



MELBOURNE SURGE
WATER POLO



ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25

MELBOURNESURGE.ORG



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome everyone, to the Melbourne Surge AGM. It's truly a pleasure to be here with you today as we reflect on what has been an exciting and rewarding year for our club. The 2024-2025 'Surge year' has built steadily on the momentum of previous years, while welcoming in fresh blood and new faces. I am excited to see how our 25/26 year carries that growth forward, both as a water polo organisation, and a space for community connection.

In the pool, Surge has upheld a strong presence in the Water Polo Victoria State League, fielding more teams than any other club from SL3 to SL6. We have continued to provide a welcoming and inclusive space for adult newcomers to the sport to participate in a competitive environment, fostering growth and skill development. Our players consistently demonstrate commendable sportsmanship, embodying the values of respect and fair play. It's been especially heartening to hear from other clubs how much they enjoy competing with us. We are deepening our relationships with likeminded Victorian clubs, and are working together with the aim of spreading these ethics throughout the MSL. We owe a majority of this success to the tireless efforts of our coach Chloe.

Still in the pool, but from a more social standpoint, Surge has also had a very busy year. We have continued to offer alternative (or, additional, depending on how much water polo you want!) opportunities to jump in and play. Surge Social, riding high on last year's overwhelming popularity, fielded 10 teams across two thriving in-house seasons—a total of 16 weeks of spirited play. The Social vibe was picked up by Monash Uni, who - after joining us for a ReSurgence cup last year - invited us down to their side of town for an afternoon of round-robin games.

On the interstate and international front, Surge was once again on the move. We joined Rainbow Cups hosted by the Sydney Stingers and Brisbane Tritons, with Brisbane introducing a fresh format that mixed players from all clubs into combined teams. The result? A fantastic chance to build friendships, exchange ideas, and learn from one another. Surge also made up two of a small five player Australian contingent to the 2025 IGLA in Washington DC, where we Aussies found a fun and welcoming home with the Denver Squid. The following weekend two of us were also taken in by Team New York to participate in a competition in Montreal – testament to the international

bonds we're forming. With invites already extended to our North American friends for future Rainbow Cups, those connections are only set to grow.

Community doesn't just happen in the water! Over this last year, Surge has also been very active on land (and on the stage) hosting and participating in a wide range of community events. Our Trivia night in November was a rousing success, with Queens of the Pool following closely on its heels. The new year saw us once again take up our stall at Midsumma carnival, strutting our stuff down Fitzroy St for Pride March - where our ever-popular water guns were captured by 9News. We have also continued slinging sausages at Bunnings and Laird BBQs, maintaining our presence in the community while raising money for the club. Our annual party traditions continue, with great times had at our end-of-year, Easter, and Rookies Graduation celebrations.

Speaking of Rookies, once again this year proved that there's no shortage of adults who suddenly decide that learning to play water polo is what they want to do with their Fridays! As the only Victorian club offering a full-length adult 'learn to play' course, Rookies is one of our defining pillars. It's at the heart of our identity and a major reason we're so well-regarded within both the water polo and LGBTQIA+ communities. The vast majority of you would not be standing here today without Rookies, and the program's ongoing success is thanks to the commitment and care of our experienced coaches and volunteers.

Which brings me to the bedrock foundation of everything we've achieved - you. Surge could not present such an impressive catalogue of achievements without the energy, dedication, and joyful camaraderie of its members. For many of us, Surge is much more than a sporting club; it's a home, a family, and a source of joy and purpose. It is a place of belonging.

With a big season already underway and plenty of events on the horizon for the coming year, I am excited for the road ahead and am proud to walk it alongside each of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cat McHattie".

Cat McHattie

Melbourne Surge Water Polo Club President 2024-2025

SURGE HIGHLIGHTS



SYDNEY RAINBOW CUP - October 2024



SURGE TRIVIA - November 2024



IGLA + BUENOS AIRES - November 2024



CHRISTMAS PARTY - December 2024



PRIDE MARCH - January 2025



MIDSUMMA - January 2025



EASTER BBQ - April 2025



BUNNINGS BBQ - April 2025

SURGE HIGHLIGHTS



BRISBANE RAINBOW CUP - April 2025



ROOKIES 2025 - May 2025



IGLA+ WASHINGTON DC - June 2025



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2026

BRISBANE TRITONS | BUNNINGS PORT MELBOURNE | PERTH WHITE POINTERS | SIRCUT | SYDNEY STINGERS | THE LAIRD HOTEL | THE SPORTING GLOBE | THORNE HARBOUR HEALTH | WATER POLO VICTORIA | AND ALL OUR DEAR PARTNERS AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US