

DVE Aquatic Club Water Polo

Annual Report 2025-2026

President's Report

The 2025-2026 season has been another significant year of growth and development for DVE Aquatic Water Polo.

As a club, we continue to build on our philosophy of **Train, Compete, Belong**, creating an environment where athletes can develop their skills, challenge themselves in competition, and build lifelong friendships through participation in our sport.

While results on the scoreboard are important, the true measure of success remains the culture we continue to build. Our players, coaches, volunteers, families, and committee members have collectively contributed to a positive club environment that prioritises development, effort, inclusion, and community.

This season saw continued membership growth, strong representation across local, state and national competitions, investment in club infrastructure, and the introduction of new initiatives designed to strengthen our long-term player pathway. Most importantly, it saw hundreds of volunteer hours invested into creating opportunities for our athletes.

I would like to sincerely thank every player, coach, volunteer, team manager, committee member and family who contributed throughout the season. The strength of our club remains its people.

Membership & Participation

Membership continued to grow during the 2025-2026 season.

The club finished the year with:

- 133 active water polo members
- Growth from 130 members in the previous season
- Additional prospective members already identified for the commencement of the 2026-2027 season

Participation remained strong across:

- Junior programs
- Senior competitions
- Training programs
- Tournament teams
- Flippaball development activities

The growth of our membership demonstrates continued confidence in the club and reflects the work being undertaken by coaches, volunteers and families to create a welcoming and supportive environment.

Competition Highlights

Senior Program

The senior program continued to achieve excellent results both in competition and club culture.

Highlights included:

- Senior Men's team winning the inaugural Brighton Baths Tournament
- Strong State League 2 campaigns from both senior teams
- State League 2 runners-up
- Successful New Zealand tour providing valuable international competition experience
- Planning and progression towards State League 1 participation

The senior program continues to provide an important pathway for younger athletes transitioning into adult competition.



Junior Program



The junior program remains the foundation of the club.

Significant achievements included:

- U16 team finishing runners-up
- U18 team qualifying for finals
- U14 Girls finishing strongly after starting as a combined club at the beginning of the summer season
- Strong participation across all junior age groups

At the Australian Youth Championships in Brisbane, DVE fielded teams across multiple age groups, providing athletes with valuable national-level experience.

Particularly pleasing was the development shown by athletes throughout the season, with players demonstrating improved technical skills, confidence, teamwork, and understanding of the game.

The Under 14 Boys in the 2026 winter season are undefeated and continue to show significant improvement.

Tournament Participation

Throughout the season, DVE athletes represented the club at:

- Geelong Tri-State Tournament
- Brighton Baths Tournament
- Australian Youth Championships (Brisbane)
- Wagga Wagga Tournament
- Canberra Cup
- Various Water Polo Victoria competitions

The club continues to place significant value on tournament participation as these experiences accelerate athlete development and strengthen club culture.

Talent Pathway & Representative Success

The club was proud to have numerous athletes achieve representative State level honours.

Receiving awards at the presentation night for 2025 State selection included:

- Jeremiah, Iranda, Ash and Lewis selected for Victorian Under 13 Boys
- Audrey selected for Victorian Under 13 Girls
- Archie, Daniel and AJ selected at Under 15 level
- Liam Niceforo selected at Under 17 level
- Jamie Osland appointed Victorian Under 13 State Head Coach



For 2026 Highlights included:

- Mitch Bohan and Riley O'Connell selected into the Phoenix Program
- Jeremiah, Panagiotis, Ash, Vishnu, Julius and Lewis selected for Victorian Under 13 Boys (Hobart)
- Claudia, Olivia, Tillanty and Violet selected for the Victorian Under 13 Girls (Hobart)

- Audrey selected for the Victorian Under 15 Girls (ECC)
- Irlanda and Emelio for the Victorian Under 15 Boys (ECC) With Emelio making the National State championship Squad

These achievements reflect the dedication of the athletes, support of families, and quality coaching available within the club.

Presentation night 2026 individual awards

Award		Recipients
Participation Medals U12's		Louis Desbois
		Menula Silva
		Valia Repollo
		Jerome Smith
		Lucas Sullivan
		Claudia Thomas
		Evin Perera

WP Season Awards 2025-26 ANNUAL

Grade	Award	Recipient
U12 Mixed	Most Improved	Jerome Smith
	Coaches award	Louis Desbois
U14 Girls	MVP	Audrey Thomas
	Coaches award	Olivia Munro
	Coaches award	Thea Henley
	Most Improved	Violet Kobussen
U14 Boys	MVP	Julius Alleri
	Coaches award	Lucas Trubiano
	Most Improved	Harrison Kent
U16 Girls (*MC)	Coaches award	Sophie Wilson
U16 Youth Boys	MVP	Alexander Puglia
	Coaches award	Luca Bonomi
	Most Improved	Ryan Fraser
U18 Junior Men	MVP	Felix Neal
	Coaches award	Zachary Osland
	Most Improved	Lazar Dujakovic
MSL2	MVP	Liam Niceforo
MSL4	MVP	Alexander Puglia
	MVP	Archie Cooper



