



*Westfield*

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*Local Heroes*

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2018

Westfield Local Heroes were nominated and voted for by their communities, with the three successful Westfield Local Heroes per centre each awarded a \$10,000 grant to support their affiliated organisation's work, programs or activities.



*Westfield*  

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*Local Heroes*

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In the first year of the Westfield Local Heroes program, we received an overwhelming response and many heart-warming stories after asking the local community to nominate individuals who promote wellbeing and harmony in their communities.

We congratulate every one of our nominees and recognise the important contribution they make to their local community.

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*Westfield*

LIVERPOOL

NSW



## Jackie Lee Make-A-Wish Australia

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*Spirited, Humble, Committed*

### How Jackie helps make children's wishes come true

When Jackie Lee went looking for a good cause to support, she found the perfect fit with Make-A-Wish Australia, a charity that brings joy to seriously ill children.

No wish is too bizarre or outrageous for Jackie and her colleagues and they always do their best to make it come true.

"I love that mindset," says Jackie.

She says the story of a teenager who wanted to take his family on holiday illustrates how the process gives the kids a boost.

When Jackie and another volunteer first met the boy, he was shy and subdued. But the next time they met, he was talkative and excited about the trip.

"In only a few months the difference was incredible and he hadn't even had his wish granted," says Jackie.

In her one year with the newly formed South West Sydney branch, Jackie has devoted countless hours to help grant wishes to seriously ill children.

She has also stepped up to take on the role of branch president, which includes responsibility for fundraising activities.

Jackie says big-ticket wishes like trips to Movie Land capture public attention. But it was a simple wish that captured her heart.

The child just wanted to escape the hospital long enough to see a movie with his friends.

There were screams of excitement when a stuntman dressed as Spiderman came to pick the children up and performed a few tricks.

"It was my favourite one so far — they were so happy," says Jackie, who also volunteers for an organisation that supports homeless and at-risk women.

Jackie says it feels absolutely incredible to be voted a Westfield Local Hero.

The \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes grant awarded to Make-A-Wish will be used to help fund four wishes in the local area.

"Our goal is to grant wishes to every child diagnosed with a life-threatening illness," says Jackie.



## **Pat Hall** Liverpool Neighbourhood Connections

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*Passionate, Committed, Tireless*

### **Entrepreneurial Pat launches a chain of businesses to break cycle of unemployment**

Pat Hall might have been a famous entrepreneur with a chain of shops bearing her name.

Instead, she invests all her significant entrepreneurial and networking talent into her quest to end a multigenerational cycle of unemployment among some families in Warwick Farm in southwestern Sydney.

Pat is the CEO of Liverpool Neighbourhood Connections, a charity that provides education and mentoring to 22,000 disadvantaged women and families a year.

As if facilitating 65 social and vocational groups a week and a TAFE hospitality program is not enough, Pat's new passion is to provide women with paid employment and work experience.

To do this she and her team launched several small businesses: a canteen concession at a school, a coffee kiosk at a library, a second-hand clothing business, a lawnmower cleaning service and a mobile coffee business.

The businesses are turning over \$128,000 a year and providing 3,800 hours of paid work, says Pat, who is grateful to the Sydney Community Foundation, which introduced her to philanthropists who provide subsidies.

The first enterprise, Pepper's Place, grew from an informal coffee break at which people gave a dollar donation for raisin toast. "We didn't even realise it was an enterprise when it started," says Pat.

Five years later she has it all mapped out. Marginalised women are attracted to the centre through a variety of soft entry points and the most engaged among them make it into an enterprise, via a TAFE course.

From there, the idea is that they get a job on the open market, says Pat, who is pleased to be voted a Westfield Local Hero. "We are changing the women's lives and their children's lives. It feels great to be recognised. Everyone wants to be recognised for their hard work."

Liverpool Neighbourhood Connections plans to use its Westfield \$10,000 Local Heroes grant to sponsor three women for three hours of paid employment a week for a year.



## **Grace Fava** Autism Advisory and Support Service

*Passionate, Determined,  
Empathetic*

### **Love for her sons inspires Grace to help thousands of others**

Grace Fava's two sons are doing very well in high school. But she still becomes emotional when she speaks about her initial struggle to find support for their autism spectrum disorder.

"I thought that if I'm having this much difficulty and frustration, imagine those who don't have English as their first language, who don't have the amount of education that I did," she says.

So, Grace gathered up seven like-minded parents and around her kitchen table they hatched a plan for a modest information service.

That was 2007. Since then Autism Advisory and Support Service has moved out of Grace's spare room into a purpose-designed cottage in Liverpool, NSW. It is NDIS-accredited and has 25 employees and volunteers.

