

THE PROWL



ManagementNEWS

Richard Irving

Dear Wildcats Community

Wow, it has been another busy time for our Wildcats community.

Firstly, a huge congratulations to our U18.1 girls who won bronze at the National Classic over the Kings Birthday weekend. This is an amazing achievement by the team and coaches.

The Wildcats had four teams who qualified for the Classic this year – U14 girls, U16 boys, U18 boys and girls. This is a sensational achievement and a testament to the hard work and dedication that is occurring through our junior pathways.

In addition to our teams and players, it was fantastic to see Wildcats representation in the referee space over the King's Birthday weekend. Jack and Amy were active at the U18s, while Jaxon made his debut at the U12s. Peter and Pat both stepped into referee coaching roles at the U12s, with Peter going on to receive the gold medal for his efforts. Pat was fortunate to double up and officiate two bronze medal games, making it a memorable weekend for all involved.

A special shout-out to our U14 girls who recently qualified for the National U14 Club Championships being held in WA later this year. You will see the team raising money over the coming months to fund this trip and we encourage you to support where you can.

You will see communication about a couple of NBL1 dedication rounds coming up:

- 28th of June v Knox is being dedicated to Jase Maywald and will be a combined fundraiser. This will be a night to celebrate the great impact that Jase had with the Wildcats.
- 18th of July v Sandringham is being used as a fundraiser for the Gecko's, which is the Australian women's deaf basketball team. Deb Coulson (current NBL1 women's assistant coach) is head coach of the Gecko's and Lucy Christodoulou (current women's Big V youth league player) and Samantha Williver (current Unified Athlete) plays for the Gecko's. The Gecko's will be playing at the Deaf Olympics in Japan later this year and currently have no funding from Basketball Australia or Victoria.

If you have trained or played at Eltham High recently, I hope you have noticed the brand-new rings, which replicate the rings currently used at Montmorency. There are new shot clocks on their way to Eltham High, which we hope will be installed soon.

We have recently completed grading for our junior domestic competition and wish all players and coaches well for the remainder of the season, which is one of the biggest yet. A huge shout out to everyone who supports our junior domestic program – we cannot do it without your involvement and dedication.

We were recently informed by Basketball Victoria that participation for our Cubs Squad (5-10 year olds) program for Term 1 2025 was in the top ten for both attendance and percentage (44%) of girls taking part in the program. The Wildcats being the only club in Victoria to be in the top ten for both categories. Congratulations to Taya, Lorraine and all the volunteer coaches who assist with both the Kinder and Cubs Squad programs.

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**



senior PROGRAMS

Jacob Burnham

We're now comfortably into our Senior teams seasons and May overall was a great month for our Senior program.

Starting with the highlight being our Youth League Women who are 8-1 over the last month! An amazing effort from coach Kelly Walker and the girls who have also been battling with players coming in and out with injury. They sit third on the ladder with roughly a third of the season remaining. What has been particularly special this season is the girls are leading the competition in bench points. Over 40% of the teams points this season are coming from the bench which speaks to how talented the group is and the great team-oriented style they play.

We're very excited to see what this group can do, not only in the last few weeks of the season but over years to come.

The L&L Orthodontics Youth League Men have enjoyed an excellent month, recording a 6-1 run that has lifted them to 6th place on the ladder with a 9-6 overall record. The team's depth has truly shone through, with four different players: Mitch Blackburn, Zahn Agosta, Zac Anderson, and Sam Alexander, being named among Big V's top performers of the week. With the Youth Championship Men's ladder remaining extremely tight, there are just a few games separating 4th and 10th meaning every game will be crucial in the lead-up to the finals.

The Quest Bundoora NBL1 Women picked up a big win on the weekend over Bendigo snapping their 7-game losing streak. A key highlight of the month was the opportunity for some of our emerging talent to step up at the NBL1 level. Emily Maltezos made her first NBL1 start against Diamond Valley, and a number of Wildcat juniors: Addison Knight, Marley Pascoe, Sophie Richardson, and Charlotte Ogier, made their debut appearances, gaining valuable experience on the court.

