



## 2013 Highly Commended Case Study

### Curtin University Social Responsibility John Curtin Weekend



Curtin University

#### Institutional Profile

- 38,637 students
- 3162 staff

#### Section 1: About the project

##### Summary

Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, JCW is Curtin Volunteer! largest community project.

Over six weekends in September and October, 770 John Curtin Weekend (JCW) volunteers visited 44 regional and metropolitan sites and Sarawak, engaging in projects nominated by the local community. Past projects include assisting with town events and races, maintenance and restoration of community sites, re-vegetating local nature strips and youth engagement. The sites provide accommodation and catering for the volunteers and the sites get that much needed 'backyard blitz'.

##### Project partners

The John Curtin Weekend project interacts with key stakeholders from 44 regional and metropolitan communities throughout WA and Sarawak.

#### Section 2: The results

##### The approach

John Curtin Weekend is Curtin Volunteer! largest community project. CV! is a student-driven volunteering hub offering a range of opportunities across Western Australia. Operating out of Curtin University's Bentley campus since 1994.

Since 2006, a JCW coordinator has been employed to work on the project in a part time capacity. The staff member coordinates a team of volunteer student leaders who assist with project planning and execution. Roles undertaken by volunteers: Site Leaders, Regional Coordinators, John Curtin Weekend Team and vehicle drivers.

##### Our goals

CV! aims to provide experiential learning and leadership opportunities that foster community engagement and networks through community-identified projects.

##### Performance and results

The Project will continue into the foreseeable future with the 2014 project already in the early stages of planning. Over 550 volunteers are expected to travel to 48 different sites over six weekends making the 2014 JCW the largest one to date.

The community-initiated activities vary from site to site and year to year. Since its beginnings in 1999, the JCW has organised community activities in well over 300 sites around Western Australia.



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## Section 3: The future

### Lessons Learnt

The segregation of duties into manageable portions is crucial to ensuring success of the project that is highly dependent on volunteer labour. Developing excellent risk management and contingency plans is extremely important not only to minimise risks but also to develop sound project plans.

### Sharing your project

JCW is highly replicable as it utilizes relatively few resources for the impact that it has.

The results of JCW are promoted on the Curtin Volunteers! Website:

[http://unilife.curtin.edu.au/community\\_leadership/jcw\\_2013.htm](http://unilife.curtin.edu.au/community_leadership/jcw_2013.htm)

Our slideshow and Year Book are featured on this website so that we can attract more sites and volunteers to participate in the project. Successful promotion in the past has resulted in an increase in the number of sites and volunteers.

### What has it meant to your institution to be highly commended at the Green Gown Awards Australasia?

Being Highly Commended in the Social Responsibility category has meant that everyone who has participated in JCW over the past fifteen years receives the recognition for all their hard work. It also provides the opportunity to share our amazing community project with other organisations around the world.

### Further information

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[http://unilife.curtin.edu.au/community\\_leadership/jcw\\_2013.htm](http://unilife.curtin.edu.au/community_leadership/jcw_2013.htm)