



CURIOUS WORKS

*Everyday we work with
extraordinary people.*

WE GIVE THEM A VOICE





Contact

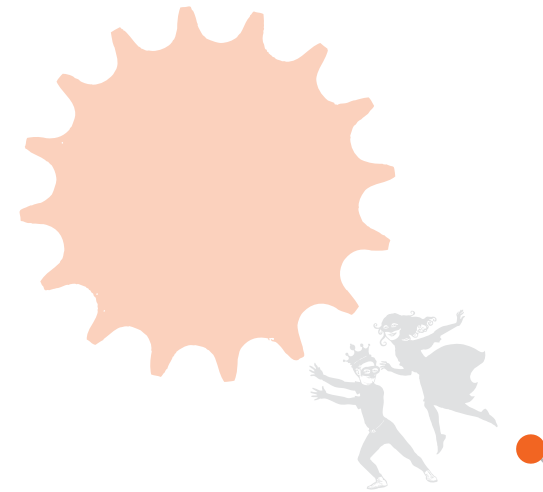
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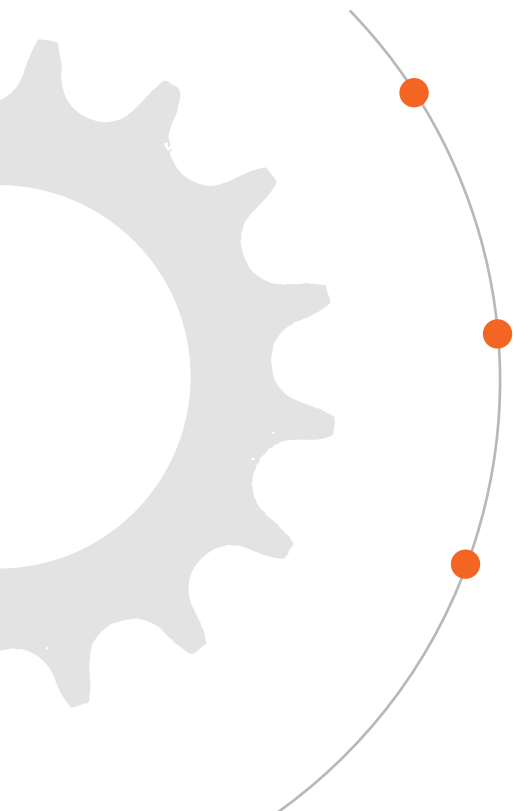
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CuriousWorks is a non profit charity with DGR and ITEC status

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CuriousWorks exists to identify, connect and build cutting-edge media capacity in a new generation of storytellers: storytellers that hail from Australia's most marginalised places and feel committed to improving their community's capacity for self-representation.

Community Program

We use media and the arts as a transformative tool that prevents young people from succumbing to the entrenched disadvantage of their local environment.

Cultural Leaders Program

We transform a proportion of those young people into cultural leaders that have the ability to powerfully and sustainably represent their community - and influence their local public institutions as a result.

Enterprise Program

We further train a proportion of those cultural leaders into entrepreneurs that can make professional creative media, for the consumption of mainstream Australia, as their full-time job. These young leaders eventually take over CuriousWorks' role in their community and are the centre of a hub of media activities in their region.

We distribute all content widely and powerfully through the Internet as well as traditional media forms.





● Values

we provide the **opportunity** for all Australians to have a voice

we find **creative** and **innovative** ways to build **cutting-edge** media capacity in people and communities

we are **agile** and **responsive**: our model is tailored to each community we work with

we focus on **sustainable** outcomes - the community takes **ownership** of our projects

we **network**, both online and physically, the people and organisations we work with

we have ambitious goals and achieve them in an **organised** and **disciplined** manner

we are **open**: we **share** our knowledge and are as **transparent** as possible as a business

we are a **hybrid** organisation: we bridge the arts and creative industries, enterprise and charity

we're playing our part in shifting to a **renewable** world running on renewable resources



● Education Showcase

CuriousWorks has developed an education model for delivering in-school digital media training that leaves a sustainable legacy of new media skills and activities for both students and teachers. The length, frequency, content and technology level are tailored to each school's needs; we maintain best practice student engagement and skills development while being flexible enough to suit timetable scheduling and curriculum outcomes. Essentially, CuriousWorks makes understanding the digital technology at your school simple, and gives you fun, innovative and useful ways to keep using it forever!

