who is on the current Board, length of a term, etc. etc.

(3) This seemed an ideal opportunity to make the membership aware of itself and its right to monitor the decisions of TAFTA through inviting participation/comments, via the Board of Directors (page 2 of the insert)

(4) Glenys Mann had expressed some concern that people felt the events that she runs are somehow 'TAFTA FORUMS', so this was an opportunity to address that concern and help people understand this is certainly not the case - and to provide some history that may help to clarify.

(5) The letter from the Board was also timely, as Textile Fibre Forum magazine approaches its 100th issue!

(6) Finally, it is hoped the letter will again reassure people that Janet De Boer, the current CEO, is continuing to coordinate the April FORUM in Orange, and to produce the quarterly magazine. And do all the other jobs related to the running of The Australian Forum for Textile Arts, Ltd (TAFTA).

The attached letter was therefore approved for distribution at the Board meeting of 1st November. The next opportunity for the Board to discuss these matters will be the meeting of 13th December, 2009.

Regarding a mail-out to the participants of the Geelong FORUM 2009: Glenys Mann had asked if she could have all names and addresses so she could write to everyone. In line with the Privacy Act, Janet De Boer said she would alert Glenys Mann if the Board instructed her to write to all the participants, and Glenys could provide something to insert in the letter (Glenys confirmed she wanted to provide her contact details so those without computer access, and who might wish to learn more about Fibres Geelong in 2010, would be able to contact her).

Virtually everyone who attended the Geelong FORUM 2009 is in fact a subscriber to Textile Fibre Forum magazine, so they will be able to see Glenys Mann's ad on page 59 of the latest (Nov) issue, #96, and the attached letter from the board draws their attention to this ad, which also has a postal address, phone and fax number. However, if Glenys would like to have a special communication sent to the Geelong FORUM 2009 participants in addition, Janet De Boer can print out the labels and supply the envelopes, if Glenys will pay the postage and provide her insert to Janet. There is certainly no problem about providing this service if it is still wanted.

## **A LETTER from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of TAFTA**

(TAFTA: The Australian Forum for Textile Arts Ltd – a NON-PROFIT Arts Company)

*A subscription to TEXTILE FIBRE FORUM magazine includes membership in TAFTA – which is confirmed on page 3 of each issue of TFF, and on Subscription Forms.*

**So YES, you are a member of TAFTA and your ideas and input are welcomed.**

**Current Board of Directors**, elected for a 2-year term at the AGM of Oct 25, 2008:

Leonie McNally President; Sue Mears Vice-President; Donna Toussaint, Hon. Secretary; Kay Faulkner; Sue Ford; Jude Skeers; Svenja; Martien van Zullen; Sheila Virgo

**Soon it will be 2010 – and TAFTA will celebrate its 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.**

As well, **TEXTILE FIBRE FORUM** magazine will celebrate its **100<sup>th</sup> issue** – which will appear a year from now, as the Nov/Dec issue #100 for 2010.

It seems that many do not know TAFTA is in fact a not-for-profit arts company that has a Board of Directors. **Janet De Boer**, O.A.M. has been CEO for so long (all 23 years of the company's existence) that she is very closely associated with TAFTA's identity. She has worked hard to introduce the Founding Mothers in past issues of Textile Fibre Forum and a short History of TAFTA appears on the website. The actual association that evolved into a company commenced in 1974.

**The Directors of TAFTA wish to take this opportunity to introduce themselves, to clarify some forward planning, and to invite ideas from the Membership. They also hope to encourage new subscriptions, and ideas about *Textile Fibre Forum* magazine.**

In the Subscriber-Only Newsletter that accompanies the enclosed issue (#96 for Nov 2009) you will find the Minutes of the most recent AGM, **an announcement about The Geelong FORUM**, and a reminder that a **Subscriber Drive continues** – your support is welcome, and needed. With Christmas very near, please consider **A Gift of a Subscription** for anyone you know who might appreciate it. Provided with this magazine is a form that you can use to encourage friends to send for a Free Sample Copy, or you can use it to take out a subscription for someone.

**If you want to be emailed a BOOK GIFT VOUCHER FORM**, please contact Janet De Boer: [tafta@iinet.net.au](mailto:tafta@iinet.net.au) A current list of Books sold online is available on [www.ggcreations.com.au/tafta](http://www.ggcreations.com.au/tafta)

**On the other side of this page** you will find more information about changes that TAFTA is undertaking and/or considering. **We'd love to hear from you** and a FAST response would be especially welcome (**by December 11<sup>th</sup> if possible** as the Board meets again on December 13<sup>th</sup>, the last meeting for 2009).

