



## John Elliott

**Role:** Chair

**Contact:** [vic.chair@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:vic.chair@specialolympics.com.au)

**Biography:** When it comes to corporate social responsibility, John has years of insider experience and a realistic, pragmatic view on how companies can create real change. He has worked in the sporting industry for over 30 years with roles at Puma, And1 and Sportsco, discovering his passion for social responsibility and business when he chaired Nike's environmental group for the region

John is the owner of Save Our Soles which is engaged in recycling and reusing shoes and apparel in Australia. An influential leader, John is committed to finding great vehicles to align himself with to make the world a better place for the next generation. He was a founding board member of B Lab Australia and New Zealand. John sits on multiple Boards such as the Retail advisory group of Charitable Recycling Australia, Save the Children Australia and Looptworks, a US company who manufacture eco-friendly upcycled products with brands to create closed-loop and waste recycling solutions.

John was most recently the Chair of the fundraising committee for the Special Olympics Australia Melbourne Sports Lunch.

John joins Special Olympics Australia with the desire to engage with the existing association to provide the best possible platform to allow the athlete's to participate and achieve their desired outcomes. He feels Special Olympics has a lot to offer when it comes to authentic relationships and looks forward to introducing the organisation to more business in Australia with the mindset of creating long term mutually satisfying relationships.



## Theo Teeder

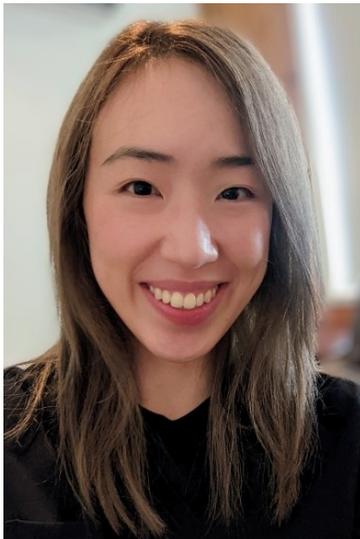
**Role:** Vice Chair

**Contact:** [vic.vicechair@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:vic.vicechair@specialolympics.com.au)

**Biography:** Theo is a successful commercial leader with a track record of building technology businesses. He is the father of 3 boys who are all active in sports in Victoria and, in particular, basketball, soccer, running & AFL.

Theo has always had a keen interest in people and skills development and how these can improve and flourish through active participation in Sport.

When not working or focusing and thinking about Sport, Theo is a keen traveller and considers himself an improving cook.



## **Joyce Cheng**

**Role:** Secretary

**Contact:** [vic.secretary@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:vic.secretary@specialolympics.com.au)

**Biography:** Joyce is an Operations Manager by day and has spent over ten years working across various roles in the financial services industry. By night, she is a combat sport athlete, when she is not working or studying, you will find her training martial arts or in the gym.

Joyce is currently completing postgraduate studies in Sport Science. She is passionate about sport and the sense of community and belonging it can bring to individuals, teams, families, and communities.

She is looking forward to working with you all to foster an inclusive environment where people with intellectual disability can achieve their sporting dreams.



## **Moira Ryde**

**Role:** Communications

**Contact:** [info.vic@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:info.vic@specialolympics.com.au)

**Biography:** Back in the 80's I had some spare time and thought I would like to volunteer some of this time. I have always been involved with sport with my children and myself competing with Aussie Masters and Veteran athletics.

I found Special Olympics and what a joy this has been for over 35 years of learning and helping to develop people with ID/Autism to reach their best potentially – to see what achievements both on the sporting field and confidence building SO gives to all people with and intellectual disability/ Autism.

