



2020/21

# ANNUAL REPORT

ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB | MAY 2021





# Table of Contents

Page 1	Vision & Purpose Statements
Page 2	General Committee & Staff Listing
Page 3	President's Report
Page 9	Chief Executive Report
Page 15	Financial Report
Page 35	Tournament Report
Page 37	Basketball Development Report
Page 42	Operations Report
Page 43	Senior Domestic Report
Page 45	Junior Championship Report
Page 47	Referee Report
Page 49	Senior Championship Report
Page 51	Junior Domestic Report
Page 53	Retail Report
Page 54	Media & Marketing Report
Page 55	Sponsorship Report
Page 56	Wellbeing Report





# Purpose

Enabling everyone associated with the Eltham Wildcats opportunities for growth through basketball.

# Vision Statements

To excel in providing opportunities, development and pathways for players, coaches, technical officials and administrators within a community club.

To embed excellence, fair play and pride within the Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club.





# General Committee

## 2020/21

President: Peter Meehan\*

Vice-President: Cathy Cukier (Staff and Procedures)\*

Vice-President: Anthony Stockwell (General)\*

Secretary: Anthea Cochrane\*

Chief Executive Officer: Greg Jeffers\*

Treasurer/Finance Manager: Steven Chadd

Senior Championship Delegate: Greg Jeffers\*

Chair Junior Domestic Committee: Paula Hogan

Chair Wellbeing Committee: Rachel Morgan\*

Chair Referees Committee: Ryan Gardiner

Acting Director of Coaching: Leighton Lewis

Chair Finance Committee: Stephen Howard\*

\*Executive Committee Member

## Ordinary Members

Brad Johnson

Darren Black

David Hickman

Gavin Smith

Thomas O'Connor

## Staff

Chief Executive Officer: Greg Jeffers

Basketball Development Manager: Connor Matthews

Business Manager: Jordan Canovan

Finance Manager: Steven Chadd

Retail Manager: Lani Rowell

Operations Manager: Jacob Burham



# President's Report

Eltham Wildcats Members,

At the time of writing this report last year the Club was effectively in limbo with basketball paused due to COVID-19. After a few “hopeful” false-starts all basketball was cancelled until COVID-19 could be contained. The NBL1 season had already been cancelled by Basketball Victoria and was ultimately followed by the cancellation of the Junior Championship and Youth Championship competitions and both our Saturday Junior and Midweek Open Domestic competitions.

Finally, restrictions were eased, and basketball returned in November 2020, albeit under strict COVID-19 guidelines. This was great news for basketball and enabled the following to occur:

- The EDJBA ran a Summer competition which was fully funded for Eltham players from the amounts set aside last year
- Midweek Open Domestic also started with funding credits as per the Saturday Domestic competition
- Championship trials were conducted in a far more streamlined manner with 56 teams selected in 2 ½ weeks
- Although only having around 50% of the teams that participated in the previous year the Eltham/Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament was a resounding success even under relatively strict COVID-19 requirements
- All competitions are now operating under normal conditions

Whilst this “return to basketball” appeared relatively seamless to our members it required a significant amount of planning and effort from our CEO, Greg Jeffers and his dedicated team of Finance Manager: Steve Chadd, Basketball Operations Manager: Connor Matthews, Business Manager: Jordan Canovan and Office Manager: Jacob Burnham.

At the end of January 2021 Connor left the Club to pursue a career in teaching with Jacob taking up the role of Basketball Operations Manager. We thank Connor for his dedicated service to the Cub and wish him well in his new career. We are currently recruiting for an Office Manager. Greg Jeffers has had another outstanding year as CEO. His attention to detail and outstanding communication skills has ensured that your Club has continued to grow in a highly volatile environment when most other clubs have struggled.

Underpinning this growth is a financial position that remains strong even after COVID. Steve Chadd has ensured that we have benefitted from all the Government incentives that were made available and ensured that the Club has maintained a “prudent” approach to its finances during COVID. Whilst our profit for this year of \$455,567 appears high, you will note from Steve’s report that it includes \$245,573 provisioning brought forward from last year which was all used to fund this year’s Junior and Open Domestic summer competitions. It also includes \$135,342 made up of Government “Cash Boost Income” of \$96,842 and COVID-19 Grant income of \$38,500. The remaining surplus of \$74,652 includes \$42,696 generated from the tournament.



We are extremely fortunate to have Greg, Steve, Jordan and Jacob as the key personnel running our Club.

My thanks to the members of the General Committee and all the Club Committees for their dedication during this difficult year. Further thanks to Cathy Cukier and Anthony Stockwell who have both decided not to seek reappointment to the General Committee and as Vice President-Staff and Procedures and Vice President-General, respectively. Paula Hogan and Leighton Lewis have been nominated to fill these roles and as there have been no other nominations are deemed elected. All other current “elected” positions on the General Committee were also deemed elected on the same basis. A table detailing the membership of the General Committee is included as [Attachment 1](#).

The Club has had many individuals that have made significant contributions over an extended period of time and high on this list is Cathy Cukier who has provided extraordinary service for over 35 years. The following list of Cathy’s Roles and Recognition during her time at the Club is clear evidence of this.

**Roles:**

- 1985 – 1989 – Team Manager
- 1987 – 1994 – Girls Primary School Competition Coordinator
- 1990 – 2009 – Committee member of Girls Saturday Teams
- 1992 – 2009 – Committee member of Girls Championship Teams
- 1992 – 2009 – Coordinator of Girls Saturday Teams
- 1992 – 2009 – EDJBA Eltham Girls Fixtures Officer
- 1994 – 2009 – Coordinator of Girls Championship Teams
- 1994 – 2009 – Eltham Tournament Girls Teams Structure
- 2000 – 2021 – Eltham Tournament Tribunal Administrator
- 2009 – 2021 – General Committee Member
- 2011 – 2021 – Vice President
- 2011 – 2021 – Executive Committee Member

**Recognition:**

- 1989 – Club Supporters Award
- 1992 – State Team Manager – Girls Under 18
- 1999 – Life Member Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club
- 2000 – Basketball Victoria – Administrative Merit Award – Female Participation Programs
- 2001 – Nillumbik Council – Nillumbik Volunteer Recognition Project
- 2006 – Basketball Victoria – 15 Year Dedicated Service Award
- 2007 – Basketball Victoria – Women in Basketball – Advancing Women in Basketball Award
- 2008 – Basketball Victoria – 25 Year Dedicated Service Award
- 2021 – Basketball Victoria – 35 Year Dedicated Service Award



We wish Cathy all the best in her future without any official role at the Club and appreciate her generous offer to assist if we think it would be of assistance.

Over the last year the General Committee has also undertaken a further review of the Club's Policies and conducted a review of the Honours Board and considered a possible re-introduction of the Loyalty Rewards. 2 sub-groups were set up during the year and, whilst the outcomes were not reported until May this year, most of the work had been done during the year under review. These outcomes included:

- Agreed that the current location and content of the Honours Board was not practicable going forward with agreed changes to be made when the interior of EHS was being renovated next year with a preference that it be located in the tunnel between courts 2,3 and 1.
- Development and adoption of the following policies:
  - o Coach's Appointment - Junior Championship
  - o Coach Responsibility
  - o Life Members
  - o Player Selection - Junior Championship
  - o Team Manager
  - o Tournament, Camps and Tours
- Decision to adopt Basketball Victoria Code of Conducts for:
  - o Coaches
  - o Parents
  - o Players
  - o Spectators
- A complete update of all awards and policies to be included on the Club's website
- Options for the re-introduction of the Loyalty awards are currently being reviewed

An update of the Club's Charters and Policies is included as [Attachment 2](#).

Other important matters that have occurred during this year include:

- Commencement of construction of the 3 courts at Montmorency Secondary College
- Recruitment of Sophie Foote as Child Safety and Wellbeing Officer

In closing, let us hope that this year sees us returning to some normality in both basketball and life generally. There is obviously still some way to go but I can assure that your Eltham Wildcats will be doing everything we can to assist this in happening.

Go Wildcats.

Peter Meehan  
President - Eltham Wildcats



# Chief Executive Report

'Basketball Never Stops' was a catch cry in the basketball community in years gone by. Well, we were all wrong as we were forced to shut down for most of 2020 and challenges laid ahead of us to work our way through. Negativity and fear was king for much of 2020 and as a grassroots, community, not-for-profit organisation; concern, uncertainty and sleepless nights for staff and volunteers were regular.