About 500 people from across Australia and overseas contact the service each month by email, in person or by contacting its 24-hour Autism hotline – the only one in the southern hemisphere. There is also a steady stream of requests for help and referrals from community organisations, health services, doctors, schools and politicians.

"We have helped thousands of people over the years," says Grace, who is CEO of the non-profit organisation.

"I'm proud to say that almost 12 years later we also offer allied health interventions, professional development and network families with the support they need. It's all about the best possible outcomes for children and adults on the spectrum."

"We take a step back and say let's bring in the correct support and make sure we have the right outcome. We try to get an overall view instead of focusing on one issue," she says.

"We have the lived experience that other organisations don't have."

Grace says it is "very exciting" and an honour to be voted a Westfield Local Hero. "I am honoured because what I do is out of love, first of all for my children, but that goes out to other children and families in need."

The service will use its \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes grant to provide subsidised therapy services to people with autism who do not attract funding through the NDIS or are on a waiting list for funding. This will include speech, occupational, behaviour and music therapy as well as psychology, physiotherapy and social skills groups.

# Your 2018 Finalists

## **Danielle Begg** | The Yoga Impact Charity

*Dedicated, Selfless, Vibrant*

The Yoga Impact Charity, an organisation that partners with not-for-profits, schools and government to provide trauma sensitive yoga classes to groups healing from torture and trauma. As the Co-Founder and CEO of The Yoga Impact Charity, Danielle is responsible for the establishment, delivery and evaluation of trauma sensitive yoga programs within schools, not-for-profits and government.

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## **Rick Herrera** | SWAG Family Sydney

*Humble, Reliable, Honest*

SWAG Family Sydney is a not-for-profit, grass roots operation that feeds the homeless and struggling families in Liverpool. Rick Herrera drives the SWAG Family van and brings tables, a gas stove and utensils to the dinners. Rick cooks and organises for food to be cooked or donated and delivers it. Rick organises nights off the street for homeless people and organises donations and the packing of food hampers and toiletries bags.

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## **Linda Margie** | South West Community Transport Ltd

*Dedicated, Caring, Involved*

South West Community Transport's purpose is to provide advice and assistance to people so they can utilise the transport networks within their local area. Linda provides the necessary training, coaching and then accompanies participants to help them with planning their travel, determining the most suitable travel type for their ability, obtaining and understanding timetables, acquiring the necessary Opal cards and the discounts available, preparing for and utilising access points that are suitable to their ability.



# Recognising all of our 2018 Nominees

**Danielle BEGG**

The Yoga Impact Charity

**Ethan BELL**

AI ME Mentoring

**Elaine BLACK**

Legacy NSW Associated Clubs

**Lauren COTTERILL**

Women's Housing Company Ltd

**Chris DARCY**

Search Dogs Sydney

**Grace FAVA**

Autism Advisory and Support  
Service

**Rebecca GAULD**

Australian Breastfeeding  
Organisation South Western  
Sydney

**Andrea GIUNTA**

Paint Liverpool REaD

**Pat HALL**

Liverpool Neighbourhood  
Connections

**Rick HERRERA**

SWAG Family Sydney

**Stephanie INGRAM**

The Shepherd Centre for  
Deaf Children

**Jackie LEE**

Make-A-Wish Australia

**Derick LUONG**

South Western Area Health  
Liverpool Hospital

**Linda MARGRIE**

South West Community  
Transport Ltd

**Alison MAYNARD**

Chipping Norton Scout Group

**Jacki McFARLANE**

Partners In Recovery/  
Flourish Australia

**Jolene MOKBEL**

Salvation Army Youthlink

**Helen NAHAS**

McGrath Foundation

**Maria QUARTIERIO**

Diamond Women's Support

**Amy ROPITINI**

The Movement

**Adam WASHBOURNE**

Fighters Against Child Abuse  
Australia

A decorative red ribbon graphic that starts as a thick, straight line on the left and then curves and loops into a thinner, wavy line on the right.

**If you or anyone you know would like more information on what support is available:**

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**AUSTRALIA**

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467

Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800

MensLine: 1300 78 99 78

Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636

1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732

**NEW ZEALAND**

Lifeline: 0800 543 354

Suicide Crisis Helpline: 0508 828 865

Kidsline: 0800 54 37 54

Depression Helpline: 0800 111 757

Samaritans: 0800 726 666

Family Violence Information Line: 0800 456 450





SCENTRE GROUP

Owner and Operator of **Westfield** in Australia and New Zealand