Case Study: Refill at Miller Technology High School, Western Sydney

For two years, CuriousWorks empowered students at risk of leaving the school to re-engage and build trust again in the school system. These students have not only remained at school but have also become engaged, skilled media makers – some of them are now also young, creative leaders. The Refill kids also made a fantastic online comedy series. Learn more about the project here: <http://www.curiousworks.com.au/projects/refill>

Case Study: Newman Senior High, Newman Primary and South Newman Primary

As part of our long-term project in Newman, we worked in these three schools in a capacity building framework. Through ongoing collaboration and professional development with the appropriate teachers, new media has been embedded into the school curriculum and students are taught to create local media stories in their own way. The schools have seen their students' faces light up as a result and engage heavily, which has resulted in successful lobbying for new media labs in all the schools. The schools now put on an annual film festival for the students and the community. Professional development continues between older students and younger ones – and between students and teachers, in some cases with students just nine years old passing on new media skills to their teachers.

Learn more here: <http://www.curiousworks.com.au/projects/newman-stories>





● Education Evaluation

“One of the unexpected outcomes this project had was on me personally ...The project has allowed me to see many different sides to my students and appreciate the abundance of skills they have. This had allowed my classes with them to be more innovative and creative as we have a closer connection and I have a better appreciation of them. And vice versa.

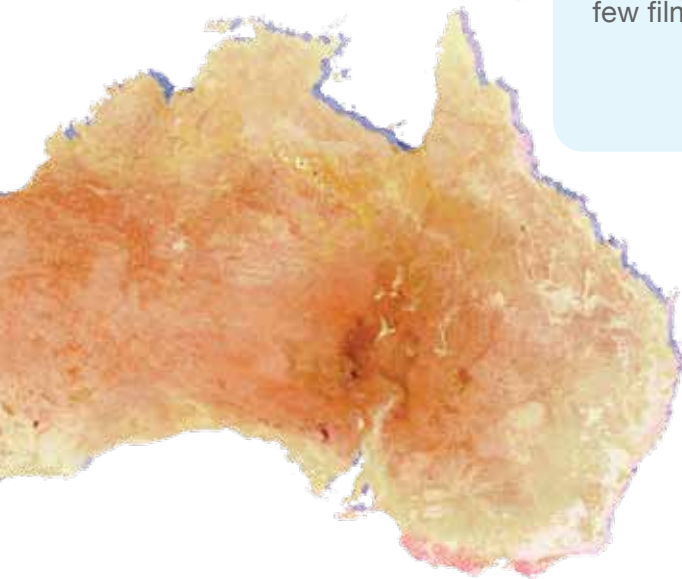
Many of the students who were involved in the project have had behavioural issues in their school careers. However, since being involved in the project many have had a dramatic reduction in RISC (a computer program that monitors incidents) reports. 3 students who have had over 20 RISC entries this year have had zero entered for this term.”

- Rebecca Franklin, Teacher, Holroyd High School

“Thanks for the video, it looks fantastic...great work!.... it has been “most excellent” working with CuriousWorks. Your professionalism and engagement with the students was brilliant they are and were enthusiastic about working on the video and with you!

The students enjoyed the process and the final video, we viewed it yesterday on the smart board. I think we might get a few film makers out of them for their HSC.”

- Paul McClaughlin, James Busby High School



● Community Showcase



Case Study: Neighbourhood Stories in St Marys with Penrith City Council

CuriousWorks trained up a diverse group of local citizens to make media on equipment that was already available: old cameras, mobile phones, the computers at the library. This intercultural and intergenerational group then made short, compelling media pieces (text, images, sound and video) about different parts of Penrith and its people. All content was uploaded to an online map of Penrith. The pieces were placed alongside research done by the council to build its Neighbourhood Action Plan; thus the content made by the participants played a key role in gathering information for the council and affecting the future development of the community. Learn more here: <http://www.curiousworks.com.au/projects/neighbourhood-stories/>

Case Study: Newman, remote Western Australia

Weeks before starting a long-term project in Newman, the designated base of operations, Newman Youth Centre, closed down. CuriousWorks had to shift its focus. We worked with young people in various community spaces, homes and even on the streets, helping them make media about their town. They made some great stories and were trained in how to use new media to lobby for their youth centre to be re-opened. They campaigned to council and were successful, with the youth centre re-opening in early 2011. Meanwhile, we built capacity in all the schools in town to carry on the benefits of the project, to ensure sustainability. Media labs have now been set up in all the schools, as well as an after-school lab at the youth centre. Professional development was done with the most engaged young people we met, as well as the school teachers and youth worker. The town now has the capacity to tell compelling local stories in film and photography and share them through an annual local film festival.

