

# The Prowl - November

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2017 - November Edition

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# management **NEWS**



Welcome to a brand new domestic Saturday and Friday junior championship season! The Wildcats are back bigger and better than ever. Often people suggest that school holidays must be a quiet time for the club, its volunteers and staff, but that couldn't be further from the truth. The club itself continues to operate adult midweek competitions and school holiday camp programs and hastily prepare the plans for the months ahead. But it is our volunteers that swing into action, particularly in the October school holidays, a period in which their own families miss out on family holidays; a period that their working life is affected, due to the hours put into making sure teams and trials for local basketball teams are in place.

To the team of people and their families behind the scenes who put together the teams and preparation for the largest domestic club in Australia –thank you. I am lucky enough to see first-hand the ups and downs they face in this period and we all are truly in debt to them for their time, effort and care that goes into setting up a new season. To my team in the office for their assistance and extra effort to assist our volunteers, well done and thank you.

## **Junior Domestic**

For the new Summer season of the EDJBA; the Eltham Wildcats are fielding 278 teams; the biggest we have ever been and by far the largest in Australia providing local level basketball opportunities to the people of our region. Just five years ago, we had 190 teams competing in the EDJBA, so the growth has been significant in that time. I'd like to welcome the new families to the club and thank our 250 coaches and the team managers for ensuring our teams are well looked after week in and week out.

## **Stadiums**

One of the issues we face is stadium space. We have many teams training in facilities that are less than ideal and almost daily I hear these concerns from coaches and parents. We are the 8<sup>th</sup> largest basketball association in Australia with a membership of over 5,500. I would strongly encourage you to speak with your local Councillor particularly in Banyule and Nillumbik, but also with state and federal members of parliament and share your concerns. Certainly as a club we are pushing hard for a regional high-ball stadium solution; one that assists the growth of clubs in the Banyule municipality, the Diamond Valley association and their clubs to our north and also obviously the Eltham Wildcats. Current suggestions, prioritise facilities to our north; areas that will not assist the Wildcats, nor the southern areas of the Banyule and Nillumbik municipalities. We are truly grateful to the schools in the local area for their support of basketball and without them, basketball would be left with nowhere! I urge you to press the need for more basketball courts in our region. We currently have just two Council operated basketball courts (Eltham Leisure Centre) across our network of facilities, whilst the Wildcats has contributed over \$3M to stadium building and development so far, with a further \$900,000 to come in the coming months for the project below.

## **Eltham HS Stage 3 Development**

Those who will have been with our club for some time will have heard of the 'Stage 3' project for the Eltham High School Basketball Stadium. Not to be confused with the recent funding announcement of \$3.3M for the sports facility upgrades at Eltham HS, the Eltham Wildcats are undertaking a stadium redevelopment of the Eltham HS stadium worth around \$1M, \$100,000 of which comes from the Female Friendly Facility Funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria. This development will see new change room facilities built on court 1, which will include an educational/meeting area for teams, coaches, referees;

proper change room areas for teams and toilet/shower facilities. To match associations of a similar size to us, we are building our first referee room; an area for our officials to prepare, store their property and brief/debrief with their educators/coaches. We are making significant changes to the front of the stadium. Working with the school, a new school entrance to the stadium will be built, our uniform shop will be relocated to a larger area; our club offices will be extended to reflect our growth and our foyer area will have a proper ticketbox and be a true basketball stadium entrance; giving us the opportunity to truly make our home stadium, exactly that.

This project is closing on going to tender with works expected to begin before the year is out... exciting times ahead!

### **Junior Championship**

For the second time in the club's history, we had both our U14 boys and U14 girls qualify for the U14 national championships. However they not only competed, they exceeded all our expectations and what a remarkable week it was! Congratulations to both teams, as our boys won the U14 National title, whilst our girls finished an incredible 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Whilst our teams represented us so well; the support that the Wildcats drew from our community clearly exceeded anything brought by other clubs competing. 2,500 people filled Dandenong stadium for the medal games and the Wildcats were front and centre in the crowd. Well done to our teams, but well done to our community for just being you! If you didn't get a chance to see the work put together by Jordan Canovan from our office, promoting the games, highlights of many of the matches, make sure you check our website and facebook page where much of it is accessible. A memorable week for all involved.

