

Westfield

Local Heroes

2020

Westfield Local Heroes is a recognition and awards program that discovers and celebrates people across Australia and New Zealand who make a positive impact to their local community and environment.

Individuals are nominated by their local communities and a public vote determines the successful 2020 nominees for every Westfield centre.

The successful heroes are each awarded \$10,000 for their affiliated organisations.

Westfield
Local Heroes

Since the program began, we have awarded \$3.62 million to 363 community organisations.

Every year, we recognise more than 120 Westfield Local Heroes and provide more than \$1.2M in community grants to their affiliated organisations.

We congratulate all the 2020 nominees for being recognised by their communities and thank them for the important contribution they all make.

westfield.com.au/local-heroes

westfield.co.nz/local-heroes

Westfield

Belconnen

ACT

Three years ago, Elizabeth Lefevre was on maternity leave with four-month-old twins and was caring for her three-year-old. In her early 30s, she was excited about going back to work, where she had been promoted to a managerial position.

A breast cancer diagnosis turned Elizabeth's world upside-down.

"Before I knew it, major surgery had been booked that, unknown to me, was just the start of an epic breast cancer vendetta to come."

Elizabeth soon discovered a gap in support for younger women with cancer and started an online group that grew into The Young Women's Cancer Support Group – ACT & Surrounding Region.

The group gives women under 50 a safe place to ask questions, vent, socialise and support each other. This complements the work of local organisations like Bosom Buddies ACT, which has provided invaluable support.

Issues for younger women include family responsibilities, career, sexuality and self-esteem.

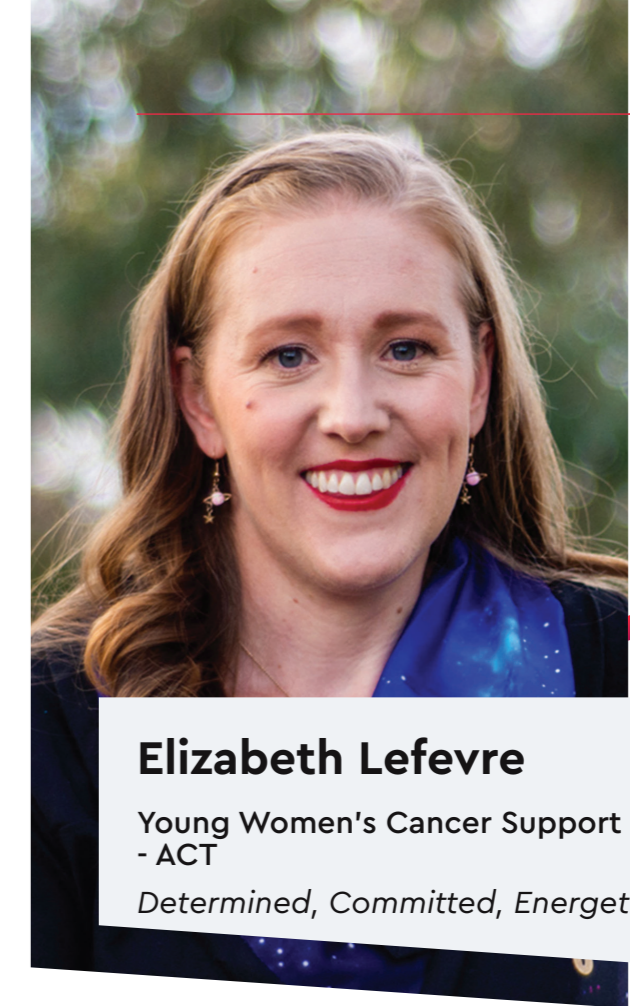
Members raise awareness about challenges, stand up to make a difference and help to ensure people are supported on their cancer journey.

"If you're unable to be proactive, extremely vigilant and advocate your rights, things get missed and can fall through the cracks of the system – which I experienced personally on multiple occasions," Elizabeth says.

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.

Young Women's Cancer Support Group will use its grant to register as a non-profit and fund networking events and information sessions.

Elizabeth's nominator says: "Elizabeth has done far more than just get herself through cancer treatment. Like Canberra philanthropist Connie Johnson OAM, she has stood up and tried to make a difference to other young women with cancer."



