National Student Volunteer Week
Virtual Volunteering Fair

“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more” - H. Jackson Brown JR
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Across the week of 14 – 18 August 2017, ECU Careers and Leadership Services hosted a range of events, designed to celebrate the unique contribution students make to volunteering. Below is a wrap up of each of the ECU events!

**It’s a Wrap!**

At the inter-university tree planting day, ECU volunteers met with other students from UWA, Curtin, Murdoch and Notre Dame and the organisers of Friends of Lake Claremont (FOLC) to learn about the importance of conservation, the variety of native animals calling the area home and how student volunteer efforts would contribute to one of Perth’s largest restoration projects.

After a brief lesson on planting, students split up into their University groups to start planting seedlings. As the University groups began to mingle, new friendships were formed with many students exchanging phone numbers and connecting on social media to share their experiences.

In a massive team effort, 2000 seedlings were planted in a few short hours, helping restore the wetlands of Lake Claremont preserving the natural environment for native wildlife and future generations of visitors!

Our ECU volunteers made us proud with the level of enthusiasm they displayed and many commented how they now had a new understanding of conservation, had made new friends and between them, had fostered a strong feeling of community.
To celebrate National Student Volunteer Week (NSVW), the Careers and Leadership Services team assembled some of the greatest influencers in the not for profit, community and government sectors to share their knowledge and experience with ECU students in an hour-long panel session entitled ‘Volunteering: Your Gateway to Career Success’. The panel discussion at Joondalup campus ran for an hour followed by a Q&A session.

Our guest panellists discussed the numerous ways volunteering can help launch you into your dream career. They explored the benefits of volunteering, such as networking opportunities, skill development and personal brand growth and exposure and also shared their personal experiences and insight into volunteering within their organisations.

Students engaged and interacted with the panel members, expanding their knowledge on the importance of volunteering and the direct link to their employability skills. After the discussion, students and panel members enjoyed an hour of networking and a delicious light lunch.

The panel members were impressed with the dedication and pro-activeness of ECU students in attendance. A recording the discussion will soon be available through CareerHub for those who couldn’t attend, so keep an eye out!

Guest Panellists:

Kate Fina
Volunteer Member Services Manager
St John

Superintendent Amanda Williamson
Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Imara Madred
Program Manager
Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME)

Gina Susca
Senior Career Adviser
ECU Careers and Leadership Services

Huia McGlinchey
Volunteer Relationship Coordinator
The Smith Family

Kimberley Amos
Events Coordinator (Volunteer)
ENACTUS - ECU
ECU Vol Squad Donation Sorting at UnitingCare West

A group of dedicated ECU student volunteers joined together to help one of the state’s leading community services organisations, UnitingCare West (UCW) to assist those at greatest need in our local community.

The ECU Vol Squad attended UCW offices in Merriwa and Victoria Park to sort, stack and store donations of material goods to be distributed to disadvantaged WA families and individuals.

The lovely UCW staff took time out to brief the volunteers on the various life-changing programs operated by the organisation, the forms of disadvantage people may face and outlined some of the leading causes of homelessness within the community.

The team all agreed they had learned new things, formed new friendships, made industry contacts and everyone left feeling as though they had done something valuable to make another person’s life a little brighter.

ECU Vol Squad Redkite Event Volunteering

ECU students were excited to volunteer at the annual Redkite Corporate Quiz, a fundraising event raising money for children and families affected by cancer.

Dressed in their finest threads, students joined volunteers from other WA universities at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. Upon arrival, they were briefed on the evening’s duties by the Redkite team leaders, who were super friendly and slightly delirious from travelling around the country rolling out back-to-back events!

Volunteers worked in pairs to make sure the guests were greeted and welcomed and had all the information they needed to have a good time and spend lots of money in the name of charity! A mix of local and international students mingled with some of our biggest Perth-onalities including CEOs and sports stars. The evening included heartfelt and moving speeches from people who had received assistance from Redkite, drawing some tears and a lot of reflection.

The students went home with sore feet and a great sense of achievement through contributing to an event that raised a quarter of a million dollars!

Redkite Volunteer Coordinator Nicola Monk complimented ECU staff representatives on the fantastic enthusiasm of the volunteers. Well done and thank you again to the students who selflessly donated their time to help those in need.
This National Student Volunteer Week (NSVW), ECU was excited to join forces with one of WA’s leading community service agencies to support their 2017 Winter Appeal. The generous team of ECU students and staff donated material assistance for UnitingCare West to distribute to those in our local community who are most in need. UnitingCare West’s Tranby Shelter is currently the only Perth metro service offering food, clothing, shower facilities and refuge to Perth’s homeless community on a Saturday. By donating brand new items such as tinned food, pantry items, clothing and toiletries, ECU staff and students were help Tranby keep turning on the lights and opening its doors every Saturday.
Organisations

If you’re looking for somewhere to start, check out this list of organisations who regularly offer volunteering and employment opportunities through ECU’s CareerHub. Click on the organisation’s name to view their website.

AIME Mentoring
AIME is a mentoring program based at universities where we build a bridge back to local high schools and mentor the most disadvantaged kids out of inequality. The AIME program commenced with the intention of connecting university students with Indigenous high school kids. To connect those with power with those who were being left behind. The University students would become mentors and education heroes but it didn’t take long before the kids grabbed the education hero title for themselves. Starting from humble beginnings with 25 kids, over 10,000 high school students and 5,000 University students have now been through our program. It’s the largest volunteer movement of University students in Australian history.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services
The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) supports over 26,000 volunteers who provide an invaluable contribution to the community performing a variety of operational, administrative and functional support roles.

