

## THE SWIMMING DECLINE

**1961-1962 - Membership 257.** The Swimming Team were relegated to "B" Grade in the Pennant Competition and did not place in that Grade. This is the first time that a Melbourne Team has not been fielded in "A" Grade Pennant since its inception. In water polo, 4 teams and a Junior Under 16 team were entered in the competition. "C" Grade were undefeated for the season and duly won the premiership defeating Hungaria 10-8. The team comprised Bill Bennett (captain/coach), Michael Myers, Marshall Dick, Mick Hubery, Maurie Mann, Peter Parrott, Geoff Hosie, John Wootton, Des Webb and Bob McQuade. "A" Grade were victorious again in the Association Cup, as well as the Winter Competition, however, were eliminated in the 1st semi final of the major competition by Hungaria 5-6. "B" Grade played off in the Grand Final and were beaten 3-4 by Surrey Park and "D" Grade finished 8th. The Under 16 team finished 3rd in the Junior Competition.

Melbourne became the first club water polo team in Australian sporting history to tour internationally. A Melbourne Club team toured New Zealand having an unbeaten record of 10 wins and 1 draw. Tim Ive, Ken Wood, Tony Harrison, Peter Bennett (Coach) and Ron Wootton (Manager) were selected in the Victorian team. This was the 1st of what was to be 15 occasions Tony was to be selected to represent Victoria. Our basketball team were runners up in "D" Grade. John Wilson was awarded the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best and Fairest player in "A" Grade, Ed Wilde in "B" Grade, Mick Myers in "C" Grade, John Hunter in "D" Grade for an amazing 5th successive time and Mat Ryan in Under 16. Michael Myers was also the recipient of the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player in "C" Grade.

**1962-1963 - Membership 232.** The Club Headquarters were damaged by a severe storm, needing necessary and urgent repairs. The Club fielded only 1 swimming team in the swimming Pennant competition - "C" Grade, who were unable to make the finals. The Melbourne Club, for the first time in its existence, was falling behind the eight ball. Other Clubs were becoming more stronger and recruiting many very good swimmers. It was necessary for the club to improve, and to do so, it must locate a heated, fresh water pool to swim in and keep up with other clubs. Due to restrictions placed on our club, we were only able to enter 2 teams in the water polo competition. A new system was introduced incorporating a State League and State League Reserve Grades, replacing the old top 2 grades. This caused a number of club members to be uncatered for, forcing them to retire or play 2nd claim with other clubs. However, they still participated in Sunday morning matches at the Club Headquarters.

The State League team were victorious in the Summer Competition, remaining undefeated. This season saw the introduction of a Winter Competition and our State League team finished 5th. Peter Bennett continued his coaching of the Club State League team, but for the first time in many years, did not coach the Victorian State Team. The State League Reserve finished 2nd to Richmond. An Under 18 team was also entered in the Junior Competition. Tony Harrison and Bill McCabe were selected in the Victorian Senior Mens Water Polo Team that were victorious at the Australian Championships. John Collins and Graham Stalker were selected in the Victorian Schoolboys team. Tony Harrison was successful in winning the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player in Mens "A" Grade and Dennis Angland won the Best Player in Mens "B" Grade. John Collins was awarded as the Best Junior Player in Under 18. The Most Improved Player was awarded to Graham Stalker. This year also saw a return visit of the Wellington, N.Z. team to play our club in many water polo matches. Games were also organised for the Wellington team to play against Footscray, Kew, Richmond, Surrey Park and the State

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Squad. The team comprising Tim Ive (Capt.), Geoff Hosie, Ron Wootton, Des Webb, Pat Killen, G. Howard and Bruce Richardson were the recipients of the H.A. Bennett Memorial Shield for the best intra club water polo team playing in the Sunday morning competition. Tony Harrison was again awarded the Open Club Swimming Champion.

**1963-1964 - Membership 218.** For the second year running, the Club Headquarters were again damaged by a severe storm and the premises were unable to be used for aquatic sports by our Club for some months.

It was unfortunate and alarming to have, for the first time ever, no entry from a club member in the Victorian Swimming Championships. The swimming section of the Club was declining rapidly, however, the water polo section was growing in strength each year. The Junior Men (U/18) were victorious in winning the junior water polo premiership, defeating Footscray 4-3. 3 teams were entered in the Water Polo Competition, with all teams playing in the finals, however, no team was able to notch a premiership. The grading system reverted to the old style with the "A" Grade team being eliminated in the Preliminary Final by Richmond 3-6. The "B" Grade were beaten in the Grand Final by Richmond 3-5 and the "C" Grade team, after finishing on top of the ladder, were defeated in the Grand Final, again by Richmond, 9-14. Tony Harrison and Bill McCabe were selected in Victorian Senior Mens Water Polo Team and were reserves for the Australian Olympic Team to play in Tokyo. Robert "Bardy" Dale was selected in the Victorian Colts Team and John Collins, Mat Ryan, Peter Capp and Graham Stalker were members of the Victorian Schoolboys team.

John Wilson was awarded the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player in Mens "A" Grade; the third time he has taken out this award. Doug Mew won the Best Player in Mens "B" Grade, Michael Myers the Best Player in Mens "C" Grade and P. Capp the Best Junior Player in Under 18. Doug Mew was also the recipient of the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player for the "B" Grade. Peter Bennett relinquished the position of senior water polo coach of the Melbourne Swimming Club, after a continuous period of 16 years as an "A" Grade player, Captain and Coach. Bill McCabe took over the position of Senior Coach. The Otters team, comprising Ken Wood, Bill McCabe, John Foster, John Collins, Jack Harrison, Marshall Dick and John Wootton were the winners of the H.A. Bennett Shield for the Intra Club Water polo Competition. Tony Harrison was again dominant in the Open Club Championships winning the 110 yds and 440 yds freestyle, 110 yds butterfly, 110 yds backstroke and the 440 yds medley.

**1964-1965 - Membership 201.** The Club entered a team in the Inter Club Pennant competition in "E" Grade, however, was forced to withdraw this team during the competition due to lack of swimmers. 3 teams were entered in the water polo competition with all teams making the finals. However, no premierships were obtained. It was apparent that a major recruiting drive was to eventuate to lift both the swimming and water polo sections of the club. In addition, intensive training programs were needed to enhance the skills and stamina of both the swimmers and water polo players - young and old. In water polo, the "A" Grade were beaten in the Grand Final by Richmond 3-4. "B" Grade were eliminated in the 1st semi final by Northcote 4-5, and "C" Grade were also eliminated in the 1st semi final by Richmond 2-3. "B" Grade were joint premiers with Sandringham in the Winter Competition. Tony Harrison (Vice Captain) and Tim Ive were selected in Victorian Senior Mens State Water Polo Team that remained undefeated in the National Championships Competition.

Ken Wood took out the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player in Mens "A" Grade,

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Andre Gati won Mens "B" Grade and Ron Wilson won the Mens "C" Grade Best Player award. Les Phillips was awarded Life membership of the V.A.W.P.A. for outstanding service to water polo. The H.A. Bennett Memorial Shield was again contested on Sunday mornings, with the Otters, comprising Bill McCabe, Tony Harrison, Doug Mew, Max Feldman, John Foster, John Wootton and Ian Hall, successful for the 2nd consecutive year. A very successful social season was staged, with many events organised gaining much support and making a profit for the club. Ken Wood won the 110 yds and 440 yds freestyle Club Championships with Tony Harrison winning the 110 yds Butterfly, 110 yds Backstroke and the 880 yds Freestyle Club Championships. Dennis Angland won the Open Aggregate swimming title, Robert "Bardy" Dale was equal 2nd with Allan Box and Hans Fickler 3rd.

**1965-1966 - Membership 193.** The serious training programs for the senior and junior swimmers and water polo players mentioned last year eventuated and paid immediate dividends with a swimming premiership and 2 water polo premierships. The Club entered a team in the Friday night Inter Club Pennant Competition in "J" Grade under the guidance of Vice Captain, John Wootton. The team remained undefeated for the entire competition and won the finals by 10 points from Ashburton 108 to 98, with Caulfield Grammar 3rd with 76 and Dandenong 4th with 25 points. The winning pennant team comprised: Juniors - J. Lawrence, M. Lawrence, Peter Carson, S. Trott, B. Showniruk, I. McLean, John Grant, Peter Grant, S. Crerar, P. Cox; and Seniors - Tony Harrison, Jack Harrison, Graham Steinfort, Robert Dale, Andre Gati, Hans Fickler, Ken Wood, Tim Ive, Dennis Angland and John Wootton (Captain). The Open and Under 12 relay teams remained undefeated for the entire competition. However, the club was now the only "salt water" club in Victoria and desperately needed a still water pool to train and compete in. In water polo, 3 teams were entered with "A" Grade defeated in the Grand Final 3-6 by Richmond. The "A" Grade team comprised Bill McCabe (Capt/Coach), John Wilson (Vice Capt), Tim Ive, Ken Wood, Tony Harrison, Jack Harrison, Hans Fickler, Graham Stalker and Ian Ward. "B" Grade were premiers in both the Winter and Summer Competitions, defeating Footscray 5-3 in the Grand Final of the Summer Competition. This team comprised Graham Steinfort (Capt/Coach), Dennis Angland, Doug Mew, Ian Hall, Marshall Dick, Andre Gati, Ron Wootton, Robert Dale, Brian Capp and Geoff Hosie. The "C" Grade ran out premiers in the Summer competition defeating Essendon 5-4. This team comprised Michael Myers, Graham Bennett (Capt/Coach), Ron Wilson, Max Feldman, John Wootton, Kim Luff, Ian McCandlish, Robert McQuade, Allan Box and Ron Bead. George Daniel, representing Old Wesley Collegians, was voted the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player in Mens "C" Grade. Tony Harrison and Tim Ive were selected to represent Victoria at the National Water Polo Championships, who remained undefeated for the Championships. Ken Wood won the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player in Mens "A" Grade for the 2nd successive year, Ian Hall won Mens "B" Grade and Graham Bennett won Mens "C" Grade. Tony Harrison was successful in winning the 110 yds freestyle, 440 yds freestyle, 880 yds freestyle, 110 yds butterfly and 440 medley Club Championships. Peter Carson won every under 12 and under 14 club championship event, numbering 10 in total.

**1966-1967 - Membership 185.** In the Inter Club Pennant Competition, the club was promoted 2 grades and competed in "H" Grade, only to be beaten in the finals by the very strong North Balwyn team. The future for Club swimming did not look promising with no new members coming to the Club. In water polo however, 3 teams were again entered with 2 premierships and a Runners Up. The Club returned to its true position of the "Premier Club of Victorian Water Polo" and took out the premierships in "A" Grade and "B" Grade in the Summer Competition and were Runners Up in "C" Grade. "A" Grade defeated Richmond 8-6 and

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comprised John Wilson (Captain), Tim Ive, Tony Harrison, Graham Stalker, Ian Ward, Dennis Angland, Robert Dale, Ron Beed with Bill McCabe coach. "B" Grade defeated Kew 5-4 and comprised Bill McCabe (Capt/Coach), Graham Steinfort, Doug Mew, Ian Hall, Marshall Dick, Andre Gati, Hans Fickler, K. Luff and Ian McCandlish. The "C" Grade team were defeated in the Grand Final 6-7 by Power House. "B" Grade were again premiers in the Winter Competition. Tony Harrison, Dennis Angland and Tim Ive were selected in the Victorian Senior Mens Team that won the Australian Championships with Tony Harrison gaining selection in the Australian Water Polo team touring Europe; the Club's first "International" since 1956. He was the recipient of the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player award for Mens "A" Grade and also won the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Club Best Player in Mens "A" Grade; an outstanding season. Ian Hall won the "B" Grade Best Player and Graeme Bennett won the "C" Grade Best Player. Robert Dale was successful in winning the 220 yds freestyle, 440 yds freestyle and 220 yds breaststroke Club Championships with Dennis Angland winning the 110 yds championship. Club member Mr A.W. "Sprint" Walker was awarded an O.B.E. in the New Years Honours List for his services to Surf Life Saving. Helen Wilson, John's wife, took on the role of Social Convenor of the Club, a position she was to hold until 1980. Many "social gatherings" were organised over the years and lots of money was raised, however, the most "infamous" functions were the parties held at "Willows" after every Grand Final. This tradition was to last to the late 1980's with many parties going all night and most of the next day.

