

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

Liverpool

NSW

Stacy Jane is using her personal experience of domestic violence to provide practical help to others who are escaping from a troubled situation.

Stacy's non-profit Escabags, provides 'Escape Bags' to individuals and families with the necessities they need in the early days after fleeing.

Stacy hails from the UK but moved to Australia to escape a violent partner. She suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and started sewing tote bags to alleviate some of the symptoms she was experiencing. It's as a result of these bags that gave Stacy the idea and inspiration to help others.

Escabags provides two types of 'Escape Bags'; 'Single Adult' and 'Parent and Child'. Both contain all the essential items that a victim of abuse may need when initially escaping an abusive or dangerous situation. Contents include: Essential toiletries, sanitary items, a notebook and pen and several other comfort items.

The Parent and Child Escape Bag includes additional items such as; Children's Story and colouring books, a dummy, nappies, a baby blanket and a teddy bear. All the tote bags are now sewn and donated by kind volunteers across Australia.

The free Escape Bags are available from over 450 trusted outlets, including police stations, health and community centres, and other privately own businesses across Australia.

Stacy is grateful to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "Escabags has grown exponentially in the last 12 months because of the need for a practical solution and the kindness of the community. This recognition will help us grow further, so no one is ever too far from an Escape Bag and a life free from fear," she says.

Stacy's nominator says "Stacy is a Westfield Local Hero because she is using a very traumatic experience to bring hope to others. She wants them to know there is always light, no matter how dark things are."



Handing out hope

Stacy Jane

Escabags – Escape Bags

Strong, Inspiring, Kind

"Escabags has grown exponentially in the last 12 months because of the need for a practical solution and the kindness of the community."



Giving chances with art

Matthew Peet

The Street University Liverpool

Selfless, Dedicated, Talented

"I have always seen the success of the young people as my reward. To be acknowledged is above my expectations, and I hope it will open doors to further develop the program."

Humble and dedicated Matthew Peet has helped thousands of disengaged young people reach their full potential in his 12 years with the ground-breaking The Street University Liverpool.

Matthew is a youth worker with the non-profit and coordinates creative art workshops for people aged 12 to 25. The art gives them a creative way to express themselves while encouraging them to steer away from anti-social and destructive behaviours.

The workshops, including street art, rap and break-dancing, also harness their artistic potential for future study or employment.

He grew up dealing with many of the struggles young people face and knows from experience that art can change lives.

Over the years, Matthew has witnessed many young people stop taking drugs, reunite with their families and return to their studies after finding purpose through the workshops.

Some have returned the favour by sharing their skills and stories with other young people.

Other workshops offered by the university include photography, Aboriginal dance, podcast, TikTok production and graphic design.

Matthew feels honoured to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "I have always seen the success of the young people as my reward. To be acknowledged is above my expectations, and I hope it will open doors to further develop the program," he says.

*Matthew's nominator says:
"Matthew is a Westfield Local Hero because he has dedicated his life to helping young people reach their full potential, all while remaining incredibly humble."*

Sharon keeps an ever-growing number of seniors fit and happy through her work with South West Community Transport.

Sharon has implemented popular programs at the non-profit.

Her fitness classes make exercise fun and help reduce falls, while the morning teas that follow encourage social interaction. Sharon's initial class of eight seniors has grown to 54 participants across three weekly classes.

She refused to let the COVID-19 pandemic get in the way of her clients' progress, distributing a booklet of at-home exercises and starting a one-on-one walking program.

One of Sharon's most memorable moments was when a client was able to stop relying on her walking stick and carer, becoming confident enough to go shopping on her own.

Sharon is also thrilled that one senior is putting effort into

improving her English to converse with her new friends.

Sharon also arranges social outings on public transport, accompanying seniors on trips to galleries, seaside cafes and the zoo.

She is excited to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "I genuinely enjoy my work, and if I didn't have to pay bills, I'd probably do it for free. This has motivated me more to see what else I can do," Sharon says.

Sharon's nominator says: "Sharon is a Westfield Local Hero because she makes a genuine difference in the lives of seniors, going above and beyond her job requirement and readily passes on her skills and knowledge to help those around her."



Making ageing fun

Sharon

South West Community Transport

Caring, Capable, Genuine

"I genuinely enjoy my work, and if I didn't have to pay bills, I'd probably do it for free. This has motivated me more to see what else I can do."

Your 2021 Finalists



Kylie Pussell

Miracle Babies Foundation Ltd

Kylie Pussell comforts thousands of families of premature or ill babies by reaching out to them in their time of need. Kylie co-founded the non-profit Miracle Babies Foundation in 2005. The charity supports 1200 families a year at the Liverpool Hospital NICU and special care nursery and is available at 23 partner hospitals. Support is also available through a free 24-hour helpline and an online peer support group.



Birgitte Maibom

Learning Links

Birgitte Maibom helps more than 4,000 children a year access the support they need to reach their potential. The non-profit Learning Links provides literacy and numeracy support to children with learning difficulties or a disability to prevent them from falling behind at school. It also runs early intervention programs, speech therapy and psychology services.



Annamaria Wood

Disability Macarthur

Innovative Annamaria Wood has spent the last 25 years meeting the unmet needs of people in the community living with a disability as CEO of Disability Macarthur. The non-profit organisation improves the lives of over 500 families, offering overnight respite care for children and adults. It also brings joy to children with physical or intellectual disabilities through an adventure club.

Recognising all of our 2021 nominees

Patrick Uy

Barlionz

Hung Thanh Pham

Barlionz Australia

Reverend Bill Crews

**Rev. Bill Crews Foundation +
The Exodus Foundation**

Norma Burrows

**Liverpool Women's Resource
Centre Incorporated**

Charlie Fruean

**NSW Council for Pacific
Communities**

Aleksandra Alavanja

NSW Gov Communities & Justice

Steven Toohey

Youth Mission Team Australia

Aggie Hornung

**Liverpool City Little Athletics
Centre**

Jean-Pierre Brochard

**AUSCAP Australian Civil Air
Patrol**

Martin Ferguson

Barlionz Australia

Brian Bey

Rural Fire Service (volunteers)

Raymond Claude Bell OAM

**Australian Air League Moorebank
Squadron**

Matthew Peet

The Street University Liverpool

Kylie Pussell

Miracle Babies Foundation Ltd

Lindsay Round

RuffTRACK Limited

Shenouda Mansour

**Coptic Orthodox Community
Outreach**

Birgitte Maibom

Learning Links

Annamaria Wood

CEO of Disability Macarthur

Sharon

**South West Community
Transport**

Stacy Jane

Escabags – Escape Bags

**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

Kidslines: 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

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2021

SCENTRE GROUP