Many young people start their own business. The following stories focus on two young people who started their own business in Sydney and Melbourne.

You don’t need to complete a university degree to start a business. You can undertake studies at a vocational education centre, undertake a traineeship or create a business based on your own research.

Meet Tim Bennett, co-founder of Humble Body, www.humblebody.com

What education have you undertaken post school?
I completed a Bachelor of Commerce (Entrepreneurship and Innovation) at Swinburne University.

Tell us about your small business Humble Body:
Launched in July 2014, we’re a Melbourne bred natural skincare label at the forefront of hemp-based skincare in Australia. Using some of our friend Mother Nature’s finest renewable and natural ingredients, we’ve developed a suite of products that revitalise and enrich the skin you’re in.

Humble Products are distributed online as well as in around 30 retailers in Victoria and New South Wales. At the beginning of 2015 Humble extended its reach to North America via Urban Outfitters (both online and in-store).

The core mantra of Humble is helping to shape a world that uses only what it needs and nurtures our natural resources and environment.

2016 is shaping up to be a huge year. We are expanding nationally and adding to our product lines. We have had an amazing start on our journey as a small business and we continue to be motivated by our underlying goal of being the best new business in the Industrial Hemp Industry in Australia.

What inspired you to start a small business? A cocktail of passion, frustration and a burning desire to change some parts of the way the world works.

In 2014, whilst I was working at Swinburne, I was living with an engineer (Matt – Humble founder) and a fellow entrepreneurship student (Angus – Humble founder). At the time we had two whiteboards in our back shed that were always covered in business concepts, brainstorm, and expanded ideas.

Humble was one of several ideas that came from these whiteboard origins, but as well, we had brainstormed and developed ideas concerning anything from crowd-funding gigs to bringing international artists to Australia, to building a social network style social enterprise based on sharing food.

The engineer had been studying the uses of Industrial Hemp fibres, seed and oil. For example, Industrial Hemp can be used for durable and comfortable clothes, strong paper, building materials, textiles and biofuel. As well, the seeds are a natural super food and contain more protein than almonds. When cold pressed, the oil from the seeds has AMAZING benefits for skin.

The more we learnt about what this sustainable resource could do, the more we struggled to understand why hemp wasn’t more commonly used, particularly at a time where the health of our environment is severely threatened.

In this context it is important to know that Industrial Hemp is a brilliant sequester of CO2 and has the genetics and makeup that could potentially replace the carbon spewing petrochemical, paper mill, textile, clothing, and building material industries.
Matt, Angus and I were passionate about creating a product that delivered real value to customers and helped educate and inform people about what Industrial Hemp can do. Skin care was not something we ever thought we would be in, but we realised it was something nearly everybody uses on a daily basis. When we consider the natural benefits of Hemp seed oil (rich in EFA’s Omega 3, 6, 9, comodogenic rating of zero, rich in antioxidants) it was the perfect choice to form the basis of our new business.

We wanted to influence and change how the world used its resources, one satisfied person’s skin at a time.

**What advice can you give young people who are considering starting their own business?**

Do it and don't be afraid to try your idea. There'll never be a ‘perfect time’ to try your idea. It's like learning a new language. You won’t ever know ALL the words to start speaking, but that doesn’t prevent you from being able to have a go at communicating. And you’ll learn a TRUCKLOAD from that experience. If you DO give your business idea a go there are two possible outcomes:

1. You learn what NOT to do next time. This isn’t failure unless you repeat the same mistake. These practical lessons from personal experience are just as valuable, if not more so, than academic theory you may learn in a university course. Both modes of learning have merit and compliment each other.
2. You succeed!

So what is there to lose?

In terms of thinking about what opportunities exist, DON’T think about where you can make the most money. Focus firstly on what you know from your own experiences and observations. Importantly, think about what problems YOU’VE had in the past. If you’ve experienced difficulties, annoyances or inconveniences, then chances are other people have had that same experience too.

For me, entrepreneurship is fundamentally about finding new solutions to a problem. That might relate to saving people time or money, or increasing feelings of wellbeing. That is, entrepreneurship is all about finding ways and opportunities to create value.
What advice can you offer young people considering starting their own business?

