CURTIN VOLUNTEERS!
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CV!

Make tomorrow better. cv.curtin.edu.au
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been 20 years since the inception of Curtin Volunteers! (CV!) and we have been through many phases of growth and change. From providing volunteering activities for a small group of US Service Abroad students, CV! has developed into a hub of hundreds of volunteers, dozens of partnerships with community organisations, and an ever-expanding leadership team of students and staff.

In 2013 alone, we had at least 1,295 instances of volunteer participation totalling 12,406 hours, and whilst we celebrate this remarkable growth, we are proud that we have remained consistent to our vision.

The future is not without its challenges, but we believe that with the continued support of Curtin University and our passionate volunteers, community partners, sponsors, student leaders and staff, we will continue this growth, focusing on our mission of providing volunteering and leadership opportunities which both enhance the student experience and benefit the wider community.

Alyson Chin
CV! President 2014
Curtin University

VOLUNTEERING WITH CV!

The volunteer activities that CV! offers are developed based on a number of elements, including accessibility, diversity, and mutual benefit for both our volunteers and the community. Extensive consultation with our stakeholders before, during and after commencement of activities are fundamental to their success.

“CV! has given me the opportunity to meet amazing people, do unforgettable things and have beautiful experiences. Best decision ever.”
Ahmad Abdul Halim
Curtin student volunteer

KEY VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

John Curtin Weekend
John Curtin Weekend is our largest and longest running project. Over 500 volunteers have the chance to travel to over 40 participating regional towns and metropolitan sites to work with the local community on a range of initiatives.

Remote and Indigenous (R&I) Program
Volunteers travel to four remote towns in outback WA to work on a range of community initiatives and youth engagement activities. Ongoing communication and biannual consultation trips by CV! staff ensure that the programs are mutually beneficial, both to the communities and the volunteers involved.

Clontarf Literacy and Numeracy Buddies
Through our partnership with Clontarf Aboriginal College, volunteers have been assisting students improve their literacy and numeracy skills on a one-to-one tutoring basis.

Conversational Help and Support Program
Our Conversational Help and Support Program (CHaSts) has volunteers assist people from non-English speaking backgrounds with conversational English through fun and engaging activities. This program began running at Curtin’s Bentley Campus and has now expanded to Polytechnic West (Bentley Campus) and the Town of Victoria Park.

CURTIN VOLUNTEERS!

Curtin Volunteers! (CV!) is a student-driven hub, offering a range of volunteering and leadership opportunities which enhance the student experience and benefit the wider community.

They include ongoing and one-off activities across Western Australia and span a broad range of interests including:
- Health
- Youth
- Environment
- Culture and Communication
- Remote and Indigenous

Our leadership team is largely made up of Curtin student volunteers who are supported in their roles by several of staff, who share CV!’s vision of:

Changing lives through developing engaged, community-minded graduates.

Since the start of 2013, CV! has run 199 volunteer activities.

1994 Curtin Volunteers! was formed to provide service learning opportunities for US Service Abroad students.
1997 An environmental trip to Rottnest Island, the first major activity outside of service learning opportunities, was run.
1997 The Laverton Program began with the first of many “Christmas Wish” trips to the remote town.
1999 CV! began facilitating community service projects on John Curtin Day and within a year this evolved into the John Curtin Weekend project.
ENHANCING THE CURTIN EXPERIENCE

CVI’s activities enrich the student experience and develop graduate capabilities by providing opportunities which enhance classroom learning, develop soft skills and build networks.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

2,314 people have registered on the CV! Volunteer Portal since its launch in 2013; 801 identified as domestic students and 519 as international students from 82 countries.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

CVI’s leadership team is largely made up of Curtin student volunteers, whose primary responsibility is to ensure the successful operation of our volunteer activities. Roles include that of CVI President, Vice President, Program Directors and Site Leaders.

