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## Special Olympics, special experience

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For Kelly Harold, volunteering at a Special Olympics event became more than just an opportunity to use volunteer days.

The Assurance Administrator based in Auckland answered the call for volunteers to help at a swimming gala at West Wave in Waitakere last November.

"It was close to home, so I immediately put my name forward," said Kelly. "I have never had anything to do with special needs children - more due to lack of opportunity than anything, so it enabled me to do something completely out of my comfort zone.

"I had the most fabulous day marshalling the children for their events. I was initially worried about how I would talk to the children and act around them but I was totally comfortable - talking, singing and being silly with them all.

"I was also blown away by their abilities - most of them are far better swimmers than I am!

Kelly says the experience was a "milestone in my personal development". She intends to volunteer at future events including an athletics meeting in Henderson on April 9 and encourages others to do it also.

"I recommend these events to everyone who is looking for a something to volunteer for."

BNZ staff members are entitled to two days volunteer leave per year, one of which is reserved for the annual Closed for Good, which this year will held on September 4, 2013.

### Resources:

**Volunteering information on Mercury**

Special Olympics: [www.specialolympics.org.nz/](http://www.specialolympics.org.nz/)

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*There are plenty of opportunities a to volunteer for a Special Olympics*

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