

**ELTHAM  
BASKETBALL CLUB INC.**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

AGM 29th May 2017 | 7:00pm | Eltham High School

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# GENERAL COMMITTEE 2016/17

**President:** David McLellan\*

**Vice-President:** Cathy Cukier\*

**Vice President:** Lyn Milczuk\*

**Secretary:** Anthea Cochrane\*

**Chief Executive Officer:** Greg Jeffers\*

**Finance:** Susan Holst

**Big V Convenor:** David Graham

**Girls Championship:** David Wightman

**Boys Championship:** Kathy Maffei/Anthony Stockwell

**Girls EDJBA Convenor:** Mardie MacDonald

**Boys EDJBA Convenor:** Sue Carpenter

**Referee Representative:** Luke Banitsiotis

**Coaches Representative:** Darren Anderson

**General Committee Members:**

Tony Bearzatto

Garry Jones

*\*Executive Committee Member*

# STAFF 2016/17

**Chief Executive Officer:** Greg Jeffers

**Operations Officer:** Connor Matthews

**Basketball Development Officer:** Jordan Canovan

**Senior Officer Administrator:** Sue Cross

**Finance Administrator:** Susan Holst

**Retail Manager:** Lani Rowell

**Eltham Basketball Club Inc.**

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club is an incredible organisation of which I am proud to be President of. Under the guidance and leadership of a strong balance between volunteers and paid staff, our association leads the way in regard to sporting organisations providing community level participation for males and females of all ages. Likewise however, we are showing our strength in the development of individuals and helping guide them in their pathway whether that be as a player, coach, referee, technical official or an administrator. Whilst our playing membership is in excess of 5,500, our reach and community involvement once including our coaches, referees and administrators is far greater and we remain one of the sole sporting associations providing the pathway for referees, scorers, statisticians and administrators to reach the highest level in their field.

Our greatest issue has arrived earlier than anticipated. Whilst our growth has been substantial at the junior levels, the on flow effect is that of facilities and need for more. Five years ago, we believed our building of Montmorency SC stadium and the building by Montmorency South PS and Viewbank PS would help see us through, however growth in our junior domestic team numbers of approximately 25% in that time means we are now in a time of need for more facilities. Led by Greg Jeffers, we are developing a team working with the tiers of government to ensure the future of

basketball in our region can be catered for to the levels our community expect.

I'd like to congratulate our team involved in the Eltham-Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament. This event is the largest event on the basketball calendar in Australia with 1,357 teams entered in 2017, which included the registration of 12,995 individual players. With games spread from Altona to Craigieburn, Kilsyth to Cranbourne and everywhere in between, I'd like to congratulate and thank Tournament Director Peter Meehan and his team on the event. Whilst the event is important for the Wildcats, in my opinion it is more important for the sport; the one chance to come together and with players in their thousands coming from South Australia, Western Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania and New Zealand it is just simply astonishing what our volunteers and staff put together.

Conduct towards officials remains an issue in local sport. We are working closely with the EDJBA, VJBL and Basketball Victoria to find solutions to curb this conduct. Without the referees, the weekly sporting opportunities just wouldn't occur. People easily complain about 'young referees' or the 'inexperienced referees' or a perceived bad call in a game.

The truth of the matter is, the conduct at games of spectators, coaches and players is steering people away from this pathway. As a parent, consider the way you speak to officials; would you be ok with your child being spoken to in that manner? Whilst you might consider your comments to not mean much, I can assure you it does. Our association invests heavily into referee education and retention, but the turnover rates due to poor behaviour of spectators, coaches and players is making recruiting and retaining referees a harder prospect. I'd like you to consider your conduct and also question others conduct when the opportunity arises.

All in all however we are in a very healthy position. Our Junior Representative teams see us ranked number 2 in Victoria in the 2016/17 season, our Junior Domestic team numbers are the largest they have ever been, we operate some of the largest 3x3 competition days across the country and our senior representative teams competing in the State Championship competitions are well in contention in Basketball Victoria's flagship competition. Best of all the programs we run are self funded, no reliance upon local government to make them occur, we build and invest in our sport and in our facilities to ensure the next generation can continue as Wildcats.

Most of all thank you to our families and participants for making the Wildcats a fantastic family environment. We are blessed to have hundreds of volunteers involved making everything run smoothly and helping our participants represent the Wildcats at local, state and national level every week.

**David McLellan**

President

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

The 2016/17 year can be looked upon as another terrific year of achievement and continued growth particularly in our junior ranks. The positive from that growth ultimately creates the issue that seems to be consistent across the sport; the need for additional high ball facilities.

**Staff:** In mid 2016, Emily Maher moved into the next step in her preferred career path of teaching and still remains a highly active member of our administration program and retail team. Whilst in late 2016, Tim Cotton found the daily travel from the western suburbs to Eltham too much and secured a role close to home. These two individuals helped significantly change the operations of the club particularly in the area of registration. Registrations for all programs across the association are now online and much of that thanks goes to the time and effort of Emily and Tim.

However with many processes now instilled our appointments to the office needed to be individuals that could help fill weaknesses within our structure. Jordan Canovan is a well known basketball person with experience most notably at the Knox basketball association. Jordan has taken our beginner programs, holiday programs but in particular our social media and marketing to new levels. Taking on additional work also with sponsorship, we have seen an increase in business involvement in the Wildcats due to his work, most of which will be visible

financially in the next 12 months.

Connor Matthews is a born and bred Wildcat. Having been heavily involved from our beginner and junior programs into our Big V and even as a player in our senior domestic, Connor was well placed to walk into the office and make an impact. He has led the operations of our day to day to a high level, but certainly his efforts through the tournament didn't go unnoticed.

Sue Cross remains a stalwart of our office keeping everyone in order, administering our senior domestic competitions and ensuring our governance particularly around child safety standards are in order. Susan Holst has completed her first full year and made significant changes and improvements whilst Lani Rowell has continued to lead our Retail team including the preparation of our online store [www.wildcatstore.com.au](http://www.wildcatstore.com.au).

**Volunteers:** In the dictionary next to the word volunteer is an image of David Hickman. He continues to take on the role that normally 3-4 people would need to fill. From keeping us up to date on governance changes at state level to his fixturing expertise for our annual tournament and his involvement in junior boys domestic and championship programs, these roles only give you a small window of understanding as to the roles that he plays for the Wildcats association. In December 2016, Carolyn Pickburn stepped down from the role of Domestic Girls Convenor after 5 years leading the program and two in an assistant role. In preparation for the Winter 2017 EDJBA

season, Carolyn worked alongside Mardie MacDonald as Mardie took on the role. Mardie is well known to the club and has been an age group convenor for some time; however we welcome Mardie into the role and the initiatives she is working on to share the load of the position, given the substantial growth the program has had in the last couple of years. The Domestic Girls on their own are bigger than most clubs and require more hands on deck to maintain.

We welcomed Anthony Stockwell in 2016 to the position of Championship Boys Convenor, after being held by Trevor Vanden Driesen for some 12 years. Anthony has three children in different programs across the association. Likewise in 2016, we saw the planned handover of the Championship Girls Convenor position from Andrew Harris to David Wightman. David has led the program with strong leadership and has been influential with policy development.

Without our age group convenors, helpers of our Big V program, the hundreds of team managers and coaches, our tribunal members and many other roles around the association, the Wildcats name wouldn't be as strong in the community as it is. To all of you –a heartfelt thank you for your time and effort. To steal a line from Victoria's Minister for Sport John Eren, volunteers give up a person's most precious commodity –time; that can never be replaced so thank you.