I have also learnt how humble we should be with what we have and appreciate every day. I am very passionate about SO and have been very lucky and held many roles with SOI/SOA/SOV

My vision for the VIC Committee is to see some funding coming into the State so that we can assist athletes with NG's

I would also like to support our State Sports managers and help clubs increase numbers also increasing new sports into their clubs – this will then help clubs run more club competitions – giving athletes more opportunities to compete (training is good but athletes also need competitions)



## Harry Mezger

**Role:** Athlete Representative

**Contact:** [vic.athlete2@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:vic.athlete2@specialolympics.com.au)

**Biography:** Harry, a Special Olympics athlete from the Melbourne Inner East Region (MIE), is not only an accomplished tennis player and runner but also a dedicated Alpine Skier. He skis with his family and enjoys being on the snow. 2021 saw Harry graduate as an Athlete Leader for his club and state and sits on the Special Olympics Australia Athlete Input Council. He has developed a sense of leadership that increases with every leadership opportunity.

Harry is currently employed with Triathlon VIC, setting up and running Triathlon and school running events. Harry's goals include getting more people with disabilities (particularly school-leavers) to join Special Olympics and educating more people being about Special Olympics, through school visits, interactive sessions & presentations (both mainstream and specialist schools).

Harry represented Victoria at the Mt Buller Winter National Games, 2015 - skiing (alpine downhill). He is Level 1 Basketball Coach at Auburn High School and an MLC Athletics Assistant Coach. He has a Community Coach Accreditation and coaches MIE Athletics and is also a Strength and Conditioning Coach with a ASCA Level 1 Accreditation.



## Sarah Chaplin

**Role:** Athlete Representative

**Contact:** [melbourneeasterranges.athleterep@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:melbourneeasterranges.athleterep@specialolympics.com.au)

**Biography:** Sarah, a Special Olympics athlete from the Melbourne Eastern Ranges Region is not only an accomplished swimmer but also a dedicated tenpin bowler. 2021 saw Sarah graduate as an Athlete Leader for her club and state and she sits on the Special Olympics Australia Athlete Input Council. Sarah has developed a sense of confidence and is always keen to put her hand up to assist where necessary.

Sarah works at Waverley Industries where she helps with packing. Through Special Olympics Sarah has increased her physical activity and has been on several representative teams.

Winning the gold at the World Games, in Abu Dhabi 2019, for the 200m IM in swimming was my biggest sporting achievement to date and I am looking forward to representing Victoria at Special Olympics Australia National Games in Launceston.

Sarah has competed at Junior Nationals, Newcastle, 2012 in swimming, basketball, Junior Nationals, Canberra, 2008 in basketball, swimming, 2014 National Games in Melbourne in bowling and 2018 National Games in Adelaide in swimming.



## Alexandra O'Brien

**Role:** Sport Coordinator

**Contact:** [vic.sport@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:vic.sport@specialolympics.com.au)

**Biography:** 'My name is Ali, I'm originally from WA and I moved across to Melbourne in 2019 to pursue my dream of working in Sports Management.

I am incredibly passionate about bringing positive change to communities and individuals through sport. I believe sport has the ability to empower, strengthen and support.

I hold a masters in Sports Management and have worked in operations across professional sporting leagues - previously for the Suncorp Super Netball League and now for the T20 World Cup.

I have first-hand experience of the impacts sporting events can have on communities and the work that goes into creating these events.

I cannot wait to be involved with the Special Olympics and to support the positive change this organisation facilitates.



## **Fiona Moore**

**Role:** Athlete Leader Coordinator

**Contact:** [vic.athleteleadership@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:vic.athleteleadership@specialolympics.com.au)

**Biography:** Fiona brings 30 years' experience in leadership development to the role of Athlete Leader Coordinator. She has had the opportunity to work with leaders at all levels in organisations globally to build their self-awareness, capability and leadership impact. Her expertise is partnering with clients to deliver leadership and management development, executive coaching, team development, change management, and mentoring.

Fiona is currently Organisational Development Manager – Leadership for the Department of Transport Victoria. Previously she has worked with organisations such as Lend Lease, BlueScope Steel, Orange Business Services, Kmart, Dulux Group to name a few.

Having been a keen supporter of Special Olympics for many years, and more actively involved over the last few years as an Athlete Leader mentor, Fiona has seen the power of the Athlete Leader program in action. She is excited to leverage the great work already done to continue to build Athlete Leader and mentor participation, confidence and skills to represent Special Olympics in an ever expanding and inclusive way.



