



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

Hornsby

NSW

After suffering a complete spinal cord injury, Steve Ralph is on a mission to help people with paralysis or disability regain independence, choice, and control of their health and care.

Steve became paralysed from the neck down in an accident in 2017. He has since founded Maslow, an award-winning app that helps people coordinate their various therapy regimes and providers and stay on top of everything so they can spend more time living.

Maslow helps users to remotely access their home therapy programs and share them and their routines with support workers and family. It is voice-enabled and accessible, so even those with extensive paralysis can use the app to make staying on top of their care easier.

Steve was once an active, independent, and adventurous young adult. After having that stripped away, he has become motivated to advocate for people with disabilities.

"As a young person who has acquired a disability, I am dedicated to breaking down barriers and perceptions for people with disabilities in the community," says Steve.

He says he is proud to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "We're excited to continue working to ensure everyone who suffers a traumatic injury – and anyone living with a disability – has access to the best possible tools to help them improve their quality of life."

Steve's nominator says: "Steve is a Westfield Local Hero because he has courageously overcome the physical and mental barriers of being paralysed and built a vision that inspires hope, opportunity and equality through technology for other people suffering paralysis."



Supporting people with paralysis

Steven Ralph

Maslow

Resilient, Optimistic, Inspiring

"As a young person who has acquired a disability, I am dedicated to breaking down barriers and perceptions for people with disabilities in the community."



Saving women in crisis

Hylette Evans

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter

Passionate, Courageous, Resilient

"Often women come to the shelter not believing in their own abilities. To see them get to a place where they can live independently, gain employment, further their education and look forward to their future is inspiring and rewarding."

Courageous shelter manager Hylette Evans has devoted her career to saving women in crisis, giving them support to get back on their feet after experiencing domestic violence or homelessness.

Hylette is a qualified nurse and counsellor. She has developed a strong network of volunteers at the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter, which helps more than 100 women a year.

Hylette works with compassion to restore trust and confidence and goes above and beyond to help families with food, accommodation and basic essentials.

"Often women come to the shelter not believing in their own abilities. To see them get to a place where they can live independently, gain employment, further their education and look forward to their future is inspiring and rewarding," says Hylette.

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Hylette resisted challenging

pressure to close the shelter. Instead, she kept going so local women always had a place to go.

Available day or night, Hylette's work has become a foundation in the community.

Hylette is humbled to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "I am proud to be the manager of a service that is there to help women when they really need it. To have the work we do validated with this nomination is very much appreciated."

Hylette's nominator says: "Hylette is a Westfield Local Hero because she is a courageous and passionate advocate for vulnerable women and children. She is a quiet achiever who has never wanted personal recognition for the hundreds of lives she has saved. Through her dedication, she has inspired a community to come together and fight for women in crisis."

Brave volunteer Grant Wargren has been fighting fires since the 1970s, saving lives, property and wildlife from natural disasters and responding to road, boat and rail accidents.

Grant has put others first for 45 years as a firefighter and is a Group Captain for the Rural Fire Service (RFS) in Hornsby.

In the devastating 2019 bushfires, Grant together with several other members saved a man who had a heart attack when his home was impacted by the fires.

Over the years, Grant has repeatedly put his life at risk to save others and is available day and night to lead his team to accidents on the M1.

"I became involved with the RFS when I lived in Normanhurst and saw first-hand the impact of the Westleigh fires of 1975," says Grant.

One of his legacies is a safer training system for new volunteers, which has helped save lives.

"My motivation is to be able to help the community and reduce the impact of natural disasters. Living in an area surrounded by bushland, I feel it is my duty to look after our environment and community," says Grant.

He feels flattered to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "No one joins the RFS to receive praise or recognition, but it feels good to be recognised."

Grant's nominator says: "Grant is a Westfield Local Hero because he is always willing to risk his life to save others."



Fighting fires and saving lives

Grant Wargren

Hornsby/Ku-Ring-Gai Rural Fire Service

Dedicated, Cool-headed, Leader

"My motivation is to be able to help the community and reduce the impact of natural disasters. Living in an area surrounded by bushland, I feel it is my duty to look after our environment and community."

Your 2021 Finalists



Thomas Dent

StreetWork Australia Limited

Motivated by seeing young people achieve their dreams and turn their lives around, Thomas Dent has been helping to create a sense of community and inclusion for vulnerable young people for over 15 years. Tom supports and mentors youth caseworkers and volunteers at the charity StreetWork and helps connect them with services that can help them.



Jo Marx

It's About Us Ltd

Jo Marx is on a mission to improve the mental health and wellbeing of cancer patients and provides free support to hundreds of families. Jo is the founder of the charity It's About Us and works tirelessly from her base on the upper North Shore to provide a warm, caring and supportive environment for people to connect.



Dr J.R. Baker

Primary & Community Care Services

Dr J.R. Baker is committed to helping people recover from crisis and injury and supports people living with physical and mental disabilities. As CEO of the non-profit Primary & Community Care Services, J.R. leads a team of social workers, occupational therapists, psychologists, nurses and other healthcare professionals who help about 9000 people a year.

Recognising all of our 2021 nominees

Madison Gilson
Ronald McDonald House

Jonathan Shar
Australian Disability Ltd

Gulfam Rafi
Thymn Square Cafe

Ian Stewart
Hornsby Kuring-gai Sailing Club

Suzanne Cox
Cox Academy of Irish Dance

Matthew James O'Neill
Ryde Hornsby Baseball League

Iain Brew
**Humans of Beecroft and
Cheltenham 2119 NSW**

Lynda (Lyn) Garside
Cavy Central Guinea Pig Rescue

Jan Primrose
**Protecting Your Suburban
Environment Inc (PYSE)**

Paul Ferry
Mt Colah Football Club

Rebecca Jane Canty
Hornsby Gang Show

Nathan Gilke
**Marian Street For Young
People**

Bernard Schaffler
Transpower Electronics Pty Ltd

Gailsusan Moore
**Community Foundation of North
Western Sydney**

Graham Williams
**AUSCAP Australian Civil Air
Patrol**

Porsche Paulini
Porsches Rescue

Nasiba Akram
HOST International

Alan Henson
St Vincent de Paul Society

Jo Marx
It's about us Ltd

Janine Yeates
RuffTRACK Limited

Hylette Evans
**Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's
Shelter**

Dr James Robert Baker
**Primary & Community Care
Services**

Steven Ralph
Maslow

Grant Stanley Albert Wargren
**Hornsby Shire Council Rural
Fire Service**

Thomas Dent
StreetWork Australia Limited

**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

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SCENTRE GROUP