

## **POLICY WORDING FOR TAFTA BOARD for meeting of December 13, 2009, to be discussed as part of STRATEGIC PLANNING, meeting of February 6, 2010.**

*It seems, at present that three main policy areas are being looked at, delineated below, with suggested strategies (for now). A major goal will be increased clarity about the nature of tasks involved, what Board members can logically do to become more engaged, and where additional paid help is possible or indeed, necessary.*

*Additional offers of help continue to arrive from people who understand non-profits, and transitioning, and who are very willing to be **Resources People**. These offers can be taken up in a more definite way, once the Board has had time to consider its policy in more detail.*

### **Issues Suggested strategies in Bullet Points**

#### **(1) To reaffirm & strengthen the notion of TAFTA**

- The Board can become more involved in issuing policy statements for the membership; and in replying to policy questions. This needs to happen in a structured way. Leonie McNally, as President of the Board, has a role to play, and Sue Ford was approached about being a 'Board Intermediary' on a trial basis. That is, she would be a recognised representative of the Board, and any policy questions that may be put to the E.D. can be referred both to Leonie McNally and Sue Ford. The E.D. is always available for consultation and advice (and the history of policy over the years). The contents of replies made by Leonie and/or Sue Ford would be made available to the next relevant Board meeting, although confidentiality will be respected in terms of the source of any questions or comments. *Developed Policy can be posted on the TAFTA website as the Board wills.*
- The meeting of Dec 13<sup>th</sup> is confirmed the "Signature" at end of each email can include reference to TAFTA and its status. (From the agenda: *TAFTA (The Australian Forum For Textiles Arts Ltd) is a non-profit arts organisation, formed in 1987 (Reg. No. 87BO3123K) and limited by guarantee. Registered office: 159 Payne Road, The Gap, Brisbane QLD 4061*) *This email contains information which may be confidential. It is for the use of the intended recipient only. If you are not the intended recipient, please note that any distribution, copying or use of any part of this message, or the information provided is prohibited.*
- Future Transition papers, related to TAFTA's Geelong FORUM in particular, can be issued by the Board when concerned with Policy and by Janet De Boer in the case of operating logistics – these can be posted on the website, in the interests of clarity.
- Ideas in the Agenda: **TAFTA History:** in light of the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> edition of the magazine, and inviting the membership to get to know more about TAFTA, there are a number of ways the website can be used to greater effect. One option is to post articles from early editions of TFF. Also, a review of TAFTA's history could be written in greater detail (with someone paid to research this) and posted on the website – much is documented in the magazine and newsletter over the years. Janet De Boer would like to do the research, time permitting, but this may not be feasible for some time.

#### **Additional Ideas:**

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#### **(2) To decrease dependency on the Executive Director (Janet De Boer) which links with efforts that may need to be made to clarify that while Janet De Boer is intimately linked with the history of TAFTA to date, she is not the same thing as TAFTA. Suggested strategies in Bullet Points**

- More people, and especially the Directors of the TAFTA board can increase their understanding of the current workload, both its extent and content. But the ideal remains to have more paid help for Janet De Boer who would accept a decrease in wages if necessary, to be matched by working fewer hours.
- Opportunities will present (and can be encouraged) for TAFTA to 'partner' more and differently, with various textile organisations, in terms of shared tutor use and/or other activities of TAFTA. Examples: WAFTA (West Australian Fibre Textile Association): FeltWest; FAN (Fibre Artist Network, S.A.); ATASDA, etc.
- The E.D. can be provided some "partners" to assist in certain activities. For example, as Orange 2011 is contracted, Janet could have a 'Board partner' for each tutor, so that all communications with and about a tutor are shared with that 'Board partner'.
- TAFTA's membership could be involved in more partnering – their ideas and feedback would be welcome on many matters – how much the Board can realistically engage others remains a question mark – one possibility is to start with using the Board itself more, with Directors talking to people they may know with special

loyalty to TAFTA and an understanding of the company structure; former Directors could be consulted directly. Also see “Resources People” above.

