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Muhlbock medals at Special Olympics

OYSTER Bay snowboarder Craig Muhlbock is competing at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria, thanks in part to a big fundraising drive.

Mr Muhlbock, 32, began his Special Olympics World Winter Games campaign this week following the opening ceremony on Sunday morning (AEDT).

He finished third in the final of his first event, the snowboard advanced super g, and is also taking part in the giant slalom event this week.

He is part of a good Australian team which made

the long trip to compete.

Mr Muhlbock's father was born in Austria and he has family there who are watching him compete.

The Australian team has been well backed by a fundraising campaign supporting athletes, from a range of countries, to get to Austria. Almost 500 GoFundMe pages were created by teams, coaches and athletes.

Olympians and YouTube stars got behind the cause to help get the athletes to

the games.

World champion snowboarder Scotty James from Melbourne - who became

Australia's youngest athlete to compete at the Winter Olympics in 2010 - was one of the people supporting Mr Muhlbock and the campaign.

The pair became friends after competing together at the X Games Special Olympics Unified Snowboarding Parallel Slalom in Aspen, Colorado.

The Special Olympics World Winter Games will finish this weekend.



GAMES: Craig Muhlbock (second from left) alongside the Australian team competing at the Special Olympics World Winter Games this week. **Picture:** Supplied