

Flashback: Singapore Cup 2010 & 2011

2010 Quarter Final (Leg 1)	
South Melbourne	1
Bangkok Glass	3
2010 Quarter Final (Leg 1)	
South Melbourne	3
Bangkok Glass	3
2011 Round 1	
South Melbourne	0
Albirex Niigat	3

In 2010 South Melbourne looked to a higher level of competition by participating in the Singapore Cup, the premier cup competition of the small country. South was a participant in two editions as a foreign invitational guest.

In 2010 South finished 6th in the VPL season and missed out on finals, however after the home and away season the team flew to Singapore for the Cup. There South faced Thai professional club Bangkok Glass over two legs.

Despite taking the lead through Vasilevski in the first leg South lost 1-3. In the second leg South drew 3-3 with two goals from Giannis De Nittis and one from Fernando De Moraes. The team did not qualify for the next round. However, the experiment was a success and South were invited again to the competition in 2011.

In 2011 South managed to make the VPL finals but were knocked out by Oakleigh. They followed the VPL finals with another trip to Singapore where they faced Albirex Niigata of the Singapore S-League in Round 1 of the Singapore Cup.

Again, South failed to progress in the competition after losing 3-0 to the Singaporean outfit. This time there was not to be a follow up as South didn't participate in future editions of the tournament.



Blue and White Views

Issue 8

Saturday the 8th of November 2025

Australian Championship,
Round 5

South Melbourne vs
Broadmeadow Magic

Lakeside Stadium

blueandwhiteviews.com



A new competition and seemingly a new South. Unlike our NPL Victoria campaign South's first four games in the Australian Championship have resulted in four wins, and more importantly inspired... hope!?

South entered the competition with a new squad and seemingly a new outlook. Seven new players arrived ahead of the competition and many have made an instant impact. Lavale, Uchida and Aguek have found the back of the net already, and have helped South become the first team in the competition to qualify for the Quarter Finals.

Broadmeadow Magic on the other hand find themselves in a very different position. Languishing in the bottom place of Group A the team needs a win to keep their tournament hopes alive. They will be hopeful of a result today with South expected to rotate the squad, potentially vulnerable to a shock result.

But rotation or not, South will want to win. Today is the final home game of the group stage and the club will want to continue to excellent momentum it has built in the tournament.

Let's go South!

New Merch

As well as signings to bolster the on-field squad, the Australian Championship has seen the club work hard to improve its off-field game too. South released new home and away kits for the Australian Championship, taking the total number of kits this year to six! That includes the NPL Victoria Home, Away and Third kits, as well as the special Heritage kit released this year.

As a football romantic this seems simply too much for me. My personal view is the more kits a team releases the more it devalues the bread-and-butter annual options. Across other clubs it's typically resulted in regular Home and Away kits becoming more bland, whilst allowing for additional offering (third, fourth, fifth kits) to 'jump the shark'. We've seen crazy patterns, and rules broken including Chelsea play in Red and Liverpool play in Blue.

Despite that, the new kits are bangers – the Australian Championship offering surpass the NPL Victoria ones design wise and I admit I personally purchased a Heritage kit, so I guess... what the heck to I know?

I guess my point will be to sit on the fence. The kits have been great, but this year is an exception with the new competition. I warn against making too many kits in the future!



Less controversially (at least for me), the other merchandise offering has greatly expanded too and by all accounts has been flying out the store! It's great to see the club make an effort in this regard, and even better to see the fans pick it up. The highlights from our Moreton City game were all the better for seeing the full grand stand decked out in merch, a solid and beautiful block of Blue.

One specific item to call out is the Hellas World Order top. The reference, I've come to learn, is from 90s wrestling. I didn't realise there was such a big cross over of wrestling fans and Hellas fans but the merch works! It looks great!

Lakeside? More like Ocean(ia)-side!

Ok, fair enough not my best work but the point stands, Lakeside Stadium is set to host games in the 2026 Oceania Pro League after it was announced the South Melbourne have been officially included in the competition!

We've covered this a few times so we'll stick to the new facts. South has been confirmed as a team in the new competition at a swanky launch event at Eden Park in New Zealand. South's Coach and GM were in attendance for the announcement which included club reps from across the continent, OFC reps and FIFA reps.

The competition will have a convoluted format which poses two main challenges for South. Firstly, fixture congestion. South will need to play the competition in January to May navigating travel and the overlapping NPL competition. Second, suboptimal fan experience. In short, the convoluted format means that Lakeside will only host a couple of games and the team will play the majority of its fixtures away.

Since the announcement of the teams, two interesting items have been discussed by fans. Firstly, the exclusion of Wellington Phoenix. Although their A-League counterparts Auckland were accepted in the competition, Wellington were bafflingly excluded, making South's inclusion all the stranger. Secondly, there was a large sponsorship announced by the Saudi Tourism Authority which will bankroll the competition to the tune of \$20m!



It is speculated that South have received some government support to participate in the endeavour as direct funding from FIFA is intended to only go to Oceania teams, but who knows!?

I think from a fan perspective the jury is out on this competition, but from a football perspective if it makes South a more attractive club to staff and players then great, as long as it's affordable!