The Air Fusion NBL1 Men finished the month with a 5-4 record, which has them sitting 11th at 7-7. With 8 games remaining and five of them on our home floor, the team is optimistic about building momentum on the run home, especially with the backing of the best crowd in NBL1.

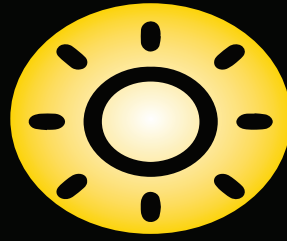
The competition remains incredibly tight, with just two wins separating 2nd and 12th place, setting the stage for an exciting and closely fought finish to the season.

Your NBL1 teams face off next against the Keilor Thunder at home on June 21st!



QUEST

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ORTHODONTICS









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RD10 NBL1 Men 2025 Ladder




		PLAYED	WINS	LOSS
	KNOX RAIDERS	15	13	2
	MT GAMBIER PIONEERS	15	10	5
	CASEY CAVALIERS	14	9	5
	HOBART CHARGERS	14	9	5
	MELBOURNE TIGERS	14	8	6
	BALLARAT MINERS	14	8	6
	FRANKSTON BLUES	15	8	7
	KILSYTH COBRAS	15	8	7
<hr/>				
	BENDIGO BRAVES	15	8	7
	SANDRINGHAM SABRES	14	7	7
	ELTHAM WILDCATS	14	7	7
	NUNAWADING SPECTRES	14	7	7
	RINGWOOD HAWKS	15	7	8
	WAVERLEY FALCONS	15	7	8
	GEELONG UNITED	14	5	9
	KEILOR THUNDER	14	4	10
	NWT THUNDER	14	4	10
	DIAMOND VALLEY EAGLES	14	4	10
	DANDENONG RANGERS	14	3	11

RD10 NBL1 WOMEN 2025 Ladder

		PLAYED	WINS	LOSS
	GEELONG UNITED	14	14	0
	KEILOR THUNDER	14	12	2
	KNOX RAIDERS	15	12	3
	DANDENONG RANGERS	14	10	4
	DIAMOND VALLEY EAGLES	14	10	4
	WAVERLEY FALCONS	15	10	5
	FRANKSTON BLUES	15	9	6
	MELBOURNE TIGERS	14	8	6

	SANDRINGHAM SABRES	14	7	7
	RINGWOOD HAWKS	15	7	8
	NUNAWADING SPECTRES	14	6	8
	MT GAMBIER PIONEERS	15	6	9
	CASEY CAVALIERS	14	5	9
	BALLARAT MINERS	14	5	9
	HOBART CHARGERS	15	4	11
	KILSYTH COBRAS	15	4	11
	ELTHAM WILDCATS	14	3	11
	LAUNCESTON TORNADOES	15	3	12
	BENDIGO BRAVES	16	3	13





RD11 Youth Championship Men 2025 Ladder

		PLAYED	WINS	LOSS
	KILSYTH COBRAS	16	15	1
	FRANKSTON BLUES	17	15	2
	KNOX RAIDERS	17	13	4
	DANDENONG RANGERS	15	10	5
	CASEY CAVALIERS	17	11	6
	ELTHAM WILDCATS	16	10	6
	KEILOR THUNDER	16	9	7
	SANDRINGHAM SABRES	17	9	8

	NUNAWADING SPECTRES	8	3	5
	DIAMOND VALLEY EAGLES	16	7	9
	HUME CITY BRONCOS	16	6	10
	GEELONG UNITED	15	5	10
	WAVERLEY FALCONS	16	4	12
	KEYSBOROUGH COUGARS	8	2	6
	MELBOURNE TIGERS	7	2	5
	WYNDHAM BASKETBALL	10	1	9

Finals

RD11 Division One Women 2025 Ladder

		PLAYED	WINS	LOSS
	KNOX RAIDERS	17	17	0
	CAMBERWELL DRAGONS	15	12	2
	ELTHAM WILDCATS	16	12	4
	COBURG GIANTS	16	12	4
	GEELONG UNITED	13	9	4
	WHITTLESEA PACERS	13	6	7
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>				
	HUME CITY BRONCOS	13	6	7
	ALBURY WODONGA	16	6	10
	WYNDHAM BASKETBALL	16	5	11
	WESTERN PORT STEELERS	16	4	12
	BALLARAT MINERS	17	2	15
	COLLINGWOOD ALL STARS	16	1	15

Finals

Safety & Wellbeing NEWS

Sophie Foote

Hi Wildcats,

I hope you are all well.