**Facilities:** 'Stage 3' as it's known for re-development of Eltham HS was delayed through 2016 as we negotiated the Joint Use Agreement between

Eltham High School, the Wildcats and the Education Department. We envisage this negotiation is in its final stages before we go to tender. There has been hours of meetings and work behind the scenes to make moves for new courts in the region. With political and staffing changes occurring in the local municipalities in recent times this has provided new opportunities for new discussions. Local MP for Eltham Vicki Ward has been very supportive of sourcing potential options and we look forward to being able to lock something in. It is obvious to anyone involved that we have outgrown the current facilities in Nillumbik and Banyule and assistance is required to build further and for both local Councils to assist in providing more suitable facilities for local basketball players.

**Eltham-Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament:** 1,357 teams (12,990 registered players) took part in what is widely regarded as the largest annual junior basketball tournament in the world. Led by Peter Meehan, but also the leadership of the likes of David Hickman, Alicia Vengust, Des Buchan, Connor Matthews and Elliot Green managing teams of volunteers and casual staff to ensure we rolled out biggest and best event on the Australian basketball calendar. A significant change to the event was the social media influence managed by Jordan Canovan. We had a reach on Instagram of over 90,000 and almost 77,000 on Facebook, our event reached more people online than ever before. The tournament website [www.elthamtournament.com.au](http://www.elthamtournament.com.au) had just short of 2.4M hits through the month of January. Approximately 1.8M website hits were over the tournament weekend itself.



**Sponsorship:** Max Kirwan Mazda continued their major sponsorship of the Junior Championship program. Having such a well respected business, with the family well entrenched in the region connected with our program is a bonus to our association and we look forward to many more years of working with Max and his team.

Barry Plant has been a long term sponsor (13 years) of our Junior Domestic program, but more recently also in our introductory programs. Like the Wildcats, they represent more than just the suburb of Eltham and we love working with Jamin and his team.

Brett Cole from Cole Family Chiropractic has been a dedicated supporter of our senior program for a couple of years now giving up nearly every Saturday evening to support our teams with his expertise. More than a sponsor; a great local man who is a parent within the association and dedicated to helping our senior players achieve.

In the lead up to the 2017 Senior Championship season we secured naming rights sponsors to three of our four senior teams. We welcomed Merlin as sponsors to our Youth Women, Wattyl Paints (Valspar) to our Senior Men and Eltham Subway to our Youth Men. We welcome all three businesses to the Wildcats and hope to continue relationships in the years ahead.

Strong support in 2016 also came from Eastern Garage Doors, Bundoora Trophies, Slocum Floorcoverings for the association and as stated earlier,

## **Eltham Basketball Club Inc.**





we have taken some significant steps in the last 12 months to build our commercialisation and plan to continue that within the next 12 months.

**Conclusion:** Our association is in place to provide opportunities for members of the local community to participate in local sport. The fact we provide that and then aim to provide more and within different streams is what has and continues to make the Wildcats organisation more than just basketball. Whilst our young players continue to strive to achieve their goals, we continue to do all we can with support structures to help them achieve their dreams. Despite many representatives (players, coaches, referees, administrators, team managers, statisticians and scoretable) at state and national level, players achieving scholarships to College in the USA and the likes of the Craig Stratford coached U14 Boys winning the National Classic tournament, our staff and volunteers are not content.

We aim to provide pathways across more avenues than just as a player. Amy Vine, Alicia Vengust, Leighton Lewis are examples of individuals pursuing paths via the Wildcats that have taken them to the National League. Whilst all three have involvement in the past as players, to reach higher opportunities they've followed one of our alternate pathways through scoring, statistical and team managing respectively. Should you or your child be looking at more ways to get involved, get in touch with the office and our staff would be only too happy to help guide you in the opportunities that are available.

I can't name everyone that we need to thank for their efforts to make the Eltham Wildcats the organisation that it is, however to everyone who has the best interests of the Wildcats at heart that has devoted time to making our community that little bit better via the basketball club programs, thank you.

**Greg Jeffers**

Chief Executive Officer

# FINANCIAL REPORT (YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017)

The Eltham Wildcats have had another very successful year, financially. All areas of the club have seen increases and improvements with an overall surplus of over \$268,000 achieved. Revenue from subscriptions, competition takings, camps and tournaments have continued to grow. The canteen and Wildcat shop operations have also had a great year. Over the past twelve months there has been some rationalisation and simplification of the club's general ledger accounts.

Subscriptions have increased slightly however game takings (after referee and administration costs) have increased by 9% over the year. The club's cash position at year-end was over \$680,000 with \$171,000 in term deposits. The Montmorency loan has been now been repaid and net assets at year-end being over \$1,930,000.

The team who contributed to another successful Australia Day Eltham-Dandenong Tournament should be noted. Their contribution resulted in a surplus of over \$95,000 (after GST) for the 2017 Tournament which is 35% of the club's overall result for the year.

Expenses were well maintained. A POS system (Kounta) was purchased for the canteen, shop and front office. General expenses remained in line with previous years.

A special thank you to all the staff, volunteers, administrators, committee members and sponsors. The club's financial records included in this annual report have been independently audited and passed by Price Gibson Pty Ltd to give a true and fair view of its financial position. 2017-18 looks to be another great year for the Eltham Wildcats.

For a full financial report please refer to Appendix A.

**Susan Holst**

Finance Administrator

**Eltham Basketball Club Inc.**

# TOURNAMENT REPORT

Another tournament record with 1357 teams participating.

We estimate that well in excess of 40,000 people are involved (i.e. Players, coaches, spectators, umpires, administrators). This included teams from many parts of Australia and many Victorian Country areas as well as local teams from the Melbourne Metropolitan competitions, and an All Abilities competition. It is still believed to be the largest of its kind anywhere in the world.

This year's Tournament was clearly one of the best tournaments that we have run with very few issues. The introduction of a new system that linked directly with the Dandenong results together with a number of our venues entering scores electronically meant that the "back-office" ran extremely smoothly even with a record number of teams.

Special thanks to David Hickman, Greg Jeffers, their respective teams and to the other back-office staff for their tireless efforts both before and during this tournament. Thanks also to Des Buchan who, once again ensured we had referees available for all games. My personal thanks to the following people who all made significant contributions:

Bianca Ananiev (Fixtures)  
Ange Bearzatto (Finance)  
Tony Bearzatto (Finance)  
Jacob Burnham (Referee appointments)  
Jordan Canovan (Social Media & Marketing)  
Anthea Cochrane (Volunteer Manager)  
Sue Cross (Registrations & Back Office)  
Adam Currie (Fixtures/Communications)  
Elliott Green (Referees)  
Lorraine Harris (Finance)

Rob Hill (Fixtures)  
Connor Matthews (Venue & Staff Management)  
Janice Northcott (Back Office)  
Jake Northcott (Back Office)  
Shane Palmer (Fixtures)  
Lani Rowell (Canteen/Uniform Shop)  
Marcia Velo (Back Office)  
Megan Velo (Back Office)  
Alicia Vengust (Fixtures/Communications)



**Eltham Basketball Club Inc.**

Once again, the tournament has generated significant profits for the club of \$106,096.80.

