

Furneaux Futures Forum Report

The Furneaux Futures Forum was a three-day experience aimed at fostering resilience, entrepreneurship, and innovation within our island communities. The Council run event was held in collaboration with Flinders Island Business Inc (FIBI) and the Van Dieman project.

Representatives from Brand Tasmania, TCCI (Tasmanian Chamber Commerce Industry), and the Project Lab, were present during the event. The Brand Tasmania content team embarked on a journey across the Island, capturing footage and images of people and places for addition to The Tasmanian Partner Toolkit.

The event empowered participants to choose their own adventure from a diverse range of sessions, discussions, and workshops. Throughout the forum, attendees were encouraged to let their imaginations soar as we collectively embarked on a journey to transform ideas into actions for a brighter future.

Thirteen Islanders participated in the Island Visions presentations, where they were encouraged to share their story, business vision, or a topic they were passionate about. The presentations were recorded and are now available online at the Flinders Council Vimeo channel.

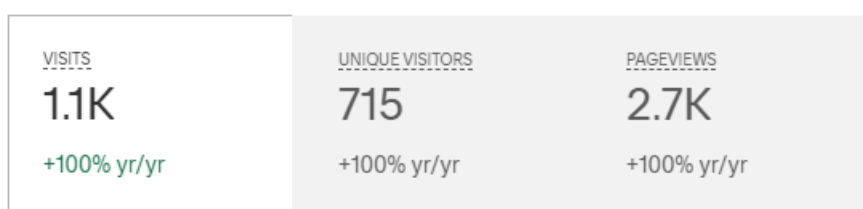
Visiting presenters included Dianne Dredge – The Tourism Co-Lab, Todd Babiak – Brand Tasmania, Chris Bishop – Tasmanian Women in Agriculture and Tony Scherer – Sprout.

The Furneaux Futures Forum stood out for its emphasis on collaboration and the exchange of ideas. It provided a platform for individuals to connect with others who shared their passion for community development, creating a vibrant atmosphere of shared aspirations and possibilities.

The event offered a rich variety of sessions and workshops, catering to different interests and aspirations. Whether attending for a single session or immersing oneself in the entire three-day experience, there was ample opportunity to delve into transformative conversations and explore innovative projects. The forum truly empowered participants to turn their ideas into actionable plans that could have a positive impact on the future of our community.

Website

A website was created at www.furneauxfutures.com.au to showcase the event, collect registrations and promote the schedule. Analytics as follows



Attendance at the Forum

Wednesday – 68 forum attendees including Gin Wag, Dinner at The Flinders Wharf 30 attendees.

Thursday – 56 forum attendees, Dinner at Mountain Seas 25 attendees.

Friday – Composting Workshop with and Van Dieman Project – 24 attendees.

Feedback from Forum participants

Twenty-five people responded to the online survey after the Furneaux Futures Forum.

When asked the question *“The aim of the FFF was to foster resilience, entrepreneurship, and innovation within our island communities. To what extent do you think this was achieved?”* 72% responded with a score of between 8-10.

The Furneaux Futures Forum received positive feedback with participants expressing the desire to make the forum a regular, yearly event to keep locals inspired. Suggestions were made for evening sessions and some participants noted the need for stronger participation from the bigger economic drivers on the Island (business and major employers.) Overall, the forum was commended for its organisation, inclusivity, and community-centred approach.

75% of survey respondents said new connections were made at the forum, specific partnerships and collaborations were not mentioned, but participants emphasised forming new friendships, and developing existing relationships with a focus on topics such as food resilience, waste management, and community well-being.

Some participants felt that certain themes such as the arts sector and housing could have received more attention, and there was a need for a more extensive discussion on future planning and direction for the Island.

Participant Feedback

“This was a great opportunity to come together, and I learned a lot. There was a real spirit of collaboration and it felt inclusive. Thank you for all the amazing work to organise and run the Forum. We need it to continue.”

“I hope a community-based initiative for a “closed loop green waste recycling system” does come to fruition (I would love to be involved). Also, has stimulated ideas for the whitewoods or hard waste to be creatively reinvented, can be discussed with interested members of the community. “

“A wonderful forum that was thoughtfully organised and professionally delivered. Importantly the community was placed at the centre, rather than ‘experts’ from elsewhere. Huge congratulations to all concerned!”

“The Furneaux Futures created a positive vibe!”

“The whole event was amazing from the content to the agenda, topics, and presenters. I am blown away! Well done to all involved :)”

“It was a great idea and effort and I hope you do it with some regularity to keep the locals inspired.”

“A really well organised event. well done to all involved. it would be great if this could be an annual event.”

“Waste is our greatest asset/resource and should not be wasted”.

“Reflecting on my experience, I left the forum feeling inspired, motivated, and equipped with valuable insights and connections to making a positive difference in the community.”

Sammi Gowthorp
Community Services Co-ordinator