It has been a busy time for us all at the Eltham Wildcats and I hope everyone has been able to take the time to incorporate some self-care into your busy schedules. If it is 5 minutes or 5 hours, it will truly make a difference. Here are some ideas that you can try: journaling, walking in nature, having a bubble bath, reading, meditation, calling a friend or perhaps doing a facemask! I challenge you to try to do two or three things minimum this week to look after you, for you!

We were so honoured to host our annual Pride Round on Saturday the 24th of May shortly following IDAHOBIT. We are always striving to build on our inclusive culture and continue to create an environment that everyone feels proud to be a part of. At the Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club inclusion is so important to us and we want every individual to feel safe, welcome, and seen irrespective of their sexuality, gender, or identity.

There was a Pride Medal awarded at the end of each game. These medals were awarded to the players that demonstrated the most resilience and courage throughout the game, qualities that we felt strongly symbolized attributes of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Congratulations to Pride Medal winners Joshua Sykes and Jaz Shelley, who both put on an absolute show for our members!



This June, our partners Headspace Greensborough and Plenty Valley is encouraging locals to push for better mental health by participating in Australia's largest mental health and fitness event, The Push-Up Challenge.

Participants will take on 3,214 push-ups across 23 days in June, to remember and honour the 3,214 lives lost to suicide in Australia in 2023.

Hundreds of thousands of Australians from all ages and walks of life will participate in the event which engages people in mental health through connection, physical activity and education.

Headspace Greensborough / Plenty Valley is encouraging people of all ages in the area to join.

The Push-Up Challenge - Sign up now & support headspace Greensborough



Take care Wildcats!

If you need any support or want to have a confidential chat, please reach out to our team or the supports listed below.

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

Warmest regards,

**Sophie Foote – (She/Her) - Wellbeing Officer
Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club**



13 11 14 lifeline.org.au



FOR INFORMATION OR ADVICE

1300 22 4636

www.beyondblue.org.au



ROLE **open** ROLE **open** ROLE



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, as is experience with the above tasks.

- 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 accounts@elthamwildcats.net.au.

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

ROLE **open** ROLE **open** ROLE

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



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Dates COMING

EDJBA Upcoming Dates:

- Winter Season – April 26th – 23rd August
- Winter Finals – August 30th – 13th September

Senior Domestic Upcoming Dates:

- Autumn Season Finals - 16th June - 3rd July
- Spring Seasons Starts - 7th July

NBL1 Upcoming Home Game Dates:

- Eltham Wildcats vs Bendigo Braves – June 14th
- Eltham Wildcats vs Keilor Thunder - June 21st
- Eltham Wildcats vs Knox Raiders - June 28th (Jason Maywald Memorial Game)
- Eltham Wildcats vs Waverly Falcons – July 5th (First Nations Round)
- Eltham Wildcats vs Sandringham – July 18th (Mental Health Round)

Big V Upcoming Home Game Dates:

Youth Women

- Youth Women vs Knox Raiders - June 15th
- Youth Women vs Wyndham - June 22nd
- Youth Women vs Hume City - July 6th

Youth Men

- Youth Men vs Wyndham - June 22nd
- Youth Men vs Kilsyth Cobras - June 29th
- Youth Men vs Hume City - July 6th

Eltham Wildcats 60th Anniversary

- July 20th 2025

Beginner Program

- Final Week of Term 2 - Monday June 23rd
- Term 3 Begins - Monday July 28th

The Eltham
Jason
the Kn
Please

Date:
Time:
Game

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 your Interest Here](#)

Memorial Game **Jason Maywald** 1976 - 2025



Eltham Wildcats will be holding a special memorial game in honour of Jason Maywald. This tribute will take place during our NBL1 clash against Knox Raiders.