**Peter Meehan**

Tournament Director

## **2017 Australia Day Eltham-Dandenong Tournament (includes GST)**

January 2017

Income		
Interest	63.52	
Team Entries	83,825.89	
Takings	187,994.20	
Total Income		\$271,883.61
Expense		
Stadium Rental	75,199.95	
Trophies	29,715.53	
Tournament Rebate (Dandenong)	33,302.50	
Admin	20,359.46	
Security	4,377.30	
Logo	0.00	
Website	693.00	
Printing	937.50	
Photography	200.00	
Equipment Hire	671.00	
Postage	45.60	
Miscellaneous	284.98	
Total Expenses		\$165,786.81
Net Profit		\$106,096.80



**Eltham Basketball Club Inc.**

# OPERATIONS OFFICER REPORT

## Administrators

The club currently has 53 listed Administrators who do an excellent job of assisting with the day-to-day needs of the club. Additionally they serve as the 'face of the club', often being the first point of contact for members with queries or payments and forms to complete.

Excitingly we had a bumper crop of over 20 individuals register for the trainee program at the end of 2016 and we look forward to integrating them into the program. It is exciting to be able to provide employment to young members to help them develop work and life skills. We look forward to keeping this tradition going in the coming year.

## Connor Matthews

Operations Officer



# BASKETBALL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

## Kinder Club

Kinder Club grows every term and continues to be very popular with every session sold out. In 2017 we introduced a Friday afternoon session as well as the Saturday morning. Kinder Club is a play and learn basketball program for children aged 3 & 4 years old providing their first taste of basketball. Participants then progress into the Cub Squad program. We intentionally have a capacity of approx. 12-15 kids per session to ensure all kids get first class attention from the coaches to optimise their overall experience.

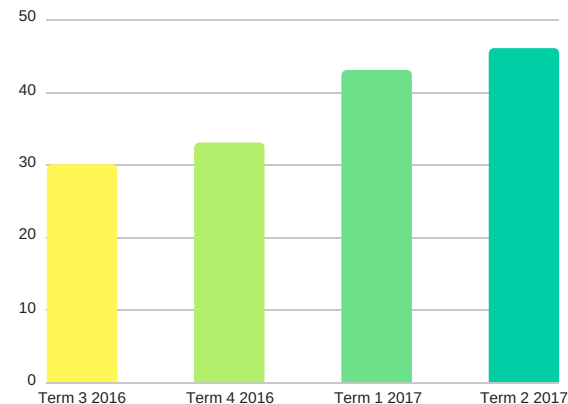
## Wildcat Cub Squad

Rachel Cook, Jakk Walsh and the team continue to provide a high quality program to our beginner basketballers aged 5-10. This is our most popular beginner program with the "Transition Program" (older players who are nearly ready to play domestic basketball) serving as a fantastic feature. The TP only runs in term 1 & 3 of the school year as it leads into our Summer and Winter domestic seasons. The Transition Programs continue to reach full capacity and a very high portion of these players go on to play domestic basketball with the Wildcats. The Cub Squad currently has 8 sessions during the week at Montmorency Secondary, Eltham College and the Eltham Leisure Centre. Sessions at Viewbank had to be cancelled due to court un-availability. Since the last financial year there has been a total increase of **64 participants**.

**Term 3 2016: 278   Term 4 2016: 257   Term 1 2017: 266   Term 2 2017: 209**

*We currently have 263 players in Kinder Club and Cub Squad this term.*

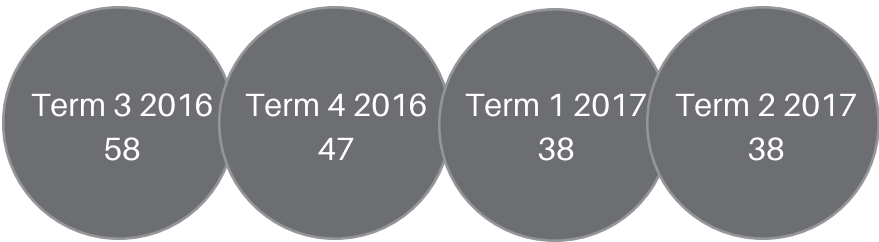
**Eltham Basketball Club Inc.**





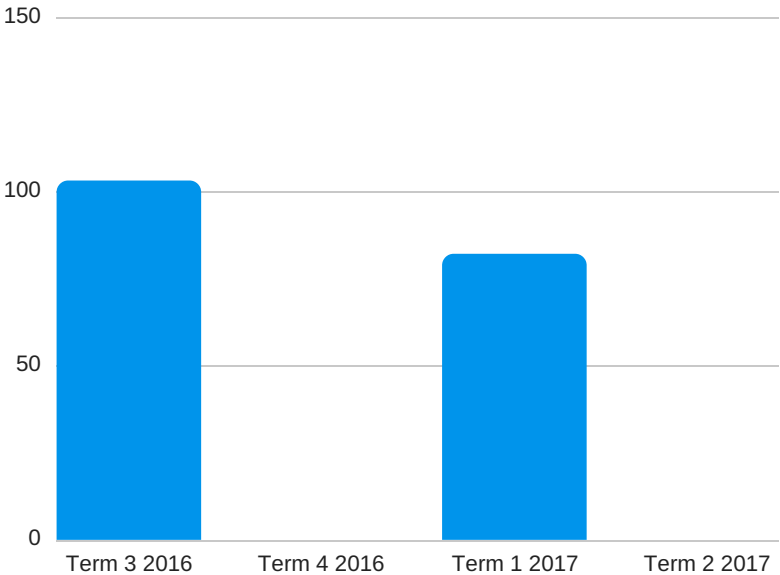
Skills and Drills

The Skills and Drills program continues to develop as a pathway for players to progress from our domestic ranks into higher level teams or into our Championship program. With the departure of Sean Clarke who did a fantastic job in the Head Coaching Position, Connor Matthews stepped into the role providing a Representative level of coaching to the program. Skills and Drills continue to see a stable level of participation with a solid mix of female and male players. On top of this we are starting to see many of the children who join the program early, flowing into the top few domestic teams in the youngest age groups. This then directly aligns with the next generation of Championship players.



Primary School Clinics

The Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club offers free basketball clinics to primary schools in the local community that promote our programs and competitions to all children. The goal is to increase awareness and registrations of our introductory programs (Kinder Club/Cub Squad) and junior domestic competitions. Clinics are run in term 1 & 3 of the school year as they lead into each of our domestic winter and summer seasons. Gai Smith, Amy Cook & Rachel Cook do a fantastic job running these clinics with nothing but positive feedback from the schools.



Primary School Clinics 2016/17

- Term 3 2016: 103
- Term 4 2016: NA
- Term 1 2017: 82
- Term 2 2016: NA

### **Holiday Camps**

Our school holiday camps are very popular. We continue to try and offer camps for players of all ages and abilities. With low numbers in July 2016 we reached record participant levels in September 2016 and most recently April 2017 where we had an increase of 31 total participants compared to the previous year.

<b>Camp</b>	<b>July 2016</b>	<b>September 2016</b>	<b>April 2017</b>	<b>Total</b>
Hang Time Camp	83	70	67	220
Fun Skills & Drills	58	59	81	198
Cub Squad Camp	33	43	28	104
Individual/ Small group	47	37	NA	84
Shooting Camp	NA	NA	53	53
Kinder Club Camp	14	10	8	32
Champ Camp	51	91	60	202
<b>Total</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>893</b>

**Jordan Canovan**

Basketball Development Officer

# BIG V REPORT

2016 was a year of ensuring we grew upon the 2015 season where many of the building blocks for the program had been put in place. Whilst winning championships are always the goal, providing a sustainable plan for the four teams to remain competitive in their respective State Championship divisions has and remains the main focus. This however wasn't just limited to the teams on the court, a large focus moved toward building our program off the court.

