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Swimming Report 25/26

Swimming completed another successful season with steady growth in swimming numbers, 5 events held at WaterMarch and the very 1st event held at MSAC. The swimming committee team and looked for new ways to improve revenue streams by implementing a number of fundraising activities and running swimming clinics; these were heavily supported by our DVE swimming parents. Our swimmers were provided with a number of in-club racing opportunities at Club Nights and meets and were supported at the competition events held in VIC and interstate. Overall, this was a very successful year with a number of development plans earmarked for the 2026-2027 season.

Specifics for each component of DVE swimming for 24-25 are outlined below.

Squads

The squad numbers continued to marginally grow and can be considered recovered post significant reduction at the start of the 23-24 year. Generally, 25-26 finished with significant growth at the end of the season, and the numbers are continuing to increase.

Season	Swimmers	Dry Members
2025 - 2026	129	115
2024 - 2025	126	108
2023 - 2024	95	88
2022 - 2023	107	103

DVE Swimming is considering its programs and growth opportunities, as well as the resources required to sustain growth. While we increased our coaching numbers and expertise, pool space continues to be challenging. Options are being explored. WaterMarc's review of pool-use space has raised additional concerns; executives are continuing discussions with WaterMarc and council.

Throughout 2025–26, our swimmers have continued to advance their skills, enabling us to provide more tailored development opportunities. Strong results at District, State and National competitions, supported by our highly skilled and consistent coaching team, have strengthened the club's reputation and attracted new members from other clubs during the year. With a number of athletes now performing at the high level, the club has increased the number of additional performance-focused training sessions. Additional equipment to support development across all levels also needs further consideration. We will continue to monitor and balance the developmental needs across all squads and skill levels in 26-27.

Coaches

We have an exceptional group of coaches, all with significant experience developing junior and senior swimmers. Coach Chow joined the coaching team early in the 2025-2026 season and supported a range of squads. Due to the ongoing growth in numbers across the junior squads, late in 25-26, DVE searched for additional junior coaches and had Kayla and Jasper join the team. They are typically paired with an experienced coach to support skill development.

The coaching team is now very strong and capable of supporting a range of programs, assisting with the development of our swimmers, and attracting new members as a club with experienced coaches.

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The level of coaching resources within DVE, consistency, and dedication to our swimmers have been consistently high and have resulted in over 30% of DVE swimmers participating in Metro events, 25% in State Age events, 20% in the State Open events, and 15% in the National events.

Our head coach, Brian Miller, continues to provide support by sharing experience, knowledge, and skills with VIC coaches and performance squads through Swimming VIC programs.

At present, DVE Swimming has coaches of the following levels:

Level	Number accredited
Advanced Coach	1
Development Coach	6
Teacher of Competitive Strokes	2

Financial Position

In 2025–26, the Swimming section achieved a solid financial outcome, finishing the year with a minor profit (\$286). The introduction of an additional payment mechanism via Stripe, which allows Apple and Google payments, improved invoice payment rates and reduced outstanding balances.

Teams undertook many more fundraising activities and will continue exploring sponsorship options to support the programs. Stroke clinic attendance has been strong and has become an ongoing successful contribution to the year's results.

Looking ahead, cost management will remain a priority as pool hire continues to rise. A new volunteer Finance Swimming role has been extremely useful in ensuring ongoing financial oversight and support to the VP Swimming.

Pools & Dryland

We continue to have great relationships with the Eltham Leisure swimming pool, but experienced challenges with WaterMarc. Belgravia, which manages the facility, had a number of staff changes and new personnel brought in new suggestions to council. Overall, these are useful but need to be implemented carefully. Discussions with Belgravia - WaterMarc, and Banyule Council are underway.

An increase in line with communicated numbers has been incorporated for the time being, but is yet to be formally confirmed by WaterMarc. As a result, swimming is operating under a temporary budget. In general, a further 4% increase is anticipated in January 2027, but will be reviewed once both pools have formally confirmed the costs.

Dryland program continued and is progressing very well. Over the year, the program gained greater attendance, with the team utilising all areas of the gym. Additional Pilates opportunities are being explored for the next season with the focus on the 13-15 yo performing swimmers.