Save the date — more details about the event will be shared soon.

Saturday, 28th June

6:00pm

Eltham Wildcats vs Knox Raiders (NBL1)

SAVE
the
DATE.

20/07/25

Eltham Wildcats 60th Anniversary Event
27 Simms Rd Montmorency VIC 3094

sixty years
EST. 1965

60th Anniversary **EVENT**

We're excited to share an update on the 60th Anniversary celebration of our club!

Unfortunately, we need to move our celebration from the 13th of July to the 20th of July at Montmorency Secondary College.

Whilst the date has changed, we still plan on having a huge celebration and here's what you can expect on the day:

- 11.00am–4.00pm: A relaxed celebration with stalls, sweet treats, face painting, Basketball clinic—and a few other surprises.
- 1.30pm - 2.30pm: A special formal presentation will take place to reflect on our club's journey and honour key moments and people.

We'd love to see as many current and past members as possible come along, reconnect, and help us celebrate 60 incredible years of the Eltham Wildcats.

Please take a moment to fill out the Expression of Interest form (below). We will be sending out the official invitations shortly.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

[Get your Ticket Here](#)



ORTHODONTICS

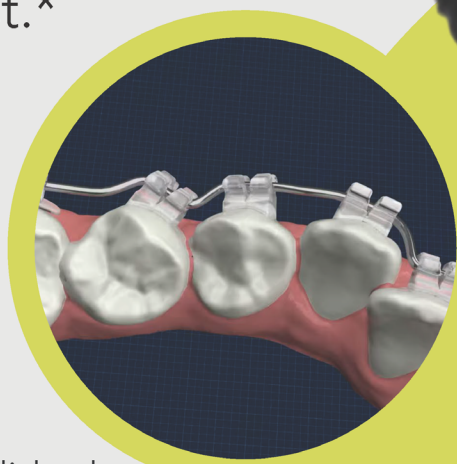
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25 years

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EasternDevelopmentLEAGUE

David Hickman

The EDL is a Friday evening competition run by Hawthorn BA according to VJBL timing, but with less travel. Its primary purpose is development of players, team spirit and cohesion. The teams have bonded well. Coaches are being rewarded by players learning skills & teamwork. Camberwell has now joined with a number of teams.

Our Under 12 team has dominated so much that they are now playing lower Under 14 and winning. Our home games are at Montmorency South, Hawthorn's home games are at Swinburne College. Currently there is a lack of variety of opposition & some one-sided games because there is only a few teams. We hope more nearby clubs will enter teams in the future.

Players are mainly those who took part and impressed in trials for VJBL and promising players who did not trial.

Coaches: Anthony Altamura, Ruby McCallum, Stuart Bannister, Simon Chard, Darren Smith, David Hickman and Mackenzie Cesari ford.

Thankyou coaches and also Team Managers & Assistant Coaches. Particular mention to Murray Allen who did the work to get the Under 14 girls involved & acted as coach when necessary & Art Clarke and his mother Kath, who stayed involved after Art was seriously injured but became the team Assistant Coach & Team Manager.

ImpressiveEffortsEDJBA

David Hickman

- Nillifur Hansen (13-7G): Every aspect of the game – speed, ball control, hard work, anticipation, and finishing.
- Ivy Trim (13-7G): Great defensive transition.
- James Denton (13-12B): Energetic and strong; rebounds at both ends.
- Thomas Saunders (13-12B): Chases in defence; strong shooting technique.
- Cameron Jones (13-12B): Scoring machine.
- Isobel Forsyth (11-20G): Leading and positioning for the ball.
- Lucy Brogan (11-20G): Defence and determination.
- Josh Conlin (15-12B): Interceptions, drive, and off-ball cuts.
- Jeremy Smith (11-40B): Strong rebounds; passes and finishes well.
- Leo O'Mara-Galati (11-40B): Defensive positioning and passing.
- Annabelle Pritchard (9-6G): Interceptions and active in defence.
- Harper Parton (9-6G): Hard-working and active.
- Jordan Bowen (13-3B): Tough boxing out and great offensive positioning.
- Alessia Milanese (13-9G): Determination.
- Nathan Evans (17-29B): Polished finishing and smart offensive choices.
- Oscar Hellier (17-26B): Skills and consistent contributions.
- Oliver & Arden Muscat and Huckleberry Bennett-Stanton (15-46B): Three strong performers, all new to the Club.
- Joshua Zrimsek (17-22B): Outstanding rebounding and dedicated effort.

