

The Tasmanian Youth Story

People used to be embarrassed to say they were Tasmanian. But things have changed. Today's young Tasmanians may be the first to grow up proud of this place.

While previous generations of Tasmanians felt looked down upon and mocked by mainlanders as behind the times and backward, our State's many wonderful qualities are now being recognised and appreciated on a national and global scale. It makes us proud to see Tasmania's accomplishments recognised, even if we didn't personally achieve them.

But it's not just what others find special about this place. It's the personal things, even the secrets, that connect us to these islands and to each other. Our spots in the wilderness, our local hangouts, our laid-back way of life and, most of all, our distinctly Tasmanian experiences – we all know the first thing we do when we get our P's.

Our feeling of connection isn't just about the places and our experiences. It's also about the people and our communities. Tasmania is a place where it feels like everyone knows everyone, where we look each other in the eye and greet each other on the street. It's a place where an entire community will rally around and offer support during hard times.

But that doesn't mean being a young Tasmanian is easy. There is a lot working against us, hindering our chances at becoming independent and thriving. The issues with housing, employment, mental health and the cost of living aren't unique to us, but they're made more challenging here by Tasmania's geographic location, sparse population, and transport challenges.

Frustrated Tasmanians in previous generations would simply leave for good. Our generation doesn't feel that way. We're curious about the opportunities beyond our shores, but we feel connected to this place and want to know that we can also have a future here.

People think we want everything handed to us. But that's not true. We can work hard, be creative and inventive. We are an untapped asset, and not just because we're young. It's because we care deeply for this place and our shared future.

We want to help solve Tasmania's problems. We understand what our communities are facing, feel the impact of missteps, and yearn to be part of the future opportunity.

In the Tasmania we want, we welcome change, we are accepted for who we are and our differences are our strengths. Welcome us into the conversation and let us help build the best version of Tasmania.

