

THE PROWL



EDJBT spotlight

The Eltham Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament (EDJBT) is the world's largest annual basketball event, drawing teams and players from across Australia and New Zealand. Founded 52 years ago by David Hickman, the tournament has grown exponentially over the years, with Dandenong joining the event roughly halfway. What started as a small local competition has now evolved into a prestigious fixture on the basketball calendar.

The growth of the EDJBT has been truly remarkable, with participation numbers reaching new heights year after year. In 2025, the tournament saw 1,805 teams competing, marking it as the largest yet.

The top five largest tournaments to date include:

- 2025: 1,805 teams
- 2024: 1,674 teams
- 2019: 1,453 teams
- 2022: 1,442 teams
- 2023: 1,426 teams

Held annually across the January long weekend, the EDJBT is a massive undertaking. Behind the scenes, our dedicated team works tirelessly for months leading up to the event to ensure everything runs smoothly. Despite having a small team, we are able to coordinate everything from fixtures to referees for this monumental event.

Our fixture team—Alicia, Cam, and Alex—work manually to plot out the schedules for all 1,805 teams. They ensure that teams are assigned to games based on their location, grade, and proximity to other teams, which is no small feat. This year, they meticulously mapped out the tournament by hand, ensuring that every detail was accounted for.

Our referee team, led by Penny, also plays a crucial role in the smooth operation of the tournament. They manually schedule each referee, taking into account factors like game grades, number of games, and



overall scheduling needs. This careful coordination ensures that every game has the appropriate referees to uphold the integrity of the competition.

In addition to fixtures and referees, our team works around the clock organizing other aspects of the tournament, including merchandising, media coverage, partnerships, communications, venue management, canteens, merchandise stalls, and more. This year, we faced the added challenge of weather disruptions, which required us to adjust the schedule to ensure that all games were played as planned. Teams playing in stadiums without air conditioning were relocated to cooled venues to maintain player comfort and safety.

The planning process for the EDJBT begins as soon as the current tournament ends, with preparations already underway for 2026. We are excited to continue growing and improving the event each year.

Here are some key statistics from the 2025 tournament:

- 5,600+ volunteer hours
- Over 5,350 hours of gameplay
- 1,805 teams
- 5,350 games played
- 740 referees
- 279 grand finals
- 10,000+ streams of A-grade finals
- Over 18,724 players

As we look forward to 2026, we are committed to making the EDJBT bigger and better than ever before. Thank you to everyone involved for helping make this tournament a success year after year.

OUR

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ONE YET

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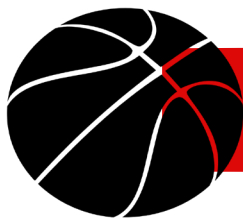


CELEBRATING *25 years*
EST. 2000

ORTHODONTICS



1805 TEAMS



5,350 GAMES



740 REFEREES



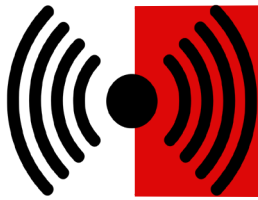
279 GRAND FINALS



18,724+ PLAYERS



5,350+ HOURS PLAYED



**10,000+ A GRADE
FINAL STREAMS**



**5,600+ VOLUNTEER
HOURS**



**OUR
BIGGEST
ONE YET**





ManagementNEWS

Hi Wildcats Community

It has been a busy two months since I started as CEO.

Firstly, what a great community we have at the Wildcats. It is evident that the culture within the Wildcats is great and there is strong intent to make a positive input into the future of the Wildcats.

I have been able to meet some great people already and I look forward to meeting many more over the coming months.

I had the pleasure of seeing the 2025 Eltham Dandenong tournament first-hand, both behind the scenes and over the weekend. By all measures 2025 was bigger and better than ever. Our volunteers and staff contributed over 5,600 hours before and during the tournament.

We could not operate the Wildcats or the tournament without our volunteers and I want to thank each and every one of you for giving up your valuable time and being so passionate about making the Wildcats a success.

We are a week away from the EDJBA finals starting. We have a fantastic domestic competition, which is the heart and soul of the Wildcats. It is important for us all to remember that any player, coach or referee who has been successful at progressing through the Wildcats pathways started in our domestic competition.

We have had 10 Wildcats representative teams qualify for VC this season in the VJBL, which is an amazing outcome and a good reflection on the pathways available for players to progress.

We are busy preparing for the NBL1 & Big V competitions that commence in March. If you haven't go your 2025 membership for NBL1 & Big V, don't be disappointed by leaving it too late.

I want to thank all of our Partners for 2025, your support of the Wildcats is amazing, and we are proud to be aligned to all of you.

Many of you will know that this year the Wildcats turn 60. We are working through an appropriate way for our community to celebrate turning 60. Please keep Sunday the 13th of July free. We will provide further information in the coming months.

We will be conducting some maintenance and repairs at Eltham High School over the next 2-3 months. New rings and backboards will be installed, which will match the standard of our rings and backboards at Montmorency. We are also working with the high school to have roof repairs completed to reduce leaks that we have been experiencing. Planning is also underway for replacing the cladding, which we anticipate will be completed early in 2026

Finally, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, if you have thoughts or ideas for how we can better support our community.

Thanks, Richard

UnifiedKIDS

Unified Kids is a new inclusive basketball program for children and teenagers aged 5-15 years.

Training sessions will focus on skill development and they will also progress to include some short basketball game components.

We welcome both neurodivergent and neurotypical participants to engage in this inclusive basketball offering.

Unified Kids is conducted 6pm-6:45pm on Wednesdays at Eltham High School. The remaining dates for Term 1 are Wednesday March the 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th and 3rd April.

Please arrive at 5.50pm to ensure we can start on time.

