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Picture: STUART MILLIGAN



GOING FOR GOLD

Slalom skier Alex Cherny from Camberwell hopes to bring home a medal for Australia from the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria later this month. **REPORT PAGE 5**

 **LOCAL SPORTS STARS Leader**
COMMUNITY NEWS



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SKIERS GEAR UP FOR THE WINTER GAMES

TWO Boroondara skiers are heading to the fast slopes of Austria. Camberwell's Alex Cherny and Balwyn's Amanda Kozik will compete in the Super Giant Slalom and Giant Slalom at the Special Olympics World Winter Games which will be held in Schladming, Austria, from March 14 to 25.

Cherny, 20, who has autism, has been skiing since he was a toddler.

Mum Anne Cherny said her son had taken to skiing like a duck to water.

"It's something we've always done as a family and so it was very natural for Alex," she said. "He was having skiing lessons by the time he was three."

Kozik, 33, will also take to

the slopes as part of a 12-strong Australian team. The pair qualified after a series of events in 2015 and have been training at snowfields around the country.

Cherny said he was keen to bring home a gold medal.

"I'm really excited about going to Austria," he said. "The mountains are going to be really big and exciting."

Over 3000 athletes from 110 countries will compete in what is the largest sporting event of 2017.

To learn more, go to specialolympics.com.au/teamaustralia2017

Alex Cherny and Amanda Kozik are Leader Local Sports Star nominees. For more and to nominate, visit localsportsstars.com.au



Alex Cherny will compete in Austria's Super Giant Slalom and Giant Slalom.

Picture: STUART MILLIGAN