

A decorative red ribbon graphic that starts on the left, loops upwards, then downwards, and finally loops back to the right, framing the central text.

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.



Westfield

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

WEST LAKES

SA



Anthony Forby SMOSH West Lakes Junior Football Club

Passionate, Energetic, Fun

Anthony gets a buzz out of making football female-friendly

All too often football is a spectator sport for girls. But that's something SMOSH West Lakes Junior Football Club is working hard to change.

The club is already kicking goals. Under the directorship of volunteer Anthony Forby, its girls' academy has grown from one football team in 2016 to six teams. "I'm a true believer that girls can play and do anything that men can do," says Anthony, who has an infectious love of football. "If girls can play soccer and hockey and basketball why can't they play football?"

That belief is rubbing off. The club's program now includes 113 female footballers, eight coaches and a team of volunteers.

For Anthony, the first year delivered an undisputed highlight. "Of the 24 girls I had in my squad maybe three or four had experienced some type of football. The rest of them were ballet dancers, ballroom dancers, basketball players, soccer players or gymnasts," he says.

The team went on to win the grand final against a well-established team. "It wasn't something you'd ever dream of," he says.

One girl had never played football before. "Now two years later she is captaining the state under-16 girls' team. That's what gives me the buzz."

Apart from attending all the training sessions and supporting the coaches, Anthony is involved in developing further opportunities for women in football.

He is part of the development and coaching team at The Woodville West Torrens Football Club, which is working to add a female team to the SANFL Women's League in 2019. Then girls will have a clear pathway beyond junior football.

Anthony says he feels honoured to be a Westfield Local Hero.

The club will use its \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes grant to make its facilities more female-friendly by helping to fund the construction of new change rooms.



Denis Brien West Torrens District Cricket Club Inc

Selfless, Fair, Nurturing

What an innings! Selfless Denis comes out to bat for young players

Denis Brien is perhaps best known for being a mentor of the late Test cricketer David Hookes.

The former president of the West Torrens District Cricket Club (WTDCC) has notched up many accolades during his decades as a player and a coach. But perhaps the most heart-warming story is of him giving refuge to two Ugandan cricketers, Jimmy Okello and Patrick Ochan.

After a chance meeting, he took them into his home, brought them into the club and eventually won a long-running battle to help them gain residency.

In the 1990s he coached the state under-19 men's team and later the senior women's team, which won three national titles in four years. He is particularly proud that seven of his players went on to play Test cricket for Australia.

For the past 12 years, Denis, 77, has been the coordinator of WTDCC's Young Eagles Boys and Girls Academies and is dedicated to ensuring all children can play cricket, regardless of their socio-economic background.

WTDCC provides the young players with weekly training by former South Australian and Australian cricketers at no or minimal cost.

Two male Young Eagles have made it into the elite Redbacks team and one woman has been selected for the Scorpions.

The youth program is about much more than the sport of cricket, says Denis.

"It's trying to develop the total person, develop the child not just in sport but in social, cultural and physical activities so that they are prepared for life as well as being prepared for cricket."

Denis, a former teacher, handles all aspects of the academies, from promotion to recruitment; coordination to coaching and has organised trial matches against other academies and an annual country trip to play against teams in the West Torrens Country zone on the Yorke Peninsula.

He says he feels both "chuffed" and "humbled" that he has been voted a Westfield Local Hero.

The club will use its Westfield Local Heroes grant to continue subsidising training and to train new coaches.



Loretta Zemitis Flinders Park Football Club

*Reliable, Unflappable,
Committed*

You can rely on Loretta to step in when the chips are down

If you look for Loretta Zemitis on almost any evening you will find her doing volunteer work at Flinders Park Football Club.

That's where she has spent four nights a week for the past 10 years: working behind the bar, managing event bookings and working on functions with the social committee.

Her passion for the club started one Friday night when she popped in for a drink and there was nobody to make chips. She put her hand up, and it just grew from there, she says.

With no paid coordinator at the club, Loretta steps in wherever she is needed. She also keeps track of food and beverage stock and recruits members for fundraising activities.

Each season she provides on-the-job training for new groups of junior canteen staff. She is particularly proud that some have gone on and found work elsewhere. "We've got some really good kids," she says.

It's the children who give her the most reward for what she does.

"The best part for me is you're doing something that allows kids to play a sport and that they are not roaming the streets doing things they shouldn't be doing."

That's part of the positive energy that is drawing more families to the club.

On Friday evenings, more than 250 junior members attend training, and their families and other members visit the club to socialise.

Loretta is grateful to be voted a Westfield Local Hero by her community.

Flinders Park Football Club will use its \$10,000 Westfield grant to improve its facilities to accommodate its growing number of families.

"Knowing that the benefit will go to everybody who is a member of the club is great," Loretta says.

Your 2018 Finalists

Benito Carbone | The Port Church Inc

Committed, Tireless, Selfless

The purpose of Ben's work is to support and care for the local community through the provision and supply of basic needs, such as food and clothing, but more importantly to build relationships with those at a disadvantage in the community. Not only is Ben the driving force behind this program on a weekly basis, he also takes time out of his week to visit people, check on their welfare and offer support wherever possible.

Kylie O'Callaghan | Zahra Foundation Australia

Passionate, Modest, Selfless

Kylie is the Manager of the Zahra Foundation Australia which supports women and children experiencing or escaping domestic violence. The foundation provides financial counselling, small grants and programs to help women develop financial independence to help break the cycle of domestic & family violence.

Nikki Von Bertouch | Henley Surf Life Saving Club

Enthusiastic, Proud, Respected

Nikki is currently the Junior Manager at the Henley Surf Life Saving Club and responsible for the education and development of their junior members who range in age from 5 through to 14. Nikki heads a committee which ensures that Henley Life Saving Club has a program to teach children the skills that allow them to enter the water knowing the risks and how to manage them.

Recognising all of our 2018 Nominees

Patricia APPS

Adelaide Volunteer Branch of
Make-A-Wish Australia

Denis BRIEN

West Torrens District Cricket
Club Inc

Lynette CALLAGHAN

Port Adelaide Softball Club

Benito CARBONE

The Port Church Incorporated

Julie CLIFFORD

NASSSA – Northern Adelaide State
Secondary Schools' Alliance

Gabrielle COMEY

Time for Kids

Anthony FORBY

SMOSH West Lakes Junior
Football Club

Kylie FRANSON

Limbs 4 Life Inc

Steven HORSMAN

Henley Beach Surf Life Saving Club

Anna KEMP

Seeds of Affinity –
Pathways for Women Inc

Michael KIRA

Westpac Life Save Rescue

Stacey O'BRIEN

The Parentmedic Movement

Kylie O'CALLAGHAN

Zahra Foundation Australia

Aisling O'TOOLE

Muscular Dystrophy
Association Inc

Eman RAHIM

Heart & Soul Community Group Inc

Taylor RUSANOFF

St Michael's All Angels Netball Club

Alister SANDOW

Blenheim Music and
Camping Festival

Chelsea SLACK

Can:Do 4Kids
(Townsend House Inc)

Hoda TEIMORZADEH

Muscular Dystrophy
Association Inc

Nikki VON BERTOUCHE

Henley Surf Life Saving Club

Ben WAECHTER

KYD-X Ltd

Ross WAIT

Zahra's Quest for the
Zahra Foundation

Grant WILES

Grange Surf Life Saving Club Inc

Loretta ZEMETIS

Flinders Park Football Club

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

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



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