



Westfield

Local Heroes

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.



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Local Heroes

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.



Westfield

HELENSVALE

QLD



Luke Harrison
Paradise Kids (a division of
Hopewell Hospice Services Inc)

Wise, Passionate, Giving

The teen whose music gives hope to kids in grief

Luke Harrison is using his musical gift to provide hope and encouragement to children when they need it most.

The talented 13-year-old singer, songwriter and actor is no stranger to the stage and has even released an original song – Heaven's Song.

Luke is already giving up his time to help children less fortunate than himself as a young ambassador for Paradise Kids, a centre dedicated to providing specialised programs and activities for children dealing with grief.

"It all started four and a half years ago when my grandfather spent the last 10 weeks of his life in Hopewell Hospice," says Luke.

"After personally going through that difficult time I realised there was a need to help children going through similar experiences."

From its home on the Gold Coast, Paradise Kids helps 400 children and their families every year to grieve after death, illness, loss and other traumatic events.

As a young ambassador for Paradise Kids, Luke volunteers at fundraisers and lends his voice to Christmas performances with the centre's Angel Choir. He also uses his growing profile as a performer to raise awareness of the centre's mission.

"I am also available to speak at events, sing and personally offer support to the children at Paradise Kids and residents at Hopewell Hospice," he says.

Outside his work with Paradise Kids, Luke is a mentor to younger singers and his personal goal is to touch lives around the world with his voice.

Luke says he is humbled to be voted a Westfield Local Hero.

"I am excited and very happy that Paradise Kids can continue their amazing work in the community and 'heal the heartache' in so many children's lives."

Paradise Kids will use its \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes grant to buy equipment for the kids who participate in its programs, including workbooks, memory boxes and art supplies.



Jade Mirabito headspace Southport

Inspiring, Passionate, Fabulous

Jade gives young LGBTIQAP+ people a safe place to make friends and seek help

Jade Mirabito is a public example of courage and pride for young people across the Gold Coast who identify with being LGBTIQAP+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer/questioning, allied, pansexual).

Through his work as a specialist counsellor at headspace Southport, Jade creates a safe place for people to make friends and express themselves, which is good for their mental health and well-being. An important part of his work is to sensitively ensure people are referred for appropriate follow-up care.

He also delivers engaging workshops to health professionals and actively supports Wesley Mission Queensland's Expanded Horizons Program, a youth suicide prevention service. But Jade's positive influence extends far beyond work hours. As a well-known face and member of the LGBT+ community, Jade is often stopped on the street to share personal stories and advice.

"Possibly due to being quite a visible person with my loud colours and rebellious beard, I get asked lots of questions—often quite personal—that I'm sometimes able to turn into teachable moments," Jade says.

With his warm smile and openness to educating others, Jade is a great role model and ambassador for the community. It makes

him a perfect fit to run the Gold Coast LGBTIQAP+ Mental Health Professionals network, which brings together services from across the region to network and share ideas for working with the local community.

Jade says he is "incredibly grateful" to have been voted a Westfield Local Hero by the Gold Coast community. "I hear so many disheartening stories about how society treats LGBTIQAP+ people, so this support is so validating and inspires hope for positive change. I'm honoured to be just one representative using lived experience to support LGBTIQAP+ young people on the Gold Coast."

Headspace Southport will use its \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes grant to provide extra support for at-risk young people, giving them the opportunity to attend community events. "For young people, it can be hard to find spaces to exist that are safe and affordable. This is especially true for LGBTIQAP+ young people, so this will help reduce isolation and have a positive impact," says Jade.

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

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467

Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800



Nicolle Edwards
RizeUp Australia Pty Ltd

*Generous, Committed,
Warmhearted*

Tireless Nicolle fights human rights violation that's on everyone's doorstep

Something stirred deep inside Nicolle Edwards when she helped a friend set up a new home after escaping domestic violence.

She knew her community had a problem and she was determined to do something about it. So she started her own charity, RizeUp, which helps set domestic violence survivors up in a new home.

That was 2015. Today, the organisation has 250 other volunteers who not only help the families get back on their feet, but provide moral support as well.

If Nicolle was the seed at the start, she is now the glue that holds it all together. She works tirelessly collecting donations, mentoring and recruiting volunteers, setting up homes, driving the truck and using her powerful persona to advocate against violence.

"Australia is the lucky country but it is such an eye-opener to see how many families aren't quite so lucky," she says. "RizeUp is about confronting domestic violence as the human rights violation it is and connecting the broader community with creating better outcomes for the affected families."