Swimming Sub-committee

Volunteers involved in our swimming sub-committee continue to go above and beyond the requirements of their roles.

With some swimming families departing the club, transferring, or finishing their swimming, we needed to fill several positions. This has brought new ideas, energy and an atmosphere of excitement. The Swimming Committee is always full of activities and tasks and would welcome any new volunteers. Special thanks goes out to all the volunteers for their support throughout the year.

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Performance throughout the year

The below highlights outline the events and achievements of our DVE Swimmers.

July 2025

Late in July, DVE participated VIC SC Metro Championships. We had 25 swimmers attending, with a number of podium finishes, an amazing number of PBs, and so much learning over the 3 racing days.

Rhianna continued to rewrite the record books — this time smashing 2 new Vic Metro SC records! Her unstoppable drive, fierce dedication, and racing spirit continue to inspire.



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Rhianna also participated in the Tri Series 2025, achieving outstanding results and setting a series record in 50m Fly. We are so proud, Rhianna.

We also had four (4) of our swimmers participate in School Sport Australia National Swimming Competitions. All swimmers performed exceptionally well, achieving PBs, winning medals and placing in the top 10 swimmers and even National QTs. Zoe brought home the School Sport Australia National Bronze Medal in 4x50m Freestyle Relay in the 13-14yo girls.



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August 2025

DVE SC Meet occurred on 2nd of August. It was great to see participation across all squads, with many trying out racing for the first time.



As part of our work to achieve qualifying times for the senior squads and give the junior squads valuable racing experience, DVE participated in the Bayside Target Meet. It was so great to see so many young DVE swimmers taking to the big MSAC pool with confidence and determination.

VIC Open SC Championship in middle of August highlighted the exceptional level of performance from our swimmers. Incredible performances all around, with most of our swimmers hitting PBs and representing DVE Aquatic proudly

- Will, Sebastian & Julia – First-Time Qualifiers, an amazing achievement qualifying for their first Victorian Open
- Big Program: Julia – 10 events, delivering strong swims and PBs across the weekend.
- Big Program: Ryley – 14 events, a huge effort with fantastic racing and PBs

Finals Highlights

- Eliza – 10th in 200m Breaststroke with a PB
- Ryley – 8th in 400m IM with a PB
- Rhianna – 1st in 50m Fly, 8th in 50m Free, 4th in 200m Fly, 3rd in 100m Fly

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We continue to hold DVE Club Night, which allows swimmers to gain valuable experience of competing in the club environment whilst still receiving feedback from officials. This also serves as a communication forum to parents.

September 2025

VIC Age Short Course Championships were held in early September. This was a meet targeted and attended by a large cohort of DVE Swimmers - 23 swimmers participated in the individual events and 25 overall with relay only entrants.

