



Special Olympics Brisbane Club

Message From the Chair

Hi Everyone,

We can't believe that another year is coming to a close. As we say goodbye to 2021, I would like to once again say 'thank you' to our athletes, coaches, volunteers and supporters for your continued enthusiasm and support during another trying year navigating COVID-19. We couldn't have done it without you! Whilst it looks like 2022 may bring its challenges as well, we are hoping that we begin the journey to business as usual and see an increase in sporting and social events for everyone to participate in.

In Committee news, I am excited to share that we have appointed our new Chair for the Brisbane Committee. Nan Bahr joined us in September and has hit the ground running. You can find out more about Nan in her update below. Please join me in welcoming Nan to the SO team!

I would also like to thank all the coaches that attended our second annual Coaches Workshop. The day was attended by our wonderful coaches and committee members and gave an opportunity to provide feedback and share ideas on areas we can improve. Find out more and see photos from the day on page 3.

As we look forward to 2022, we are waiting with bated breath, along with our athletes, to find out the nominations for the National Games in October 2022. Good luck to all our athletes and we hope we can share the good news soon.

The Committee and I wish you all a wonderful holiday break and a Happy New Year!

Best Wishes,

Martina Fawcett

Vice Chair, Brisbane Club



Athlete Highlight | James Hook



I'm James Hook and I love all sports, but mostly, I love training and playing basketball for Special Olympics. I started playing basketball when I was in year 5 in Sydney in a local competition. Then we moved to Darwin and I played in my high school team. Everyone there treated me as just another guy and helped me develop my skills.



I moved back to Sydney and concentrated on swimming for a few years. In late 2007 I moved to Brisbane and joined SOQLD the next year to play my favourite game, basketball.

I have been selected twice to play for the State team; in 2014 in the National games in Cairns and then again in 2018 in Adelaide.

My proudest moment was our team winning the B Grade Gold medal in Adelaide. This was very special as my family and family friends went to Adelaide to watch me play.

New Club Uniforms

New Special Olympics uniforms are available!

For those that order a hat, Polo and a Jacket at the same time, there will be a discount of \$20 on your order. Use the form link below to request a uniform or chat to Dan, our sports Coordinator for more details.

Uniform Order Form

Uniform Prices

Coach Polo (White) - Cost covered by the club

Support Polo (Blue & White) - \$30

Polo Shirt (Athlete) - \$30

Hat/Cap - \$10

Bucket Hat - \$12

Jacket - \$50



Coaches Workshop | October 2021

The Brisbane Committee invited coaches to join them for a workshop mid October located on a rooftop terrace overlooking the Brisbane skyline. This day was dedicated to reflecting on the year that was 2021 and start planning for 2022.

This workshop's aim was to celebrate the efforts all coaches have contributed to with the Brisbane Club and provide a voice for coaches to share feedback around how the committee can provide further support. For the committee, it provided a great opportunity to hear and learn from the coaches experience within the Special Olympics.

Additionally, we came together and united ideas on how to increase fundraising and registration initiatives for the new year. We appreciate the time coaches took to share their insights and feedback for the committee and we look forward to working with everyone in the new year!



Membership Information | 2022 Athlete & Volunteer Registration

2022 registration for athletes are now open! To register, current members and families have received an online link to facilitate a quick and simple registration process.. All new athletes will be requested to complete induction documents inclusive of a medical form which must be signed by a medical practitioner. See below costs for Registration:

- **New Athlete (Paper form) \$75**
- **Renewing athlete (online) \$50 – Athlete who were registered in 2021**
- **Returning athlete (online) \$75 – Athlete who have been previously registered but NOT in 2021**
- **Young Athlete (online) \$0 – No medical required, but be part of the Young Athlete program**
- **Unified Athlete (online) \$75 – No medical, but must have WWC**
- **Volunteer New and renewing (online) \$0 Police check for State and Club committee members, WWC for all volunteers**

If you have further questions, please check the frequently asked questions (FAQs) or email your query to Nidhi at brisbane.membership@specialolympics.com.au.

Committee Member Highlight | Kellie | Fundraising Officer



Kellie joined several months ago after moving back to Australia from the USA. I wanted to get involved in something meaningful for the Brisbane community, and that's how I discovered Special Olympics. It's incredibly fulfilling to be involved with an organisation that encourages community, health and inclusion.