Because many survivors leave home with nothing, RizeUp completely furnishes their new houses with everything from beds and linen to crockery and cooking utensils.

"We also give them hope by showing that the community commends them and we are proud of the courageous decision they have made to leave the violence behind," she says.

Nicolle is determined to address the root causes of domestic violence and promotes the importance of healthy, respectful relationships.

"Sadly, I don't believe it will ever be eradicated but we can control how we are looking at it as a community and we can raise our voices against domestic and family violence in Australia," she says.

"We can keep our eyes firmly planted on the perpetrators of the violence to ensure they know their anti-social behaviour isn't welcome in this great nation."

Nicolle says she is humbled to have been voted a Westfield Local Hero by her community.

RizeUp will use its \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes grant to furnish five homes for domestic violence survivors and help 25 children start school with new uniforms and backpacks.

Your 2018 Finalists

Felicity Dearlove | My Friend's Place

Passionate, Selfless, Dedicated

Felicity is a full time volunteer support worker for My Friend's Place Qld. Felicity's valued time, experience and input has assisted numerous woman and children who have escaped domestic and family violence. Her dedication, passion and selflessness has assisted these women and families to overcome their trauma, put their lives back together and move onto a safe self-managed life.

Terry Kelly | Volunteering Gold Coast

Dedicated, Enthusiast, Beautiful

Terry was a volunteer driver for Volunteering Gold Coast for 10 years and has assisted thousands of disadvantaged Gold Coast residents to access a range of standard living services including shopping, medical and health appointments, as well as to social and recreational pursuits, importantly allowing them to maintain independence and connection to the community. Terry excelled in communicating, interacting with and taking a genuine interest in clients and ensuring their travel was pleasant.

Recognising all of our 2018 Nominees

Bernd (Ben) BRAUER

New Beginnings

Rosalinde BRINKMAN

Gold Coast Catchment Association

Wendy BRITTON

Ballina Soccer Club

Ronan BYRNE

Parkwood Sharks Rugby
League Club

Nicole CANSDALE

Neighbourhood Watch

Terry CARROLL

Second Chances Gold Coast

Lisa CHARLTON

FSG

Anne COBROFT

Neighbourhood Watch

Julie COX

FSG Australia

Nick DAY

Coomera Cubs Baseball Club Inc

Felicity DEARLOVE

My Friend's Place Qld Inc

Justine DILLON

Ngarang Wal Gold Coast
Aboriginal Association
Incorporated

Nicolle EDWARDS

RizeUp Australia Pty Ltd

Glen EVANS

Coomera Cutters Junior Rugby
League Club

Tim FISK

Rotary Club of Coomera Valley, Inc

Teresa FOSTER

Cancer Council

Carly FRADGLEY

Baby Give Back

Melanie FUNK

Hands to Hold Ltd

Luke HARRISON

Paradise Kids (A division of
Hopewell Hospice Services Inc)

Sid HOOKER

Griffith University

Sarah INGRAM

Pacific Arts & Cultural Heritage Inc

Leiza JOHNSON

FSG

Zoe KEARNEY

FSG Australia

Terry & Wendy KELLY

Volunteering Gold Coast

Toni KIRTO

A.B. Paterson College

Braden LAMB

Lotus Living Organically Inc

Fiona LAMB

Lotus Living Organically Inc

John LANE

Gold Coast Roller Skating Club Inc

Carol LARMOR

Village Community Service Inc

Hedy LUCRE-IMPENS

Helensvale State P&C Association

Nick MARSHALL

Albatross Nippers Inc

Ainsley McLAREN

Baby Give Back

Kristie MILLER

Gold Coast Multiple Birth
Association

Jade MIRABITO

headspace Southport

Kay MORRISEY

Arundel Park Riding for
Disabled Inc

Kimberly ONEILL

Variety childrens charity
(Jet Trek 2019 Ski 84)

Rachel RIVE

Wesley Mission Queensland

Meg ROESSLER

Make-A-Wish Australia

Daniel TIATI

Forward Church

Alexandra WELLS

Lutheran Ormeau Rivers
District School (LORDS)

Cappi WHITE

Norfolk Village State School

Mark WOODHOUSE

Lynne Richardson Community
Centre

Ian WOOTEN

On the Right Track -
Kokoda Youth Foundation

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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

Kidslines: 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