

# THE PROWL





# CEO MESSAGE

## Richard Irving

Dear Wildcats Community,

September is finals month for several sports. We are no different with our Representative and Domestic finals recently finishing. Congratulations to all the teams who made finals.

Sophie Foote our Wellbeing officer finishes with the Wildcats in September. It is bittersweet to see Soph leave, as she has made a significant contribution to improving our wellbeing framework. Soph is moving onto a role counselling youth, which is aligned to her future career ambitions. We wish all the best and thank her for the contribution she has made to the Wildcats.

Our U14's girls' representative team are off to Perth late September/early October to compete in the Australian Club Championships. We wish the team and coaches all the best.

Players in our Unified program have been invited to compete in the 3x3 World Championships being held in Puerto Rico in December. This is fantastic recognition of the Unified program and an awesome opportunity for our neurodivergent players to play on the big stage. The team need to raise a large amount of money in a short space of time. If you feel you can support the team, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [ceo@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:ceo@elthamwildcats.net.au).

Many of you will know the Club now has an Integrity Commission, which provides an independent function to consider complaints and undertake investigations. I have heard stories of our members not raising concerns because they feel their children will be impacted in team selections. It is important to raise these issues through our Integrity Commission, so we can improve all aspects of the Wildcats. I can assure you that this function is completely impartial and investigates concerns without fear or favour.

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



# LIFE MEMBERS

Hello to our Life Members,

We kindly ask that you complete the form below, either for yourself as a Life Member or, if you are a family member of a Life Member, on their behalf. We are working to collate all the updated contact details together so we can stay better connected.

If your loved one has sadly passed away, we would deeply appreciate it if you could let us know by emailing Nicola at [business@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:business@elthamwildcats.net.au)

Thank you for helping us keep our records up to date and for being such an important part of our community.

[Click here to fill out the form](#)

# FROM THE MAYWALDS

To the Wildcats family,

I just want to say a huge thank you for the very generous donation. I never imagined the kids and I'd be in this situation, but the way the club has rallied behind us has been truly overwhelming.

Your kindness, generosity, and support mean more than I can ever put into words, and I'll be forever grateful to be part of such a caring community.

With heartfelt thanks,  
Cassie, Mia & Ben



## TERM 3 WILDCATS HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Looking for the perfect way to keep the kids active and engaged these holidays? The Eltham Wildcats Holiday Camps are back, offering a wide range of programs designed for all skill levels. We've also brought back some old favourites that players have loved in the past!

Holiday Programs Include:

- Wildcats All Day Camp
- Competitions & Games Camp
- Beginner Programs – Kinder & Cub Squad
- New to Domestic (U8s & U10s only)
- Eltham Wildcats 3x3 Tournament
- Eltham Wildcats Junior Shooting Clinic
- Junior Domestic Rep Ready Camp
- U12–U18 Rep Prep Camp
- SPORTFIRST Junior Domestic Skills Camp

Spots are limited, so don't miss out!

Further inquiries? Contact Taya at [juniordev@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:juniordev@elthamwildcats.net.au)

[Register and find out more](#)

# PHOTOGRAPHER OPPORTUNITIES

## Capturing the Grit, Glory & Game Day Moments - One Shot at a Time

Our NBL1 Men's assistant coach Steve Smith is offering our players a fresh take on sports photography - where every jump shot, buzzer beater, and courtside celebration is captured with precision, passion, and a deep love for the game.

Our vision is simple: to freeze the raw energy and emotion of basketball into powerful images that tell the story of each game. I aim to deliver high-quality, game day photos that players, and families will treasure for years to come.

This isn't just about action shots - it's about documenting the moments that matter:

- the pre-game focus
- mid-game hustle
- post-game pride and all the intensity in between.

Through our lens, we want to elevate everyday athletes and celebrate the spirit of the sport at every level.

Whether you're a player, coach, or parent - your story deserves to be told. And we're here to capture it, one photo at a time.

If you have any questions or would like to book in a time, please reach out to Steve Smith at [ssmith.54@hotmail.com](mailto:ssmith.54@hotmail.com)



# SPORTFIRST

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## JUNIOR DOMESTIC

### Paula Hogan

#### Winter season

Congratulations to all teams. We had 327 teams compete with 2,601 players under the Eltham club banner this season and it was a very successful season for many teams.

We were fortunate to have the following teams through to the various stages of finals:

- Semi Finals – 264 teams
- Preliminary Finals – 240 teams
- Grand Finals – 123 teams.

Thank you to all players, coaches,

team managers, and families for your commitment throughout the season.

#### Summer Season

A huge thank you to everyone for getting the registrations in by the hard close – this has made a big difference in reducing the load on our age group convenors as we moved into the team selection phase.

