

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 printed 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
Miranda
NSW

Denny Rowlands is the driving force behind the Red Fins Nippers program that welcomes children of all abilities to the Wanda Surf Lifesaving Club.

Denny is a respected member of the club and set up the program in 2018 with just six members. Since then, it has grown to 37 children.

The volunteer-run program accommodates the needs of every child, whose challenges include autism, physical disabilities, intellectual disabilities, visual impairment and hearing loss.

The children thrive in the supportive environment, and their families feel welcome as part of the Wanda community.

It is a testament to Denny's vision that the Red Fins held the biggest inclusive program along the Bate Bay Beaches this Nipper season.

Denny's has his own children with Autism, who are thriving in the program. It's an ongoing learning experience for him as he learns as

much as he can about the needs of all the participants.

"I'm inspired by the determination of the kids, who overcome their barriers each weekend, and I'm inspired by my children to be the person I need to be for them," says Denny.

He's humbled to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "There are many people in the community doing positive things for those around them, and I feel honoured to be included with them," says Denny.

Denny's nominator says: "Denny is a Westfield Local Hero because he changes the lives of children by making them feel welcome and part of our surf club and the local community. He gives the children the opportunity to shine no matter their ability. He truly teaches all around him true empathy and makes us proud and eager to volunteer."



Giving a Nipper experience to all

Denny Rowlands

Wanda Surf Lifesaving Club

Patient, Kind, Inclusive

"I'm inspired by the determination of the kids, who overcome their barriers each weekend, and I'm inspired by my children to be the person I need to be for them."



Supporting the community

Ashleigh Daines

The Family Co.

Compassionate, Dedicated, Driven

"I'm passionate about being able to support and empower individuals to build resilience and overcome adversity."

As the CEO of The Family Co., Ashleigh Daines does all in her power to ensure local children and families have a safe home, strong connections and opportunities to thrive.

Ashleigh touches the lives of thousands of people a year and has a sense of compassion and urgency about addressing problems others steer clear of.

Her team connect people with social workers, family therapists, educators and welfare workers who provide practical, and emotional culturally appropriate support.

Support provided ranges from children experiencing anxiety or educational problems through to complex trauma or abuse.

Ashleigh's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been one of her standout contributions.

She knew families would be under pressure and quickly moved to an online service delivery model to ensure continued support.

"Our services were essential during the peak of the pandemic in providing assistance to the local community," says Ashleigh, who has led the addition of new programs in recent months to support needs in the community.

"I'm passionate about being able to support and empower individuals to build resilience and overcome adversity," she says.

Ashleigh feels honoured to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "It recognises the amazing services that The Family Co. has offered to our local community and recognises the wonderful contributions of the whole The Family Co. team."

Ashleigh's nominator says: "Ashleigh is a Westfield Local Hero because she is a passionate advocate for families, women, and vulnerable members of the community, particularly those impacted by domestic violence, disadvantage or trauma. She is driven and focused on improving support for local families."

Growing old doesn't mean you stop having fun!

Music and movement instructor Emma Watts is taking music, fun and healthy movement to people in aged care and disability services across the Shire.

Emma started The Daisy Chain initiative three years ago to help people improve their physical and mental health and to help facility staff connect with suitable entertainers and instructors for people in their care.

Emma is hands-on in her work and often adds intergenerational joy to her classes by having her children engage with elderly and disabled community members.

Emma spends many hours arranging sessions and is motivated by the smiles and joy on participants' faces.

Her work is a tribute to her nan, who passed away from Alzheimer's Disease three years ago. "She taught me how music can help us feel free. Her battle with dementia inspired me to

create The Daisy Chain so others can feel that freedom," says Emma.

A testament to Emma's dedication is the 1,000 origami Easter bunnies with messages of love and hope that she sent to residents during the COVID lockdowns.

Emma is proud and humbled to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "It gives me the opportunity to highlight the amazing work that is done in aged care and disability and to tackle more of the challenges around these areas."

