

WESTFIELD 2021 LOCAL HEROES

Westfield Local Heroes is a community recognition and awards program, designed to shine the spotlight on those people across Australia and New Zealand who make a positive impact to their local community and environment.

Individuals are nominated by their local communities, with the outcome of a public vote determining the three successful 2021 nominees for every Westfield centre.

Westfield Jocal Heroes

Now in its fourth year, we have awarded \$4.88 million to 489 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 2021 nominees for being recognised by their communities and thank them for the important contribution they all make.

Westfield Geelong VIC

Anthony Woodbury stepped away from his burgeoning career as a chef to co-found Feed Me Bellarine, which provides thousands of meals a month to families in need.

Anthony is an exceptional chef and was climbing the culinary ranks. Then he had a chance conversation with a local caterer who had started packaging leftover food to donate. The outcome of their chat was Feed Me Bellarine.

The pair rescue food and meals from local hospitality and wholesale businesses to distribute. They also source fresh produce to create chef-quality dishes with the help of over 100 volunteers.

They have distributed more than 100,000 meals over the past two years.

Anthony was motivated to help because he grew up in poverty. He is proud to serve around 700 families delicious and healthy meals each week. The charity also runs a supermarket where families can pick up fresh produce and a café that serves gourmet meals on a pay-what-you-can basis.

Apart from filling bellies, Anthony has helped save more than 238,000kg of food from landfill.

Anthony likes to fly below the radar and feels humbled to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "I was head chef at various wineries and grew up in extreme poverty. So when the opportunity to use leftover food and meals to benefit the public came up, I went for it with all I had," he says.

Anthony's nominator says: "Anthony is a Westfield Local Hero because he goes above and beyond for people in need, to the point he even helped renovate a house for a family living in a rundown office."



Giving gourmet food

Anthony Woodbury

Feed Me Bellarine

Passionate, Wild, Risky

"I was head chef at various wineries and grew up in extreme poverty. So when the opportunity to use leftover food and meals to benefit the public came up, I went for it with all I had."

Hiking into the future

Andy Brittain

Geelong Youth Engagement

Committed, Encouraging, Accepting

"It has reinforced that I am on the right path. My motivation to do more is getting stronger as there are many more people in our community needing our help." Andy Brittain has spent the past nine years helping at-risk youth turn their lives around through an intensive personal and physical development program delivered by Geelong Youth Engagement.

Andy developed the concept for the year-long program while working as a police officer. The Geelong Kokoda Youth Program finishes with a demanding trek along the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea.

Up to 16 teenage participants are selected from local state high schools who are facing different challenges in their lives which may include struggles with mental health, self-harming, homelessness, anti-social behaviour, family violence, amongst others.

Training for the trek helps build resilience. At the same time, support from positive mentors helps the young people grow in confidence and develop a positive attitude. Continued support is offered after the program ends.

The participants' progress is so profound that Andy gave up his successful policing career to ensure the program continued in the community after the COVID-19 pandemic threatened its future.

Andy is rewarded by seeing past participants continue on to be successful into their adult lives following their involvement in the program.

Andy is thankful to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "It has reinforced that I am on the right path. My motivation to do more is getting stronger as there are many more people in our community needing our help," he says.

Andy's nominator says: "Andy is a Westfield Local Hero because he believes all young people should have the chance to reach their full potential. He gives them a sense of purpose and self-worth." Claire Faulmann refused to let the COVID-19 pandemic interrupt OneCare's mission to support marginalised people through food relief and counselling.

Claire took over the CEO reins just two days before the pandemic was declared and quickly swung into action to ensure her team and volunteers could continue their work as lockdowns forced many other community services to shut their doors.

Under her guidance, the charity extended rather than shuttered its programs. The weekly community meal and foodbank service for 70 people expanded to deliver 500 meals a week. A staggering 1.5 tons of groceries were given to people doing it tough.

OneCare's programs are designed to support those who are socially isolated and disadvantaged, through meeting immediate practical needs and providing strong relationship connections. Claire is widely admired by her team and volunteers for her positive attitude, collaborative approach and commitment to introducing new initiatives, and commitment to introducing new initiatives that promote increasing life skills and community participation.

She is honoured to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "I believe that we have a responsibility to be kind, to share the wealth that we have and to empower others to make meaningful changes in their lives. It is an absolute privilege to do what I do," Claire says.

Claire's nominator says: "Claire is a Westfield Local Hero because her dedication to community service is remarkable. She gives her most valuable assets of time and energy graciously to those who are so often unseen."

Giving more during COVID

Claire Faulmann

OneCare Geelong

Passionate, Dedicated, Empowering

"I believe that we have a responsibility to be kind, to share the wealth that we have and to empower others to make meaningful changes in their lives. It is an absolute privilege to do what I do."

Your 2021 Finalists



Barb Speldewinde Fight Cancer Foundation

Barb Speldewinde has volunteered with the Fight Cancer Foundation for twenty years, putting her hand up as a thank you for the life-saving treatment her son-in-law received for leukaemia. She manages the foundation's Geelong Recycle Shop, which funds accommodation for families who must travel to Melbourne for specialist treatment.



Bronwyn Haskell Peace of Mind Foundation

Big-hearted Bronwyn Haskell has helped over 235 families deal with a devastating brain cancer diagnosis as a volunteer with the Peace of Mind Foundation. Her partner passed away from brain cancer, and she uses her lived experience to lead online and faceto-face support groups. She recently formed a bereavement support group for women who have lost their partner.



Jennifer Chiu Eat Up

Volunteer Jennifer Chiu is a local branch leader for the charity Eat Up and helps make thousands of healthy sandwiches for marginalised children who would otherwise go hungry at school. Over the last four years, her team have delivered over 6000 healthy school lunches to students at six schools.

Recognising all of our 2021 nominees

Benjamin LeFevre SPAN Suicide Prevention Awareness Network

Chris Hall Wheel 4 MND

Arthur Boyd Geelong Miniature Railway Incorporation

Bev Caroline Emmett HeartKids Ltd

Collin Peebles Geelong Food Relief Centre

Nasir Sobhani The Streets Barbershop

Kylie Gray **Roaring Respite**

Tom Harriott The Mark West Foundation

Mark Kennedy St Joseph's College Geelong

Kirsten George Parkinson's Victoria

Angela Liston-McCaughley The Type 1 Foundation Robert Lytzki Foundation 61

Julie Hall The Dress Up Place Inc

Jorja McKinnon Environment Education Victoria

Janet Lesley Douglas Uniting Barwon

Michelle Polidano The Empowerment Challenge

Rebecca Baron (Bec) Cck4all

Louise Larkin Friend In Me Inc

Claire Faulmann OneCare Geelong

Michele Warren **3216Connect**

Bronwyn Haskell
Peace of Mind Foundation

Barb Speldewinde
Fight Cancer Foundation

Elizabeth Haines 1st Torquay Scouts Debra Kerr One Coat Australia Jennifer Chiu Eat Up Anthony Woodbury Feed Me Bellarine

Andy Brittain Geelong Youth Engagement 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 Kidsline: 0800 54 37 54 Depression Helpline: 0800 111 757 Samaritans: 0800 726 666 Family Violence Information Line: 0800 456 450

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