



MELBOURNE SURGE  
WATER POLO



ANNUAL REPORT  
2023/24

MELBOURNESURGE.ORG



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

AUGUST 2024



**AS WE GATHER HERE FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MELBOURNE SURGE, I AM BOTH DELIGHTED AND HONOURED TO PRESENT ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR OF GROWTH FOR MELBOURNE SURGE WATER POLO.**

**OUR 2023 – 2024 SEASON HAS SOLIDIFIED OUR POST COVID RE-EMERGENCE WITH A BALANCE BETWEEN OUR FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS OF COMMUNITY AND COMPETITIVE WATER POLO.**

In the realm of water polo, we have embarked on another competitive year with a number of Surge teams representing across WPV State league competitions for autumn, winter and summer seasons. A source of great pride over these seasons is seeing the continued growth of our players and watching them display our club values of inclusion, friendship and sportsmanship. WPV have now noted on multiple occasions the continued improvement in skill they have seen from our players. This is primarily due to the ongoing support and dedication from one of most dedicated coaches Chloe Lim.

Our accomplishments in the water reached the pinnacle, with Melbourne Surge delivering and winning The Rainbow Cup in February 2024, our Summer Grudge Match tournament. The cherry on top of the Rainbow Cup was the unanimous positive feedback from our interstate siblings. Melbourne Surge also took our water polo prowess onto the global stage placing 4th at The Gay Games hosted in Guadalajara, Mexico in November 2023.

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**OUR VISION FOR MELBOURNE SURGE ISN'T LIMITED TO THE WATER; IT EXTENDS INTO THE SOCIAL FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY. MELBOURNE SURGE CONTINUES TO PROVIDE A SETTING FOR THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY AND ALLIES TO ENGAGE AND PARTICIPATE IN COMPETITIVE GROUP SPORT WHILE MAINTAINING A STRONG SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY FOCUS.**

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Our increasingly successful involvement with WPV, other fellow Victorian based water polo clubs, Melbourne Queer sporting clubs and supporting community events like Thorne Harbour Health's Drag Race Trivia ; showcases our dedication to creating connections beyond our immediate boundaries. All of these connections, built by the Surge community, will support the upcoming Melbourne bid for the 2030 Gay Games.

Melbourne Surge is a unique club, its has long been a safe haven for our community to grow and develop while

we play water polo. As much as there is a competitive side to our club. It is this underpinned by a strong social community that allows our members to develop lasting connections. Our social engagement this year has included our much-loved events - the Christmas Party and Easter BBQ, as well as continued Surge social competition. Personally this aspect, as president and club member, has been the most rewarding – to see many lifelong friendships made.

Throughout 2024, our fundraising efforts have been resoundingly successful, with events such as, Surf vs Turf, and Queens of Pool captivating our community's support. These and the ongoing support of our consistent Laird & Bunning BBQs have enabled us to subsidize club fees and make strides in updating our equipment. This has included new balls, competition and training caps in 2024. Plans for a Surge Trivia and Queens of the Pool events later this year are well and truly underway and will continue to support the clubs' endeavours in this area.

Our presence at events such as the Midsumma Carnival, Thorne Harbour Health Midsumma Pool Party, and Melbourne Pride March have both bolstered our recruitment efforts and also showcased our commitment to advocating for all members of our community.

At the start of the year, we had another impressive rookie season, seeing a large cohort of new members joining our Surge Family. The members have progressed through our club and contributed to significant growth in our Surge social competition – an element of the club which encompasses the fundamentals of what Surge stands for.

As we reflect on an extraordinary year, I extend my heartfelt thanks 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 look forward to seeing what Melbourne Surge can achieve in 2024 -2025, the next chapter in our 24 year history. 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.

Ben Panton

MELBOURNE SURGE WATER POLO CLUB PRESIDENT 2022-2024

# SURGE HIGHLIGHTS

2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR



RESURGENCE CUP SEPTEMBER 2023



RAINBOW CUP BRISBANE OCTOBER 2023



SECRETS JOIN SURGE OCTOBER 2023



QUEENS OF THE POOL NOVEMBER 2023



GAY GAMES MEXICO NOVEMBER 2023



END OF YEAR PARTY DECEMBER 2023



MIDSUMMA CARNIVAL JANUARY 2024



MIDSUMMA THH POOL PARTY JANUARY 2024



MIDSUMMA PRIDE MARCH FEBRUARY 2024



SYDNEY MARDI GRAS FEBRUARY 2024



RAINBOW CUP MELBOURNE 'WINNERS' MARCH 2024



ROOKIES PROGRAM MARCH 2024



EASTER MARCH 2024



SURF VS TURF MAY 2024



# THANK YOU

BRISBANE TRITONS | BUNNINGS PORT MELBOURNE | PERTH WHITE POINTERS | SIRCUIT | 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



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