In addition and certainly not to be overshadowed, a congratulations to our 12/1 boys on winning the state championship! We had several of our boys teams also win division titles and many boys and girls teams finishing as runners-up in their divisions. We are the second largest entrant into the Victorian Junior Basketball Leagues and once again, we were at the forefront of Victorian basketball.

Sure enough however, within days, the coaches and players from across our Junior Championship program were back at it with trials for the 2017/18 season! Our Directors of Coaching, Ben Cukier for girls and Chris Cameron for boys and their support people in David Wightman and Leighton Lewis have

done more hours than they can care to count in preparing the teams for the year ahead. Whilst selections for girls have finished, boys are still in the final stages with some teams being finalised as we go to circulation. Well done to all children on taking the step and trialling at this level. In excess of 800 children trialled for the new season.

## Sponsors

The majority of our membership have had to undertake the task of getting a Jellis Craig badge placed over the Barry Plant logo on their singlet. For the record, the Wildcats nor Barry Plant ended a sponsorship arrangement. The directors of the Barry Plant in the Nillumbik/Banyule region have rebranded themselves as Jellis Craig and our relationship is with those directors, as is our agreement. This is a sponsorship that has been in place for 13 years and we pride ourselves on these long term relationships. I'd like to thank the families that have already had their singlet badged with Jellis Craig. Please be assured, the full cost of this project has been covered by Jellis Craig (North-East) and not by the club. Given our size, there was never going to be an easy way to execute this, but I'd like to thank 19yo Jacob Burnham, a product of our administration program who working under Connor Matthews has coordinated the almost seam less transition of collecting and returning singlets to families.

If you are selling a property, we'd encourage you to go through [Jellis Craig](#), many of their staff are Wildcat players from back in their younger days and they'll also pay an additional \$1000 back to the Wildcats when you list with Jellis Craig.

[Max Kirwan Mazda](#) continue as our sponsors of our junior championship programs. Max and his family have been apart of the Wildcats as players, coaches, team managers and general supporters for nearly 20 years and we couldn't be happier having such a highly respected dealership as Max Kirwan Mazda on board supporting us.

Our friends at WattyI who were the naming rights sponsors of our Senior Men's team are taking their sponsorship further in 2018 and we look forward to a formal announcement shortly. They've made a strong commitment to the region also with the opening of their new store in Eltham (1 Bridge Street, Eltham)! Opposite McDonald's and next door to another sponsor of ours in Slocum Floorcoverings, Wildcat parents Peter Barnes and Brett Jepsen will do everything they can to look after your paint needs. I look forward to announcing their extended deal in the months ahead.

their extended deal in the months ahead.

## **Awards**

Last month, Jordan Canovan was recognised by Basketball Victoria; awarded the “Media by an Association” award. Specifically, it was for his electronic communication and content particularly of our senior teams. A significant reason for large crowds at our games comes from Jordan’s work, so a well deserved state award.

## **Tribunal**

This is a reminder for all of our members regarding their conduct, not just toward referees, players and other spectators but also online. A full range of our policies are on our website, but also at Basketball Victoria’s website. In recent times, we’ve had a parent suspended for 65 weeks (in addition a 4 year suspension from the Wildcats), another parent suspended for 54 weeks (and a suspension from the Wildcats), both for conduct at a game and another parent received a severe reprimand from Basketball Victoria for their conduct on social media/text messages. Yes –your conduct towards others on text messages can land you as a parent with a visit to the Basketball Victoria tribunal! Players have also been in front of tribunals recently, receiving 3 weeks and 4 weeks for their conduct toward referees.

Why am I publically promoting the bad behaviour of our members? Well to be honest, enough is enough! Please consider your behaviour in front of young people and the impression it leaves. Weekly there are at least two investigations into conduct of Eltham Wildcat teams from matches over a weekend and this just isn’t good enough. 80-85% of the time, the issues involve parents having confrontations at games or engaging in poor conduct with an official. Please be advised, the scorer at our child’s game is also an official of the game, in a similar vein to the referees. Tribunal reports for conduct against officials can additional weight in the form of penalties.

