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.
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 westfield.co.nz/local-heroes
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.”

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“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.”

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.

“There’s a saying I love about the importance of community,” she adds, “and it’s simply, ‘We are stronger together.’”

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“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.”

“Sharing her own vulnerability to help others

Genevieve Mora — Voices of Hope
Passionate, Visionary, Selfless

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“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.”

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.

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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’.”
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.

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.

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.

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ST LUKE S , NZ
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 JUINOVICH  
Heart Kids Auckland Branch

Peter LEILUA  
Global Hope Missions

Tiliilagi LEILUA  
Global Hope Missions

Nick LOOSLEY  
Everybody Eats

Mahsa MOHAGHEGH  
The 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:

**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