Our team in the office put together an aim that we worked toward; "Return to the court safely, as quickly as possible." To achieve this, every decision through 2020 was about keeping all sections of our club engaged and connected, to be planning and replanning so that as soon as the Government rulings adjusted and the door crept open, we were ready for our members.

## Return from First Covid Lockdown

As Jacob reports on, the first proof of this was leading in the July school holidays. Our fantastic Domestic Convenors had done all their work, trainings sorted and we were ready to launch, when just 24 hours prior, we were back in lockdown. Also during this period, we opened the doors to free of charge training sessions for domestic players, we had Junior Championship teams training for 2 ½ weeks and operated camp programs during the school holidays. This was all done, whilst meeting the requirements of the Victorian Government.

## 'Second Covid Lockdown – 'Ready 2 Rebound'

During the second major lockdown, our staff stuck to the same aim, to; "Return to the court safely, as quickly as possible." We recognised that whilst we had lots of coaches providing online training to their players, we had hundreds if not thousands not connected to a coach. 'Ready 2 Rebound' was created, whereby we provided age specific online Zoom sessions on a weekly basis. With approximately 10 weeks of sessions, each containing 9 sessions a week, operating 6 days a week, every child in our club regardless of standard had something to access. Aside from this, it should be noted that a number of our coaches did their own sessions with groups of children too.

The engagement of our coaches to ensure 'Ready 2 Rebound' was provided was incredibly important. Whilst many were involved, special mention should go to Tom O'Connor and Mannon Nolan-Black, who accumulated approximately 80 and 65 sessions respectively across the 10 weeks.





We provided 5 weeks of interviews, two nights a week, connecting with past members or graduates of the Eltham Wildcats. From players, coaches, administrators, scoretable, statistician and referees, every area of our program was represented. Special mention to Alice Kunek live from Poland and Joel Sardi, but a thank you to each individual for their time they gave to keep our people connected and entertained.

### Return to the Court

As I stated, our team planned, re-planned and planned again. I know our team were frustrated but in late September/early October, in partnership with the EDJBA, we targeted a date of which we aimed for a return, which allowed us as a club to work toward more dates, the basics of which are below:

#### *Target dates:*

Sunday November 22nd – Junior Championship trials to begin

Monday November 23rd – Junior Domestic training to begin

Saturday November 28th – Round 1 for Junior Domestic

It was optimistic and I am not sure we necessarily believed it was likely, but based on the information which we'd collated unofficially, it was a possibility. The dates provided hope, a target and something to work toward for not just our players, but our coaches, volunteers and staff.

From those target dates, we launched domestic registrations, planned and communicated the carrying forward of credits, took new registrations and got the ball rolling. As restrictions eased our staff launched an extensive number (well over 100) of outdoor sessions for children of all standards to participate. Being paid roles, it also had our coaches most of whom were young people being paid and started to get things moving in the right direction.

Our Junior Championship as that report details, put in place a coaching leadership team of which worked in partnership with myself to put together a return to basketball strategy. Right through 2020 we conducted Zoom meetings with Coaches and when appropriate Team Managers to keep them aware of where things were up to and our vision. Feedback from coaches was very positive and something we should do more often in the future.

We had a tight window of three weeks to complete trials. We completely revamped how trials were conducted, different from what we or any other association have done, the details of which is included in the Junior Championship report. Once the State Government allowed for the Basketball Victoria 'Orange 20' (20 people allowed per space) it meant that we could meet our Junior Championship trial 'target date' of November 22nd and so... the Wildcats were back!

On that November 22nd, Premier Daniel Andrews was due to make further announcements. We'd announced our teams for EDJBA and had prepared for training to begin on Monday November 23rd. Thankfully our preparation didn't go to waste, as the Premier opened up some of the restrictions from that evening and Domestic could resume we planned for the 23rd November. With games taking place on Saturday 28th November, the Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club and the EDJBA were the first back on court in organised and competitive fashion. A giant 'thank-you' should go to our determined domestic volunteers led by Paula Hogan and Lara Masters, plus of course the hundreds of coaches that helped get the children on the court!



We should also thank Eltham High School, Montmorency Secondary College, Montmorency South Primary School, Eltham Leisure Centre/Aligned Leisure and Eltham College who had nothing but faith in our vision, in our planning and trusted that we were doing the right thing. Their staff/School Council backed us 100% and without their support we couldn't have got the children on the courts and achieved what we did.

### 2020 Eltham -Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament

*"Could we run it? Surely not. Will we still be in lockdown? Even if we aren't, we can't have thousands moving around Melbourne as we normally do."*

Just as our team of staff strategised for Junior Domestic and Junior Championship there was much consideration as to how we could make the tournament happen. We knew numbers would be down, but even in late December as borders flirted with opening and closing, interstate visitors were keen to come. Several Melbourne based clubs chose not to compete this year, but we still had just over 50% of the normal tournament size. That number of teams if played in 2019 would have been the second biggest tournament, behind only our own event.

But in 2021 we couldn't run it as normal. There were still tight restrictions, not just from State Government, but also from Local Councils. Whilst Eltham and the EDJBA had returned to basketball, many areas of Melbourne hadn't and this left many facility managers with a lot of doubt about our plans. I referred earlier to the faith and trust of our local schools... we didn't have that same trust in other parts of Melbourne and understandably so!

The fixturing led to grades being played in strict hubs, taking inspiration from pro-sports around the world. It had teams playing on tight time restrictions and different spectator rules depending on the venue.

Our team did a wonderful job and whilst they all had their roles cut back heavily from normal, everyone had a common goal "to make sure the tournament ran smoothly and successfully." The passion for our club and this event is something I truly admire in a lot of people. Our staff put in some big hours, but so did others such as Alicia Vengust, Adam Currie, Tony and Ange Bearzatto, Peter Meehan and David Hickman.

They achieved their goal. The tournament ran smoothly despite all the restrictions and when many associations were still yet to play a competitive round of domestic, we operated an event with 7,500 players on a weekend. Couldn't be prouder of the people in this club.

### Staffing:

Sadly Connor Matthews informed us in December that he intended to return to university in 2021 to become a teacher. This had always been his plan, but his time with us had seen grow from a quiet young man, into a key figure in the club's operations. We undertook tremendous growth and development as a club in a variety of areas during Connor's time and he had a hand in many areas, from Administrator training and appointments to our basketball program administration and somehow added unofficial 'scout' helping NBL1 Head Coaches Trevor Lee and to a lesser extent Grant Spencer with international player selections.

We'd discussed through Covid lockdowns what was next for Connor, as he could easily have taken General Manager roles at other associations, but he stuck to his original plan of teaching and I couldn't be more supportive of his decision. Thank you again to Connor for his time with us.

In many ways, Jacob Burnham had been in training for the role. Having filled an interim on-again, off-again Office Manager role for 7-8 months prior to Covid, Jacob was well versed in the Operations Manager position. We offered him the position and in early January he accepted. It allowed Jacob and Connor to undertake a four-week handover, as we also managed the Eltham-Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament during this period. Timing in every way was perfect allowing for a smooth transition and Jacob has continued in the position seamlessly.

Lani Rowell finished with the club as our Retail Manager in early May 2021. Whilst not falling directly in the financial year for the club, her time and role with us has been vitally important. As Retail Manager, Lani looked after our Uniform Shop and Canteen areas and ensure staff were trained and appointed to all club functions and events. Thank you to Lani for her service. Her role is currently being shared in the office as we continue to return from the lockdown period.

Jordan Canovan has seen his role continue to evolve. Whilst our Business Manager, as with all of us, he keeps a hand in different areas ensuring we're all somewhat able to crossover and cover each other. He remains the main liaison and contact point for Basketball Victoria competitions and the EDJBA. During lockdown Jordan provided innovative sponsorship opportunities which attracted new business to the club. He was able to maintain nearly all sponsors through Covid into 2021 which was always going to be a challenge amongst the local small businesses. Jordan created the new Eltham Wildcats NBL1 website in partnership with the NBL and is continuing to improve the [www.wildcatstore.com.au](http://www.wildcatstore.com.au) online shop for easier use.

