

THE PROWL





CEO MESSAGE

Richard Irving

Dear Wildcats Community,

Well, it's hard to believe that we have started another domestic summer season. Good luck to all teams during grading and for all new players/parents, welcome to the Wildcats community.

Congratulations to our U14 representative girls' team who finished as the 8th best team at the Australian Championships.

We are nearing the end of our representative trials process. This year we had 871 players register for trials with 610 positions available. We appreciate this is a competitive space and there will be some disappointed athletes who miss out on an opportunity to play representative basketball for the Wildcats.

I have been asked how we arrive at 610 positions. This is not a decision that we make, it is a decision that is based on the number of domestic teams the Wildcats have in the EDJBA. The VJBL then use a formula to determine how many teams we can have at a representative level.

I have also been asked who picks the representative teams. This year, we have three independent selectors for each age group. The coaches provide input, but they do not decide the final teams. The final teams are approved by the independent selection panels. I have heard stories of parents who were advised their athlete was guaranteed a position in a team. If a coach has had that conversation with you as a parent, this has not been ratified by the Club and could lead to disappointment.

Congratulations to Mila Colson, Zoe Lewis, Caleb Brook and Mason Parton who were selected to play in the Basketball Victoria Metro Jamboree during September.

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



Make it a summer of savings with 15% off for the Wildcats community

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APARTMENT HOTELS



SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED 3X3 BASKETBALL WORLD CUP Naomi Symington

We're proud to share that our Eltham Wildcats Unified Basketball squad has been selected to wear the green and gold and represent Australia at the inaugural Special Olympics Unified 3x3 Basketball World Cup in Puerto Rico this December. Our Eltham Representatives are:

Unified Athletes

Women's Team: Brianna Killien, Jordan McKormick, and Manahil Merchant.

Men's Team: Spencer O'Neill, Joey Davies and Aiden Harnetty-King.

Athlete Partners:

Women's Team: Jemma Symington and Marley Pascoe.

Men's Team: Dash Cottier and Lachlan Broadbent

Coaching Staff

Women's Team: Chloe Symington – Head Coach, Helen Killien – Assistant Coach, Indigo Symington – Junior Coach

Men's Team: Naomi Symington – Head of Delegation & Head Coach, Josh O'Neill – Assistant Coach

To make it happen, the team is relying on fundraising and donations. Every contribution, big or small, helps bring Australia's Unified 3x3 teams closer to the court and the chance to showcase their talent on the global stage.

[Donate Here](#)



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

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](#)

CUSTOM TRADING CARDS COMING SOON TO EDJBA



Photobooth located at Monty Stadium

Sat 15th November from 9am-4pm

www.whitelineimages.com.au

DON'T MISS OUT!

WHITE LINE CUSTOM TRADING CARDS

Calling all EDJBA players! The ultimate in sports collectibles is now within reach for all of our Wildcats players thanks to White Line Images. Get down to Monty Stadium on 15th November and secure your custom trading cards in time for Christmas. Choose your design, have your photo taken and White Line Images will personalise your own set of trading cards, just like the pros! Starting from just \$20 for a pack of 4 cards, complete with a free display case!

PHOTOGRAPHER OPPORTUNITIES

Steve Smith

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





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A young boy in a red and black basketball jersey is dribbling a ball on a court. He is looking intently to his left. In the background, other players and spectators are visible, though out of focus. A red text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

ELTHAM WILDCATS VJBL AWARDS NIGHT

The 2024/25 VJBL Junior Champ Awards ceremony will take place on October 26th at 5pm at Montmrency Secondary College. This special event recognises the outstanding achievements, dedication, and sportsmanship of junior basketball players from across the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL).

All VJBL players, coaches, families, and supporters are warmly invited to attend. The awards presentation will commence promptly at 5pm.

Join us as we honour the future stars of the game and celebrate another successful season of junior basketball.



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U14 Club Championships

D'Wayne Hogan

Wow what a year 2025 was for the 14.1 Eltham girls. We set large goals and dreams in October 2024, the whole group, players, coaches and parents never once diverted from the vision they had set. The 2025 year began by qualifying for the Victorian Championship division, progressing will through the early part of the year to ultimately qualify for the National Junior Classic in June, along with the Under 14 National Club Championship in October. Dreams do come true with hard work and belief.

The National Junior Classic in June was the first time participating in this tournament for all the girls. With the tournament going well winning games against our interstate visitors and a couple of close losses to some of the other Victorian teams. The team would finish 8th.

The second phase of the Victorian Championship season was a close one with the team being in every game to win, but ultimately falling just short. The team finished the season in 8th position resulting in final against Casey. We would loose the close game to end our VJBL season.

But the 2025 year wasn't done yet, as our focus shifted to the Under 14 National Club Championships in Perth. The excitement within the team was peaking, especially when the new basketballs came to training and then the special Nationals uniform arrived the girls were buzzing with what was ahead. Once in Perth for the championships the group progressed through the pool stage, with 3 hard fought wins. This had the team qualifying for the top 12 teams in Australia. A close loss to Melbourne and a close win over Pakenham had the team qualify for the knock out stage (top 8 teams in Australia). In the quarter final we came up against an elite team in Cockburn from WA, losing in a tough game. The girls can hold their heads high being the team that got closest to the eventual winner. A couple of losses finished off the week, with the team finishing 8th.

