

*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](https://westfield.com.au/local-heroes)

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

# Westfield

## North Lakes

QLD

**Danielle Hannah is using her barber skills to give homeless people dignity through a haircut.**

Each year the busy mother of two provides free haircuts for more than 1000 people through the non-profit she co-founded, the Jack Reed Foundation.

Danielle and her volunteers head out into the community with a trailer that has a retro barbershop feel and is designed to ensure homeless people receive quality haircuts.

The volunteers also regularly provide haircuts to people in psychiatric wards who have limited opportunity to access such a service.

Danielle's latest "ambitious yet simple" idea is to transform the lives of disadvantaged young people by offering them barber apprenticeships.

She plans to open a series of non-profit Barbershops made from shipping containers where they can receive on-site training.

Danielle has sourced her first donated container and is reaching out to potential apprentices through the local Police Citizen Youth Club.

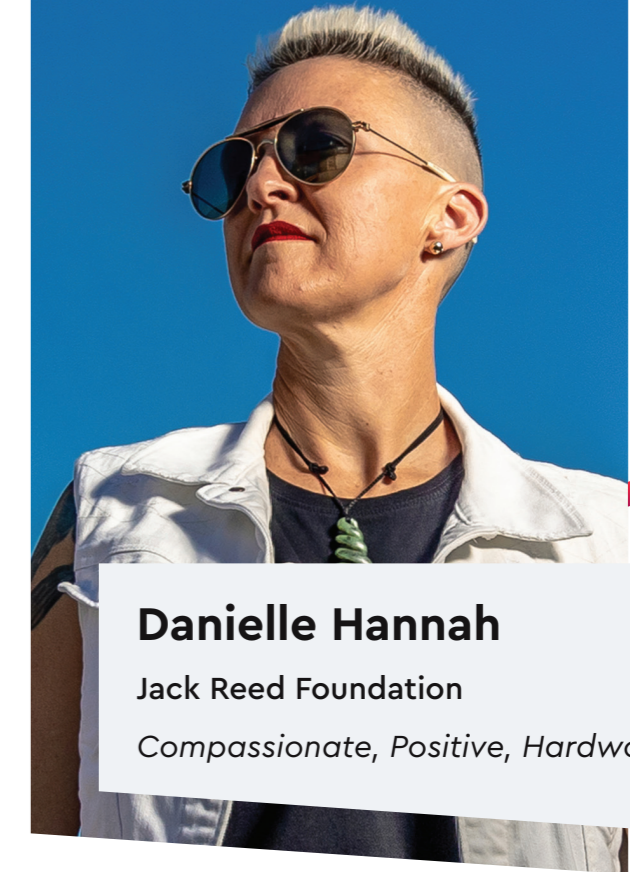
"I believe in the ability of people to turn their lives around, and I am passionate about our youth, who are our future," she says.

"We are dedicated to helping people restore their sense of dignity and finding pathways to making transformational change in their lives."

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Jack Reed Foundation will use its grant to fit out its first shipping container as a pop-up barbershop.

*Danielle's nominator says: "Danielle believes that having dignity empowers people's ability to change their behaviour. Her pure determination is getting this project off the ground."*