The members of the leadership team are carefully selected to ensure that they fit the role. They are provided training as well as ongoing support and mentorship by senior student leaders and Curtin staff, and are afforded as much autonomy as possible to carry out the responsibilities of their roles. The learning curve is steep, but the success of CVI’s activities is a testament to the leadership capabilities of our student-driven hub.

Since 2013, there have been 1,612 instances of volunteer participation which totalled 14,779 hours.

SIAN’S STORY

After leaving CVI I worked for almost four years in Papua New Guinea as the National Tuberculosis (TB) Program Manager for World Vision who were scaling up TB care throughout the country. After that I completed my Masters in Public Health in Developing Countries at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. I am presently working for this University as a researcher in the area of hygiene, sanitation and nutritional behaviour change and manage research projects in Indonesia, Nigeria and Malawi.

The more time I spend working in different areas of international development, I realise just how special CVI was. There are few organisations which are so accepting of change, where nothing seems impossible, where the working environment feels more like a social session with friends, and where operating ethically is more than just rhetoric but instead filters down to the details of all we do. Looking back, I realise how privileged I was to learn these lessons early on in my career. They have shaped how I have gone on to manage others and have made me determined to foster more productive, ethical and vibrant environments in the organisations I have since worked for.

It is incredibly rare to work in an environment where everyone around you is an absolute inspiration!

Sian White
CVI President 2007

awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her service to international relations

NATASHA’S STORY

I feel certain that my time with Curtin Volunteers! helped to shape the direction I’ve taken since uni, and also the person I am. Above all else, I think, volunteering with CVI taught me about people. Volunteering brought opportunities to connect with diverse groups of people and to gain insight into their cultures and experiences. From the Homework Help program which led to invitations to amazing Somali women’s nights; to soccer at the Perth Immigration Detention Centre which led to ongoing friendships; to trips into the desert learning from young and old First Australians – I was so privileged to have my world-view broadened and shaped by these people and their stories. I realised that making these human connections brought me great happiness and motivation.

I also found that forming meaningful relationships meant I was becoming conscious of and sharing my own culture, identity and values.

CVI enabled me to recognise that the vision I had of using education as a tool to support positive community-owned change, was every bit as relevant here in Western Australia as it would be in an Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) Program in South-East Asia. Those lessons about relationships, identity and culture are now a central focus in both my work as a teacher at Wiluna Remote Community School and the way I want to be as a member of local and global communities.

In other words, I don’t know where or who I would be had it not been for Curtin Volunteers!, and for that I am extremely happy.

Natasha Moore
CVI President 2009
WA Beginning Teacher of the Year 2013

In 2013, CVI had 84 Curtin students in voluntary leadership roles; so far in 2014, that number stands at 57.

Since 2013, there have been 1,612 instances of volunteer participation which totalled 14,779 hours.

2008 WA Youth Awards Winner – Nickel West Citizenship (Group) Award.
2009 Secured project funding from BHP Billiton Nickel West to expand the R&D Program to the towns of Leonora and Wiluna.
2011 First full-time CVI staff member appointed.
2011 Awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her service to international relations.
“Our school is very grateful to Curtin Volunteers! for the wonderful contribution they have made to encourage reading and to build the students’ skills. Each semester, there have been over 50 children on the program. Each of these students have received 1:1 time once a week. The volunteers have taken a special interest in their students and some have come up with their own ideas to stimulate growth in vocabulary, comprehension and pronunciation.”

Kerry Cirillo
EAL/D Teacher
Victoria Park Primary School
Support-a-Reader Program

In 2013 we engaged 105 community partners in metropolitan, regional and remote WA, 17 of whom were sponsors. So far in 2014 this figure stands at 92 partners, 15 of whom are sponsors.

“Our volunteers should be proud of what they achieved and are wonderful ambassadors for Curtin University. They worked with willing hearts and hands, learning about our rural community and undertaking our projects with great enthusiasm and joy. They were here for a short time but had a great time and they are all stars!”

Shire of Merredin representative
John Curtin Weekend 2013
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