

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

Whitford City

WA

Surf lifesaver Dara Mills hated watching people arrive at Mullaloo beach only to find they couldn't cross the sand because of their disabilities. So she started campaigning for a beach access mat to be installed.

This meant gaining the support of other Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club members, raising funds and gaining permission to install the mat. It took four years to become a reality.

Her efforts became a rallying point for many club members, who now share her passion for inclusion.

Dara says most people take it for granted that they can go to the beach if they want to, but she wants everyone in the community to enjoy this ability.

Not only does Dara play an active role in our patrolling the beaches and training other lifesavers, she's also a competitor in surf lifesaving and surf boats.

Yet she finds time to champion other initiatives.

She organises beach days for a local organisation that helps dads with limited access to engage with their kids.

Dara was also instrumental in introducing additional water safety measures to Nippers so a child with autism could participate.

"Being a member of the Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club is an honour," Dara 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.

Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club will use its grant to extend the beach access pathway and buy a floatable beach wheelchair.

Dara's nominator says: "Dara always considers the needs of others above her own. With each of her ideas she has shown outstanding resilience to persist and make them a reality."



Dara Mills

Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club

Passionate, Energetic, Talented

Opening the beach to all

"Dara was also instrumental in introducing additional water safety measures to Nippers so a child with autism could participate."



Azelene Williams

From Fear to Freedom

Passionate, Honest, Advocate

A mission to end domestic violence

"Over the years I have received numerous messages from people telling me how much my story changed their lives."

Azelene Williams has developed an innovative way to advocate against domestic violence.

After escaping a violent relationship that started in her teens, she became aware of the enormous gap in educating young people about domestic violence.

Azelene wrote a book about her experiences, *BROKEN Breaking the Silence*, and leaves copies in random spots around Perth for people to find.

Inside is a message asking people to advocate against domestic violence, sign the book and then pass it on or leave it for others.

"Over the years I have received numerous messages from people telling me how much my story changed their lives," Azelene says.

"My mission is to give more books away and to collaborate with organisations who can use my writing as a resource."

She also delivers a healthy relationships program in schools for to Years 8 to 12 students in collaboration with WA Child Safety Services.

Azelene says teens and children who are affected by domestic violence don't know how to break free. "For them, growing up this way is normal. This is also why we are sitting with constant bullying in our schools. Early education and community awareness is extremely important"

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From Fear to Freedom will use its grant to deliver prevention of Domestic Violence Workshops in schools and in the community.

Azelene's nominator says: "Azelene helps and supports young people to break free from violent relationships through her program and lived experience."

It happens more often than people imagine. Grandparents and others being handed a baby to look after with little warning and not enough time to prepare.

That's where Lorraine Lekias comes in. She founded the Fostering Hope charity to support kinship and foster carers.

Working on the premise that it takes a village to raise a child, Fostering Hope provides material items for children and education for carers.

"We work closely with grandparents raising grandchildren to meet their specific needs," says Lorraine, who has 20 years of experience as a foster mum and has five foster children.

Another area of focus is providing education to carers about childhood trauma and suggestions on how to help newly placed children to settle and feel safe.

Lorraine and her volunteers also offer in-person support and counselling to carers in need.

"We continue to strive forward and grow bigger by the day."

We currently have over 12,500 members of our community group and over 100 volunteers.

"I work seven days a week at Fostering Hope; sorting donations, answering emails and, my favourite, cuddling babies while mums shop," Lorraine says.

"We also help refugee families and women escaping domestic violence. All thanks to our amazing community who support us."

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Fostering Hope will use its grant to upgrade its facilities and to fund emergency packs and education.

Lorraine's nominator says: "Lorraine puts love and tireless effort into helping the most vulnerable children in care with basic needs."