Alongside all this, we worked with small Indigenous communities based around the mining town. In partnership with a burgeoning media outfit, we built a crew of professional Indigenous media makers who can make content suitable for the general public about their way of life. Their work is also showed at the local film festival and schools, slowly building empathy and a sense of inclusion between the very different cultural groups in that region.

Learn more here: <http://www.curiousworks.com.au/projects/newman-stories>





Community Evaluation

“Neighbourhood Stories from my perspective has been about using technology as a vehicle for empowering residents in a local neighbourhood, in this case St Marys, which has been identified as a disadvantaged neighbourhood by the Australia Bureau of Statistics.

There is a real difference when you are collecting information from residents or from communities when members from that community are actually doing the interviewing. The type of material that comes out of this process is a lot richer and a lot more truthful.

The ripple effect of this project is huge - it allows new creative solutions for individuals and communities ... it taps into their creativity, gives them a voice where they didn't have a voice before. But most importantly it is not confined to the arts in an arts sense but also opens up a whole new series of creative solutions to everyone involved.”

- Cali Vandyk-Dunlevy, Cultural Development Officer, Penrith City Council





● Enterprise Showcase

Our two year enterprise program is centered around the ongoing creation of compelling, high-end film and transmedia content, targeted at more mainstream Australian audiences. The work made through this program is at a level suitable for broadcast and major film festivals, and also seeks to leverage new media platforms as an alternative media source. CuriousWorks does two years of intensive training with a small group of cultural leaders in a particular region – young people genuinely committed to their local community and a career in media arts. We train them to a professional level in both creative media and small business management. In this time, the group does a mixture of client and creative work.

After two years, we have set up a local business model for the enterprise that involves gathering income from professional media delivery for local clients (government, third sector, local business) and putting surplus from that back into the creation of more untold stories from their region. We have found that the enterprise program is a crucial plank in our overall model: these cultural leaders can also become educators in the local community and school programs, train other cultural leaders, be a point of contact for the council with the community and generally network within the community to make CuriousWorks redundant in their region.





Enterprise Evaluation ●

“A great short film. A subtle, gentle and compassionate approach to the subject matter which makes you care for both women and speaks volumes about the experience of refugees and migrants in Australia. Cinematography and lighting was excellent.”

- Khoa Do, AFI award winning Australian Vietnamese writer and director.

“The crew had an excellent energy and a real presence about them,” - Julianne Christie, Fairfield City Council

“I’ve watched ‘Villawood Mums’ last month and have a story to share; a 70yr old church attendee kept saying that refugees were well looked after, people in detention centres were always lucky to be on Australian soil, she couldn’t understand what the all fuss about all those people on the roofs of the detention centres. After watching the ‘Villawood Mums’ that lady understood that she didn’t have recent information ... she decided to go visit the new arrivals.”

- Semra Gula, viewer, Blacktown

“Here at CuriousWorks, they have given me my own voice, a way to speak out about myself.” - Shane Macdonald, crew member

“I think we learned that if you have an idea, you can make that idea happen.” - Guido Gonzalez, crew member

“Before I was at CuriousWorks, I had no confidence, like I can’t talk to the camera, to people, I am a shy person ... but when I worked with CuriousWorks, it gave me a big confidence” - Saif Jari, crew member

“We are representing our communities our way” - Anna Lam, crew member





● Technology & Training

Hundreds of people have been through our new media training course: individuals young and old, organisations, collectives, activists and artists. It is a tailored course built by CuriousWorks for the creative and non-profit sector, designed to give you a kick start and the right advice to sustainably build your own web presence and multimedia for minimal cost.

Learn more at <http://www.curiousworks.com.au/about/services/>

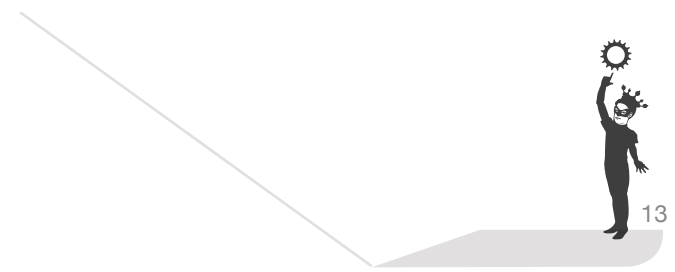
Online:

We've built an online toolkit of our model, freely available to all, which has been viewed tens of thousands of times since launching in late March 2010. The toolkit has workshop outlines, strategy ideas and technical tips.

