



2022/23

# ANNUAL REPORT



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# **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 & Staff 2022/23



## **General Committee**

President: Peter Meehan\*

Vice President (General): Leighton Lewis\*

Vice President (Staff & Procedures) & Chair Junior Domestic Committee: Paula Hogan\*

Secretary: Narelle Kent\*

Chief Executive Officer: Connor Matthews\*

Chair Junior Championship Committee: Carrie Davies

Chair Child Safety & Wellbeing Committee: Rachel Morgan\*

Referees Committee: Symon Mountford

Chair Finance Committee: Chris Mullins\*

Finance Manager: Steven Chadd

## **Ordinary Members**

David Hickman

Duncan Norman

Ben O'Loughlan

Anna Henderson

\*Executive Committee Member

## **Staff**

Chief Executive Officer: Connor Matthews

Finance Manager: Steven Chadd

Business Manager: Jordan Canovan

Operations Manager: Jacob Burnham

Office Manager & Child Safety & Wellbeing Officer: Sophie Foote



# President's Report

This has been a particularly good year for the Wildcats in many aspects with 2 significant highlights.

The first was the return to the Wildcats of Connor Matthews as our new CEO. Connor has a long association with the Wildcats having started playing at Eltham when he was 7 and coaching his first team when he was 13. Connor was previously our Operations Manager for a number of years before leaving to study for a teaching career. Fortunately for us, Connor decided that this career was not for him and agreed to be our CEO. With Connor's previous first-hand experience at working for the Wildcats there was a relatively seamless transition from our previous CEO, Greg Jeffers. Connor has excelled in this role and continues to develop. We are extremely fortunate to have Connor as our CEO.

The second significant event was very obviously the opening of the new 3 court stadium at Montmorency Secondary College. In what was a fitting opening, the first games to be played in the stadium were EDJBA domestic games on Saturday the 30th July 2022. Junior Domestic has always been at the core of our Club, and it was great to see so many smiling faces and an atmosphere of excitement on that Saturday morning. The following day the Wildcats hosted their first NBL1 home game at the new stadium, with a crowd of around 750 in attendance, including many life members and important local officials. The day was a fantastic success, the stadium looked absolutely amazing, and it was such a joy to see the facility in use for a big celebration with so many Wildcats members present. Capped off by a nail-biting win for the men's team against rivals Nunawading.

The Wildcats' Head Office also moved to Montmorency.



There is a long list of people to thank that made this incredible project possible. Former Wildcats CEO Greg Jeffers drove the project from the Wildcats side and had a vision that many thought not possible for a long time. The club is greatly indebted to his work and his legacy will live on in the stadium forever. Outside of the Wildcats – A big thank you to Eltham State MP Vicki Ward and the State Government for funding the project – this literally wouldn't have happened without their support, and Vicki's incredible advocacy and devotion for the region. Finally, former Montmorency Secondary Principal Allan Robinson is a long-time supporter of the basketball community and the partnership we have at the school is a truly special one, that is not at all common elsewhere in the state. To have this high standard of facility in the North-East, has been a long-time coming and is an incredible achievement of these individuals and the community as a whole.

I would also acknowledge the significant contributions made by Steve Chadd (Finance Manager/Director of Referees), Jacob Burnham (Operations Manager), Jordan Canovan (Business Manager) and Sophie Foote (Office Manager) to the success of the Club during this year.

My thanks to the members of the General Committee and all the Club Committees for their dedication during this year. A special mention to Paula Hogan who is currently Vice President: Staff and Procedures, Overall Junior Domestic Co-ordinator, VJBL 12-1 girls coach and a domestic coach. Paula also received the "Champions of Change" award from Nillumbik Council at their first Women in Sport Breakfast. This award recognizes those who consistently go "the extra mile" for women and girls in sport. Well done, Paula.