- Janet De Boer has re-confirmed that she is not available in her traditional role (coordinator) for the Geelong FORUM 2011 but she is able to contract, advise, and facilitate, although tasks will be analysed and outsourced wherever possible. Jude Skeers is willing to be an active resource, with reduced workload.
- More detailed Hire Agreements can be worked out with the two venues: Geelong Grammar and Kinross-Wolaroi School, so that it is easier for an ‘outside’ events manager to slip into a structure.
- Both the 2010 and 2011 April FORUMs in Orange present excellent opportunities for analysing the current Events Management Models created for TAFTA by Janet De Boer – to decrease her role, and even her visibility while still making use of her knowledge and services. See also notes below (Issue #3)

#### ADDITIONAL NOTES

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### **(3) To optimize the assets TAFTA has worked so hard to develop over the years.**

- **The TAFTA FORUMs:** Geelong Grammar School has been booked by TAFTA for spring of 2011 when the 11<sup>th</sup> TAFTA ‘Geelong’ FORUM will take place. As well, spring of 2012 has been booked so that as Events Management assistance is sought (i.e. to be hired), the aim is to involve someone for a 2-year period. **There are many options opening up for improved partnering with Geelong Grammar School** including a review of the hiring process and agreements. As well, the School is very aware that a good cultural event has been brought to them by TAFTA, and would probably be open to talks about ways to expand its impact, and awareness in the wider community. Also, the current model for The Geelong FORUM could be re-considered. Also, as happens in Orange, more ‘local’ textile groups could be featured and celebrated. This event is by no means a closed option.
- To continue to progress the **April FORUM in Orange** (planning almost completed for 2011) and to likewise involve an Events Management Service in 2011. TAFTA has an excellent relationship with the events management team at Kinross-Wolaroi School (Carl Sharpe and Beth Norrie of Quality Sporting Services) who contract on behalf of the school and continue to be open to new ideas.
- **Lisa Wojciechowski**, a former employee of TAFTA, will be available for some casual hours, to assist with the **Task Analysis of Events Management** as currently undertaken through TAFTA. She is very experienced in this area and well qualified to break down tasks and chart them. She has also been invited to Strategic Planning Meetings of the Board of TAFTA, to help track ideas and record them.
- Improvements to the **TAFTA website**, and other ways of communicating are being investigated and pursued. More ideas are to be sought, from the membership and the Board in particular. Also, Paul Goodman, the magazine designer, and Web Master Larry Lutz are very helpful in this area.
- **Textile Fibre Forum magazine** is a good vehicle for spreading awareness of TAFTA and its pursuits on behalf of its members. Whether it can develop further (become larger, more colour, etc) seems doubtful at present but is it hoped it can be maintained as a hard copy quarterly for now, with back-up on the website. Putting a cumulative index on the website will be a great achievement – the goal is to have this done by the end of 2010 as part of the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> issue of Textile Fibre Forum. The Subscriber Newsletter may also have a greater role to play in spreading awareness of TAFTA’s structure and core business.
- **Gallery 159** continues to develop in line with what is manageable, and Janet De Boer has a good collection of weekend staff she can hire; also people to set up exhibitions. Gallery 159 celebrates its 7<sup>th</sup> year of operation in 2010 and has been able to offer a great deal to textile artists and their audiences, at a very reasonable rate.
- **The Bookshop** continues to develop in line with what is manageable, both through online selling and at the gallery premises; also limited selling at other events (e.g. ATASDA quarterly meetings). Again, this is an area where Janet De Boer has found it fairly easy to get back-up support when selling is active in particular
- **TAFTA’s Resources area**, housed at Gallery 159: Casual employee, Maddie Daly has taken a great interest in cataloguing this area and tracking the various books (there are many high quality and/or hard to come by publications in the Resources area). Some amount of loaning is now possible for members of ATASDA, and 2QAQ. It is always best to test ‘borrowing’ in a gradual manner, and that is what is being done. But even the risk of losing a book or two seems worth taking, if it means the Resources are used and enjoyed. And it makes TAFTA more accessible.

#### ADDITIONAL NOTES

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