The program continued to be well supported by David Graham looking after property and equipment and Alicia Vengust in much of the operational responsibilities. A large amount of work in the past on game days had been undertaken by Des Buchan and Garry Jones. Recognising their work but building a larger team was important and by doing so, we have created a strong team of administrators who can now take on a variety of roles on game day; most importantly Game Day Commissioner.

We also advertised other roles to younger members of the association. This saw fresh and excited young people taking on roles as floor wipers, camera duties and similar roles and as an added bonus from their remuneration we provided a special player clinic for them all.

The season itself kicked off with a singlet presentation day at Eltham High School. The day included a skills clinic, coaches vs players game, water dunking competition and a Senior team vs Youth team practise game for both the Men's and Women's programs and a chance to introduce our teams to the association.



## **State Championship Men**

Trevor Lee returned for his third year as Head Coach and once again supported by Assistant Daniel Smith, with Team Manager Heather Douglas. We added star shooting guard Jordan Canovan, Ben Waldren from Hawthorn and former NBL player and local teacher Chris Cameron to the team that finished mid table in 2015.

Early in the season things weren't going to plan as the team had a 1-8 record and looking grim, however a 13 game winning streak saw the Men return to the playoffs for the first time since 2012 finishing in 5th with a 14-8 record. The team played Knox in a one game elimination final and won, which saw them face top of the table Corio Bay in a 3 game series. Despite winning game 1, the Men lost games 2 and 3 at Corio Bay, but for the team to finish in the final four, one win away from the Grand Final was a terrific result. At the Big V Awards, Trevor Lee was awarded Coach of the Year, whilst Ben Waldren was named to the State Championship All Star 5. Our team was the only side in the competition to have an all-Australian team with no international imports.

## **State Championship Women**

We signed former WNBL Assistant Coach Andy Sherwell to be Head Coach, whilst our own junior coach D'Wayne Hogan took on the Assistant position. The team was managed by Jodi Vine. Unfortunately, the team never got any continuity and struggled through the season.

We were the only team once again with no international imports and a large percentage of the playing group with Wildcat juniors, but the team struggled for scoring power outside of Olivia Bontempelli and that resulted in a 5-17 record, finishing 10th of 12 teams. The year allowed for the likes of Georgia Dale and Celeste Fletcher to secure places in the senior team, whilst Madi Brancatisano and Tessa Norman gained invaluable experience.

## **Victorian Youth Championship Men**

Greg Jeffers remained Head Coach for the fourth season, assisted by Ben Ward and Junior Championship coach Connor Matthews and team managed by Sue Clarke. The Men played 20 players over the season with 19 of those players either current junior players or graduates of the junior program, with the one player from outside of Eltham in his third season of Youth for the Wildcats.

The early season was a struggle at times, as new Youth players Sam Whelan, Max Stroszynski, Tom O'Connor and Daniel Robertson adjusted to the requirements of the level. Captain Brayden Lewis led the team through the tough periods and just after Easter, the team welcomed Julian Lipinski and Christian Yammouni back from College. From that point with their experience, the team made a charge toward playoffs, qualifying 4th in their conference by defeating Nunawading in the final round finishing with an 11-11 record.

The Youth Men faced Bulleen in the one game quarter final, the team that had finished with the best record in the competition. Despite having lost by 17 to them earlier in the season, the boys won the Quarter Final 76-67 in front of a huge crowd with Julian Lipinski scoring 37. Whilst the boys lost the final four semi final to the eventual champions in Melbourne, it was a very strong season for the team with no player older than 21. Julian Lipinski won the season award for most rebounds per game.

## **Victorian Youth Championship Women**

Matthew Holland was appointed coach of the team having built experience at the State Championship level. Jodi Vine took on Team Manager duties. Having built a core group at this level for some seasons, 2016 was a chance to develop some new talent for the future around the already established players and this saw Talia Harris take on significant opportunities, a great sign given the injuries she had experienced.

Lily Brancatisano also took on major minutes during the season, holding her in good stead for the future. Whilst the team didn't qualify for finals, the 7-15 record doesn't do the team justice. The team grabbed a couple of very big scalps including Dandenong along the way. Matt has provided experience to players to help the program in the future.



The season concluded with a presentation night at Heidelberg Golf Club where the club had the chance to recognise some outgoing players including:

- Adam Moore
- Scott Coleman
- Stephanie Crellin
- Brayden Lewis

**Preparations for 2017:** The club agreed to part ways with Andy Sherwell from Senior Women, signing Katrina Hibbert to the Head Coach position. Greg Jeffers stood down after four years and we signed Daniel Smith to take the reins for 2017. Three major sponsors were signed in Watty!, Eltham Subway and Merlin.

**Greg Jeffers**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Eltham Basketball Club Inc.**



# BOYS CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT

## ACHEIVEMENTS & AWARDS

### PREMIERS

Boys 16-2 VJL - Matt Bonghetti, Boys 16-4 REG - Paul Hallett, Boys 16-7 REG - Simon Mackenzie

### RUNNERS UP

Boys 12-1 VC - Rachel Wallace, Boys 16-6 REG - Theo Gessas

### ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Matt Zrna 12-1 VC, Rhys Moxon 12-2 VJL, Andrew Devine 18-3 VJL, Thomas Penkethman 14-2 VCR

### PETER WAIN - OUTSTANDING PLAYERS

Kristian Ferranato 12.1 VC

Aidan Hand 14-9 REG

### MOST IMPROVED PLAYER

Darcy Whelan 14-2 VCR, Jack Mitchell 16-3 VJL, George Kolyvas 14-4 VJL, Lucas Gray 14-9 REG

### BEST TEAM LEADERSHIP

Emett Wise 12-1 VC, Harry Ferreday 12-2 VJL, Joel Parkinson 12-6 REG, Rory Bradshaw 14-6VJL,

James Stockwell 16-1 VCR, Matt Blakis 16-4 REG

## EXCEPTIONAL DEDICATION AWARD

Nathan Raphael 12-1 VC, Isaiah Stratford 12-2 VJL

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Trevor Vanden Driesen was awarded a life membership after years of service to the Club. He was a Coach and Assistant. He still is a referee, and venue supervisor for the Australia Day tournament. Trevor was also a member of the Boys Championship Committee (2004), Vice Chair (2008), Chair (2011 - 2016) when he retired. We thank Trevor for his level headed, considerate contribution over those years.

