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Shaun set to ski at winter games

Jacqueline Henry

BRACKEN Ridge athlete Shaun McKee will be carving up the snow this week as he represents Australia in skiing at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria.

Adding to a long list of sporting accomplishments, Mr McKee was one of 12 athletes selected to represent Australia at the winter games.

The team includes 10 skiers and two snow boarders.

"I'm looking forward to meeting all the other competitors," Mr McKee said.

He will ski in the Giant Slalom (involves skiing

between sets of poles or gates) and the Super G (or Super Giant Slalom which is regarded as a speed event).

"I've only been skiing for four years so I'm new to the sport compared to some of the other competitors who live near ski fields," Mr McKee said.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how I go against the other skiers.

"I'm excited about doing the school program, talking to students about Australia and my experience in sport.

"I'm really looking forward to the cold weather, this will be my first winter games and my first international ski competition.

"Dad is coming to watch me ski and I'm pretty happy about that."

Mr McKee was also thrilled to be nominated for this year's Young Australian of the Year Award.

"It was awesome to be nominated. I love sport and representing Queensland and Australia so it was a thrill to be nominated for such an important award," Mr McKee said.

GAMES FACTS

- The 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games will be held in Graz, Schladming, Ramsau and Styria, Austria.
- The games will run from March 14-25.



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Shaun McKee is enjoying the cold weather as he represents Australia in skiing at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria this week.

PHOTO: JACQUELINE HENRY