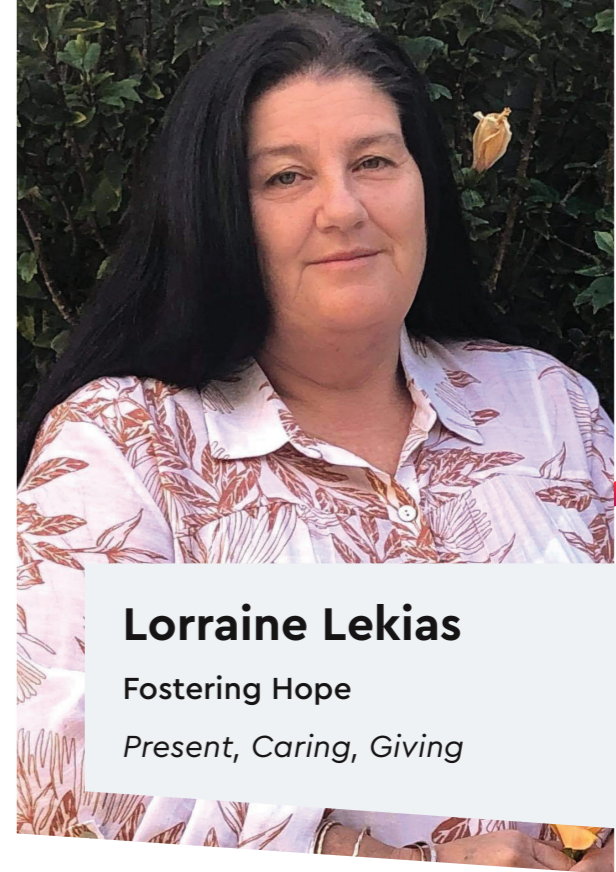
Lorraine Lekias

Fostering Hope

Present, Caring, Giving

Supporting families

"We continue to strive forward and grow bigger by the day. We currently have over 12,500 members of our community group and over 100 volunteers."



Your 2020 Finalists

Patricia Waddilove

1st Mullaloo Sea Scouts Group

Patricia Waddilove saved the 1st Mullaloo Sea Scouts Group.

The 42-year-old group was on the brink of closure because there was no qualified leader to run it.

Patricia, a senior Scout leader, stepped in to allow the scout and cub groups to keep going, bringing boundless energy and positivity.

She also formed a committee to help grow membership and train and mentor new leaders.

Under Patricia's guidance, the scouts have grown from strength to strength, and are volunteering their time with the Mullaloo Beach Dune Restoration project.

Danica Hall

Red Frogs Australia

Danica Hall and her team of Red Frogs volunteers attend festivals and university events to help keep young people safe.

The volunteers encourage them to make healthy decisions, particularly about their choice to drink alcohol or take drugs.

The young people also know the Red Frog volunteers will have their back if something does go wrong.

Danica is the Festival Lead for WA and has played a significant role in building a united and robust team of volunteers.

"We allay parents' fears when they know we will be present at events," says Danica.

Recognising all of our 2020 nominees

Michelle Barbara Spiller

Duncraig Outdoor Girl Guides

Alanagh Tolley Godderidge

Cycling Without Age Sorrento

Danielle Baldock

Soldiers & Sirens

Daniel Bates

Soldiers & Sirens

Carolyn Baird

Carolyn & The Community

Kylie Beveridge

Paint Me A Rainbow – Autism Awareness WA

Karen Huggett

Direction Psychology

Christina Ward

Edmund Rice Centre

Margaret Patullo

Kinross Primary School Parents And Citizens Association

Joy Whyatt

The Spiers Centre Inc

Arthur Sturgeon

Community Vision

Fraser Griggs

P2S Rugbyworks

Kevin Combes

The Pantry WA

Patricia Waddilove

1st Mullaloo Sea Scouts Group

Lorraine Lekias

Fostering Hope

Danica Hall

Red Frogs Australia

Dara Mills

Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club

Azelene Williams

Kidzucate

Rebecca Forte

Raise Foundation

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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