

DAVID HICKMAN

Founder, and especially in the formative years, the lifeblood of what has become a very large and diversified club. A large part of why and how the Wildcats have grown to what it is today was David's ability not just to enable children to play, but also to involve families in the Club's activities. Whilst David began the Club, his passion has been maintained for six decades, during which it has grown from two Eltham High teams to nearly 300 Saturday junior teams, plus a highly regarded championship program. In 2017 he won the Vicsport Community Coach of the year. Of the myriad of teams that have represented Eltham, David has coached more than 400 of them. One of David's lasting legacies that has benefited young members (and provided life skills) was the establishment of the Club's junior administrator program, providing training and employment as venue administrators. Also, David was integral in the formation of the Eltham Wildcats Tournament, which from humble beginnings in the mid-70s, has grown to be the largest junior basketball tournament in the world. He has also made a significant contribution to the wider basketball community as a member of Basketball Victoria Board and long-term member of EDJBA and VJBL committees. This brief summary does not do justice to all the time and effort that David has contributed to the growth and success of the Eltham Club. David was awarded life membership in 1977.