Steve Chadd has been exceptional in what has been a difficult year. He has ensured we as a business have received a fair share of grants and JobKeeper, whilst working in partnership with other staff and General Committee to ensure the club came out of lockdowns as healthy as we could.

In late March 2020, we made a significant appointment, with Sophie Foote being appointed as our "Child Safety and Wellbeing Officer." This position is the first of its kind in community sport at least in Victorian Basketball. This position comes on the back of an approach from Jason McClintock about how he could help continue to support children in sport. This position had been listed as a recommendation by our Wellbeing Panel back in 2019. Whilst at the time it seemed a long way off, when Jason approached, we pitched the idea and he and Jasco Consulting have joined the club.

Such is the important step that has been taken, Sophie and I were asked to present to VicSport about Eltham's journey to get to this position. Aside from the position itself, it is even better that Sophie as one of our past players is the person in the position.

### Montmorency Stadium

Over the past 12 months the project has had Sean Godsell Architects put together the final drawings, following which it has then gone through the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) process which included costings. These costings came in at \$19m requiring additional funding of \$2.5m which Vicki Ward and the Victorian Government granted. This ensured the car park was to be completed rather than as a 'tender option.'

Shortly after, we went to tender and we secured the Ireland Brown Constructions as the builder of the project. The tender amount for each proposal came in well under costings proposed above.



The land has been excavated, steel columns have gone in and the builders schedule plans for a finish date of February 2022. Everything that we have sought in the new venue is currently planned for.

### NBL1

With the uncertainty of 2020, our General Committee evaluated the benefit of NBL1 to the club not just for 2021, but with an eye to the future. We made significant cuts to the program in the budget for the 2021, but the General Committee strongly supported maintaining our license in the NBL1 competition.

We made a strict rule to have no international players in 2021, try to maintain the core groups we'd signed for 2021, but also to put a focus on providing opportunity to young players who could continue to take the program forward.

Heading into the season itself, our Head Coaches committed to the cause and have done a terrific job of adhering to our restrictions.

We can be optimistic as to the season ahead for both the Men and Women. Amongst both teams we see a large number of players which are graduates of our junior programs and/or from our Youth (U23) teams.

Thank you to Basketball Victoria, in particular the NBL1 staff for helping Eltham and all programs through the 2020 season and helping prepare clubs for 2021.

### Eltham Wildcats re-structure

We continued through the year re-structuring our committees as we did in 2019.

We have set in place the Junior Domestic Committee with Paula Hogan as the Chair. In addition, we reset the administration structure around Junior Domestic, having Lara Masters and Taya Lupton leading the boys and girls convenors respectively. Lara and Taya also have additional helpers to complete much of the data entry.

All casual positions were stood down with the lockdown. We also brought to an end as agreed by the General Committee the division of separate Boys and Girls Junior Championship committees, bringing them together under one banner. Due to the quick rush that we had leading into the 2021 Junior Championship season, the office took operations of the program. 2021 will require the Junior Championship committee to be formed with new members and adhering to the Charter put together in late 2019.



### Summary:

We can be incredibly proud of the position we put ourselves in throughout 2020 in order to be ready to return for basketball to return. During lockdown we were as active as we could be, our staff remained pro-active strategizing on how to keep our children engaged, but also plans for how we came back and in what form.

As you'll see from their reports and received a glimpse of via mine, every opportunity to conduct basketball either inside or outside, we tried to be on the front foot to make it happen.

Personally, I'd like to take this chance to thank Cathy Cukier for over 35 years of service to the Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club as she steps down as Vice-President. Cathy took me under the wing 11 years ago at Eltham when I arrived and she has provided me much support and advice throughout that time. The impact she has had on the Eltham Wildcats, specifically in the opportunities girls and women have been afforded was well ahead of its time and that legacy will never be forgotten, especially as her children and grand-children continue the family involvement well into the future. She promised me she wouldn't disappear from the club and we certainly won't let that happen!

In the same breath, a thank you to Anthony Stockwell for his time as Vice-President and also as the Convenor of the Championship Boys program. Anthony was a steady hand in both roles when it was required a few years ago and was a leader in policy for the Championship Boys and ensuring there were pathways and opportunities afforded to all.

Well done and thank you to our staff and hundreds of volunteers. As basketball resumes to some normality, there were many learnings from Covid that can be carried forward for the most part centred around communication, but also some of the innovative methods used, proved that we can change things for the positive.

Looking forward to another successful year for the Eltham Wildcats that will see a major new stadium open, continued growth in our junior participation and development numbers and greater opportunities for our young members to gain experience and follow their dreams in whichever pathway in basketball they pursue.

Greg Jeffers  
Chief Executive Officer



# Financial Report

## About This Report

This document reports on the financial performance and position of the Club for its Financial Year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

## Summary

With the significant impact of CoVid-19 on the operations and financial performance of the Club during FY2021, the Finance Committee deemed it virtually impossible to set any realistic budget and it also required significant interpretation for any year-on-year comparison to be meaningful.

Despite the challenges, your Club remains in a safe financial position. It is not as good a cash position as we would have anticipated without the CoVid-19 intrusion, but due to the sacrifices of staff and the support of federal and state governments, and with an attitude of targeted frugality in 2021, we expect to have recovered by the end of FY2022 to close to where we would aim to be.

Your Club has met all its statutory and debt obligations and has no overdue debt or legal matters pending.

In summary:

Item	FY2021	FY2020
Income from ordinary operations:	\$1,424,960	\$2,695,766
Expense due to ordinary operations:	\$1,01,420	\$2,552,621
Surplus from ordinary operations:	<b>\$423,540</b>	<b>\$143,145</b>
Government (Covid-19) Assistance:	\$496,692	\$0
Covid-19 related expenditure:	\$361,350	\$0
Non-operating expense:	\$103,315	\$123,571
<b>Surplus:</b>	<b>\$455,567</b>	<b>\$19,574</b>
Adjustment for CoVid-19 provisions:	-\$245,573	\$245,573
<b>Adjusted surplus:</b>	<b>\$209,994</b>	<b>\$265,147</b>

This is a “book” surplus. Much of our cash reserves will be consumed by expenses that have been deferred from FY2021 into FY2022. For example, some of the expense that we would normally have incurred in 2021 (such as some NBL1, VJBL and EDJBA licence fees) have been delayed by those leagues into the 2021-2022 financial year.

This following identifies the most significant differences in FY2021 from “normal” operations.

### 1.Effect of COVid-19 provisioning in 2020

The income and expense from our Junior Domestic (EDJBA) program in FY2021 were significantly different compared to the same period last year. In February 2021 we received the normal amount of registration income for the Winter 2021 season. In the same period in 2020, we reserved half of that as pre-payments, which were applied to the summer 2020-2021 registrations and enabled the club to provide a full 2020-2021 season at no cost to parents.

Some further provisioning was made to Open Domestic and the Provision for Refunds.

These amounts have the impact of reducing the book surplus recorded in FY2020 and increasing the surplus shown in FY2021, without changing the cash available to the club (except for the cash used for actual refunds paid out). Specifically, we have incurred the normal cash expense through FY2020, without the cash income.

Item	FY2021
Provision for EDJBA registration fees:	+\$222,183
Provision for Open domestic fees:	+\$19,013
Provision for refunds:	+\$4,377
<b>Net book impact:</b>	<b>+\$245,573</b>

These provisions were approved by the Club's external auditors for the FY2020 financial report.

### 2.Eltham-Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament 2021

The Eltham-Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament 2021 was significantly smaller in size, income and expense than in 2020. The surplus of just under \$43,000 was larger than we had envisaged but still far less than the previous year's tournament which generated a surplus of more than \$123,000.

### 3.Non-Operating Income and Expense

#### 3.1 Commonwealth and Victorian Government assistance

Your Club received financial assistance from the Commonwealth and Victorian governments during the CoVid-19 period. This enabled us to continue to keep staff engaged to prepare for the restart of operations at the earliest opportunity, which we were able to do successfully at the end of November 2020, and we have subsequently returned to full operations.



The Club has benefitted from JobKeeper income of \$361,350, all of which has been spent on wages in line with the rules of the program. In addition, the Club made a management decision to keep its permanent staff engaged and paid during the lockdown, which, while incurring additional expense, has provided stability for the Club and the capacity to restart quickly.

