

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

Airport West

VIC

After Mandy Gosetti lost her husband to cancer, she realised there must be other people in the same boat, struggling with loneliness and doubt over how to manage jobs around the house.

Determined, Mandy decided to do something about it and set up I'm Still Learning a Not For Profit, to offer hands on courses in Basic Home Maintenance, Basic Car Maintenance and Cooking for one.

Mandy and her team have directly helped and empowered over 250 participants, with the majority of them being women over 50. She set up the program so that people who have either lost a partner, live alone or care for others in their home can gain new skills and friendships in a social and supportive environment.

Mandy says, 'the best part of my job is getting to know our participants at the courses, watching their confidence grow and seeing them successfully complete projects at home as a result'.

Getting the courses up and running took a lot of hard work, but Mandy's determination paid off, and she was able to secure a grant to purchase tool bags for use at the courses,

build props for use by participants, and finance the first few courses.

Mandy has also learned new skills, today she co-ordinates courses, manages volunteers and participants, transports props and tools, sets up each session, manages finances, and cleans amongst other things.

'My biggest achievement was setting up I'm Still Learning and successfully running the first basic home maintenance course with some people coming back and completing all our programs,' she 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.

I'm Still Learning will use its grant to buy safety equipment and run more courses.

Mandy's nominator says: 'Mandy's courses provide skills, direction, a social environment and support for those who may be struggling with life after the death of a partner.'



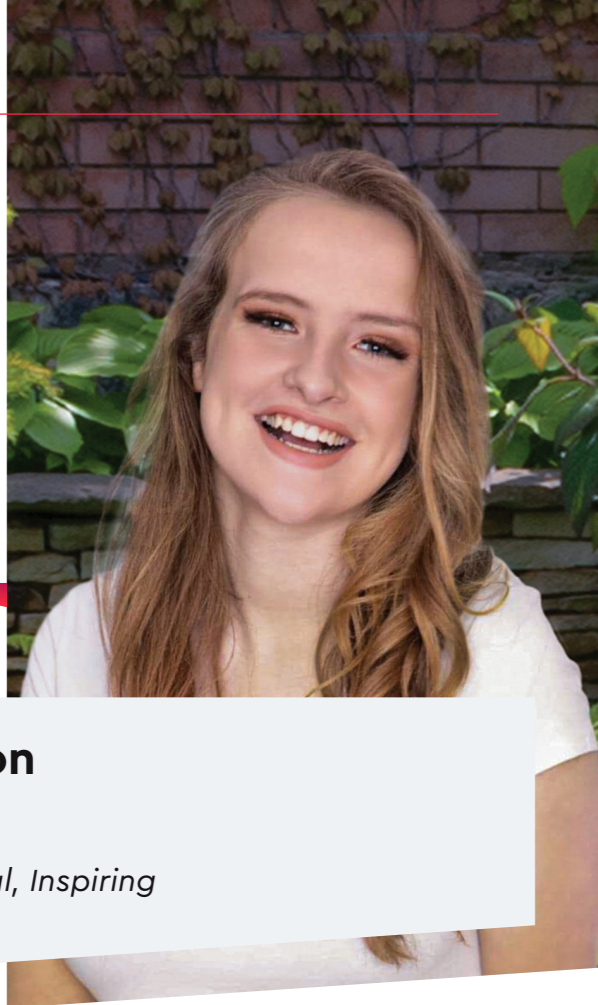
Mandy Gosetti

I'm Still Learning

Passionate, Determined, Supportive

Empowering independence

"The best part of my job is getting to know our participants at the courses, watching their confidence grow and seeing them successfully complete projects at home as a result."



Keeley Johnson

Keeley's Cause

Amazing, Exceptional, Inspiring

Big-hearted achiever

"We have a right to an education as much as anyone despite our disabilities."

At just 13, brave Keeley Johnson set up a charity and raised tens of thousands of dollars to help other kids like her get a good education.

At the time Keeley, who has autism and an intellectual disability, was dealing with depression and anxiety as she struggled to access the technology she needed to improve her learning.

"If I'm given work on a paper, I get overwhelmed. Put that same work on an iPad, and I get it right," she says.

After discovering there is no government funding for iPads for children with autism or intellectual disability, Keeley set out on a quest to raise the money herself through sausage sizzles and donations.

Proud Keeley has so far presented 103 iPads to children who need technology to learn.

"We have a right to an education as much as anyone despite our disabilities," she says.

"If iPads are what we need, iPads are what we are going to get."

Keeley says her success in setting up an organisation shows that children's abilities outweigh their academic limitations.

"We can make our dreams come true," she says.

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Keeley's Cause will use its grant to buy iPads for children with autism or an intellectual disability.

Keeley's nominator says: "Despite her own struggles, Keeley has stood up for the rights of children with special needs. She encourages others to focus on their abilities rather than their disabilities."

Gymnastics coach Natalie Roberts puts her heart into training children of all abilities, in the sport she loves.

The head coach and manager of the Niddrie Gymnastics Club makes it her mission to ensure every child, regardless of ability, feels included at the club.

Natalie understands the needs of children with autism and arranges lessons so they have the gym to themselves.

Natalie also runs a special-needs class, who also have full use of the facility. To meet their needs, she provides more coaches for the lesson and has worked hard to fundraise so coaches can do additional training.

Natalie says its challenging cater for different needs, but the children's happiness makes it all worthwhile.

"I am very proud of all our programs and the happy, safe place that we provide for children in the area."

Natalie has been with the club for 35 years and is passionate about passing on her knowledge to coaches in her club and the wider community.