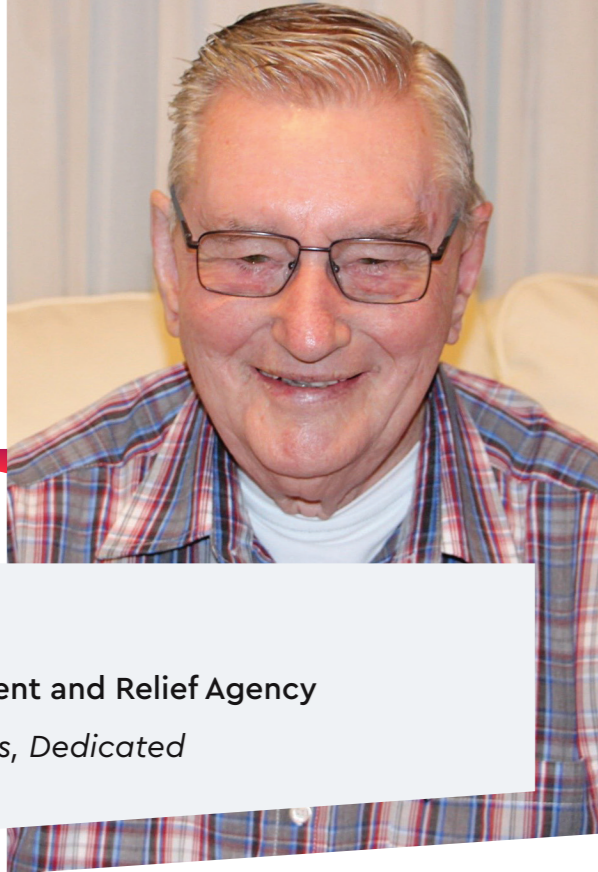
**Danielle Hannah**

Jack Reed Foundation

*Compassionate, Positive, Hardworking*

## Dignity through haircuts

**"I believe in the ability of people to turn their lives around, and I am passionate about our youth, who are our future."**



## John Taylor

Adventist Development and Relief Agency

*Kind-hearted, Selfless, Dedicated*

## Reaching out with food

**“We have been told by many of our customers, that our service has been essential to them,” says John.**

**John Taylor saw a need for a food parcel service for local families and decided to do something positive about it.**

John started helping 17 families in July last year, but the demand is high, and he is now helping up to 80 families a week.

“Our volunteers pick up our food supplies from food-bank Second Bite, and we purchase eggs and margarine from the local supermarkets,” says John, who is a project manager for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

The agency is part of a global effort aimed at improving the wellbeing of people in several ways. These include sustainable food, disaster relief, community building and local support services, such as John's food parcels.

Before COVID-19 physical distancing was in place, John's volunteers would invite people in every Tuesday and serve hot drinks, sandwiches and homemade cakes.

At noon, the families collect their \$10 food parcels, which include a basket of dry goods, fruit and vegetables, margarine and some frozen food. Currently the team are providing food parcels to over 100 families.

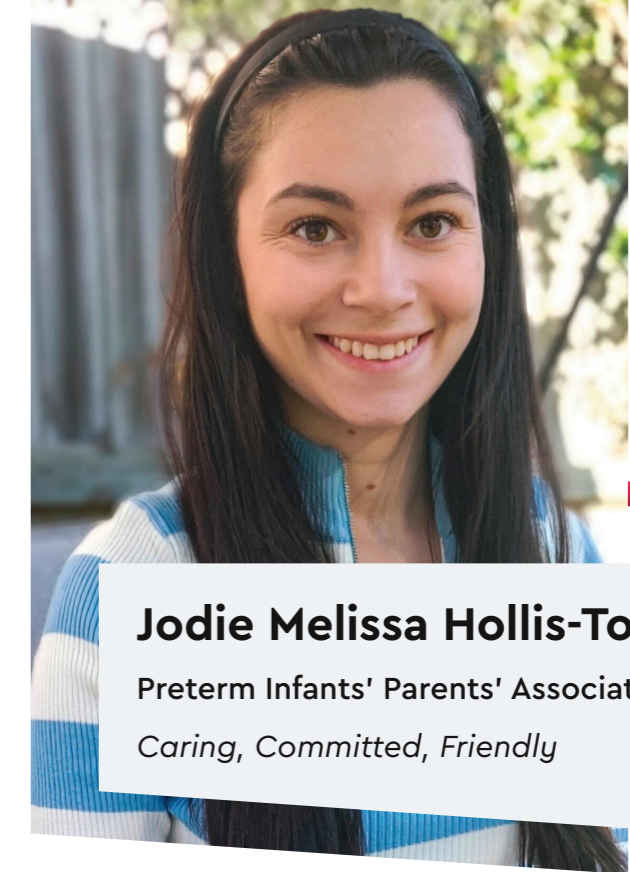
The volunteers also run an OP shop, where people can buy clothes, mostly for \$1 an item.