Of further benefit has been the effect of the federal government Cash Boost incentive (a program that allowed the Club to retain PAYG tax deductions normally remitted to the Australian Taxation Office) and a number of state government grants, which have had a positive impact of the financial results and enabled the Club to preserve some cash.

The following table summarises the effect of this assistance.

Item	FY2021
CoVid-19 Grant income:	\$38,500
Cash Boost income:	\$96,842
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$135,342</b>

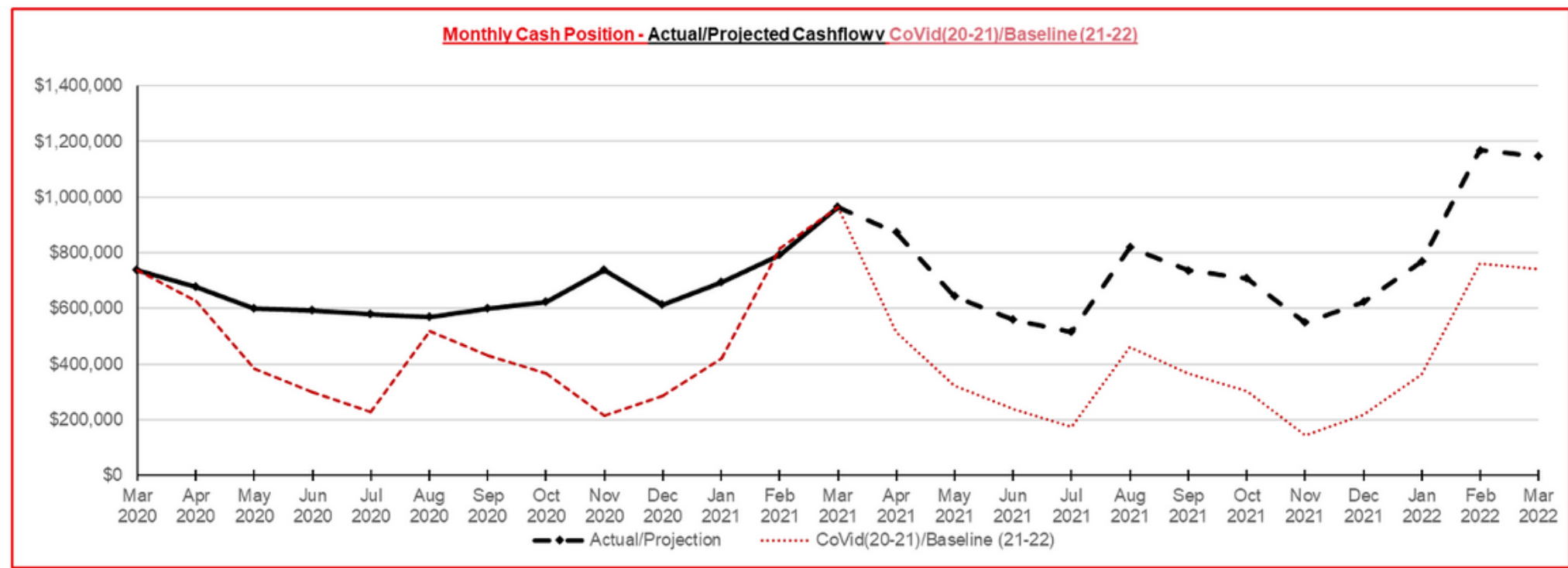
Projection

Post Covid-19, cash-at-bank is the most important indicator of the financial health of our Club. In a normal year, given our usual ebbs and flows of cash, we would want to start a six-monthly seasonal cycle with about 5 months’ anticipated outlay as cash-at hand, to ensure we can pay our debts as and when they fall due.

Our major income cycles are the Saturday Domestic registration fees, normally collected in August and February. The Eltham Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament also usually makes a positive cash contribution in January. In most other months cash operating outlays exceed income. In normal years, that would mean we need to have about \$1.25m cash at hand at the start of a cycle. At the end of FY2021 we had less than \$1.0m cash-at-hand and we will have some higher expense levels due to deferred licence fees, so we must continue with our existing plans to curtail our discretionary expense over the next 12 months.

The following graph is an internal predication of our Cash-At-Bank position. It has been reset to start fresh from 1 April 2021. The light-red-dotted line shows where we would be in a normal (“baseline”) year. The black dotted line shows where we project to be, considering our need to reduce expenditure over the next 12 months.

Clearly the Club must continue its planned expenditure reductions in our discretionary areas during 2021.



All the above information is presented in the same “Management Accounts” format that is used to report to both the Club’s Finance Committee and General Committee. A separate set of accounts in a Statutory format also requires approval.

Steven Chadd  
Finance Manager



# Tournament Report

A very different tournament staged under relatively complex COVID requirements with teams and players at around 50% of 2020. However, another outstanding success for our Club. Once again, the key driver of this event was our CEO, Greg Jeffers who was ably supported by the following key contributors:

- Jacob Burnham – Venues, staffing and referees
- Alicia Vengust – Communication and fixturing
- Adam Currie – Communication and fixturing
- Steve Chadd – Finance and Referee Coaches
- Jordan Canovan – Media, Photography
- Bianca Ananiev – Grading and purchasing cleaning equipment for COVID
- David Hickman – Grading

The most significant difference of this tournament was the use of “blocks” as a key component of our fixturing which, whilst only introduced because of COVID, received much positive feed-back from the participants. General positives stemming from blocks included:

- Games being at same place as others in their competition (getting to see opponents)
- Families not losing the entire day to basketball – having 2 games in morning or evening, rather than one at 10am and then another at 5pm.

A suggested improvement would be blocks being moved to a different venue for Day 2 to share the travel within the grade. Also, future fixturing post-COVID will allow for compatibilities to be catered for a little more than in 2021

The surplus of just under \$43,000 was larger than we had envisaged but still far less than the previous year’s tournament which generated a surplus of more than \$123,000.

	Eltham (inc. A Grade)	Dandenong	2021 Tournament	2020 Tournament
Teams	514	206	720	1,421
Players	4,827	1,855	6,682	13,314
Competitions/grades	69	33	102	tba
Games	1,284	354	1638	4,435
Venues	14	1	15	27
Courts	51	15	66	141
Referees	245	160	405	670
Media:				
Website: Page Requests			1,070,493	2,895,800
Facebook:				
- Followers			5,986	5,442
- Reach			31,157	61,000
Instagram:				
- Followers			3,203	3,162
- Reach			11,800	19,322
Total Reach			1,113,450	3,005,814



Item	EDJBT21	EDJBT20
Player fees:	\$172,637	
Merchandise sales:	\$6,224	
Other income:	\$11,115	
<b>Total income:</b>	<b>\$189,976</b>	<b>\$429,174</b>
Venue hire:	\$44,680	\$89,954
Head Office admin:	\$13,578	\$36,545
Venue admin:	\$22,192	\$29,390
Referees:	\$41,509	\$104,158
Trophies:	\$14,412	\$23,328
Referee supervisors:	\$1,795	\$2,120
Merchandise:	\$6,951	\$12,123
Equipment hire:	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous:	\$2,163	\$8,217
<b>Total expense:</b>	<b>\$147,280</b>	<b>\$305,834</b>
<b>Surplus/-Deficit</b>	<b>\$42,696</b>	<b>\$123,340</b>

Looking forward to a “normal” tournament in 2022 and breaking a few more records.

Peter Meehan  
Tournament Director





# Basketball Development Report

All junior development programs were put on pause between March & November 2020 and although our programs didn't return in Term 4 in their usual format, there were plenty of options for Wildcats children to remain engaged, staying active and improving on their skills as well extra sessions once restrictions permitted.

## Kinder Club

Kinder Club is our beginner level program for children aged 3 & 4 and gives participants a taste of basketball in a fun and engaging environment. Sessions consist of some basic basketball skills as well as motor skill development using basketball themed games.

### *Kinder Club Videos*

Once in lockdown we wanted a way to keep our 3 & 4 year olds active and interested in basketball which lead to a series of short videos created by Brannon Walsh, Jakk Walsh & Jhye Burton which showed parent's drills and games they could play with their kids to improve their motor skills, teach them basketball skills & have fun with a basketball from their own home.

