

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

Tea Tree Plaza

SA

At just 12, Sam Weavers has his own successful online popcorn business, Sam's Popcorn.

Sam also wanted to make a positive difference in people's lives, so he used his business as a base for a fundraising program called Kids4Kids.

Sam works with other children to sell fundraising popcorn pails, and the profits go to the Childhood Cancer Association. The association offers counselling, financial and other support to children with cancer and their families.

Kids4Kids has donated nearly \$10,000 since 2018.

Sam visits as many schools as possible to talk to about the fabulous work of the Childhood Cancer Association, inspiring students to pitch in and to encourage their teachers, parents and friends to do the same.

"I have inspired thousands of children my age," Sam says.

It has taken a lot of courage for Sam to get out there as he was initially nervous about speaking to large groups of people.

When he started Kids4Kids, he also had to convince people he was a legitimate fundraiser.

"This made me work harder to show people I was reliable and professional," Sam says.

"In some cases, people who were initially reluctant have become some of my biggest supporters."

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Childhood Cancer Association will use its grant to provide counselling to sick kids and their families via Skype.

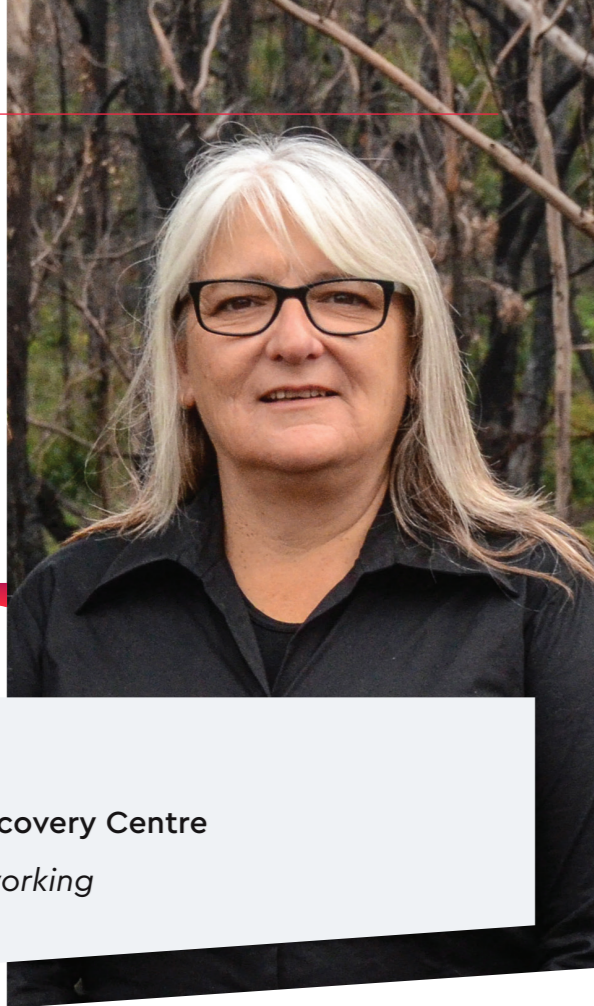
Sam's nominator says: "At such a young age, Sam has committed himself to fundraise, inspire and educate others in his community about the invaluable work undertaken by the Childhood Cancer Association."



Samuel (Sam) Weavers
Childhood Cancer Association
Dedicated, Altruistic, Inspiring

12-year-old fundraising star

"I have inspired thousands of children my age."



Jodie Turpin

Lobethal Bushfire Recovery Centre

Selfless, Kind, Hardworking

Empathetically efficient

"I have always loved my community and to be able to help was a very rewarding experience that I will hold close to my heart."

It's heart-warming to remember how the community came together in the Cudlee Creek Fires emergency disaster.

Jodie Turpin was among the many standout volunteers together with the Disaster Relief Australia team. She took on the challenging role of logistics manager at the Lobethal Bushfire Recovery Centre, a one-stop-shop for community members seeking practical support and advice amid the devastation.

Jodie was there to help set up the centre within 12 hours of the disaster, and she volunteered for more than 80 days after that.

At the height of the emergency, Jodie efficiently went about arranging accommodation, food, water and clothing.

"We set up a supply centre where people could come and get what they needed," Jodie says.

She had teams that went house-to-house and farm-to-farm delivering supplies, checking in on people and setting up generators.

Jodie also worked with the ADF, Team Rubicon and locals to arrange tree and rubble removal.

What touched many people, was that she always found time to give a hug and lend a listening ear.

"I have always loved my community and to be able to help was a very rewarding experience that I will hold close to my heart," Jodie says.

"I will continue to check in on the many people affected by this terrible disaster."

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Lobethal Bushfire Recovery Centre will use its grant to help fund fencing repairs and other recovery operations.

Jodie's nominator says: "Jodie is kind and caring and gave 110 per cent to the community, but she does not look for any recognition for her outstanding efforts."

Sarah Bisbal was in Year 12 when her mum passed away and her aunt Joss Adele took her in.

Ten years later, Sarah is a public servant with a child of her own. But she has not forgotten her hour of need.

Sarah and her aunt have co-founded a charity that provides teenagers with free outfits for their Year 7 Graduation and Year 12 Formal.

Their charity is called With Love Formal Wear. It brings joy and recognition to people in foster or kinship care, but any vulnerable student is welcome to access her service.

