



ZINC OPENS NEW STEM PATHWAYS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Nyrstar's Zinc Works in Hobart is one of the largest of its kind in the world, and is highlighting opportunities for young women in STEM, in a new collaboration with Big hART.

Young women from North West Tasmania will visit Nyrstar's Zinc Works in Hobart this month, to assist with the development of new performance piece, **Acoustic Life of Zinc**, which is being developed by Big hART in partnership with Nyrstar and North West Support Services, a leading not-for-profit in the disability support space in North West Tasmania.

This week young women will spend time onsite participating in the making of this arts project inspired by the zinc works. They will work with musicians, photographers and producers to develop music, video, digital art and sound design. At the same time these young women will discover the workplace of one of the world's leading metal processing businesses, observing STEM jobs and will be exposed to career pathways and trades in science, technology and metallurgy.

Acoustic Life of Zinc is produced by Big hART and importantly sponsored by two significant Tasmanian industry partners - Nyrstar and North West Support Services. As well as modelling positive STEM opportunities, the project promotes inclusion and creativity by collaborating with clients of North West Support Services, who are creative musicians and artists yet have limited chances to show their work. Through the project, electronica artist Paul Corfiatis, graphite artist & poet Jacob Rish, and bassist Curtis Poke receive mentoring from guitarist and composer Aaron Hopper in music and innovative sound design. This creative team have recorded over 270 unique sounds at the zinc works. These sounds are now being transformed into a new music work by Paul and Aaron, which accompany video and illustrations created by Jacob and developed by video artists Anna Caden and Jordan East.

The creative development at Nyrstar is exploring the sound, tone and colour of zinc, and zinc ingots utilising looped technology and vision. In this way, Acoustic Life of Zinc seeks to express the hidden stories of the zinc works, which has been part of the Hobart community for over 100 years. In the early days whole suburbs sprang up as a result of its establishment and its early community story included the support of struggling families through social programs that supplied firewood, meat, and oranges, and an insurance scheme funded by both the business and zinc workers. The creative development will also include photographing current workers, adding portraiture to the project and revealing the human side of the zinc works.

Nyrstar is one of Tasmania's major employers, and is one of the States's leading exporters by value. Acoustic Life of Zinc is built on strong partnerships, across sectors with Big hART bringing together corporate, government, philanthropy, community and not-for-profit groups to provide new opportunities for inclusion, innovation and the promotion of STEM and trade careers to young women from the North West Coast.

These young women are engaged in Big hART's prevention initiative **Project O** - an award-winning initiative which enables young women to lead change in disadvantaged communities and promotes gender equality.

Big hART began in Burnie 28 years ago, and is Australia's leading arts and social change organisation, working in over 50 communities across the country, garnering over 45 awards.

Acoustic Life of Zinc is proudly supported by Nyrstar and North West Support Services.



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