## MVPS's

12-1 Kristian Ferronato

12-2 Felix Bell

12-3 Max Bowden

12-4 Che Brogan

12-5 Remy Paterson

12-6 Daniel Gomez

14-1 Tom Stockwell

14-2 Thomas Penkethman

14-3 Shaw Gale

14-4 Brody Glenn

14-5 Blake Salerno

14-6 Josiah Kuppe

14-7 Max Reid

14-8 Taj Andreeta

14-9 Aiden Nolan

16-1 Luke Donald

16-2 Tyler Prunty

16-3 Zac Romas

16-4 Matt Blakis

16-5 Andrew Miller

16-6 Mitchell Burton

16-7 Oliver Berkery

16-8 Ethan Clare

16-9 Kieran Poulton

16-10 Liam Wickham

18-1 Aidan O'Carroll

18-2 James McGrath

18-3 James Lombardozzi

18-4 Fletcher Berryman

18-5 Kade Rowe

18-6 Nicholas Brydson-Dickson

18-7 Kristopher Harris

20-1 Mark Scherf

20-2 Jhye Burton

20-3 Daniel Wooster

## **STATE REPRESENTATION U20'S**

Tom O'Connor – Victoria White

Daniel Robertson – Victoria White

Sam Whelan – Victoria White

## **U18'S**

Aiden O'Carroll – Victoria Metro

## **OUTSTANDING TEAM AWARD**

16-7 Boys Team (REG) - Simon Mackenzie

## **OUTSTANDING COACH**

Rachel Wallace: 12-1 VC

Carly Stones: 12-2 VJL

Craig Stratford: 14-1 VC

Simon MacKenzie: 16-7 REG

## **COACH SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Connor Amey-Matthews: 14-2 VC-Reserve

Daniel Richards: 18-6 REG Team & 20-3 VJL Team

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**

Paul Hallett

## **GLENN WYND MEMORIAL AWARD**

Gerry Bretherton

## **TEAM MANAGER**

Luisa Rinaldi: 16-1 VC

Julio Salerno: 14-5 VJL and Libby Salerno: 18-7 VJL

Mel Berkery: 16-7 REG

## **TEAMS**

For season 2016-17 we entered 7- U12 teams; 9- U14 teams; 9- U16 teams; 8- U18 teams; 3-20 teams.

The first teams in U12 - 18 all qualified in VC. There are 11 teams in VJL and 21 teams in Regional.

The teams across the board, especially Under 16s & 18s, are experiencing a number of significant injuries with some players out for the season. At least 12 & 14 VC teams will make the Classic. Overall teams have been progressing satisfactorily.

## **COACHING**

Chris Cameron, Director of Coaching and Leighton Lewis, Assistant Director of Coaching, along with the coaching panel, ran a very successful trial and selection period. Through a change in rotation, evaluation and assessment players were given every opportunity to display their skills. This result was most players were selected in appropriate teams.

The Coaching Panel provide support and guidance to all coaches, particularly inexperienced and younger coaches. They also contribute to developing and running high achievement programs.

The other coaching panel members are Craig Stratford, Carly Stones, David Hickman, Greg Jeffers and Connor Amey-Matthews.

The early morning upskilling sessions have been a great success with particular identified players asked to attend. The overall number of sessions have been reduced which suits both players and families.

The panel are working towards having another 'Positive Coaching' speaker which is hoped to be opened to invite coaches other than just the Boys and Girls Championship coaches.

We have an excellent team of coaches with a mixture of experience and developing young coaches.

## **COMMITTEE**

We thank both Matt Burnham and Janelle Reid for their contributions and input during their time on the Committee.

## **MEMBERS**

After a short time on the Committee, Anthony Stockwell was accepted in the role of Chairperson. As someone who deals with children and families on a daily basis he brings knowledge and common sense approach to issues, with the many and varied situations, the Committee are now required to deal with.

Other members are David Hickman, Rhonda Lewis and Sue Festa, members for many years, Leighton Lewis, David Graham, Anglea Barr Kemp. We welcome Damien Lied.

David Hickman continues to be our mainstay and guide through the ever changing VJL internal structure, communication access and BV policy. He has without a doubt the most comprehensive understanding and ability to clarify what would leave the rest of the committee wondering.

Kathy Maffei, as administrator, supports teams, team managers and coaches with the growing demands put upon them. More and more it is apparent that the number of teams dealing with extraneous issues is ever increasing. Most need advice with administrative issues, others are complicated.

As a result of inappropriate social media comments parents of an U14 player were suspended for 10 weeks. It prompted a review of all relevant policies. A subcommittee was formed with members from both the Boys and Girls program. Members Anthony Stockwell, David Wightman, Angela Barr-Kemp, David Hickman and Kathy Maffei. The policies have been reviewed, revised and awaiting General Committee approval.

## **OTHER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Greg Jeffers, Sue Cross, Jordan Canovan, Connor Amey-Matthews, Carly Stones and all the junior office staff for their assistance. Jennie Dymalovski has ably handled her first season as subscriptions secretary and thank her for doing a great job.

## **Boys Championship Committee**

# GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT

During the 2015/2016 Season the Girl's Championship Program fielded a total of 17 teams. First teams in the U12, U14 and U16 age-groups were represented at VC level and the majority of 2nd, 3rd, etc teams representing a well-balanced spread across the VJL and Regional competitions.

Team	Coach(es)	Team	Coach(es)
12 - 1	Greg Jeffers	16 - 1	Andrew Harris
12 - 2	Ash Riddell & Charlotte Hunter	16 - 2	D'Wayne Hogan & Steven Evans
12 - 3	Alex Feehan & David Feehan	16 - 3	Mark Watkins
12 - 4	Tracey Wightman & Scott Gray	16 - 4	Fab Caverzan & Leeah Caverzan
14 - 1	Ben Cukier & Peter Mackenzie	16 - 5	Gavin Smith & Matthew Burnham
14 - 2	Amy Vine	18 - 1	Angelo Calcagno & Vin Brancatisano
14 - 3	Shane Carr	18 - 2	Karen Morton & Amy Vine
14 - 4	Paul Meyers		
14 - 5	Paula Hogan		
14 - 6	Fiona Harrison & Michelle Ryan		

For the 2016/2017 season the Girl's Championship Program has fielded a total of 19 teams comprising 181 players. We have six teams represented in Victorian Championship including our 12/2 and 14/2 teams with the program well represented within VJL grades and eight teams represented in regional grades. We have had a large intake of athletes within our under 12 group including a number of double bottom age players. In addition to this we have a large number of bottom age players in VC teams which should bode well for the following season.

Team	Coaches	Team	Coaches
12 - 1	Ash Riddell	16 - 1	Andrew Harris & Bill Pearce
12 - 2	Tracey Wightman & Chris Cameron	16 - 2	Sam Creed
12 - 3	Ben Cukier, Emma Burke	16 - 3	Andrew Robertson & Daniel Robertson
12 - 4	Anne Raphael	16 - 4	Fab Caverzan & Tim Car
12 - 5	Grant Carr	16 - 5	Paul Meyers
12 - 6	Merryn Brown & Megan Dymalovski	18 - 1	Matt Holland
14 - 1	D'Wayne Hogan, Lilly Brancatisano	18 - 2	Mark Watkins & Brianna Mountford
14 - 2	Greg Jeffers & Dean Jordan	20 - 1	Daniel Robertson, Tony Hegan, Trevor Lee & John Yammouni
14 - 3	Peter Mackenzie & Paula Hogan		
14 - 4	Rachel Morgan, Fiona Harrison & Sophie Foote		
14 - 5	Charlotte Hunter & Cassie Wilson		

## State Representation

In the last 12 months Eltham has again been well represented at the State level. Congratulations to the following girls for being selected to their respective State teams:

- U18's - Ella Ogier (Vic Country)
- U16's - Olivia Wightman (Vic Metro -Development Player)
- SCC - Rachel Svent, (Vic Metro Silver U15)
- SCC - Sarae Beveridge, (Vic Metro Navy U15)
- SCC - Tayah Watkins, (Vic Country Bushrangers U15)
- SCC - Jess Del Brocco (Vic Metro Navy U14)
- SCC - Dyani Ananiev (Vic Metro Navy U14)
- SCC - Zarah Prendergast (Vic Metro White U14)
- SCC - Sophie Burrows (Vic Metro Silver U14)
- SCC - Genevieve Broadbent (Vic Metro Silver U14)



## Coaching & Player Development

Our Director of Coaching Ben Cukier is continuing to focus on building a substantial and broad based coach and player development program for the 2016/2017 season. This program will commence over the coming month and looks to build upon the work that was started last year.