To the girl's surprise, Basketball Australia awarded the team the 'Jenny Cheeseman Fair Play Award'. The award is given to the team that displays the best sportsmanship and respect within the girl's competition. This is the first time a team from the Eltham Wildcats has done this, a moment that the whole Wildcats community can be proud of.

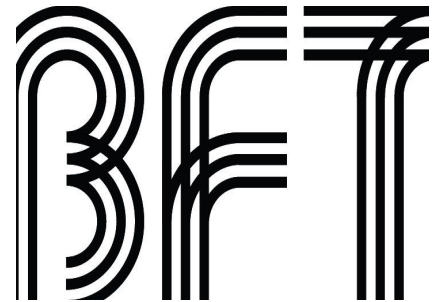
Ultimately a successful year with many memorable events, like jumping off the pier at Coogee Beach, the coach doing the griddy, the tourist wheel in Fremantle, the hours of fishing from the dads for the one that got away, along with whale spotting on the trip to Rottness Island. Basketball is a small part of the journey in a persons life, and the girl's and their families have made the most of their opportunities on and off the court.

Team: Zoe Gasser, Elsie Butterworth, Charlotte Yule, Grace Quinlan, Sienna Turner, Esme Nolan, Alanna Chipchase, Keira Williams, Lila Moore, and Mia Lewis.

Team Staff: D'Wayne Hogan, Breanna Hogan, and Anna Lewis.



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WEBSITE UPDATE

Nicola Reid

Exciting news! As many of you know, our current website has served us well over the years - but it's time for a fresh new look. We're thrilled to announce that we've selected a provider and have officially entered the development phase of our brand-new site.

By the end of this week, we'll be reviewing the initial layout and structure, setting the stage for the next steps in the design process. Everything is on track for an early next-year launch, and we can't wait to share the new digital home for our Wildcats Community!

JUNIOR DOMESTIC

Paula Hogan

Summer Season

What a wonderful start to a big season ahead for the Eltham teams.

We are nearly at capacity with 350 teams registered for the EDJBA competition and round 1 of grading for the season has just completed.

Girls Summer Season			Boys Summer Season		
	24/25	25/26		24/25	25/26
U08	10	10	U08	20	18
U10	21	20	U10	38	33
U12	24	24	U12	43	44
U14	18	22	U14	46	50
U16	14	16	U16	48	54
U18	12	9	U18	34	32
U21	5	7	U21	12	11
	104	108		241	242

It was wonderful to see lots of returning and new faces across many courts last week. Wishing all the best for the season and hope everyone as a fun filled season ahead.

Wanted to thank the age group convenors on a wonderful job they have completed. Any late registrations are still reviewed however many age groups are at capacity. Please note that age group convenor emails will only be active during the grading phase then all will revert to the club for assistance.

Coach education

We will be continuing to run the beginner coaching workshops which is a great starting point to assist new coaches and build up a resource for them. If you are interested, please reach out to Tom on the email below.

Coaches, new and established are welcome to reach out with any questions relating to coaching, Tom is happy to assist where possible.

Email: DomesticCoachingAdvisor@elthamwildcats.net.au

Below is a number of links that all members should be aware of. These are all important and can be saved as a reference to review throughout the season.

1. Codes of Conduct

Please see the link to view the Basketball Victoria - Codes of Conduct. The Codes of Conduct list the expected behaviour in basketball by administrators, coaches, officials, players, parents and spectators.

To view the BV Codes click [here](#)

To view the EDJBA picture of RESPECT click [here](#)

2. NO Zones permitted for any teams in Under 8's to Under 14's

Link to EDJBA NO ZONES rules [here](#)

3. Season Dates

Summer 25/26 season dates can be viewed [here](#)

4. How to score using the iPad

Please see the pdf with instructions can be found [here](#)

5. Game venues

List of all venues used for EDJBA games can be found [here](#).

Looking after our training venues

All teams training must have an adult supervising the team. This is especially important when there is a self coached

team or junior coach.

Venues are to be respected, please ensure that you leave the venue by ensuring it is clean upon leaving by taking the rubbish with you. Some venues have other resources available, please continue to use the court and toilet facilities, no other items are to be used.

If your team is not using their allocated training in any week, please call the office on 9439 5686 to advise. They will then ensure that keys (if required) are available for opening or closing are arranged.

If your venue has a key/alarm fob and you have locked up, please immediately return this to the club office at the Monty courts. We will have other teams waiting to collect for another timeslot or the office will be waiting to close for the night. Thanks for your assistance.

Fill In Players on game day

Reminder to all teams - if you have a 'fill in' player participating in your game, please ensure that all the details are completed on the iPad.

