Events and festivals have become a key factor in developing and differentiating tourism destinations worldwide. As such, there has been a substantial increase in the number of events and festivals created for tourists, which also create entertainment and community benefits for local residents.

Researchers have typically focused on mega and major events and festivals including the Olympic Games and international music and arts festivals with more minor attention given to smaller, local and regional events in developing tourism destinations. Events and festivals such as agricultural shows, famers markets and wildflower festivals are frequently community celebrations as well as tourist draw cards. These events and festivals often grow up within the community, organised by a team of volunteers with minimal funds. Studies have documented the dangers of commodifying community events for tourist consumption, changing their historical meaning in a bid to attract tourists. However, a more contemporary approach is to develop entirely new events in order to entice tourists to regional destinations.

Hosted by the Curtin University’s Tourism Research Cluster, the *Events, festivals and communities* symposium will examine the role of small, local and regional events and festivals in developing both communities and tourism destinations. This symposium is relevant to academics, government, industry and communities and all are invited to submit papers.

Potential topics will include:

- Creating new events and festivals
- Developing a community festival into a tourist attraction
- Relationships between events, festivals, social capital and community wellbeing
- Developing sustainable community events and festivals
- Events and festivals as community celebrations
- Events and festivals in branding communities and destinations
- The role of volunteers and the not-for-profit sector in community events and festivals
- The contribution of events and festivals to regional development
- Event and festival policy
- Case studies of community festivals and events

Publication Plan
The primary outputs of the symposium will be a journal special issue or edited book.

Submission Guidelines
Interested researchers are invited to submit a paper abstract (500 words) by 31st March 2014. Submission of an abstract will be taken to imply that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere and is original work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abstract submission (500 words)</th>
<th>31st March 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notification of acceptance</td>
<td>14th April 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symposium</td>
<td>11-12th June 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission of paper for special issue/book</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
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For further information and to submit abstracts contact TRC Co-Director Dr Kirsten Holmes K.Holmes@cbs.curtin.edu.au or phone +61 (8) 9266 7411

Program outline
Day 1: June 11, 2014, Symposium 2014 ‘Events, Festivals and Communities’ (full day program)
The program will include local and international researchers and invited government and industry representatives presenting on areas within Events and Festivals.

Day 2: June 12, 2014, ‘Events and Festivals’ Research Exchange, (half day program)
Short presentations series of current research on events and festivals by a range of researchers, including HDR students.

For expressions of interest to attend the 2014 Symposium and sponsorship opportunities please email trc@curtin.edu.au. The Symposium is a research and industry collaborative initiative funded by the TRC. Registration is free however, due to limited seats available registration will be required.