



BRINGING SPORT TO COMMUNITIES



IN THIS ISSUE

Program and Community

Placement Experience

How can you get involved?



PROGRAM UPDATES

EXECUTIVE OFFICER >

EMMA MILANESE

Thankful is the word that I have constantly used this past fortnight. This year has been a year of firsts, and I couldn't be more proud of our organisation. Kat discusses our 'firsts' in the next column over.

As I reflect, I can't help but think about all the knowledge I have gained, all the met people I've met, but most importantly, how appreciative I am. From the volunteers, placement students, board members, stakeholders and our team that have helped SportsUnited to get to where we are in 2022, thank you. We couldn't have done it without you, and I am looking forward to working with everyone again next year.

Whilst this is our final newsletter for 2022, we are already planning and setting our goals for next year. I can wholeheartedly say that it is looking like 2023 is going to be our biggest year yet, and I'm excited to see where the future takes us!

On behalf of the SportsUnited team, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As always, thank you so much for your ongoing support. We appreciate you!



KAT MATTOCK >

2022 RECAP

The other day Emma and I spent some time together reflecting on the past year for a secret upcoming project (more on that in 2023!). While reminiscing we realised there were so many achievements that we had forgotten, as it is so easy for us all to do, and we wanted to share a summary of 2022 with you.

It was the year of many firsts for us:

First Employees! It feels like it was just yesterday I was interviewing for this position and getting to know the kids at school. Learning 60+ names and the faces they were attached to - I think I got it right by Term 3.

First Merchandise Drop! Maybe you got yourself a shirt, maybe you've just seen them on our socials or newsletter, but this year was full of merchandise. Jordy got a bit creative and we had 3 different rounds of shirts and jumpers! Expect more merchandise in 2023!

First Event! We partnered with Adelaide West Special Education Centre to run our very first quiz night, and it went off without a hitch. So many people had so much fun, before the night was over, we were already being asked 'when's the next one?'. Don't worry, there will certainly be one in 2023 - we're already brain storming and thinking about the theme!

First Newsletter! That's right, this newsletter right here. We started sending this out this year to communicate more with you all and to share our program highlights.

First Year as a Charity! Almost a year ago we became registered by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and received deductible gift recipient status. This means we were able to accept donations and provide tax deductible receipts to our donors!

For those of you who prefer quantitative data, here's some regarding Supporting Success:

- 27 Placement Students from 5 Degrees (Physiotherapy, Health Science, Human Movement, Psychology, Occupational Therapy)
- 70 Participants over 19 Weeks
- 171 Class Sessions

Plus, one very thankful, grateful, and excited project officer - this job has provided so much happiness. Let's do it all again next year! See you then.



PROGRAM & PLACEMENT

ROBERT LAIDLAW >

SPORTING MEMORIES

Who are the participants of Sporting Memories groups? It's a difficult question to answer, because it can include virtually anyone, whether they have played sport or not, remember fondly their sporting careers, or just watched it on television.

But everyone's lives have been touched by sport in some way, even those who often say they have never played any sport! In Sporting Memories groups, often participants will say they have never played sport, yet with a bit of prompting a treasure trove of reminiscence comes flooding back.

One gentleman, known as 'Doc', spent his life in the medical profession helping others, yet when involved in Sporting Memories groups, remembered at primary school swimming in a relay with three mates against Dawn Fraser! How cool is that! He also talked about playing junior baseball. Another, and one of my personal favourite stories was Alice, who initially said she never played any sport, yet won the ladies section of the Around Australia Car Rally in 1970! She also happened to mention that she was also a top-level squash player!

At Walking Football, a lady there supporting her husband talked about coaching a football team at her country primary school where she taught many decades previously. George from Unley has travelled the world playing sport, in his Navy life, which included playing volleyball in Japan, cricket in India and softball in America!



Sporting Memories participants aged over 60 often talk about playing sports that today's generation never heard of, and in some cases made up activities that are a form of other sports such as red rover all over, various forms of marbles, shortened games of cricket before Twenty-20, and so many others! People's memories help spark others, who in turn then inspire more participants to re-tell their former glories (or not so glorious times), whether participating, watching or just playing their part behind the scenes.

That's the magic of Sporting Memories - the ability to come together over a common topic - Sport.