Currently we are in the final stages of team selections, processing training spots and sending team numbers to the EDJBA. Our current player count stands at 2,664 which is at approximately 345

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teams, but this is only an indicative number.

It is exciting to see that some boys age groups surpassing the 50 teams in the age group. This is not the first time however it is for multiple age groups. It is a remarkable milestone to mention.

Our age group convenors and coordinators are doing an amazing job in managing this enormous task, we appreciate their dedication and commitment to ensuring our young players are on the court.

All of these remarkable numbers are a result of our amazing volunteer community who invest their time and effort into our junior program, the grassroots of our club.

We look forward to the release of Summer teams on Tuesday 30th September after 5pm.

Thank you once again for the support of our junior domestic program.

# IMPRESSIVE EFFORTS EDJBA

## David Hickman

- Joel Mason 15-30 B Tall, mobile, attacks basket
- Jed Stewart 15-30 B Transition, offensive boards, speed
- Aarshya Rahul 13-20 G Defensive transition, speed, drives
- Jemma Hoseason 13-20 G Leads, drives, passes inside
- Harry Lord 13-12 B Super defence, passing & drives
- Blake Nichele 13-20 B Rebounding both ends, cuts to basket, passes
- Osha Woodham 13-20 G Efforts and hard work transition
- Lachlan McCoid 13-29 B Point guard work, vision & drives
- Oliver Bennett 13-29 B Interceptions, rebounding, passing
- Cameron Pretorius 15-11 G Effort & excellent passing

## YOUTH COMMITTEE

Calling all passionate Wildcats!

Our Eltham Wildcats Youth Committee is looking for more members to join this incredible team!

If you're between 14-25 and eager to make a real difference, we want YOU to be part of shaping the future of our club.

Want to have your say and help us grow? Stay tuned for more details, and register your interest.

[Register Here](#)

# GRAND FINAL

## EDJBA Winners

**Congratulations to all our Eltham teams who made it through to the Grand Finals!**

**This season, we had an incredible 123 teams make it - that's just over 40% of all our teams competing in the EDJBA. What an outstanding achievement and a true reflection of the hard work, dedication, and spirit of our players, coaches, and families.**

**A special congratulations also goes out to all our Grand Final winners - an amazing effort by everyone involved!**

Eltham U09 Boys 01	Eltham U11 Girls 07	Eltham U15 Girls 03
Eltham U09 Boys 06	Eltham U11 Girls 08	Eltham U15 Girls 06
Eltham U09 Boys 08	Eltham U13 Boys 04	Eltham U15 Girls 08
Eltham U09 Boys 13	Eltham U13 Boys 06	Eltham U15 Girls 11
Eltham U09 Boys 20	Eltham U13 Boys 08	Eltham U15 Girls 13
Eltham U09 Boys 23	Eltham U13 Boys 18	Eltham U17 Boys 04
Eltham U09 Boys 29	Eltham U13 Boys 22	Eltham U17 Boys 14
Eltham U09 Boys 30	Eltham U13 Boys 25	Eltham U17 Boys 16
Eltham U09 Girls 03	Eltham U13 Boys 32	Eltham U17 Boys 18
Eltham U09 Girls 09	Eltham U13 Boys 35	Eltham U17 Boys 20
Eltham U09 Girls 14	Eltham U13 Boys 45	Eltham U17 Boys 22
Eltham U09 Girls 19	Eltham U13 Girls 01	Eltham U17 Boys 26
Eltham U11 Boys 07	Eltham U13 Girls 10	Eltham U17 Girls 09
Eltham U11 Boys 09	Eltham U13 Girls 12	Eltham U21 Boys 14
Eltham U11 Boys 10	Eltham U13 Girls 14	Eltham U21 Girls 06
Eltham U11 Boys 12	Eltham U13 Girls 17	
Eltham U11 Boys 21	Eltham U15 Boys 01	
Eltham U11 Boys 25	Eltham U15 Boys 05	
Eltham U11 Boys 40	Eltham U15 Boys 06	
Eltham U11 Boys 44	Eltham U15 Boys 07	
Eltham U11 Boys 45	Eltham U15 Boys 29	
Eltham U11 Girls 03	Eltham U15 Boys 36	



# *Term 3* **BEGINNERS PROGRAMS**

Our Eltham Wildcats Beginners Programs have continued to thrive throughout Term 3, exceeding expectations both on and off the court. We are proud to report a record 158 participants in our Kinder Club program, a testament to the dedication of our coaching staff and the enthusiasm of our young mini cubs players.

The Ford Aussie Hoops Program, proudly supported by Jellis Craig, has also grown strongly this term. Within our Cub Squad Program, we run our Game Ready Program, designed to help players transition into the Saturday Junior Domestic (EDJBA) competition. We are also pleased to see the continued progression of Cub Squad participants into Junior Domestic teams.

