



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Voices in Harmony strengthens stroke sufferers

A free six week singing workshop, Voices in Harmony, is being offered by Volunteering Gold Coast Arts and Entertainment starting the week beginning April 12 to members of the Gold Coast community who are 50 years and over.

Voices in Harmony will run from 10:00am to midday by the Musical Director of the Surfers Paradise Catholic Church Choir, Jeanette Koorey who is a lyricist, composer and conductor.

Volunteering Gold Coast Events and Bookings Officer, June Eadie believes this will be a great way for the more mature community members to rediscover their singing skills.

“This really is a fantastic opportunity for those community members who have a love for singing to dust off their vocal chords and to rediscover themselves through their singing abilities,” she said.

“We also encourage those who join to meet new people over the free morning tea provided, to make new friends, and reap the benefits of singing which include improved vocabulary and grammar as well as neurological improvement,” Ms. Eadie said.

Incidentally, a recent study conducted by Gottfried Schlaug, an associated professor of neurology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre and Harvard Medical School, found that patients who suffered a stroke on the left side of the brain are unable to speak words however are often able to sing them.

The therapy used on those patients is known as Music Intonation Therapy (MIT) which Dr Schlaug says that in the US alone would potentially help 70,000 non-verbal stroke victims to retrieve their ability to speak through song.

“The link which Dr. Schlaug found between stroke patients and singing is very interesting and just goes to show how important singing is for the mind,” Ms. Eadie said.

Applications close on April 9, 2010. For more information or to apply call Volunteering Gold Coast on 5526 2811 or email June Eadie at performance@vgcvs.org.au .

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