As the fundraising officer, I'm responsible for raising funds! This involves applying for grants, planning events, reaching out to local businesses, and encouraging donations. I also handle our social media outreach.

Outside of my role, I work as a Software Engineer at Cubiko, creating tools that help medical practices. I spend my free time kayaking and hiking through the beautiful areas surrounding Brisbane.

If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas to make Special Olympics even better, please feel free to email me at

brisbane.fundraising@specialolympics.com.au.

Committee Member Highlight | Nan | Brisbane Chair

My name is Nan Bahr and I have joined the team as chair of the Brisbane club for the Special Olympics. I'm delighted and excited to be accepted into this role and I hope I can achieve all that you would wish of me.

My background is as a career educator and have been involved in education for well over 30 years. My current role is as Deputy Vice Chancellor for Southern Cross University and most recently also have been the Dean and Professor of education there. I've held leadership roles at a variety of different universities. I started my career as a hostel manager for intellectually disabled adults from there I took up a position as a secondary school teacher teaching music, biology, junior science, and basically anything I was asked. I hold undergraduate degrees in psychology, music and education. I also have postgraduate qualifications in educational psychology including a PhD from the University of Queensland. I've held leadership executive positions at several universities over the past 25 years.



As a side career I have served in the Australian Defence Force as a military police officer for now 37 years. My current post is as a Colonel and honorary aide de camp for the Governor General. This is a privileged role where I am invited to represent the Governor General when he's absent. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work for the Special Olympics. I'm excited for the future. Should you like to connect or have any questions, connect through the Chair email on brisbane.chair@specialolympics.com.au

Connect with the Brisbane Committee

The Special Olympics Brisbane Committee have updated their general enquiries inbox to brisbane.committee@specialolympics.com.au.

We aim to provide timely responses for all queries that come through to the committee. By having a joint inbox, our committee all have visibility and are able to view emails coming through. If you're not sure on who to direct your query through, email our general enquiries inbox and the committee can assist with directing your questions.

We are on LinkedIn!

We are excited to announce the Special Olympics Brisbane has recently created their very own LinkedIn page. The page will share all the Organisation's news and updates so be sure to connect to stay up to date and share. Below is the link to connect and support the page.

[Special Olympics Brisbane | LinkedIn](#)

SOAFit5

Find inspiration to keep active and healthy in SOA's **SOAFit5** Group on Facebook!

Here, it is the place to stay connected and talk about how you are reaching your Fit 5 goals with Special Olympics Australia!

Connect with fellow athletes, share fitness tips, and show others how you are staying healthy! You can share your fitness journey along with motivational messages and healthy recipes with fellow athletes.

SOA Learning Platform



Special Olympics Australia has developed an online learning platform, SOA Learn, that helps students grow and enhance skills and abilities to mentor people with intellectual disabilities and autism, and provide them with greater sporting opportunities. An SOA Learn student may be a coach, teacher, family member, volunteer, or someone simply charged up to change others' lives and their own!

The tailored online courses and resources allow the flexibility to study when and where students want. Our courses have been developed with key partners within the wider sectors of sport, disability and education and use current research and methodology in a combination of video, case studies and questions.

Covid Kits for the Club's Teams

Special Olympics have put together kits to assist the teams with returning to sport safely. Included in the kits are branded face masks and hand sanitiser. Should anyone not have received their Covid Kits as yet, please reach out to Martina at brisbane.vicechair@specialolympics.com.au



Complete attendance register



Practice personal hygiene



Enforce physical distancing



Sanitise shared equipment

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

Need to Update your Details?

For all our athletes and volunteers, it's essential we have your most up to date information, not only from a compliance perspective but to ensure we are able to keep you up to date on all upcoming, events, initiatives and updates coming through.

Have you recently updated your personal details? Do you think you may be missing out on regular updates from Special Olympics? Please reach out to Nidhi, our Membership Coordinator to assist you with updating your details. Email: **Brisbane.Membership@specialolympics.com.au**

Grill'd Newmarket



Thank you to Grill'd Newmarket who supported the club again in November with a Local matters Jar in store. We are excited to win this for November!

Thank you to everyone who voted for us, and thank you so much to Grill'd Newmarket for the donation! The Brisbane club are very grateful to all the people who support our club and especially Grill'd for providing these fund raising opportunities for small clubs like us to receive some much needed assistance.

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.