Looking ahead to the Summer 25/26 EDJBA season, we are excited to continue forming both girls' and boys' Cub Squad teams, guided by our dedicated coaching staff.

### **Kinder Club**

Eltham Kinder Club is for 3-4-year-old beginners.

### **Session Highlights:**

- Modified basketballs and equipment to suit smaller hands and developing skills.
- 30-minute sessions.
- Focus on introduction to fundamental basketball skills, gross motor skills and FUN!!
- **\*NEW\*** Monday Sessions now available!

[Register for Kinder Club Here](#)



## **Ford Aussie Hoops Cub Squad and Game Ready**

### **Cub Squad**

Cub Squad is for 5-10-year-old beginners.

### **Session Highlights**

- Skill development – our carefully designed programs focus on skill development, ensuring that players not only have fun on the court, but also enhance their abilities in the fundamentals of dribbling, shooting, passing and teamwork.
- All girls sessions available.

### **Game Ready**

Game Ready is for 7-10-year-old beginners.

### **Session Highlights**

- Sessions consist of half skills & drills and half modified gameplay.
- The focus is on teaching players the basic rules of basketball to help with the transition to competition.
- Suitable for players aged 7-10 and who have completed at least one term of Ford Aussie Hoops- Cub Squad.
- All girls sessions available.

[\*\*Register for Cub Squad Here\*\*](#)

For more information, please head to our website.

For further inquiries, please contact Taya at [juniordev@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:juniordev@elthamwildcats.net.au)



# SAFETY & WELLBEING NEWS

**Sophie Foote**

*Hi Wildcats!*

I hope you all are very well.

Congratulations to all EDJBA and VJBL teams wrapping up their seasons, I hope it was an enjoyable season had by all and you all have a safe and wonderful break.

Today I share some bittersweet news that my time at the Wildcats is up. It has been a very difficult decision to step away, but I believe the club is in fantastic hands and the wellbeing programs future is only bigger and brighter.

I have learnt and grown so much in my time at the Wildcats and want to thank you all for creating such a supportive and wonderful club to be a part of for all these years!

Whilst we are in the transition period of the role we ask that you reach out to our Welfare Chair – Rachel Morgan in the interim via [welfare@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:welfare@elthamwildcats.net.au) if you need any support or if you need any further assistance please reach out to the national supports listed.

Take care and thanks again for everything.

All the very best.

**Follow these four simple steps to start a conversation that could truly change someone's life:**

1. Ask, "R U OK?"
2. Listen with care
3. Encourage them to take action
4. Follow up and check in

## September 11th was R U OK? Day!

This day teaches us that a conversation could make all the difference.

R U OK Day is a day of action when we are reminded that every day is the day to ask, 'are you OK?' and start a meaningful conversation whenever you may spot the signs that someone might be struggling.

You don't need to be a professional to make a difference - just a caring friend and an attentive listener. Asking "are you OK?" may seem small, but it can have a powerful impact.

ASK

RUOK?™



## National supports:

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
- Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800 / Online chat: <https://kidshelpline.com.au>

# GRAND FINAL

## VJBL Winners

A huge congratulations to all of our Eltham teams who battled their way through the season and into the Grand Finals!

An extra round of applause to our Grand Final winners - an outstanding achievement and a testament to everyone's hard work and commitment.

- Eltham U16 Boys 2
- Eltham U16 Boys 5
- Eltham U12 Boys 8
- Eltham U14 Girls 5
- Eltham U14 Girls 7



# ELTHAM WILDCATS

SEASON 2025



## B12-8 ELTHAM WILDCATS 2025

Back Row: Ned Luttick, Charlie Craven, Renee Wilkie (TM), Damien Toomey (Coach), Ross Campbell (AC), Alexander Buncic, Beau Vunivalu  
Front Row: Cooper Toomey, Ashton O'Connell, Trenton Kent, James Campbell, Oliver Wilkie, Judd Jerram



# ELTHAM WILDCATS

SEASON 2025



## G14-5 ELTHAM WILDCATS 2025

Back Row: Claire Bowden, Mia Hyatt, Mackenzie Cesari-Ford (Coach), Andrea Richardson (TM), Jemima Coyne, Lara Adams  
Front Row: Mackenzie Richardson, Olivia Freiberg, Quinn Crupi, Jessica Brown, Willow Glover Absent: Charly Bandera (AC)



# ELTHAM WILDCATS

SEASON 2025



## G14-7 ELTHAM WILDCATS 2025

Back Row: Nilu Hansen, Chloe Margaritis, Bonnie Briggs, Matthew Margaritis (Coach), Sethumi Lyanage, Neave Child, Ivy Trim  
Front Row: Zoe van den Berg, Kalah McLauchlan, Emily Cooper, Zoe Buckley





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# LOST PROPERTY

## Hi Wildcats,

We would like to inform all members of our updated lost property process.