**1967-1968 - Membership 183.** The Pennant swimming team struggled in "F" Grade and although made the finals, could only register a token performance. It was alarming to record very few junior members and for the first time, a major decline in swimming events conducted by the Club. So much so, that the situation was reached where the Club Championships and Club Aggregate events were forced to be cancelled due to insufficient competitors. However, the water polo section again dominated the successes of the Club with 3 teams entered resulting in 1 Premiership, 1 Runners Up and 1 third. "B" Grade were premiers again in the Winter and Summer Competitions for the third successive time in each competition and defeating Richmond 5-4 in the Summer Competition. This team comprised Ian Hall (Capt/Coach), Graham Steinfort, Doug Mew, Marshall Dick, Andre Gati, Hans Fickler, Kim Luff and Ian McCandlish. The "A" Grade were easily defeated in the Grand Final by Richmond 3-11 and "C" Grade were eliminated in the Preliminary Final by Pascoe Vale 4-7. Ian Hall was awarded the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player in Mens "B" Grade. Tony Harrison, Dennis Angland and Graham Stalker were selected in the Victorian Senior Mens State Team that again were victorious and remained Australian Champions. Tony Harrison was selected in the Australian Olympic Team to play in Mexico, however, was unfortunate to have the team forced to withdraw. Tony Harrison took out the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player in Mens "A" Grade for the 2nd successive year, Ian Hall won Mens "B" Grade for the 3rd successive year and John Wootton was awarded the Best Player in Mens C Grade.

In the 1967/68 Annual Report, the President A.V. Jennings, posed 3 questions to the members:-

- Competitively, is the Club to become a water polo club only?; or
- Is the Club to devaluate into purely and simply a Social Club?; or
- Are we going to endeavour to take up again the true role of a Swimming Club and participate in as much swimming activity as is possible?

The answers to these questions layed with the membership, however, it was pushed to vote affirmative to the last question. Nevertheless, with the lack of junior members and active senior

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members and the imminent retirement of a number of senior water polo players with no junior players to take their places, the future did not look bright.

**1968-1969 - Membership 209.** This year saw the 75th year of the Club. An improvement was made on last year with the holding of the Club Championships (said to be the most successful for many years) and an increase of membership, particularly juniors. However, no pennant swimming team was entered this year and another problem emerged - this time outside the water with an obvious lack of keen middle level administrators. A plea was made for all members to aid the club in recruiting junior members. Bill Atkinson was appointed official club swimming coach and this proved to be very successful. In water polo, 4 teams were entered with all teams playing in Grand Finals. However, "C" Grade was the only team that could take out the premiership in the Summer Competition. After 5 periods of extra time, they defeated Footscray. This team comprised Marshall Dick, Ed. J. Wilde, Ron Wilson, Mick Hubery, D. Stockton, Geoff Hosie, Ian McCandlish, V. McCandlish, M. Mann, Graham Bennett and G. Edwards. The "A" Grade team were defeated in the Grand Final 4-6 by Richmond, and this team comprised John Wilson (Capt/Coach), Tony Harrison, Dennis Angland, Ken Wood, Robert Dale, Ian Hall, Graham Stalker, Ron Beed and Hans Fickler. The "B" Grade team were also defeated in the Grand Final by Richmond and comprised Jack Harrison (Capt/Coach), Ron Wootton, John Wootton, Tim Ive, Bruce Morgan, Kim Luff, Andre Gati and Doug Mew. Graham Stalker, Dennis Angland and Tony Harrison (Vice Captain) were selected in the Victorian Senior Mens State Water Polo Team. Graham Stalker won the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player in "A" Grade, Tim Ive won the Best Player in "B" Grade, Mick Hubery won the Best Player in "C" Grade and Doug Jennings was awarded the Best Player in "D" Grade. A complete side of junior water polo players was gained through the efforts of John Wootton. The team was entered in "D" Grade with 90% of this team playing their first season of water polo. This is remarkable considering the team made it to the Grand Final, however were defeated by Footscray. This team comprised:- Doug Jennings, R. Donnis, R. Arthur, Dale Emerson, Scott Emerson, B. Morrison, Marshall Oppy, J. Salkeld, D. Dodd, J. Dickson and Robert McQuade. The President of the Club, Sir A.V. Jennings K.B.E., was knighted during the year.

**1969-1970 - Membership 185.** Although membership declined, the Club showed improvement in all aspects compared to the pessimistic note which the club finished 2 years ago. The Club administration improved, there was an obvious influx of junior players in the water polo teams and the swimmers put in a good performance finishing Runners Up in the Inter Club Pennant Competition. The Club Swimming Championships were held at the Richmond Pool and the attendance and race entries was the highest for some years. For the first time in many years, the Club had a representative in a final of the Victorian Championships. Greville Hay competed in the final of the Open 100 metres Breaststroke and put in a fine performance. Jim Milne also put in a very fine performance in the Junior 100m Breaststroke. Kelvin Carmody, under the strict coaching of ex diving champion Dave Norris, was successful in winning the Victorian Championship and went on to be 4th at the Australian Championships. Winter gym preparation was introduced by Coach Bill Atkinson for the Club swimming squad. However, on a sour note, there was a drop off in attendances on Sunday mornings at the Club rooms for club swimming events and water polo matches.

In Water polo, 4 teams were entered with 3 teams playing in the finals. This was a good result as the Club had started to re-build and coach young players for future teams. "A" Grade, coached for the first time by Ron Wootton, were defeated in the Grand Final by arch-rivals Richmond 5-8, "B" Grade, coached by Jack Harrison, were also defeated in the Grand Final by

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Richmond 6-8 after playing extra time, "C" Grade, coached by Mick Hubery, finished 5th and "D" Grade, coached by John Wootton were eliminated in the 1st Semi Final 0-4 by Nunawading. The "A" Grade team were however premiers in the Winter Competition with "B" Grade finishing 3rd. Dennis Angland, Graham Stalker, Robert Dale and Tony Harrison were selected in the Victorian Senior Mens State Team. Brian Dennis, Marshall Oppy, Scott Emerson and I. Mumme were selected in the Victorian Schoolboy team and John Wilson was promoted to an Australian water polo referee, a position he was to hold until 1993.

Dennis Angland was voted the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy winner for the Best Player in "A" Grade, Ian Hall won the Best Player in "B" Grade for the 4th time, Mick Hubery won the Best Player Trophy in "C" Grade for the 2nd successive year and Marshall Oppy was awarded the Best Player in "D" Grade. This was to be the last year that Club Best Player Trophies for water polo were awarded until 1982. Graham Stalker was appointed Club Captain and Scott Emerson was successful in winning the Under 16 100m backstroke Club Championship. In an effort to promote water polo within other clubs, the following club members coached other teams for the season: Tim Ive - University; Ian Hall - Brunswick; John Wilson - Colts; John Wootton - Trinity Grammar School and V.A.W.P.A. Schoolboy team; Robert Dale - Torquay and Graham Stalker - Haileybury College.

**1970-1971 - Membership 120.** Absolute devastation was felt by all members late in 1970. South Pacific (Formerly St. Kilda Baths) was sold to another company and despite our history and long tenure, we were thrown out of our headquarters and club rooms as the new owners had new plans for the establishment. Club trophies, photos, memorabilia and other Club property was piled up in a heap at the front entrance to South Pacific. Much unrepairable damage was caused to vast amounts of property, and what was salvaged was transported to various member's homes. The Club now had no official headquarters, and John Wilson's home address at 1 Tide St. Elwood became the new "registered" headquarters of the Melbourne Swimming Club. Training now had to be utilised by members at the City Baths, the Olympic Pool or the Richmond Baths.

Melbourne were successful in obtaining the Premiership in "H" Grade in the Inter Club Pennant Swimming Competition, however, there were no entries from the Club in the Victorian Swimming Championships. In water polo, 2 teams were entered in the Winter Competition with 4 teams entered in the Summer Competition. Both the "A" Grade and "B" Grade teams in the Winter Competition finished 6th. In the Summer Competition, the "A" Grade team were defeated in the Grand Final by Richmond 3-4. In "B" Grade, 2 teams were entered with both playing in the finals. The Melbourne BI team were defeated in the 1st semi final by University 3-5 and the Melbourne B2 team were defeated in the Preliminary Final also by University 2-3. The "D" Grade team finished 6th on the ladder. Rodney Woods joined the Club as a promising Schoolboy goal keeper who excelled representing Wesley College. Tony Harrison, Graham Stalker and Dennis Angland were selected in the Victorian Senior Mens State Team.

## THE END OF A SWIMMING ERA

**1971-1972 - Membership 56.** This season saw no record of a swimming team being entered in the V.A.S.A. Spring Pennant Competition and still no entries in the Victorian Swimming Championships. In the Winter Water Polo Competition, 2 teams were entered with the "A"

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Grade finishing 6th with 1 win from 7 games and the "B" Grade finishing 7th with 2 wins and a draw out of 7 games. In the Summer Competition, the "A" Grade team were again defeated by the Richmond Club, 4-7 in the Grand Final and the "B" Grade team finished 5th. The Moomba Cup was conducted with the "A" Grade team finishing 6th and the "B" Grade team finished 8th. Ron Wootton was selected as the Australian Olympic Water Polo team coach to compete in Munich. Graham Stalker, Tony Harrison and Dennis Angland were selected in the Victorian Senior Mens State Team, which won the Australian Championships. Rod Woods (Capt.), Scott Emerson and Ron Grey gained selection in the Junior Mens Colts Team.

**1972-1973 - Membership 32.** Membership was declining rapidly and only water polo players remained with the Club and even water polo was losing popularity. No teams were entered in the V.A.S.A. Pennant Competition. It was becoming evident that the only way to keep the Club surviving was through water polo. No teams were entered in the Winter water polo Competition and only 2 teams were entered in the Summer Competition. The "A" Grade team finished on top of the ladder after the home and away matches with nil defeats, but were defeated in the Grand Final by Richmond 3-7. The "B" Grade team were also defeated in the Grand Final by Richmond 3-4. Wesley Collegians, consisting of 43 members, entered 2 water polo teams finishing 3rd in "B" Grade and 7th in "C" Grade in the Winter Competition and finishing 5th in "B" Grade, 8th in "D" Grade and were defeated in the 1st Semi Final by Essendon 3-5 in "E" Grade in the Summer Competition. Melbourne "A" Grade water polo team was successful in winning the Moomba Cup defeating Footscray 11-8. In "B" Grade, Melbourne finished 5th and Wesley were defeated by Power House 4-10 for 3rd position. Dennis Angland and Tony Harrison were selected in Victorian Senior Mens Team with Tony appointed Vice Captain. Ron Wootton (Coach) and Tony Harrison were selected in Australian Water Polo team.

**1973-1974 - Membership 31 and Wesley 35.** Still no swimming teams entered in the Pennant Competition. In the Winter water polo Competition, 2 teams were entered with the "A" Grade team finishing 7th with 1 win from 7 matches and the "B" Grade team finishing 3rd with 3 wins from 7 matches. Wesley Collegians entered a team in "C" Grade finishing 2nd with 5 wins from 7 matches and in "E" Grade finished 5th with 3 wins from 7 matches. In the Summer Competition, the Melbourne "A" Grade team were eliminated in the Preliminary Final by Richmond 4-10 and "B" Grade were defeated in the Grand Final by Richmond 3-4. Wesley Collegians were defeated in the 1st Semi Final of "B" Grade by Power House 3-5 and finished 9th in "C" Grade. Ace water polo player Robert Edwards joined the Melbourne Swimming Club after transferring from Cheltenham, but still played with Cheltenham 2nd claim and leading that team to a premiership in "B" Grade. He was selected in the Junior Mens State Team together with Michael McNeill and Brett Crittenden. Rodney Woods and Tony Harrison were selected in the Victorian Senior Mens State Team, with Tony being appointed Vice Captain. Club President Sir A.V. Jennings had not been involved in the Club in any way or form for some years and his presidency was replaced with John Wilson, the 6th President of the Club.

**1974-1975 - Membership 31 and Wesley 35.** Rodney Woods, Buddy Portier, Robert Dale and Robert Edwards was selected in the Victorian Senior Mens team. Robert's selection was the first of what was to be 13 occasions. Mens "A" Grade, the only team entered, were premiers in the Winter Competition finishing on top of the ladder equal with Richmond on 6 wins each, but with a greater percentage +15 to +9. Wesley entered a team in Mens "B" Grade and finished 2nd and Mens "D" Grade finishing 4th. In the Summer Competition, the "A" Grade team were eliminated in preliminary final by University 2 goals to 3. In Mens "B" Grade, Wesley Collegians were premiers over Richmond 5 goals to 1 with Melbourne finishing 3rd.

