

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



The Tree of Hope: Five Years On

An exhibition that has been five years in the making will be launched in Launceston later this week.

The Tree of Hope: Five Years On project explored the idea of hope, by revisiting the participants from the original 2006 project, Tree of Hope.

In the original Tree of Hope project, 1070 primary school pupils from across northern Tasmania were asked to put their hopes and dreams into words.

Their responses were precocious, humorous and often touching.

Scott of Summerdale Primary, told researchers he wanted one day to be “an electrician ... like Tom Cruise.”

Others wanted to end war, protect animals from extinction, and ensure a good life for their friends and families.

This year, five years after the original research Dr Karen Willis from the UTAS School of Sociology and Social Work and her team decided to revisit the students and find out how their hopes have changed.

What they found was that students had thoughtful, considered views on the notion of hope.

“I think many of the students’ personal hopes have changed,” Dr Willis said.

“Many of them felt their hopes from five years ago were a bit limited, and now they have seen more of the world, and are a little bit older, they think differently.”

For example, one student said he still wanted “to play football, but probably not at AFL level.”

Another student said he’d revised his hopes from five years earlier because “you realise the world isn’t as perfect as you once thought.”

Asked why the group’s hopes had changed, one student replied: “I guess we all just got a lot wiser.”

The responses the researchers received this time around form the basis of a new exhibition, to be officially opened at the University of Tasmania's NEW Gallery at the Newnham campus on Saturday, November 19, from 2.30pm.

Anyone is welcome to attend the exhibition, which features artworks, photographs and poetry.

The works will be on display until Thursday, December 1.

Curators will begin to hang the exhibition tomorrow at the NEW Gallery at the Newnham campus from 11am and media are welcome to attend.

Information Released by:

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