



STRATEGIC PLAN 2020–23

The story

Once upon a time on a windswept island in the Southern Ocean, local writers were winning international prizes while nearly half the island's adults struggled to read and write. Two pioneering women, Kate and Emily, asked what they could do to change the fate of the island. They set out on a journey to lift up the young people, to give them the confidence to speak in their own voice, through the gift of storytelling.

Their project built on the foundations laid by other trailblazers like San Francisco's 826 Valencia, 100 Story Building in Melbourne and Story Factory in NSW. The two have now become many and they are holding the hands of many more as they stitch together the net that holds up the next generation.

The project

The Story Island Project is a Hobart-based not-for-profit organisation that nurtures the creativity and writing skills of young Tasmanians and celebrates their diverse voices.

With the support of our enthusiastic volunteer tutors, Story Island runs free, dynamic storytelling workshops where young people are empowered to create their own stories. Our focus is on those who are often overlooked, who may experience poverty and disadvantage, or are marginalised in other ways.

Our vision is for young people to harness the power of their imaginations so they can grow to be resilient and creative shapers of their own lives.

As an organisation we hold the values of **compassion, optimism, fairness, creativity and humour**, and we weave them into the work we do.

The island

Tasmania has many strengths but there are big barriers to overcome: nearly half of Tasmania's adults do not have the basic skills to understand and use information from newspapers, magazines, books and brochures. Tasmania has the lowest levels of educational retention, completion and attainment in the country. Every morning 16,000 Tasmanian children wake up to a life of poverty.

We want to change this picture so that young Tasmanians have the creative confidence and writing skills to participate in a good life.

We do this by offering free workshops where students get individualised support from our expert storytellers and volunteer tutors.

Our plan: 2020–23

By the end of 2023 Story Island will be a sustainable, well governed organisation that delivers a diverse range of creative storytelling workshops for young people.

These high quality workshops will be informed by best practice and have a demonstrated impact on young people's confidence and creativity.

Story Island will be recognised as an exciting organisation that fosters authentic connections with communities.

We want to grow the 'story' around our organisation, so that more young people are excited to say, 'I've done Story Island!'

We have set four goals for Story Island over the next four years and a range of actions to ensure we achieve them. They are:

- 1. Programs: to develop and deliver an expanded range of high quality, inspiring workshop programs.**
- 2. Funding: to achieve financial sustainability for our organisation.**
- 3. Engagement: to grow and strengthen our community of supporters.**
- 4. Governance: to maintain a professional, well governed organization.**