"Our aim is to give young people a moment in time where they feel their best and get to be part of something big," Sarah says.

"It's not just about their Year 12 formal. It's about being included without having to feel guilty about asking their carer to help financially or having to face an inner struggle about how they will afford it themselves."

The young people come in during the school holidays and select their formal outfit, which is donated by members of the community.

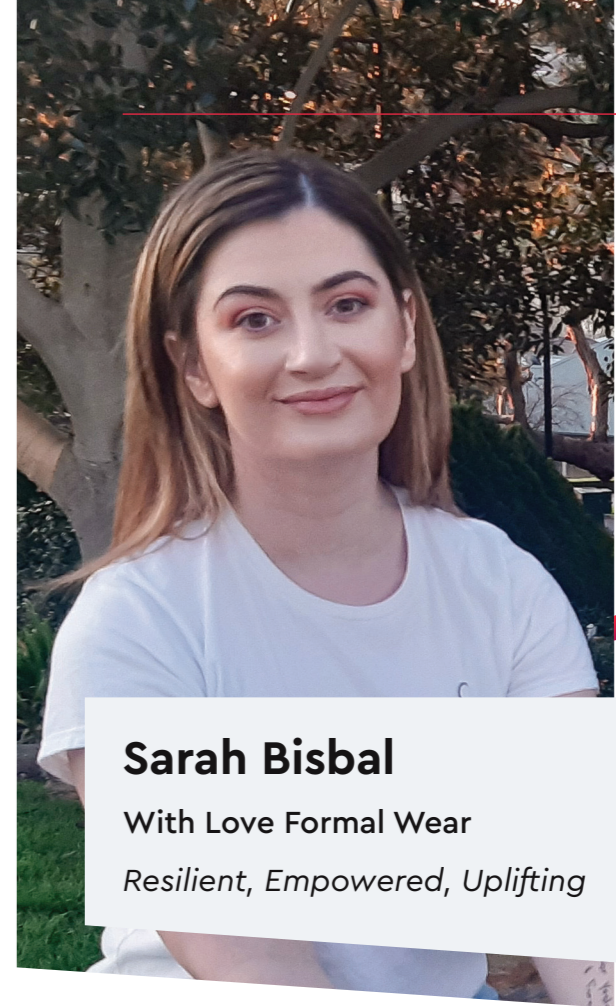
They can also participate in a two-hour makeup workshop.

Coffee and cake are provided for the carers, who enjoy a chat while they are waiting.

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With Love Formal Wear will use its grant to cover storage costs.

Sarah's nominator says: "Sarah believes kindness is helping the world one person at a time and subscribes to the philosophy that it takes a village to raise a child."



Sarah Bisbal

With Love Formal Wear

Resilient, Empowered, Uplifting

Helping students dress with pride

"Our aim is to give young people a moment in time where they feel their best and get to be part of something big."

Your 2020 Finalists

Kerry Gibbins-Norris

Walk With Wings

Kerry Gibbins-Norris couldn't save her own son, but she has saved many other parents the heartache of losing a baby.

Her infant son Harrison was born prematurely and died in his sleep, suddenly and without explanation, at just eight weeks of age.

After many sleepless nights, she realised she could help other parents of premature babies, who are at increased risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), by purchasing and loaning out sound and movement monitors.

"The monitors have saved the lives of many infants who neurologically or obstructively could not breathe in their sleep," Kerry says.

Jane Brister

Adelaide Koala Rescue

Jane Brister and her dedicated team of volunteers rescued hundreds of koalas during the recent bushfires.

She established Adelaide Koala Rescue to fill a critical need for koala rescue in the Adelaide Hills and metro areas.

The preservation of the environment and native wildlife is Jane's priority. "Through providing volunteering opportunities and wildlife education programs, we engage people in meaningful activities and instil a sense of care, responsibility and respect for wildlife and the environment," she says.

Jane is now looking for a permanent home for her operation and wants to set up a sanctuary for koalas who have no home to go back to.

Shane Cook

Street Dreamz

Respected Indigenous aerosol artist Shane Mankitya Cook developed his talent when he was 12 and recovering from third-degree burns.

Shane did not have an easy childhood and grew up without a strong connection to his culture. His mother battled kidney disease and Shane became her carer and disengaged from school.

But Shane took charge of his life.

A proud Wulli Wulli and Guwa descendant, Shane is contributing to society through Street Dreamz, his community arts and mentoring service that uses street art and First Nations Australian art to connect with school students and people in the youth justice system.

Recognising all of our 2020 nominees

Kim Jeanes

United Way South Australia

Emma Brooke

United Way South Australia Incorporated

Ella Blackwood-Niklaus

Inkforest Studio

Sharee Goodridge

Miracle Babies Nurture Group

Sarah Lee

Breast Cancer Trials Australia

Melissa Henschke

Archetypes Of Interiority

Sarah Coventry

Salisbury Star Girl Guides

Dan Lester

Dans Gym Australia

Peter Habel

The Spire Community

Jane Brister

Adelaide Koala Rescue

Michelle Kenley

Cudlee Creek Tennis Club

Sarah Bisbal

With Love Formal Wear

Kerry Gibbins-Norris

Walk With Wings

Shane Cook

Street Dreamz

Samuel Weavers

Childhood Cancer Association

Jodie Turpin

Lobethal Bushfire Recovery Centre

Steven Mann

Pembroke Old Scholars Soccer Club

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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