Due to the high volume of lost items being handed in, we will now be implementing a 4-week lost property cycle. This means that any items not collected within 4 weeks will be cleared.

If you misplace something at one of our stadiums, we recommend:

First, checking with your team to see if someone has picked it up. If not, visit the venue and check the lost property area as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us manage lost property more effectively.



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# QUEST

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## BUNDOORA



# Club Championships U14

The Eltham Wildcats U14 Girls, led by coaches D'Wayne and Breanna Hogan, have officially qualified for the 2025 Under 14 Club Championships, to be held in Perth from September 27 to October 3.

The Club Championships are the pinnacle of under 14 basketball in Australia, with only the top 24 teams from across the country earning an invitation. This is a huge achievement and a testament to the girls' dedication, talent, and teamwork throughout the season.

While the team is excited for this incredible opportunity, they need help covering the significant costs of flights, accommodation, uniforms, and transport.

## How You Can Help

Donations can be made through the Australian Sports Foundation and are tax-deductible. Every contribution will directly support the girls on their journey to Nationals.

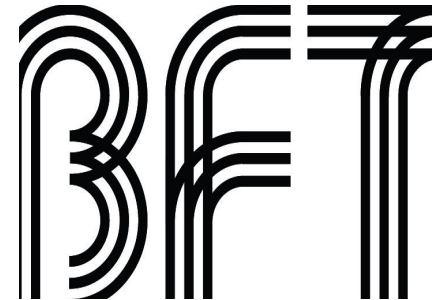
**Donate now:** [asf.org.au/campaigns/eltham-wildcats-basketball-club/eltham-wildcats-under-14-national-club-championships](https://asf.org.au/campaigns/eltham-wildcats-basketball-club/eltham-wildcats-under-14-national-club-championships)

We wish the team all the best as they proudly represent Eltham on the national stage this month!





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# TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

## Pat Zerna

### Technical Officials Leagues

Some shout-outs due for finals appointments this edition. Elliot Green was appointed to officiate the NBL-1 South Men's Final 2025, and Caitlyn Vine supporting from her role on the scorebench. In BigV, Ethan Clare earned his place in the Champ Men's decider, while Jack Jordan took the floor in the YL2M final. Adding to the success, both James K and Amy S were appointed to officiate throughout the final series in their respective divisions.

Reaching this level is no easy feat. Our officials compete against referees of all ages, skill levels, and experience. As the season gets down to the pointy end, selectors face the demanding task of not only choosing the right officials but also the right pairings. This process

begins long before finals, with in-game assessments and video reviews shaping decisions from the opening round. By the time the finals arrive, only those who have consistently proven themselves under pressure remain.

### Grassroots

If you have attended MSC in the past few months, you would have noticed a new group of trainees taking the courts. Under the guidance of Peter Barnes and Aiden Guy, all participants have passed their assessments and are now active officials in our ranks. A big thank you to the morning referee group for warmly welcoming and supporting these new officials in their development.



## Technical Officials Courtside

Our national leagues, the WNBL & NBL are the pinnacle of basketball in Australia and are internationally recognised for their exceptional standard of officiating. Having attended FIBA events myself, I've witnessed firsthand the incredible quality, training, and professionalism necessary of the technical officials, and the standards expected at such an elite level from multiple countries across the globe.

It should not come as a surprise, but there are times when the entire scorebench and stats crew for a national game is made up entirely of Eltham technical officials. It's a remarkable achievement that highlights the depth of talent we have.

What's even more impressive is

that these same internationally accredited officials are also courtside week-in, week-out at our local NBL-1 and Big V games, bringing that same world-class standard to our community comp.

With Amy & Alicia at the helm for scoretable and stats respectively, I continue to watch elite level training, a growth of excellence and community, and it's both a pleasure and privilege to continually work with them.

Shout out to Amy, Alicia, Caitlyn, Chris, Glenn, Breanna, Grif, Brian, Casey, Aydin, Ryan, Jacob & Celine for your appointments on the panel. I look forward to pointing you all out on the TV when I see you.



ORTHODONTICS

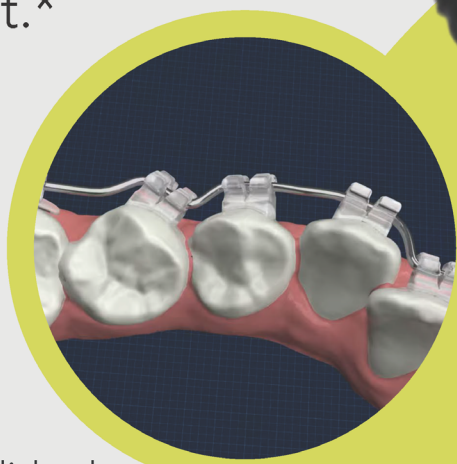
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