



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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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

Westfield

Coomera

QLD

Palliative care pioneer keeps on offering compassion

Deirdre Hanna — Rev Dr Ian Mavor Foundation

Tireless, Inspirational, Resilient

Children's author, palliative care pioneer and all-round humanitarian Deirdre Hanna has touched thousands of lives on the Gold Coast.

In 1994, she and her late husband, Rev Dr Ian Mavor, started the Gold Coast's first Hospice, Hopewell Hospice. Next came the Paradise Kids charity to help children after a loved one passed away.

"We wanted the hospice to be a place of serenity and beauty where families could visit, where pets could come and stay, where children could sleep over, where bereaved loved ones could be comforted, and where the concept of hospitality for which the Gold Coast is renowned could be extended to those at the end stage of life," says Deirdre.

She feels immensely privileged to be voted a Westfield Local Hero. "We started out to care for a few

dying people but have cared for over four thousand children and two thousand adults, and we are continually expanding to care for more in the community."

One of Deirdre's main projects is the creation of educational resources for grieving children, including storybooks that explain the grief process in children's language. Another is the Paradise Kids Angel Choir, which builds confidence and self-esteem for the participants.

Although in her seventies, she says she still has a lot to achieve.

"I want to continue writing and training future generations in compassionate community service.

After her husband and co-founder died in the hospice they established, Deirdre started a foundation in his name to keep the

charities going, and to honour his legacy of health education and spiritual care.

In 2016, she started Living Well Respite to provide emotional and social support for home carers by offering them a day out each week.

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The foundation will create five new workbooks to accompany the storybook collection, provide singing and performance training to twenty young people and host morning teas for bereaved adults.

"The grant will help us with these programs and will also help fund the foundation," says Deidre.



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Bringing people together to create a sense of belonging

Kevin Dando — Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast
Giving, Selfless, Hilarious

Kevin Dando has an innate ability to connect people, making him perfect for his many roles at Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast (MCCGC).

He works with teachers, guidance counsellors, community leaders and social services to encourage a sense of inclusion among new arrivals in Australia as well as Indigenous people.

One of his passions is youth development, with much of his work in this area taking place in his own time.

"Engaging, connecting and supporting the diverse communities is rewarding, challenging and inspiring," says Kevin. He is equally passionate regardless of whether he is with a youth soccer team, addressing a community leaders' meeting or building connections between different groups.

"I share a message of being proud of who you are and where you come from, and also about the richness of the culture and the opportunities in Australia."

He feels emotional about being voted a Westfield Local Hero. "The joy you get out of it after working hard gives you a push to carry on. In community work you have to have passion. You have to be driven."

Kevin enjoys listening to people's stories and getting a sense of their journey.

"I also get to share my journey, because I migrated here as well eighteen years ago. I was born in New Zealand, and my mother is from the Cook Islands and my father is Australian."

He is particularly pleased with MCCGC's engaging new pop-up approach to Harmony Day. "My

area was the northern part of the Gold Coast. We filled vans with different cultural performers and sports personalities and popped into schools to stage short harmony events."

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MCCGC will use its grant to fund cultural and wellbeing workshops in the northern Gold Coast region and support and promote community events.

"There is rapid population growth in the northern area of the Gold Coast," says Kevin. "This grant will help us support the people and organisations there."



Andrew is honoured to be voted a Westfield Local Hero. "It is very positive. I'm in a privileged position because I feel my job has meaning, and I can make a positive impact on the lives of others."

Community worker with a 20-year record of helping others

Andrew Chant — Endeavour Foundation
Selfless, Community-spirited, Big-hearted

Andrew Chant's community work is all-encompassing, and he lives his life as a behavioural expert, coach, sympathetic listener, advocate, manager and educator.

He has been an integral part of the Endeavour Foundation for almost 20 years, assisting people with intellectual disability to live independently, make connections and find work.

He manages the foundation's Kingston Learning and Lifestyle service, where many clients are recent school leavers who are not yet ready for employment. There are also refugees, people with substance abuse issues and members of the LGBTQI community.

Andrew and his team work with clients and their families to help them achieve their goals in a friendly and fun environment. This could mean preparing them for

work or helping them to improve their daily living skills.

"You don't just deal with the individual with intellectual disability; you are equally committed to their family and carers," Andrew says.

Clients are also helped to form social connections to ensure they don't become isolated and can make meaningful friendships.

Andrew is honoured to be voted a Westfield Local Hero. "It is very positive. I'm in a privileged position because I feel my job has meaning, and I can make a positive impact on the lives of others."

Andrew is on call 24 hours a day in case someone needs help settling an emotionally distraught person or meeting authorities to vouch for a teen to prevent incarceration.

One of the centre's success stories is a group of school leavers who

have formed a band. They have recorded an album, performed gigs and appeared on TV news.

"When we met them, the members had been socially isolated and had difficulty forming friendships," says Andrew. "We brought them together and helped them build the confidence to do something amazing."

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. Endeavour Foundation will use its grant to buy new furniture for the Kingston centre and music equipment for the band.

"It is going to be a wonderful help for us," says Andrew.

Your 2019 Finalists

Gerry Moloney

Toogoolawa School

When Gerry Moloney started at Toogoolawa School, it was for a six-week replacement stint. But he never left and has been principal for the past 13 years. Gerry knew from the get-go that he was going to make a difference for the students, who were not welcome at other schools. When he started, there were three boys and three staff. Now there are 102 boys and 30 staff. The key to his success is reducing stress by encouraging the boys to work at the level they can cope with rather than where they should be.

Jo Chapman

Nightlight Outreach

When Jo Chapman has visitors over in her lounge room, it is likely they are making up hundreds of toiletry packs for homeless people. Despite her own health problems, including breast cancer twice in nine years, she has set up a veritable cottage industry to source and pack items for distribution by the Nightlight Outreach charity, which provides food, clothing and other essentials to those in need, including victims of domestic violence. "I organise members in my local area to source whatever items are required at the time," says Jo.

Heather Murray

St Vincent de Paul Society

Heather Murray joined St Vincent de Paul Society 31 years ago and has been a faithful volunteer ever since. As President of the St Mary's conference, she leads from the front and is on the phone every day working with the help-line volunteers. "Our conference has seven members. We are busy and driven to do the vital work we do to assist the needy," Heather says. "I always try to keep the spirituality of being a Catholic church-goer alive." Heather and her team work at grass-roots level, assisting the needy with food, clothing and shelter.

Recognising all of our 2019 Nominees

Amelia ANDERSON
Southport Surf Life Saving Club

Dreddyn BHANA
Man Up

Andrew CHANT
Endeavour Foundation

Jocelyn (Jo) Ann CHAPMAN
Night Light

Kevin DANDO
Multicultural Communities
Council Gold Coast

Kerry DUNN
Ronald McDonald House Charities
South East Queensland

Deirdre HANNA
Rev. Dr Ian Mavor Foundation

Sarah INGRAM
Pacific Arts Inc

Karen JEFFERSON
Cherish Bereaved Parents
Support Group

Sarah KAVANA
Pacific Arts & Cultural Heritage Inc

Carlie KENDALL
CK Academy

Tracy KENNY
Ormeau Woods SHS

Alison LAYTON
Caring for Carers Australia

Gerry MOLONEY
Toogoolawa School

Heather MURRAY
St Vincent de Paul Society

Kimberly O'NEILL
Variety the Children's Charity

Jake SPENCE
Children's Tumour Foundation

Megan STRAY
Heal.ed Tribe

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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