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Melbourne's "C" Grade were eliminated in the minor final by Wedge, 8 goals to 3. In "D" Grade, Wesley Collegians finished 8th on the ladder with 1 win for the season. Tony Harrison and Ron Wootton (Coach) selected in Australian Water Polo team. Richard Stubbs and Michael McNeill were selected in the Victorian Junior Mens Team. Richard went on to be infamous for his disk jockey and late night TV Show compare achievements.

**1975-1976 - Membership 32 and Wesley 31\*.** It was becoming an accepted fact that the Melbourne Swimming Club was now solely a water polo club. Mens "A" Grade took off "the double" recapturing the premiership that has eluded them for 9 years in the Summer Competition defeating Richmond 8-7 and also winning the Winter Competition premiership. The summer competition team comprised Ron Wootton (Coach), Rod Woods, Robert Edwards, Tony Harrison, Graham Stalker, Robert Dale, Ken Wood, Robert "Scrooge" Taylor, Michael Leonard, Scott Emerson and Brett Crittenden. However, Mens "B" Grade were defeated in the Grand Final by Richmond 4 goals to 5. Wesley also entered a team in the "A" Grade Winter Competition finishing 7th with 2 wins and were defeated in the Grand Final of Mens "D" Grade by Essendon 4-1. Our Junior Men (U/14) were also premiers. Rodney Woods, Robert Edwards, Mick Leonard and Tony Harrison were selected in the Senior Mens State Team with Rodney selected in the Australian Olympic Water Polo team as the goal keeper to compete at Montreal, Canada.

## THE AMALGAMATION

**1976-1977 - Membership 64\* .** In the Winter Competition, Wesley Collegians and Melbourne both entered one team in Mens "A" Grade with Wesley finishing 6th and Melbourne finishing 7th. Wesley also entered a team in Mens "D" Grade finishing 7th. The notable occurrence of this year was after the conclusion of the Winter Competition, discussions occurred to consider the amalgamation of the nearly defunct Melbourne Swimming Club and the Wesley Collegians Water Polo Club to form the Melbourne Collegians Water Polo Club. People that were the main instigators of this memorable amalgamation were George Daniel from Old Wesley Collegians and Tony Harrison of Melbourne. Wesley had very young teams and had a feeder of young players through the Wesley School, however, lacked the experience of older players to be successful in "A" Grade and pass on the necessary skills and knowledge to the younger players. Melbourne had the older experienced players, however, had difficulty recruiting younger players. It was obvious that both Clubs needed each other to survive and the new Club would be solely a water polo club, letting the swimming section lapse. It was agreed to have the amalgamation on a trial basis for 2 years, but it was obvious that the merger would be successful. In a way, the amalgamation of the 2 Clubs was most fitting as many Melbourne Swimming Club members were once Wesley students, in particular Sir Frank Beaurepaire and all the Bennett family.

It was decided to take on the history of both clubs with John Wilson remaining the 6th President of the Club and Ken Wood taking up the position of Vice President, positions both still hold today. Tony Harrison took on the role of both Secretary and Treasurer and was also elected Captain of the Club. Vice Captain was Rod Woods and Ron Wootton was appointed Senior Coach. This season saw the newly formed Melbourne Collegians Water Polo Club entering 4 teams in the Summer Competition. However, nil premierships were obtained for the season.



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Tony Harrison, Robert Edwards, Buddy Portier and Rodney Woods were selected to represent Victoria at the Australian Championships with Rod Woods and Robert Edwards going on to selection in the Australian Water Polo team. This was the last year Tony Harrison represented Victoria, after 15 occasions of being selected. Victorian Water Polo introduced a new Grading System with 2 Divisions. Division 1 consisted of the 2 top Grades and were called State League 1 and State League Reserves; Division 2 consisted of all other Grades.

Controversy surrounded the club during the Summer Competition club finals series when the State League team, favoured to be premiers, boycotted the preliminary final against Footscray. The circumstances involved the earlier reporting of Robert Edwards for alleged striking against a Melbourne University player in a scratch match the week before the finals were due to commence. The tribunal hearing was heard in Robert's absence, who was in Tasmania competing in the Australian Water Polo Championships, and he received a six week suspension for his first offence. A re-hearing was denied when Robert was back in town and the team voted to voice their disapproval by boycotting the preliminary final against Footscray. The Footscray team was actually in the water lined up ready to start when Coach Tony Harrison arrived at the pool with numerous copies of a 10 page document to hand out to the crowd explaining our reasons for boycotting the game. The Mens State League Reserves team were eliminated in the Preliminary Final by MHSOB 3 goals to 6. The Mens "B" Grade team finished 5th and the Mens "C" Grade team finished 6th. Ken Wood was awarded Life Membership for his services to the Club.

**1977-1978 - Membership 61.** In the Winter Competition, a team was entered in Mens State League who finished 7th and Mens State League Reserves who finished 4th. In the Summer Competition, Mens State League suffered only 2 defeats for the competition and were Premiers defeating Footscray 6 goals to 4. This team comprised Rod Woods, Robert Edwards, Tony Harrison, Graham Stalker, Ken Wood, Scott Emerson, Brett Crittenden, Andrew Wilson, Buddy Portier, Mick Leonard and Richard Bohnsack with John Wootton Coach of this team. State League Reserves were eliminated in the Preliminary Final by Richmond 4 goals to 3 and "B" Grade finished 5th missing out on the finals on percentage. A team was also entered in Mens "E" Grade, however, failed to win a match for the season. The Junior U/16 team were eliminated in the Preliminary Final by Richmond 5 goals to 4. Rodney Woods, Robert Edwards and Buddy Portier were selected in the Victorian Senior Mens Team, with Rodney appointed Vice Captain. Robert Edwards was selected in Australian Water Polo team. Andrew Wilson, son of President John Wilson, was selected in the Victorian Junior Mens State Team. Ian Scotson was also a member of the Junior Team.

**1978-1979 - Membership 62.** 7 teams were entered for the year with the Club successful in obtaining 4 Premierships. In the Winter Competition, a team was entered in State League who failed to win a match and State League Reserves finishing 6th. However, the Summer Competition told a different story with the State League team winning the Premiership defeating Richmond 6 goals to 5. Members of this team comprised Rod Woods, Robert Edwards, Tony Harrison, Graham Stalker, Ken Wood, Scott Emerson, Brett Crittenden, Andrew Wilson, Buddy Portier, Jim Milne, Ric Bohnsack and Ian Scotson. The State League Reserves team also were Premiers defeating Richmond 4 goals to 3. Both teams each played 20 matches for the competition and suffered only 2 losses. The Mens B Grade finished on top of the ladder undefeated, however, were defeated in the Grand Final 2 goals to 3. The Mens "F" Grade finished on top of the ladder suffering only 1 defeat and ran out Premiers defeating Newport 9 goals to nil. To top off a great season, the Junior U/16 team suffered only 1 loss for the season

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and were also Premiers defeating Sun/Ray 4 goals to 3. Robert Edwards (Vice Captain), Rodney Woods and Buddy Portier were selected in Victorian Senior Mens Team with Robert Edwards and Rodney Woods selected in Australian Water Polo team. Andrew Wilson was selected in the Victorian Junior Mens State Team and gained selection in the Australian Junior (U/17) Water Polo team and was also voted the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player in Mens State League 2.

**1979-1980 - Membership 78.** The Club entered 3 teams in the Winter Competition with State League finishing 8th with 1 win, State League Reserves also finishing 8th with 1 win and Mens "B" Grade finishing 7th with 1 win also. In the Summer Competition, the Grading system reverted to "A" Grade, "B" Grade etc. disposing of the Division 1 State League format. 5 teams were entered with the "A" Grade team, after beating Richmond in the Major Final by 1 goal, being defeated in the Grand Final by Richmond 4 goals to 5. Mens "B" Grade retained their Premiership from last year and easily accounted for Richmond defeating them 5 goals to nil. The "C" Grade team finished the competition on top of the ladder suffering only 1 loss, however, were defeated in the Grand Final by Power House 5 goals to nil. The "E" Grade were also defeated in the Grand Final by Sunshine 5 goals to nil. The Junior U/16 team were again Premiers defeating Cheltenham 11 goals to 1. Robert Edwards (Vice Captain), Buddy Portier and Rodney Woods were selected in the Victorian Senior Mens Team. Perry Gaylard was awarded the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player in Mens "E" Grade.

**1980-1981 - Membership 65.** The V.A.W.P.A. reverted back to the Division 1/Division 2 format of Grading for the competitions. In the Summer Competition, the Club was successful in obtaining the Mens Division 1/"A" Grade Premiership defeating MHSOB 6-3. Team members included Scott Emerson, Rodney Woods, Brett Crittenden, Andrew Wilson, Robert Edwards, Tony Harrison, Jim Milne, Lance Johnson, Buddy Portier, Graham Stalker, Ken Wood and John Wootton (coach). The Division 1/"B" Grade team were eliminated in the Preliminary Final by M.H.S.O.B. 2-4 and the Division 2/"A" Grade team finished 6th registering only 1 win for the competition. In the Under 16 Competition, our team were defeated in the 1st Semi Final by Nunawading 2-4. In the Winter Competition, the Division 1/"A" Grade team were defeated in the Grand Final 9-10 by Reservoir and the Division 1/"B" finished 6th. Club Captain, Robert Edwards won the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player award for Division 1/"A" and together with Rodney Woods, Buddy Portier and Andrew Wilson, were selected in the Victorian team. This year was Robert Edwards' 1st of 6 years as Captain of the Victorian Team. Club coach John Wootton was appointed State Team Coach. Andrew Wilson and Roger Brown were selected in the Victorian Junior State team with Club Secretary Allan Phillips appointed as Manager of this team. The Annual Dinner was held at Harry Quittner's home in Brighton. Ken Wood retired from First Division water polo. The first "official" Annual Report for the Melbourne Collegians Water Polo Club was produced this season with income and expenditure for the financial year totalling \$1,563.00 with a profit of \$753.00. Our Division 1/"A" team competed in the Australian Club Championships in Canberra.

**1981-1982 - Membership 66.** The grading system for all Grades was to remain split into 2 divisions, however, Division 1 was to consist of a State League and State League Reserves Grade. In the Winter Competition, 3 teams were entered with the State League team finishing 6th failing to record a win. The State League Reserves were successful in obtaining the premiership, the first of what was to be six premierships in a row beating Nunawading 11 goals to 6. The Division 2 "A" Grade team were defeated in the Grand Final by University 7 goals to 9. In the Summer Competition, the State League mens team were again premiers, defeating

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Footscray 7-6 in a hard fought out match. The winning team comprised Tony Gray, Robert Edwards (Captain), Greg Morris, Mark Ekelmans, Brett Crittenden, Scott Emerson, Ken Wood (Back from retirement by special invitation), Rodney Woods, Jim Milne, Andrew Fenech, Andrew Wilson, Buddy Portier, John Wootton (Coach) and Allan Phillips (Manager). Tony Harrison was unfortunate to miss the finals due to injury. The State League Reserves team were eliminated in the Minor Final by MHSOB 5 goals to nil. The "A" Grade team finished 7th and the "C" Grade team also finished 7th. Robert Edwards had a very successful season winning the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Club Best and Fairest award for State League and being re-appointed as Captain of the Victorian State Team. Andrew Wilson was selected in the Victorian Under 21 State Team and Jeremy Quittner and Shaun Stewart selected in the Victorian Under 18 State Team. 1979 Australian Junior team representative, Andrew Fenech, transferred to the Club from Greensborough and also gained selection in the Victorian Junior (U/21) team. Roger Brown was awarded the Most Improved Player award. The U/16 team, coached by Graham Stalker, finished Runners Up to Richmond 9 goals to 2, after a very successful competition. During the season, Lance Johnson moved residence to Brisbane and transferred to the Tugun Club. Income for the year was \$2689.31 with a profit of \$48.51.

