



When I was young...

Everything was new and bright.
I spent a lot of time
thinking about dinosaurs
watching the birds
climbing trees
building cubby houses in the bush
playing in the river
planting and
eating dirt.

When I was young
I went for bushwalks
to talk to the creatures.
I felt
wonder
amazement
lucky.

When I was young
I felt free in nature,
I felt joy in nature,
I felt peaceful in nature.
I was in LOVE with nature,
and I felt she was in love with me...

I adored her ability to go to sleep at night
and arise bright and shiny the next morning.

I was curious and excited
full of fun
hopeful
ambitious
motivated.

I wanted to be an astronaut
then a scientist
then a pilot
then an artist.

My relationship with nature was safe.
I was lucky to live in places with nature
and have people in my life who inspired me to
notice and care.

I was inspired by my dad's love of trees.
I remember noticing sunlight on eucalyptus leaves
for the first time and realising how beautiful the
world is.
Watching the trees breathe in the wind reminded
me that I was alive, even in my worst moments.

My experience of nature was limited, restricted
I was kept indoors.
I felt like my perspective was limited because of
that.

My experience was unfamiliar and ever changing..
I was often scared of nature and lacked
appreciation.

A walk outside was something to be tolerated
(much to my well intentioned parents' dismay,
with a lot of winging siblings involved).

My relationship with nature was forged through
sport, family picnics, outdoor playgrounds, and
joining the scouts.

I was perhaps a little ignorant..
I took nature for granted
I was present without worry.

I felt at once intimidated by possibilities
and excited for the future...

Today I feel..

Trapped in the concrete jungle, riddled with climate anxiety, whilst still dealing with the limits of my past.

I feel isolated, and nature feels foreign.

At times I feel pessimistic, hopeless, exhausted, angry at how nature is mistreated. The monotony is getting to me...

I am stuck between a decision to stay silent or make a difference...

At present I'm living in the ACT,

I never thought I would be here.

But A.C.T spells act, so I am taking action!

I choose to make waves

instead of being swept away...

I keep active by hiking, swimming and camping in the bush, but I would like to be more intimate with nature, spending peaceful moments alone with just nature for company. Take time out of my day to notice and connect with nature more often.

I think my relationship with nature has kept me grounded through contemplation. Now my horizons have expanded, I'm growing with age and experiences, and when I see the wrinkles on a eucalypt tree, they remind me that we are the same.

I love sitting under a tree by the river, it makes me feels connected. I wonder how I can maintain a connection in changing environments. I wonder if the same feelings (I felt as a child) will come back, as spring comes back after every winter. I'm here to find that intimate connection with what I loved and adored as a kid, just in a deeper and more devoted way.

I try to recreate the memories, scratch that itch, fill my soul, gain more appreciation for how amazing life is, make it worth something. I want to learn more about nature as I understand the importance of it now. Learning and being outside lifts my heart with joy. Being outside feels like the space that makes the most sense.

I breathe it, I live in it. It is my life.

I feel more-connected than ever.

I wonder if I will be able to bring that connection back for everyone...

I seek out opportunities that allow me to grow and encourage growth around me.

I give back what I can.

I want to do more things outdoors

I want to bring the skills I have to the environment space.

I want to learn how to help and protect nature, always caring.

I want to be more grateful for what I have around me in this life.

I want to save what doesn't have its own voice.

I want to and I will.

I cherish nature.

Nature is the most beautiful thing in the world to me.

I am passionate to restore and protect it.

I love learning about how plants and ecosystems function and connect with one another. I'm in awe of the diversity.

I know it's bigger than me.

I study enviro science so that I can make a positive impact on the world. Change the system from the inside out.

I'm working on environmental policy.

I'm working, in my nature, with nature, for nature.

Now is the time for discovery, understanding and learning from a grounded and calm place. Re-learning to love, brings me peace and a lot of joy.

Because I know how important giving and generosity is...

Because I know, with all of myself, that nature is the most important thing to ever exist, the source of all life.

In my future ...

I want to deepen my connection to nature,
live with nature and not against.
I want to live a hopeful and tender life,
helping and caring for country, and its
people.

I will start again.
I will start outside.
Sitting., listening, slowing down.

I would like to appreciate more,
will go stargazing.
I will go on daily walks,
Spontaneous long walks
enjoy more solo camping, hiking
explore the underwater world through free-
diving.
swim forever,
dance forever.

Nature will be my every day
I will enjoy every moment

I will seek community through spending more
time in nature, and find a community of like-
minded people, to share nature experiences
with.

I hope to learn as much as possible at uni
and in life in general.
I want to find a fulfilling path and better
myself in the process.

Although it is pretty new to me, I will try and
give back to it. I would like to volunteer more
(and maybe drink a little less coffee...)
Work at the local level to make a visible
impact in my community.

I want to create system level change,
genuine change. I want to raise my voice, for
all those who were told to stay quiet.

I value nature and its role in human society
and vice versa.

In front of me as a chance to make a difference,
however big or little.

In front of me is a more deep and mindful
relationship with nature.

I want to contribute to a happy future.
I envision a future when nature will be our collective
home, where we can all live in peace.

I will give and help as much as I can for the planet.
Do good onto others by sharing nature and the joy it
brings me with my loved ones.
And do good onto myself.

Discover sustainable craft skills
and experiment with natural dyes
Go camping with mates
Have a dog that jumps in the back of the Ute
and makes people smile
Explore of Australia
Live off-grid, close to the beach
Grow food for my family
and teach my kids about being respectful
of the planet.
Learn from my own backyard, and leave this earth a
little better than I found it.

Whether or not I explore a career in the
environment, I still have a responsibility to protect it.
Even with advancement of technology, I will always
strive for sustainability and be careful with nature's
precious resources.

Small things make up a big picture.
It does not happen in a day.
I will never give up.

When I glimpse my fleeting reflection in the river, I
will see someone who is as calm but also as strong
as the ocean, as fresh as blossoms, and as giving as
the trees.

I will enjoy the little things.
I will set myself free...
I will have no regrets.