Learn more at <http://toolkit.curiousworks.com.au>

We've also built an online social media portal, All Around You, for all the young people and cultural leaders we work with. All Around You is a nation-wide community, with 565 members and growing everyday. Through this portal all Australians can share media, knowledge, stories and values.

Learn more at <http://www.allaroundyou.net>





Training Evaluation ●

“CuriousWorks are great facilitators. The content was thought provoking and empowering and their passion and knowledge was really inspiring. Those 4 workshops were like a creative rebirth for me! And the fact that I had a little more of the basic computers skills than some others in the group didn’t slow me down, each of us got individual attention and got to learn at our own pace.”

- Norman Holmes, Financial Education Coordinator, Mission Australia.

“We cannot praise members of the CW team highly enough for their expert management and delivery of the intensive program. The trainers were passionate about their work, remaining always enthusiastic and good-humoured. They brought excellent listening skills and infinite patience to each session. They were responsive to our needs, astute and flexible in tailoring our training, and perceptive in delivering new skills to a range of learners with different levels of facility.

By the end of the week all participants had made enormous gains at both personal and practical levels, and all of us left the program with confidence in the use of new media and new technologies and a much richer appreciation of their importance to our not-for-profit organisation.

In Curiousworks-speak, it was a truly awesome week, and we will definitely be returning to the team for further training.”

- Peta Murray, Co-Founder, Groundswell





● Arts Showcase

CuriousWorks delivers multi-faceted, long-term creative initiatives centred around issues critical to contemporary Australia.

Case Study: The Migrant Project

Our first initiative was The Migrant Project. Over four years, 50 artists were brought together to develop performances, conferences and films about Sydney as a city built on a history of migration. The performances were seen by over 2,000 people and the films are referenced by many schools and universities around the world.

Learn more at <http://migrantproject.net>

Case Study: The Lanka Project

Our second initiative is The Lanka Project, bringing the lives of diverse Sri Lankan - Australians to the fore. The Lanka Project is a large-scale theatre work (premiering 2013), a classical dance and new media community project (2011), an audio installation work for Parramasala Festival (2010, 2011) and a research blog (2010-2013).

Learn more at <http://lankaproject.net>





Arts Evaluation

"I just spent three weeks at [international arts festival] being bombarded by art from around the world. This was a breath of fresh air. "

"Schmick and moving. Very moving. Very powerful, without trying too hard. The soundscape was delightful."

"Gut wrenching. The music just takes you in there."

"It took me on an existential journey. I almost cried, I can't really talk about it now. It was outside of everyday life."

"It was almost Yogic. First time I relaxed and thought deeply all day. Still taking it in."

- Audience members, The Lanka Project

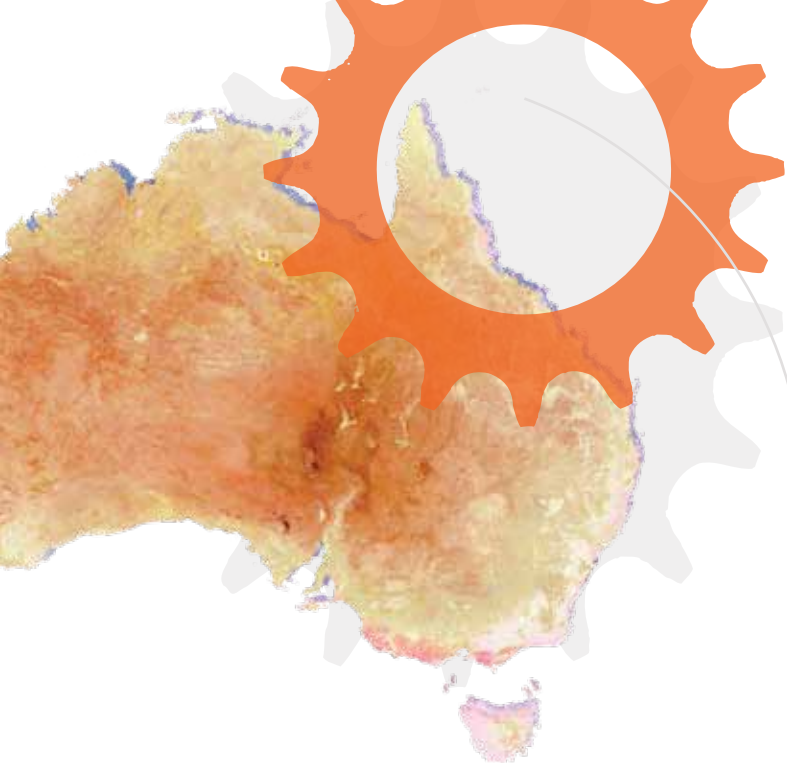
"I just want to make a comment about you bringing different art forms and cultures together... and how natural it is, I want to add, that people like you, from different backgrounds, find it almost a must to bring together different art forms, because it is as if one art form cannot contain.