## **Referees**

Most referees are young people and those that aren’t, are more often than not doing it to help educate and support the young referees coming through. They are most certainly not professionals. They do have standards, they certainly have expectations put upon them and the club invests heavily financially into their education and coaching, but they are most definitely not professionals. Often people say to our referee coaches or staff “But I only said this...to the referee”. Having done the task myself as a younger person, it isn’t pleasant to

have the little comments that you think are minor being made; often in fact, these comments are found to be worse. At least when someone is yelling at a referee, they are clearly embarrassing themselves, but for any of our referees to have to deal with comments from coaches and parents isn't reasonable and plays a large part in why the dropout of referees is so high, not just at Eltham, but in junior sport.

Our Referee Director Steve Chadd, one of only two NBL Referee Coaches in Victoria, is only too happy to run an additional referee course for interested adults. If you are looking for some fitness and an opportunity to learn the rules, I'd strongly advise you to contact our Referee Administrator Des Buchan at [des@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:des@elthamwildcats.net.au) and we can set a course up for you.

In good news... well done to Mitch Hare on becoming the second Eltham Wildcat member to reach the NBL. A little birdie tells me his first NBL match is a TV game and is coming up shortly in Melbourne! Once this is confirmed, we look forward to sharing the news. Also a congratulations to Elliot Green who made his debut in the WNBL as a referee! Further individuals from our club following a pathway provided and doing so to the highest level. Elliot still serves as President of our Referee branch and we thank him for his continued support of grassroots basketball.

Greg Jeffers  
Chief Executive Officer



# important **INFO**

## **Working With Children & Member Protection Declarations**

Anyone who is volunteering to be a Team Manager must apply for a WWC. If you are a teacher then you need to send [Sue Cross](#) a copy of your 2018 registration card and a copy of your drivers licence (coloured copy). [Click here](#) to apply for a WWC.

## **Maintain Respect for Facilities**

Please respect all facilities and be mindful of unsupervised children. Wildcat members have been witnessed damaging fencing, cricket nets, sprinklers, ovals and more. Please respect the venues that allow your children and our members an opportunity to play this amazing sport.

## **Saturday Coaches & Team Managers Details**

Please ensure all Saturday Junior Domestic Team Managers and Coaches details have been sent to [jordan@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:jordan@elthamwildcats.net.au) to ensure they are kept up to date with all relevant information.

## **Melbourne Cup Weekend - Operating Hours**

Our facilities will be closed from Friday 3rd November and reopen on Wednesday 8th November. There will be no domestic and championship trainings and games during this time. We hope you enjoy the break.

junior **DOMESTIC**  
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Welcome to the Summer 2017-2018 season and in particular a very warm welcome to the new players across the girls and boys competition. Thanks to the volunteer convenors who have spent many hours putting teams together. This Summer season we have a total of 274 teams playing:

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Number of Teams</b>
------------------	------------------------



U8 Girls	8
U8 Boys	29
U10 Girls	19
U10 Boys	34
U12 Girls	23
U12 Boys	37
U14 Girls	22
U14 Boys	33
U16 Girls	13
U16 Boys	26
U18 Girls	7
U18 Boys	17
U20 Girls	4
U20 Boys	6

A very special thanks to those coaches and team managers who have volunteered. Without you we would not be able to have such a strong presence in the EDJBA.

If your team does not have a team manager, please consider volunteering. The team manager's guide is available on the Wildcats website under the "Junior Domestic" tab.

Teams are put together based on a range of information including player requests, previous coach reports and selection advisor feedback. We try to keep friendship groups together, but they can cause issues unless the group is a whole team with a coach. Trying to add 2 or 3 players to a group of 5 or 6 can be tricky.

