

TANIA DE JONG AM

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Leading Australian soprano, social entrepreneur, keynote speaker and expert on leadership, creativity and innovation

Current

- Tania is the Founder and Chair of charity Creativity Australia (since November 2008) which delivers fifteen *With One Voice* social inclusion/community wellbeing choir programs in Victoria and NSW. By inspiring people to find their voice these programs are achieving transformational outcomes including improved wellbeing, networks, skills, mentoring and employment. Named Anthill Top 20 Innovation 2013. www.creativityaustralia.org.au
- Tania is the Founder of Creative Universe and Inspiring Minds (since 2009) which brings greater creative leadership, innovation and wellbeing into organizations and restores a sense of meaning and purpose into work and life. She has developed a number of customised leadership programs to bring organizations and teams together and to build a culture of innovation. Clients include David Jones, AON, BHP, Telstra, ANZ, Veolia, La Trobe University and PwC. www.creativeuniverse.com.au
- Tania is the Founder and Executive Producer of Creative Innovation Global and Creative Innovation 2010-2013, ground-breaking global conference events featuring world class innovators, leaders and thinkers. The events are unique in style and address the challenges and opportunities we are facing offering implementable strategies and inspiring change. They attract leaders and emerging leaders across sectors. www.creativeinnovationglobal.com.au
- Founder and Artistic Director singing group Pot-Pourri since 1987. Employs 5 leading Australian classical performers, crew and administrative staff. The group performs all over Australia and has toured overseas on 40 occasions and released 7 CDs. Celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2012 with new release "Silver". www.pot-pourri.com.au
- Tania is the Founder and Managing Director of Music Theatre Australia (since 1996) event and entertainment company booking over 2,000 of Australia's most outstanding performers, groups, speakers and workshops for over 600 events annually to over 500,000 people in a huge variety of venues. www.musictheatreaustralia.com.au
- Tania is the Founder of The Song Room (founded 1999) which has brought a creative education to over 300,000 children in disadvantaged schools and communities around Australia. TSR employs over 100 staff and is currently delivering 250 long-term programs in schools around the country. (Tania is not currently involved in the day-to-day running of this organisation.) www.songroom.org.au

Education

- Bachelor of Law with Honours, University of Melbourne 1988 (Finished top 10)
- Associate Diploma of Arts (Opera/Music Theatre), Victorian College of the Arts 1989
- Postgraduate Diploma (Opera/Voice), Victorian College of the Arts 1991
- Diploma of Acting and Movement for Singers, National Theatre Drama School
- Completed Italian language course at Istituto Europeo in Florence
- Attended an American university on a tennis scholarship
- Completed H.S.C. at Korowa Anglican Girls School. Winner Amy Paterson Memorial Scholarship in recognition of academic excellence and valuable contribution to school life.

Awards

- Brainlink Woman of Achievement 2009
- Appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in June 2008 for service to the arts as a performer and entrepreneur and through the establishment and development of music and arts enrichment programs for schools and communities
- Pot-Pourri was named 2008 Australian Event Entertainer of the Year (BT Awards).
- Inducted into the Australian Graduate School of Entrepreneurship Entrepreneurs Hall of Fame 2007 (Swinburne University)
- Australian Social Entrepreneur of the Year, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards 2006
- Winner Accessibility Award 2005, City of Melbourne Awards for founding The Song Room
- Finalist in the Telstra Business Women's Awards
- Awarded the Major Outstanding Individual Contribution to Australian Culture 1998 (Centre for Australian Cultural Studies) - National award
- Dame Roma Mitchell Winston Churchill Fellowship for overseas study - study and research in U.K., France, Austria to observe arts companies and for advanced vocal study.
- Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Grant for advanced vocal training in San Francisco, U.S.A.
- Winner Victorian Career Achiever of the Year in Young Achiever Awards.
- Studied singing and Italian in Europe, Italian Government Scholarship and Ian Potter Foundation Grant
- Winner Bendigo, Mordialloc, Waverley Arias; runner-up Ringwood Aria, finalist National Liederfest. Winner Melba Scholarships for singing tuition at Melba Conservatorium.
- Winner Dwight's Law Prize for a Major Research Work at University of Melbourne

Activities and Memberships

- **Chair** Creativity Australia (since 2008)
- **Advisory Board**, Masters of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Swinburne University
- Served on the **Board** of Child Abuse Prevention and Research Australia for 3 years
- **Member** Order of Australia Association, Women Chiefs of Enterprise and Industry, Meeting Industry of Australia, Melbourne Convention and Marketing Bureau, International Special Events Society (ISES), VECCI, Winston Churchill Memorial Trust
- **Keynote speaker** for a range of organisations including AIM, CEDA, AICD, International Confederation of Principals, Mind & Its Potential, Australian Positive Psychology Conference, Melbourne Business School, Australian Centre for Educational Leadership National Conference, Mental Health Foundation of Australia, VECCI, Deakin University, Rotary and major corporations incl. ANZ, BHP, AON, Veolia, David Jones, PwC etc.
- Guest **blogger** for Westpac – The Ruby Connection and writes for various magazines and online about creative leadership, innovation, tourism, entertainment, education etc.
- Previously on Advisory Board of RMIT course, Bachelor of Business (Entrepreneurship)
- Had private singing teaching practice and taught for the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Presents vocal/harmony workshops to singers and executives to help "Find and Free their Natural Voice". Adjudicate music competitions and awards.
- Early in career promotion and publicity work for Australian Sports Camps. Tennis coach for Australian Sports Camps and National Tennis Centre.
- Secretary of the Melbourne University Law Review 1986-1988

Interests include music, theatre, tennis, yoga, nature, cooking, travelling, meeting people, leadership, wellbeing, reading, performing and writing.

Studied piano for eight years, speaks some Dutch, French, Italian and German.

Trivia: Tania's grandmother Slawa Duldig invented the first foldable umbrella in Vienna in 1929.

Referees:

Hugh Morgan AC (03) 9620 9071

Dr Alan Finkel AM (03) 9829 0400

Peter Hunt AM 0419 271 483

Brief Summary

Tania de Jong AM is a leading Australian soprano, social entrepreneur, innovation catalyst and international keynote speaker on leadership, creativity and innovation. She founded Creativity Australia and Creative Universe and works with disadvantaged communities through the 'With One Voice' choir social inclusion programs. Tania presents keynote speeches and leadership programs and performs internationally with her group Pot-Pourri who have toured overseas on over 40 occasions and released 7 CDs. She is Founder of Music Theatre Australia Entertainment & Events. She is also Founder and Executive Producer of Creative Innovation Global presenting the acclaimed Ci2010, Ci2011 and ci2012 conference events.

She has a Bachelor of Law (Honours) from the University of Melbourne and is a graduate of Victorian College of the Arts. She was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in June 2008 for service to the arts as a performer and entrepreneur and through the establishment and development of music and arts enrichment programs for schools and communities.

Through her work, Tania has received numerous awards including Ernst and Young Australian Social Entrepreneur of the Year as Founder of The Song Room, A Churchill Fellowship and was named Brainlink Woman of Achievement in 2009. She was a Finalist in the Telstra Business Women's Awards and was inducted into the AGSE Entrepreneurs Hall of Fame at Swinburne University.

(Trivia: She attended college in the USA on a tennis scholarship and her grandmother Slawa Duldig invented the first foldable umbrella in Vienna in 1929.)