## **Bradley Holt**

**Role:** Social Media

**Contact:** [vic.socialmedia@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:vic.socialmedia@specialolympics.com.au)

**Biography:** Brad has been a successful Myotherapist working within several clinics around Melbourne as well as several sporting clubs most prominently Essendon FC (AFL) for 13 seasons and most recently Hawthorn FC (AFL) and the Darebin Falcons (VFLW) for the last 2.

In the meantime Brad has studied a Bachelors in Business and Marketing and is embarking on a career change.

With his unique path in sports and knowledge he has, he can hopefully bring a different perspective to the role moving forward.



## Angela Costin

**Role:** General Committee

**Contact:** [vic.committee@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:vic.committee@specialolympics.com.au)

**Biography:** A former Chairperson for Special Olympics Victoria, Angela has been involved with the organisation since 2019. She joined Special Olympics at the Victoria State Games in a general role and after two years was elected as the State Chairperson. In her time as Chairperson, Angela has focused to keep the State and Clubs operating during COVID-19 and she was involved in the development and delivery of a series of webinars to clubs and volunteers to provide guidance and support in daily operations.

Angela has worked as a lawyer in private practice for nearly 20 years and in addition to a Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Arts (Political and journalism), she has a Graduate Certificate in Business Administration.

Angela is passionate about the ability of sport to bring people together and help create an inclusive community.



## **Matt Volk**

**Role:** Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Representative

**Biography:** Matt first became involved in LETR Victoria in 2008/2009 as a torch runner. Matt was occasionally involved in the following years but this changed significantly in 2017 where he joined the general committee of LETR Victoria and later was elected to Vice-President

Through Matt's involvement and passion for Special Olympics Australia, he was elected to the President of LETR Victoria in 2018. Matt also accepted a role on the Special Olympics Victoria State committee in early 2019 and has been involved as a mentor for the Athlete Leadership Program ever since.

In September 2019, Matt was very involved in the LETR Gippsland regional Engagement and Awareness Tour which focused on showcasing how Special Olympics Australia can support people living with disability in our communities. The tour also resulted in the growth of the Gippsland club which had currently been dormant since 2016.



## **Justin Lopes**

**Role:** Sports Assistant

**Contact:** [vic.bowling@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:vic.bowling@specialolympics.com.au)

**Biography:** Before I commenced with SO in late 2013 - I was aware of SO through my roles managing Tenpin Bowling Centers, firstly at Geelong working with Barwon to establish the bowling(tenpin) group then at Forest Hill supporting the group from MIE to expand.

I have fulfilled many roles in my time with Special Olympics Victoria, such as 2014 VIC Team Sports Manager at the National Games and Team VIC selection Committee. In 2016 I was Assistant Head of Delegation for the Trans Tasman competition and a member of the Melbourne West Club committee. I have fulfilled the role of Technical Delegate for bowling at the 2018 and 2022 National Games and I have also served on the Sports National Advisory Council in 2021.

My goal on the State Committee would be to provide leadership, guidance and support for the Special Olympic Victoria family and to run successful competitions and personal development opportunities for both athletes and officials.

## State Sport Coordinators

<b>Name</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Don McLaren & Josie Salvatore	Athletics	vic.athletics@specialolympics.com.au
Amy Moore	Basketball	vic.basketball@specialolympics.com.au
Ian Hampton	Bocce	vic.bocce@specialolympics.com.au
Justin Lopez	Bowling (tenpin)	vic.bowling@specialolympics.com.au
Lyndsay Davies	Equestrian	vic.equestrian@specialolympics.com.au
Nehal Shetty	Football (Soccer)	vic.football@specialolympics.com.au
Jenny Forssman	Gymnastics	vic.gymnastics@specialolympics.com.au
Karen Fox	Swimming	vic.swimming@specialolympics.com.au
Nicole & Maria Vallos	Tennis	vic.tennis@specialolympics.com.au
Georgina Frost	Wintersports	vic.snowsports@specialolympics.com.au