**1982-1983 - Membership 54.** In the Winter Competition, the State League team finished 6th without a win and the State League Reserves were Premiers defeating University 5 goals to nil. In the Summer Competition, Mens "C" Grade remained undefeated in the water and ran out premiers defeating Powerhouse 5 goals to 4. This team comprised Ian McInnes, Dennis Angland, Mal Hunter, Julian Murphy-Carr, John Wilson, Bill Ness, Ian Coleman, Charles Kovess, Elliott Reid and Mike Defina. This team was coached by Andrew Fenech and Russell Fletcher. Our State League mens team were defeated by 1 goal at the hands of Footscray in the Summer Competition Grand Final, our sixth successive appearance. The State League Reserves team were eliminated in the Preliminary Final by Richmond 3 goals to 7. The Junior U/16 team were eliminated in the minor final by MHSOB 8 goals to 1. The Club was successful in winning the Queen's Birthday Water Polo Carnival in Sale. Robert Edwards was again the Club Best Player in State League and continued his selection as Captain of Victorian State Team. Andrew Fenech and Andrew Wilson were also selected in the Victorian Senior Mens Team. The Victorian Junior Mens team included Ian McInnes, Shaun Stewart and Stewart Hansford with Mike Defina Manager. Ian McInnes was selected in the Australian U/18 team touring Europe and Andrew Wilson represented Australia in the World Student Games in Canada. The U/16 team were eliminated in the Preliminary Final by Melbourne High School and Tim Luke was the recipient of the U/16 Best Player award. Jim Milne was awarded the Best Player in State League Reserves and Mike Defina was the Best Player in Mens "C" Grade. Mike was also the recipient of the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player award in Mens "C" Grade. Ric Bohnsack took on the position of Secretary after Allan Phillips standing down and taking on the position of Recruiting Manager. Andrew Wilson was appointed Vice Captain of the Club. The Annual Presentation Night was held at the exclusive Kelvin Club, in the heart of the City. Income for the year was \$2150.45 with a profit of \$33.30. The accumulated surplus for the Club was \$1145.36.

**1983-1984 - Membership 101.** History was created within the Club with the formation and introduction of a Womens Water Polo Team. A team was entered in Womens "C" Grade in the State Championship Competition and they finished 8th. The team consisted of Mandy Wilson, Kim Laufer, Wendy Miners, Susan Wood, Leanne Laufer, Belinda Morris, Sue Neal, Kim Wright-Smith, Leanne Le Bash, Joanne Young, Elana McNeil and Linda Mew. Roger Brown

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and Andrew Wilson were the joint coaches and Kim Laufer was the recipient of the first Best Player award.

Once again, the V.A.W.P.A. changed the grading system introducing a State League 1, State League 2 and State League 3 in Division 1 and all other Grades in Division 2. The Club was successful in obtaining the following premierships: Winter Comp:- Mens State League 2 defeating Richmond 3-2; Summer Comp:- Mens State League 2 defeating Nunawading 9-6, Mens State League 3 defeating Greensborough 6-1, and Mens "B" defeating MHSOB 7-4. The State League 2 team comprised Frank Christian, Mark Ekelmans, Peter Hutchinson, David Ness, Russell Fletcher, Tony Gray, Ian McInnes, Shaun Stewart, Ric Bohnsack, Richard Satora, Ken Wood, Jeremy Quittner and Allan Phillips (Manager). The State League 3 team comprised Ross Taylor, Mark Cook, Andrew Kinsman, Elliot Reid, Mike Defina, Uldes Meiers, Dennis McGee, Peter Chenowith, Julian Murphy-Carr, Chris Geake, Mal Hunter, Jim Milne and Peter Hazelwood and suffered only 1 loss for the season. Mens "B" Grade included Tony Botic, Jack Harrison, John Wilson, Dennis Angland, Chris Cormack, David Preece, Roger Hill, B. Cormack, Milos Batinic, Pewter Middleton, Ian Scotson and Michael McNeill. 2 teams were entered in the U/16 Competition, with 1 team making the finals.

Andrew Wilson won the V.A.W.P.A. and the Club's Best Player for Mens State League 1. Frank Christian won the Best Player in State League 2, Mark Cook won State League 3, Ian Scotson won Mens B Grade, Stuart Colquhoun won Boys U/16A and Jake Hooker won Boys U/16B. Robert Edwards and Tony Gray were selected to represent Victoria with Robert reappointed Captain. Jeremy Quittner, Shaun Stewart and Mike Defina (Manager) were selected in the Victorian Junior (U/18) Mens team. 1978 Australian Junior representative and State representative on 5 occasions, Graeme Sweeney, transferred to the Club from Greensborough. Warren Green also transferred to the Club from Melbourne High School Old Boys. Jim Milne took on the job of Club Treasurer after Jack Harrison stood down. Vice President Mike Defina transferred to Sydney due to work commitments. The Presentation Night was conducted at the Stoke House in St. Kilda and income for the year was \$4,492.81 with a profit of \$840.60 bringing a total accumulated surplus to \$1985.96.

Tragedy struck the club on 25th July, 1983 when Tony "Harro" Harrison was tragically killed in a car accident. Harro was one of the original members of the Melbourne Collegians Water Polo Club and was heavily involved in its formation. He was a champion player representing Victoria on 15 occasions and also Australia on several occasions. He played 529 games for the Melbourne Swimming Club and Melbourne Collegians Water Polo Club. He was the Club swimming champion on many occasions and was the recipient of the VAWPA Best Player in "A" Grade in 1966-67. This award was later named in his memory. Melbourne Collegians instituted a Most Determined Player award in memory of "Harro" and is awarded to the most appropriate player who displays the pure guts and determination in the Tony Harrison style.

**1984-1985 - Membership 81.** The Mens State League 1 team were premiers narrowly defeating the Footscray Club 5-4 in the Summer Competition with Frank Meilke transferring to our Club from MHSOB for the season. Other members included Roger Brown, Andrew Wilson, Mark Ekelmans, Warren Green, Graeme Sweeney, Buddy Portier, Rodney Woods, Andrew Fenech, Robert Edwards (Captain), Frank Christian, Scott Emerson, Ian McInnes and John Wootton (Coach). Mens State League 2 were also premiers both in the Summer and Winter competitions defeating Richmond 8-2 and Footscray 6-5 respectively. They remained undefeated in both competitions. Mens "B" Grade were also victorious in the Winter Competition with a 4-3

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victory over M.H.S.O.B., suffering only 1 loss for the season. The Womens team made the finals in Womens "D" Grade in the State Championship Competition, but were eliminated in the Preliminary Final by Richmond, 5 goals to nil. The Junior U/18 team played off in the Grand Final and were defeated by Richmond 8-2.

Robert Edwards (Captain), Roger Brown and Tony Gray were selected in the Victorian Senior Mens team that won the Australian Championships and Shaun Stewart and David Orchard was selected in the Victorian Junior (U/18) Mens team. Robert and Shaun were selected as Captain of their respective state teams with Shaun Stewart selected in the Australian Junior (U/18) Water Polo team. Graeme Sweeney was the winner of the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player in Mens State League 1. Shaun Stewart won State League 2 Best Player, Dennis McGee won Mens "A" Grade, Milos Batinic won Mens "B" Grade, Wayne Bates won the U/18 Best Player, Kerry Rogerson won the Womens "D" Grade Best Player and Ian McInnes won the Tony Harrison Memorial Most Determined Player Award. Shaun Stewart was awarded the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player for Junior Men. The Club had the predicament of having 3 top level goal keepers; namely Rod Woods, Ian McInnes and Tony Gray. It was agreed to allow Tony to play "on loan" with the University Club for the season to enable him to play full time in goals. This payed off for Tony as he was selected in the State Team as No 1 goal keeper. Andrew Fenech, Warren Green and Andrew Wilson were selected in the Australian University Team and Rodney Woods announced his retirement from senior level water polo. Ian McInnes was awarded a scholarship at the A.I.S. in Canberra and Russell Fletcher, Chris Geake and Kim Laufer were elected to the General Committee of the Club. The Presentation Night was again held at the exclusive Kelvin Club and income for the year was \$3991.13 with a profit of \$1032.77.

**1985-1986 - Membership 85.** The season was successful with all 5 teams in the Summer Competition playing off in the finals. With John Wootton stepping down as coach of the State League 1 team after a very triumphant career, he was awarded Life Membership for his untiring and outstanding work and achievements for the Club. Some of John's achievements are as follows:

- Club Captain 1966,67;
- Club Vice Captain 1964,65,68,69;
- Best and Fairest E Grade Player 1959;
- Best and Fairest C Grade Player 1968;
- Melbourne Collegians Senior Coach 1978,79,80,81,82,83,84,85;
- Grand Final team coach 1978,79,80,81,82,83,84,85;
- Premiership Coach 1978,79,81,82;
- Victorian State Team Coach 1978,79,80,81;
- Coached in excess of 200 Melbourne Collegians State League 1 games suffering no more than 20 losses.

Rodney Woods was appointed the new coach and attained instant success with the State League 1 team when they were premiers in the Short Course Competition (formerly Winter Competition) suffering only 1 defeat and beating MHSOB 8-6 in the Grand Final. The team comprised Robert Edwards, Andrew Wilson, Roger Brown, Frank Christian, Paul Edebone, Mark Ekelmans, Andrew Fenech, Tony Gray, Warren Green, Buddy Portier, Shaun Stewart and Graham Sweeney. However, the Summer competition told a different story. Neil Gynther transferred to the Club from Tugan, QLD, and after the team went through the competition

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undefeated, they were defeated in the Grand Final by the Richmond Club 11-13 who had recruited 2 Australian and 1 American National players. The game went the full time and saw a draw, and it took 6 periods of extra time and 4 Melbourne players fouled out for the match before Richmond gained ascendancy. The game lasted nearly 2 hours and was one of the best polo games ever witnessed in Victoria. Mens State League 2 continued its dominance by winning yet again premierships in both the Winter and Summer competitions beating Richmond on both occasions 8-7 and 6-1. The Winter Competition team comprised Russell Fletcher (Captain), Brett Crittenden (Vice Captain), Ric Bohnsack, Jason Daniel, Paul Edebone, Jim Milne, David Orchard, Mark Read, James Winder and Rod Woods. The Summer Competition premiership team included Russell Fletcher (Captain), Brett Crittenden (Vice Captain), Stuart Colquhoun, Paul Edebone, Mark Ekelmans, Scott Emerson, Andrew Fenech, Tony Gray, David Orchard, Mark Read, G. Thomas, Jeremy Quittner and Allan Phillips (Manager).

The Womens Team continued to improve and was rewarded with not one, but two premierships for the season. In the Winter Competition, the Womens "C" Grade were victorious defeating La Trobe 6 goals to 5. In the State Championship, they again were victorious in Womens C Grade defeating Geelong 4 goals to 2. The first Melbourne Collegians Womens Premiership team contained Mandy Wilson (Captain), Belinda Morris, Wendy Creed, Leanne Hodge, Jeanie LaBash, Elana McNeil, Kerrie Rogerson, Susan Wood, Joanne Young and was coached by Frank Christian. The Summer Competition premiership team contained Kerrie Rogerson, Caroline Hody, Belinda Morris, Elana McNeill, Susan Wood, Joanne Young, Linda Mew, Mandy Wilson, Michelle Stamper and Jacqueline Hody. Kerry Rogerson was awarded the Best Player in the V.A.W.P.A. Womens "C" Grade and Perry Gaylard was awarded the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player in Mens B Grade. Life Memberships were awarded for the season to 2 very deservable Club members. Rodney Woods was awarded Life membership for outstanding performance and service to the Club.

Rodney's achievements included the following:

- Victorian representation 1974,75,76,77,78,79,80;
- Victorian Vice Captain 1978.
- Australian representation 1976,77 & 79;
- Olympic representative in Montreal, 1976;
- Melbourne Collegians Vice Captain 1976,77,78,79,80,81,83;
- Awarded Life Membership of Melbourne Collegians 1986;
- Member of 6 State League 1 and 3 State League 2 Premiership teams.
- Melbourne Collegians Senior Coach 1986

The other Life Membership was also awarded for outstanding performance and service to the Club and was attributed to Robert Edwards. Some of Robert's achievements include the following:

- Victorian representative 1975,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,88;
- Victorian Vice Captain 1979,80;
- Victorian Captain 1981,82,83,84,85,86;
- Australian representative 1977,78,79;
- Captain of Melbourne Collegians Water Polo Club 1977- present;
- Captain of the Victorian Senior Mens State Team that won the Australian

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Championship in Adelaide 1986;

- Captain of the winning Melbourne Collegians State League 1 Team in the V.A.W.P.A. Short Course Championships 1986;
- Winner of the A.J. Harrison Memorial Trophy for the V.A.W.P.A. Best and Fairest Player in State League 1 1981,86;
- Winner of the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Melbourne Collegians Best and Fairest Player in State League 1 1982,83,86;
- Awarded Life Membership of Melbourne Collegians 1986;
- Member of 6 State League 1 Premiership teams.

The Executive of the Club undertook an agreement with dynamic Hungarian National Water Polo Team Captain, Denes Kemeny, to come to Melbourne next season and play and coach the State League 1 team our Club. This was the first time our Club undertook such a move, agreeing to meet all costs and expenses of his trip out here. The club held it's inaugural, and only, squash tournament at Wesley Recreation Centre, with the winner of the Open Men being Neil Gynther and the Open Women was Karen Woods. The club again was successful in winning the Queen's Birthday Water Polo Tournament in Sale.

