



BRINGING SPORT TO COMMUNITIES



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PROGRAM UPDATES

EXECUTIVE OFFICER >

EMMA MILANESE

Another fortnight down! Every week that passes I am reminded of how close we are until the end of 2023!

Being the end of the year, we are already starting to look at what 2024 holds. Only slowly starting to think about it, but the conversations are being had! As an organisation, we generally wrap up in the second week of December, which means we don't have long to go now!

But focussing on this past fortnight, Supporting Success has finished up for the year! Our last session was Sports Day! This is one of our favourite school events, and it was so much fun to end with such a fun day. We are so thankful for our partnership with Adelaide West Special Education Centre. We absolutely love running our Supporting Success program and we can not wait to see what 2024 holds!

A Sports Day write up can be found on page 3. On page 3, Siena talks about her placement experience and the wonderful work/experiences she's had throughout her placement journey.

The Sporting Memories October Gold celebrations have finished - wow what a big month it was! Our final guest speaker was Sonny Morey. Robert writes on the conversations from Sonny's talk in the next column over.

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



ROBERT LAIDLAW >

SPORTING MEMORIES

To finish off a busy October for Sporting Memories, Sonny Morey was a guest speaker at Holden Hill Men's Shed.

Recently Sonny was inducted into the SANFL Hall of Fame, and has an amazing story, beginning from when he was taken by authorities as a young boy in Alice Springs, and is part of the Stolen Generations. A proud Aboriginal man, Sonny reminisced on his journey from when he was first separated from family, and shared many of the emotions he felt along his journey.

In 2018 Sonny was in Alice Springs with the authors of his biography when he made contact with a French nun, who had been searching for him on behalf of his mother many years earlier, and thought he was a 'ghost', as she could not find him. Sonny was overcome with emotion as he had always wondered why his mother had never looked for him, but found closure after this serendipitous meeting with the nun, who also was relieved to finally meet the man who had been so elusive.

This story and others, especially his football adventures, proved popular with the 60-strong audience, which elicited many questions from the floor. Two placement students, Stephanie and Heather, were also in attendance, as was one of Sonny's cousins, who he had never met before. One of the participants from the Men's Shed also had a connection, as he lived next door to the sister of one of Sonny's authors of his biography! What a small world we live in!



JORDY BIGGINS >

MERCHANDISE

At our 2022 SportsUnited X Adelaide West Quiz night, we provided all guests with colouring-in equipment so they could colour in the SportsUnited logo.

We had so many fantastic designs submitted to us, that we've decided to put the design on some merchandise! The 3 designs chosen were, 'Finger Prints', 'The Kid in Us' and 'Colourful Creations'. This merchandise means so much to us because it has been created and inspired by our biggest supporters - YOU! Our SportsUnited community!

Get your merchandise by clicking [HERE!](#)

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PROGRAM & PLACEMENT

SIENA YATES > PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE

Throughout my placement at Sports United I have been working at Adelaide West Special Education Centre with SportsUnited's Supporting Success program. This has been an amazing learning opportunity, and making connections with the kids has been the most rewarding aspect of the program so far.

Throughout my placement I have learnt about the various ways of communication with non-verbal children and have even learnt some sign language, most notably how to say my name! It has been extremely interesting to see how each activity at supporting success serve different purposes for the children's overall well-being, for example musical chairs is not only a fun party game but encourages the kids to listen out for cues and move their bodies as well as to dance and have fun. Over the course of the term the kids at Adelaide West slowly became more and more comfortable with us, allowing for each placement student to make a connection with the kids, in turn the placement students have learnt each child's needs and have learnt their unique ways of communicating.

I am very grateful for this opportunity from SportsUnited, and I have genuinely enjoyed my entire placement experience at Supporting Success, so much so I look forward to volunteering at Supporting Success during my free time.



RICHARD MCGRATH >

RADIO PROGRAM

The past two weeks have been busy for Emma & Richard on our Sporting Memories Australia program on BBBfm 89.1.

Two weeks ago they headed out to Kapunda to broadcast the show live from the Kapunda Show. Emma interviewed a number of locals who attended. One interview was with Clayton, a 9 year old, who had entered his pet lamb into the Pet Show competition. Clayton's lamb, named Laamba, was renown for running fast, 'over 200 miles' said Clayton!

Then last week Richard was back in the studio but Emma was away (something to do with dance!), so Steve filled in. Richard and Steve chatted about the Melbourne Cup as well as a few other 'sporting' things.

This Saturday Emma & Richard will be chatting about sports clubs that have long histories as well as all things sport (and probably some stories about Emma's involvement in dance). So tune in from 9-11am by visiting the [BBBfm website](#) or download the Community Radio Plus app (available for both Apple and Android devices) and search for BBBfm 89.1.

KAT MATTOCK > SUPPORTING SUCCESS

It was Sports Day and our last day on site with the Adelaide West Special Education centre students, and it was a great day!

The placement students spent the day helping run activities with the kids, which meant they got to see all the children they had an impact on throughout 2023. We also had some placement students from 2022, come out to join in on the fun and festivities of Sports Day!

A big thank you to our 2023 placement students and our volunteers, as well as Adelaide West Special Education Centre. It has been another incredible year!

We are already looking forward to planning 2023!



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](#).

STAY IN TOUCH

Email: sports.united18@gmail.com

Phone: 8302 1186

Mobile: 0478 752 564

FACEBOOK

Keep up to date with our latest news and stories.

Join our conversations about sport & health.

Like us now and join the conversation

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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

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INSTAGRAM

We love to share images and videos from our

programs as well as other interesting photos.

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