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Jellis Craig



Club Championships U14

D'Wayne Hogan

The Eltham Wildcats 14.1 Girls team came together in October last year, with girls coming from 6 different teams in the previous season. The first phase of our time together as a team was all about connecting as friends not just as players. The Geelong United weekend tournament over the Melbourne Cup weekend helped progress this in rapid time. The weekend was a great success for the group both on the court and off the court, as we learn a lot about each other, and as coaches we learnt what we can and can't do. The weekend was invaluable for the parent group also, getting to know each other better.

The first phase of grading, prior to Christmas was a mixed bag on the court with a win over Ballarat, and close losses to Keilor, Frankston. Having finished 3rd in our pool, we progressed a crossover game with Diamond Valley to qualify into Victorian Championship. Unfortunately we came up a little short, meaning more grading games in the new year.

The group were awesome over the January break, always pushing for more practices to be at their peak when grading started in February. The Eltham/Dandenong tournament enabled us to build up our game to hit grading phase two at full steam. And that we did, with big wins over Geelong United and Kilsyth 2 and a close win over Hawthorn, resulting in us achieving our first goal of qualifying for the Victorian Championship.

Our main season started with 2 close wins against top quality opposition in Keilor and Kilsyth, which had the group wanting more success. A couple good wins, along with a close lose to red hot Nunawading had the team sitting with 4 wins and 1 lose at the Easter break. Break is a term this group doesn't like too much, as they continued to want more practices to work on their game, to reach a few other goals and dreams we had discussed way back in October. As games re-started after the Easter break, we were faced with a game against the local rival in Diamond Valley, coming away with a good win. Then a couple of good wins over Sunbury and Gippsland United followed. This put the group in a place to fulfill a dream of qualifying to the National Junior Classic over the Kings Birthday weekend and also to qualify for the Under 14 National Club Championship later in the year in Perth. Facing a talented Bulleen was never going to be easy, and it played out that way. A win would get us in or a loss by 11 or less would also get us in (if Kilsyth won their game against Nunawading). We ended up losing the tough game by 11. Now all the girls' eyes were on Kilsyth, hoping they beat Nunawading, and that they did.

The joy on the girl's faces was all the reward a coach needs, although the look on the faces of the parents when reality hit that hours of fundraising to help with the cost to attend this event was priceless. The year thus far, has been far from perfect with numerous injuries (ankles, broken bones, concussions) along with illness has made the success of the group even more special, as they have had to fight for everything they get. As a group they just crave to be better, are always pushing for more. They

have made large strides forward as basketball players and young women, but they are not satisfied, they are hungry to be better, and continue to push each other every day they come together.

We want to thank the club, their previous coaches and team mates for helping them be in the position they are. We want to thank the whole Wildcats community for their support, and hope to see you all at a sausage sizzle soon. Should anyone wish to help the group out with some sponsorship, on their journey to Perth, they would be excited to chat to you about what opportunities we have available.



Zoe Gasser



Elsie Butterworth



Charlotte Yule



Grace Quinlan



Sienna Turner



Esme Nolan



Alanna Chipchase



Kiera Williams



Lila Moore



Mia Lewis

Coach

D'Wayne Hogan

Asst Coach

Breanna Hogan

Team Manager

Anna Lewis

Beginner PROGRAMS

Taya Lupton

At Eltham Wildcats, we offer a variety of beginner-friendly programs, including the Kinder Club for children aged 3-4 years and the Ford Aussie Hoops Cub Squad for those aged 5-10 years. These programs are designed to accommodate players from 3 to 10 years old, featuring a range of session times and skill levels.