Robert Edwards, Roger Brown and Ian McInnes were selected in the Victorian Senior Mens team and David Orchard selected in the Victorian Junior (U/18) Mens Team. Robert and David were appointed Captains of their respective teams. Robert Edwards was awarded the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player in State League 1 winning by 1 vote from Neil Gynther. Paul Edebone won State League 2 Best Player, Ken Wood won Mens A Grade, Ross Taylor won Mens B Grade, Belinda Morris won Womens C Grade, and Warren Green won the A.J. Harrison Memorial Trophy for the Most Determined Player. Robert Edwards was also voted the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player in Mens State League 1. Ian McInnes continued his scholarship at the A.I.S. Current Junior National team member, Simon Asher, transferred to the Club from University at the end of the season. The Presentation Night was held at the College Lawn Hotel in Prahran, who was Club sponsor for the season. Income for the year totalled \$12,584.96 with a profit of \$1330.49. The club now had an accumulated surplus of \$4349.22

Tragedy again struck the club on 8th February, 1986, when club member Graham Stalker was killed in a car accident at Moggs Creek. "Stalkers" played 445 games for the Club and won the Club Best Player award in "A" Grade in 1968-69. He represented Victoria on 5 occasions and the Club instigated a Best Finals Player award in his memory. His involvement in the club, particularly with junior members, was enormous and his loss will be greatly and sadly missed. Warren Green was the first recipient of this Prestigious Award.

**1986-1987 - Membership 78.** Mens State League 2 were again victorious in the Winter Competition defeating Richmond 8-4 making it 6 Winter Competition premierships in a row and 10 Premierships in a row including the Summer Competition. The winning combination included Russell Fletcher (Captain), Andrew Chard, Craig Christie, Brett Crittenden, Scott Emerson, Tony Gray, Neil Gynther, Ian McFarland, Greg Morris, Buddy Portier, Jeremy Quitner, Peter Weideling and James Winder. Mens "B" Grade were premiers in both the Winter and Summer competitions beating Altona and Monash respectively by 1 goal on each occasion. The Winter Competition team comprised John Wilson (Captain/Coach), Kent Clifton-Bligh, Frank Corcoran, Bernie Edwards, Perry Gaylard, Jack Harrison, Peter Hutchinson, Mal Hunter, John McKenzie, Ross Taylor, Ian Scotson and Peter Utri. The State Championship team comprised

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John Wilson (Captain/Coach), Kent Clifton-Bligh, Frank Corcoran, Bernie Edwards, Grahame Fletcher, Perry Gaylard, Jack Harrison, Mal Hunter, Peter Hutchinson, John McKenzie and Ross Taylor. The women only entered a team in the Winter competition, finishing 7th. Simon Asher, David Orchard and Jeremy Quittner were selected in the Victorian Junior Mens team. Simon and Roger Brown were selected in the Victorian Senior Mens team. Simon was subsequently selected in the Australian Junior (U/21) Water Polo team as well as the Australian Senior Mens Team, a fantastic achievement. He was also a member of the A.I.S. Team, having accepted a Full Time Scholarship at the A.I.S in Canberra. Paul Edebone also was selected in the Victorian and Australian Country Mens Team

In April, 1986 the Club undertake a major gamble to begin running bingo sessions at Prahran Bingo Centre. Although some members had reservations in the beginning, over the next few years Bingo was to provide the Club with a very secure and financial base, yielding on average \$20,000 profit per year for the next 8 years. The Bingo was run by Russell Fletcher, his wife Louise and his mother and father, Peg and Ron. Russell, Louise and Ron still run the bingo today. Tony Gray was awarded the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player in State League 1 winning by 1 vote from Robert Edwards, Russell Fletcher won State League 2, Ken Wood won Mens A Grade and Bernie Edwards was awarded the Best Player in B Grade. Roger Brown won the Most Determined Player award and Simon Asher won the Best Finals Player. Perry Gaylard was awarded the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player in Mens B Grade. Ian McInnes transferred to the Richmond Club, Graeme Sweeney retired from top level water polo and Neil Gynther moved back to Brisbane. John Wall and Robin Asher transferred to the Club from University.

The Club experimented with importing overseas players for the first time. Unfortunately, Hungarian Captain Denes Kemeny failed to fulfil his part of the contract undertaken last season. However, the best "left hander" in the world, West German Frank Otto and Hungarian great, Dr. Gabor Csapo agreed to come to Melbourne Collegians for this seasons Summer Competition with Gabor Csapo taking on the role of Coach of the State League 1 team. At great expense to the Club, the experiment was not as successful as hoped, as we lost the Premiership in Mens State League 1, 7 goals to 10 against Richmond who boasted 5 National team players. However, the many training drills and skills displayed were very beneficial to our club and their freakish goal scoring feats delighted all who watched our matches. Gabor scored no less than 58 goals for the competition and Frank scored 26 goals. It was interesting to note that in the Preliminary Final, we beat Footscray 15-2. Such as the difference between the top 2 teams and 3rd. The Club entered a team in the Australian Club Championships in Sydney and came a creditable 5th. It was with sadness to record the death of Mr. Les Phillips, a highly respected and tireless worker of the Melbourne Swimming Club. The Presentation Night was again held at the College Lawn Hotel and our income for the financial year was \$42,673.52 (\$9304.82 profit), an increase of 350% on last years total of \$12,584.96 (\$1330.49 profit).

**1987-1988 - Membership 108.** Due to big influx of new members, mainly all members of the Anglesea SurfLife Saving Club, we were able to enter 7 mens teams in the State Championship Competition. All but one participated in the finals with 5 teams playing off in Grand Finals. Success was immediate for the "Anglesea Boys" with 2 teams obtaining premierships in their first season together. Grahame Fletcher was the instigator for recruiting these players as basically social teams in the off season for surf life saving. Most of these players remained playing for many years with the club. Premierships were obtained in Mens "B" and Mens "C" Grade (State Championship) and Mens "D" Grade (Short Course Competition). Unfortunately,



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no womens teams were entered in either competition. Members of the Mens "B" Grade team consisted of Ross Taylor, Tony Botic, Kent Clifton-Bligh, John Wilson, John McKenzie, Chris Cormack, Ian Scotson, Frank Corcoran, Dennis McGee, Jack Harrison and Perry Gaylard. The Mens "C" Grade team consisted of Gary Barclay, Edward Gage, Mick McConnell, Eddie Issaievitch, Russell Fletcher, Tim Maishman, Billy James, Mark McLean and Andrew Gage. The "D" Grade Short Course Comp. team consisted of Eddie Issaievitch, Gary Barclay, Rob O'Neill, Edward Gage, Peter McGain, Michael Holding, Mick McConnell, Grahame Fletcher, Tim Maishman, Mark McLean, Billy James, Andrew Gage, Ian Smith and Tony Beard. Ron Wootton was appointed Coach of the State League 1 Mens team, after an absence from coaching the Club since 1976. In the 1988 Australia Day Honours List, Ron Wootton was awarded the Order of Australia (O.A.M.) for his 45 years of services to water polo and Australian sport. He was the first water polo identity to ever receive such an award. Some of Ron's achievements whilst associated with our Club are as follows:

- Australian Olympic Team Coach 1972;
- Australian Senior Mens Team Coach 1972,73,75;
- Australian Referee 1955
- Victorian Senior Mens Coach 1971,72,73,74,75,76,84,85,86,87;
- Victorian Senior Mens Player 1952,53,54,55,56,57,59;
- Victorian Director of Coaching 1986,87;
- Victorian State Team Selector 1988;
- Melbourne Swimming Club Coach 1969,70,71,72,73,76,77;
- Melbourne Swimming Club Captain 1962,63,64,65;
- Melbourne Collegians Water Polo Club Senior Coach 1987,88;
- Life Member Victorian Water Polo Inc.;
- Life Member Melbourne Swimming Club;
- Life Member Melbourne Collegians Water Polo Club; and
- Coach of countless Club Premierships in SL1, SL2, A, B, C, D, E and F Grades.

The State League 1 team recorded their worst results for many years, coming 3rd in the Short Course Competition and Runners Up to Richmond in the State Championships. The Club Executive introduced a sponsorship incentive of \$1000 to each club player who is selected in the State Team and similarly \$500 to each Junior Player. Robert Edwards, Roger Brown and Simon Asher were selected in the Victorian Senior Mens State Team and David Orchard and Anthony Wood were selected in the Victorian Junior Mens State Team. Simon Asher was selected in the Australian Olympic Water Polo Team to compete in Seoul. Simon and Roger Brown were selected in the Australian Universities Mens Water Polo Team and Paul Edebone was selected in the Australian Country Mens Water Polo Team. Tony Gray was awarded the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player in State League 1 for the second consecutive year, Graeme Sweeney won State League 2, Brett Crittenden won Mens "A" Grade, Dennis McGee won Mens "B", Gary Barclay won Mens "C" Grade, Grant Strachan won Mens "D" Grade and Warren Clarke won Mens "F" Grade. Robert Edwards was awarded the Best Finals Player and Roger Brown was awarded the Most Determined Player. David Orchard was the recipient of the Best Junior Player. Ian Smith was awarded the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player in Mens "F" Grade. Club Junior, Luke Rattigan, was selected in the newly formed Victorian Institute of Sport. The Presentation Night was held at 8 St. Georges Road and income for the year increased to \$62,860.66 (bingo accounting for \$47,200.43) with a profit of an amazing \$26,750.24.

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**1988-1989 - Membership 152.** Due to some hard work and superb recruiting by Jim Milne, Mike Defina and George Daniel, 2 womens teams were entered in each competition with our Womens "A" Grade, the first year of their entry, winning the premiership in the Short Course Competition defeating Footscray 11-5. This was the clubs first top grade womens premiership. Members of this team comprised Paula Robertson, Cheryl Bondeson, Sue Capper, Fiona Defina, Wendy Davis, Lisa Tedoldi, Lynda Turner, Julie Caulfield, Michelle Trusler, Donna Wright, Dalys Sweeney, Helen Niotis, Mike Defina (Coach) and Jim Milne (Manager). For the first time, Melbourne Collegians were represented in the Victorian Senior Womens State Team by Dalys Sweeney (Captain), Ann O'Leary, Michelle Trusler, Fiona Defina and Vicki Laing. Vicki, who was away on a training camp at the time of this nortorious win, became the first female Melbourne Collegians player to be selected in the Australian Womens Water Polo team to tour America and Europe. The women were also victorious at the Hamilton McLeod Water Polo Competition in Geelong during the season. The Victorian Senior Mens Team that won the Australian Championships included Simon Asher and David Orchard with Simon selected in the Australian Mens Water Polo team. Mark Winder was selected in the Victorian Junior Mens Team. Dalys Sweeney was awarded the Best Player in V.A.W.P.A. Womens "A" Grade, Lauren Fry won the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player in Womens "C" Grade, Russell Fletcher won the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player in Mens "C" Grade and Robert Edwards took out the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player Award in Mens "E" Grade.

The Club fielded a team in every Mens Grade of both the State Championships and Short Course Competitions with Premierships gained in Mens "B" Grade defeating Malvern 5-4 in the Short Course Competition and Mens "D" Grade defeating Ringwood 3-1 and Mens "E" Grade defeating Footscray 5-4 in the State Championship Competition. The members of the Mens "B" Grade Premiership team comprised Ross Taylor, Tony Botic, Kent Clifton-Bligh, John Wilson, John McKenzie, Chris Cormack, Frank Corcoran, Dennis McGee, Jack Harrison, Perry Gaylard, Bernie Edwards, Uldis Meiers and Peter Hutchinson. Mens "D" Grade Premiers included Andrew Sarah, Stephen Fagen, Bruce Wilson, Chris Edwards, Peter Danks, Rod Woods, Jim Milne, Mike Defina, Ron Grey, Chris Cormack and Geoff Guggenheimer. The "E" Grade team, who remained undefeated for the competition, consisted of Edward Gage, Paul Harrison, Mark McLean, Robert Edwards, Eddie Issaievitch, Michael Holding, Grahame Fletcher, Peter Gowans, Richard Britton, Brett Davidson, Mark Gleeson, Peter McGain and Rob O'Neill. The Mens State League 1 finished 4th in the State Championship, their worst result for many, many years. Similarly, State league 2 finished 7th in the State Championship Competition, their worst result as well.