There were 4 changes to the General Committee advised at last year's AGM being:

- Narelle Kent replaced Anthea Cochrane as Secretary.
- Craig Stratford replaced Leighton Lewis as Director of Coaching.
- Symon Mountford replaced Ryan Gardiner as the Referees' representative.
- Anna Henderson joined as an Ordinary Member.

Duncan Norman, Ben O'Loughlin and Carrie Davies joined as Ordinary Members during the year.

Steve Howard resigned as Chair of the Finance Committee in March 2023 and we were very pleased that Chris Mullins, who was already a member of the Finance Committee, agreed to take on this role. I thank Steve for his quality input during his 5 years as chair and thank Chris for agreeing to be chair.

Thanks also to Carrie Davies who took over from Brad Johnson as Chair of the Championship Committee. Brad's work as chair was greatly appreciated.

The Wildcats' Strategic Plan is currently being updated by Duncan Norman, Ben O'Loughlin and Anna Henderson and the General Committee has been given 2 updates on this important project. We look forward to sharing the final document with all the Wildcat family.

Financially, the Club is in a very sound position with a surplus of over \$300k. During the year the General Committee agreed to a financial strategy of making a small surplus from our operating activities (excluding the tournament result) and to use the tournament surpluses to create a Capital Fund Reserve for improvements to non-owned joint-use assets.

This year an amount of \$150K has been set aside for improvements to the Eltham High Stadium with new cladding, new backboards, lighting and roofing all under consideration. Some other significant items that occurred during this year were:



- Anthea Cochrane awarded Life Membership
- Record numbers at our Holiday Camps, Championship Trials and Domestic registrations with the Wildcats fielding 308 teams and almost 2400 players for the summer season.
- First in person awards ceremonies for 3 years held at the new Montmorency Secondary Stadium
- Eltham Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament bounces back with numbers close to pre-COVID records.

Looking forward to another great year for the Club.

Go Wildcats!

Peter Meehan  
President

# Chief Executive Report

The year 2022-23 marked a full return from the Covid interrupted years that preceded it. As my first year in the role after the illustrious tenure of my predecessor Greg Jeffers, it was a relief to be able to focus on our core operations outside of restrictions, stoppages and everything that goes with it. Fortunately, as we have returned to normalcy we can see that basketball has only grown in demand in our region.

## **Domestic Growth and Support**

Our domestic program has grown in spades, with the club reaching 300 teams for the first time in its history, with the final tally being 307 teams in the EDJBA all representing the red and black in the Summer 22/23 season. To support this, the club has added not 1 but 3 Domestic Coaching Advisors whose role it is to educate and support our domestic coaches. Their involvement is aimed to create pathways for our domestic coaches to continue to learn and feel the recognition they so thoroughly deserve. It also of course provides a better experience for our junior players with more coaching knowledge being spread around the entirety of our program. We have been ecstatic with the success of Jason Maywald, Thomas O'Connor, and Merryn 'Coach' Brown appointments so far and can't wait to see the program flourish with their support.

Our Junior domestic teams are still managed by our Domestic Co-Ordinator and Vice-President Paula Hogan, alongside the domestic boy's Co-Ordinator Lara Masters. They are flanked by a team of convenors and together they operate at incredibly high levels in the lead up to our seasons to prepare teams using what is a remarkably accommodating team selection process. We will of course always mention the work of these individuals as they are at the core of the community level of the club and are able to give that grassroots support that even a large club such as Eltham still relies on.

## **Coaching Structure and Development**

Within the coaching space we were able to finalise the appointments of our Coaching structure in August. I have already mentioned our domestic coaching advisors but on top of that, we were delighted to have Craig Stratford take over as Coaching Director. Craig has been a staple of the Wildcats coaching team in both the junior and senior teams since 2015 and has had great success at both levels. Craig is known not just for his coaching knowledge and acumen, but also for his relentless positivity, and ability to connect groups and unite towards one goal.