“We have been told by many of our customers, that our service has been essential to them,” says John.

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Adventist Development Relief Agency will use its grant to install a cold room.

*John's nominator says: “John is a great, supportive man who leads with passion. John's heart and soul are in the right place, and he gets things done.”*



## Jodie Melissa Hollis-Tobin

Preterm Infants' Parents' Association

*Caring, Committed, Friendly*

## Supporting mums and dads

**“Listening and lending a shoulder for a parent to have a cry on is a very important part of this work.”**

**As the mother of five children who were born prematurely, Jodie Melissa Hollis-Tobin knows what to say to comfort other parents on the roller-coaster ride that can follow a preterm birth.**

She was 19 when her first child was born at just 33 weeks. Another child was born on the edge of viability at 23 weeks, while her fourth child sadly did not make it.

Despite being busy raising her brood, Jodie feels compelled to volunteer to give peer support to other parents through the Preterm Infants' Parents' Association (PIPA).

“Listening and lending a shoulder for a parent to have a cry on is a very important part of this work,” she says.

Jodie's children are thriving after their rocky start, and she works late into the night responding to requests for help after they have gone to bed.

Jodie's biggest challenge is sharing her story of watching her babies struggle to survive after birth and having to wait for weeks to hold them.

“It was a very tough and emotionally exhausting journey, but I do feel there is a reason why I faced and overcame such adversity,” she says.

“If that reason is to help others, I am happy to take on that challenge.”

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Preterm Infants' Parents' Association (PIPA) will use its grant to give direct assistance to families in need, such as breast pumps and transport to hospital.

*Jodie's nominator says: “By providing emotional support to other young parents with premature children, Jodie shows them there is light at the end of what can be a very dark tunnel at times.”*

## Your 2020 Finalists

### Father Daniel (Dan) Berris The Lakes Anglican Church

Father Dan Berris stands out for his gentle-giant stature, love of motorcycles and tattoos, but also for the good he does.

The Lakes Anglican Church priest runs the Lakes Pantry, where he gives out food to families.

Father Dan can often be seen in coffee shops having a chat with people in crisis, and his phone number is widely available.

He raises money for a domestic violence shelter, offers BBQ dinner on Christmas Day and runs a youth program.

"I have had the privilege of being a part of supporting practical and spiritual growth for the benefit of the local community," Father Dan says.

### Maria Williamson Redcliffe State High School

Deputy principal Maria Williamson's efforts to encourage students to respect each other are paying off in spades, both at schools and in the wider community.

Instead of focusing on a negative message, such as anti-bullying, she co-founded a project to help students understand and show respect.

Redcliffe State High School's Respect – Commit to It project has now spread to day-care centres, primary schools, sporting clubs and other high schools.

"The project is developing a community that is respectful of others, despite differences or backgrounds," Maria says.

## Recognising all of our 2020 nominees

**Rowan Arthur James Yates**  
Northside Concert Orchestras

**Maria Williamson**  
Redcliffe State High School

**John Taylor**  
Adventist Development Relief Agency

**Howard Buckley**  
Deception Bay Community Youth Programs

**Danielle Hannah**  
Jack Reed Foundation

**Father Daniel Berris**  
The Lakes Anglican Church

**Jodie Melissa Hollis-Tobin**  
Preterm Infants' Parents' Association Inc (Pipa)

**Jane Standfast**  
Genies Netball Club Inc

**Cam Spooner**  
Kids In Action

**Leichelle McMahon**  
Qld Animal Advocacy And Owners Group

**Marney Perna**  
Soroptimist International Moreton North Inc.

**Chris Paterson**  
Bamboo Projects

**Sean Patrick Gordon**  
School Aid Nominees Limited

**Simon Walsh**  
Youth Insearch Foundation

**Tidan Wright**  
Ronald McDonald House Charities South East Queensland Ltd

**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  
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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