



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

Marion

SA

Widowed dad Nick Lee has devoted 10 years of his life to educating the people of South Australia about the early detection and prevention of bowel cancer.

He does this through the Jodi Lee Foundation, which he set up in memory of his wife, Jodi, who was diagnosed with bowel cancer when she was aged 39. He has personally raised over \$700,000 for bowel cancer.

Nick focuses his education efforts on corporates. He tells his story to motivate younger people to find out their family history of bowel cancer and encourage people older than 50 to use the test that the Department of Health sends in the mail.

Most people ignore the test, but the vast majority of bowel cancer cases can be successfully treated if detected early.

"I know first-hand the impact that bowel cancer can have on family and friends, having lost my wife to bowel cancer," says Nick. "My main motivation when

I established the foundation was to try to save lives and prevent suffering."

Nick says it is rewarding to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "We know we can save lives through our initiatives and improve the health and wellbeing of the people we reach in the community."

Nick's nominator says: "Nick is a Westfield Local Hero because he has devoted the last ten years of his life to preventing people from experiencing the pain he endured after his wife passed away from bowel cancer."



Life-saving message

Nick Lee

Jodi Lee Foundation

Passionate, Innovative, Empathetic

"I know first-hand the impact that bowel cancer can have on family and friends, having lost my wife to bowel cancer."



Saving cancer kids from isolation

Matthew Townsend

Lion Hearts Learning

Humble, Selfless, Dedicated

"There are so many children and families in the same position as us, and I just want to ensure we can help them to receive support."

Devoted dad Matthew Townsend and his wife, Jolyn Phillips, started Lion Hearts Learning to give children in South Adelaide a free super-hygienic place to interact with others while undergoing cancer treatment.

The charity is like a second full-time job for Matthew, whose daughter Codee-Jo was diagnosed with leukaemia at the age of two. One of the challenges was that she could not attend a regular playschool because children undergoing cancer treatment have severely compromised immune systems and must be kept physically distanced from others to prevent infection.

Lionhearts provides free playgroups to cancer children and their siblings. All toys are cleaned before and after every session, and nobody attends if they are unwell.

"There are so many children and families in the same position as us, and I just want to ensure

we can help them to receive support," says Matthew.

"Lion Hearts Learning is a place oncology kids can come to learn, have fun and play with their friends.

"I feel proud to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. It makes me just want to do more and get the Lion Hearts Learning name out there so we can continue to help children and families in need," says Matthew.

Matthew's nominator says: "Matthew is a Westfield Local Hero because he works hard and tirelessly for the good of others, always there to lend a hand when needed and never asks for thanks. Lion Hearts Learning would never have evolved without him."

Blackwood Action Group volunteer Pauline Dodd is a driving force behind projects that help people feel they live in a caring community where people look after each other and the environment.

Pauline coordinates events like the much-loved Christmas Tree Festival and co-convenes local history group activities as part of the work of Blackwood Action Group which also improves Blackwood visually through streetscaping projects, care of train stations and the Stobie pole mural painting project involving local artists.

"Our activities provide opportunities for people with a diverse range of interests and capabilities to contribute to the community, connect with others and feel a sense of belonging," says Pauline.

Money raised through BAG's Community Links activities supports struggling families and other local charities whereas the

history group supports CFS and Legacy.

Pauline is an avid supporter of an effort to make the group more appealing to younger people and to involve youth groups, school children and parents in events.

"Engaging people in community service from a young age helps develop a sense of social responsibility," she says.

Pauline is pleased to be nominated as a Westfield Local Hero. "Personal recognition of my efforts hopefully inspires others. Community involvement and volunteer service are richly rewarding."

*Pauline's nominator says:
"Pauline is a Westfield Local Hero because she is an outstanding and dedicated member of our community who creates massive special events that contribute back to local charities."*



Caring for her community

Pauline Dodd

Blackwood Action Group

Energetic, Passionate, Caring

"Engaging people in community service from a young age helps develop a sense of social responsibility."

Your 2021 Finalists



Craig Scott

Goodwood Saints Football Club Inc

Goodwood Saints Football Club President Craig Scott has added to competitive success by making the club a stand-out achiever off the field. Craig is the driving force behind the club's female teams and promoting good mental health for players. He also drove the development of SA's Inclusive League for players with disabilities.



Leigh Aitken

Operation Flinders

For the past 11 years, Leigh Aitken has devoted most of his free time to volunteering for Operation Flinders Foundation. In that time, he has led 14 expeditions and directly helped 140 young at-risk people become the best version of themselves. Each eight-day expedition involves a 100km trek.



Emma Georgiadis

Enlighten Education

Radio presenter Emma Georgiadis uses her experience as a school teacher to connect with young women and build their confidence. She's doing this through Enlighten Education in-school workshops that help girls decode the mixed messages they receive and through her podcast, Empowerhouse, to help build attitudes of self-love, self-worth and self-belief.

Recognising all of our 2021 nominees

Jennifer Howard
Safe Pets Safe Families

Sabrina Davis
Hospital Research Foundation

Lynette Joy Barnes
Believe Educate Empower

Jacinta Clark
The Pinnacle Foundation

Vivien Matthews
**Southern Cross Care
(SA, NT & VIC) Inc.**

Mark Blagrove
Hub Gymnastics Club

Krystle Dale Woollard
Gloria Jeans Coffee Cafe

Bernadette Cagney,
Formal Friday – Suit Up
Beyond Blue

Robert McFarland
**Rotary / RYDA Road Safety
Education**

Melissa Pearce
KIDS Foundation

Jo McDonald
**Move Through Life Dance
Studio**

Kim Mead
**Childhood Cancer Association
& Still Aware**

Moira Were AM
Hen House Coop

Brigid Koenig
Sammy D Foundation

Mark Vawser
Country Fire Service

Kelly Johnson
**Aberfoyle Hub R-7 School
Fundraising Committee**

Petina Walsh
OmMade Meet The Maker

Melanie Tate
Puddle Jumpers

Robin McBride
**Somerton Surf Life Saving Club
Incorporated**

**Christies Beach
Surf Lifesaving Club**

Lisa Totani
**Circuit Excel Association South
Australia**

Erika Fuller
Treasure Boxes Inc

Steve Turner
**Variety – The Children's
Charity of South Australia**

Rachael Firns
Puddle jumpers

Bridget Hogg
Wellbeings Foundation

Anne Stewart
**Move Through Life Dance
Studio**

Freya Charlotte Simpson
Glengowrie Netball Club

Stacy Allan
Kapara Residential ACH Group

Rikki Cooke
Treasure Boxes Inc.

Rebecca Aloisi
Supertee

John Denholm
SA Brothers

Clarisse Semler-Hanlon
Treasure Boxes Inc

Pauline Dodd
Blackwood Action Group

Bailee Phillips
Puddle Jumpers Inc

Craig Scott
**Goodwood Saints Football
Club Inc**

Emma Georgiadis
Enlighten Education

Nick Lee
Jodi Lee Foundation

Matthew Townsend
Lion Hearts Learning

Leigh Aitken
Operation Flinders

**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

westfield.co.nz/local-heroes

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SCENTRE GROUP