Up until these appointments Leighton Lewis had been operating as the acting Coaching Director, particularly from an administrative point of view. It was great to see Leighton officially appointed as the Assistant Coaching Director moving forward and for him to still be heavily involved in the week-to-week operations of the program.

Leighton has always done a mountain of work for the program and would do anything to see it succeed so we are lucky to have him continuing in this capacity as well as Vice-President.

Former Coaching Director Chris Cameron is still involved as the under 16-20 lead coach. Having less time on his hands than previous, it is great to still have Chris' experience at hand within the program. Lastly the addition of long-time club coach Jason Harris into the lead coach for under 12's and 14's is a welcome addition. Jason's enthusiasm and approachability makes him a perfect fit for the program, and he has done great work this past year.

We are also proud to see over 60 of our coaches go through Basketball Victoria Courses fully funded and right here at Montmorency Secondary. This will continue with 2 more courses throughout the year. These opportunities enable us to meet Basketball Victoria's new mandated requirements for their competitions, but we have gone beyond that in offering these courses to those who don't require it but are keen to upskill and pass that on to all our junior players in both the EDJBA and VJBL.

### **New Montmorency Facility**

The biggest operational change to the Wildcats has of course been the incredible new facility that we share with Montmorency Secondary School (MSC). This project is one that was first ideated a decade ago and is the culmination of persistence, creativity and hard work from those involved before me. Former CEO Greg Jeffers worked tirelessly to find solutions for the Wildcats facility shortage and with former MSC principal Allan Robinson and State MP Vicki Ward he found two willing partners. Together they campaigned for the project and then navigated the waters to be able to provide a state of the art three court facility on what was once a very small horse-shoe car park to the existing two courts at MSC.

A massive thank you to all those who worked on the project, including Sean Godsell Architects, Ireland Brown Construction, club members Leighton Lewis and David Wightman as well as the Victorian School Building Authority and specifically Bruno Imeneo. We are very grateful for our continued partnership with MSC and their management, just as we are with our former base at Eltham High School, in which we still share an incredible relationship moving forward.

The facility has transformed our operations. The stadium not only provides us high quality courts but also meeting rooms, offices and function spaces. This goes a long way to professionalising our club and certainly enhances our reputation and capability as a club/association. We are still settling into the stadium and working on all aspects of functionality but also the aesthetic of the building, this will continue to be our focus in the year ahead.



Parking will continue to be an issue that we have to manage in the years ahead, but ultimately those limitations are a small price to pay for such a facility to come under our joint management.

### **Staffing**

Our Wellbeing Officer Sophie Foote had her role as Wellbeing Officer expanded to include the office manager position which was vacant during much of the Covid period. Sophie is a homegrown talent having come from our junior administration program which we are delighted to have her continue her pathway at the club.

Our much-revered Director of Officiating Steven Chadd decided it was time to retire from the position after over 20 years in the role. 'Chaddy' as he is known retires after presiding over a highly successful period of the Officials department including winning a timely technical officials program of the year in 2021 at the Basketball Victoria Awards. Chaddy will be sorely missed but luckily, he will still be present in the Financial Manager position at the club of which he is also highly adept. Taking over as Director of Officiating is longtime Referee Coach Pat Zerna. Pat comes in as a highly respected individual within both Eltham and Basketball Victoria's officiating community. Armed with some fresh ideas we cannot wait to see where he takes the program.

### **Summary**

The Wildcats are now in an envious position within the basketball community, with a new facility, a thriving tournament, solid finances, and a growing player base, we have incredible opportunities ahead of us. However, it is important not to rest on our laurels as our growth indicate we will reach capacity once again the very near future, so the hunt for courts will begin again very shortly! We will continue to work on not just growing in numbers but being able to provide better opportunities and clearer pathways at all levels. Whether it be playing, officiating, administration or coaching we will always strive to be better in providing the best for our members and we are fortunate to have so many fantastic people working within our structure to make this a reality.

Connor Matthews  
Chief Executive Officer



# Financial Report

This report covers the Club financial year from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The report has been subject to independent audit. This is the first full year of operations since 2019-2020.