Kinder Club

We are pleased to report a record number of registrations for the Kinder Club, with 136 participants enrolled in the program. This remarkable achievement reflects the dedication of our coaching staff and highlights the enjoyment of our young Wildcats.

Cub Squad

The Ford Aussie Hoops program, supported by Jellis Craig, caters to players of all abilities aged 5-10 years. This program aims to foster fundamental basketball skills in a fun and supportive environment. Within the Cub Squad program, we offer a Game Ready program specifically designed to facilitate the transition into our Saturday Domestic (EDJBA) competition.

In Term 2 of 2025, we launched our inaugural 'Girls Only' Game Ready program, providing young girls with the opportunity to enhance their confidence and skills in a supportive, all-female setting and endeavour to continue the program in term 3.

We have successfully continued the pathway of Cub Squad participants to Junior Domestic teams. The teams: comprising participants from our program and are coached by a Cub Squad coach. For several seasons, we have maintained a girls' Cub Squad team, which has been successful under the guidance of dedicated coaches. In the Winter 2025 season, we introduced a boys' Cub Squad team.

If you are interested in registering for Term 3, please fill out our 'expression of Interest form'. For further inquiries, please contact Taya at beginners@elthamwildcats.net.au

Kind Regards,
Taya





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Walking BASKETBALL

Sophie Foote



Our Walking Basketball program has continued grow and now offer more opportunities than ever before.

Our members skills, game play and fitness continue to develop on the weekly. We have members who have moved more than an hour away and still join us whenever they can, which shines a light on the groups culture and overall connection.

The friendships developed over the years of this program and the social connection for our older athletes has been phenomenal and is one of the biggest wins of the program.

Outside of our weekly sessions we hosted our first tournament this year, as well as attend an annual Basketball Victoria run tournament and have intra club matches as often as we can.



We look forward to continuing to develop more opportunities for our members and continue to grow our Walking Basketball program.

We welcome all fitness and basketball levels! We focus on inclusivity and fun. Join us 10:30am-11:30am Tuesday's (around school holidays) at Eltham Leisure Centre Basketball Courts.

Photographer OPPORTUNITIES

Steve Smith

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

Steve Smith our NBL1 Men's assistant coach 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



July School Holiday Pro

MONDAY

7

Junior Domestic Rep Prep Camp

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm
U12s and U14s

Eltham Wildcats Junior Skills Camp

Time: 12.30pm - 2.30pm
U9s and U11s

TUESDAY

8



Mitch McCarron Skills Clinic

Time: 10.00am- 12.30pm
7 Years old - 18 years old

WEDNESDAY

9

Optimal Ballers

Time:

10:00am - 11:00am: U12s
11:30am - 12:30pm: U16s



USA High School Exhibition

U18 Girls 6:00pm
U18 boys at 7:30 pm
Montmorency Secondary College.

THURSDAY

10

Junior Domestic Skills Camp

Time:
10:00am - 12:00pm
U9&11 Boys

12:30 pm - 2:30pm
U13&15 Boys

NBL1 Gold Children's Clinic

Time:
4.30pm to 6.00pm

14

Camp to be announced....

15

Mitch McCarron Clinic: Competitions and Games

Time:

10:00am-12:00pm: U9&11
12:30-2:30pm: U13,15&17



(Age Groups are Winter EDJBA Age Groups)

16



Junior Shooting Camp

Time:

10:00am-11:30am: 8-11 year olds

12.00am-1:30pm: 12-15 year olds

17

Camp to be announced....

Programs

Scan / Click the QR Code to Register for Holiday Programs



THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

10

11

12

13

Domestic
Cup

12:00 pm
Boys and Girls

12:30pm
Girls and Girls

Members

5.30pm

**Beginners
Program Camp**

Time:

9:30am - 10:00am:
Kinder Club 3-4 Year
Olds

10:00am - 2:00pm:
Cub Squad-5 -10 Year
Olds



No Camps.