Simon Asher won the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player in State League 1, Frank Christian took out the Best Player in State League 2, Chris Geake won the "A" Grade Best Player, Jack Harrison and John McKenzie were joint winners of the Mens "B" Grade, Russell Fletcher won Mens "C" Grade, Chris Cormack won Mens "D" Grade and Eddie Issaievitch won Mens "E" Grade. Robin Asher won the Most Determined Player Award and Roger Brown won the Best Finals Player. The winner of Womens "A" Grade Best Player was Dalys Sweeney and Womens "C" Grade was Lauren Fry. Andrew Chard won the Best Junior Player award playing no less than 46 games for the club during the season and Luke Rattigan retained his position in the Victorian Institute of Sport. The highest goal scorers for each competition was Michelle Trusler (Womens "A") in the Short Course Competition with 52 goals and Robert Edwards (Mens "E" Grade) in the State Championships with 53 goals. Coincidentally, both Robert and Michelle scored the most goals in 1 game with 9 goals each. Simon Asher and Vicki Laing were awarded Life Membership for outstanding performance to the Club. President

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John Wilson played his 900th game for the club - a fantastic achievement. It was with deepest regret to record the passing of 2 great past members in Bill Uren and Eric Cormack and current club member Darren Catt. The Presentation Night was again held at 8 St. Georges Road and income again increased to \$68,500.97 with a profit of \$15,465.49.

**1989-1990 - Membership 161.** Simon Asher and Vicki Laing remained members of the Australian water polo teams. The Victorian Womens State Team boasted no less than 7 Melbourne Collegians players: namely Cheryl Bondeson, Julie Caulfield, Fiona Defina, Vicki Laing, Ann O'Leary, Lisa Peart and Dalys Sweeney (Captain). The Victorian Senior Mens team retained the Australian Championship title and included Simon Asher and Paul Edebone. The Junior Womens Team included Lyndal Cusworth who played a total of 45 club matches for the season, her 1st year with the Club. The Junior Mens Team included Luke Rattigan, Justin Plaistead and Matthew Spence and Julie Caulfield, Fiona Defina and Leanne Kelly (Coach) were selected in the Australian Womens Country team. 9 teams were entered in both the Short Course and State Championship competitions with 8 teams from each competition playing in the finals, an unbelievable achievement. All together, they played a total of 297 matches winning 185 with a success rate of 62.2%

6 Premierships were won in the State Championship Competition with Mens SL2 defeating Greensborough 5-4, Mens "B" Grade also defeating Greensborough 5-4, Mens "C" Grade defeating Monash 6-4, Mens "D" Grade defeating Nunawading 9-1, Womens "A" defeating Richmond 11-9 and Womens "D" defeating Nunawading 3-2. The State League 2 Premiership team comprised Ken Wood (Manager), Anthony Wood, Justin Plaistead, Frank Christian, Graeme Sweeney, David Morarty, Ric Morarty, Gary Barclay, Tom Niklai, Robert Edwards, Rodney Woods and Matthew Cosgrove. The victorious Mens "B" Grade team included Dennis McGee, Jack Harrison, John Wilson, Frank Corcoran, Ross Taylor, Bernie Edwards, Perry Gaylard and Paul Harrison. The Mens "C" Grade team comprised Ian Scotson, Jim Milne, Mike Defina, Stephen Fagan, Chris Cormack, Rohan Woodfall, Bruce Wilson, Grant Strachan and Chris Edwards. The Mens "D" Grade consisted of Russell Fletcher, Grahame Fletcher, Andrew Gage, Mark McLean, Richard Britton, Eddie Issaievitch, Mick McConnell, Edward Gage and Billy James. The Womens "A" Grade saw a new Coach in Leanne Kelly, and gained immediate success in winning the State Championship. The winning team comprised Fiona Defina, Dalys Sweeney (Captain), Lauren Fry, Julie Caulfield, Vicki Laing, Lyndal Cusworth, Ann O'Leary, Leanne Kelly, Lisa Peart, Rebecca Johnson, Kylie Trusler, Michelle Trusler, Cheryl Bondeson, Jim Milne (Manager) and Mike Defina (Assistant Manager). Finally, the Womens "D" Grade Premiership team included Cheryl Bondeson (Coach), George Daniel (Manager), Rebecca Gibson, Rita Feldman, Sarah Froning, Alice Kay, Kerry McKay, Leonie Harcourt, Donna Gwynne (Captain) and Sally Jones.

In the Short Course Competition, all 9 teams entered played in the finals series with, surprisingly, not one team winning a premiership. The Mens State League 1 team were runners-up in both competitions, losing to Richmond on both occasions. Paul Edebone took out the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player award in Mens State League 1, 4 votes ahead of Simon Asher and Cheryl Bondeson was awarded the Best Player award in Womens State League, 1 vote ahead of Dalys Sweeney. Robert Edwards won the State League 2 Best Player, Peter Utri won the State League 3 Best Player, Ric Bohnsack won Mens "A" Grade, Perry Gaylard won Mens "B" Grade, Ian Scotson won Mens "C" Grade, Mick McConnell won Mens "D" Grade, Lauren Fry won Womens "B" Grade and Donna Gwynne won the Best Player in Womens "D" Grade. Craig Christie was awarded the A.J. Harrison Memorial Trophy for the

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Most Determined Player, Paul Edebone won the Graham Stalker Memorial Trophy for the Best Finals Player and Luke Rattigan was successful in winning the Best Junior Player Trophy. Jack Harrison played his 500th game for the club and joined an elite list with 4 others who have achieved the same milestone. David Orchard scored the most goals in the Short Course Competition with 52 from 14 games and Dalys Sweeney scored 56 goals from 14 games in the State Championships, scoring 8 goals in 1 game on 2 occasions. Ron Wootton resigned from the position of Senior Coach on 3.9.89 and Simon Asher took on the role for the interim after his return from the A.I.S. The Presentation Night was held at Leonda by the Yarra in Hawthorn. It was with regret to record the death of past members Ted Hurren and Courtney McPherson. Income for the year was \$57,338.68 with profit being \$11,758.64.

**1990-1991 - Membership 152.** 9 teams were again entered in each competition with 16 teams playing in the finals. 10 advanced to the Grand Final resulting with 7 Premierships. 297 games were played by the Club with 196 matches being won, a success rate of 66%. Justin Plaistead played the most games with an amazing 53 matches for the season. Jeff Barrow, of the Richmond Club, was appointed Coach of our Mens State League 1 team. He had one goal - to win the Premiership within 3 years. It was not the ideal beginning with our Mens State League 1 team finishing 3rd in both competitions. Simon Asher continued his membership of the Australian Water Polo Team. Vicki Laing retired from competitive water polo after the Australian Titles and together with Cheryl Bondeson, Janine Miller, Lisa Peart and Ann O'Leary, were all selected in the Victorian Senior Womens Team. Simon Asher, Paul Edebone and John Wall were members of the Victorian Senior Mens Team with Jeff Barrow selected as Coach. Justin Plaistead, Matthew Spence, Matthew Modulon and Jack Mordes were members of the Victorian Junior Mens Team and Rebecca Johnson and Kylie Trusler members of the Victorian Junior Womens State Team.

John Wall was awarded the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player in Mens State League 1 by 2 votes from David Orchard and Dalys Sweeney recaptured the Best Player trophy in Womens State League by a convincing 7 votes from Cheryl Bondeson. Andrew Wilson won the State League 2 Best Player, Wayne Bates won State League 3, Rodney Woods won Mens "A" Grade, Robert Edwards won Mens "B" Grade, Russell Fletcher won Mens "D" Grade, Samantha Girdham won Womens "B" Grade and Kerry McKay won Womens "D" Grade. David Orchard won both the Tony Harrison Memorial Trophy for the Most Determined Player and the Graham Stalker Memorial Trophy for the Best Finals Player. Jack Mordes won the Best Junior Mens Player and Kylie Trusler won the newly introduced Best Junior Womens Player award. Cameron Leech was awarded the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player for Mens State League 3, Brett Crittenden was awarded the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player for Mens "A" Grade and Russell Fletcher won the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player in Mens "D" Grade.

The 7 Premierships won for the season included Mens SL2 defeating Nunawading 11-6, Mens SL3 defeating Nunawading 8-4 and Womens "A" Grade defeating Richmond 6-4 in the State Championship Competition. The State League 2 team were Premiers and Champions remaining undefeated for the competition and comprised Jack Mordes, Andrew Wilson, Roger Brown, Anthony Wood, Ken Wood (Manager), Andrew Chard, Gary Barclay, Justin Plaistead, Warren Green, Frank Christian and Graeme Sweeney. The Mens State League 3 comprised 1984 Olympic Bronze Medallist, Rob Woodhouse, Mark Gowans, Jarrod Curnow, Clinton Herman, Graeme Sweeney (Coach/Manager), Chris Day, Cameron Miller, Wayne Bates, Cameron Leech (Captain) and Stephen Fagan. The Womens "A" Grade comprised Dalys Sweeney, Fiona Defina, Ann O'Leary, Leanne Kelly, Julie Caulfield, Michelle Trusler, Lisa

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Peart, Lyndal Cusworth, new player Janine Miller, Vicki Lang and Cheryl Bondeson. This team not only won the State Championship but took off "the double" by also winning the Short Course Competition premiership. The Short Course Premiership team comprised Michelle Trusler, Ann O'Leary, Lisa Peart, Lyndal Cusworth, Robyn Beattie, Fiona Defina, Leanne Kelly, Dalys Sweeney, Julie Caulfield, Cheryl Bondeson and Janine Miller. Other Short Course Premierships went to Mens "A" which included Robert Edwards, Andrew Wilson, Brett Crittenden, Ric Bohnsack, Buddy Portier, Wayne Bates, Jim Milne, Scott Emerson, Ken Wood and Rodney Woods and Mens "B" Grade which comprised John McKenzie, Ben Wilson, Michael Kernihan, Peter Hutchinson, Ken Rickards, Paul Harrison, Mike Defina, Wayne Sweeney, Perry Gaylard and John Harrison. Mens "D" Grade were also premiers in the Short Course Competition and included John Andrews, Mark Gowans, Grahame Fletcher, Greg Callen, Russell Fletcher, Eddie Issaievitch, Mark Gleeson, Richard Britton, Dean Heathcote, Clinton herman and Bruce "Rabbit" Patterson.

Paul Edebone scored the most goals in the Short Course Competition with 47 goals from 16 games and Russell Fletcher scored the most goals in the State Championship Competition with 53 goals from 15 games. The highest number of goals in 1 game was 9 by Russell Fletcher against Altona in Round 3 of the State Championships. It was with regret to record the passing of Reg Bennett and Ted Lynott, 2 great past players of the club. They were both major contributors to the club and the sport in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Reg represented Victoria on 13 occasions and captained 3 of these teams. Ted Lynott was one of the great Victorian water polo players having transferred to the Club after the War in 1946. The Presentation Night was again held at Leonda by the Yarra with Russell Fletcher becoming the 40th Life Member of the Club for outstanding service. Some of Russell's Club achievements include:

- Vice President 1990;
- Social Secretary 1984,85,86,87,88,89,90;
- Club delegate to V.A.W.P.I 1986,87;
- Fund Raising Manager 1985,86,87,88,89,90;
- State League 2 Best Player 1987;
- Club Mens C Grade Best Player 1989;
- Club Mens D Grade Best Player 1990;
- V.A.W.P.I. Mens C Grade Best Player 1989;
- V.A.W.P.I. Mens D Grade Best Player 1991;
- Instigator of the Club undertaking bingo sessions at Prahran Bingo Centre netting the Club in excess of \$140,000.00 profit.

Income for this year was \$65,601.98 with a profit \$14,358.11, bringing the accumulated surplus to \$81,986.52.

**1991-1992 - Membership 135.** 18 Club teams comprising 6 mens and 3 womens teams were again entered in both competitions. 13 teams made the finals with 11 teams playing in the Grand Final culminating with 6 Premierships. The Club appeared in 208 matches winning 137 with a success rate of 65.95% and both the Mens State League 2 and the Mens C Grade remained undefeated in both Competitions and the Womens "B" Grade undefeated in the Short Course Competition. Premierships included in the Short Course Competition were Mens SL2 defeating Nunawading 9-6, Mens "C" Grade defeating Dandenong 8-6 and Womens "B" Grade defeating Monash 3-1. The Mens State League 2 team were undefeated and comprised Ken Wood (Manager), Warren Green, Graeme Sweeney, Clinton Herman, Luke Rattigan, Chris

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Day, Nathan Lawrentschuk, Mark Ekelmans, Luke Lawrentschuk, Peter Weideling and Andrew Chard. The Mens "C" Grade were also undefeated for the competition and comprised Billy James, Grahame Fletcher, Russell Fletcher, Tim Maishman, Richard Britton, Grant Strachan, Dean Heathcote, Ian Scotson, Mick McConnell and Dylan Fletcher (Flagman). The Womens "B" Grade, who also maintained an undefeated record, comprised Heidi Doyle, Lynette McVay, Rebecca Johnson, Sarah Froning, Kylie Trusler, Lyndal Cusworth, Katie Rattigan, Wayne Bates (Coach) and Donna Wright.