Please bring a drink bottle and ear covers or any sensory supports if required.

The Term 1 program is fully funded by Special Olympics Victoria, so there is no cost to join the program.

The only cost will be for participants that do not already own a reversible Eltham Wildcats singlet. The cost of a singlet is \$46.00 however you can use one of our loan singlets if this is preferred.

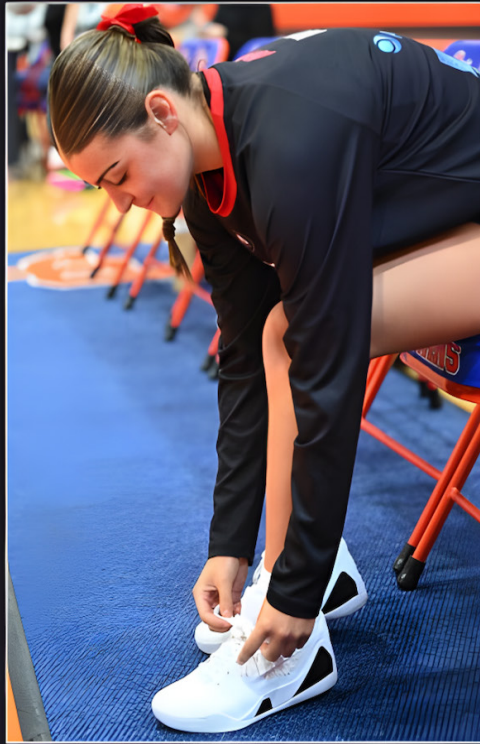
[SIGN UP FOR TERM 1 HERE.](#)

This program will also be offered in Term 2 so please register your interest via email to inclusion@elthamwildcats.net.au



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Keydates **COMING**

EDJBA Upcoming Dates:

- Winter Early Bird Registrations (\$355) – February 28th (no exceptions)
- Winter Standard Registrations (\$375) – March 1st – March 17th
- Registration Late Fee (\$400) – March 18th (email convenors at convenors discretion)
- Summer Semi Finals – March 15th
- Summer Prelim Finals – March 22nd
- Summer Grand Finals - March 29th
- Winter Round 1 Starts – April 26th
- Winter Season – April 26th – 23rd August
- Winter Finals – August 30th – 13th September

Please note requests for finals are closed.

Senior Program Upcoming Dates:

- Eltham Run - 3x3 Senior Tournament Registrations Close – March 11th

Inclusive Programs Upcoming Dates:

- Walking Basketball Tournament – April 8th
- Unified Kids – March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th and April 3rd

NBL1 Upcoming Dates:

- Home Opener against Ringwood / Championship Ceremony – March 29th
- ANZAC Round – April 26th
- Pride Round – May 24th
- Heritage Round – May 31st
- First Nations Round – July 5th
- Mental Health Round – July 18th



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Expressions of Interest to join Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club (EWBC) Finance Committee.

EWBC encourages community involvement within the club through many activities and one such way is through our club committee structures. Parents and community members are invited to participate in committees to ensure the club is consultative, but also to increase expertise and skills when making decisions that affect the future of the club.

We currently have a vacancy within the Finance Committee.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the Finance Committee are to:

- a) review quarterly management reports against budget and prior period results
- b) engage in discussion with the Finance Manager & CEO about the annual budget and other financial matters.
- c) give such practical support to the Club as required in matters such as capital and maintenance programs.

We are seeking a suitable member with expertise in the areas of accounting and finance to enhance the expertise of the current team. The Finance Committees Charter can be found on the club's website (or provided upon request).

Interested parties are invited to review the charter and express interest by emailing the Finance Manager accounts@elthamwildcats.net.au.

Please include a one-page summary of experience and attributes in support of your application.

EDJBA Convenors Winter 2025

We are seeking Age Group Convenors for Winter 2025 in the girls program in the Saturday Junior Domestic season.

This is a great opportunity to gain valuable experience, learn more about the club and help out the girls Saturday Junior Domestic program.
A small reimbursement is provided.

For more information, please email – juniordomestic@elthamwildcats.net.au



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QUEST BUNDOORA NBL1 WOMEN TEAM

Rebecca Pizzey
Taylah Short
Eleanor Trout
Kayla Salmons
Jayde Cadee
Emily Maltezos
Hailey Leidel
Lily Scanlon
Lil Dart
Kennedy Dickie



QUEST
BUNDOORA

AIR FUSION NBL1 MEN TEAM

Sam Whelan
Sam Short
Zahn Agosta
Lachlan Wood
Zak Cunningham
Ovie Magbegor
Zac Anderson
Josh Sykes
Gabe Hadley
More players to be announced.....





QUEST



BUNDOORA



**2025
MEMBERSHIPS
OUT NOW!!**



CELEBRATING
25 years
EST. 2000

HOME GAMES

2025

RD 1 Saturday March 29th 6.00pm (W) and 8.15pm (M)



RD 4 Saturday April 26th 6.00pm (W) and 8.00pm (M)



RD 5 Sunday May 4th 12.30pm (W) and 2.30pm (M)



RD 8 Saturday May 24th 6.00pm (W) and 8.00pm (M)



RD 9 Saturday May 31st 6.00pm (W) and 8.00pm (M)



RD 10 Saturday Jun 14th 6.00pm (W) and 8.00pm (M)



RD 11 Saturday June 21st 6.00pm (W) and 8.00pm (M)



RD 12 Saturday Jun 28th 6.00pm (W) and 8.00pm (M)



RD 13 Saturday Jul 5th 6.00pm (W) and 8.00pm (M)



RD 14 Sunday Jul 13th 12.30pm (W) and 2.30pm (M)



RD 15 Friday Jul 18th 6.30pm (W) and 8.30pm (M)



Wildcats