### *Kinder Club 2021*

Kinder Club made its return in Term 1 2021 with Brannon Walsh continuing as the head coach. Our numbers were slightly down which we attributed to people's hesitancy to come back to sport with kids at that age. Over the course of Term 1, Kiara Mountford along with some help from other Kinder Club coaches, visited some local Kindergartens which has led to a substantial increases in numbers heading into Term 2.

Kinder Club Registrations	
<b>Term 3 2019</b>	56
<b>Term 4 2019</b>	58
<b>Term 1 2020</b>	63
<b>Term 1 2021</b>	48
<b>Term 2 2021</b>	70

### Cub Squad Aussie Hoops

Cub Squad Aussie Hoops is our beginners program for 5-10 year olds which is in partnership with Basketball Australia. Our program remains the biggest in the country in Term 1 2021 with over 300 participants across 10 sessions each week which include Girls Only sessions and Game Ready sessions (transition program to junior domestic).

#### *Cub Squad Home School/Zoom Sessions*

Once in lockdown, Cub Squad Home School was our initiative to keep our over 300 Cub Squad kids active and engaged with basketball. In August, we had 4 online videos published that taught basketball fundamentals and skills to the participants that they could practice at home with limited equipment. These included one on shooting technique which has drawn over 5,400 views. Due to the popularity of these sessions, we then in September had live Cub Squad classes on Zoom run by 2 of our experienced Cub Squad coaches Jhye Burton & Jakk Walsh which were then available as videos for the children that weren't able to attend.

#### *Summer Cubs 2020*

Due to restrictions and the limited time before the end of the year, we were unable to get a full Term of Cub Squad Aussie Hoops in before the end of 2020. Instead in December we ran a 2 week outdoor program on Mondays & Fridays called Summer Cubs. We had over 70 children across the sessions to high praise from the parents and kids as they loved they were able to get back to Cub Squad.

#### *Cub Squad 2021*

Cub Squad, much like Kinder Club made it return in Term 1 2021 with Brannon Walsh as the head coach. We saw a dramatic increase in demand for the program with over 300 participants in Term 1 which lead us to create more sessions to meet the demand.

We have observed a trend in the Cub Squad program that children are staying in the program for too long instead of making the next step to junior domestic. To combat this, we're looking to more heavily promote our Junior Domestic program to the kids through information sessions to allow more space in Cubs for beginners and get bigger numbers in our Under 9s & Under 11s programs.

At the start of 2021 we were looking for a way to get more of our young talented female players involved in the Cub Squad Aussie Hoops Girls Only sessions. To make this happen, we put out communication to some of our U18 Championship players and this lead to a handful of them getting involved which boosted our coaching pool to what we needed.

<b>Cub Squad Aussie Hoops Registrations</b>	
<b>Term 3 2019</b>	<b>283</b>
<b>Term 4 2019</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>Term 1 2020</b>	<b>264</b>
<b>Term 1 2021</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>Term 2 2021</b>	<b>319</b>



## Skills & Drills

Skills & Drills is quickly becoming a very popular program amongst our Junior Domestic players looking to further skills and who are looking to join the championship program in upcoming seasons.

### *Skills & Drills Videos*

Skills & Drills was another area we thought it be crucial to provide content to as these children have shown significant interest into developing their skillset. In June we provided a series of short videos created by Dean & Jhye Burton for the kids to be able to do at home with limited space and equipment. More videos were then created in August in the same format and structure.

### *Skills & Drills 2021*

In its 2021 return, we saw Jhye Burton take the reins of the program after Dean was no longer able to commit to the time slot. Alongside him are a group of experienced Big V players, NBL1 players and Championship coaches which has been a contributor to the programs popularity.

We have continued to get sizeable numbers enrolling in the program and will continue to look for ways to improve it in the long term.

## Domestic & Championship Further Development

### *Ready 2 Rebound*

Ready to rebound was an initiative set-up to allow our domestic & championship kids to keep working on their skills and staying active from their own homes. These sessions were run by a wide variety of championship coaches and catered to individual age groups & genders (eg. Under 9 boys, Under 15 girls etc.) to allow for more specified drills/skills work. Over 100 of these sessions were run between early August and early October and received great feedback from parents and attendance of roughly 15-30 kids per session.

### *Welcome Back Holiday Camps*

In November, once restrictions allowed us, we offered 2 domestic & championship holiday camps for kids aged between 6-15 y/o to allow them the opportunity to get back to basketball in a more structured environment. These were run at no cost to the participants as we didn't want to create any barriers to kids returning to the court. These were run by our Championship coaches that had volunteered their time over the lockdown period as an opportunity to get some remuneration post-lockdown.

Skills & Drills Registrations	
<b>Term 3 2019</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Term 4 2019</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Term 1 2020</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Term 1 2021</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Term 2 2021</b>	<b>74</b>



### Back 2 Ball Sessions/Indoor Small Group Sessions

In the first week of November, restrictions allowed small groups to play non-contact sport outside. So with the help of some of our Championship coaches, we set-up the Back 2 Ball program to allow us to offer small group sessions to kids of varying age groups, skill sets and genders. In a 7 day span we had 267 children on the outdoor Basketball courts at Eltham High School across 104 small group sessions. After a week and some further restrictions easing, we then moved these sessions indoors where a further 17 sessions were held for over 3-4 days giving another 47 children opportunity to train with some of our experienced Championship coaches.

### Intro to Championship Camps

Due to the extended time-off from basketball in 2020, heading in to the 2021 trials we thought it would be appropriate to offer our U12s & U14s kids heading into their first season of Championship the opportunity to have a camp to get back comfortable on the court and hopefully help ease some nerves they may have about the trial process by introducing some of the coaches, train in large groups and scrimmaging. We had over 90 kids attend these sessions.

### Primary Schools Program

The Eltham Wildcats run FREE basketball clinics for local primary schools in our community. Majority of the clinics are held in term 1 & 3 to align with the junior domestic seasons. Now we are also involved in the 'Sporting Schools' program that provides schools Government funding to organise sporting clinics for their students. In 2020 the Club was unable to conduct any school clinics due to COVID-19. In 2021 we have already visited 5 primary schools & 2 preschools teaching over 2,108 children basketball skills. There are currently 25 more sessions booked in with more expected throughout the year.

#### *Participating Schools & Preschools*

Research Primary School  
Coburg North Primary School  
Yarra Glen Primary School  
Streeton Primary School  
Christmas Hills Primary School  
Panorama Heights Preschool  
Watsonia North Preschool





## Holiday Camps

The Eltham Wildcats provide a variety of Holiday Camps for children of all abilities aged between 3-17.

Due to COVID-19 we were unable to run camps in term 1 & 3 but the Wildcats were well placed to act quickly during July 2020 when restrictions lifted for a brief period running a number of COVID safe camps including the 'Welcome Back Camps' that were provided free of charge to members.

The camps featured a number of COVID safe changes including limiting positions, reduced hours, no crossover between courts, sanitising, strict venue cleaning, no entry to parents (only for drop off/pick up) and alternate entry and exit points.

The July 2020 camps were well received with 420 participants. The Holiday Program is now back in full swing with huge participation rates in both January and April 2021.

- July 2020 - 420 participants
- January 2021 - 459 participants
- April 2021 - 482 participants

Jacob Burnham  
Operations Manager





# Operations Report

I was appointed to the Operations Manager role from Connor Matthews in January after helping the club as an interim Office Manager over the last 18 months.

Operations of competitions and venues shut down for a substantial period of time in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but this did not stop us making some repairs to the stadium to improve the stadiums safety and aesthetic. We have recently had all rings on Eltham High School courts 2 & 3 replaced as well as backboard systems inspected with no major issues noted, some small issues are in the process of being fixed by Playsafe services. Due to the torn up cladding on Eltham High Court 1, we consulted with our partner Signpro on ways to fix it, the result was the covering of the cladding with a white gloss sheeting which has dramatically changed the appearance both in person and on camera.

The return to basketball in October saw the need for changes to our processes on game nights/days due to the biosafety protocols put in place. This meant we were required to have more staff assigned to venues as Biosafety Officers to control the entry and exit of participants and spectators, ensure patrons were abiding by social distancing and hand hygiene protocols as well as cleaning the venues between games in its high use and high touch areas. To the credit of our administrators & shop staff, they picked up these new responsibilities quickly and created a COVID safe environment for participants and spectators at our venues. As restrictions eased, our need for the strict entry and exit processes eased but our processes involving QR codes and hand sanitiser at entry points still remain part of our entry process.

