

THE PROWL



ceo MESSAGE

Richard Irving

Dear Wildcats Family,

Congratulations to our Big V Youth Women on their outstanding win in the Youth League One Grand Final against Knox, 77-99. It's a brilliant achievement, reflecting the hard work of so many dedicated people in our programs shaping our next generation of Wildcat players. A special mention to our NBL1 Men for their strong efforts in the finals, though they unfortunately fell short against Sandringham Sabres.

We are heading into an exciting and busy period for the club with the EDJBA and VJBL finals fast approaching, we send our best wishes to all our competing teams.

As we get ready for the new seasons, registrations for the EDJBA 25/26 Summer Season are now open, and VJBL trials for the upcoming season will be commencing in late September / early October.

Our beginners program has hit a new milestone, with an incredible 427 participants – our biggest yet! This is a fantastic achievement, as these young athletes feed into our domestic program and continue to strengthen our club.

I'm pleased to report that new office employees Alana (Competitions Manager), Taylor (Member Support Co-ordinator), and Mitch (Head of Junior Pathways) have settled into the office brilliantly. Their impact is already being felt across the club, and we're excited to see their contributions grow.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can better support our Wildcats community.

Thanks,
Richard

beginner PROGRAMS

Taya Lupton

Hi Wildcats,

Registration for Term 3 is now closed. We are proud to announce that our Beginners Program has reached a record of **427 participants** this term! What a great achievement from all those involved.

Term 4 Registrations

If you are interested in signing up for Term 4 Beginners Programs, fill out our expression of interest and when registrations go live, you will be the first to know!

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/ElthamWildcats/T32025BeginnersProgramsEOI>

For enquires, please contact Taya beginners@elthamwildcats.net.au

Thank you in advance! If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.



senior PROGRAMS

Jacob Burnham

Your Eltham Wildcats Youth League Women are Champions of Big V Youth League One for 2025!

After an impressive regular season, finishing in 3rd place with a strong 16–6 record, the Wildcats Youth Women entered the finals full of confidence and determination. Riding the momentum of their consistent performances and with team morale at an all-time high, they were well-positioned to make a deep run in the postseason.

Following an impressive victory against the Whittlesea Pacers in Week 1 at home, the Wildcats travelled to Geelong to face the second-placed Geelong United in a high-stakes clash for a Grand Final spot. The Wildcats surged ahead early, establishing a commanding 43-19 lead by halftime and never relinquishing control. They sealed a convincing 77-57 victory, securing their place in the Grand Final.

The win showcased a true team effort, with all 12 players contributing to the scoreboard. Claudia Hii led the charge, delivering a standout performance with 15 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists, and 3 steals.

In a thrilling showdown, the Wildcats faced off against the top-seeded Knox, who boasted an impressive 22-1 record, in the 2025 Youth League 1 Grand Final at Dandenong Stadium. A huge thank you to the passionate Wildcats supporters who filled the stands, creating an electrifying atmosphere that fuelled our Women's team to victory.

The Wildcats stormed out of the gate, delivering a commanding performance in the first quarter by scoring an astonishing 35 points to seize a 24 point lead. Their relentless defence, shooting, and ball movement were a spectacle, setting the tone for the game. The team maintained their dominance throughout, securing a resounding 99-77 victory and claiming the 2025 Youth League 1 Championship title. Claudia Hii earned the Grand Final MVP honours with a stellar all-around performance, contributing 8 points, 4 rebounds, 10 assists, and 4 steals. Her leadership and skill were pivotal in the team's success.

A heartfelt congratulations to Coach Kelly Walker and the entire Youth Women's team for this remarkable achievement. You have made the club immensely proud, and we eagerly await your return to the court in 2026!



senior PROGRAMS

Jacob Burnham

After a record-breaking 4th place finish in the regular season, the Air Fusion Wildcats NBL1 Men found themselves in a Semi-Final at home against the Sandringham Sabres after their close loss against Knox in week 1.

A huge shout-out to our incredible Wildcats fans who packed the stands for one of our biggest crowds yet, with only a few tickets left unsold! Despite our Wildcats men battling hard until the final buzzer, the shots didn't fall our way, marking the end of their 2025 season.

