



YOUNG PEOPLE THRIVE IN A POSITIVE FUTURES PATHWAY

Big hART is delighted to announce a new initiative for young people in North West Tasmania – **Positive Futures**. A partnership with **Hydro Tasmania** and **TasNetworks**, this project supports young people to thrive, develop new pathways in the renewables, environment and cultural industries, and culminates in an exhilarating new work of sound and image *When Water Falls*.

“The future of Tasmania is in young people’s hands”, says Scott Rankin, Creative Director of Big hART. “This partnership with Hydro Tasmania and TasNetworks provides greatly needed opportunities for our young people in North West Tasmania and will ignite an entrepreneurial spirit of the many possibilities available locally”.

“Hydro Tasmania is committed to supporting our community and to powering a state which can continue to flourish into the future,” said Evangelista Albertini, CEO of Hydro Tasmania. “Many of our people come from North West Tasmania, and we’re delighted to support this project which connects and engages the area’s youth and develops their potential.”

“We’re proud to partner with Big hART on this exciting new project”, says Ross Burridge, Acting CEO of TasNetworks. “Through the Positive Futures Program, we’re powering a bright future for young Tasmanians by backing them to discover new pathways that build strong and sustainable communities.”

Positive Futures will engage young people from Sheffield, Smithton and Wynyard, providing opportunities not normally available in regional communities. It builds on the award-winning work of Big hART’s acclaimed Project O initiative which began in North West Tasmania, and has now been rolled out in five states and territories, supporting hundreds of young women to be changemakers in their community and shift narratives.

Positive Futures works with young women, young men and gender diverse young people and will commence with a series of place-based workshops with leading mentors and talented Tasmanian artists, musicians, digital makers and filmmakers. Young people will learn entrepreneurship skills which will support them to monetise their side hustle and develop new ways of learning and thinking in the creative industries and STEM. The initiative will support the development of resilience, habits of hope and digital ability which will lead to engagement in 21st century economies.

From May to June young people will produce and present a series of community events which will connect them with community, industry and family, including an international digital project bringing together young people and scientists. These events will see young people develop their strengths, showcase new skills and open new prospects in the renewables, environmental and cultural industries.

Positive Futures will climax in Sheffield on 26th June in a new work - *When Water Falls*. Inspired by place, connection and the presence of water, new music and imagery will be forged under the shadow of Mount Roland. *When Water Falls* will be directed by award-winning theatre director Scott Rankin and Rachel Small, produced by Alison Wilkes and bring together exceptional artists and musicians from across Tasmania with young people from Positive Futures.

Positive Futures is produced by **Big hART**, which has worked in over 50 communities across Australia, garnering over 45 awards. Big hART has developed award-winning youth programs for close to 30 years, accruing Institute of Criminology Awards, a World Health Award and producing acclaimed works which have toured festivals and venues across Australia and overseas. Big hART builds on what is strong, working with disadvantaged communities to build community and drive change, shining a



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