

# Strong Performances at the 2026 Victorian Open Swimming Championships

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Our senior swimmers delivered a series of impressive performances at the 2026 Mattioli Victorian Open Long Course Swimming Championships, held at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre in February. The meet featured a strong field of Australian national team swimmers and international competitors, providing an excellent opportunity for our athletes to test their racing against world-class competition early in the season.

Three of our senior athletes — Lewis Clareburt, Olympian Cameron Gray, and Harrison “Harry” Klouwens — represented the programme in Melbourne and produced several standout performances across the championships.

## **Lewis Clareburt**

World Champion Lewis Clareburt delivered one of the most dominant performances of the championships and was recognised as the Men’s Swimmer of the Meet, highlighting the quality and consistency of his racing across multiple events.

Lewis produced a world-class performance in the 200m Individual Medley, winning the event in 1:58.31, while also claiming victory in the 200m Butterfly in 1:56.30, two of the standout swims of the meet.

Clareburt also showed impressive sprint capability in the 100m Freestyle, finishing 2nd in the A Final in 49.61 in a high-quality field. Swimming under the 50-second barrier once again demonstrates the speed that underpins Lewis’s individual medley success and his ability to close races strongly over the final freestyle leg.

Across the championships Lewis showcased excellent race control, strong underwater work, and outstanding stroke balance as he continues building towards the major international competitions later in the season.

## **Cameron Gray**

Olympian Cameron Gray also delivered a strong performance in the sprint freestyle events, finishing 4th in the 100m Freestyle final in 49.99.

Breaking the 50-second barrier once again placed Gray among a highly competitive field of international-level sprinters, with less than a second separating the top four swimmers in the final. Gray’s performance demonstrated the speed and experience that saw him

represent New Zealand at the Olympic Games, where he reached the 100m freestyle semifinals.

His performance in Melbourne highlighted his continued development and competitiveness in the international sprint freestyle ranks.

### **Harrison “Harry” Klouwens**

Sprint freestyle specialist Harrison Klouwens produced an excellent performance at the championships, highlighted by a bronze medal in the 50m Freestyle against a deep Australian sprint field.

Harry has also demonstrated impressive consistency in the event, having now recorded seven swims under 23.00 seconds in the 50m freestyle since the 2025 Queensland Championships, highlighting his growing reliability as a high-level sprint performer.

In addition to his podium finish, Harry also competed strongly in the 100m Freestyle, gaining valuable racing experience against international-level competition.

His performances across the meet demonstrated strong start speed, powerful underwater work, and excellent finishing ability — all key attributes for success in the sprint freestyle events.

### **Building Toward the Season Ahead**

Competing at the Victorian Open Championships provided an important opportunity for our athletes to race internationally and measure themselves against some of the strongest swimmers in Australia.

With major competitions such as the Australian Open Championships and New Zealand Open Championships approaching, these performances represent an important step in building race sharpness and confidence for the remainder of the season.

Congratulations to Lewis, Cameron, and Harry on their strong performances in Melbourne.