



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.

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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
Sydney
NSW

Dr Helen Gooden has given life-saving knowledge about the hidden symptoms of ovarian cancer to thousands of future doctors and nurses since she introduced the Survivors Teaching Students program to Australia.

Helen is the national manager of the program and works tirelessly with 150 brave ovarian cancer survivors and caregivers who share their diagnosis stories with students at 14 universities across Australia.

Ovarian cancer is known as the silent killer because the symptoms are often missed. But Helen and the volunteers are doing all in their power to change that.

After hearing the survivor stories, many students are adamant they will consider gynaecological cancer every time a women patient displays the symptoms they have heard about.

"The program opens conversations about women's reproductive cancers that are

taking four times as many lives per year than the road toll," says Helen.

Since its launch in 2017, the program has reached 5000 students.

Helen is honoured to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "I am humbled to work with my amazing volunteers and enormously proud of the work they do, sharing their stories, their pain, vulnerability and often loss," she says.

"This nomination is for each and every one of them and to honour those we have lost and will continue to lose each year."

Helen's nominator says: "Helen is a Westfield Local Hero because of her tireless work supporting Survivors Teaching Students, ensuring our future doctors and nurses are better equipped to work towards improving outcomes for women."



Innovating for women's health

Dr Helen Gooden

ANZGOG & Survivors Teaching Students

Informed, Dedicated, Passionate

"The program opens conversations about women's reproductive cancers that are taking four times as many lives per year than the road toll."



Hearty meals for the homeless

Jackie Warn

One Meal – It Makes a Difference

Committed, Generous, Empathetic

The nomination motivates me to think of other ways we can help the homeless and marginalised in the community. Think I'll have to make a list!"

Jackie Warn has dedicated the last six years to One Meal – It Makes a Difference, a charity that provides meals to homeless and underprivileged people in Sydney.

Jackie spends her Friday and Saturday nights cooking hearty meals and collecting food donations to feed 180 to 200 people on Saturdays at Green Park and Ward Park in inner Sydney.

Volunteers also hand out sleeping bags, blankets, fruit, toiletries and clothing to those in need.

Jackie manages dozens of volunteers, provides food safety and health training and is director of the One Meal committee assisting in fundraising and strategy planning.

She tackles the job with boundless energy and a smile on her face.

Many charities shut their doors during the COVID-19 pandemic, but Jackie and One Meal

volunteers with the support of Darlo Darlings group continued to run the program – despite a shortage of donated food – and even expanded it to a second location to meet increased need.

Jackie is moved by the gratitude shown by many service users.

"Many live on their own, so just a friendly conversation can mean a lot to them," she says.

Jackie is honoured to be nominated a Westfield Local Hero. "The nomination motivates me to think of other ways we can help the homeless and marginalised in the community. Think I'll have to make a list!"

Jackie's nominator says: "Jackie is a Westfield Local Hero because she is a true giver whose dedication, disposition and acts of kindness are infectious to all who surround her. She treats everyone as her own family, with the utmost dignity and respect. She makes those who are marginalised feel cared for and gives them a sense of belonging."

As a patient advocate, Gail O'Brien AO offers people with cancer a shoulder to lean on.

Gail is a director and the patient advocate at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, the only independent not-for-profit cancer hospital in Australia, located in Newtown named after her late husband, Professor Chris O'Brien AO, who passed away from brain cancer in 2009.

Prof O'Brien was a respected head and neck surgeon who had a vision for an integrated cancer treatment centre where patients are supported through all the elements of their illness. His idea was realised with the opening of Chris O'Brien Lifehouse to patients on 19 November 2013.

Gail is renowned for her compassion, patience, and warm support of patients and families at the hospital, which treats 60,000 people a year.

"They are bewildered, fearful and feel isolated by their disease," says Gail.

"Knowing that what we do has a hugely positive impact on the patient and family is a huge privilege and enormously motivating."

In 2018, Gail was named an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her work.

Gail is delighted to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "It is gratifying to know that my work is noticed outside the organisation where I work," she says.

Gail's nominator says: "Gail is a Westfield Local Hero because her kindness and empathy when she talks to patients is truly incredible."



Advocating for cancer patients

Gail O'Brien

Chris O'Brien Lifehouse

Inspirational, Empathetic, Kind

"Knowing that what we do has a hugely positive impact on the patient and family is a huge privilege and enormously motivating."

Your 2021 Finalists



Sarah Garnett

The Footpath Library

Sarah Garnett has been bringing the joy of reading to people experiencing homelessness since 2003. Sarah set up The Footpath Library in Martin Place in Sydney after discovering that many disadvantaged people in our community love to read but have difficulty accessing good quality literature. She also provides coffee and reading glasses.



Craig Foster

Addison Road Community Organisation

Craig Foster AM is a generous volunteer ambassador for Addison Road Community Organisation. The former Socceroos captain has helped boost the charity's crisis relief food efforts, donations and #HamperofHope program by mobilising sport and other well-known advocates for vulnerable people including homeless, international students, multicultural communities, Aboriginal community services, asylum seekers and refugees. He also lends his high profile and voice to the charity's #RacismNotWelcome street sign campaign.



Gabriella Holmes

Sir David Martin Foundation

Gabriella Holmes has helped countless young people recover from substance misuse, family breakdown and other issues for two decades. Gabriella is the area manager at Mission Australia's Triple Care Farm, a residential youth drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility, which treats about 200 young people from around the country every year. She is also an ambassador for the Sir David Martin Foundation, which is the major funder of the facility.

Recognising all of our 2021 nominees

Karina Rauch
**Rotary Club of Gregory Hills
Next-Gen**

Danielle O'Keefe
The House that Dan Built

Bronte Arns
Giant Steps Australia

Davida Sweeney
The Generous and the Grateful

Mahlie Jewell
Australian BPD Foundation

Marjorie Tenchavez
Welcome Merchant

Laura Salado Vega
**International Medical Graduates
Sydney Community**

Talya Jacobson
The Indie Groove

David Graham
RuffTRACK Limited

Carly Stanley
**Deadly Connections Community
and Justice Services Limited**

John Anderson
AUSCAP Australian Civil Air Patrol

Maureen Lee
The Newtown Blessing Box

Scott Maggs
Beard Season

Margot Politis
Milk Crate Theatre

Elizabeth-Duck Chong
ACON

Carmen Gain
**Wellington Amateur
Swimming Club**

Sandra Harris
**Sydney 24/7 street kitchen
& safe space**

Rodney Mitchell
Minute by minute disaster relief

Steven Lowrie
Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre

Aunty Beryl Van-Oploo
**National Centre of Indigenous
Excellence**

Dr Derrick Tin
TacMed Australia

Stephen Lunny
**Surry Hills Neighbourhood
Centre**

Sarah Garnett
The Footpath Library

Dulce Munoz
**Mums4Refugees NSW
Incorporated**

Mark Spinks
Babana Aboriginal Men's Group

Alan Froude
OzHarvest

Gabriella Holmes
Sir David Martin Foundation

Craig Foster
**Addison Road Community
Organisation**

Gail O'Brien
Chris O'Brien Lifehouse

Dr Helen Gooden
**ANZGOG & Survivors Teaching
Students**

Jackie Warn
One Meal – It Makes a Difference

**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, rounded shapes in various shades of red and white. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The colors range from a bright, vibrant red to a deep, dark red, with white areas that appear to be cutouts or highlights within the composition.

westfield.com.au/local-heroes

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SCENTRE GROUP