The replacement of laptops for game day scoring came on basketballs return in November being replaced by iPads which were provided by the EDJBA at no cost to the club. These were then used by our Senior Domestic competitions, EDJBA & VJBL. We've had large amounts of positive feedback on the user experience of the scoring system from parents & teams.

Due to a reduction in administrators, we've recently in early 2021 had 6 new trainee administrators complete their training alongside some of our most experienced administrators and now be Junior Administrators of the club. With the new Montmorency stadium coming in 2022 our plan is to run an Administrator school shortly to increase numbers so we will have enough staff to cover all venues.

Jacob Burnham  
Operations Manager

# Senior Domestic Report

March 2020 saw the shutdown of the Senior Domestic program for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but that is not the full story. Once indoor basketball was made available to adults we gave our Senior Domestic teams from the cancelled 2020 Autumn season the opportunity to train during December to allow them to get reacclimatised and reactivate some muscles that may not have been used in 8 months. The thought behind this was to reduce the risk of injury for participants when games came back in the weeks following.

To help the retention of teams going into the 2021 Autumn season (beginning of 2021), we offered free registration to all returning teams as well as carrying across credit for teams that had paid for their seasons team sheets in advance.

On the 18th of January 2021 we saw the return to games for Senior Domestic teams in record numbers. We recorded the most number of teams playing round one of grading in recent memory and we received large amounts of positive feedback from teams about how much they enjoyed being back out on court.

The Autumn 2021 season had 170 teams register across our competitions which is an increase of 10 teams over the cancelled 2020 season. A couple of standout statistics were:

- 100% retention of Over 30 Men's teams which reflects the ongoing stability in the competition that's been a major factor in its success in recent years.
- In 2020 we made an attempt to encourage teams to our Tuesday night Open Men's competition which had been dropping in teams numbers for numerous seasons but now in the 2021 Autumn season saw 14 new teams register to the competition including 2-3 teams that were returning after years out of the competition.

We have seen an increasing trend of Senior Domestic teams that have come straight out of our Junior Domestic program. This is something we've wanted to have for some time and an opportunity we hope teams continue to take up to continue on their basketball journey.

The Autumn 2021 season also saw the beginning of a partnership with Teampay. Teampay offers teams an easy way to pay for their team sheet through an app and also split the payment evenly amongst the players in their team. Teampay has partnered recently with Basketball Victoria to allow for integration with the PlayHQ system and due to this, many other neighbouring associations have also started using the program. We have trialled Teampay with our Tuesday night Open Men's competition with good reviews from teams & players on how easy the app is to use.



Teampay will be available to all teams across all our Senior Domestic Competitions as of the beginning of the next season (Spring 2021). This assists the steps we've been taking to removing cash from our competitions, for the safety and security of our game night staff.

Overall, the trends in our Senior Domestic program are very positive and will hopefully continue as we head towards the opening of the new Montmorency Secondary College stadium.

#### Team Statistics:

Spring 2019 – 164 Teams

Autumn 2020 – 160 Teams

Autumn 2021 – 170 Teams

#### Unified Basketball

Unified Basketball is a program launched in conjunction with Special Olympics Australia that promotes and creates social inclusion between individuals both with and without intellectual disabilities.

The Unified program is run by Eltham Wildcats parent Naomi Symington along with the club and includes a training session on a Sunday night and a game on a Wednesday night alongside our Senior Domestic Competition.

Game nights are much like that of a Senior Domestic, players pay on registration, there are no modifications to games in comparison to one of our Senior Domestic games and is built to be this way and blend into the Senior Domestic games on the opposite courts.

The program has received a lot of support from people around the club with Eltham coaches, referees, Championship players, Ex-Big V players, parents & senior domestic players all getting involved and helping out.

So far the program has been a great success with hopes for further growth in the coming year.

Jacob Burnham  
Operations Manager



# Junior Championship Report

Despite attempts through 2020 for the VJBL to resume, it never quite eventuated and sadly for children and coaches alike, their season was cancelled in August 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.

On an ad-hoc basis, meetings were held with coaches and team managers to provide the latest information. Often these meetings were held on short notice, so people were informed with the correct information rather than leave uncertainty or gossip lingering for multiple days on end.

Outside of online club programs, it should be noted the amount of time and effort spent by a large percentage of the coaches keeping their players engaged as best as they could. From hundreds of Zoom sessions to fitness sessions, individual trainings, games nights, if you could think of it, our teams put it into action. Thank you and well done to all involved, a remarkable effort.

We started to put in place the club's coaching leadership structure, with Chris Cameron becoming the 16/18 Lead Coach overseeing the U16's and U18's for boys and girls, whilst Ben Cukier took on the 12/14 Lead Coach overseeing those age groups for both boys and girls. The change is about breaking down gender programs and bringing things together, making the leadership age based rather than gender based. Overseeing the program in an interim capacity is Leighton Lewis who once again did a terrific job as the 2021 season resumed bringing everyone together and leading the coaches.

As stated in the CEO report we prepared for a target date of Sunday November 22nd to start trials. We had three weeks before the Christmas break to try and select our 56 Junior Championship teams from that date, which would then allow selected teams a training or two before the season concluded.

Trials was different; very different. Children were split into relative even teams and provided a coach. This coach would take their team for training and then they'd play them in a game on the Thursday or Friday night against another Eltham team. Training and games were coordinated back to back so age group coaches could sit and observe all the games in their age group, rather than only see a percentage.

Such was the success of this process, teams were completely selected before the third and final trial game. A process that previously took up to 7 weeks had been significantly reduced. We did this not only because we had too, but we wanted to be mindful of anxiety in our return to basketball. By children knowing who their coach was, who they were playing and where they were going to be, led to consistency for the child and knowledge of what was coming. We'd removed a lot of anxiety and stress from the previous process.



We were first to start trials and first of the major programs to have the teams selected, which meant our coaches and players were able to conduct up to three team training sessions before Christmas.

Again, in early 2021 we encouraged teams back to train early. Games were organised internally as a practice game before VJBL Grading Game 1. We took the opportunity to include our U21's and Youth teams in those practice games playing against the best junior teams.

### 2021 Season

Our coaches did an outstanding job getting their children back on court in a fun environment and gradually building them up for the VJBL Grading Phase 1. We can be incredibly proud to have qualified 9 teams for the Victorian Championship division (between U12-U18) plus our 21/1 Men for the first time in many years qualified. This placed us equal second in Victoria for teams qualified for the top division and a credit to the children and people involved.

Congratulations to the following Victorian representatives selected for the U18 National Championships in 2021:

Craig Stratford – Head Coach U18 Vic Metro Boys  
Zahn Agosta – U18 Vic Metro Boys Captain  
Kristian Ferronato – U18 Vic Metro Boys  
Brad Moorey – U18 Vic Metro Boys  
Dyani Ananiev – U18 Vic Country Girls  
Matthew Bongetti – U18 Vic Metro Girls Assistant Coach

It is pleasing to see across boys and girls players from the U16 and U18 age groups connection and tie in with our NBL1 and Youth (U23) teams.

2021 will see the formation of the new Junior Championship Committee representative of both boys and girls.

Greg Jeffers  
Chief Executive Officer





# Referee Report

Our officiating group has faced the same challenges as every other part of our Club due to the impact of CoVid-19. As a group we too did our best to engage and reinvigorate our referees in the lead up to restarting in November 2020, and for a while it looked as though we had not lost too many.

In a “normal” year we train 45-50 new referees (mostly 14 and 15 years of age) and we lose 40-45 (mostly around 18 years of age or so, plus a few retirements). So it is a never-ending battle but we usually manage to keep our heads just above water.

Not so this year. It will be obvious to anyone entering our venues that far too many games are refereed by one official only. This is not just an Eltham phenomenon: from the earliest age groups to NBL1 there is an acute shortage of referees across the state. This has come about in large measure due to a marked decrease in player, coach and spectator conduct that has become evident since January 2021. Referees get sick of the continued dissent and abuse and vote with their feet. It is an unedifying spectacle to see a 16- or 17-year-old being bullied by someone two or three times their age, particularly when those people have an imprecise knowledge of the rules, the official interpretations, or the application of the rules.