The first games are set for January 2026, likely to be played in New Zealand. Away days anyone?

Youth Products

South's official Squad currently features at least six youth products. We take some time to profile these players.

GK - Jake Charlston

This young goal keeper starred in the U23s and found himself on the senior pitch after an injury and a red card to other goalkeepers gave him a chance. Charlston was elevated to second keeper following the midseason transfer window this season.

DF -Lucas Inglese

Inglese is a 22 year of defender who has also been used up front to disrupt opposition defences. Lucas is also the brother of Christian, a former South Senior player. Inglese has already played over 40 games for the seniors.

MF - Thierry Papadimitriou

Papadimitriou is a South Youth player who impressed at reserve level and received his first senior call up late in the season against Avondale.

FW - Manyluak Aguek

This impactful Striker returned to South after gaining experience at A-League and International levels. His recent stint at Avondale solidified him as one of the best players in the state and his return to South so far has built on this reputation.

FW - Andrew Mesourouni

Mesourouni is a South Melbourne youth product who first featured in the Senior squad in 2018 before leaving the club for opportunities abroad. Mesourouni returned to South in 2025 and scored a last gasp winner against Bentleigh to secure South's passage in the Dockerty Cup.

FW - Campbell Dovison

Dovison is a 19-year-old South Melbourne Youth product who enjoyed a breakthrough year in 2025, playing 11 times in the league and proving to be the matchwinner in an unforgettable Dockerty Cup final against Heidelberg United. The young forward scored with his first touch, and (effectively) last touch of the game to give South the famous 2-1 win, and such is the nature of football, he already finds himself a legend of the club!

Victorians do it better!

The Australian Championship has done a wonderful job revealing club cultures across Australia. Unlike Cup competitions and friendlies of years past, the competition allows for less urgent tactics and better off-field planning by clubs. Return legs have also allowed for a more balanced view on team's relative strengths. To cut it short though Victorian teams seem to be outperforming their NSW counterparts on every level.

On-field all four Victorians teams find themselves in finals spots after four rounds, while only two out of seven NSW teams are in finals spots. Head-to-head, Victorian teams have have faced NSW teams nine times so far in the competition, collecting 21 points out of a possible 27. No NSW team has defeated a Victorian team yet.

There is however a lot of football to play, Marconi and APIA in particular have impressed for NSW, and come finals time they may knock off their Victorian counterparts.

Off-field a similar dynamic is playing out. Total crowds for the competition after four rounds are 57,134 with an average of 1,785 but four of the five largest crowds have been Victorian. Clubs like Sydney United have posted poor crowd figures, and even Sydney Olympic have failed to pull more than 2,000 to any of their games.



Are Victorians taking the competition more seriously? Maybe. A lot has been said of Victoria's deeper promotion-relegation system that connects around 10 different levels of competition, in NSW their state pyramid only connects four.

Whatever the reason, the early points on the board go to Victoria, let's hope this continues and a Victorian team (South) will hold aloft the Trophy at the end of the Competition!

SMFC Squad

#	Name
1	Javier Lopez
2	Brayden Spink
3	Jordon Lampard
4	Marco Jankovic
5	Jake Marshall
6	Lucas Inglese
10	Manyluak Aguek
11	Yuki Uchida
13	Khaled Kaddour
14	Alexander Menelaou
16	Oliver Lavale
17	Thomas Giannakopoulos
19	Andrew Mesourouni
21	Sebastian Pasquali
22	Maximillian Mikkola
24	Nahuel Bonada
26	Campbell Dovison
27	Jack Painter-Andrews
28	Thierry Papadimitriou
29	Bilal Habib
30	Jake Charlston
88	Charlie Leech
99	Jack Pope

Player Spotlight



10. Manyluak Aguek
Forward, Age: 25

Aguek is a former youth academy product of South Melbourne and after acquiring A-League and internation experience he returned to the club for the Australian Championship.

Aguek has already scored twice in the competition including a stunning half way goal which will be replayed for many years to come.

Aguek has an eye for goal which will continue to be critical in South's Australian Championship campaign.

Fixtures & Results

Fixtures			
R1	W 3-2	Home	Sydney Olympic
R2	W 2-0	Home	Moreton City
R3	W 0-1	Away	B'meadow Magic
R4	W 1-2	Away	Sydney Olympic
R5	-	Home	B'meadow Magic
R6	-	Away	Moreton City

South have won four games in a row and have automatically qualified for the Quarter Finals of the Australian Championship. South came from behind to defeat Sydney Olympic in Round 1 and in Round 4, showing the resilience of the squad. South have also managed to keep two clean sheets.

Table			
Team	Pld	GD	Pts
South Melbourne	4	+5	12
Moreton City	4	+2	6
Sydney Olympic	4	-2	3
B'meadow Magic	4	-5	3

Rival Watch



Broadmeadow Magic play in the Northern NSW NPL and qualified for the Australian Championship by finishing first on the table of the 2025 season.

So far they sit bottom of the table, managing only a single win (against Sydney Olympic) and are coming off a heavy 5-1 loss to Moreton City.

The club has the honour of having hosted the first ever national round game of the FFA Cup in 2014, where they lost to Brisbane Strikers 2-1 after going to extra time.