



*Westfield*

*Local Heroes*

2019

Westfield Local Heroes is a community recognition and grants program, designed to shine the spotlight on those people who connect and enrich their local communities across Australia and New Zealand.

Individuals are nominated by their local communities, with the outcome of a public vote determining the three successful 2019 nominees for every Westfield centre. In total, we are recognising 121 Westfield Local Heroes across Australia and New Zealand in 2019.

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*Local Heroes*

Each of the affiliated organisations of the Westfield Local Heroes have received a grant to support their work. Westfield will award 121 grants across Australia and New Zealand – totalling \$1.2 million.

We congratulate all the 2019 nominees for being recognised by their communities and thank them for the important contribution they all make to improving social wellbeing in their local areas.

[westfield.com.au/local-heroes](https://westfield.com.au/local-heroes) [westfield.co.nz/local-heroes](https://westfield.co.nz/local-heroes)

*Westfield*

**St Lukes**  
NZ



**"The heroism is really in everybody's determination to overcome our social barriers and the food wastage that's part of that. It's great that we're getting recognition for this."**

## Fighting hunger and waste with chef-created meals

**Nicholas (Nick) Loosley** — Everybody Eats

*Committed, Passionate, Humble*

It might sound too good to be true: a restaurant dining experience where absolutely anybody can enjoy a quality, three-course meal and pay what they feel inclined to – or eat free.

In 2017 Nicholas (Nick) Loosley turned this fanciful concept into reality and created Everybody Eats, which today is a firm feature in Auckland's culinary landscape.

Staffed by volunteers and sourcing healthy produce that would otherwise go to waste, Everybody Eats restores dignity to many of those one-in-six New Zealanders who cannot regularly afford food, let alone a chef-created meal.

Everybody Eats emerged from two of Nick's life strands: his fascination with the conundrum of global food wastage, which he researched for his master's degree

in green economics; and a family background in restaurant management.

"We invite anyone and everyone to join us, and they all get treated and served equally," says Nick. "You'll see people who live on our streets sitting barefoot with lawyers in suits, chatting over a meal devised by one of our chefs."

Over the years Everybody Eats has collaborated with many of New Zealand's top chefs, including Josh Emmet, Des Harris, Samir Allen, Dariush Lolaiy and Josh Barlow.

Nick sees being voted a Westfield Local Hero as a vote not for himself, but for the Everybody Eats concept and the more than one thousand volunteers who have donated their time and passion to it. "The heroism is really in everybody's determination to

overcome our social barriers and the food wastage that's part of that. It's great that we're getting recognition for this."

Westfield Local Heroes are nominated and voted for by their communities, with the three top finalists per Westfield centre each awarded a \$10,000 grant for their affiliated organisation. Nick describes the grant as "Amazing... For a young and lean charity, \$10,000 goes a very long way."

Everybody Eats will use its grant to buy equipment for its second permanent restaurant, which is set to open in socially diverse Onehunga.

"The concept has no limits," says Nick, "it could help to bond diverse communities across New Zealand and beyond."



**"It's an incredible honour to be voted a Local Hero," says Genevieve. "Auckland is our home, and to be recognised by our community for the work we do at Voices of Hope means more than we can actually explain."**

## Sharing her own vulnerability to help others

### Genevieve Mora — Voices of Hope

*Passionate, Visionary, Selfless*

From her childhood, Genevieve Mora wrestled with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). She would wash her hands until they bled, and lived in thrall to the number four – turning pages or doorknobs four times over, believing that if she did not, she would die.

After OCD began to dominate her eating habits, she developed life-threatening anorexia.

Today, in her mid-20s, Genevieve helps others to open up about mental illnesses that still carry a stigma. "In my case, OCD, anorexia and anxiety all worked together," she says. "If sharing my story and vulnerability can help make someone else's journey easier, then my years of fighting my own mind were so worth it."

In 2017, Genevieve founded Voices of Hope with Jazz Thornton, an

equally outspoken survivor of mental illness. Together Genevieve and Jazz made and launched a short film, "Dear Suicidal Me", that went viral and gathered worldwide media attention.

Besides continuing to produce internet videos that tell healing stories to an international audience, Voices of Hope works within the Auckland community to promote mental well-being, empowerment and recovery.

Genevieve and Jazz have also spoken at schools, corporate events and workshops across New Zealand, Australia and the US.

"It's an incredible honour to be voted a Local Hero," says Genevieve. "Auckland is our home, and to be recognised by our community for the work we do at Voices of Hope means more than we can actually explain."

"There's a saying I love about the importance of community," she adds, "and it's simply, 'We are stronger together'."

Westfield Local Heroes are nominated and voted for by their communities, with the three top finalists per Westfield centre each awarded a \$10,000 grant for their affiliated organisation. Voices of Hope will use its grant to scale up its production of healing videos.

"A huge part of what we do is make hope-filled video content," says Genevieve. "The videos have been proven to give strength to people who are struggling to hold on any longer. With the grant, we can create more content for saving lives in our community and beyond."



**"Amazing – a blessing," is how Peter describes being voted a Westfield Local Hero. "On the days when it feels tough, when we ask if we're really doing anything, that community affirmation helps to keep us going."**

## Growing roots for the rootless

### Peter Leilua — Global Hope Missions

*Determined, Dedicated, Selfless*

In his previous role as a court registrar, Peter Leilua witnessed the problems that alienation and rootlessness inflict on young people.