I have never seen a perfectly refereed game of basketball, even from a neutral perspective. The rules are too complex, and the game is too fast for that to be possible. Any expectation otherwise is simply unrealistic. Likewise, it is most unusual to see a coach pass a rules exam – the game is full of myths which have perpetuated over time but are simply incorrect. If we don’t want to further damage our sport and our brand, then abusive, disruptive and bullying conduct just has to stop.

I want to acknowledge the retirement of Eltham referee, referee-coach and mentor Neil Russell. Neil has been a part of the core structure of our officiating for closing in on 40 years, and before and during that time as a state level referee and referee-coach. Neil has been an invaluable asset to our program and I thank him sincerely for his service to Eltham.

We are developing some innovative programs during 2021:

- We are currently running two concurrent beginner referee classes, for the first time ever. It takes a lot of logistics to get this work, but it is necessary in this environment.
- We will run two further beginner classes across the year, which should give us a total of more than 60 new referees in 2021.
- We are about to commence an A grade course at the end of May and a B Grade course in July.

- We will be launching an innovative development program specifically for our emerging female referees, of whom we have an outstanding group, to give them more of the skills that will help them thrive as officials and as people. The program will be led by our female referee coaches, who are all high-achievers in their own rights.
- We will introduce a higher-level development program later in the year, to support our representative-level officials.

I have always relied on our refereeing support team. During CoVid19 lockdown my deputy director, Mr Laurie Nelsen, was an amazing support to me and to our program. Our appointments officers, Mr Jacob Burnham and Mr Des Buchan are now bearing the brunt of the shortage. Our referees' welfare officer, Ms Karen Nelsen continues to support our referees, especially at the all-too-frequent tribunal appearances.

All of our referee-coaches have returned to help guide and support our referees and I thank them for their continued help. It is invaluable.

The entire referees committee has been a source of strength and support for our refereeing program across 2020.

And as I always comment, our referee program continues to operate with the absolute support of the whole structure of the Club's committees, management and staff. This is by no means usual – at Eltham we see a very few individuals with an enmity towards officials and a sense of entitlement. In many other organisations that is the norm, and those organisations suffer for it. By comparison, we do remarkably well.

Steven Chadd  
Director of Refereeing





# Senior Championship Report

After the excitement generated in 2019, the Eltham Wildcats were set to go to another level of NBL1 in 2020. With some exciting announcements such as Angus Glover (Sydney Kings) and Mike Karena (NZ) there was genuine belief that alongside Adam Doyle and our core group that the Men might be in a position to contend. Likewise the Women's team was going to see the return of American Chelsie Schweers, but this time partnered with elite talent including our own junior Anneli Maley, Rebecca Pizzey and an American who was never announced but continues at the time of writing to perform strongly in Europe. The on-court signs were promising.

Off court, George Davies offered to take on a voluntary role of 'NBL1 Coordinator' as he provided guidance and support to office staff which proved to be beneficial. We signed an agreement with DV Dance Academy for game night entertainment and our mascot arrived!

Then Covid happened! We'd learnt a lot in 2019 and were ready to put Eltham on the next level in 2020, but sadly that wasn't to be.

Grant Spencer as our NBL1 Women's Coach was determined to try and return his key group for 2021 and he did a terrific job staying connected through the year. Likewise our Men's group is a tight knit group and they remained keen for 2021. However it was the Youth coaches of D'Wayne Hogan (Women) and Craig Stratford (Men) who really led the way. They are a tough age group to keep connected online, but they found their way to do so.

As per our CEO report, given the uncertainty, the club took the chance to ensure we could keep the NBL1 not just for 2021 but longer term. With cut budgets we strongly supported the benefits of the NBL1 program to the sport and the Eltham Wildcats.

We confirmed immediately to Basketball Victoria our intent to maintain our NBL1 license for 2021 and planning began immediately.

As we prepared for the 2021 season with much smaller budgets than most clubs, our focus was on giving youth every chance to grab the opportunity at NBL1 level. Pleasingly across all four teams of NBL1 and Youth (U23) we saw a high retention rate from Covid. We maintained stability in our coaching staff and the playing rosters are looking strong.

## NBL1 Men

Pleasingly, we'll see the return of Jordan Canovan from ACL surgery. Junior graduates Tom O'Connor, Sam Whelan and Christian Yammouni should all see significantly more opportunity in 2021. It was important to re-sign ex-NBL player Adam Doyle, whilst the return of Ben Waldren, Justin Aver and Simon Bradbury will also play an important role for the team.

### NBL1 Women

Led by junior graduates Anneli Maley and Shelby Britten (aged 22 and 24 respectively) as our oldest players, we'll field a very young team in 2021. However the team has a high level of talent with WNBL Champion Rebecca Pizzey, U18 star from Keilor Tess Heal and Lily Scanlon (back from Gonzaga University) all lining up for the club. Each of these players are either current or about to be, WNBL players. We see the return of Erin Riley to the club, a new recruit in Chloe Hildebrand, both aged just 19, whilst U18 Eltham junior Dyani Ananiev will get further chance after her rookie season in 2019. Coach Grant Spencer will rotate a number of the Youth players through the NBL1 team such as Anna Burrows, Emily Davies and Steph Fell.

### Youth Men

Will undergo a little change from what we've seen in 2019. With more opportunity for Sam Whelan, Tom O'Connor and Ovie Magbegor in the NBL1, these three Youth stars won't see too much time in the Youth Championship competition.

However, it represents a chance for the next group of U18's to step onto the bench, but also for the next group of players in the Youth team to take leadership roles such as James Stockwell. The team will still be expected to perform strongly in Victoria's U23 State Championship competition.

### Youth Women

Head Coach D'Wayne Hogan has arguably the most difficult task, as he has management of players moving up/down from NBL1, whilst others are in U18's and some training players are involved in U16's.

The team though continues to evolve and develop, after suffering an 'aging out' of players a few years ago, we are still trying to build a core group of which to develop. We did this with the Men several years ago and the consistency, but ongoing evolution of the team ensures they remain competitive in the top flight and the women aim to have the same arrangement.

### Thank you's

We'd like to thank the sponsors for maintaining 100% support for the Eltham senior program in 2021. Likewise our Team Managers return eager to look after all four teams and we owe them a great deal. Brett Cole continues his commitment to the club and in particular the senior program. The man with the magic hands is well loved and supported by the senior players.

Greg Jeffers  
Chief Executive Officer





# Junior Domestic Report

Firstly, I would like to congratulate everyone for standing by junior sport and waiting for the restrictions to ease as it was not an easy year last year but we are back and moving forward with many new ideas coming into effect.

As we all know, 2020 was a big year for everyone with all sports being removed from calendars due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic which saw our Summer 2019/20 season finish abruptly after the Semi Final round due to a lockdown governed by the State Government.

During this time our club was able to put on a number Zoom sessions available to new players, kinder club, domestic players of all levels and we opened the sessions to outside players to keep up their skills whilst at home. These sessions were run by our volunteer coaches and the attendance from the backyards of families homes which included many pets joining in on the fun was fantastic to see.

Summer 2020/21 came back with a shortened season, regionalised games, games during the January holiday period and new registration platform governed by Basketball Victoria with PlayHQ. This has showed us all how resilient we have become to band together to get our game back on court. Mighty effort everyone.

Our awesome Co-ordinators and Age Group Convenors during the return to sport season could not have done any more. They worked tirelessly for just over 2 weeks (normally about 6 weeks) from player registrations to team selections and finalise published teams in this tight timeframe. What a fantastic job by all and it was great to see lots of people back in the stadiums and seeing the smiles on everyone's faces was priceless. The Co-ordinators and Age Group Convenors whilst having a few little changes in their volunteer teams between seasons did a fantastic job with increased numbers for the Winter 2021 season.

## Enrolment Numbers

As you will see below, our club is standing well with great enrolment numbers that continue to grow.