KAT MATTOCK >

SUPPORTING SUCCESS

Last week Emma and I returned to Adelaide West Special Education Centre to give the students their certificates for amazing participation in sessions throughout the year. Each student was personally handed their certificate and congratulated on their achievements and engagement in Supporting Success. The students were so excited to receive their awards, and to see us both again - just like we were to see them! Further, each class received an award recognising their collective achievements as a class. It was an incredible year worthy of celebration. Please enjoy these photos of some of the kids receiving their awards.



RICHARD MCGRATH >

RADIO PROGRAM

The Sporting Memories Australia radio program on BBBfm 89.1 on Saturday mornings from 9-11am has covered numerous sporting topics throughout the year. Emma & Richard have also interviewed a range of people including Olympian Sean Carlin, Sandy & Allan Gray (World Sky Diving medallists), Rebecca Reynolds (Nuriootpa Pool Working Group), Brett Lydeamore (Nuriootpa Cricket Club VP), Fraser Vivian (Barossa Rams President), Gail Saunders (Gawler Relay for Life President), Councillor Barbara Chappell and SportsUnited's own Robert Laidlaw. Emma and Richard were also involved in a couple of Outside Broadcasts, attending the Lyndoch Medieval Fair (where Emma got to hold a sword!) and the Kapunda Agricultural Show (who can forget Emma and the puppies).

Throughout the year, listeners and guests have also been asked to nominate their Greatest Athlete of All Time, with an online poll conducted in November. Richard & Emma began the countdown last weekend and will be counting down the final Top 10 on the Christmas Eve show (those who polled between 10th-6th place) and the New Years Eve show (the final Top 5). Who do you think will be Number 1?

If you'd like to share your thoughts or a sporting story, then give Richard & Emma a call on 8563 3788 anytime between 9-11am. You can also listen to the program each Saturday morning by visiting the [BBBfm website](https://www.bbbfm.com.au).

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

SportsUnited is currently seeking volunteers for our Supporting Success program at Adelaide West Special Education Centre and Sporting Memories clubs across various Adelaide metropolitan locations.

We are looking for people who can:

- Actively participate in weekly sessions
- Engage and communicate sensitively with our members (some of whom may have difficulties communicating), with their partners or carers, with fellow volunteers, and with SportsUnited staff.
- Enjoy working as part of a team and taking responsibility for guiding fellow volunteers during sessions.
- Understand the value of companionship, have a great sense of humour, and are able to connect with people of all ages and from all backgrounds

SportsUnited volunteers have the opportunity to:

- Experience a range of new opportunities and a sense of fulfillment.
- Use their skills, knowledge, life experiences, and an interest in sport to help tackle social isolation within the local community.
- Have insight into and experience working with an innovative and experienced not-for-profit charity.
- Experience in working as part of and leading a team of volunteers. As well as being part of the wider SportsUnited team.

SportsUnited volunteers are provided with full induction and training, ongoing support, and access to training resources. If you are interested in becoming a

SportsUnited volunteer or have any questions, email:
Supporting Success: Katerina Mattock (Project Officer)

katmattock.sportsunited@gmail.com

Sporting Memories: Robert Laidlaw (Project Officer)

robertlaidlaw.sports.united@gmail.com

or via the SportsUnited website Contact Us page

<https://sportsunited.org.au/contact>

SPORTING PINK PACKS

In response to the Covid-19 global pandemic, SportsUnited has developed a digital publication called Sporting Pink Australia Packs available for anyone (free) to use at home.

Each weekly pack contains a sporting reminiscence story (these can be about sporting players or events), a sporting quiz, and Name the Player as well as a Word Search.

The packs are a great way to get the conversation flowing, to remember those sporting moments, and to talk about sport!

If you, or anybody you know, would like to receive a free copy of the Sporting Pink Australia pack, please complete our registration form on the SportsUnited website: <https://sports-united-web-c262e9.netlify.app/forms/sporting-memories-online-register/>

STAY IN TOUCH

Email: sports.united18@gmail.com

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FACEBOOK

Keep up to date with our latest news and stories.

Join our conversations about sport & health.

Like us now and join the conversation

<https://www.facebook.com/sportsunited1/>

TWITTER

If you like quick and short news or want to join in

a 'live' conversation with us, then follow us

on Twitter. We'd love to hear from you. Follow

us on https://twitter.com/sports_united1

INSTAGRAM

We love to share images and videos from our programs as well as other interesting photos.

Like us now and check out what we are up to

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