



Special Olympics Brisbane Club

Message From the Chair

Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year 2021! Such welcome words following from the unprecedented events in 2020. We look forward to all that 2021 has to bring.

Firstly, I will be finishing up at the AGM on the 1st March and would like to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to work with a committee of new members (2020) who stepped up through a very unknown period (we commenced as a new committee a few days before the first COVID lockdown started) in a totally new environment - SO. Everyone has played an important role in a unusual year. We achieved many things in that time (which will be noted in AGM report) and realise there are still a number of areas that need addressing - lack of volunteers, the need for coaches for some sports etc, so onward and upwards and let's hope this year with COVID restrictions does not impact like it did in 2020.

Until we have a new Chair with the experience required, our Vice Chair Martina will step in as acting Chair. Thank you Martina, to find out more about Martina check out our Committee Member Highlight. We are hoping a parent who is across SO and has the time and experience managing a committee or projects will take on this vital role. The Chair role and current vacancies (coach, generic roles, committee roles) can be found via Seek Volunteer the role for Chair is titled as Special Olympics Australia - Club Chair - Brisbane Club.

We are also very excited for the QLD State games to occur during March; held across Moreton Bay Region facilities. The Brisbane club has 102 athletes registered to compete in the following areas: Basketball, cricket, football, golf, sailing, swimming, table tennis, tennis ten pin bowling, equestrian, power lifting. Remember to follow our Facebook page for further updates relating to the State Games.

A big shout out to all the coaches and athletes I have had the privilege of meeting and working with over the past year, it has been an honour and I have learnt a lot from everyone in a short time. Thank you, as learning has always been an important part of who I am and adds a great deal of value to what I do next.

Best of Wishes,

Vicki Godfrey
Chair - Special Olympics Brisbane

Thank you and Goodbye to two of our Amazing Long Term Volunteers

Katarina Norris

Katarina has been actively involved with Special Olympics for 17-18 years. Over this time Katarina who is also a mother of an Athletic sought out the best prices for club functions and equipment. Over the past 10 years Katarina has played an important role in coordinating the football team needs relating to training and competitions.

Katarina is an accredited Disabled Wintersport Australia Coach and for 9 years Katarina has worked in various volunteer roles in the Winter Sports - Ski program, these roles include shed coordinator, manager and various helper roles when required.

Thank you Katrina for your passion and Commitment to the Special Olympics!



Katrina Streeting

Katrina has been actively involved in the Special Olympics for over 21 years. A few words from Katrina regarding her time prior to the amalgamation of Brisbane West club into the SO Brisbane club. 'Building the strong region that was Brisbane West with a passionate and strong committee saw not only significant growth in Athlete participation but greater community awareness through work with the Special schools in the region. Growth in grants and funding in my State role as Fund Raising Manager also due to significant annual state fund raising events, the Sportsman's Lunch, Corporate Golf Day, building community awareness through our connection with IGA.'

In the role of Coordinator of the Cricket Program, it may seem less rewarding to some, but in fact has been one of great honour and pleasure as the grassroots impact that this role has allowed me to achieve is truly one of my most important roles with SO, as the Athletes and families within this program is truly like family and I am very proud to have served them to the best of my abilities. Sports maybe the venue for SO to give to our Athletes but the community that comes with being a SO Athlete is truly an outcome that without which many of our Athletes would otherwise live very lonely and isolated lives. Athletes have taught us that they take these opportunities and show us how they can shine.

'Volunteering isn't something that takes little effort - but the rewards achieved through hard works is truly the blessing you take away.'



2021 Team Administrators

Robyn who has been involved with cricket for many years as a parent and helper when required will assist the cricket coaches on a fortnightly basis, thank you Robyn till we can fill this role and Rebecca Budd (football) a parent of an athlete has generously accepted to serve in this role.

Welcome Rebecca to your new football role! We have already heard wonderful things about your leadership through the football program and other members of the Brisbane Committee! Thank you to both of you from the committee for taking on these vital positions!

Recruitment Drive Volunteer Roles | Update

To date we have had seven people register their interest, three came through at the end of last year, so we are hoping they connect again as we have all started back now. The other four have been emailed and welcomed and introduced to the coach via email for the coach to follow up with (meet athletes and coaches and find out more).

We are seeking volunteers to assist in coaching and generic roles e.g. ball or line person for tennis competitions, Bocce scorer etc. All of these roles have been advertised as Expressions of Interest EOI. We still have many roles that need filling, so we will continue working with Gareth (Operations Manager) who does a great job placing our advertisements on Seek Volunteer and sending the interested people through as soon as he receives their application.

Annual General Meeting | 1st March, 2021

The AGM will be held on the 1st March 2021 at the Queensland Sports and Athletes Centre, Kessels Road, Mt Gravatt. If you would like to attend in person please contact our secretary Emily directly on brisbane.secretary@specialolympics.com.au

Due to COVID restrictions we can only have up to 15 people attend in person, so get in early or we can aim to send you a Teams meeting invite and connect you up to the meeting on the night. Light refreshments will be served after so please let us know if you would like to attend.

All registered athletes and volunteers in the club are eligible to attend and vote and need to be in attendance to vote. Items to be included:

The receiving of the Committee reports:

- Chairperson
- Treasurer

The election of officers to the Brisbane Club Committee, to those positions declared vacant will include:

- Chair
- Fundraising and Social Media

If you would like a nomination form but cannot access via the internet then please contact us at least seven working days prior to the meeting and we will aim to send one onto you.

