Nomination Details (Individual or one team representative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Jim Soutar</th>
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<tr>
<td>Position/Team</td>
<td>Curtin Parks and Gardens</td>
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<td>Nomination criterion</td>
<td>Leadership Excellence</td>
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Part A  Synopsis (approx. 100 words)

Jim Soutar has inspired his landscape team to develop an action research and educational naturescape to support the work of two faculties at Curtin. He has encouraged the creative and professional contributions of his team for a practical purpose and has developed and nurtured their skills during the design phase and construction of the naturescape. He has helped to create a centre that allows for innovation and excellence in collaborative science, education, conservation and horticulture. His leadership has resulted in a naturescape that inspires and enables the staff and students in two faculties to conduct research that will guide children’s respect, and help them value, protect and conserve the natural cultural heritage and biodiversity of Western Australia.

Part B  Actions or strategies used to achieve objectives (max. 500 words)

As a leader in the Parks and Gardens division of the Department of Facilities Management, I have taken seriously the opportunity this position gives me to develop new ideas and inspire creativity among my team. My focus has been on three of the seven Parks and Gardens objectives:

- Identify, evaluate and develop opportunities to further enhance the campus environment.
- Provide an information base and information system for staff and clients.
- Increase the awareness and appreciation of services in horticultural maintenance, landscape construction, irrigation management, turf maintenance, and grounds administration.

A major project I have been involved in over the past 18 months has been to provide support for a joint School of Education and Centre for Aboriginal Studies (CAS) project that aims to enhance and conserve Aboriginal cultural heritage and inspire positive environmental action through discovery learning and connection with nature.

When I was approached for advice on an Aboriginal heritage and plant biodiversity naturescape, I was eager to share the possibility of creating a new and special nature garden area with my team. I ran an enquiry by design (EBD) process, with my team as support staff, to develop a naturescape and plant conservation area. I have been undertaking further studies in landscape construction and, through this, learnt about the EBD process. Our EBD followed the process outlined in the Preparation Manual developed by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure.

This method of planning takes into account all the project’s issues and impacts, including environmental, economic and social matters, to solve problems and bring about agreement among everyone involved in the project. We conducted our EBD at the project site with staff from Education and CAS, which is best practice, in order to learn what it was possible to do on the site and exactly what was needed for the research project.

The process was so successful that two of my team volunteered to produce an action plan to ensure that what was decided at the workshop was carried out according to plan. They worked with staff in the School of Education and CAS to complete this plan.

I have contributed significant professional expertise to the selection and planting of the naturescape and conservation area. It is a great way for me to share my understanding of WA’s remarkable plant biodiversity. I worked closely with Aboriginal Elders, who were special consultants for this project, and I have provided key skills in developing an interpretive nature walk and activity area.
## Part B  Actions or strategies used to achieve objectives (max. 500 words)

CAS partnered with Rio Tinto, who agreed to support the project at Curtin. Once that happened, I became involved as the principal technical officer liaising with Rio Tinto personnel.

This project is also contributing to the record of all the plants and trees on campus entered in the Properties computer management system, Archibus.

## Part C  The outcomes and relationship to the Strategic Plan 2013 – 2017 (max. 500 words)

The principal role of Curtin Parks and Gardens involves the protection, preservation and development of the University’s grounds. The naturescape was created over several months and can now be enjoyed by the whole Curtin community as much as being a place for research for staff and students. The naturescape is located in the same precinct as the Faculty of Humanities and CAS and it takes some of its design inspiration from the beautiful interior of the CAS. The naturescape contributes to the People and Culture objective to engage students and staff in a flexible & inspiring environment.

Learning about how plants are used for Aboriginal food, medicine and spiritual life has been a unique and satisfying professional development opportunity for the horticulture and landscape staff. My staff are justly proud of the thanks they receive from the users of the space for their hard work in creating an authentic and unique teaching space (the students love coming here to learn from Aboriginal staff and community Elders). I know we have created a landscape that is worthwhile and interesting for the University and the wider community, supporting the Engagement and Impact objective to meet the needs of the community we serve.

I have used innovative practice that focuses on sustainable outcomes to positively influence my horticulture and landscape team. I created a shared commitment to developing a new and unique environmental feature to support the research, teaching and learning activities at Curtin.

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**Signature:**

**Name:**

**Date:**