

OUR PATRONS

"Creativity is important...in every aspect of society whether it's business or Government or civil society. It's undervalued in our society, creativity."

Professor Alan Fels AO

"Tania has brought it to the football clubs, the businesses, Government departments. Different groups of people find a common interest that actually loosens up the relationship within any small public group to enable this creativity to take place. I think it's fantastic what she's done."

Hugh Morgan AC

"Initiatives like the With One Voice program are essential in developing strong, connected and resilient neighbourhoods and building community wellbeing, skills and employment."

Lady Marigold Southey AC

"Tania is almost inspiring person and I think you all realise she is so creative herself that she inspires us to make an effort to be creative; all of us."

The Late Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC, DBE



Creativity Australia inspires people to find their voice. We deliver inclusive, creative programs that result in positive social and economic outcomes for individuals, organisations and communities.

"Something happened at the Sandown Raceway concert last week – I let go of my fears, inhibitions, self consciousness; and the child within me came to the forefront.

I thought "wow, I can sing, I am doing alright, I am part of a large choir", and my confidence kept growing. I felt on top of the world. I knew I could sing but I lacked the confidence to sing out loud.

Marie Wright, after Greater Dandenong Sings' first public performance



"The choir is an escape for me. To open my heart, to be relaxed, happy and forget about all the problems.

Nathalie, from Cameroon, a member of With One Voice Melbourne

"Thank you Tania, for the opportunity to fulfill a dream I have had since I was 11, and was deemed not suitable for the school choir."

Chris, Geelong Sings

I have been thinking about human emotions in cultural diversity and how all the emotions are here in a single choir. The beauty of singing is that it lifts you up and keeps you going."

Abrar (Afghani refugee), Melbourne Sings

"I always regard singing as a way to express your feeling because people say that your voice is the reflection of your soul. Every time I come I sing very happily. [We] open our hearts and make friends. [It] makes your life rich and also this is a means for us to mix together with Australian society which is very important."

Diana (China), Melbourne Sings

"The choir is a big part of my life - they are like family to me, and are always so encouraging and helpful. I was given the opportunity to sing a solo in the choir, and they helped me believe that I could do it.

Thilini (Sri Lanka), Greater Dandenong Sings

"At Christmas Island at the detention centre, with my friends I was always singing. We believe a tradition in West Papua if we keep singing ... all our prayers will be answered. It makes everyone happy. We're not just laughing. It expresses from the heart through the body. It makes everyone come together."

Adolf (refugee from West Papua), Melbourne Sings



CONTACT US

(03) 8679 6088 (Melbourne) / (02) 8005 7924 (Sydney)
enquiries@cal.org.au / www.creativityaustralia.org.au



"Hope you have received many congratulations on the lovely evening that was the gala dinner at the Sofitel. We all loved it and I am confident anyone who knows any of us, knows about Melbourne Sings."

Thanks for your vision, energy and creativity which, as one of my friends wrote, has given Beth the experience of inclusion, friendship, independence, respect and an opportunity to practice and perform – it is to be celebrated on all levels."

Rhonda Deed

"I have been a member of the Royal Children's Hospital Creativity Australia choir since its commencement. I have worked at the hospital in fundraising for a couple of years and really love my job, however the choir also provides me with an added incentive to come in to work on a Monday with our practice something to look forward to."

As a complete beginner singer I have very much enjoyed the opportunity to learn a new skill. I had no prior musical ability and clearly no talent, I was even reluctant to sing in the shower because of the risk to shattering all the glass around me."

However, I love the opportunity to sing in a group and I think this has been a great initiative of the hospital and I recommend it to other organisations."

Fiona Ballantyne, Trusts and Foundations Manager,
The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation

"They stand up for you when you're in trouble, they can help you. Or when you need to apply for a job."

Sarah (former Sudanese refugee),
Greater Dandenong Sings

"I always loved singing, especially in choirs, because of the interactions between different parts. I just love it. This choir unites a special spirit that uplifts and motivates. I really like that feeling of being around positive people."

Lu (international student from China), Melbourne Sings

"The choir is an escape for me. To open my heart, to be relaxed, happy and forget about all the problems."

"When I got my job interview to prepare they gave me a hand to improve my confidence and to take that step it was really hard for me. I was so nervous, so emotional. I couldn't believe I would have a job. Then I have the job. I say thanks to BSL, thanks to ANZ who recruited me and most importantly thanks to Tania [de Jong] for her support and all of the members of the choir."

Nathalie, (Cameroon), Melbourne Sings

"I was looking for peace elsewhere, I couldn't find it. Once I joined this choir I have peace of mind."

Sarojini, Greater Dandenong Sings

"There is nothing like singing together with 300 other voices. It helps you connect to something much bigger than yourself!"

