## State Special Olympics Games – 13-14th March 2021

Hi to all our very special SSCQ volunteers who help to put the smiles on the faces on this page.



This weekend saw Sonja and Damo, along with their carers and sailing partners Kerrie and Hayden, pit their sailing skills against competitors from around the state, in the SO State titles. All competitors were trying to earn selection for the SO National Titles which will be sailed in Launceston, October 2022.

Sailing at Cabbage Tree Creek, Shorncliffe, was always going to be a challenge. Those of you familiar with the area will know that at low tide, it is almost possible to spit to the other side. At some stage or other over the regatta, I doubt there was a single competitor who didn't have to be pulled out of the mud! Nevertheless, the challenges were equal for all. Shorncliffe Sailability stepped to the fore in offering to run the series, even though they don't have any clients capable of competing at the moment. Hopefully, this series of races will engender some interest in their clients and in the future they may be able to also enter competitors.

Both our teams came away with medals and much more knowledge than they arrived with!

Level 1 (Athlete handling jib sheet) Sonja and Kerrie came 2<sup>nd</sup> and Damo and Hayden 3<sup>rd</sup> Level 2 (Athlete handling the helm) Sonja and Kerrie picked up a Bronze medal. Not bad considering they were sailing against Gold and Silver medalists from the 2020 World games!!!





Congratulations all round to four very dedicated sailors. Also from me, as the coordinator for their training, a HUGE thank you for the continued efforts from SSCQ volunteers. Without your help and dedication, which enables their training, and that of our other "racing trainees", to proceed so smoothly each week, their participation in these events would not be possible. The more I sail in these types of events, the more I appreciate the smooth and effortless way Sailability Sunshine Coast functions. You are an amazing group of volunteers and I cannot thank you enough. My only regret is that their training is going SO well, there was no need for me to sail. Cheers.. Alan