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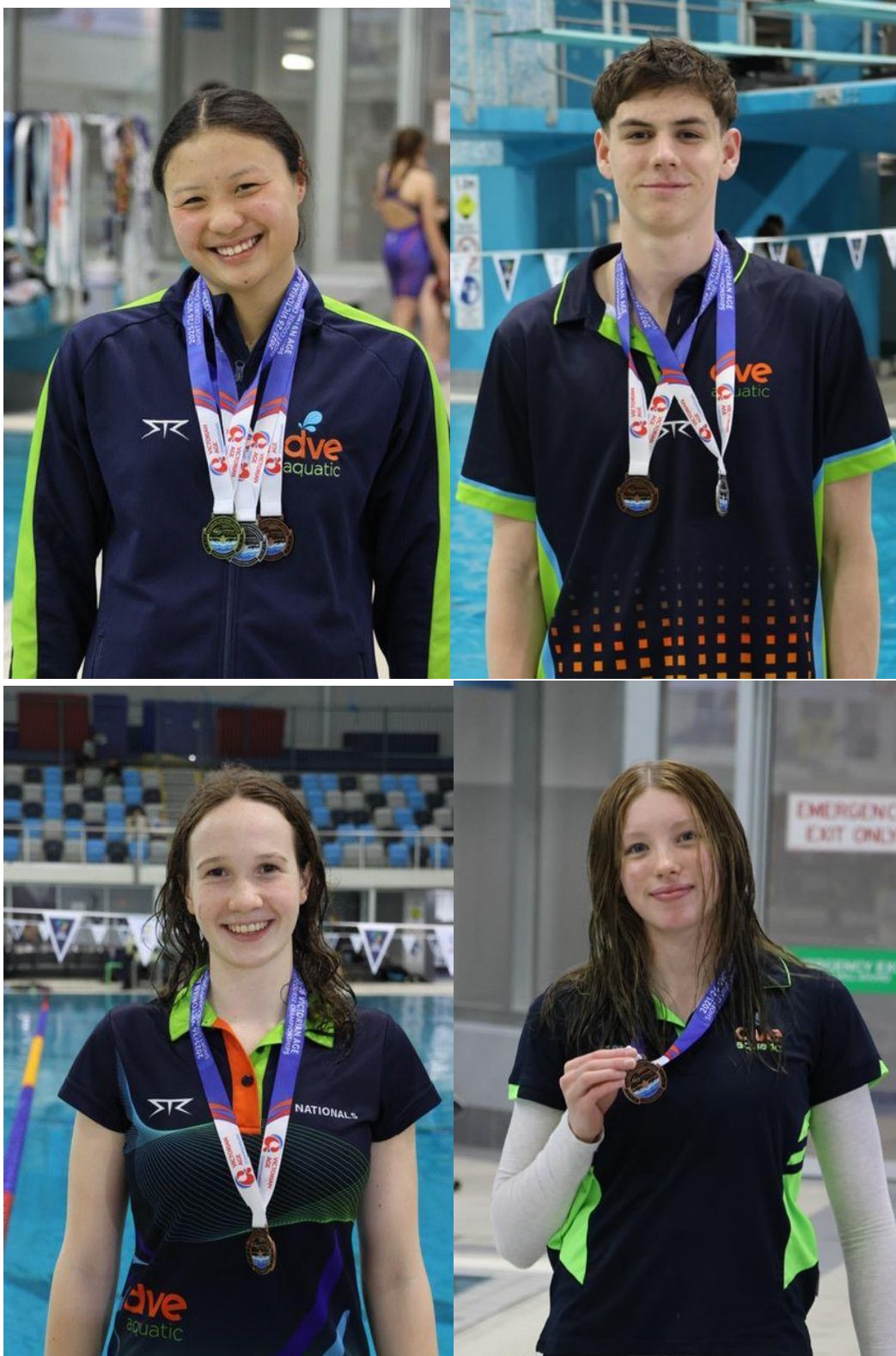


Particular mention goes out to the following swimmers:

- First Time participants - Inaya, Louis, Jason, Madeleine as well as Ben and Xavier, who are making their DVE debut
- Sebastian - 100m Butterfly 6th, 200m Butterfly 5th
- Rhianna - 100m Butterfly 1st, 50m Freestyle 2nd, 200m Butterfly 3rd, 200m IM 10th, 100m Freestyle 10th, 200m Freestyle 10th, 100m IM 8th
- Eliza - 200m Breaststroke 3rd, 200m IM 7th, 100 Breaststroke 4th
- Ryley - 200m Butterfly 5th, 400m IM 7th, 100m Butterfly 8th, 200m Freestyle 8th
- Ashley - 100m Breaststroke 2nd, 200m Breaststroke 3rd
- Zoe - 100m Freestyle 3rd, 400m Freestyle 5th, 100m Breaststroke 4th, 200m Freestyle 8th, 200m Backstroke 7th, 100m IM 9th, 100m Backstroke 8th, 50m Freestyle 6th, 800m Freestyle 5th
- Jason - 400m Freestyle 7th, 200m Freestyle 9th, 100m Butterfly 4th, 100m Freestyle 4th, 200m Butterfly 5th, 50m Freestyle 4th
- Julia - 100m Backstroke 9th, 200m Backstroke 10th
- Amity - 100m Breaststroke 7th
- Cooper - 200m Backstroke 7th, 100m Butterfly 10th
- Julia, Zoe, Rhianna, Eliza - 200m Medley Relay 6th
- Aidan - 400IM 8th



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Our senior swimmers then went on to challenge themselves at the Australian Short Course Championships. Qualifying for this level is an amazing achievement, and we are immensely proud of all of our swimmers:

- Rhianna - 200 Fly 7th, 50 Fly 16th, 100 Fly 10th, 25 Free 12ve
- Eliza - 200 Breast 22nd
- Ryley - 200 Fly 18th, 400IM 20th

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- Amity - 50 Breast 41st
- Ashley - 100 Breast 53rd, 200 Breast 28th

Later in the month, our Junior swimmers took to the pool to qualify for a spot on the District team as part of Metro North. Swimmers showed grit and determination in chasing their goals, with many PBs blown out of the water and fantastic swims.