A massive thank you to our Wildcats Members for your unwavering support throughout the 2025 NBL1 season, our major sponsors, Air Fusion, Total Tools, and Quest Bundoora, and our dedicated gameday staff who make every home game possible. Your passion, both at home and away, creates an electric atmosphere and a vibrant community we're proud to be part of.

We can't wait to see you all again in 2026!

league NOMINATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD NOMINEES

NBL1 South

Craig Stratford - NBL1 Men Coach of the Year Nominee

Lil Dart - NBL1 Women Youth Player of the Year Nominee

Gabe Hadley - NBL1 First Team/Second Team Nominee

BIG V

Kelly Walker - Big V Youth League 1 Coach of the Year Nominee

Addison Knight - Youth League 1 All-Star 5 Nominee

Claudia Hii - Youth League 1 All-Star 5 Nominee

Emily Maltezos - Youth League 1 All-Star 5 Nominee

Zac Anderson - Youth Champ Men Defensive Player of the Year Nominee

Lachlan Wood - Youth Champ Men All-Star 5 Nominee

Mitch Blackburn - Youth Champ Men All-Star 5 Nominee

senior PROGRAMS

Eltham Wildcats AWARDS

2025 Big V Youth Women:

MVP: Claudia Hii

MVP: Addison Knight

Rookie of the Year: Marley Pascoe

Impact Player of the Year: Lucy Christodoulou

2025 Big V Youth Men:

MVP: Mitch Blackburn

MVP Runner-Up: Zac Anderson

Impact Player of the Year: Zac Anderson

Coaches Award: Lachlan Wood

2025 NBL1 Women:

MVP: Rebecca Pizzey

MVP: Kennedy Dickie

Impact Player of the Year: Rebecca Pizzey

Player's Player: Taylah Short

2025 NBL1 Men:

MVP: Sam Short

MVP Runner-Up: Xavier Bledson

Impact Player of the Year: Josh Sykes

Most Improved Player: Lachlan Wood

2025 NBL1 Members MVP:

Members MVP: Rebecca Pizzey

Members MVP: Sam Short

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD WINNERS

safety & wellbeing NEWS

Sophie Foote

Hi Wildcats,

I hope you are all well and taking the time to look after yourselves. We have a lot of exciting things happening in the wellbeing space currently and one of those is the development of education for our members in the wellbeing and inclusion space, which I believe will make a huge impact for our members and the broader basketball community.

If you would like to have your say please fill out the survey below.

[Wellbeing Inclusion Education Survey](#)

As always, if you or someone you know would like to have a confidential chat or requires any support, please reach out the wellbeing team or the supports at the bottom of the page.



Diversity and Inclusion Training by Volunteer Victoria

This training is designed to give you the confidence, knowledge, and practical skills to foster inclusivity in your workplace and community.

Date: Thursday 4 September 2025 & Thursday 11 September 2025

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm (AEST)

Location: Online, via Zoom

Cost: FREE (supported by VMA funding)

Who: Anyone who wants to start the conversation and build a culture where everyone feels valued and respected.

[Register Here](#)

The 11th to 15th of August was Bullying No Way Week

At Eltham Basketball Club we take a zero tolerance approach to any form of abuse, harassment or bullying. Bullying is everyone's responsibility. It takes a community to be brave and address bullying behaviours, within and beyond the basketball court.

Check out our video for Bullying No Way Week that went out on our social media.

If you or someone you know wants a confidential chat or requires any support, please reach our well-being team.

The 12th of August was International Day of Youth

This day is to recognise and celebrate our incredible youth and to shine light on matters on youth related issues.

Today we thought it would be a perfect opportunity to introduce you to some of our Eltham Wildcats Youth Committee members and learn a bit about why they wanted to be involved!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16PBZc4uhw/>

Thank you to all the Youth Committee members for all their effort and commitment. Want to have your say and help us grow?

[Register your Interest Here](#)

The 29th of August is Wear it Purple Day

This day aims to promote acceptance and inclusivity for LGBTQIA+ youth. It encourages everyone to wear purple to show their support for LGBTQIA+ young people. A reminder that you are loved, seen and belong just as you are at Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club!

Check out our office staff showing their support on our socials on the 29th.

Take care Wildcats!

