

Multi-arts Women's Day event first for Gold Coast

A LARGE group of inspiring south-east Queensland artists and musicians will come together to celebrate the inaugural 'Advanced Women = Advanced Society' International Women's Day (IWD) event in Isle of Capri on March 13.

The free event from 11am to 4pm will combine a Womanhood art exhibition by 14 visual artists, gypsy dancing, live music, speakers, market and food stalls and a 'She Says...' calendar in the first event of its kind on the Gold Coast.

Sponsored by the Queensland Government, as part of the inaugural Queensland Women's Week from March 7 to 13, it is the start of what is planned to be an annual event.

It is the brain-child of Nasrin Vaziri, co-ordinator of the multi-arts group GC MAGIC, which has delivered 10 major projects on the Gold Coast since it started in 2000.

Among them was the book, CD and video project Lullabies in 2012, which was translated into 24 languages; Undulating – a book about migrant seniors on the Gold Coast, in 2008 and the Children of War book in 2013, about people who had survived war in their childhood.

The 'She Says...' calendar will feature 12 successful local women including visual artist Sara Irannejad, fashion designer Kimya Mianji, First Nations artist Glennys Briggs, author Diane Demetre, wildlife fashion designer Ro London, violinist Rojan Ashtari, sociologist and community worker Nasrin Vaziri, photojournalist/ Animal Action events founder Aldwyn Altuney, community worker Momo Hirano, empowering women's coach Michelle Patterson, Two's Company founder Tracey Korman and jewellery designer Maria Byrne.

The artists in the Womanhood exhibition include Sue Pearson, Tarlan Ghasemi, Helen Holms, Linda Murray, Hengameh Shamlou, Louisa Liussi and Atousa Salehi.

Live performances will be happening throughout the event, including Middle Eastern and Spanish inspired dance and music, flamenco, country music and Bollywood dance and story telling.

Mrs Vaziri said IWD was a time when people globally celebrated the strength of women and borders were broken down among nations.

"It is a day when we all come together to celebrate women – their strength, courage, power and leadership," Mrs Vaziri said.

"What we have on the Gold Coast is a sample of who we are and how strong we are as women and what we have contributed to society, families, business and the community."

IWD is celebrated globally on March 8 however events and activities will be held across Queensland for a whole week to celebrate the economic, political and social achievements of women in the past, present and future.

The theme for Queensland Women's Week is: "Good for her. Great for us. When women achieve, Queensland succeeds." It celebrates women's achievements and acknowledges that supporting and enabling women to take advantage of opportunities to succeed is good for everyone in Queensland.

The 'Advanced Women = Advanced Society' IWD event will be held at One Arts, corner of Via Roma and Verona Avenue, Isle of Capri on March 13 from 11am to 4pm. Entry is free.

For more details, call Nasrin on 0434 932 537 or visit www.gcmagic.org.au