Swimmers who have qualified for a spot on the Metro North District team are:

- Morgan, Noah
- Rohrbach, Jeremy
- Bian, Abigail
- Venegas, Jordan
- Hatcher, Jack
- Furon, William



Special mention and congratulations go out to the swimmers who made top 10 or first 2 reserves, but are unable to attend due to exams or injuries - good luck & get well.

- Lee, Natalie May Ying
- Wood, Elle
- Bohan, Ashton
- Tang, Grace

October 2025

DVE Sprints Meet was held on 18th October. Despite lower attendance due to pool issues, swimmers displayed an excellent camaraderie and support. Well done to the first-time participants, who all swam so beautifully.

DVE proudly hosted Metro North qualifiers training session on 18th October with a number of coaches from Metro North clubs attending. This was a good opportunity for junior district swimmers to train together and interact.

Metro District Competition was held late October. Metro North team performed with grit and confidence. DVE

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swimmers swam with determination and supported the team with their performance.

November 2025

Throughout November, senior squads have been working to obtain the qualifying time for VIC Age Long Course Championship and National times. One of the key competitions during this time is VIC Sprints Championship, held in late November.

We had 27 swimmers qualify for the event with incredible performances over the two days. Special mention goes out to the following swimmers:

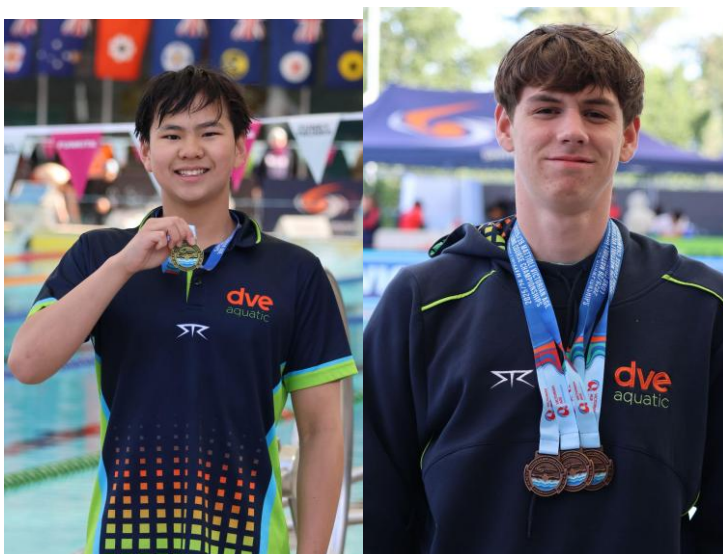
- First-time participants - Noah, Natalie, Siena, and Inaya.
- Medallists:
 - Jason - 1st in Boys 12 y/o 50m Butterfly
 - Kayla - 1st in Girls 18 y/o 50m Freestyle, 2nd in 50m Backstroke, 1st in 50m Butterfly
 - Amity - 2nd in Girls 18 y/o 50m Breaststroke
 - Eliza - 3rd in Girls 17 y/o 50m Breaststroke
- Finalists
 - Amity - 7th Girls 18 y/o 50m Butterfly, 10th Girls 18 y/o 50m Backstroke
 - Ashley - 4th Boys 16 y/o 50m Breaststroke
 - Noah - 8th Boys 11 y/o 50m Breaststroke
 - Zoe - 5th Girls 13 y/o 50m Breaststroke, 7th 50m Freestyle
 - Jason - 4th Boys 12 y/o 50m Freestyle

December 2025

The biggest competition of the Long Course season for the age swimmers is the VIC Age LC Championship. The championship was held 10-15 December and had a number of interstate and international visitors. All swimmers demonstrated strong performances, with several attending for the first time and several securing finals' spots and podium placings. Several swimmers also achieved National qualifying times.



