



MELBOURNE SURGE  
WATER POLO

ANNUAL REPORT  
2022/23

MELBOURNESURGE.ORG



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AUGUST 2023



**AS WE GATHER HERE FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MELBOURNE SURGE, I AM BOTH DELIGHTED AND HONOURED TO PRESENT THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF OUR CLUB THROUGHOUT THE PAST YEAR.**

Our 2022-2023 season has been a testament to the indomitable spirit of our members. Our club ethos and amazing membership base has highlighted our resilience, adaptability, and commitment to inclusivity.

In the wake of the challenges brought about by the global pandemic, our club's resurgence has been nothing but inspiring and a great source of pride for myself, the committee and our Victorian water polo community. We stand here today, celebrating our first uninterrupted season since the onset of COVID-19. This season has witnessed unprecedented growth in our ranks, with significant increases in participation in training, competitions, and expansion of our social engagements.

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**THE BALANCE OF WATER POLO AND SOCIAL ELEMENTS OF OUR CLUB HAS COMBINED BEAUTIFULLY THIS YEAR, TO DELIVER SOME UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES, THESE MOMENTS HAVE REINVIGORATED OUR CLUB CULTURE AND WILL SUPPORT THE CONTINUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CLUB AND GREATER QUEER COMMUNITY FOR YEARS TO COME.**

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In the realm of competitive water polo, our achievements have been truly noteworthy. We embarked on the competitive year with an unprecedented number of Surge teams, making this our largest representation yet. The summer season saw us engage in the longest season in our club's history. Our members dedication continued through the autumn and winter WPV seasons, as we fielded five competitive teams. The results we have achieved stand as a testament to the immense progress spurred by our dedicated coaching efforts. The development and growth of Melbourne Surge's water polo abilities has seen strong performance across all leagues with Surge Team Grey routinely making final rounds.

Our accomplishments on the field have reached the pinnacle, with Melbourne Surge securing the Perth grudge match title for the first time in over a decade. We've also taken our prowess onto the global stage, with participation in events like the Sydney World Pride, AquaFest and the 2023 IGLA in London, deepening our bonds with international sister clubs. Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our participation in the upcoming Brisbane Grudge match, as well as our presence at the GayGames Mexico in November 2023.

Notably, Melbourne Surge will host the next Grudge match in February 2024, aligning seamlessly with our Midsumma festivities.

Our vision for Melbourne Surge isn't limited to the water; it extends into the social fabric of our community. The launch of Queer clubs mixers, joint events with fellow sporting clubs, and our involvement in the Queer Sporting Alliance showcase our dedication to creating connections beyond our immediate boundaries. These connections will support Melbourne's queer sporting clubs future Gay Games bid.

Our commitment to social engagement has been further bolstered this year, with the return of our much-loved events - the Christmas Party and Easter BBQ. The planning for our upcoming 2023 mid-year party and Christmas celebration are well underway, and we eagerly anticipate creating unforgettable memories for our members.

Our fundraising efforts have been resoundingly successful, with events such as Movie Trivia night, Surf vs Turf, and Queens of Pool captivating our community's support. These and the positive impact of our consistent Laird/Bunning BBQs has enabled us to subsidise club fees and make strides in updating our equipment.

Our commitment to diversity and inclusion has been further solidified through our community grants, which have enabled targeted initiatives such as Women's Come Try and Non-Binary Bumpa Polo. Our partnership with Thorne Harbour Health in their "We Are Family" campaign has fortified our collective efforts towards a more inclusive society.

Our presence at events such as the Midsumma Carnival, THH Midsumma pool party, and Melbourne Pride March has not only bolstered our recruitment efforts but also showcased our commitment to advocating for all members of our community. Essential process changes, including the development of a feedback form and the refinement of our members' protection policy underscore our commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and thriving environment for everyone within our community.

With Surge returning to our Pre COVID capacity we have achieved an impressive rookie season with a large cohort entering our club/family, progressing through our club and allowing for significant changes to our redeveloped Surge league that encompasses the fundamental nature of Melbourne Surge social water polo experience.

As we reflect on this extraordinary year, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing committee for their unwavering dedication and support. To the members who have volunteered their time and energy, your contributions have been instrumental in our club's continued growth and development. I am profoundly grateful to lead such an exceptional group of individuals. Together, we have achieved a lot this year, and together, we will continue to make waves in the water and our community.

Slay the day.

Ben Punton

MELBOURNE SURGE WATER POLO CLUB PRESIDENT 2022-2023

# SURGE HIGHLIGHTS

2022/2023 FINANCIAL YEAR



RESURGENCE CUP SEPTEMBER 2022



QUEENS OF THE POOL SEPTEMBER 2022



WE ARE FAMILY THH PHOTO SHOOT OCTOBER 2022



END OF YEAR PARTY DECEMBER 2022



CLUB MIXER JANUARY 2023



MIDSUMMA CARNIVAL JANUARY 2023



MIDSUMMA THH POOL PARTY JANUARY 2023



MIDSUMMA PRIDE MARCH FEBRUARY 2023



POLO BY THE PIER FEBRUARY 2023



SYDNEY MARDI GRAS FEBRUARY 2023



PERTH GRUDGE MATCH MARCH 2023



SURGE TRIVIA NIGHT MARCH 2023



IGLA LONDON JUNE 2023



SURGE GREY SL4 WINNERS JUNE 2023



SURF VS TURF MAY 2023



ROOKIES PROGRAM MAY 2023

# THANK YOU

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



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