Definitely do it. Not only does it force you to grow as a person, but you learn so much about how things work and how to be business minded. But remember that when you first launch a new business, it more or less sucks. You're working like crazy, not earning much, and can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. But if you can keep pushing before you know it things are actually starting to work and if you get to that point, you've done better than most.

Key websites

- Enterprise Network for Young Australians (ENYA), http://enya.org.au/

Tell us about your small business: Lonely Kids Club started off as a T-shirt label but over the duration of 5 years expanded into a fully-fledged clothing label. It's definitely something I've always considered a passion project and a creative outlet so it's really cool that I've been able to continue doing it this long. It's a pretty funny concept though, I make clothes that I like in limited edition numbers and hopefully other people like them too. I keep it all ethical and made in Sydney which no one else is really doing right now.

What inspired you to start a small business? It was always a dream of mine, and something I wanted to pursue. I realised one day if I didn't try to do this when I had the chance I'd regret it forever so I figured out how to do things and launched the brand. It's been both one of the hardest and most rewarding things I've ever done and I've been grinding hard with it ever since.

I do remember being maybe 15 and admitting to my dad I had absolutely no interest in working for other people and competing to climb the chain so he said well if you don't want to do that you should run your own business. 12 years later and I still have that mentality.


What education have you undertaken post school?
I finished a Public Communications degree at University of Technology Sydney with a major in Public Relations. It was a really fun course that I enjoyed a lot. No exams just heaps of assignments which is up my alley. Aside from that I haven't really done anything else. I dropped out of my first degree and never actually studied fashion or E-Commerce.

Meet La Trobe University students: La Trobe has produced a series of short videos featuring their student ambassadors talking about the courses they are studying. Click on the links below to explore the videos.


Inside Monash University Seminar Series: Get inside the story of what it’s really like to study at Monash. Hear from current students, past students, and academics. Each session runs for 90 minutes. The following sessions will be held during April:

- 13: Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences
- 14: Design & Fine Art
- 19: Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy
- 20: Global Studies
- 21: Nursing & Midwifery
- 26: Architecture
- 27: Interior Architecture
- 28: Psychology

For more information and to register, go to http://bit.ly/1Rufjyr
**Science news**: Be inspired by the latest stories featured on RiAUS – Australia’s Science Channel. Some of the topics covered this week include:

- Exploring the science at WOMAD
- Welcome to the Post-Antibiotic era
- Artificial intelligence versus humans
- Watch Canadian environmentalist Dr David Suzuki answer questions about climate change from Australian high school students
- The storytelling of science

Access the stories at this link - [http://bit.ly/1Mwkjv5](http://bit.ly/1Mwkjv5)

**Interested in design?** The University of Melbourne will be introducing a new Bachelor of Design in Semester 1, 2017. The following majors will be offered:

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<td>Computing</td>
<td>Civil Systems</td>
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<td>Digital Media</td>
<td>Landscape Architecture</td>
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<td>Mechanical Systems</td>
<td>Property</td>
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<td>Spatial Systems</td>
<td>Urban Planning</td>
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<td>Visual &amp; Performance Design</td>
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The University will not be taking any new students into the Bachelor of Environments in 2017. Mathematics prerequisites will vary based on the major students wish to undertake. For information about this exciting new course, go to [http://bdes.unimelb.edu.au/](http://bdes.unimelb.edu.au/)

**Year 11 Inspiration Day at Monash University**: Year 11 students are welcome to register for the Inspiration Day being held Thursday 7 April during the school holidays. Students will be able to:

- Learn how to choose a course – and a university
- Talk to staff and students about what it’s like to study at Monash University
- Acquire learning tools that will help you in Year 12 and beyond
- Attend inspirational workshops run by faculty experts

For information and to register, go to [http://bit.ly/1Mwuorl](http://bit.ly/1Mwuorl)

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MARCH**


**APRIL**

- **1**: A Day at Melbourne University, Parkville campus, [http://bit.ly/1QUDzn5](http://bit.ly/1QUDzn5)
- **8**: UMAT Simulation Day, St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne, [www.nie.edu.au](http://www.nie.edu.au)
- **13 – 28**: Inside Monash Seminar Series, list of course areas is at this link - [http://bit.ly/1Rufjyr](http://bit.ly/1Rufjyr)