Christine from With One Voice Altona Meadows

"It is the highlight of my week!"
Angela, member of With One Voice Sydney

"I didn't know it was here. It's cost me virtually nothing, and yet it's given me a new dimension in my life completely – as it has the rest of us. You can't buy that."

Gerard (lawyer), Greater Dandenong Sings

"Everyone was just singing freely. Everyone does sing well because I think they're singing for the joy of it and that's fun."

Jo (Victoria Police), Melbourne Sings



"I come from Jakarta. I moved to Melbourne four months ago with a transfer for work. It's never easy to move to a new place, with a different culture, especially when you're a single girl wearing a headscarf in a secular country. It was Peter from work who told me about this choir. Actually, he was underestimating this choir because it's far more than what he told me. I hear; I see people who despite their nationalities, their religions, their gender, their races, we sing, we have fun, we love each other and we have these precious moments and that's really good. I don't feel so much like I'm alone in Melbourne any more. I wake up happy every Tuesday morning knowing I have this rehearsal. I know it's silly but that's the fact!"

Elok (Indonesia), Melbourne Sings

"Joy. The difference. The openness and the complete acceptance of whatever your voice is, however you look, whatever background you come from. Everyone just opens their heart and says 'Let's have fun'. Sing it up. Learn from each other. It's only an hour but it's one of the most joyful moments of my week."

Peter Kronborg (Creativity Australia Deputy Chair), Melbourne Sings

"It was a great end to an inspiring day"

Breakthrough Conference on Women, Faith & Poverty for the Greenstone Group

"I was a new graduate with not much working experience in Australia, and pretty worried about how to get my first job here. I applied for so many jobs, without success.

Just when I was wondering and hesitating, I received an email from Creativity Australia telling me there was a job opportunity advertised by a member in choir in their company. I applied for it but did not expect much at first. After two weeks, I got a telephone interview from that company.

When talking about my interest during the second round interview, the interviewer and I found that we were both choir members!

Then we talked a lot and he began to understand the difficulties that an overseas student faced in job hunting, and said he would like to help me and provide me an opportunity to prove myself. So, I got the job!

I have to say it is you and the choir that gives me chances to get to know so many nice people. I sincerely appreciate all your help in the choir, which has not only brought us a happy, harmonious and passionate atmosphere which can relieve us from stressful work and study, but also provided us many good job opportunities that are just so helpful!

I really feel honoured and lucky to join this choir, thank you very much!"

Hui (Cherry), Melbourne Sings

"We are extraordinarily pleased with the numbers to date and the success of the Choir. It has worked better than we had anticipated and the benefits to those involved are clear.

For staff doing incredibly difficult, taxing and at times quite sad work it has been a wonderful opportunity to do something uplifting and positive with others involved in the service, it has resulted in greater awareness of different parts of our Orygen Youth Health communities work and experiences too amongst all the participants."

[Orygen Youth Health on their Mind over Music choir program](#)

"I have downloaded the songs and am now practising them in the car... Not bad for someone who thought they couldn't sing."

Orygen Youth Health

PERFORMANCES

"I am elated by the beauty of this uplifting of voices and the bond of choir and audience. I came not knowing what to expect. What I received I cannot express only thank you. I hope to be on that stage next year surrounded with love and light."

[Dianne](#)

"Melbourne Sings Choir was inspiring and a perfect ending to a very successful night."

[Diversity@Work Awards](#)

"Tania de Jong and her Melbourne Sings Choir played a wonderful part of our event. They struck at the core of what it means to embrace diversity, the innate creativity in all of us and the power of collective energy to create positive change. Their voices and enthusiasm opened hearts and inspired us all."

[Taren Hocking, Director SWB](#)

"On 9th October at the opening of the Australasian Integrative Medicine Association Annual Holistic Health Conference, we were privileged to open this conference with the wonderful Royal Children's Hospital Choir. It was most appropriate to have this great initiative of the hospital involving their staff from many departments come together in such skillful harmony, to perform at our Conference with its emphasis on health and wellness.

The choir sang beautifully and with such passion and joy. The feedback from our delegates was excellent and they appreciated the conference opening on such a high note! Many thanks to Shaun Islip and Tania de Jong from Creativity Australia for organizing this."

[Anna Ryan, AIMA](#)

"Melbourne Sings performed at the Opening Ceremony of the 2009 Social Enterprise World Forum. They were incredibly enthusiastic and performed an uplifting song that soon had the audience clapping along. Well done for all involved for a spirited performance!"

[Claire Kearney, Social Ventures Australia](#)

inspiring beyond words... my soul lifted to a celestial level! Loved the afternoon and will be back for more."

[James](#)



CONTACT US

(03) 8679 6088 (Melbourne) / (02) 8005 7924 (Sydney)
enquiries@cal.org.au / www.creativityaustralia.org.au