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Particular mention goes out to the following swimmers:

- Jason Wang, Louis Cao, Lily Makhlin - first-time participants.

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- Jason Wang, 12yo - 1st in 200 Fly, 2nd in 50 Fly, 8th in 400 Free, 4th in 100 Fly, 5th in 100 Free, 5th in 50 Free
- Ashley Lansbury, 16yo - 3rd in 50 Breast, 3rd in 200IM, 3rd in 200m Breast, 4th in 400IM, 7th in 100m Breast
- Ryley Hodgins, 16yo - 5th in 400 Free, 10th in 400 IM, 5th in 200 Fly, 8th in 100 Fly
- Eliza Connolly, 16yo - 3rd in 200 Breast, 7th in 50 Breast, 7th in 400 Free, 7th in 100 Breast
- Aidan Advahov, 13yo - 10th in 400 IM, 5th in 800 Free
- Lily Makhlin, 12yo - 8th 200 Breast, 10th 100 Breast
- Julia Wozniak, 15yo - 8th in 50m Fly, 8th in 50 Back

January 2026

After a short break over Christmas - New Year, the team got back into training and readying themselves for Swimming Camps.

Our Senior Competition team travelled to AIS, Canberra, where over the 5 days they trained in the water and gym and undertook the testing. They were also able to undertake goal setting with the coaches and were invited to attend NextGen training session run by Swimming Australia.



Our Junior Competition team travelled to Ballarat. They trained for 3 days and perfected their skills and strength in the water and gym. They continued building team relationships and reported a great camaraderie.

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Late in January, DVE swimmers participated in VIC Metro LC competition. While swimmers were still recovering from the workload at the camps, they performed exceptionally well with multiple PBs and skills improvement demonstrated across all age groups of participants.

Particular mention goes out to the following swimmers:

- First time participants - Noah Morgan
- Ryley Hodgins, 17yo - 3rd in 200 Fly, 4th in 100 Fly, 6th in 400 Free, 9th in 100 Back, 6th in 100 Fly, 9th in 200 IM
- Zoe Macaulay, 13yo - 2nd in 100 Breast, 6th in 200IM, 4th in 100 Free, 4th in 100 Back
- Ashley Lansbury, 16yo - 2nd in 200IM, 3rd in 100 Breast, 5th in 200 Breast, 9th in 100 Free
- Amity Lansbury, 18yo - 1st in 50 Breast, 3rd in 200IM, 10th in 200 Breast, 10th in 50 Fly, 9th in 50 Back
- Eliza Connolly, 17yo - 9th in 100 Back, 6th in 200IM, 9th in 100 Breast
- Nate Anderson, 13yo - 8th in 200IM, 10th in 100 Free, 9th in 100 Breast

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- Louis Cao, 12yo - 8th in 100 Breast
- Thomas Greenwood, 18yo - 7th in 50 Breast
- Lily Makhlin, 13yo - 9th in 100 Breast
- Noah Morgan, 11yo - 4th in 50 Breast
- Aidan Advahov, 13yo - 8th in 100 Back
- Sebastian Bulan, 15yo - 10th in 200 Fly
- Jason Wang, 13yo - 7th in 100 Fly
- Julia Wozniak, 17yo - 6th in 100 Fly, 10th in 100 Back, 8th in 200IM



