

A vibrant red ribbon graphic that flows across the frame from the top left to the bottom right. The ribbon is three-dimensional, with shadows and highlights that give it a sense of depth and movement. In the center of the ribbon, the text "Westfield Local Heroes 2021" is displayed in white. "Westfield" is in a serif font, "Local Heroes" is in a large, elegant script font, and "2021" is in a clean, sans-serif font. The ribbon's path is dynamic, with several loops and turns, creating a sense of celebration and energy.

Westfield

Local Heroes

2021

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 Local 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

Helensvale

QLD

Karen is extremely passionate about giving vulnerable children and young people entering foster care a sense of self-worth, dignity and hope.

As a foster carer, Karen was heartbroken to see how many children and youths were removed from their homes with nothing but the clothes on their back or a few items shoved into a plastic bag.

Determined to give them a sense of self-worth, she established the Queensland arm of Hope in a Suitcase Australia, a non-profit that provides children and young people entering care with a suitcase filled with brand-new pyjamas, clothing and toiletries, a book, small toys or activities and a comfort item, such as a soft toy.

Karen's greatest reward is hearing case workers tell of young faces lighting up with joy after realising the beautiful new items are all theirs and come from a community that cares about them.

Hope in a suitcase partners with foster care agencies and case workers to deliver suitcases to the children.

Karen is grateful to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "Raising awareness of Hope in a Suitcase will help us have an even greater impact in our community. We are passionate about giving hope, love and joy to vulnerable children who are going through traumatic circumstances beyond their control," she says.

Karen's Nominator says: "Karen is a Westfield Local Hero because she puts hope in children's hearts and shows them love which reduces their anxiety and trauma."



Giving children a suitcase of hope

Karen Germon

Hope in A Suitcase

Innovative, Dedicated, Leader

"We are passionate about giving hope, love and joy to vulnerable children who are going through traumatic circumstances beyond their control."



Saving animals, healing people

Jodie Alderton

Harmony Hooves, Healing Hearts

Selfless, Rescuer, Rehabilitator

"I want everyone to feel joy and love from animals; they are so healing for people."

Jodie Alderton has saved countless animals while bringing comfort to people since founding Harmony Hooves, Healing Hearts.

Jodie rescues, rehabilitates and re-homes animals in need, including horses, dogs, cats, goats, chickens and ducks. She also keeps some animals to train for the therapy program she runs at her small farm.

The animals do a great job supporting young people with anxiety, self-esteem and social issues and they bring comfort and joy to elderly people, psychiatric patients, and people with a disability.

The benefits of animal therapy include calmness, reduced loneliness and lower blood pressure.

It can also assist with pain control and reduce suffering for patients in palliative care.

Over 120 people with a disability attend weekly sessions at the

farm. Jodie, her chicks, ducklings and goat kids also visit a local psychiatric hospital twice a week and bring joy to the residents of more than 30 aged care facilities.

In addition, Jodie offers volunteer training to at-risk school students, giving them a sense of purpose and belonging.

She feels humbled to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "I want everyone to feel joy and love from animals; they are so healing for people," Jodie says.

Jodie's Nominator says: "Jodie is a Westfield Local Hero because she saves the lives of vulnerable animals and trains them to change the lives of vulnerable children and adults."

Melissa McGuinness is bravely sharing the story of the multiple fatality car crash caused by her son Jordan with thousands of young people at schools and sporting clubs as she facilitates a youth-led road safety mission through her charity.

Melissa co-founded YOU CHOOSE Youth Road Safety with her husband to challenge the myth that road fatalities come down to luck and that it is normal to engage in lethal driving habits because you are young.

The program's foundational motto, Own the Choice Own the Outcome, is underpinned by a powerful message: This generation has the awesome potential to be the first to change driving Australian culture for the better.

Melissa started the program after the police invited her to share the real-life consequences of Jordan's crash at a Coomera event for high school students. She touched a chord, and

demand for her presentation has grown enormously from schools, parents, police and local councils.

Every time Melissa visits a school or club, she leaves behind a group of young advocates for her message to replace luck with accountability.

Melissa finds being nominated as a Westfield Local Hero uplifting. "It reinforces our determination to continue; and to ensure that the YOU CHOOSE messages are carried into communities by young drivers, long after we're unable to deliver them ourselves."

*Melissa's nominator says:
"Melissa is a Westfield Local Hero because she galvanises her personal loss into life-saving optimism that uplifts a new generation of young drivers to protect their families and the community from the misery of road trauma."*



Busting risky driving myths

Melissa McGuinness

YOU CHOOSE Youth Road Safety

Courageous, Committed, Transformative

"It reinforces our determination to continue; and to ensure that the YOU CHOOSE messages are carried into communities by young drivers, long after we're unable to deliver them ourselves."