**NBLI
Double
Header**



17

18

19

20

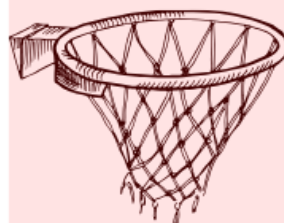
to be
announced....



**NBLI
Double
Header**



No Camps.



**60th
Anniversary
Celebration**



National Junior CLASSIC

Matt Holland - U18.1 Girls

The team had a fantastic weekend at the NJC. It was a real credit to all of the girls just to get to the tournament with the injuries that we have had to some key players at the start of the season.

The girls had a great Saturday with 3 wins from 3 games, with 21 point wins in there.

Sunday morning was the quarter-finals and we came up against Forestville the girls played really well as a team and we got the win.

In the semifinals we came up against a very strong Sandringham side that were just too good on the night.

We played off against West Adelaide for bronze on the Monday morning and to the girls credit they bounced back from the night before to come away with the bronze medal.

As a coach I'm extremely proud of this group of young ladies and what they achieved over the weekend.



Nic Nolan- U16.1 Boys

The 16.1 boys were fortunate enough to compete on a national stage against the top talent across the country.

The National Junior Classic has quite a buzz to the tournament that can only be felt when there, in person. Our talented 16 boys showed they are a force to be reckoned with over the weekend finishing top of our pool to conclude the group stage of the tournament.

Going into Sunday afternoon, we were reminded of the unpredictable nature of the sport we love, unfortunately going down in a quarterfinal that could have easily fallen either way.

It was fantastic for our Eltham athletes to experience such high level competition in what is such early stages of these boys' sporting careers.

From a coaching perspective, we are grateful to have had these experiences to better ourselves individually and as a team. I know the boys and myself look forward to creating other high level, valuable opportunities like this one in the near future.

Craig Stratford- U18.1 Boys

Our team entered the Classic weekend brimming with excitement. Despite missing two players due to long-term injuries and welcoming another two making their National Junior Classic debuts, the remaining six were eager to challenge themselves once again against the nation's top talent in their age group.

We delivered solid performances across all three pool games, finishing with one win and two closely contested losses—both by fewer than 10 points. This placed us in the lower half of the draw, setting up a final matchup against the Nunawading Spectres on Monday.

Throughout the weekend, our focus remained on staying present, embracing the team-first mentality that earned us second place in the VJBL, and making the most of what would be a final Classic experience for some of our boys.

As a coaching staff, we couldn't be prouder of the way our players approached each challenge and played with heart and commitment. We're excited to carry the momentum and lessons from this weekend into the remainder of the VJBL season.

D'Wayne Hogan - U14.1 Girls

This National Junior Classic was the first experience that all of the under 14 Girls have had at a national level tournament, and a wonderful experience it was for them all.

Throughout the weekend we kept noting that this is an incredible opportunity to be a part of and that the girls should soak in every moment of it along the way. Although the nerves were high leading into the tournament we opened up the classic campaign with a 24 point win to the top ranked South Australian team Forestville. We then had a comfortable 50 point win over Illawarra. With two wins under our belt we knew that we had secured a spot in the top 8, although our focus turned to Casey who we faced as our third game on Saturday. We fell 2 points short to Casey although finished on top of our pool leading into the quarter finals.

The quarter finals were held on Sunday where we faced local rivals Bulleen. We fell short of the win in this game, with Bulleen going on to be undefeated and winning the tournament.

Later that day we had a narrow loss to Pakenham, the best country team in Victoria. This placed us in the 7-8 playoff game on Monday morning, to again face Casey.

The playoff game on Monday was full of excitement, energy and talent from all involved (including the parents!). We finished the National Classic Tournament in 8th place which is an incredible testament to the group's effort, determination and drive. Over the weekend there were major improvements and steps in the right direction for the team as a group. We, as a group, are super proud of our result over the tournament and how we were in every game to win.

We now turn our focus to the second half of our VC Championship year and Under 14 National Club Championships in Perth in September.