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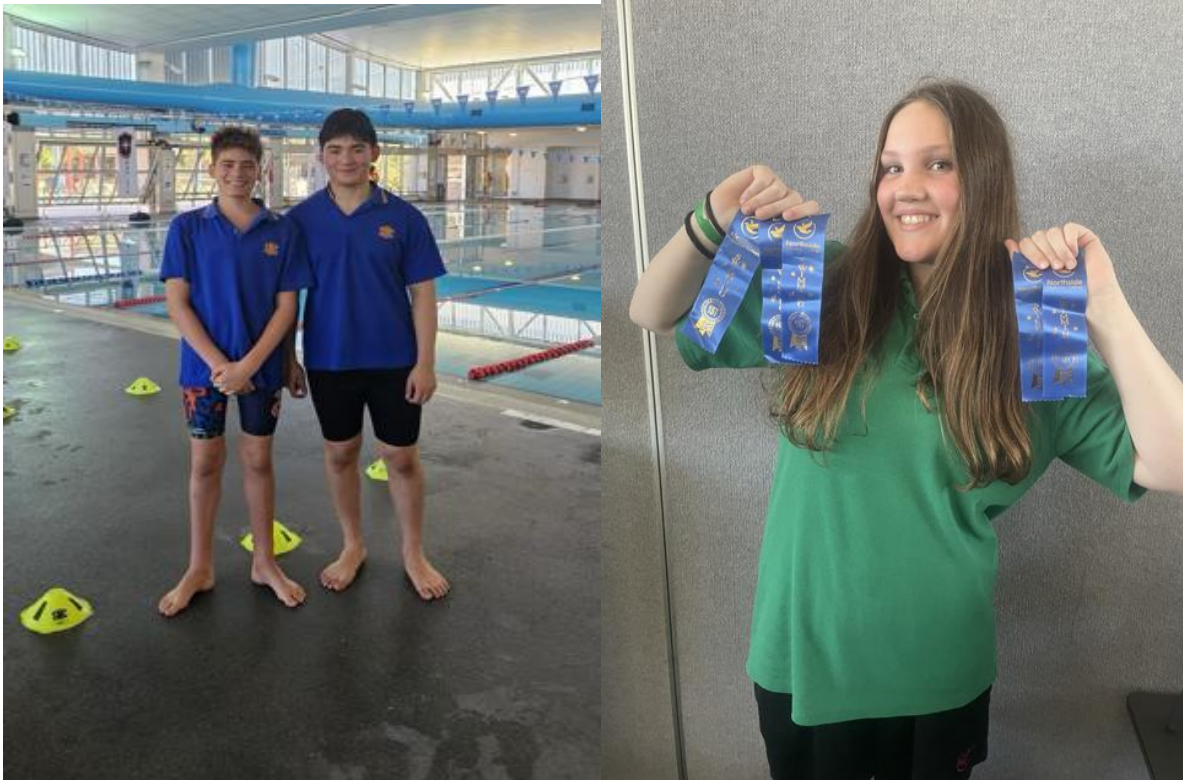
February 2025

February saw a broad range of events for the swimmers. From grassroots school swimming to the elite level of the VIC Open Championship. DVE swimmers represented the club with grit and determination; they swam well and really put their swimming skills on display, and we are looking forward to the next levels.

Throughout February, various levels of school swimming were held. Competitions are ongoing.



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On 13-15 February, VIC Open Championships were held. Our senior swimmers showcased their skills while picking up several National Open and National Age qualifying times. 8 DVE swimmers participated in the event.

Particular mention goes out to the following swimmers:

- Amity Lansbury - 200 Breast, 14th
- Ashley Lansbury - 200 Breast, 19th



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Metro North All Junior Qualifying meet was held on 21st February. The meet was combined with Metro South, providing excellent competition and racing. 34 swimmers entered the event, with 27 qualifying for the semi-final in late March. There were a number of impressive PBs across all ages of DVE participants, and it was great to see tremendous support for each other and competitors.



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We wrapped up the month with DVE BBQ Fundraiser on the morning of the DVE Jackson Car meet. It was wonderful to see our community come together to support each other and this amazing event. Tim and Melissa Car and the family joined us to present the medals, which was very touching. A big thank you to all DVE swimmers and parents who participated and supported the event.

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March 2025

DVE LC Meet on 14th March was very successful, with multiple swimmers showing significant improvements and some achieving National Qualifying times. It was great to see excellent performance across all the squads, but even more pleasing was the supportive environment and team camaraderie.

DVE swimmers are also performing well at school swimming, with most swimming meets held across Primary & Secondary Government Schools as well as Non-Government ones. There are a number of DVE swimmers who achieved places at Regional and State championships. Congratulations, and well done to swimmers and coaches.

We had 27 swimmers qualify for the Semi-Finals of Metro All Juniors, with a further 9 qualifying for the Final session. All swimmers showed great determination, with their intent, effort and confidence showing in every race.