Over the past few seasons player requests have become more involved and hence challenging to meet. We have also observed that player availability for training is becoming much more restricted. These combined with a healthy midweek senior domestic completion means that there are limited training places available after 6pm. Hence the allocation of training times each season is a nightmare. We have done our best to try and meet the requests of all coaches. As you can appreciate, we cannot always cater for everyone perfectly. We have needed to compromise in some situations whether it is a different venue or a variation on the time requested.

A few house keeping things for the coming season:

### **Game Information (Times, Results, Venues, Fees)**

During grading, game times are displayed on the EDJBA website around the Wednesday before the games. Remember there is often some movement between grades, scroll through the various grades until you find your team.

Results are generally displayed on the Sunday after the games.

Please note that ladders will be available after round 8 of the current season. A list of venues and their locations is available on the EDJBA website, hard copies in Club Office.

Game fees are \$8 per player.

### **Grading**

Grading will be completed after round 6. The Grading Committee will meet after Round 6 to do a final grading for the rest of the season. The Grading Committee works hard to iron out the worst of these issues as quickly as possible, but it might take until the last week of grading for your team to end up in their final grade. Some teams have moved around a lot during grading, while others have not.

If you have a special game request during grading it must be notified to the club office by the Friday 8 days before or at the latest to your grade convenor by the Saturday of the week before.

### **Fill-in Players**

If you find that your team needs a fill-in player some weeks, please contact the Wildcats office on 9439 5686 as early as possible in the week prior. They will need your team number, grade, a contact (either coach or team manager), the number of players that you have available and how many you need. The earlier you let them know, the more chance of them finding a fill in - particularly if your game is an away game. Please note that priority will be given to teams with less than 5 players available.

If you are organising a fill-in yourself (e.g. the sibling of a player in your team, who plays in a younger age group), **it's worth checking to make sure they are eligible, because if they're not and you win, you will forfeit the game. We had several forfeits in the Winter 2017 from using illegal players.** Information is provided under the Junior Domestic tab on the Wildcats website and in the EDJBA By-laws which are published on the EDJBA website

In addition, the rules for fill in players for finals are different from the normal season. Please contact the Wildcats office after 4pm on 9439 5686 for fill in players.

### **Training Supervision**

We request that at least one parent be present at training when the coach is a young coach. It is also recommended that at least one parent is present at training even with an adult coach in case of injury etc.

### **Team & Training Issues**

If you have an issue with the team or training time please do not contact the office, please contact the relevant age group convenor.

### **BOYS**

**U8** Lara Masters [lmasters444@gmail.com](mailto:lmasters444@gmail.com)

**U10-** Michelle Wilson [aandmwilson@optusnet.com.au](mailto:aandmwilson@optusnet.com.au)

**U12-** Natalie Hosking [Natalie.69@bigpond.com](mailto:Natalie.69@bigpond.com)

**U14-** Jodie Walsh [jodiewatts9@bigpond.com](mailto:jodiewatts9@bigpond.com)

**U16-** Shane Penrose [spenrose@bigpond.com](mailto:spenrose@bigpond.com)

**U18-** Debbie Dimoski [debbie98@live.com.au](mailto:debbie98@live.com.au)

**U20-** Christine Day [c.day61@optusnet.com.au](mailto:c.day61@optusnet.com.au)

### **GIRLS**

**U8** - Mardie Macdonald [mardiemac@bigpond.com](mailto:mardiemac@bigpond.com)

**U10** - Leanne Murphy [leemurphy5@optusnet.com.au](mailto:leemurphy5@optusnet.com.au)

**U12** – Julie Constable [julie@bullant.biz](mailto:julie@bullant.biz)

**U14-** Tania Weddle [tanjazz@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tanjazz@optusnet.com.au)

**U16-** Liz Cox [lcx@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](mailto:lcx@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au)

**U18 and U20** Tracey Wightman [dwi82003@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dwi82003@bigpond.net.au)

*\*Please note: the above are volunteers and do not work from the Wildcats Office*

### **Preparing For The Game**

Please if you are the rostered scorer, go to the bench as soon as the prior game ends to make sure correct team names are entered on the laptop. This will help game start on time. Do not delete names of any players who might turn up as they can take the court no matter when they arrive. Click on 'Active Players'- this will bring up your team, you are then to select who is playing.