Elizabeth Lefevre

Young Women's Cancer Support Group
- ACT

Determined, Committed, Energetic

Brave advocate and supporter

"Before I knew it, major surgery had been booked that, unknown to me, was just the start of an epic breast cancer vendetta to come."



Tim Miller

Lids4Kids

Passionate, Enthusiastic, Genuine

Inspiring thousands to do good

"We've rescued over 10 million lids and prevented over 22 tonnes of plastic from going to landfill."

In Tim Miller's enthusiasm to do good, he accidentally started a nationwide volunteer project that saves millions of plastic lids from landfill and raises money for children.

Lids4Kids was born when Tim started raising money for charity by collecting the 10c refund on containers. But nobody wanted his three wheelie bins of plastic lids.

Tim was determined to save the lids from landfill and searched for various not-for-profit groups that could use the plastic bottle lids to repurpose into sustainable recycled plastic products to benefit the environment and disadvantaged kids.

Tim wrote Lids4Kids on a plastic bucket and placed it beside his community library in Aranda. He posted a picture on social media, and it went viral.

"We've rescued over 10 million lids and prevented over 22 tonnes of plastic from going to landfill," Tim says.

Tim, a former public servant, has several debilitating illnesses and says he adds meaning to his life by being a devoted dad and looking out for the environment.

"The most rewarding part is working directly with local volunteers with dementia, amputees and kids with physical or mental cognitive challenges. I particularly like working with kids and hosting lid colour-sorting workshops."

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.

Lids4Kids will use its grant to buy a granulator to shred lids, enabling the volunteers to make plastic products that directly benefit local children.

Tim's nominator says: "Tim is a man who adores his family and loves his community. Despite facing serious medical issues, he continues to look for ways to improve his community and help the environment."

The Zone Belconnen is a hive of activity every Saturday morning as the ACT Wizards Tenpin bowlers gather to bowl, cheered on by their families, friends and support workers.

All year round, it's a time for laughter, celebration and encouragement, thanks in a big part to Marilyn Richards, the president of the league that caters for people in the ACT region living with disability.

Marilyn has been involved with the Wizards for more than 20 years and has been president for five years. She attends almost every Saturday session and also accompanies bowlers to interstate competitions.

"I feel great satisfaction seeing the bowlers reach their potential," says Marilyn, who has an adult daughter with a disability.

"I have developed many lasting friendships with other parents of children and young adults with special needs, as well as enjoying the company of the team members themselves."

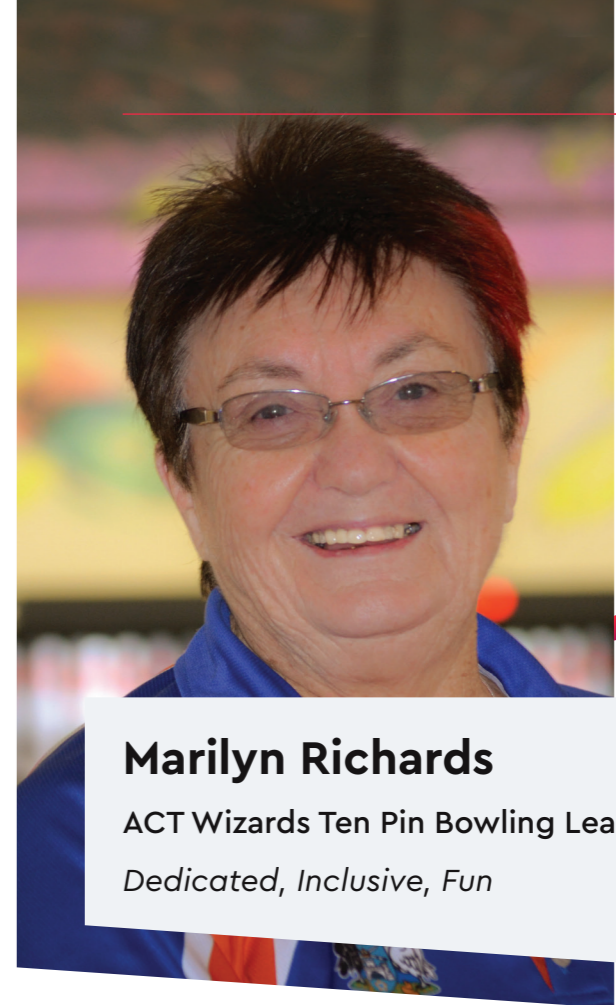
The volunteer-run league caters for bowlers aged 15 to 70. At last count, there were almost 100 participants, with a waiting list of others eager to get in.