I see you, as a group, exactly like explorers, going into new territory, whilst you are both the explorers and the cartographers, so as you move into this new territory... you're actually circumscribing, describing, refining a land that becomes clearer and clearer and clearer as you travel.

I am looking at you, getting a sense of us, going out into the ocean, and that is extremely powerful, extremely hopeful, it is an incredible statement that you're making and that you're bringing us in that journey... and you're open, see here you are, you're absolutely open, everything you see, everything you've done, even to this forum, even the way that you stand, in front of us, is all about hope and courage and vision. I really commend you."

- Audience member, The Migrant Project





● References

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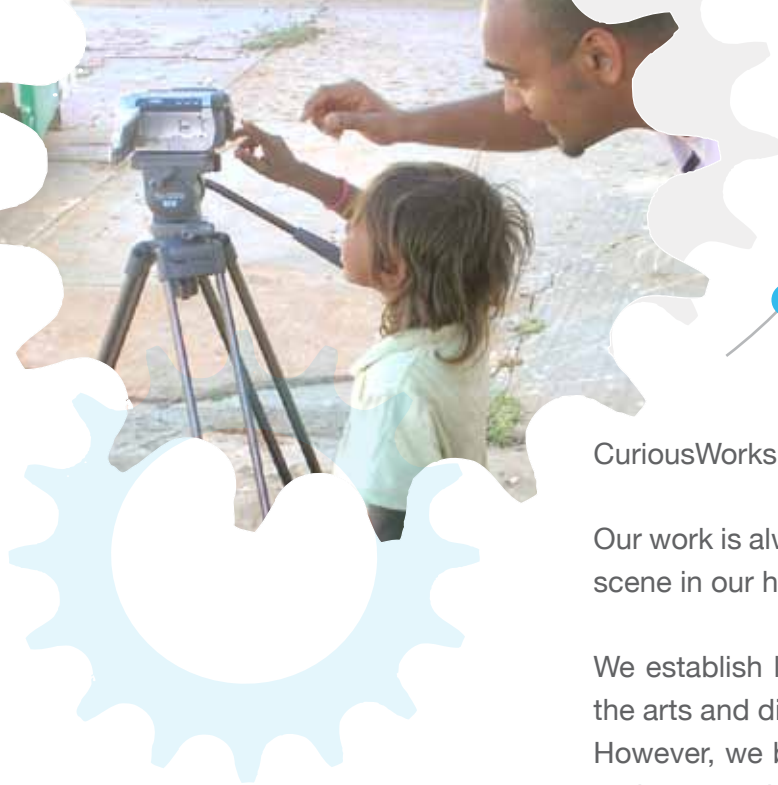
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● Mission

CuriousWorks' mission is to subtly reshape the systems of cultural production in Australia, for the benefit of all Australians.

Our work is always about instigating a more diverse, more accessible, more surprising, more imaginative arts and media scene in our home country. We want creativity and innovation to be a part of every day life for all Australians.

We establish long-term, multi-faceted partnerships with those who are working towards the same goals. We believe the arts and digital media can bring the stories of those in the margins into the centre of our society – for the long-term. However, we believe this must be done through a best-practice model that brings real, positive change to the people and communities that are involved in this process.

We do not document the stories of marginalised communities or engage in short-term programs with them. We work to empower their local cultural leaders to use digital media to represent their own people in their own ways, for the long term. In doing so, we hope to slowly build empathy and social inclusion within and between these communities and well as those in the 'mainstream' of Australian society.

Through extensive, respectful collaboration, we also develop innovative creative initiatives for the stage and screen that give prominence to Australia's untold stories. The initiatives are multi-platform, in public spaces and aimed at fostering public dialogue around contemporary Australian issues.

Based in Sydney, Australia, our work will always possess the characteristics of the country that inspires it: intercultural, interdisciplinary and clearly challenging its status quo.