Please **do not** add coaches! Penalties will not apply.

### **Black Singlets**

If you play another Eltham team, it is the **FIRST NAMED TEAM** on the fixture that has to change to black singlets.

Please note that the Eltham singlet colour is red. Black singlets may only be worn when playing against another Eltham team or Balwyn.

### **Parental Conduct At Games**

The Club wishes parents to be a positive influence, giving encouragement to players and the coach and setting high standards in their attitudes towards officials. The key elements of the EDJBA'S Code of Conduct can be found at the following link:

[http://www.foxsportspulse.com/assoc\\_page.cgi?c=1-4593-123193-194426-16388643&sID=259580](http://www.foxsportspulse.com/assoc_page.cgi?c=1-4593-123193-194426-16388643&sID=259580)

Good luck for the Summer 2017-2018 season!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your grade convenor or the Wildcats Office.

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### **Girls Junior Domestic**

Congratulations to the teams that played in the winter season finals! The Girls domestic Wildcats had 36 teams make it all the way to the Grand Finals, very impressive!! I hope you all really enjoyed yourselves.

We are well and truly getting through the domestic team selection and training allocation process for the summer 17/18 season. I would really like to thank the conveners at each age group for all their time and effort put into the task and Emily Maher who has been an amazing help to us all.

The girls domestic program has grown again for summer 17/18 in enrolments, which is really exciting that there are so many girls keen to get out and train and be part of a team. We still have some C/D grade teams that are requiring coaches. If anyone is interested in coaching please do not hesitate to contact me.

After the teams have been displayed on the website if you would like to discuss any issues please contact your grade convener by email.

Mardie

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Girls Domestic Coordinator

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### **Winter 2017 Saturday Junior Domestic Premiers**

Congratulations to all our Wildcat teams who won their respective Premierships. [Click here](#) for a full list of winners.

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## **WHO TO CONTACT ABOUT WHAT**

### **NEED MORE PLAYERS FOR A PARTICULAR SATURDAY?**

Never give a walkover. We will help find players. Phone Wildcats office as soon as you have game details and inform them of grade, age group, venue & time and how many players needed. If you don't find out until later, phone office as soon as you find out. If you phone up on a Friday evening, it is VERY difficult to find players.

### **NEED MORE PLAYERS EVERY WEEK**

- Inform Grade Convenor & also leave a message for Age Group Convenor about who has left team.
- List of Grade Convenors can be found on the Wildcats website.

### **INCORRECT RESULTS SHOWN ON EDJBA WEBSITE**

Please inform Jordan Canovan in the office, or email [jordan@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:jordan@elthamwildcats.net.au)

### **COACH NEEDS ASSISTANCE**

Inform our Coaches Advisor Gai Smith by phone or email 0420 280 958 [ssmith54@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ssmith54@optusnet.com.au)

### **SPECIAL FIXTURE REQUEST**

- Fixtures are changed rarely and will never be changed for family parties etc.
- Best to get special requests in before fixtures are done. Any request must be made no later than eight days before the relevant date email [jordan@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:jordan@elthamwildcats.net.au)

## **PLAYER/ PARENT CONDUCT ISSUES**

If a coach needs advice to help, consult Gai Smith 9431 2280 or 0420 280 958 [ssmith54@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ssmith54@optusnet.com.au). If the time has come for major Club intervention, email Sue Carpenter (BOYS) [pslmw@bigpond.com](mailto:pslmw@bigpond.com) or Mardie McDonald [domesticgirls@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:domesticgirls@elthamwildcats.net.au).

## **CHECKING FIXTURES AND FIXTURE CHANGES**

**Fixtures** are on the EDJBA web site early in the season, due to re-grading, they may not appear until late Tuesday or Wednesday. Go through your Team Manager if there is an issue. If Team Manager wishes to check, phone Office.

## **COMPLAINTS ABOUT OPPOSITION CONDUCT**

Do not take direct action. Retaliation creates more problems. All complaints must go through the Club. Email Sue Carpenter (BOYS) [pslmw@bigpond.com](mailto:pslmw@bigpond.com) or Mardie McDonald [domesticgirls@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:domesticgirls@elthamwildcats.net.au) with full details of the problem.