Thank you to all the families for their support over the weekend! Let's go Eltham!!



Women's National Deaf Basketball Team

Geckos Basketball Team

Representing Australia as the Women's National Deaf Basketball Team, the Geckos carry a proud legacy dating back to 1982, when the first Australian Women's Deaf team was formed. Just a few years later, their groundbreaking journey led to a historic medal win at the 15th Summer Deaflympics in Los Angeles in 1985.

Fast forward to today, the Geckos are soaring once again! After an incredible second-place finish at the Asia Pacific Deaf Basketball Championships, the team has officially qualified for the 2025 Deaflympics in Tokyo, Japan this November. This marks the end of a 15-year hiatus, and the Geckos are ready to bring their A-game back to the world stage!

The Deaflympics is the pinnacle of sporting excellence for deaf athletes worldwide. Held since 1924, it is one of the longest-running global multi-sport events. The Deaflympics celebrates the talent, determination, and achievements of deaf athletes, providing a platform to compete at the highest level while fostering global inclusion and camaraderie.

What makes the Geckos even more remarkable is their unique way of communicating on the court. With only a few players fluent in Auslan (Australian Sign Language) and the rest relying on speech, gestures, and visual cues, the team has developed a powerful, intuitive style of play. Since no hearing devices are allowed during games, the Geckos rely completely on eye contact, trust, and non-verbal connection making their teamwork all the more special.

For the Geckos, qualifying isn't just a sporting milestone. It's a chance to inspire the deaf community, represent Australia with pride, and showcase the incredible strength and resilience of Australian deaf basketball.

Unfortunately, without support from external basketball associations, the Geckos are relying on fundraising to help them attend the 2025 Japan Olympics.



**Scan or Click the QR Code to
donate funds to the Geckos
to help pay for their Trip
to Japan for the 2025 Deaf
Olympics.**



Lucy Christodoulou

Lucy is one of the athletes selected to compete in the 2025 Deaf Olympics and is also a proud member of our Big V Youth Women team.

Position: Guard

Can you describe how it is different playing in the Big V competition to the Deaf Basketball Team?

Playing for Big V is super competitive and structured, with fast-paced games and a strong focus on verbal communication. You constantly hear teammates yelling things like "screen left!" or "help!" there's a lot of shouting and real-time talk on the floor. In Deaf basketball, it's completely different. We rely on eye contact, hand signals, and reading each other's body language and pulling our own teammates jerseys. There's no yelling out screens or plays It's about being visually locked in and deeply in sync with your teammates. Both teams challenge me in different ways and have made me a better all-round player.

How do you describe your hearing identity?

I identify as hard of hearing. I wear cochlear implants, which I received through surgery. They've helped me a lot with daily communication, but I still rely on visual cues, lip-reading, and gestures especially in sport. I've grown up learning to navigate both hearing and Deaf spaces, and I'm proud of how my identity has shaped the way I connect with others.

What are your strengths or unique qualities as a player?

I'm a tough guard who puts defence first and always plays with energy. I lead with presence, not just words using body language, eye contact, and signals to connect with teammates. One unique thing about me is that I'm left-handed, which often gives me an edge, defenders don't always expect it, and I use that to my advantage when driving, passing, or shooting. Because of my hearing loss, I've developed strong visual awareness and a calm but focused style that helps keep the team grounded. I'm willing to get bruises, fight for every loose ball, battle for rebounds, and most importantly do whatever it takes to win for the team. I take pride in being reliable, hardworking, and always showing up when it matters.

What are your current goals in basketball?

My biggest goal right now is to represent Australia at the 2025 Deaflympics in Tokyo and be the best version of myself after coming back from injury. I want to continue developing my skills, especially post-injury, and make a strong impact on both the Deaf and hearing sides of the game. I'm also passionate about showing other Deaf and hard of hearing athletes that anything is possible with the right mindset and support.

If you could have any superpower off the court, what would it be and why?

Teleportation, no question! With how often I travel for training and comps, especially between states, it'd save so much time and energy. Plus, I'd get more time to spend with the people I love and less time stressing about flights or being away.