"I aim to improve the lives of people with disability through the social, health and self-esteem benefits that are gained with involvement in team sport," Marilyn says.

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.

Wizards will use its grant to travel to regional tournaments and to attend next year's national tournament.

Marilyn's nominator says: "Marilyn plays an integral part in empowering people with special needs, fostering a caring environment and allowing people of all abilities to be part of a team."



Marilyn Richards

ACT Wizards Ten Pin Bowling League

Dedicated, Inclusive, Fun

Bowled over with delight

"I aim to improve the lives of people with disability through the social, health and self-esteem benefits that are gained with involvement in team sport."

Your 2020 Finalists

Sue White

Scullin Community Group

Sue White is known as a super-connector and is on a mission to transform her suburb of Scullin into a vibrant community.

In late 2018, Sue and neighbour Rachel Howard founded Scullin Community Group. Within weeks they had set up a popular Facebook group, organised a community get-together and canvassed the views of locals about strengthening the suburb's sense of community.

In under 18 months, the group has spearheaded an impressive list of improvements, including the volunteer-run Scullin Traders, murals, garden beds and events for locals.

"I love how connections between residents change our feelings about where we live," Sue says.

Caroline Odgers

GIVIT Listed Ltd

Whether it's warm gear for homeless people, a tent for a family or a toy for a boy who lost his Christmas presents in the bushfires, Caroline Odgers treats all aid requests with kind enthusiasm.

Caroline is the ACT and South East NSW Manager of GIVIT, which sources tens of thousands of donated items for more than 350 charities, including domestic violence services, homeless shelters and bushfire recovery services.

"My role at GIVIT is to help make the lives of these incredible people a little easier, which makes me so incredibly proud of our work," Caroline says.

Sharon Leigh-Hazell

Florey Neighbourhood Watch

Sharon Leigh-Hazell is on a mission to transform Florey into the friendliest neighbourhood in Canberra.

It all started four years ago after Sharon's house was burgled and her car was stolen. The family increased their security, but this made them feel isolated. Fortunately, a neighbour reached out to the community soon afterwards, which culminated in a group of people getting together and forming Florey Neighbourhood Watch in March 2018.

Sharon took on a leadership role and the group has attracted 130 members who meet for regular coffee catchups and community forums.

Recognising all of our 2020 nominees

Kaye Keogh

Australian Small Business Advisory Services

Sharon Leigh-Hazell

Florey Neighbourhood Watch

Sue White

Scullin Community Group

Caroline Odgers

Givit Listed Ltd

Elizabeth Lefevre

Young Women's Cancer Support Group – Act & Surrounding Region

Tim Miller

Lids 4 Kids

Marilyn Richards

Act Wizards Ten Pin Bowling League

David Barrie

Everybody Wins

Chynna Marston

Recycled Racehorses Ltd

Dr Eloise Bright

ACT Pet Crisis Fund

Robyn Thurecht

Artkids Canberra

Elvany Luswanto

Goulburn Cat Rescue

Vanessa Churchill

PIP – Power In People

Sarah McPhillips

Paddy's Pick-Up And Matriarch Hair Studio

Carey Russell

Children's Tumour Foundation

Peter Mcgrath

Peter Mcgrath

Allan Sko

BMA Magazine

Gillian Shaw

Canberra Netball Association

David Wong

Canberra Prosperous Mountain Dragon And Lion Dance

Natarsha Lawrence

Rainbow Paws Program

Lachlan Prien

St Vincent De Paul's Society – Youth Programs

Dennis Yarrington

SchoolAid

Neville Sheather

Friends Of Stranger Pond / Clean Up Australia

Amanda Doelle

Canberra Pet Rescue

Kerrie Griffin

Dragons Abreast Australia

Caitlin Figueiredo

Jasiri Australia

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
Kidslines: 0800 54 37 54
Depression Helpline: 0800 111 757
Samaritans: 0800 726 666
Family Violence Information Line: 0800 456 450

westfield.com.au/local-heroes

westfield.co.nz/local-heroes



Westfield
Local Heroes

2020