**TAFTA:** *The Australian Forum for Textile Arts Ltd.* The company charter makes it clear that TAFTA's purpose for existing is to promote the textile arts. It is the Board's duty to carefully consider the impact of change, at all times, and to guide and protect TAFTA.

***In seeking comments from the Membership*** (and remember that magazine subscribers are members of TAFTA), the Board of Directors guarantees anonymity. Emails can be directed to Janet De Boer: [tafta@iinet.net.au](mailto:tafta@iinet.net.au) OR TO our Honorary Solicitor: [Paul.Sugden@BusEco.monash.edu.au](mailto:Paul.Sugden@BusEco.monash.edu.au) (Paul Sugden, Berwick Campus, Monash University, PO Box 1071, Narrewarren VIC 3805).

***The Board would love to hear by December 11, 2009 if possible,***  
but would welcome feedback and comments at any time

**ABOUT "GEELONG":** A few months ago Janet De Boer let the Board know that, after ten years of coordinating *The Geelong FORUM* for TAFTA, she could not be available in spring of 2010. *The Geelong FORUM* is what is known as an "Intangible Asset" to TAFTA which has devoted ten years to its creation, and the Board has the option of licensing an individual or group, for a fee, to run *The Geelong FORUM* under TAFTA's name. As the timeframe was short, in releasing information about *Geelong 2010*, and since Glenys Mann had approached TAFTA about running an event at Geelong Grammar School in the spring of 2010, the Board endorsed that arrangement – **see Mannmaid ad, page 59 of issue #96.**

**Finances:** This means that for 2010, a spring event at Geelong Grammar changes to being operated for profit, by an individual (whereas before it was run through TAFTA, a non-profit arts organisation). No sums have been paid to TAFTA in creating this arrangement. Glenys Mann has agreed to offer her

event at a price that applies to TFF subscribers only, with a surcharge to non-subscribers (that surcharge is not paid to TAFTA in lieu of subscriptions).

**Glenys Mann has an excellent team of helpers organized for *Fibres Geelong 2010* and the Board wishes her well.** Glenys Mann served a four-year term as President of the Board of TAFTA, from 2004–2008. During that time she developed a number of forum-like events, some of which were initially auspiced by TAFTA as “Regional FORUMs.” It became clear that this was leading to a conflict of interest, if she remained as TAFTA’s President. **So from 2007 it was Board policy that all events run by Glenys Mann were private enterprise**, run as her own business. To try to reduce any confusion about these developments, the Board Minutes of May 18, 2007 read: ***Both Glenys Mann and Janet De Boer will endeavour to make it clear to people that the official FORUMs of TAFTA are Orange and Geelong – and no others.***

**Your comments on the future are welcome!** (see the ‘box’ above for how to make contact).

It is a serious matter for a company to relinquish a robust activity that it has spent a long time developing, for no remuneration. Assuming Janet De Boer needs to continue with a reduced workload **(and she IS committed to continuing with the magazine, and coordinating the April FORUM in Orange)** – then TAFTA must act in your best interests.

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#### **ABOUT TEXTILE FIBRE FORUM MAGAZINE:**

If you have a look at Paul Sugden’s article on page 11 of the November issue #96 you’ll see that we (the TAFTA Board, and editor Janet De Boer) are beginning to explore additional use of the Internet to help promote the magazine. **This does NOT mean a hard copy edition of the magazine will cease.** The Board is fully committed to continuing Textile Fibre Forum’s legacy as a colour quarterly hard copy magazine.

But there may well be ways that TAFTA’s website, and the Internet, could be better used to promote the magazine and help people become familiar with it. For now the Board is considering ‘taster’ articles on the website; live links to advertisers; perhaps a full back issue available on the website as a ‘free sample copy’. As well we can encourage readers to ‘blog’ on our behalf; to use Facebook to help us become more visible; and perhaps commence emailed newsletters....

TAFTA is also considering purchasing its own domain name – for many years Larry Lutz of “ggcreations” has provided TAFTA with a fantastic service via [www.ggcreations.com.au/tafta](http://www.ggcreations.com.au/tafta) and he is committed to continuing to help us, and can do so, whatever domain name may be selected.

**We know you join the Board in congratulating Janet De Boer, O.A.M. as her 100<sup>th</sup> issue approaches.**

Again, **your comments on the future are welcome!** (See the box at the top of the page for how to make contact

if you would like to convey your thoughts about Textile Fibre Forum magazine). – *From: The Board of TAFTA*