## **GRADING PROBLEM**

Send email to David Hickman [egrav@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:egrav@elthamwildcats.net.au) or leave note for David Hickman in the Office (BOYS) or Mardie McDonald (GIRLS) [domesticgirls@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:domesticgirls@elthamwildcats.net.au).

## **REFEREEING AT ELTHAM OR ELSEWHERE**

- If you believe there is a problem during a game at an Eltham venue, see if you can find a Referee's Adviser (yellow tops).
- If there is no Adviser present or it is too late, then you can fill in a Complaint Form & leave it in Referee's pigeon hole in the Wildcats office.

## **REFEREEING ELSEWHERE**

Please fill in Complaints Form in the Club Office and we will examine, and if it is serious enough we will forward Referees' Adviser of appropriate Club.

## **RULES OF THE EDJBA**

Click here to view [EDJBA Rules](#). Note Mercy Rule does not apply to grading & uniform penalty starts Round 3.



# junior **CHAMPIONSHIP**

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## Boys Championship Program

The season finally concluded with a fantastic victory for our 14VC team in the National Club Championships. Craig's team of great character played a Grand Final in front of the largest crowd a junior game is likely to have. In a dour battle in the early stages, Eltham was able to contain some very strong Sydney athletes & then open up the game toward the end of the third quarter- holding an 8 to 10 point lead for most of the remainder of the game. The crowd support for the team was excellent-thanks to all who came.

This followed a strong performance in VC overall-the highlight Carly's 12VC premiership in a hard fought game against Kilsyth. The 14VC team were runners up, 16VC won A Reserve despite a continuation of injury issues & Angelo's 18VC Reserve were runners up.

The grand finals were started with a 20-3 (Jack's team) victory against Altona in a game where we lead the entire contest. This was followed two days later with decisive win by Shaun & Ben's 14-5 & a heart-stopper with a one point margin to Warren's 14-6. We had runners up in Justin's 12-7 & Linda's 18-6, bronze medal wins to Dean G's 14-4 & Damian's 14-8.

Overall our representation in finals was pleasing with 19/36 teams making it. Dean B's 12-3 won the minor premiership & just lost finals games. Jeff's 14-3 reached VJL preliminary finals. Jason's 12-4 received medallions for 4<sup>th</sup>.

Special mentions to 18-3, 5 & 8 & 16-7 who missed finals but were impacted a lot by injuries. It was pleasing to see teams that did not make finals maintain their morale & provide for team & individual development.

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## Girls Championship Program

It's been a busy time in our Girls Championship Program as we closed out season 2016/17 and move into season 2017/18. Here is the summary;-

1. We finished off the season with two teams coming runners up in grand finals.
2. Our U14/1 Championship girls went to Nationals and finished with a

2. Our U14/1 Championship girls went to Nationals and finished with a bronze medal so they are the third best team in the country!
3. We have had a number of players selected to represent Victoria in the Southern Cross Challenge in January of next year.
4. We have had a number of players take up offers into NITP in both the U16 and U18 age groups;
5. We have held our trials and announced our teams for the 2017/2018 Championship Season.

As we closed out the 2016/ 2017 season we had a number of teams competing in Championship finals, from Victorian Championship through to regional grades. In the final week our U14/4 Girls made the Regional North 2 grand final and came runners up to Keilor 3 in a close fought battle. Our U16/3 girls played Blackburn 1 in the Metro 3 grand final and came runners up after a third quarter fightback to get back into the game.

Over the last week of the September School holiday's our U14/1 team represented Eltham Wildcats at the U14 National Championships at Dandenong Stadium. They secured the right to be invited to the National Championships by finishing second in their Victorian Championship pool at the end of round nine of the 2016/2017 season. The National Championships is a week-long tournament of the best U14 teams in the country. At the end of an intense and exciting week of basketball the team won their bronze medal match against the Gold Coast by 7 points. Congratulations to the team of Dyani Ananiev, Piper Bradford, Geneveive Broadbent, Sophie Burrows, Jessica Del Brocco, Lauren Jatczak, Olivia Pearce, Zara Prendergast, Maddie Pouflis, Amy Temos, D'Wayne Hogan, (coach), Lilly Brancatasiano,(assistant coach), Bianca Ananiev.(team manager) and to all those who helped make this amazing opportunity flow so seamlessly.