In the State Championship Competition, Premierships were won by Mens SL2 defeating Greensborough 11-5, Mens SL3 defeating Ringwood 4-3, and Mens "C" Grade defeating La Trobe 5-4. The State League 2 continued their undefeated record and included Ken Wood (Manager), Frank Christian, Andrew Chard, Luke Rattigan, Bruce Symons, Justin Plaistead, Peter Weideling, Mark Ekelmans, Nathan Lawrentschuk, Warren Green, Luke Lawrentschuk and Graeme Sweeney. The State League 3 Premiership Team comprised Andrew Sarah, Jamie Sutherland, Mark Gowans, Cameron Leech, Cameron Miller, Jarrod Curnow, William Ness, Darren Scoble, Graeme Sweeney (Manager/Coach), Wayne Bates and Clinton Herman. The Mens "C" Grade also continued their undefeated status and comprised Mick McConnell, Grahame Fletcher, Tim Maishman, Mal Hunter, Ian Scotson, Richard Britton, Russell Fletcher, Terry Mulder, Billy James and Dylan Fletcher (Flagman). The State League 1 team finished Runners Up in both Competitions to Richmond and comprised Jeff Barrow (Coach), Jack Mordes, Paul Edebone, Simon Asher, Matthew Spence, John Wall, Daniel Marsden, Robert Edwards, David Morarty, Andrew Wilson, David Orchard, Craig Christie, Julian Muspratt and Roger Brown.

The Club recruited 3 champion State League 1 players: dual Olympian and current Australian Junior Mens Coach Julian Muspratt from Richmond, current National Team member Daniel Marsden from Sydney and towards the end of the season Ex National Team member Ian McInnes returned to the Club from Richmond after an absence of 6 years. Daniel was currently an A.I.S. member and was to be a fly in - fly out player. The Womens State League team saw the retirement of a couple of senior players and the coach, Leanne Kelly, resigning. Mike Defina took over as coach, however, the team did not perform as well as expected and achieved 3rd in the Short Course Competition and 4th in the State Championships. The team comprised Cheryl Bondeson, Lisa Peart, Fiona Defina, Carol Crofts, Lyndal Cusworth, Janine Miller, Samantha Girdham, Lauren McLaverty, Ann O'Leary, Julie Caulfield, Kylie Trusler and Michelle Trusler.

The Senior Mens State Team included Ian McInnes, Paul Edebone, John Wall, David Orchard, Simon Asher and Jeff Barrow was Coach. Jeff was also appointed a selector for the Australian Senior Mens Team. Our sole representative in the Senior Womens State Team was Janine Miller. Simon Asher and Daniel Marsden gained selection in the Australian Olympic Water Polo Team to compete in Barcelona. The Victorian Junior Mens State Team included Matthew Spence, Jack Mordes, Chris Day and Jarrod Curnow. The Junior Womens State Team included Rebecca Johnson and Kylie Trusler. Matthew Spence was selected in the Australian Junior (U/20) Water Polo team.

In his first year at the Club, Julian Muspratt won the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player in Mens State League 1 by 6 votes from Paul Edebone. Graeme Sweeney won the State League 2 Best Player award for the 2nd time, Cameron Miller won State League 3, Scott Emerson won Mens "A" Grade, Perry Gaylard won Mens "B" Grade for the 2nd time, Russell Fletcher also won his 2nd Best Player award in Mens "C" Grade, Cheryl Bondeson won the

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Womens State League Best Player Trophy by 2 votes from Anne O'Leary, Lyn McVay won Womens "B" Grade and Merryn Sherrard won Womens "C" Grade. Robert Edwards was awarded the A.J. Harrison Memorial Trophy for the Most Determined Player and Paul Edebone was awarded the Graham Stalker Memorial Trophy for the Best Finals Player. Matthew Spence was awarded the Best Junior Mens Player and Kylie Trusler was the recipient of the Best Junior Womens Player for the second consecutive year. Perry Gaylard was the recipient of the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player in Mens B Grade for the 3rd time and Russell Fletcher was awarded the V.A.W.P.A. Best Player in Mens C Grade for the 2nd time. Russell also scored the most goals in both competitions scoring 30 goals from 6 games in the Short Course Competition and 51 goals from 13 games in the State Championships. David Orchard scored 10 goals in the 1st game of the State Championships against Nunawading. After 9 years of dedicated service, Jim Milne stood down as Club Treasurer and was replaced by Jack Harrison. In an endeavour to attract more people to the Presentation function, this year it took the form of an informal lunch at Trakkers Inn Hotel, a sponsor of the Club. Unfortunately, the attendance was down on previous years. Income was \$59,760.73 for the year with the club suffering, for the first time ever, a loss of \$4,709.43.

**1992-1993 - Membership 131.** There were a number of highlights for the Club during this season. On 19th November, 1992, President John Wilson played his 1000th game for the Club against Brighton creating a record that will go unsurpassed for some time. Many people were there to witness the occasion, including Channel 10 News who took more than 45 minutes footage and featured the item in their Eyewitness News. Some of John's achievements include:

- Australian Olympic Squad, 1956;
- Australian Referees Panel  
1970,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,7,9,80,81,82,83,84,85,  
86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93;
- Australian Referees Board 1981,82,83,84;
- Australian Referees Examination Board 1976,77,78,79,81;
- Australian Referee, World Championships, Belgrade 1973;
- Australian Goal Judge, World Championships, Perth 1991
- Victorian Water Polo Association Vice President 1976,77,78,79,80
- Victorian State Team Representative 1954,55,56,57,58,59
- Victorian A Grade Referee  
1959,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,  
75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93;
- Victorian Colts (U/21) Junior Mens Coach 1969,70,71,72,73;
- Victorian Under 18 Junior Mens Coach 1972,74,75,76;
- Club A Grade Water Polo Premiership Team Member 1953,54,55,56,57,58,60,  
63,67;
- Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy Winner for Best Player in Mens A Grade  
1960,62,64;
- Club Mens A Grade Coach 1968,69;
- Club A Grade Captain 1967,68,69,70,71,72,73
- Club A Grade Vice Captain 1963,64,65,66
- Captain/Coach Mens B Grade 1980,81,82,83,84,85,86;
- Club Vice President 1966,67,68,69,70,71,72,73;
- Club President  
1973,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,

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- Club Treasurer 1980;
- Awarded Club Life Membership 1967;
- Member of various grade premiership teams - Approximately 40;
- Mens A Grade/State League Matches - 433;
- Mens Senior Matches - 579;
- Total games to end of 92/93 - 1012.

The Melbourne Collegians Club completely dominated all competitions with many teams finishing on top of the ladder undefeated after the home and away rounds. Victorian Water Polo took over the running of the Hawthorn Pool, becoming their new headquarters of its administration. A new competition known as the Hawthorn Summer Competition was introduced and was played between January and March, meaning water polo now was a 12 month sport. 33 Melbourne Collegians teams were entered in the 4 different competitions staged throughout the extended 16 month season. 27 of these teams played in the finals series with no less than 22 teams playing off in Grand Finals, with 11 premierships. The Club appeared in 338 matches, winning 233 matches with a success rate of 67.12%. Mens SL2 lost 4 matches out of 32, Mens C lost 5 matches out of 35, and Womens "B" was the most successful losing 3 matches out of 39 making all 4 Grand Finals and winning 2 Premierships.

The Mens State League 1 team regained the Premiership that has eluded them for 8 years defeating the hot, star studded Richmond team 10-7. This team comprised Jeff Barrow (Coach), Grahame Fletcher (Manager), Chris Stoupas, Daniel Marsden, Matthew Spence, David Orchard (Captain), Paul Edebone, Jarred Curnow, John Wall, David Morarty, Warren Curnow, Craig Christie, Todd Sunderman, Ian McInnes and Simon Asher. Other premierships obtained included in the Hawthorn Summer Competition (1992) Mens SL2 defeating Monash 8-1 and comprised Ken Wood (Manager), Warren Green, Nathan Lawrentschuk, Mark Ekelmans, Andrew Chard, Frank Christian, Graeme Sweeney, Luke Lawrentschuk, Justin Plaistead and Wayne Bates. Mens SL3 defeated Balwyn Yarra 6-1 and comprised Mike Defina, Jarred Curnow, Tom Niklai, Clinton Herman, Cameron Leech, Jamie Sutherland, Bill Ness, Chris Day and Graeme Sweeney (Coach/Manager). Mens "A" defeated Malvern 4-3 and included Ken Wood, Brett Davidson, Chris Geake, David Maggs, Brett Crittenden, Jim Milne, Mark Davies, Scott Emerson, Ric Bohnsack and Rodney Woods. Womens "B" defeated Nunawading 7-2 and consisted of Belinda Smith, Janine Miller, Anitra Gollings, Wayne Bates (Coach), Samantha Morgan, Lyn McVay, Tara Woodfall, Ann O'Leary (Manager), Dalys Sweeney, Elana McNeil, Jane Muir, Sally Barrow, Katie Rattigan, Sharyn Byrne and Heidi Doyle.

In the Short Course Competition, Premierships were obtained in Mens SL5 defeating Footscray 6-2 and comprised Mal Hunter, Grahame Fletcher, Tim Maishman, Brett Davidson, Mick McConnell, Russell Fletcher, Terry Mulder, Dylan Fletcher (Flagman), Billy James, Sam Hume and Richard Britton. Mens "A" defeated Richmond 3-0 and comprised David Maggs, Scott Emerson, Chris Geake, Brett Davidson, Ken Wood, Jim Milne, Ric Bohnsack, Mark Davies, Rodney Woods and Eric Landers. Mens "B" defeated Half Moon Bay 7-0 and comprised Mike Defina, Chris Cormack, Tyrone Hyde, John McKenzie, Perry Gaylard, Ross Taylor, John Wilson, Peter Hutchinson, Jack Harrison and Bernie Edwards. Womens "B" defeated Greensborough 5-3 and included Belinda Smith, Dalys Sweeney, Paula Robertson, Katie Rattigan, Donna Wright, Abigail Cleland, Ann O'Leary (Manager), Elana McNeil, Jane Muir, Rebecca Johnson and Heidi Doyle. In the State Championships, State League 1 were Premiers defeating Richmond 10-7 and Mens "C" defeated Vic Police 8-4 comprising Tim Maishman, Sam



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Hume, Billy James, Grahame Fletcher, Terry Mulder, Russell Fletcher, Mal Hunter, Ian Scotson, Richard Britton, Mick McConnell and Dylan Fletcher (Flagman). In the Hawthorn Summer Comp (1993), Mens "C" were again Premiers defeating Powerhouse 7-1 and this team comprised Tim Maishman, Russell Fletcher, Sam Hume, Ian Scotson, Mal Hunter, Grahame Fletcher, Jamie Guerow, Richard Britton, Billy James, Dylan Fletcher (Flagman) and Terry Mulder. All in all, totalling 11 Premierships for the season - an outstanding achievement. The Womens State League Team was coached by Andrew Chard and finished 3rd, 2nd, 3rd and 2nd in the respective competitions. This team comprised Ann O'Leary, Kylie Trusler, Michelle Trusler, Donna Wright, Cheryl Bondeson, Julie Caulfield, Carol Croft, Janine Miller, Dalys Sweeney, Rebecca Johnson, Lyndal Cusworth, Samantha Girdham and Fiona Defina.

Simon Asher, David Orchard, Daniel Marsden, Ian McInnes and Paul Edebone were selected in the Victorian State Team with Daniel Marsden maintaining his selection in the Australian Team. Jeff Barrow was also appointed Coach of the State team. The Curnow brothers, Warren and Jarrod, together with Matthew Spence were selected in the Junior Mens State Team. Janine Miller was selected in the Womens State Team and Rebecca Johnson selected in the Junior Womens State Team. Simon Asher and Ian McInnes were joint winners of the Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player Award in Mens State League 1 with 19 votes and Janine Miller, Anne O'Leary and Dalys Sweeney were joint winners of the Womens State League Best Player Award with 16 votes each. Mens State League 2 Best Player was Andrew Chard, State League 3 was won by Tom Niklai, Scott Emerson was the winner of Mens "A" Grade for the 2nd consecutive year, Peter Hutchinson was the winner of Mens "B" Grade, Russell Fletcher was the winner of Mens "C" Grade for the 3rd time and 2nd consecutive year, Donna Wright was the winner of Womens "B" Grade and Jane Muir won Womens "C" Grade. David Morarty was the recipient of the Tony Harrison Memorial Trophy for the Most Determined Player and Daniel Marsden was awarded the Graham Stalker Memorial Trophy for the Best Finals Player. Warren Curnow won the Best Junior Mens Player and Rebecca Johnson won the Best Junior Womens Player. Perry Gaylard (for the 4th time) and Russell Fletcher (for the 3rd time) were again voted V.A.W.P.A. Best Players for Mens "B" Grade and Mens "C" Grade respectively.

