

UP FRONT | NEWS

RANEWS

10 minutes

with Tania de Jong

Tania de Jong is a leading entrepreneur and speaker, a globally recognised soprano and the founder and executive producer of Creativity Australia. Its innovative With One Voice program brings together amateur singers of all ages and backgrounds. With One Voice celebrates its 10th anniversary with a choir performance on Sunday 2 December at the Melbourne Town Hall. creativityaustralia.org.au



When my group Pot-Pourri started shows for school children who did not have access to live, high quality music performances, I instantly saw the transformational effects on their attention, wellbeing and sense of belonging.

Q: Your grandfather was a sculptor, your grandmother created the folding umbrella, your mother was a tennis player... where did your singing talent originate?

I believe it came from this amazing mix of creativity. My grandmother's inventiveness, my grandfather's artistry, my mother's sporting and literary prowess and my father's business acumen... plus he played violin and has a lovely singing voice.

Q: Where did you learn/train to sing? I studied voice, opera and music theatre at the Victorian College of the Arts. I was also fortunate to train in Australia and overseas. I still have vocal coaching sessions. Singing improves with age – like a fine red wine.

Q: When did you first understand the power of music to change lives?

Q: How does With One Voice change lives? Through our choirs we build happier, healthier, more inclusive communities. We bridge the gap between people experiencing disadvantage and those more fortunate.

Q: Why does music have the power to create social change? Neuroscience proves that singing makes people happier, healthier, smarter and more creative. It improves memory, language and concentration.

Q: Why do so many of us think we can't sing? There is a taboo about speaking or singing in public, we think that people will judge us or make fun of us. Yet we were all given a voice to tune in and to express ourselves. When we sing together, we breathe together, and a recent study actually showed that our hearts start beating together. Singing is a super-doooper wonder drug.

MADE IN VICTORIA



FEARSOME CREATURES

Creature Technology Co creates some of the world's most incredible animatronic characters for movies, live shows and events from its Port Melbourne warehouse. The company was started in 2006 by Gerry Ryan (founder and chairman of Jayco) and Sonny Tilders, who oversaw the design and build of the dinosaurs for the Walking with Dinosaurs – The Arena Spectacular in 2007. The show has been seen by nine million people in 250 cities and is on a worldwide farewell tour. Creature Technology Co created the King Kong animatronic figure for the Universal Orlando Resort theme park attraction, Skull Island: Reign of Kong and the dinosaurs for Jurassic World: The Exhibition, now touring Europe. It also built and designed the six-metre Kong puppet for the musical King Kong, which opened on Broadway in New York City this month. creaturetechnology.com

OUT & ABOUT

Did you know?

There is a 575-hectare archaeological treasure trove just an hour from Melbourne.

The Werribee Gorge State Park was home to Indigenous people for thousands of years and they maintain their ancestral connection. The Werribee River runs through the 300-metre deep gorge, which offers spectacular views, popular bush walks and nature in abundance. parkweb.vic.gov.au