Over the course of the last season we have had a number of players invited to Basketball Victoria's high performance camps. For our U14 and U15 invited players, these camps provide an opportunity to train and develop skills with other invited players, of the same age from other clubs, under the guidance of a panel of high performance coaches. The camps are also a trial process for the selection of teams for the Southern Cross Challenge which is a tournament held over January at the State Basketball Centre where players representing Vic Metro and Vic country play against equivalent talented athletes from WA, SA, and the ACT. Congratulations to the following players who were offered places in the Vic Metro and Vic Country U14 and U15 teams for



**Southern Cross Challenge;** Ava Jordan (Metro), Dyani Ananiev (Country), Ashley Vee Mrmacovski (Metro), Geneveive Broadbent (Metro), Zoe Shaw (Metro), Sophie Burrows (Metro), Sarah Wightman (Metro), Jess Del Brocco (Country), Oliva Pearce (Country)

A number of our U16 & U18 players were invited to attend Basketball Victoria high performance camps during the year. As with the U14 & U15 camp they provide the opportunity to train and compete with equivalent athletes from other clubs under guidance of a panel of high performance coaches. The camps are also a trial process for players to secure an invitation to participate in the National Intensive Training Program (NITP), which is a high performance training program that runs over a 10 month period. Congratulations to the following players who received and took up an invitation to participate in NITP;

Sarae Beveridge, Anna Burrows, Alana Mierisch, Olivia Wightman

Our Championship trials for season 2017/2018 have just concluded. With more than 220 players competing to represent the Eltham Wildcats for the forthcoming Championship Season. We are pleased to advise that we have now concluded this process and will be fielding a total of 18 teams, (five U12, six U14, five U16 and two U18 teams). This is an exhaustive process for players, parents, coaches and administrators. We look forward to the forthcoming season with a number of new players coming to our program from both within our club membership and from other clubs. In comparison to our U12 – U18 squad from the 2016/2017 season our program for the new year has grown by approximately 10%. It is pleasing to see the Eltham Wildcats brand being well received within the championship basketball community.

Overall it's been a busy few months. There is a lot to look forward to both on and off the court. Just as the work load and work rate of the players is about to step up as we embark on a new season, so too will the commitment and support of the coaching staff, team managers, administrator's and of course the parents.

upcoming **EVENTS**



# eltham dandenong **TOURNAMENT**

The world's largest junior tournament is again "around the corner". The EDJBT will commence on Thursday evening January 25<sup>th</sup> and conclude Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>. It is for all Championship teams but also for our Saturday players.

We have had in the past an exciting array of interstate visitors and domestic teams from other areas than the EDJBA as well as our traditional rivals. Like the EDJBA lots of entries help us get good grading in most cases. Entry forms for Eltham players will be available from early November.

Eltham gains a lot of prestige from the tournament but it does involve quite a lot of work also. Here are some of the areas in which we hope to obtain help.

- We are looking for a further person to work with Bianca, Shane and David in producing the Tournament fixtures. This is a paid position. The person needs to be ready to assist for about six hours per day from Boxing Day

...to be ready to assist about an hour per day from Friday day afternoon to about January 11<sup>th</sup> (excluding New Year's Eve) at the Club. Inquiries & Applications to David Hickman [egrav@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:egrav@elthamwildcats.net.au).

- We are looking for a person with some expertise in the area to assist in the hire of EFTPOS machines as we intend to transition to provision of this alternative to cash payment at venues. Again please contact David Hickman.
- All our participants are expected to help the tournament in some way but especially we are looking for venue supervisors who will undertake for half a day, a day or for longer if they wish at a venue. They will always have some other back-up helpers. Please contact [connor@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:connor@elthamwildcats.net.au).



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