"For me, being a positive role model is everything. Sport is life and makes people feel a part of something bigger than them," she says.

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Niddrie Gymnastics Club will use its grant to buy much-needed equipment and fund training for coaches.

Natalie's nominator says: "The thing that stands out about Natalie most is her passion for helping others through gymnastics. She is continually looking for new ways to give back to the community through this sport."

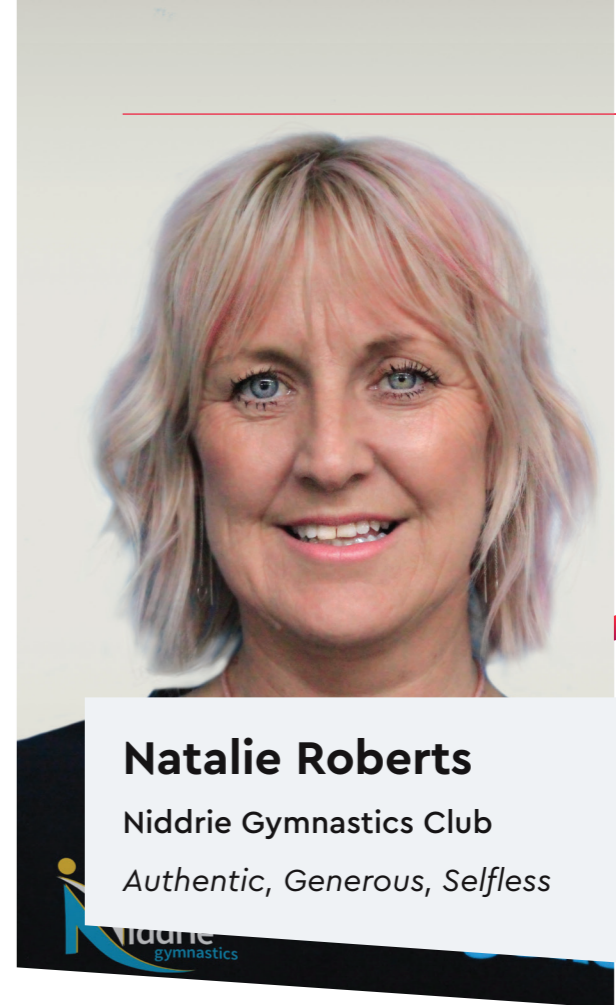
Natalie Roberts

Niddrie Gymnastics Club

Authentic, Generous, Selfless

Striving for inclusivity

"For me, being a positive role model is everything. Sport is life and makes people feel a part of something bigger than them."



Your 2020 Finalists

Terecia Page

Bacchus Marsh Community Radio Inc, Apple98.5fm

Volunteer radio station manager Terecia Page is connecting her community by bringing people live broadcasts of local footy games as well as news and event coverage.

Terecia is also the secretary and sponsorship coordinator at Bacchus Marsh Community Radio, Apple98.5fm. Until she stepped in two and a half years ago, there was just \$1000 in the bank and the station was in danger of folding.

Despite being a busy mum and undergoing cancer treatment, Terecia always shows up for meetings and events with a smile.

"Bacchus Marsh community radio helps to bring the community together," says Terecia.

Bruce Triptree

Hume Men's Shed Craigieburn

Bruce Triptree, the president of the Hume Men's Shed in Craigieburn, has spent the past seven years working to raise money in the community and secure council funding for a much-needed bigger building.

Bruce says he was able to show the Council he was serious about providing a safe, friendly environment for community members to call home. He also rallied shed members to raise funds towards the cost.

Getting councillors involved in the shed, which is a place to socialise, learn new skills and complete projects, was a turning point, Bruce says.

Matthew (Matt) Hay

Youth Insearch Foundation

Youth mentor Matthew (Matt) Hay knows first-hand how helpful it can be for troubled young people to meet peers who have overcome similar issues to them.

When he was 17, Matt struggled with clinical anxiety caused by a difficult home life and being bullied at school for being different because of his type 1 diabetes.

He struggled to leave the house and to go to school.

Matt turned his life around after a counsellor recommended the Youth Insearch Foundation, a mentoring program in which young people help other young people.

Now Matt is thriving, and he's giving back as a volunteer youth leader with Youth Insearch.

Recognising all of our 2020 nominees

Terecia Page

Bacchus Marsh Community Radio Inc, Apple98.5Fm

Natalie Roberts

Niddrie Gymnastics Club

Bruce Triptree

Hume Men's Shed Craigieburn

Mandy Gosetti

I'm Still Learning

Keeley Johnson

Keeleys Cause

Matthew Hay

Youth Insearch Foundation

Ben Roarty

Camp4Cancer

Dean Tellefson

Wrangler Studio Melbourne Inc.

Nathan Higgs

Pascoe Vale United Cricket Club

Michael Keet

Orangesky Australia

Barbara Marino

Raise Foundation

Abid Shuaib

Endeavour Foundation

Sarah Jones

Melbourne Muslimahs

Melissa Wake

Encounter Dance Company

Dina Bassile

Tibi Access

Peter Brookshaw

Craigieburn Corps The Salvation Army Australia Territory

Neal Corcoran

C-Collective

Tuan Nguyen

St Albans Community Footy

Renee Swannack

KCNA2 Epilepsy Alliance, How To Make Lemonade

Derek Atkinson

Footscray Rubbish Runners / Clean Up Australia

Lachlann Carter

100 Story Building (Pigeons Projects Ltd trading as 100 Story Building)

Louise Larkin

Friend In Me

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

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