Sophie Foote – Wellbeing Officer - wellbeing@elthamwildcats.net.au

Rachel Morgan – Welfare Committee Chair – welfare@elthamwildcats.net.au

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>
- 1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732 - National assault and violence support



[13 11 14](tel:131114) lifeline.org.au



Club Championships U14

The Eltham Wildcats U14.1 Girls are preparing to take on the best in the country at the 2024 National Club Championships in Perth this September.

This is a huge achievement, and now we're calling on our Wildcats community to help support their journey.

How You Can Help

Donations can be made through the Australian Sports Foundation and are tax deductible. All funds raised will go directly towards flights, accommodation, uniforms, and tournament fees.

Donate now:

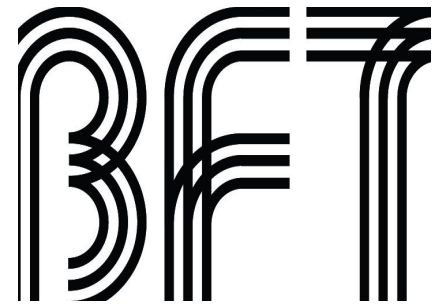
asf.org.au/campaigns/eltham-wildcats-basketball-club/eltham-wildcats-under-14-national-club-championships

We couldn't be prouder of this group and look forward to seeing them represent Eltham on the national stage.





Recovery Tree Services



Up to 40%
Energy
Savings for
Commercial
Buildings

With Unmatched HVAC/R
Control & Monitoring Solutions



Contact us to find out more:

- sales@resourcedm.com.au
- www.resourcedm.com





SUMMER DOMESTIC
REGISTRATIONS
NOW OPEN!

[Click Here to Register](#)

welcomeALANA

My name is Alana, and I am excited to introduce myself as the new Competitions Manager at Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club.

In this role I will be overseeing the Senior Domestic Competition whilst also supporting the delivery of both our junior domestic and championship programs. I will also be involved in the organisation of the annual Eltham Dandenong Basketball Tournament in January, a key event on the club's calendar.

I come from a strong sporting background, having competed professionally as a tennis player for over a decade. Alongside my playing career, I spent more than 10 years coaching tennis at various levels as well as gaining experience in running tennis programs and managing tournaments. I am passionate about creating opportunities for athletes to enjoy their sport, improve, and feel part of a strong community.

Joining the Eltham Wildcats family is something I am truly looking forward to, and I am eager to contribute to the continued success of the club. My aim is to help strengthen and enhance the programs we deliver, ensuring they remain enjoyable, inclusive, and of the highest quality. I can't wait to meet players, coaches, families, supporters, and to be part of the exciting journey ahead.



lifeMEMBERS

Hello to our LifeMembers,

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.

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](#)

youthCOMMITTEE

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 your Interest Here](#)

uniformSHOP

Hi Wildcats,

Just a quick reminder that the Uniform Shop has updated its opening hours during school terms:

Fridays: 4:00pm – 7:00pm (previously 5:00pm – 8:00pm)

Saturdays: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Please also note that the online store is currently offline as we prepare to launch a new and improved version. Stay tuned for updates!

If you have any questions, contact Albi at uniform@elthamwildcats.net.au

SPORTFIRST

FIRST FOR SPORT

ELTHAM SPORTS STORE



20 Arthur Street ELTHAM 



mazda
PRESTON
MAZDA

A Max Kirwan
family business

P: 03 9480 3555
120 Bell St, Preston VIC 3072

maxkirwan.com.au



Part-time Bookkeeper role

We at the Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club have an opportunity for an experienced bookkeeper to assist the Commercial Operations Manager with the day-to-day bookkeeping of our growing organisation.

The hours and times can be flexible, and there is some opportunity to work-from-home. We envisage that the role will take about 20 hours per week. The only fixed requirement is that Wednesdays from mid-morning to mid-afternoon must be in the Montmorency office.

The tasks will include invoice entry, payroll (for up to 30 staff each fortnight), staff and supplier payments every week, and bank reconciliations.

Considerable experience with MYOB is essential.

- Growing basketball organisation
- Flexible hours and days
- Opportunity for some work-from-home
- Extensive experience with MYOB is essential

If you have the necessary experience and enthusiasm for the role, please send your CV to account@elthamwildcats.net.au.

