



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

ST LUKES

NZ



Richard Stanton
1st Mt Albert,
St Jude's Scout Group

*Dedicated, Committed,
Passionate*

Scout leader Richard helps out a little, but it turns into a lot

Like many people, Richard was a Scout growing up and later enrolled his own children when they were a similar age.

Like many parents of Scouts, he was asked to help out a bit.

"I have an interest in maps and mapping, which grew when I was a Scout, so I was asked to instruct in that," Richard says.

"Then I was asked to assist with other things. Before I knew it, I was training as a leader. And then it was 15 years later."

As well as keeping track of the activities for the Keas, Cubs, Scouts and Venturer Sections of the Mt Albert-St Jude's group, Richard's role includes promoting the overall growth of Scouts.

"People think of Scouting as an activity for the kids," he says.

"They are at the centre of what we do, but as an adult it's a great way to be part of the community. We meet so many people, from all walks of life, on equal terms."

Many of the young people Richard has led at the Scouts have become leaders in their own right, in a wide range of endeavours across New Zealand.

"In the Scouts, we say good leadership doesn't create followers, it creates other leaders."

Richard says being a Westfield Local Hero is a reflection of the work that all Scout leaders have done.

"It's very kind of the community to recognise me, but it's really the scouts that have been recognised for 90-plus years of work for the Mt Albert community."

The Group will use its \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes grant to help fund a new roof for its Den. The current roof is notorious and a bit of a joke for its many leaks.

"We're using a tarpaulin to guide the water into a large tub and it's become known as the water feature," says Richard.

"Other leaders that come over keep asking how the water feature's going."

The grant will also help fund kitchen refurbishments and upgrades to the toilet facilities to make them wheelchair-accessible.



Wendy John Friends of Oakley Creek

Optimistic, Selfless, Inspiring

Wendy turns polluted creek into something worth fighting for

If you walk along Oakley Creek—Te Auaunga, you'll see people running, cycling, doing yoga, holding picnics, watching the birds and playing by the waterfall.

People walk for leisure or as part of their commute, where the forest acts as a natural buffer against the usual city hustle and bustle.

But not too many years ago, Oakley Creek was a polluted, rubbish-strewn and weed-infested city waterway.

There was a proposal for State Highway 20 to be extended through the catchment, which inspired Wendy John and other locals to set up Friends of Oakley Creek in 2004.

"It would've been a bulldozer job and people were fighting to stop it," says Wendy.

But Wendy did not want to focus on fighting the bulldozers, she wanted to do something positive.

"With the highway proposal having been in the pipeline for some 15 years, something had to be done to make Oakley Creek worth saving."

And that's what Wendy and the other friends of the creek have achieved.

Wendy coordinates community planting days where locals help maintain the creek by weeding, planting and cleaning up rubbish.

The help Wendy offers doesn't just protect the creek; the community planting day brings together schools, families and the local community.

Residents and businesses whose properties back onto the area are encouraged to ensure their property maintains the quality of the Oakley Creek environment.

Wendy says she is humbled to be voted a Westfield Local Hero.

Friends of Oakley Creek will use the \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes grant to fund community planting days at Oakley Creek. The organisation will also create a trail to help people learn more about the natural environment.



Jill Gibson
Young Men's Christian Association
of Auckland Incorporated

*Generous, Caring,
Community-minded*

From starting a childcare service to supporting those during the 2018 storms

Jill's 20-year association with the YMCA Mt Albert Community and Leisure Centre began because, in her words, her son was being a pest one day when she took him to her aerobics class there.

She decided to set up a childcare service at the centre, and it has grown to accommodate 30-odd children a day.

Since then she has taken on employment at the centre, where she is now the manager.

"After seven years, my children were older and I wanted a stable job," she says.

As a centre manager, Jill continues to come up with new ideas that benefit the community.

These include partnerships with GPs to bring health services to the YMCA-run centre and targeted fitness classes for young people with mental health conditions.

During the storms and power outages in April 2018, Jill made sure the centre opened its doors to anybody in need of a hot shower.

The centre offers playgroups, after-school care and holiday programs on top of the usual organised sport.

Perhaps most significantly, Jill makes sure that nobody's financial position stops them from joining the community.

"Those who are willing but unable to pay can apply to have their fees paid for them," says Jill, who is obviously pleased to be a Westfield Local Hero.

The centre will use its \$10,000 Westfield Local Heroes grant to help fund a school outreach program.

"We take sporting activities to schools and give students the opportunity to do something they couldn't usually afford, to keep them healthy and active," says Jill.

Your 2018 Finalists

Micaella Stone | RainbowYOUTH

Caring, Adventurous, Loyal

RainbowYOUTH is a charitable organisation dedicated to helping young queer and gender diverse (LGBTIQ) people up to the ages of 27 as well as their local communities. Micaella Stone is a lead facilitator for RainbowYOUTH's under 18 peer support group (GQ) which aims to encourage young people to develop confidence, leadership skills, increase connectedness and community.

Patrick Wilkes | Child Cancer Foundation

Determined, Selfless, Compassionate

Patrick has been associated with the Child Cancer Foundation for more than 15 years and joined as a volunteer after his daughter Eilish was diagnosed with cancer. In 2005, Patrick joined the local connect group eventually becoming the Northern Region Connect Groups' Chair. Run by volunteers, Connect Groups provide a way for families with a lived experience of child cancer to connect in a peer-to-peer environment that is informal, kind, respectful and supportive.

Stephanie Ireland | Victim Support Auckland West

Caring, Committed, Skilled

Stephanie is an important member of Victim Support Auckland West. Stephanie and her team provide 24/7 community response, support and advisory services to victims of crime, trauma and loss in the Mt Albert and surrounding areas as they cope through difficult times.

Recognising all of our 2018 Nominees

Shalbie BOWEN

The Order of St John Northern
Region Trust Board

Clare CALDWELL

Auckland City Mission

Kristina CAVIT

The Kindness Institute

Gina COCKER

College Rifles Rugby Union
Football & Sports Club Inc

Bruce CROSS

Physical Disability Rugby League
New Zealand Incorporated

Jill GIBSON

Young Men's Christian Association
of Auckland Incorporated

Stephanie IRELAND

Victim Support Auckland West –
Division of New Zealand Council
Of Victim Support Groups Inc

Wendy JOHN

Friends of Oakley Creek

Mark JOHNSON

Boot It

Carol LINDLEY

Mt Albert Primary school PTA
(Parent Teachers Association)

Poli MATAAFA

Grey Lynn Community Church

Geoff MORRIS

Edendale Tennis Club

Vandana PATEL

Mt Eden Hockey Club

Marie PERSON

Silver Fern MotorSport
Charitable Trust

Hamish REID

Project Litefoot Trust

Paul SAGGERS

Eden Rugby Club Inc

Richard STANTON

1st Mt Albert, St Jude's Scout
Group

Micaella STONE

RainbowYOUTH Incorporated

Jan TATE

Cystic Fibrosis New Zealand

Peter TAYLOR

The Farmers Santa Parade
(The Auckland Children's
Christmas Parade Trust)

Patrick WILKES

Child Cancer Foundation



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



SCENTRE GROUP

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