

# All voices welcome in choir

ELLE WINSLOW

GEELONG is set to be entertained with the voices of local businesses, migrants and the disadvantaged in the area coming together to sing for well-being.

Following the success of its flagship choir, Melbourne Sings, Creative Australia is bringing its successful "With One Voice" choir initiative to Geelong.

"The current Melbourne choir unites 12 nations of people aged 16 to 25 which include chairmen of companies, people in wheelchairs, students, there are no barriers to access which is something that is important to us," Creativity Australia founder Tania De Jong said.

The initiative aims at providing networking and employment pathways for those currently unable to find work due to circumstance.

"The choirs bring together not only employees but marginalised groups,



**UNITED VOICE:** The Melbourne Sings choir involves singers from 12 nationalities.

new migrants, people with a disability, people whom it's more difficult to get a job. By being in a program with people who do have jobs these people build networks, confidence and skills," Ms De Jong said.

The choir is already booked to perform in the coming months at various locations around Geelong including corporate events

and local hospitals, and Creative Australia hopes to recreate the success they have already witnessed with their Melbourne choir.

"The great thing about smaller cities outside of Melbourne is that the community is a little more integrated already.

"There are so many people who wanted to

help when we put the idea out about Geelong Sings.

"We got a really positive response from community and corporate groups. It's going to be a great partnership and hopefully they can all bring something to one another."

The choir will rehearse weekly, beginning on Monday, and has 50 members.