Membership Numbers over the last 2 Years

No of athletes in 2020 - 126	No of volunteers in 2020 - 72	No of people undertook first aid course in 2020 - 6
No of athletes in 2021 - 141	No of volunteers in 2021 - 64	No of people had blue card in 2020 - 7
No of new athletes - 20	No of new volunteers in 2021 - 7	
<i>Athlete numbers 2021 - 161</i>	<i>Volunteer numbers 2021 - 71</i>	

Our Facebook Community

653 Followers

Year in review



Social Media Community

Our Social Media community loves sharing in the achievements of our athletes, coaches and supporters. If you have any photos from training or competitions please send them to Martina at brisbane.vicechair@specialolympics.com.au. Make sure to provide the full names of the athletes in the pictures, as well as a short explanation and we will post it to our Facebook page.

Christmas and New Year Celebrations

A fun and successful COVID-safe Cricket Day was held early December. The Athletes that attended were thrilled to have a opportunity to be together and 'play' the Match Training Test, a modified day to be sure but still the closest thing to a 'normal' Cricket day that they have been able to enjoy since Feb. They enjoyed a BBQ lunch (thank you Jamie White for organising both the use of Sandgate Cricket Club for the venue and the BBQ). Also a big thank you to Roy for being the Master Chef), lucky dips, raffle and other activities. As it was Katrina's last event as Coordinator she was (finally) convinced by Coaches, Steve Beckinsale & Jamie White, to have a go A fun way to end a year with more challenges than usual.



The Special Olympics Brisbane Committee celebrated their last committee meeting for 2020 with a small Christmas lunch together. Joining at Southbank to pre-plan for 2021 and share some pizza to end 2020 on a high note.

Emma, our Fundraising coordinator left SOB at the end of 2020 for a new life and job in Canberra, we wish her every success and want to thank Emma for the great work undertaken over this past year.

Totally Wild

We were totally wrapped that the Totally Wild crew reached out to our club to film three of our sports: Gymnastics, Table Tennis and Bocce. Gymnastics was the first segment aired on Totally Wild on Sunday 29th November 2020 with our tennis table team aired on Sunday 13th December, 2020.

To view our Gymnastics team in action with Totally wild, you can access the video via the link below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPv3T2rhyMQ&feature=youtu.be>

Our Bocce team are still to come. Look out on Totally Wild shortly to see the team in action!

Committee Member Highlight | Martina | Vice Chair



Contact: brisbane.vicechair@specialolympics.com.au

I have held multiple roles in financial services for over 10 years, mainly in Risk and Compliance. Giving back to the community is important to me and before taking the Vice Chair role in 2020, I had volunteered with the RSPCA for 3 years with the Foster Care team. I have participated in sports all my life and I feel privileged to be part of an organisation that provides people with intellectual disability a supportive community where they can participate in sport and share their wins. At home, my husband and I are parents of a spirited Kelpie that keeps us active and on our toes.

My role in Special Olympics is to support the Chair in delivering on Club objectives as well as oversee and manage compliance obligations including Complaints Management, Code of Conduct and WH&S. I have also been looking after the club Facebook page. I love seeing what our athletes have been up to and sharing them with our community. If you have any photos you would like to share, please contact me.

Golf Programs Aus Inc. Golf Classic



Not even the heavy rain could dampen the spirits of the Special Olympics Brisbane Golf team as they played in the Golf Programs Australia Inc. Golf Classic at Nambour Golf Course. The Falcon's own Dylan Price was awarded the runner-up and all athletes enjoyed a sausage sizzle, golf, coffee, chicken burgers, fish n chips, fun music and a picnic blanket.



SOQ Colour Fun Day

We hope that those who attended the Colour Fun Day on Sunday 31st January had a great experience. For those that joined, it was a great afternoon of fun, including participating in a "Colour Explosion" event, food trucks, LETR Torch, music, and games. Club members and the SOQ Committee were in attendance to answer any questions regarding registrations or the State Games.



Fundraising and Social Events Updates

As a not-for-profit organisation our fundraising efforts continue throughout the year in order to provide more opportunities for our athletes. We will keep you all updated on our fundraising activities and invite you to support our athletes by volunteering at our events

State of Origin 1992 Signed Jersey Raffle



- STATE OF ORIGIN 1992 SERIES -

Dale Shearer * Mal Meninga (C) * Peter Jackson * Willie Carne * Kevin Walters * Allan Langer * Steve Walters * Steve Jackson * Bob Lindner * Gary Larson * Mark Coyne * Gary Coyne * Steve Renouf

Just under \$300 was raised as a result of a donated State of Origin jersey. The process used to raise funds was through Raffle link which provided an online platform and service. Total amount raised after a 5% fee was provided to Raffle Link totalled \$270.

Congratulations to Nidhi Chakma who is the lucky winner of our Maroons Jersey raffle! Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets in our fundraiser. We appreciate your continued support.

Grill'd Newmarket



The Brisbane club are very grateful to all the people who supported our club and especially Grill'd for providing these fund raising opportunities for small clubs like us to receive some much needed assistance. As a result of the January Jars promotion we got 1st place and will receive a \$300 from Grill'd. Thank you to all involved.

Containers for Change

Help us fundraise for the Club all year by taking your eligible containers to a registered Containers for Change recycling centre and entering the Special Olympics Brisbane Club ID: C10054053. Every container counts!



Next Newsletter

We always welcome additional content in our newsletters. If you have any photos from training or competitions please send them through to Emily at brisbane.secretary@specialolympics.com.au. Make sure to provide the names of the athletes in the pictures, as well as a short explanation so we can share with the Club.

Remember, we are now on Facebook (Special Olympics Brisbane) and Instagram (@specialolympicsbrisbane) - follow us to stay up to date on news and events!

If you have any queries regarding the content or distribution of this newsletter or would like to contribute content, please contact the Secretary.