Details required such as correct player full name, date of birth, email address of family plus other information. Each section completed is reported back to the EDJBA who then follow up the club for any incorrect/inconsistent details. Issues with incorrect details seem to be occurring on a regular basis.

Can we please ensure that any players that participate in your game are eligible by completing the details correctly.

Ineligible players are those that are play-

ing in the wrong age group, graded team or incorrect information. Please ensure that you check the EDJBA website for further details on the rules or contact the club to confirm.

Fill in players can only participate in a maximum of 4 games for the team and are not eligible to qualify for finals.

If you have any issues with completing the details on the iPad on game day, please report it immediately to juniordomestic@elthamwildcats.net.au and we will confirm the correct player details along with reason it was not completed prior to the game directly to the EDJBA.

Please DO NOT put in false details or the word 'fill in' as the player name. Incorrect details may result in a forfeit game.

Club contacts

Team Support (Olivia) teamsupport@elthamwildcats.net.au

Competitions (Alana) competitions@elthamwildcats.net.au

Pathways (Mitch) pathways@elthamwildcats.net.au

Junior Domestic (Paula & Lara) juniordomestic@elthamwildcats.net.au

Thank you for the support of our junior domestic program.

UNIFORM STORE UPDATE

Hello Wildcats,

We hope you're enjoying being back on the court as the Summer Domestic season kicks off. Over the past few months, we've hinted at some upcoming changes to our online store, and we're now ready to go.

Online Store Launch

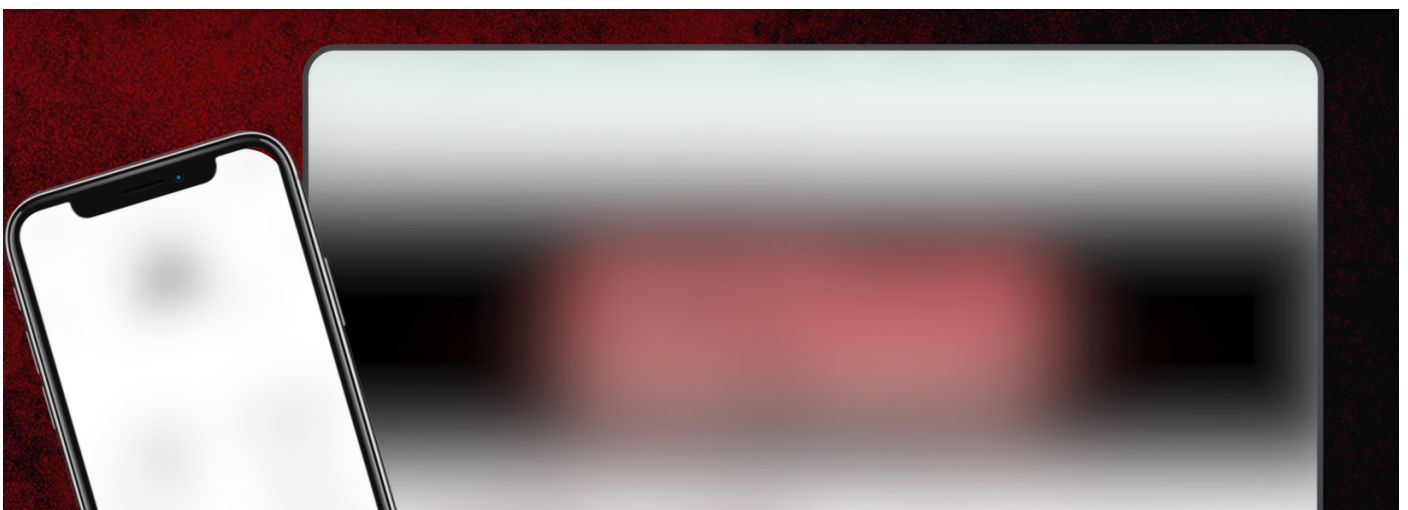
We're excited to announce that our new online merchandise store will launch at the end of October! Stay tuned for more details and get ready to enjoy the convenience of shopping anytime, anywhere – from the comfort of your home – with items delivered directly to your door. With this change, our uniform store at Eltham Highschool will focus exclusively on uniforms, and we will be adjusting its hours accordingly.

Updated Uniform Store Hours

- **From now until mid-November (start of VJBL season):** The uniform store at Eltham High School will be open Fridays (4pm – 7pm) and Saturdays (9am – 3pm).
- **Mid-November to Christmas:** We'll introduce extended hours for VJBL uniform fittings and sales. After that, we'll transition to an alternating Friday/Saturday schedule. A detailed timetable will be shared closer to the date.
- **Early February onwards:** The uniform store will open specifically around the start of each program's season only.

If you require uniforms outside of these times, please contact Albi at uniforms@elthamwildcats.net.au.

We know this is a transition period and we truly appreciate your patience and support as we fine-tune the process. We're confident these changes will make it easier for everyone to access uniforms and merchandise throughout the season.





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Address: 1/38 Bridge St,
Eltham VIC 3095

Opening Hours:

Mon - Fri: 9am to 5pm

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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](#)



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