

YOUNG ALUMNI PROGRAM 2020 RECAP

What an unusual year 2020 presented itself as. The Young Alumni Advisory Board (YAAB) had to quickly adapt to the change in plans and working online to ensure key initiatives continued to support the young alumni community.

One of the biggest achievements was the establishment of many YAAB operational processes, which will help set the foundation for future boards.



WE DELIVERED EVENTS

Cocktails & Conversations

The first event for the year was our inaugural *Cocktails & Conversations* at Tiny's Bar. With a fantastic number of attendees, the room was buzzing with young grads crafting their networking skills while making great new connections.

Young Alumni Leadership Breakfast

What was supposed to be a face-to-face event in early April, was turned into our first online webinar. Curtin graduate and BHP Change Strategist [Nick Lim](#) was our guest speaker, who did a fantastic job delivering a session on [becoming a better leader](#).

Coffee & Conversations

After being in lockdown for a few months, it was so amazing to host this series to over 30 young graduates in person at Hampton and Maley in Victoria Park and Hylin in West Leederville.

Wine + Cheese + Growth: Side Hustles

We were honoured to hear and learn about all things side hustles from Curtin graduate Kristy Smith, General Manager of [Your Social Voice](#) and Founder of [Zephyr Events](#), and Curtin graduate and former staff member Andrew Maurice, Projector Coordinator of [Small Business Development Corporation \(SBDC\) Outreach](#). The event was a great success with young grads taking away key elements of how to start a side business, set yourself up for success and balance full-time work, while enjoying some great cheese and wine provided by [Olio's Fine Foods](#).

Annual General Meeting followed by *Cocktails & Conversations*

The final event for 2020 was our AGM followed by *Cocktails & Conversations* at Print Hall. During the AGM, we celebrated our 2019/2020 achievements and voted in the 2021 board members. As the night wound down, we networked over light refreshments. It was a great way to cap off a chaotic yet successful year for the YAAB, and we look forward to a full calendar of events in 2021.



WE CELEBRATED YOUNG GRADUATES

#Talks4Change podcast series

This year we had a variety of guests, from start-up founders, to Olympians and more. While the pandemic stopped us from recording in-person from the studio, this presented an opportunity to host the series remotely and expand our guests to include a number of international graduates.

We interviewed nine incredible Curtin graduates:

- [Nick Maisey](#) – Founder and Director of Befriend Inc.
- [Danielle Kettlewell](#) – retired Olympian (synchronised swimming), author, speaker and coach.
- [Verity Williams](#) – Project Engineer at Arup Australia.
- [Mary Bocarro and Janelle Sullivan](#) – Founders of ‘The Mango Project’.
- [Samreid Manez](#) – CEO of ManezCo.
- [Abdullahi Alim](#) – Community Manager of World Economic Forum and 2017 West Australian of the Year.
- [Jordina Quain](#) – Founder and President of Regional Youth Leadership Development (RYLD) and former co-President of the YAAB.
- [Marcus Wong](#) – volunteer filmmaker and 2020 Curtin Young Achievement Award winner.



Young Alumni stories

Created by Curtin's content team, we shared numerous [stories](#) and achievements of our graduates via EDMs, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Young Achievement Award winner



Congratulations to Marcus Wong for receiving the [Young Achievement Award](#) at this year's Curtin Alumni Achievement Awards and John Curtin Medal presentation.

[Find out more](#) about Marcus' inspiring story.

WE SUPPORTED CURRENT STUDENTS

At the start of the year, \$3,000 was raised for the [Young Alumni Helping Hand Fund](#) (YAHHF) at the soiree for *13 Ways to Look at Birds* event as part of Perth Festival.

During the peak of COVID-19, the [YAHHF](#) contributed \$3,000 to the Curtin Student Guild's Emergency Food Relief program, which enabled the Guild to feed 30 students a day for two weeks. The fund also joined forces with the University's *Curtin Cares* campaign with the goal to help achieve the best outcomes for students during this difficult period.

Overall, the alumni community raised \$5,500 for the YAHHF in 2020 and while this wasn't quite the YAAB's original target, we are still very happy with the result given the year we all had. This could not have been achieved without the generosity and support of the graduate community, and we are excited to expand the YAHHF footprint in 2021.

WE CONNECTED GLOBALLY

The YAAB launched the Young Alumni [LinkedIn page](#) in October 2019, which is our most successful social media channel to date. In addition, we strategically closed the Young Alumni Community Facebook group in June 2020 due to its inactivity, which resulted in a stronger following on our [Facebook](#) and LinkedIn pages. If you haven't already, make sure you're following the Facebook and LinkedIn pages to stay up-to-date with our future initiatives.

In May, we launched the Curtin Young Alumni Book Club series, which saw our YAAB members share book reviews and recommendations on social media for the wider community. The Global Stories series was also launched in August on social media to celebrate young graduates across the globe.

THANK YOU!

Curtin's Alumni and Community Relations team would like to thank the dedicated, enthusiastic and creative volunteers who served on the YAAB in 2020. The Young Alumni Program would not be what it is today without their ideas, knowledge and organisation:

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|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
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