Special mention goes out to:

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- Abigail, 9yo girls - 1st in 50m Back, 4th in 50m Fly and 6th in 50m Free
- Sebastian, 15yo boys - 8th in 50m Free
- Ellaina, 16yo girls - 3rd in 50m Free
- Ashley, 16yo boys - 1st in 50m Free, 2nd in 50m Fly, 2nd in 50m Back
- Noah, 11yo boys - 6th in 50m Breast
- Nate, 13yo boys - 4th in 50m Breast, 7th in 50m Fly
- Edward, 13yo boys - 10th in 50m Breast
- Zoe, 14yo girls - qualified but didn't participate in finals, 1st in 50m Fly, Breast and Free, 2nd in 50m Back

April 2025

April is a quieter month for swimmers who don't attend the Australian National Age and Open Championships. DVE swimmers took the opportunity to recuperate, focus on their strokes at the DVE Stroke Clinic, and begin the transition to the short course championships.

At the same time, our DVE National team fought it out in warm and sunny Gold Coast at the 2026 Australian National Open and Age Championships. This year we had a team of 5 and 12 swimmers participating in each championship, respectively. The team has delivered strong results, finishing within 100 clubs overall, with 300+ clubs participating.



2026 Australian National Open 6-9 April

Eliza, Ashley, Ryley, Kayla and Amity started their racing on Easter Sunday at the National Open championships. Swimmers raced alongside Australian and international superstars, showing exceptional focus and drive for success.

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Team results are the following:

- Eliza - 3 events: 100m Breast 36th, 50m Breast 51st
- Ashley - 4 events: 200m Breast 37th, 100m Breast 53rd, 50m Breast 59th
- Ryley - 1 event: 100m Fly 67th PB
- Kayla - 3 events: 100m Free 44th PB, 50m Free 39th PB, 50m Back 60th
- Amity - 3 events: 100m Breast 49th, 200m Breast 28th, 50m breast 34th



2026 Australian National Age 11-19 April

For the Age championship, we had 5 novices in a team of 12 swimmers. All swimmers showed grit, determination and were absolute superstars with a number of PBs and finals. Coaches Brian and Frank supported the team along with Kate and yours truly and were very impressed with the team camaraderie, support and respect to competitors, highlighting excellent team culture and sportsmanship.

Team results are the following:

- Kayla, 18yo - 4 events, 4 PBs: 50m Back 15th, 100m Free 10th A Final, 50m Fly 17th, 50m Free 8th A Final

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- Nate, 13yo - 3 events, 3PBs: 100m Breast 29th, 200m breast 36th, 50m Breast 26th
- Aidan, 13yo – 3 events, 3 PBs: 100m Back 32nd, 50m Back 29th, 200m Back 43rd
- Eliza, 17yo – 3 events: 100m Breast 31st, 50m Breast 41st, 200m Breast 19th
- Ryley, 17yo – 2 events, 2 PBs: 100m Fly 22nd, 200m Fly 17th
- Amity, 18yo – 3 events, 2 PBs: 100m Breast 13th, 50m Breast 9th A Final, 200m Breast 19th
- Ashley, 16yo – 5 events, 5 PBs, 400IM 14th, 50M Breast 6th A Final, 200m Breast 7th Finals, 200m IM 12ve, 100m Breast 11th B Final.
- Zoe, 14yo – 6 events, 6 PBs: 100m Breast 14th B Final, 100m Back 40th, 50m Breast 23rd, 200m Breast 23rd, 50m Fly 35th, 100m Free 26th
- Lily, 13yo – 2 events, 2 PBs: 100m Breast 34th, 200m Breast 19th
- Jason, 13yo - 2 events, 2 PBs: 100m Fly 34th, 50m Fly 24th
- Sebastian, 15yo - 1 event: 100m Fly 57th
- Relay team, girls 17-18yo: Julia, Kayla, Eliza and Amity – 9th

Big thank you also goes out to our magnificent coaches Brian and Frank, team managers Kate and Elena, and amazing photographer Michelle and social media support for the event from Anne.

May 2025

In early May, some of the DVE swimmers participated in the Victorian Associations Competition. Several entrants performed at this high level across various associations, with swimmers showing exceptional performance in their individual and relay events, earning PBs and placings. 4 of DVE swimmers were selected for TeamVIC, congratulations to Emmerson, Ashley, Jason and Abigail.

