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Choir offers voice of hope

ALEX WHITE

A SIMPLE tune could be the key to helping the less fortunate residents in Geelong, according to an Australian singer.

Soprano Tania de Jong AM, founder of the Geelong Sings choir, is looking to double the number of singers involved in the group in the next 12 months.

The choir has already collected 30 members, who come together to sing, as well as chat, network and develop new communication with an eclectic group of people on a weekly basis.



IN FINE VOICE: Singer Tania de Jong and conductor Kym Dillon launch Geelong Sings choir yesterday. Photo: ALISON WYND

Ms de Jong said the choir encouraged diversity and more residents needed to get involved.

“It is about sharing

skill and giving people a pathway to jobs,” Ms de Jong said. “It is not about being a good singer, it is very uplifting with world

music and world songs.”

Geelong student Kym Dillon, who studies at the Victorian College of Arts, was chosen to conduct the choir.

The group will sing a range of music styles including African gospel, Australian songs and some well known favourites including *Amazing Grace* and *You'll Never Walk Alone*.

The group plans to perform at the Pako Festival and entertain patients at the Geelong Hospital.

For more details visit www.creativity-australia.org.au