Emma's nominator says: "Emma is a Westfield Local Hero because she brings brightness, movement and laughter to our local aged care and disability services in the Shire."



Bringing joy to older people

Emma Watts

The Daisy Chain

Dedicated, Relentless, Caring

"She taught me how music can help us feel free. Her battle with dementia inspired me to create The Daisy Chain so others can feel that freedom."

Your 2021 Finalists



Danielle Lucas

Care 4 Kids Ltd

Danielle Lucas reminds hundreds of children a year that they are not forgotten by providing them with lovingly put together care packs to enjoy during a difficult time. Danielle founded her Care 4 Kids Ltd charity in 2016 and has made up and distributed thousands of care packs since then. She works with police stations around Australia and is in regular contact with social workers in Sutherland and with local women's refuges. Danielle was a Westfield Local Hero finalist in 2018 and appreciates being nominated for a second time.



Geoff Vickers

Special Olympics – Sydney South

Humble Geoff Vickers has spent 25 years organising, supporting and volunteering for Shire-based athletes, with the last nine as chairman of Special Olympics – Sydney South for people with an intellectual disability. Geoff has a special place in his heart for all 120 Special Olympics athletes at the club, as well as the 60 volunteers. Thanks to him, the club is one of the best-run community organisations in Australia. Geoff was a Westfield Local Hero finalist in 2020 and appreciates being nominated for a second time.



Amethyst Barnbrook

Expanding Influences

Amethyst (Ame) Barnbrook helps more than 80 people with disabilities navigate the NDIS and gain access to the support they need. Ame is the co-founder of Expanding Influences, which she started in her spare room and has grown over the past three years to employ 15 people. Ame works day and night and often on weekends to help people in the Shire and other areas. Ame was a Westfield Local Hero finalist in 2020 and appreciates being nominated for a second time.

Recognising all of our 2021 nominees

Garry Keir
Engadine Community Services

Chia Chun Amy Muscat
**AUSCAP Australian Civil Air
Patrol**

Sean Linkson
The Pinnacle Foundation

Marnie Dauroff
CM Wellness

Blair McDonald
NSW Rural Fire Service

Julia Szulerowski
Children's Tumour Foundation

Sean Gossell
Disability Dating Australia

Geoff Vickers
Special Olympics – Sydney South

Elizabeth O'Neill
Orana NSW Inc

Jacki Hornung
**Support Amputees Family
and Friends**

Shire Hamper Helpers

Mikala Welsh
Garie SLSC

Luke Muttidon
Stellar Experiences

Sally Ann Conwell
Welcome Studio

Jayson Sidney Norris
Windang Surf Lifesaving Club

Amy Louise Leahy
Project Youth

Pastor Rosel Joy Bona
Life Choice Ministries

Gus Worland
Gotcha4Life

Anna Sammut
Order of Malta Volunteers

Danielle Lucas
Care 4 Kids Ltd

Gregory Davis
**Associate Professor Gregory
Davis Rooms**

Kathryn 'Huggies' Hull
**Southern Power Australian
Football Club – Youth Girls**

Jillian Critchley
**Charcot Marie Tooth Disease
Kids Group**

Scott Thomas
Elouera SLSC Nippers

Jamie-Lee O'Connor
Phoenix Community Project Inc

Amethyst Barnbrook
Expanding Influences

Patricia Scheetz
The Sweetest Gift

Lynn Wilson
Tuberous Sclerosis Australia

Indiana-Belle Rubin-Tasic
**The Wheel – A Sustainability Hub
Inc.**

Denny Rowlands
Wanda Surf Lifesaving Club

Emma Watts
The Daisy Chain

Ashleigh Daines
The Family Co.

**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



westfield.com.au/local-heroes

westfield.co.nz/local-heroes

Westfield

Local Heroes

2021

SCENTRE GROUP