David Orchard scored the most goals in the Hawthorn Summer Competition (1992) with 19 goals from 7 games, Perry Gaylard scored 21 goals from 8 games in the Short Course Competition, Russell Fletcher scored 47 goals from 12 games in the State Championships and Jamie Guerow (9 games) and Janine Miller (8 games) scored 23 goals each in the Hawthorn Summer Competition (1993). The most goals scored in 1 game was 9 by Russell Fletcher against Oak Park in Round 3 of the State Championships. Chris Geake and Rebecca Johnson played 43 matches and Ken Wood, Scott Emerson and Tom Niklai played 42 matches for the extended season. Up to the end of the season, 81 different players had played 100 games or more for the Club. The Presentation Night was held at La Chateau and said to be one of the best Presentation Nights conducted so far. Income for the year was the most ever - \$73,762.19 with a profit of \$6,084.53. The club had an accumulated surplus of \$83,361.35, mostly due to the profit from Bingo.

**1993-1994 - Membership 121.** This season saw the Centenary year of the Club, with many functions held to celebrate the occasion. A dinner was held at Powerhouse which saw many old members travel from far and wide to renew old acquaintances. The 100th Annual General meeting was held at the same location as the 1st Annual General Meeting on the same date, being the George Hotel in St. Kilda on Monday the 3rd October, 1994. The Club gained

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reasonable success with both the Senior Mens and Senior Womens teams acquiring new coaches. Past player Roger Brown took over the coaching responsibilities on the Mens State League 1 team after Jeff Barrow was unavailable due to work commitments. Simon Adams, a Level 2 Coach that moved residence from Perth to Melbourne, was appointed Coach of the Womens State League team and injected many new initiatives, motivation and drive into the girls teams, creating a huge influx of new girls to the Club. Although an exhausting attempt was made to gain entry, the Mens State League 1 team were refused entry into this years National Water Polo League Competition.

The Club Executive for the Centenary year comprised the following:

President:	John Wilson
Vice Presidents:	Ken Wood Ric Bohnsack
Secretary:	Russell Fletcher
Assistant Secretary:	Julie Caulfield (Resigned on Feb. 1994) Peta Nicholson (Appointed on April, 1994)
Treasurer:	John Harrison
Executive Chairman:	Dennis McGee
Executive Member:	Rodney Woods
Social Secretary:	Robert Edwards

Other Club appointments included for this season were:

Club Captain:	Robert Edwards
Club Vice Captain:	David Orchard
Fund Raising Manager:	Russell Fletcher
Senior Mens Coach:	Roger Brown
Senior Womens Coach:	Simon Adams
Registrar:	Robert Edwards

A record 30 club teams were entered in the 3 senior competitions and 1 junior competition with 2 teams entered in Womens B Grade in the State Championship and Hawthorn Summer Competition. To show our dominance in this Grade, both our teams played off in the Grand Final in both Competitions. 22 teams played made it through to the Finals playoffs with 16 teams playing off in their respective Grand Finals resulting in 8 premierships. The Club played in 326 matches using 121 players for the season winning 223 matches with a success rate of 66.4%. Mens State League 3 lost 3 matches out of 40 and Womens B2 team lost 1 match on a technicality out of 29 matches played. The 8 premierships included Womens C Grade defeating Ringwood 4-2 in the Short Course Competition; Mens SL2 defeating Nunawading 8-3, Mens SL3 defeating Yarra Plenty 5-4 after extra time, Mens SL4 defeating Old Brighton 7-4, Junior U/18 Boys defeating Yarra Plenty 6-5 and Womens B2 team defeating the other Melbourne Collegians team 9-1 in Womens B Grade in the State Championship Competition. In the Hawthorn Summer Competition Mens SL3 defeated Old Haileybury 6-1 and Womens B2 defeated our Womens B1 team 6-3 in B Grade.

Premiership teams comprised the following players: Short Course Competition: Womens C Grade - Kylie Trusler, Sharon Byrne, Julie Moody, Kate Metcalfe, Pauline Arnold, Lisa Asbury, Vanga Foers, Joanne Hampson, Rebecca Johnson, Sally Levy and Summer Hall;

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State Championship Competition: Mens SL2 -Luke Rattigan, Andrew Wilson, Andrew Chard, Frank Christian, Tom Niklai, Graeme Sweeney, Warren Green, Bruce Symons and Mark Ekkelmans; Mens SL3 - Wayne Bates, Robert Edwards, Warren Curnow, Mark Belza, Paul Belza, Bill Ness, Daniel Sturrock, Andrew Sarah, Ryan Moody, Tom Sturrock and Bob Nugent; Mens SL4 -Mick McConnell, Richard Britton, Grahame Fletcher, Tim Maishman, Mal Hunter, Billy James, Terry Mulder, Ian Scotson and Russell Fletcher; Junior U/18 Boys - Justin Walter, Tom Niklai, Daniel Sturrock, Ryan Moody, Andrew Gott, Adam Collegious, Matthew Woolnough, Sjouke Price, Michael Klim, Guy Grossband and Brandt Charman. Womens B2 Grade - Carol Croft, Heidi Doyle, Samantha Girdham, Belinda Smith, Sally Barrow, Lyn McVay, Elana McNeil, Lisa Asbury, Lauren McLaverty, Anitra Gollings and Ann O'Leary; Hawthorn Summer Competition: Mens SL3 - Wayne Bates, Robert Edwards, Tom Sturrock, Grahame Fletcher, Bill Ness, Sjouke Price, Mark Belza, Paul Belza and Tom Niklai; Womens B2 Grade - Carol Croft, Samantha Boyd, Julie Moody, Belinda Smith, Lyn McVay, Elana McNeil, Lisa Asbury, Anitra Gollings and Ann O'Leary.;

Best Players were awarded to the following players: Ivo Stakula Memorial Trophy for the Best Player in Mens SL1 - David Orchard; Mens SL2 - Mark Ekkelmans; Mens SL3 - Robert Edwards; Mens SL4 - Tim Maishman; Mens A Grade - Rodney Woods; Mens B Grade - Ross Taylor; Womens State League - Janine Bates and Cheryl Bondeson; Womens B1 - Pauline Arnold; Womens B2 - Ann O'Leary; Womens C Grade - Julie Moody; Anthony J. Harrison Memorial Trophy for the Most Determined Player - David Morarty for the 2nd consecutive year; Graham Stalker Memorial Trophy for the Best Finals Player - David Orchard; Best Junior Mens Player - Ryan Moody and Best Junior Womens Player - Pauline Arnold. Janine Bates was awarded the V.W.P.Inc Best Player in Womens State League, Robert Edwards was awarded the V.W.P. Inc Best Player for Mens State League 3 and Ann O'Leary was awarded the V.W.P. Inc Best Player for Womens B Grade.

The Mens State League 1 team finished 4th in the Short Course Competition and were defeated in the Grand Final of the State Championships by Richmond 9 goals to 6. The Womens State League team also finished 4th in the Short Course Competition and were eliminated in the Preliminary Final of the State Championships by the Footscray Club 10 goals to 7. Both teams had the ability and experience to finish higher, however were not good enough on the day.

The Club was well represented in all Victorian State Teams. The Senior Mens Team included Simon Asher (Capt.), David Orchard, Ian McInnes, David Morarty, Paul Edebone, Daniel Marsden and Jeff Barrow (Coach) and the Senior Womens Team included Janine Bates. Simon Asher and Daniel Marsden were also selected in the Australian Senior Mens Team. The Junior Mens State Team included Warren Curnow, Sjouke Price, and Daniel Sturrock and the Junior Womens State Team included Rebecca Johnson and Eve McDonald-Madden. The Victorian U/16 Junior Boys Team included Andrew Gott and Ryan Moody with both boys selected in the Australian U/16 Junior Mens Squad. The Victorian School Boys Team included Ryan Moody and Daniel Sturrock and the Victorian School Girls Team included Brooke Irvine, Eve McDonald-Madden and Nathalie Rouqueirol with Janine Bates (Coach) and Lauren McLaverty (Manager) of the Girls Team.

Janine Bates had a fantastic season winning the Best Player award in Womens State League for both V.W.P.Inc and our Club. She scored an amazing 30 votes in the V.W.P.Inc Best Player voting, shot 92 goals in the State Championship Competition from 16 matches with a personal highest score of 11 goals in 1 match and 8 goals on 3 other occasions. Her involvement in the

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Club and junior water polo in Victoria is outstanding, and she has certainly contributed strongly to the success of the girls water polo within our Club.

Robert Edwards also had a phenomenal season. He was awarded the Best Player award in Mens State League 3 for both V.W.P.Inc and our Club. He was Captain/Coach of the Mens State League 3 teams that won the premiership in both the State Championship and Hawthorn Summer Competitions. He was coach of the Club U/14, U/16 and U/18 Junior mens teams and was successful in coaching the U/18 team to the premiership. He was also appointed coach of the Victorian U/16 Junior mens team and was successful in coaching them to a silver medal at the Australian Junior age group championships. Robert is truly a huge asset to this club and his commitment and dedication to water polo is insurmountable.

Club Junior Mens Best Player, Ryan Moody, also had a great season. He was selected in the Victorian U/16 Junior Boys team and the Victorian School Boys Team gaining selection in the Australian U/16 Junior Mens Squad. He played an unbelievable 51 senior games for the Club this season including 14 State League 1 games and was a member of the State League 3 State Championship and Hawthorn Summer Competition premiership teams.

This season saw the appearance for the first time of 4 sons of 3 present members play water polo for the Club. Anthony Edwards (9), Dylan Fletcher (10), Guy Emerson (12) and Tim Emerson (8) all represented this Club in the Under 14 Junior Competition on 20th May, 1993, against Camberwell Grammar at the Hawthorn Pool. Unfortunately, they did not win the game, but the seeds were planted for these players to become the players of tomorrow, and keep on the great tradition of this Club.

The Presentation Night was held at Tudor Court and income for the year was \$32,402.05, nearly half of the income for last year. The Club registered a loss of \$11,931.43 for the year, resulting with an accumulated surplus of \$71,429.92. The down turn in income and upturn in loss can be attributed to the Bingo. This past year saw a total profit from Bingo at \$1,100.00; which is next to nothing compared to previous years. The profits from bingo had dropped considerably due mainly to the introduction of poker machines in Victoria and the declining economy.

## EPILOGUE

As can be seen, there has been a great deal that has occurred over the past 100 years. There have been many eminent members of the Club that have done this great Club proud. The Club has survived near extinction in the 1970's and is now the biggest and strongest water polo Club in Victoria. The roots are well and truly instilled for this Club to only get bigger and stronger and survive at least another 100 years.

It is in the members hands to determine the future of this Club. Some very hard work has been carried out by a few very dedicated people and it would be a chagrin to see this hard work wasted. Each and every member **must** put in and contribute something back to this sport and in particular, this Club, regardless of however small a contribution it is. When the need arises, the slightest bit of assistance goes a long way and is so sincerely appreciated.

A sound financial and membership base is now present for the Club to build on from here. We must set ourselves achievable goals and strive to accomplish these goals, then create further goals to realise. We have proved that we **are** good, very good in fact, and we are presently on the right track to getting better. All members must unite and become one, supporting each other and sharing each other's successes and failures. We are a Club as one and will always remain as such.

In the words of Russian Ballet Dancer Anna Pavlova (1881-1931) speaking on 'success', "As in the case in all branches of art, success depends in a very large measure upon individual initiative and exertion, and cannot be achieved except by dint of hard work".

On a closing note, there are many important things and people that I personally know of that have played a vital part in the success of this Club. However, there is one key element in the past successes and future successes of this great and mighty Club and that is friendship. Without it, we would we not exist. Many friendships have blossomed between members of this Club, some of which I am fortunate enough to be a part of and these will last a lifetime.

British academic and writer, C.S. Lewis (1898-1963), summed up friendship as, "Unnecessary, like philosophy, like art....It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival".

A fitting dedication to the members of this Club, both past and present, and a suitable way to close this chronicle.