## Girls Championship Coordinator





# EDJBA BOYS REPORT

The EDJBA consists of 16 clubs and over 1,100 teams. Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club is the largest club in this competition. The EDJBA has many advantages for The Eltham Wildcats, principally its size which allows for good grading and variety of opposition. It also means players on Saturday are directly representing Eltham, as opposed to what happens in most competitions. This generates club loyalty and ease of transition of players from Saturday to Championship. Another feature of the EDJBA is the different age cut-off dates between Summer and Winter seasons which gives everyone the chance to be in the top six months in age of players at that age group.

Players gain a variety of benefits ranging from the sense of belonging derived from team loyalty, the sheer fun of participating, the excitement of close contests, the sense of achievement from individual and team improvement, and the opportunity to advance to higher levels. As usual, last Winter and Summer seasons Eltham won our share of premierships.

Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club has well over 1000 boys playing in 167 teams in the 2017 Winter season in the EDJBA, a new record; with a record 40 teams in Under 9 (up by 7 on last year) and 24 in U17 (up by 10). The table below shows the number of boys' teams playing in the Winter season in each age group over the last 29 years.

**Enrolments over the years: Boys' teams  
Winter season**

	1988	1992	1994	1998	2000	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2015	2016	2017
U19	-	-	-	5	4	7	8	11	9	13	9	11	8
U17	9	15	18	10	12	13	15	13	13	15	15	14	24
U15	11	21	28	22	16	21	21	19	17	22	26	27	26
U13	28	26	34	19	19	24	22	21	22	27	28	32	33
U11	23	33	28	23	24	24	21	20	23	27	30	33	36
U9	18	22	20	19	20	17	14	20	16	24	31	33	40
TOTAL	89	119	128	108	98	102	105	104	105	128	139	150	167

We could not cope with this continuing growth but for the dedicated and brilliant hard work of our age-group convenors who often go well beyond their duty to sort out issues, find coaches and deal with late applications and complicated requests. Special thanks to the Age Group convenors Christine Day, Debbie Dimoski, Mel Berkery, Carly Stones, Shane Penrose, Michelle Wilson and Lara Masters. Also after many season convening in the middle age groups we said goodbye to Linda Mountford at the end of the Summer 2016/2017 season. We thank her for her dedication and issue solving!

Of concern is that as the Domestic Boys' program continues to grow, we may compromise on the experience our players have. For instance it is difficult to get to know the over 300 U9 boys with the view to being able to place them in teams the following season so that they continue to develop, be engaged and enjoy their Wildcats experiences. Due to resourcing shortages those that don't reregister are not always followed up to understand the reason. The administration around the program, separate from the convenor's duties, has increased significantly as the team numbers have increased. A budget allocation has been proposed to allocate money for admin support to each of the Girls' and Boys' programs.

The growth in the boys' and girls' programs over the last 4-5 years has put increased pressure on available training times and venues. There are very few training times in excess of the number of teams requiring training slots. Hence not all training time requests can be met especially as training availabilities are limited by players who provide too few options. There is more demand than can be met for training around Eltham between 5 & 7pm. With the continuing increase in teams at the lower age groups this is becoming an issue as it is not preferable for young teams to be training later in the evening. The pressure on training time availability made the training time changes for the Winter 2017 season more complex than expected and at least one team was accidentally moved from its training spot on the only day the whole team could train.

The number of friendship teams continues to increase across all age groups but especially at both the very young level and the senior age groups. Some of these teams are still keenly competitive, while some provide primarily a social outing. Friendship teams have continued to retain players especially into U17 and to a lesser extent U19. Again there were a shortage of players to form teams at a comparative skill level and some forced mixtures were made, but also a small number of players withdrew from the program and a couple who registered late did not find a team. To complicate matters, players at these higher age groups often enrol late, so even at team selection the age group convenors are uncertain as to actual number of teams and where to leave vacancies for late registrations.

At the opposite end of the competition there is some difficulty in putting together teams at the U9 level (and U8 level in the summer season) with so many new players of unknown skill level and capability. This was exacerbated by the very poor return of coaches' reports after the Summer 2016/2017 season. While coaches' reports are not definitive, they help coaches choose players for the next season based on their height, position they play, behaviour and experience.

The Club works hard at the selection process. This commences during the previous season, as a number of helpers watch games and assess the progress of players. We are grateful for the thoughtful and dedicated work of Gai Smith and Rob Hill in this regard. However with the increase in the number of teams, the ability to get to see all players in all teams is virtually impossible. Coaches' reports are sought, and the new season's coaches indicate their preferred selections, although these may be altered as more information becomes available. The final selections represent the consideration of many different factors such as time requests, friendship requests, developmental considerations, coaching style, team balance, etc. Other teams are selected for development, to replicate championship teams or because a coach considers they represent a good balance to play the style the coach enjoys.

In terms of meeting aspirations, the most dramatic improvement in players is often when they are the key players in the team. There are also a range of allied activities in the club to assist those who are keen to improve: camps, development squads, individual up-skilling and tournaments, so ambitious players do not need to be in teams they consider "high" to gain skills and identification.

What is important for enjoyment and development is:

- A gel between coach and players
- Serious commitment to team goals by all parties
- A keen team manager
- Being competitive as a team in the grade

In the Coaching report we outline all the support and education we give to coaches. Like in all human groups, in teams there will be occasional misunderstandings and clashes, and that is where patience, tolerance and correct procedures to deal with difficulties are important. There were a couple of serious issues over the last two seasons with two matters being reported to the EDJBA Tribunal.

The high rate of player absences due to holidays, injuries and other commitments is still placing a significant burden on all; especially office admin staff as fill in players are sought.

The use of fill in players DOES have a consequence for team performance as team dynamics are changed. It is requested of parents to minimise the disruptions as much as possible while it is acknowledged that there are other commitments for families.

This season has started with ALL players fully financial which is direct outcome from online registration. The introduction of a late fee did not appear to encourage players to register on time as there were still many players registering late. Some of these late registrations have caused significant issues as the players (parents) have demanded teams/coaches or to be with players while most teams are formed and full. We will revert to the two fees structure for next season. One will be a registration which has a deadline, after which a late fee will be applied.

The EDJBA grading is more thorough than ever. Electronic transmission of fixtures allow fixtures to be done round by round for the first six weeks, enabling results of the previous round to be taken into account. It does require more flexibility by families & creates a heavy mid-week load in the appointment of referees, but advantages outweigh the issues.

Special thanks go to the Selection Advisers Rob Hill, David Hickman & relevant coaches without whom the program would not run so well; and to Jordan Canovan without whom the program would not be successful.

Many thanks do to those who perform various tasks to facilitate team participation:

- Training Allocations Greg Jeffers, Connor Amey-Matthews, David Hickman, Mel Berkery
- Saturday Coaches' Adviser: Gai Smith
- Subscriptions: Jennie Dymalovski
- Coaches Screening: Sue Cross
- Boys Points: Mel Berkery Domestic Awards: Carly Stones, David Hickman and Jordan Canovan
- Roving reporters on young teams: Rob Hill, Gai Smith & David Hickman

**Sue Carpenter (Saturday Boys' Convenor) & David Hickman (Selection Adviser)**

# EDJBA GIRLS REPORT

I am very pleased to present this report of the Eltham Wildcats girls' domestic program for 2017.

