



BRINGING SPORT TO COMMUNITIES



IN THIS ISSUE

Programs and Community

Merry Christmas!

How can you get involved?



PROGRAM UPDATES

EXECUTIVE OFFICER >

EMMA MILANESE

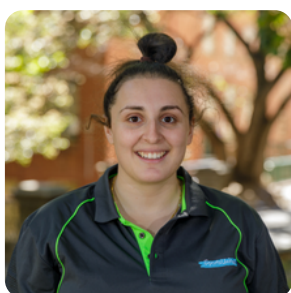
This weeks newsletter will be our last one for 2023. As I reflect on this year, I've been thinking about all that we have achieved as an organisation, and I'm so proud of how far we've come.

Successful grant applications and events; welcoming new placement students, volunteers and board members; attending workshops, providing sport and Autism training nationally; adding and creating new merchandise and; attending local community events. Most importantly, both our Sporting Memories and Supporting Success programs have thrived! It has most definitely been a successful 2023.

However, all this success wouldn't be possible without the wonderful and amazing people that we work with. On behalf of our organisation I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has been involved with SportsUnited in 2023! Thank you to the SportsUnited staff and board members, thank you to our amazing stakeholders and thank you to all our placement students and volunteers, who without, we wouldn't be able to run our wonderful programs which help so many people within the community.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Be safe and we hope you enjoy the festive season!

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



ROBERT LAIDLAW >

SPORTING MEMORIES

The Sporting Memories program in 2023 has offered plenty of variety, from sessions, to guest speakers, tours and the weekly Pink Pack.

New locations at Aldinga, Everard Park, Gawler and Old Renella have been added, while Joslin, Holden Hill, Walkerville and Unley have continued from 2022, offering a wide-range of areas – from the north to the south. Two Sporting Memories ambassadors have come on board, in Olympian Sean Carlin and Test Cricket umpire Daryl Harper, with others expected to join the ranks in 2024. The major tour of the year was with the Holden Hills Men's Shed, with 23 participants enjoying a day at Elizabeth Oval. As for guest speakers, October was a big month, with former footballers Danny Morton and Sonny Morey at Holden Hill Men's Shed, John Platten at Unley Buddies for Breakfast, while Sean Carlin helped launch a new program at Gawler Civic Centre. Sunday Mail sports columnist Ben Hook and former chief The Advertiser photographer Barry O'Brien also spoke at Unley. Former Sheffield Shield Cricketer Rich Drewer has attended several Sporting Memories sessions, as has Daryl Harper – who will be a guest speaker at Gawler on December 21.

Richard and I also attended several forums, including at Golden Grove and Holden Hill, and the 'Brain Injury Awareness Week Event 2023' at the Adelaide Convention Centre. A big thankyou to all the placement students who assisted throughout the year, including Daniel, Heather, Jasmine, Jess, Karen, Lola, Scott, Sheila, Siena, Stephanie, Tara, Thomas and Yee.

While 2023 isn't quite finished yet, planning for a bigger and better 2024 is already in the works.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!



PROGRAM & PLACEMENT

SHIELA PULMONES >

PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE

Hi, my name is Shiela and I just finished my placement a few weeks ago with SportsUnited's Supporting Success Program at Adelaide West Special Education Centre. Reflecting through my first week meeting the kids, I was so excited and curious at the same time. Knowing them one by one and slowly understanding their specific needs and special way of communicating was fun and challenging. I felt privileged and happy to be given such opportunity to spend time and engaged with these wonderful kids.

The Supporting Success program allows us, placement students, to assist and engage with the school students through sports. Overtime, we have learnt that certain kids enjoy a specific game or sport equipment to play with.

For example, some of the students were really enthusiastic to play with balls, some with bowling and others just want to have fun running around and playing with other kids and Supporting Success staff. The students were encouraged to join group games and to do the obstacle course to enhance their listening skills and to follow instructions. Simultaneously, these sports sessions support their mobility and agility and teaches the students values like sharing, patience, respect of other's spaces, leadership and teamwork. Every session was always a different experience as most of the students will be randomly selecting their own game to play and sometimes would want to try out something new like playing with ribbons or frisbees. It was always a fun and rewarding experience for me especially when I see them expressing their enjoyment and pleasure by giggling, laughing and verbally exclaiming their victories.

There's still so much more to learn in understanding and communicating especially with the non-verbal students - I wish I had more time to spend with the students. I am thankful to Kat and also the Adelaide West teachers who happily shared their knowledge and bits of information. This opportunity taught me a lot about working with children with special needs. I will definitely consider doing this again in the future, perhaps by starting to volunteer. The memories and experiences I've learnt with SportsUnited at Adelaide West will be greatly treasured in my heart and memory.



RICHARD MCGRATH >

RADIO PROGRAM

Our Sporting Memories Australia program on BBBfm 89.1 throughout 2023 has been fun and informative.

Emma and Richard have chatted about all things sport, from different types of sports to sporting events all the while interweaving personal stories and tales.

Throughout 2023 Emma & Richard have interviewed a number of people including ex-Test umpire Daryl Harper, Central Districts FC captain Jarrod Schiller, retired SA Gridiron player David Cavenett, Glitter Gang Drift Ladies drivers Lucy & Hayley, SA Rogaining champion Meredith Norm as well as our very own Robert Laidlaw.

We couldn't reflect back on 2023 without remembering the Outside Broadcasts our two intrepid presenters were involved in. This included presenting the Sporting Memories Australia program from the Angaston Show, the Kapunda Show, the Lyndoch Medieval Fair, the Angaston Spring Fair and the Adornment Artisan Christmas Market in Tanunda.

This Saturday Emma & Ricahrd will be chatting about Badminton as well as reflecting on other sporting moments and topics.

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

The Supporting Success program has finished up for the year - and what a great year it has been!

The students have displayed so much improvement, so much enthusiasm and dedication. It has been inspiring to watch. Not to mention the events that we have been a part of; book week, quiz night and sports day have all been so much fun. On Monday we will be providing the fantastic students of Adelaide West their certificates. This is always a highlight of the year and a nice way to congratulate the students on their success.

Thank you to everyone involved in the program this year. From SportsUnited staff, placement students, volunteers and of course, Adelaide West staff. We couldn't do what we do without you! As 2023 finishes, we are already excited to plan and come back for 2024!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all! We look forward to being back in 2024!

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

@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 @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

@sportsunited_

LINKEDIN

Like us now and check out what we are up to.