Tournament	Team	Recipient	Coach
Canberra Cup	Seniors	Riley O'Connell	Jamie
	Juniors		
	U14B	Henry Farley	Zach
	U17B	Archie Cooper	Riley
	U17G	Maggie Conroy	Jamie
Ballarat	Not held 2025/26		
Geelong Tri-State	U12	Louis Desbois	Jamie
	U14 Girls	Audrey Thomas	Kristin
	U14 Boys	Oscar Lorman	Alberto / Mitch
	U16 Boys	Alexander Puglia	Riley / Zach
WPV Summer Splash	A Grade	Riley O'Connell	Jamie
	B Grade	Archie Cooper	
Brighton Baths	Seniors	Spencer Beech	Zach
AYC	U14 Boys	Julius Alleri	Alberto / Mitch
	U16 Boys	Alexander Puglia	Jamie / Zach
	U18 Boys	Felix Neal	Jamie / Riley

Coaching & Player Development

The club continues to benefit from a dedicated and highly capable coaching group led by Head Coach Jamie Osland.

The coaching team has continued to:

- Deliver quality training programs
- Support athlete development
- Build connections with families
- Strengthen club culture
- Expand competitive opportunities

The club also saw emerging coaches begin their coaching journey, strengthening our long-term coaching pathway.

The contribution this year, of Jamie, Alberto, Zac, Liam, Mitch, Riley, Archie, Jo and Spencer is greatly appreciated.

Flippaball & Club Development

The introduction and growth of the Flippaball program was one of the major successes of the season.

Achievements included:

- Launch of the program during the season
- Strong engagement from new families
- Consistent weekly participation
- Development of a clear junior entry pathway

The club also began exploring stronger connections with local schools and community organisations to raise awareness of water polo and attract future participants.

This remains a key strategic priority moving forward.

Infrastructure & Equipment

During 2025-2026 the club made substantial investments in infrastructure and equipment.

Major investments included:

- New water polo goals
- Equipment upgrades- caps, balls
- Planning for replacement nets
- Investigation of future equipment requirements
- Ongoing promotional materials and club branding

These investments ensure players have access to quality facilities and equipment that support development and competition.

Currently we are looking at sporting grant opportunities and are investing time and energy into looking at ways to bring further external funding into the club to support the athletes.

Player safety also remained a priority, with ongoing advocacy regarding pool tile maintenance and facility safety concerns.

Financial Summary (brief)

The club recorded:

Financial Item	Amount
Total Income	\$157,953.62
Total Expenses	\$154,646.93
Net Profit	\$3,306.69

The club remains in a stable financial position and recorded a modest surplus despite significant investment in equipment, coaching, tournaments and player development opportunities.

Key Income Sources

- Training fees: \$70,597
- Tournament participation and cost recovery: \$48,100
- Competition fees: \$19,456
- Membership fees: \$11,271
- Fundraising: \$3,943
- Presentation Night: \$3,536

Key Expenditure Areas

- Pool hire: \$41,353
- Coaching: \$37,383
- Tournament participation costs: \$45,449
- Equipment investments: \$9,718
- Presentation Night: \$5,886

The club continued to prioritise affordability while investing in quality coaching and player opportunities.

Fundraising activities, particularly Bunnings BBQ events, played an important role in supporting capital purchases and reducing financial pressure on families.

Outstanding Accounts

At the conclusion of the reporting period the club had approximately \$6,600 in outstanding invoices across 30 accounts. Recovery efforts remain ongoing.

Volunteers

The success of DVE Water Polo is built upon volunteer contribution and many thanks to Alberto and Michelle who both finished up in their roles this year.

Special thanks are extended to:

Committee

- Jamie (Head Coach)
- Chris (Treasurer)
- Bianca (Club Team Manager)
- Kristin
- Despina
- Pat Southwell
- Elena
- John
- Michelle (retired 2026)
- Alberto Vela (retired 2026)

Team Managers

- Penny
- Kanch
- Kristin
- Bianca
- Kevin
- Simona
- Jules

Uniforms & Administration

- Simona
- Zanthé

Their collective work ensures the club can continue to operate and provide opportunities for members.

Looking Ahead

As we move into 2026-2027 our priorities include:

- Growing membership beyond 140 athletes, specifically outreach to building a strong girls and women's program and a sustainable next generation of young water polo athletes
- Expanding Flippaball participation
- Strengthening school and community partnerships
- Supporting the transition to State League 1 competition
- Continuing athlete development pathways
- Maintaining financial sustainability
- Replacing ageing equipment
- Improving training attendance and player engagement
- Supporting new Team Managers
- Continuing advocacy regarding facility safety
- Finalising a sustainable membership fee structure

The club is well positioned for continued growth and success.

Closing Remarks

The 2025-2026 season demonstrated the strength of the DVE Water Polo community.

Our athletes continued to improve, our volunteers continued to give generously of their time, our coaches provided outstanding leadership, and our families remained at the heart of the club.

Together we continue to build a club where athletes can **Train, Compete and Belong**.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to another successful year for DVE Water Polo.