## Summer 2016/17

With the completion of the season the final details were:

Total Players: 718

Total Teams: 90

This was a record number of girls' teams playing the domestic season, and a record number of enrolments as well. Eltham girls' teams were strongly represented throughout the finals series.

## Enrolments - Winter 2017

Enrolments for the current Winter Season have stayed fairly similar to summer season numbers with 713 players currently enrolled across 91 teams. Bearing in mind, that during the winter we have rep teams playing together, with up to 10 in each team, maintaining the overall number of teams between the summer and winter season is very positive. The girls' program has continued to show sustained growth over the past 5-6 years.

Winter	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Under 19	1	3	4	3	1	1	3	3	3	4	4	5	4	6	3	4	3	3	4	4	6
Under 17	7	7	7	5	6	6	7	6	7	11	10	10	9	7	7	6	8	9	8	9	10
Under 15	15	13	13	14	12	11	16	16	17	17	16	16	15	12	12	12	11	13	14	15	16
Under 13	16	15	14	15	18	18	18	21	19	20	21	16	16	15	14	13	16	17	18	20	22
Under 11	13	13	16	16	17	19	17	16	17	13	14	13	12	12	13	16	17	19	20	19	20
Under 9	7	12	11	12	12	9	12	10	11	11	8	8	10	12	13	15	16	18	17	20	17
Total	59	63	65	65	66	64	73	72	74	76	73	68	66	64	62	66	71	79	81	87	91

### Total Enrolments

Summer	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
	636	634	561	569	539	539	555	591	638	671	684	718
Winter	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	640	638	584	544	512	505	540	587	637	661	694	713

**Eltham Basketball Club Inc.**

We have 17 U9 girls' teams. It is fantastic to see new U9s spread throughout many of our teams, as well as a team of brand new U11 and U13 players. This reflects the clubs ability to attract interest at our junior age groups, hence maintaining strength of enrolments that has continued over recent years. At the time of writing, we had 74 new girls' enrolled into the Club for the Winter 2017 season.

### **Team Selections**

With the retirement of Carolyn Pickburn from the role of Girls Domestic Coordinator we saw a new team of selectors working together, to put together teams that worked based on a variety of factors – coach requests, player friendship requests, training availability as well as skill level and team balance.

The number of selection-related complaints after teams were announced was a little higher than the summer season. Most complaints were related to training availability (mostly that training availability changed after enrolment). I am very proud of the job that we did with our inaugural selection process and although it is an enormous amount of work for a small group of people, the relatively low number of issues that arose after team announcements and the sensitive and responsive way these were managed are testament to the excellent team we have.

The selection process was helped along, by the early opening of enrolments and continuing movement to (almost) paperless enrolments.

I would like to sincerely thank Carolyn Pickburn for her unending support and guidance in assisting me in taking on this new role and doing team selection. My heartfelt thanks go to Leanne Murphy, Julie Constable, Tania Weddle, Liz Cox our grade conveners and team selection group, they are an amazing group, and also Tracey Wightman for her help as an age group convener. Without this group of people, this job would be really difficult.

Jordan Canovan has done a wonderful job in the office, and has also been of invaluable support to myself and the girls' program.

### **Coaches**

When teams were listed for the winter season every team had a coach. We have a combination of new and returning coaches, including a small number of junior coaches. We are lucky to be able to retain many coaches from season to season. We would like to thank the generosity of our coaches stepping up into these roles. We are currently working at finalising all the team managers.



I would like to also thank Gai Smith for her continuing help and assistance with attending trainings, particularly for our new and junior coaches, and providing feedback on coaches and players on game day. There are many others who are greatly appreciated in their vital roles to facilitate the running of the domestic program, including:

- Training Allocations: Greg Jeffers and Connor Matthews.
- Saturday Coaches' Adviser: Gai Smith
- Subscriptions: Jennie Dymalovski
- Coaches Screening: Sue Cross
- Girls Points: Bronwyn Campbell-Northover
- Roving reports on Saturday teams: Gai Smith

**Mardie MacDonald**

Girls EDJBA Coordinator



# DIRECTOR OF REFEREEING REPORT

There have been some great strides in the past twelve months:

- Our numbers have increased
- Our beginner class sizes have increased
- We continue to satisfy our commitments to the VJBL alongside the increasing number of Eltham VC teams The quality of officials emerging from our B Grade and A Grade course has improved noticeably
- We have, generally, far few single-referee games than we have had in many years. Of course there are some nights and some weekends where we can't cope, but generally it's better than it has been in a long time.

We have also completely re-written our beginners (C Grade) course and our A Grade course, using a lot more relevant video and a style more attractive to a modern audience.

Additionally, over the past 24 months, we have gained the services of a number of more experienced referees and referee-coaches from other near-by organisations. I believe that this is a testament to the inclusiveness and stability of what we offer at Eltham.

I also want to reflect on the passing of my predecessor, Mr Gerald Carstairs, during the past twelve months. Gerry was very clearly my mentor and guide, and although our skills and abilities have been different (Gerry was a very high level referee and a school teacher, as well as a very high level referee-coach), his training has rubbed off on me and benefitted me (and I hope Eltham) over these past 16 years that I have been in charge.

It remains of course very difficult to put 30-year-old heads on 15-year-old referees, and I wish I had a magic wand to arrest the loss of 17-18 year-old referees.

I want to reiterate our goal of being awarded the Referee Program of the Year for 2017 at the 2018 Basketball Victoria Awards dinner. To achieve this we have to:

- Grow our numbers, which we are doing;
- Meet all of our obligations, which we are doing;
- Be innovative, which we have to work on.

Of course I want to thank all of the staff who assist me to provide a service both to our referees and also to the players, the teams and the club in general:

- The Referees Branch Committee, led by Mr Elliot Green, which is completely aligned with the club's goals with a particular supportive focus on officiating;
- My indefatigable 2IC, Mr Laurie Nelsen, who is fundamentally responsible for the development of our trainee referees;
- The referees, and referee-coaches, appointments officer Mr Des Buchan, who stitches it all together;
- Mr Symon Mountford who has the challenging task of retaining and improving the performances of our emerging referees;
- Ms Karen Nelsen who continues to provide the human support to our referees, as the Referees Welfare Officer; and
- All of the referee coaches who support and encourage the standards and development of our referees.

**Steven Chadd**

Director of Refereeing

# COACHES REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

## **Coaching at Eltham - And It's Support**

Coaches occupy a crucial role in helping our participants enjoy the game and develop their abilities. Therefore the Club wishes to have both adequate numbers of coaches and also have strategies to improve the knowledge and skills of our coaches. In this period of rapid growth of the Saturday competition, this is a challenge.

Recruitment and retention of existing coaches are both important in maintaining a supply of coaches. We seek new coaches from our players and parents and others from outside the Club who have expertise to give. We are especially grateful for our long term coaches both at Championship and Saturday levels, but to meet expanding numbers we are keen to recruit more via our members' networks.

Retention requires both support and education. Coaches become disillusioned by poor attendance at training or poor attitudes of a small minority of players or parents. Coaches are encouraged by the same kind of praise they are expected to give players when their efforts are great. Some teams must have inexperienced coaches as new coaches start and they will generally welcome assistance and helpful, kind feedback.

