

THE AUSTRALIAN CERAMICS ASSOCIATION: AN OVERVIEW

OCTOBER 2018

- The Australian Ceramics Association (TACA) is the peak national ceramics organisation in Australia.
- It started in in 1956 in Sydney as the Potters Society of NSW, soon after becoming the Potters Society of Australia.
- It currently has approx. 1200 members.
- It is a not-for-profit company and receives no government funding.
- TACA has 3 part-time staff, including the Executive Officer, working from a rented office at Square One Studios in Alexandria, Sydney. We have been there since August 2015, after a fire destroyed TACA office in May 2015.
- We have 7 voluntary Board Directors, from different parts of Australia.

AIMS

- To foster a lively and engaged ceramics community throughout Australia
- To publish The Journal of Australian Ceramics (JAC) – print and online
- To support ceramic artists in their studio practice
- To advocate for, and promote, excellence in ceramic education and training
- To provide opportunities for the public to recognise, experience and value ceramics in their daily lives

MEMBERSHIP

- We welcome anyone to become a member whether student, emerging, mid or late career, old style or disruptive style practitioners
- We welcome anyone to become a member who wishes to connect with the broader Australian ceramics community

ACTIVITIES

- We publish The JAC three times a year and we welcome submissions from anyone.
- We offer liability insurance packages for members, tailored to suit ceramic artists. This enables insured members to hire spaces, do markets, teach in their studios and to open their studio to the public.
- We publish Touch Clay Weekly, an online update of exhibitions, events, workshops, and anything ceramics-focused around Australia, as a weekly email to all members.
- We hold an annual, national event, Australian Ceramics Open Studios, in August each year.
- We have two extensive websites, australianceramics.com (information about TACA, JAC and everything we do) and australianceramicscommunity.com (a directory of makers, suppliers, societies, educational institutions, galleries and everything ceramic).
- In July 2018, we launched Australian Ceramics Online Masterclasses, providing access to skills-based learning from anywhere in Australia.
- Every 2 years we put on a major exhibition, in which only members may apply. Historically we have held these at Manly Art Gallery & Museum, but more recently at The Australian Ceramics Triennale conference.
- We have a very active social media presence. On Instagram we run @australianceramics account with a growing international and national following of over 45,000.

- On Facebook we have a Page (The Australian Ceramics Association) and a Group, (Australian Ceramics Forum) for discussion, support and advice.
- This year we are trialling a 'Launch of The JAC' event around Australia, the aim being to connect and engage with ceramic communities outside of Sydney. Activities include local artist demonstrations, panel discussion and talks by artists featured in the latest journal.

TACA AND THE AUSTRALIAN CERAMICS TRIENNALE

- TACA advocates for and supports holding The Australian Ceramics Triennale (TACT), a not-for-profit, national conference held approximately every three years. It moves around Australia and is coordinated and run by the local ceramics community in that area.
- To help communities run this event TACA has set up a not-for-profit company called the Australian Ceramics Triennale Limited (ACT Ltd). This provides an ongoing legal entity under which to run the event.
- TACA helps facilitate the local community organisers through the Board of The ACT Ltd, offering support, advice and mentorship. TACA is the only member of ACT Ltd and holds a majority of the Board positions.
- TACA manages a seed fund for upcoming Triennale events. This fund was passed to TACA after the success of the NSW Triennale in 2009.

ROLE OF THE TACA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Please see [TACA Constitution](#) for a full description.
- The board must have at least 3 and no more than 7 Directors, and a Secretary.
- The Directors elect a President, Secretary and Auditor at the AGM. The EO is usually the Secretary.
- The board meets every 6-8 weeks in the Sydney office for a 3-hour meeting.
- The board is responsible for managing and directing the activities of TACA to achieve its aims.
- The board decides on responsible financial management of TACA.
- The directors must act in good faith in the best interests of TACA, not disclose or misuse information and must disclose any conflict of interest, excluding oneself (if necessary) from decision making in such matters.
- Board directors may propose projects and activities at any time – a Project Proposal template has been prepared to clarify aims/costs etc.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE DIRECTORS

- to know and understand TACA
- to engage with and support TACA events and activities
- to regularly touch base with the Executive Officer and to support her and the staff in their work to achieve TACA aims
- to have good communication skills and commitment to participate in planning and decision making during and between meetings
- to share the workload of arising business, such as researching, drafting proposals and letters and taking on special tasks
- to contribute ideas and effort

Compiled by Dr. Cathy Franzi (President) and Vicki Grima (TACA Executive Officer), 14 October 2018