Summer 2020/21								
	U8	U10	U12	U14	U16	U18	U20	
Boys	15	34	39	41	30	22	5	186
Girls	6	12	18	21	17	8	2	84
								<b>TOTAL 270</b>

Winter 2021							
	U9	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19/21	
Boys	28	43	42	33	28	15	189
Girls	14	18	21	19	11	6	89
							<b>TOTAL 278</b>

### Coach Development

This current season the club has initiated Tom O'Connor to undertake the role of Domestic Coaching Development. This is a new initiative the club has made available free of charge to new and existing coaches. Tom has been running sessions on Sunday evenings with a variety of on court and tutorial sessions tailored for all age groups and levels. This has seen a great uptake on the first time offer of this program. Tom is also available to assist coaches outside of these sessions should they require it.

### Domestic Committee

The past 12 months we have put together a joint Committee looking at all aspects of the Domestic Program. Thank you to those members for assisting and giving feedback and advice on items that were raised. If anyone is interested in becoming part of the Domestic Committee please contact Paula Hogan. All welcome to be part of our grassroots side of the game and no experience required!

### Acknowledgments

The volunteers involved in getting our domestic program up and running are listed below. We cannot thank them enough for the efforts behind the scenes to make our sport available to the children of our community.

Boys program – Co-ordinator – Lara Masters. Age Group Convenors – Kate Bird, Oscar Canales, Tracey Cole, Danni Colledge, Adam Courouzos, Christine Day, Natasha Edwards, Matt Evans, Michelle Giosis, Marie Gwizdon, Natalie Hosking, Celine Kearney, Clare O'Sullivan, Jo Prestia, Kelly Sharples and David Hickman for his continued involvement in team selections.

Administrator & Data Entry – Caitlin Lamont, Breanna Hogan

Girls program – Co-ordinator – Tom O'Connor (Summer 2020/21) and Taya Lupton (Winter 2021). Age Group Convenors – April Anderson, Vanessa Edwards, Breanna Hogan, Narelle Kent, Joanna Lewis, Suze Park and Katrina Read.

Overall Program Co-ordinator – Paula Hogan

I would like to also acknowledge the Wellbeing Committee members and the work they are also doing for the club and its members. Thank you to all members of the office staff for their assistance: Jordan Canovan, Connor Matthews, Jacob Burnham, Greg Jeffers and Steve Chadd.

Paula Hogan

Domestic Program Overall Co-ordinator & Chairperson



# Retail Report

COVID-19 shut down both the Retail Store & Canteen during 2020. Utilising the online shop we continued to sell merchandise with a click & collect strategy while restrictions allowed.

To minimise costs once basketball returned drinks, lollies and chocolates were moved into the Retail Store allowing us to keep the Canteen closed while heavy restrictions were in place but still provide opportunities to sell food and drink.

COVID signage was placed in both facilities ensuring social distancing, hand sanitising and maximum number of patrons was maintained at all times.

New signage was put up above the entrance of the Wildcat Store providing a fresh, clean and inviting look for customers. Special thank you to our parter Sign Pro for providing all signage.

The 2021 Eltham Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament saw a number of changes to the competition format meaning both our Store & Canteen received less customers over the shortened tournament resulting in an expected decline of sales.

Lani Rowell & Jordan Canovan  
Retail Manager





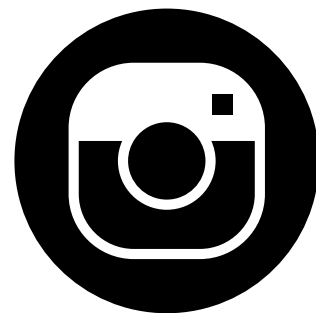
# Media & Marketing Report

## Social Media

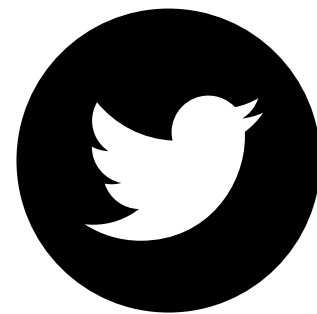
The Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club use social media platforms to promote and engage with our members and beyond. Facebook and Instagram are our most popular mediums with a combined 7,785 followers. All platforms continued steady growth even during COVID-19 as everyone was seeking information and entertainment online during lockdown. During COVID-19 we provided online skills sessions, fitness sessions, Zoom trivia and player/coaches interviews to keep our members engaged.



Facebook  
4,431



Instagram  
3,354



Twitter  
1,152



Youtube  
279

## Newsletter (The Prowl)

Distributed monthly online via Mailchimp the Prowl currently has a database of 8,941 and within the last 12 months has been viewed 16,846 times. The Prowl allows the EWBC to share all news and information with our members but also promote our programs, camps, competitions and more. The newsletter is also a very popular selling tool for our sponsors to promote special deals, information and create brand awareness.

## Website

We had 218,063 page views and over 46 thousand new user logins to our website over the last 12 months. Our busiest period was during November 2020 & April 2021 due to Junior Domestic Team Announcements with a considerable drop in April - October 2020 due to COVID-19.

Jordan Canovan  
Business Manager





# Sponsorship Report

A very special thank you to all our club partners who stuck with us throughout the last 12 months. Not only did these businesses have their own challenges to overcome they went above and beyond with their support for the Wildcats providing valuable resources when needed to help us maintain operations and more.

During lockdown we ran a Zoom trivia night to which many of our partners donated over \$3,000 worth of prizes for our members. Sportfirst Eltham graciously put their hand up and allowed the Wildcats to be a pick up point for merchandise and face masks when we were unable to open. No Limits Basketball and Play Health & Fitness both ran online Zoom sessions for our players and families to keep active and engaged.

We have maintained all existing partnerships and welcomed four brand new ones. Jason McClintock & Jasco (pictured right) are now the Major Partner of our Wellbeing Program where they are providing much needed support. Sign Pro have come on board creating an immediate visual impact at Eltham High School. We would also like to welcome Petzyo and Play Health & Fitness who have joined the club as Business Partners. In 2021 we will continue to strengthen and develop our existing partnerships while exploring more opportunities to partner with like-minded local businesses.

Jordan Canovan  
Business Manager





# Wellbeing Report

Over the past 12 months the Child Safety and Wellbeing Committee has actively supported the Club throughout the Covid lockdowns. We worked in partnership with Headspace to deliver two online webinars as well as providing a 'return to basketball' regular newsletter with tips and strategies on returning to sport for parents and players. It is great to see basketball back, with players, referees, coaches and spectator enjoying the sport.

This year we have focused on developing a plan to support the new Child Safety and Wellbeing Officer role and to provide some direction as to the committees ongoing role within the Club. With Sophie Foote appointed to this role, the Club is showing its commitment to the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our Club.

The Child Safety and Wellbeing plan for 2021 encompasses the following goals:

To ensure the Club is meeting our responsibilities according to the Victorian Child Safe Standards

- Raise awareness and provide education relating to child safety to the Club.
- Provide leadership in meeting regarding our responsibilities according to the Victorian Child Safe Standards.
- Build awareness of impact of bullying and harassment, and promote a no tolerance approach throughout the Club.
- Provide education and support to Club members regarding Wellbeing issues.

To assist and support the ongoing participation of players and their families when challenges of wellbeing are identified.

- Embed training for club staff (players, coaches, team managers, referees, volunteers and other key personnel) to build their skills in being 'advocates' regarding wellbeing.
- Establish age group wellbeing liaisons (similar to age group conveners but focus on child safety and wellbeing issues)
- Provide opportunities for those economically and socially disadvantaged to participate in playing basketball with the club or undertake other activities of their interest (e.g. refereeing, working in the office).



To raise awareness and reduce stigma regarding mental health, disability, and other potential challenges for everyone within the Club.

- Participation in events that will raise awareness of wellbeing issues that can impact on participation in the sporting club. The purpose of the events will be to reduce stigma, but also assist people in reaching out for help, and identifying some referral pathways.
- Identify and liaise with 'Mental Health Ambassadors' in promotion of 'Wellbeing' events e.g. Attending functions, speaking engagements.

To ensure that the club is striving for diversity and inclusion at all levels of the club, and values players and their families for their contributions due to ethnicity, gender, religion, and lived experience.

- To continue to ensure that the issues of wellbeing and diversity are on the agenda of the club executive.
- To ensure that policies and procedures are developed that reflect the club's ability to accommodate diversity in range of ethnicity, gender, age, abilities.

Rachel Morgan  
Child Safety and Wellbeing Committee Chair