Enactus ECU
Enactus is an international non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring students to improve the world through entrepreneurial action. Enactus provide a platform for teams of outstanding university students to create community development projects that put people’s own ingenuity and talents at the centre of improving their livelihoods.

Fringe World Festival
FRINGE WORLD Festival is Western Australia’s largest annual performance platform. The 2017 Festival played host to 700 shows at over 150 venues and performance spaces spread across Perth and further afield in local communities and neighbourhoods. The 2018 Festival will be held from 27 January to 25 February 2018.

Go Volunteer
GoVolunteer has a large range of volunteer roles including one off, short term and long term opportunities and make it easy for you to find a volunteer role that suits your interests, motivation, availability and location.
Perth International Arts Festival

Perth International Arts Festival curates and presents an annual arts festival of the highest international quality. The Festival’s ambition is to lift audience expectations and opportunities for Western Australian arts practice, contributing to a vibrant and resilient culture.

RedKite

Volunteering for Redkite is both fun and rewarding. You’ll meet new and interesting people and feel great knowing that you’re helping to improve the lives of children and young people with cancer and their families.

Revelation Perth International Film Festival

The kinds of films that don’t get played elsewhere! Like the films it presents, the event maintains an energy and enthusiasm for the industry quite unlike any other film festival in the country.

Secrets in the Garden

A one day festival of women consciously leading from the heart through compassion, creativity and courage.

Seek Volunteering

SEEK Volunteer is a non-profit initiative designed to make volunteering easier. SEEK Volunteer brings Volunteers & Volunteering Organisations Together.

St John Volunteering

St John volunteers deliver event health and community services, raise funds, attend events and run the St John youth programs. Becoming a volunteer is a rewarding way to meet new people, help the community and save lives through First Aid and advanced pre-hospital care. St John Ambulance Australia’s 15,000 volunteers provide a range of important community services across the country, who provide over 1 million hours of community service every year.

The Smith Family

You can help disadvantaged Australian children get the most out of their education and create a better future for themselves. Join our community of volunteers and help us to provide the support these children need.
Teach Learn Grow

TLG provides free one-on-one tuition and mentoring to rural and Indigenous Western Australian students with the aim of empowering students to realise their full potential. TLG’s vision is of an Australia where all children, regardless of background, location or circumstance, reach their educational potential. Find out how you can help by volunteering for the Rural Program or by becoming an eMentor!

UnitingCare West

Currently, there are more than 600 volunteers who help to strengthen and enhance the quality of service UnitingCare West provides to West Australians and their families. No special skills are required to become a volunteer; you just need to be a caring person with some time to help those in your community.

Volunteering WA

Volunteering WA aims to build strong communities through volunteering and provides a range of resources, services and support so that people in Western Australia are aware of and understand the nature and scope of volunteer activity.


If you’re an off-campus or remote student, or work and study commitments prevented you from taking part in ECU’s NSVW events, check out Vollie for online volunteering opportunities.
Meet our ECU Vol Squad

Emily Sanders

Bachelor of Counter Terrorism, Security and Intelligence
*Inter-university tree planting*

What would you say to someone considering volunteering for the first time?
"Do it!"

Isobelle Matthews

Bachelor of Science (Biological Sciences)
*Inter-university tree planting*

What is your reason for volunteering?
"I enjoy contributing to the community and helping with conservation efforts. At the end of the day, you feel fulfilled and have something great to put on your CV."

Geoffrey Schoonakker

Bachelor of Science (Conservation and Wildlife Biology)
*Inter-university tree planting*

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?
"Networking and being involved. I enjoy the outdoors and love meeting new people in the area."

Sariga Harikumar

Master of Professional Accounting
ECU Vol Squad Donation Sorting for UnitingCare West

What would you say to someone considering volunteering for the first time?
"I should say everyone has to do some volunteering work as it will help us to make contacts and to know and understand what is happening around us."
**Rida Kanwal**

*Master of Finance and Banking*
*ECU Vol Squad Donation Sorting for UnitingCare West*

**What is your reason for volunteering?**
"Volunteering is a great way to give something back to your community. The sense of achievement and satisfaction that you get is purely amazing."

**Luan Anh Quach**

*Bachelor of Science (Nursing)*
*ECU Vol Squad Donation Sorting for UnitingCare West*

**What do you enjoy most about volunteering?**
"I get to experience all kinds of things and learn new skills."

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**Angelo Kiir**

*Graduate Certificate of Cyber Security*
*RedKite Event Volunteering*

**What would you say to someone considering volunteering for the first time?**
"Don’t hesitate to give it a shot."

**Nyibol Arik**

*Bachelor of Medical Science*
*RedKite Event Volunteering*

**What do you enjoy most about volunteering?**
"I get to experience all kinds of things and learn new skills."
Tracy Mews and Arun Thomas Mathew

Tracy Mews (left)
Bachelor of Science (Nursing)
Arun Thomas Mathews (right)
Bachelor of Technology (Engineering)

ECU Vol Squad Donation Sorting for UnitingCare West

What is your reason for volunteering?
Tracy: "It's a great way to give back to society. We are always so rushed and involved in caring for our own families, so it's nice to be involved in caring for the needs of other people."

Arun: "To meet new people and gain new experiences."

Rama Pirany

Bachelor of Science
RedKite Event Volunteering

What is your reason for volunteering?
"The opportunity to develop skills, be part of the community, contribute to charity and use my skills for the future."
National Student Volunteer Week

Check out the National Student Volunteer Week website to see the amazing contribution students are making to volunteering around the country. Click on the image below to be redirected to the NSVW website.

NSVW

We want to hear from you!

Did you attend one of our 2017 NSVW events and want to tell us what you think? Or do you have a great idea for 2018 NSVW? Whatever you have to say, we want to hear it. Click on the image below to complete our short survey.