



The all-inclusive Greater Dandenong Sings choir in action.

Choir inspires harmony

A COMMUNITY choir, in which executives and the unemployed sing together, has just started in Noble Park.

The Creativity Australia program aims to bring different groups together where employers can befriend and mentor those who are disadvantaged and unemployed.

Program co-ordinator Pippa Wischer said the first Greater Dandenong Sings choir last week drew more than 40 people and was

An innovative project has people from all walks of life coming together to sing, as **Marion Joseph** reports

a great success.

"Some of the choir members came from the community, and others came from business," Ms Wischer said.

"Often newcomers are colleagues and friends of existing choir members, but people come along after they see the choirs

perform and get inspired to join in because it looks like so much fun."

She said the choir was all-inclusive.

"No one is excluded and there are no auditions. It is about bringing the community together so everyone is welcome.

"We are working on providing a

playgroup for children to encourage parents to come along and sing with us."

There are two other community choirs in Melbourne and Geelong, with others planned for Maribyrnong and Sunshine.

Ms Wischer said she hoped residents of Greater Dandenong

felt more creative and energised after joining the group.

"There have been well-documented studies which show that singing in groups increases connection between people, reduces isolation and depression . . . and they're all good things."

The choir sings on Wednesday, 5.15-6.30pm at the Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18-34 Buckley St, Noble Park.

Details: creativityaustralia.org.au or phone Pippa on 9682 9686.