Your 2021 Finalists



Nathan Gallagher

StandbyU Foundation

Nathan Gallagher helps protect hundreds of women and children from domestic violence safe through his work with the world-leading StandbyU Foundation. The charity provides people with a safety watch they can use to discreetly summon help at the touch of a button if they feel threatened. The device tells people in their network where they are and allows them to listen to what's happening.



Melanie McKenzie

Harrison's Little Wings

Mel McKenzie stepped up to fill a gap in support for women diagnosed with high-risk pregnancies when she founded Harrison's Little Wings. The charity provides practical support to families, including meals, housekeeping and childcare, and someone to talk to as they deal with their uncertainty. Mel was a Westfield Local Hero in 2020 and appreciates being nominated for a second time.



Amber Ford

Show The Way Inc.

Amber Ford has given thousands of vulnerable people food, clothing and hope through her Show The Way charity. Amber provides weekly cooked meals and provides hampers filled with pantry items, fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, clothing and blankets on other days. In addition, the charity's referral service directs people to organisations that can help with housing and other support.

Recognising all of our 2021 nominees

Rachel Rowe
Autism Camp Australia

Jay Toope
PCYC – Gold Coast

Abe Bland
Tribes Adventure Group

Natalie Contogee
**Boots for one & all
community**

Paul Cowen-Aston
**Rural Fire Service
Queensland & Child Safety
Services**

Raylee Annette Taylor
**Care For Life Suicide
Prevention Network
[CFLSPN]**

Jason Daniel
Cystic Fibrosis Queensland

Wayne Sticher
**Cycling Without Age Gold
Coast**

Paul Redley
**Southport Sharks Junior AFL
Club**

Ms Heidi Booth
Helensvale State School

Paul Butterfield
Toyakan Karate School

Anjanette Hutchison
**Goodstart Early Learning
Pacific Pines**

Vicky Rose
**Nerang Neighbourhood
Centre**

Michael Barrett
**Transformations Program
Australia**

Nikki Cheslin
On The Edge

Adam Bruce Watson
**Volunteer Marine Rescue
Southport – Surfers Paradise
Association Inc.**

Leisa J Logan
Fight 4 Youth

Di Macleod
**Gold Coast Centre Against
Sexual Violence**

Marianne Whalan
Healing Hooves Inc

Tonita (Toni) Wolf
Agape Outreach Inc.

Teresa Bettles
Rosies Youth Mission

Quang Long Bradley
**Helensvale High and Primary
School**

Mark Woodhouse
Silver Bridle Action Groups Inc

David Paynter
Gold Coast Tool Library

Debbie Spence
**Ashmore Branch Little
Athletics Centre**

Andre'a Simmons
Australian Anti Ice Campaign

Chris Boyle
StandbyU Foundation

Paul Carlyle
Australian Anti Ice Campaign

Dr Nadine Hamilton
Love Your Pet Love Your Vet

Glynis Leanne Nunn
**Gold Coast Academy
of Sport**

Tani Bloudell
Radio Lollipop Australia

Fiona Lamb
Lotus

Phyllis Hobbs
Labrador Scout Group

John Holbrook
**Animal Welfare League
of QLD**

Raymond Dent
Labrador Oztag

Danny Nugent
**Australian Volunteer Coast
Guard**

Alicia Millier
**Surf Life Saving (Burleigh
Heads SLSC)**

Craig Wallace
**Titans Together –
LeagueAbility Program**

**Amputee Support Group
Gold Coast Inc**

Wayne James Tester
Car000 – Variety Queensland

Martin Hall
Consulting Hall

Angelina Chanel Hickey
**Creative Director
Gold Coast Fashion Project
Inc.**

Andy Cullen
PTSD Resurrected

Cornelia Babbage
**Multicultural Families
Organisation**

Lann Levinge
Levinge Event

Garry Goodman
Eximm

Lino Hola
Mens Medicine

Gillian Crow
Javeenbah Theatre Company

Natarsha Stevenson
Lifestyle Solutions

Michelle Beattie
Hearts of Purple Ltd

Nikki Segal
Walk With Us

Melanie McKenzie
Harrison's Little Wings

Ilona Taylor
The Twin Rivers Centre

Melissa McGuinness
**YOU CHOOSE Youth Road
Safety**

Amber Ford
Show The Way Inc.

Nathan Gallagher
StandbyU Foundation

Karen Germon
Hope in A Suitcase

Jodie Alderton
**Harmony Hooves,
Healing Hearts**

**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

The background features a large, abstract graphic composed of overlapping red and white shapes. A large, rounded red shape dominates the right side, while a white shape overlaps it from the bottom left. The overall composition is clean and modern.

westfield.com.au/local-heroes

westfield.co.nz/local-heroes

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SCENTRE GROUP