We will commence interviews (initially via Teams) as applications arrive, so please don't delay.



Number: (03) 9439 2749

Address: 1/38 Bridge St,
Eltham VIC 3095

Opening Hours:

Mon - Fri: 9am to 5pm

All your heating and cooling needs

QUEST

BUNDOORA



VJBLtrialINFORMATION

What is the VJBL?

The Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL) is the premier statewide junior representative basketball competition in Victoria. It features the top junior players from across the state, with over 1,300 teams representing associations from metro and regional areas.

Eltham Wildcats is proud to be one of the largest and most competitive clubs in the league.

Key Points about VJBL:

- **Age Groups:** Runs from Under 12s to Under 20s, with both boys' and girls' divisions.
- **Competition Levels:** Includes multiple divisions, from VC (Victorian Championship) – the highest level – through to Regional divisions, ensuring players are placed in teams that match their current ability and development level.
- **Season Structure:**
 - **Grading Phase** (Nov–Feb): Determines what level each team will play at.
 - **Regular Season** (Mar–Aug): Weekly Friday night games.
 - **Finals Series** (Aug–Sep): For teams that qualify after the regular season.

If you're a junior player looking to challenge yourself at a higher level, VJBL is the next step beyond domestic basketball - and Eltham is the ideal place to take that step.

Stay Updated on the Trials Notice Board

All information regarding VJBL trials—including dates, venues, age groups, what to bring, registration links, and any last-minute changes - will be regularly updated on our Trials Notice Board.

Visit: elthamwildcats.com.au/trials-notice-board

This is your go-to resource throughout the trials period—make sure to check it often!

VJBL October

Date	Session	12 Boys	12 Girls	14 Boys	16 Boys
Wednesday 17 September	Pre-Trials				
Sunday 5 October	Session 1				
Tuesday 7 October	Session 2				
Friday 10 October	Session 2				
Sunday 12 October	Session 3				
Friday 17 October	Session 4				
Sunday 19 October	Session 5				
Friday 24 October	Session 6				
Wednesday 15 October	Session 1				
Wednesday 22 October	Session 2				

Note: Tuesday 7 October for U14B & U16B will be confirmed closer



ORTHODONTICS

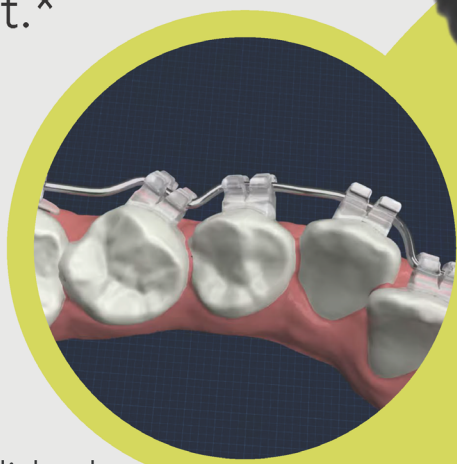
CELEBRATING
25 years

EST. 2000

Braces, but Better

LightForce™ Braces are:

- 3D-printed, custom braces designed for each tooth.
- The precise fit helps to reduce treatment time and visits to the orthodontist.*
- Suitable for teens and adults.



*Based on data published in 2023 by the Journal of Clinical Orthodontics

Consultation required to assess eligibility.

1 Milne St, Templestowe, VIC 3106 | (03) 9846 3811

LandLortho.com.au



@landlorthodontics

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





PROUD TO SUPPORT ELTHAM WILDCATS

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

INTRODUCING THE
OWNERS OF ELTHAM
**NATHAN
& STEVE**



ELTHAM

7 BRISBANE STREET, ELTHAM, 3095

☎ (03) 8457 5000

✉ sales.eltham@totaltools.com.au

lostPROPERTY

New Process Update

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.





Sell smarter this spring with Jellis Craig.

Discover the Jellis Craig difference:

Expose your property to Victoria's most open and connected client database across premium suburbs and regional lifestyle locations.

View your open home attendance live, through our exclusive vendor dashboard, Jellis Craig Live.

Draw on our track record of success, turning our expertise into your exceptional result.

JellisCraig