

TANIA DE JONG AM

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

Current

- Tania is the Founder and Chair of charity Creativity Australia (since November 2008) which delivers twenty *With One Voice* social inclusion/community wellbeing choir programs in 5 States expanding to 40 nationally by the end of 2020. By inspiring people to find their voice these programs are achieving transformational outcomes including alleviating loneliness, social isolation and depression and improved wellbeing, networks, skills, mentoring and employment. Named Anthill Top 100 Innovation 2013-2017. 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 2010-2017, 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 30th Anniversary and released new album, "Silver". www.pot-pourri.com.au
- Tania is the co-Founder of MTA Entertainment & Events (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 500,000 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
- Tania released her first solo album titled '*Heaven on Earth*' in 2015. Working with acclaimed pianist, composer and arranger Joe Chindamo this album features some of the most heavenly music ever written. In 2017 Tania released her second album '*Flying Free*', which is a classical crossover recording collaborating with the virtuosic genius of pianist, composer and arranger Anthony Barnhill and a range of other Australian musicians.

Education

- 2014 Graduate of Singularity University's Executive Leadership Program in exponential technologies and innovation. This immersive course in Silicon Valley that examines how key converging technologies will shape our future and explores ethical leadership in a world of rapid change.
- 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

- Creative Innovation Global ranked in the Top 20 event organizers and agencies from around the world as part of the newly released Eventex All-Stars Index 2018
- Creativity Australia honoured with the Melbourne Award for Contribution to the City of Melbourne by a community organisation 2016
- Creativity Australia's *With One Voice* program named as one of the top social innovation organisations in Australia for 5 straight years 2013-2017.
- Finalist in the Westpac Community Leaders Award as Social Entrepreneur and Finalist in the Melbourne Awards 2015
- Creative Innovation 2015 Asia Pacific named Corporate Event of the Year in the Global Eventex Awards.
- Creative Innovation 2015 Asia Pacific named Australian Corporate Event of the Year and in the Anthill SMART 100.
- Creative Innovation 2013 Asia Pacific named Corporate Event of the Year in the Global Eventex 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), Winston Churchill Memorial Trust
- **Keynote speaker** for a range of organisations including TED Talks, European Business Forum, International Society of Innovation Professionals, 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, Deakin University, Rotary and major corporations incl. ANZ, AGL, BHP, BCG, McKinsey, AON, Veolia, Woodside, Transurban, 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 (nee Horowitz) invented the first foldable umbrella in Vienna in 1929.

Referees:

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