Coaches who develop expertise in teaching skills, especially some of our young coaches, can earn some income doing what they enjoy by helping at clinics and camps. Young coaches interested in helping in this way and earning some more income should contact Connor Amey-Matthews who is himself an example of such progress or Jordan Canovan whom both work out of the Club Office.

New coaches receive notes and attend an orientation meeting. Continuing support includes:

- Coaches' advisor available to attend games, training and provide consultation. Gai Smith has spent many hours on this task for Saturday teams. Eltham is one of very few associations that provides such support.
- A coaches' library with a variety of types of material.
- Lots of role models who are prepared to chat and share experience. We are seeking to expand this into a forum for the exchange of ideas & experiences.
- A tradition of young coaches establishing a "coaching career".
- Coaches' courses and seminar attendance are paid for by the club. There are frequent coaches' seminars run at Box Hill & other venues by Basketball Victoria.
- There are incentives and rewards for loyalty, improvement and achievement. We have multiple coach awards and some expenses reimbursement. There is also a pathway for coaches who have aspirations to coach at higher levels. Coaches can participate in advanced intensive training programs and learn from leaders in the field.
- Coaches' bulletins seek to keep coaches informed and raise issues for consideration.
- Occasional internal seminars & our Championship Coaches' Dinner.
- We are planning some internal coach enhancement sessions.

The Club has coaches competent to provide skills training at appropriate levels from beginners to elite development, in addition to weekly trainings of teams. Thanks to all involved at these various levels.

Matching coaches and players is a difficult enterprise. It is helpful if parents and players give us feedback about the style of coaching they prefer from Under 14 upwards. Research and experience indicates this matching is important.

Thanks for the work in developing coaches this year to Gai Smith, Chris Cameron, Ben Cukier, Connor Amey-Matthews, Andrew Harris, Greg Jeffers, Leighton Lewis, Craig Stratford, Jakk Walsh our Saturday convenors, host of experienced coaches and Jordan Canovan who co-ordinates our development programs at the Office level.

**David Hickman**

# AWAY TOURNAMENTS REPORT

Tournaments, with a series of games over a short period, are an important part of the way players and teams can improve. In addition, with support of parents, they can be enjoyable social experiences. We urge parents and coaches to support involvement.

There are now relatively few metropolitan tournaments available. Because of the timing this year and a few other factors, our involvement in the Whittlesea Autumn tournament was down to about mid-teens. We hope this will revive and the support for the Nunawading QB Weekend Tournament will also be considerably stronger than last season. We owe some reciprocal support responsibilities to both these tournaments.

The Club provides subsidies where our involvement in a tournament is a reciprocation of other Association's involvement in ours. Sometimes promising players are invited to play in composite teams to give them special development opportunities as was done at Whittlesea with the help of Craig Stratford, Leighton Lewis, Nathan Price & Nic Nolan.

The Classic is a select event with positions earned by success in the early part of the VC season. We are likely to have three to five teams involved in 2017. We also had a few teams in tournaments run by Ballarat, Melbourne Tigers, Altona, Southern Peninsula, and Norwood. Tournaments play a significant part in the development of teams & also can be enjoyable social events for players and parents.

Although Eltham Wildcats' teams support tournaments more strongly than nearly every other Club, we would still like to see a wider range of tournament teams involved and gaining benefits, particularly our domestic teams. Thank you to all the coaches, organisers, players and parents who have been involved.

**David Hickman**



**Eltham Basketball Club Inc.**



# RETAIL REPORT

Over the last 12 months the uniform shop has become the sole responsibility of the Wildcats Basketball Club. During this time, new lines of stock have been added which have include caps, long sleeve 'warm-up tops' and Wildcat t-shirts. For our 'classic lines' such as hooded jumpers and backpacks, we have carried out a redesign and made quality improvements whilst still managing to keep costs relatively low. We have also introduced new identification numbers to reduce the past doubling up of player numbers.

It is proposed that over the next 12 months we will look at the updating / redesign of our drink bottles, hand towels, polos for the coaching staff and uniforms for the administration and retail staff.

This year also has seen the merge of the referee shop with the uniform shop which provides greater access and service to an important sector of the Club. We have also created a 'second in charge' position which has broadened the opportunity for our staff; this will improve their skill set and work methods. I take this opportunity to welcome Tully Scales to this position.

Going forward we will be engaging new staff, giving some more members of the club their first employment opportunity. I can now report that staff members in both the canteen and uniform shop have set uniforms that provide a professional appearance to our outlets.

This year has seen the introduction of a new register system (Kounta) which has improved accountability from a staff viewpoint, and also provides much-improved stock recording capabilities for management purposes.

We are currently reviewing new options for food and drink offers, to help improve stocking options, new product lines and accountability. In addition, new visually appealing signage providing a better display of our offered products is proposed.

We are finding that our deep fryer struggles to keep up with demand at peak times, and would like to upgrade in the next financial year.

Our uniform shop website is now in operation, which will improve access / convenience for our members of the club to purchase our products. The website [www.wildcatstore.com.au](http://www.wildcatstore.com.au) will require improvements and upgrades as our services expand and demand increases over the next 12 months.

## **TRAINING**

Over the last 12 months' staff training has been conducted in the following disciplines:

- Barista training
- Customer service
- Cash handling
- Register training
- Health and Safety

Completing a food handling level 1 course has been encouraged. As an incentive, a reimbursement of course cost on presentation of the individual's certification is being provided. I am personally carrying out a Food - Safety supervisor course to ensure the correct standards are being maintained.

## **SUMMARY**

We have achieved a great deal over the last 12 months, with the inclusion of 'Kounta', our website, new staffing, a new and upgraded range of stock, complete with a more structured trading regime. I believe the next 12 months will be spent consolidating the changes from this year, while also looking to facilitate new projects as mentioned above. All of which will be to the benefit of the Club.

**Lani Rowell**

Retail Manager

# MEDIA & MARKETING REPORT

## SOCIAL MEDIA

The Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club use social media platforms to promote and engage with our members. Facebook & Instagram are our most popular mediums with a combined 3,748 followers. Our most popular posts in 2017 were the Saturday Junior Domestic Team announcements (3.4k reach) and news item "Where is the Wildcat?" (4.1k reach).

## WEBSITE

With our new website currently in the design phase it is important to note that we we had **997,834 website hits** in the last 12 months. October is our biggest month (**173,995 hits**) as the new Saturday Junior Domestic season and Friday Championship trials are on.

## Jordan Canovan

Basketball Development Officer



# TRIBUNAL REPORT

The Eltham Association Tribunal has undertaken a transformation over the past 12 months after our long serving group stepped down from the panel.

It has meant we have spent time rebuilding our panel, which luckily in the same time saw a very quiet period of reports. We sent two tribunal reports to the EDJBA and another to Diamond Valley whilst we didn't have a panel at all.

Meanwhile we thank the efforts of Dave Jamieson of Diamond Valley and Bill Rewell of EDJBA who provided valuable training and education to new panel members.

The most severe case in 2016/17 involved a suspension of 15 years for an incident involving Assault, Spitting and other significant charges.

We have sourced additional new panel members who are connected to the Eltham Association and are now well placed for future tribunal hearings.

**Greg Jeffers**

Chief Executive Officer

# THANK YOU!

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[www.elthamwildcats.basketball.net.au](http://www.elthamwildcats.basketball.net.au)