Determined to become part of the solution, he left the security of his full-time position in 2010 to form an organisation that could make a difference at the frontline of youth development.

Today that organisation, Global Hope Missions, provides a host of services – from courthouse advocacy through to academic mentoring – that bring direction into the lives of vulnerable youths and their families.

Peter works closely with his wife, Tiliilagi, a Global Hope co-founder who also served as a court registrar.

"We share the same vision," says Peter. "She's a massive backup

for me, and I think I'm the same for her." Tiliilagi brings a special focus to programmes for women and girls, complementing Peter's rescues of alienated young men.

"Amazing – a blessing," is how Peter describes being voted a Westfield Local Hero. "On the days when it feels tough, when we ask if we're really doing anything, that community affirmation helps to keep us going."

Among Peter and Tiliilagi's biggest successes has been the Pacific Learning Centre, which supports local families.

The team at the centre includes teachers, sports coaches, mental health workers, prison officers, parents and grandparents. So far, more than 30 centre participants have found employment or continued on to further studies, while six families have embarked on social enterprises.

Peter has also started a youth leadership group that encourages peer mentoring and youth events.

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Global Hope Missions will use its grant to support skilled facilitation for its programmes, and to buy basics such as team uniforms, sport and art equipment and stationery.

"Uniforms play a big part," notes Peter. "When you take a youngster who's spent his life looking apart, and you put him in a team with a uniform, you see his eyes light up – something inside him is now saying: 'I feel like I belong'."

# Your 2019 Finalists

## Jason Dodunski

### Morningside Urban Market Garden

Jason Dodunski is a sustainable food advocate, keen gardener, chef, all-round foodie and generous volunteer. He is putting all those attributes to good use at the Morningside Urban Market Garden, which is a social enterprise that develops business skills among women with a migrant or refugee background by growing edible flowers and vegetable shoots for use in local cafes. "Having studied business management and sustainable enterprise at AUT, I am inspired by the possibility of social enterprise transforming our neighbourhoods and developing a just and regenerative food future," says Jason.

## Jonathan Hughes

### Pasadena Intermediate School

The number of students at Pasadena Intermediate School has doubled since Principal Jonathan Hughes was appointed four years ago, largely because of his family and student-first approach to education. An example of his philosophy is the Māori-medium class he introduced at the request of a group of parents. Although there was no government funding, he found a solution and worked with others to establish a best-practice model that is more than just a Māori version of an English-medium classroom. "Our full-immersion classroom is a huge success and something we are very proud of," says Jonathan.

## Sheridan Jackson

### Recreate NZ

Sheridan Jackson started at Recreate NZ five years ago as a volunteer and now oversees the educational aspect of the charity's programmes that push the boundaries of what young people with disabilities can achieve. One of her roles is the work-experience programme known as MOXIE, which bridges the gap between school and employment. Through experiential training, Sheridan and her team help the participants gain confidence as they learn different skills and protocols. "Often our young people are not work ready when they leave school, so this project helps them to become more employable," says Sheridan.



# Recognising all of our 2019 Nominees

**Nanette CARILLO**  
NZ-PHIL SCOT Charitable Trust

**Jason DODUNSKI**  
Morningside Urban Market Garden

**Nova GIBSON**  
Massey Primary School

**William HADNETT**  
Cans for Christmas Charitable Trust

**Chelsey HARNELL**  
YMCA North

**Jenn HOOPER**  
Changing Places NZ

**Greg HORTON**  
MND New Zealand

**Jonathan HUGHES**  
Pasadena Intermediate School

**Sheridan JACKSON**  
Recreate NZ

**Marie JUJNOVICH**  
Heart Kids Auckland Branch

**Peter LEILUA**  
Global Hope Missions

**Tililagi LEILUA**  
Global Hope Missions

**Nick LOOSLEY**  
Everybody Eats

**Mahsa MOHAGHEGH**  
She Sharp

**Genevieve MORA**  
Voices of Hope

**Geoff MORRIS**  
Edendale Tennis Club

**Anna PUZYRKOVA**  
Asthma New Zealand Inc

**Hamish REID**  
Project Litefoot Trust

**Paul SAGGERS**  
Eden Rugby Club Inc

**Rongxue SHEN**  
New Zealand Chinese Youth  
Federation

**Renu SIKKA**  
Our Stories On Plate

**Dayne SMITH**  
TYLA Youth Development Trust

**Duncan SMITH**  
Disabled Surfers Association  
New Zealand

**Irene SMITH**  
Belgravia Leisure

**Yolanda SUTTON**  
Deaf Wellbeing Society Inc

**Alison TALMAGE**  
Centre for Brain Research and School  
of Music, The University of Auckland

**Jan TATE**  
Cystic Fibrosis New Zealand

**Sandy THOMPSON**  
ECPAT Child Alert Trust

**Jazz THORNTON**  
Voices of Hope

**Roman TRAVERS**  
Big Buddy Mentoring Trust

**Colin WARD**  
Iona Scouting Group

**Tony YURETICH**  
Graeme Dingle Foundation

**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

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**SCENTRE GROUP**