



Little Tasmanian Katy's Garden



Illustrated by
Shiloh Longbottom



Once there was a factory.
Then it went away.
Now it's just an empty lot,
where kids don't even play.



**Katy is Tasmanian,
a girl who lives nearby.
She walks by this forgotten place,
and stops and wonders why.**



Katy sees someone she knows carrying a pot. She wonders if a plant or two might improve her lot.

John says it won't be easy,
but they could plant some trees.
“Why not grow some flowers
and make a home for bees?”





Mars Buttfield-Addison

radio telescope

**Making things together
is how we do it here.
Our neighbours join to help us.
They come from far and near.**

In winter we get ready.
It's cold but so alive.
Mars is here with bags of seeds.
Other friends arrive.





David Foster

wood-chopping eye

The work is hard. Our dreams are big.
We plant and dig and sow.
It's fun to learn and try new things,
to help our garden grow.



David brings his tools along.
We build a garden shed.
It rains and then the sun comes out.
We tend the flower bed.



Leatherwood and basket grass
have always grown round here.
Mutton birds and wombats
are starting to appear.

Carleeta Thomas

Kelp basket



In summer we need water.
Carleeta knows the way.
It's been like this forever.
This is why we stay.

Katy is Tasmanian.
She took an empty lot
and worked together with her friends
to make a garden plot.



We all have our talents,
whether big or small.
Katy did it! So can you...



Look!
There's a Little Tasmanian in us all.

Yes, that's you!



Can you find these Tasmanian animals?





John Kamara

John Kamara arrived in Tasmania as a refugee. Now, he works to highlight systemic challenges migrants face, such as racism, labour exploitation, and the need for recognition of overseas qualifications. John help migrants search for jobs and housing, and he is active in multicultural choirs. John is the co-founder and President of the Culturally Diverse Alliance of Tasmania and co-founder of the African Communities Council of Tasmania. He was the Tasmanian Australian of the Year for 2023. John and his wife, Mavis, established the Kamara's Heart Foundation, a not-for-profit providing educational resources for students in Sierra Leone and Ghana. For John and his family, Tasmania is home, and his goal is to create community and a better, fairer life for all.

Mars Buttfield-Addison

Mars Buttfield-Addison is a computer scientist and science communicator. She moved to Tasmania as a young person in search of a new start in her life and education. As a technologist, Mars has solved problems across visual design, public health, aerospace, and more. Now, at the University of Tasmania, she adapts radio telescopes to track satellites and space debris. Mars has reached thousands through public and in-school STEM programs, and she has developed educational apps and games used in schools and science events around Australia. Mars seeks to smash the outdated myth that you need to leave Tasmania to find great opportunities, and to inspire even the littlest Tasmanians to appreciate the science and beauty all around them.



David Foster

David Foster OAM, a world champion woodchopper, is often called Australia's most successful athlete. David grew up in North West Tasmania and won his first world title in a double-handed sawing team with his father. He broke numerous world records and held world titles for 21 consecutive years. He may be the only athlete in any sport in the world to win over 1,000 titles at various levels. David was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 2020, and he has received honours including Tasmanian Australian of the Year and ANZAC, Centenary, and Order of Australia medals. He is a campaigner for aged care, men's health, and LGBTQIA+ rights. For David, Tasmania is the best place in the world to live in. He wants every young Tasmanian to know their dreams can come true if they believe in themselves.



Carleeta Thomas

Carleeta Thomas is a proud pakana woman of northeast lutruwita/Tasmania. Carleeta was born and grew up on truwana/Cape Barren Island, where she loves to go mutton birding with her family. Carleeta was a founding guide of the award-winning wukalina Walk, a palawa-owned and operated tourism experience at wukalina (Mt William National Park) and larapuna (Bay of Fires). "The first time I came to wukalina was the first time I came to my actual homeland," Carleeta says. "This is the exact spot where the truwulway clan of the Northeast Nation lived. We link back to Mannalargenna. I felt a sense of connection the way I feel when I am home on Cape Barren, in the presence of my ancestors. When I started, I didn't have experience speaking to groups. I had none of that confidence in high school. You just need a couple of people who see potential in you, to build you up over time."



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Someone just like you did it,
and you can do it too!

This book belongs to a very special
Little Tasmanian:

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