The DVE SC Meet and Club Championships on 23rd May had exceptional attendance; this was our busiest meet at WaterMarc yet. The meet ran exceptionally well, and we finished on time. Our swimmers at all levels showed strong participation and achieved excellent results.



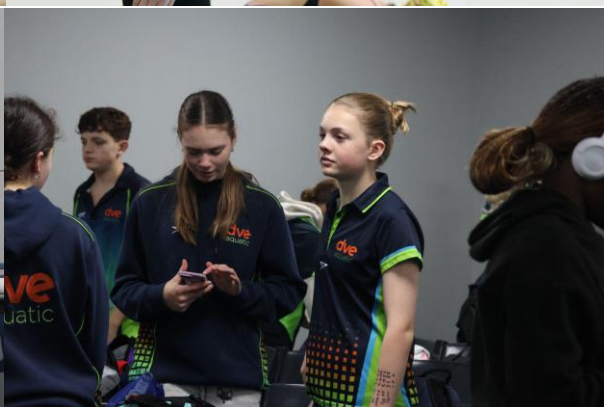
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June 2025

On 20th June, DVE took our competitions to MSAC. It was so great to see such active participation and performance at all levels. We received many compliments for the event being well run and were very grateful for the assistance with timekeeping from Ringwood SC, MSC and Surrey Park SC. We will explore further meets at MSAC with greater confidence.

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VP Swimming Summary

The 2025-26 season has been another year of growth, achievement and, above all, community for DVE Swimming.

While swimming is often seen as an individual sport, very little about a swimmer's journey is truly individual. Behind every swimmer is a coach providing guidance, teammates offering encouragement, parents managing countless early mornings and competition weekends, and volunteers working behind the scenes to keep our program running and growing. This collective support continues to make DVE feel like a family and such a special place to belong.

Our swimming program continued to grow throughout the season, welcoming swimmers young and old, including an increasing number of families from other clubs and communities across Melbourne's north. This growth is a wonderful endorsement of DVE's welcoming culture, the exceptional standard of our coaching and the genuine support our swimmers show one another.

Growth, however, also brings challenges. Lane space continues to be under significant pressure as participation increases. We are extremely grateful to WaterMarc and Banyule City Council for their ongoing support and for providing the space in which our swimmers can train, develop and enjoy their sport. Looking ahead, we will need to continue working collaboratively with WaterMarc, Council, and our elected representatives to ensure we can support growing community interest in aquatic sport. Melbourne's northern communities continue to grow, and access to additional aquatic facilities will become increasingly important.

Our swimmers represented DVE proudly at every level during the year - from swimmers attending their first competitions through to District, Metro, State and National Championships. We celebrated medals, finals, qualifying times and countless personal bests, but equally important were the quieter achievements: swimmers trying new events, returning after illness or injury, developing confidence and resilience, and continuing to show up and work hard.

At the other end of the swimming journey, we farewelled Mikayla and Jack as they retired from competitive swimming and wished Jacob well as he commenced an overseas sabbatical. They remain part of the DVE family, and we hope to continue seeing them around the club.

A major highlight of the season was our performance at the 2026 Australian Championships on the Gold Coast. Together, these performances placed DVE within the top 100 clubs nationally from more than 350 participating clubs - an exceptional achievement for our club. Just as importantly, coaches Brian and Frank highlighted the camaraderie, sportsmanship and respect demonstrated by the team throughout the championships. Our swimmers supported one another, respected their competitors and represented DVE with pride. Results matter, but the way our athletes conduct themselves and support their teammates is equally important to the culture we continue to build.

I would like to sincerely thank our entire coaching team for the expertise, commitment and genuine care they bring to every swimmer. Their role extends well beyond writing programs and improving technique—they help our swimmers develop confidence, discipline and resilience, while recognising that every athlete's journey is different.

Thank you also to our parents, families, committee members and volunteers. Your driving, organising, timekeeping, officiating, team managing, fundraising and countless other contributions make everything we do possible.

As we move into the next season, our challenge is to continue growing while protecting what makes DVE special: a welcoming environment, high-quality coaching, ambition for our swimmers and genuine care for one another.

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Together, we have built much more than a swimming program. We have built a strong community and a swimming family that I am very proud to be part of.

Regards,

Elena V Macaulay

Vice-President - Swimming