For the full year, our income of \$3,504,070 was 18% above budget. This was driven by stronger than anticipated Saturday Domestic registrations, with more children returned to playing post-CoVid than we anticipated, resulting in record numbers in both the Summer 2022-2023 and Winter 2023 seasons. In respect of other major programs, holiday camps and in-term clinics exceeded income budget by 32% (+\$61,000), EDJBT23 by 12% (+\$52,000) and uniform shop sales by 12% (+\$22,000).

The financial result for the full year is very positive. For the first time in many years the Club has balanced its Eltham Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament (EDJBT) surplus (\$152,000, the largest on record) with the surplus generated by normal operations (\$153,000). Traditionally the Club has, at best, broken-even from operations and has relied on the EDJBT for its development funds. For the first time there are options for development as well as funds that can be set aside to support operating growth.

The other highlight of this year is that the strong financial performance has enabled us to fully retire our bank debt (\$369,400 for the Stage 3 works at Eltham High School) during the year, so the Club is now debt-free without significantly impacting on our cash reserves.

All these factors combined to produce the following financial result for 2022-2023, as approved by the independent Auditor on 05 May 2023:

Item	FY22-23 Actual	FY22-23 Budget
Operating income:	\$3,504,070	\$2,958,041
Operating expense:	\$3,107,977	\$2,842,482
Non-operating income:	\$0	\$0
Non-operating expense:	\$90,330	\$103,481
Operating Surplus/-Deficit	\$305,763	\$12,078
Transfer to Capital Fund Reserve:	\$150,000	\$0
<b>Net Surplus:</b>	<b>\$155,763</b>	<b>\$12,078</b>

These results indicate that the Club generated an operating surplus of just over \$305,000 for the financial year, which puts us in a sound and safe financial position. Of this surplus, the General Committee has approved setting aside \$150,000 as a capital fund reserve, to be used for capital-like improvements and repairs over coming years.

The 2022-203 financial results from our key programs are as follows:

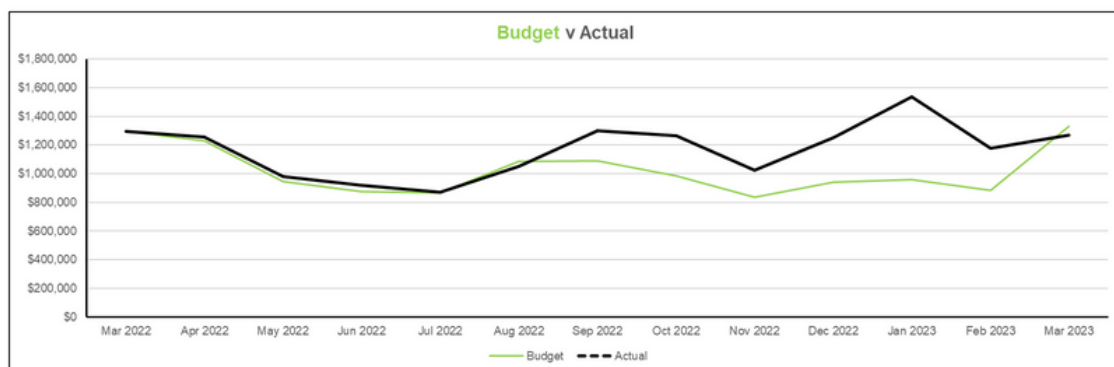
Program	Income	Expense	Surplus
Junior domestic	\$1,372,213	\$377,913	\$994,300
Open domestic	\$466,354	\$197,073	\$269,281
EDJBT23	\$505,027	\$352,175	\$152,852
Junior championship	\$475,057	\$153,182	\$321,875
Camps and clinics	\$251,219	\$120,360	\$130,859
Sports shop	\$202,204	\$220,174	(\$17,970)
Canteen	\$122,863	\$138,945	(\$16,082)
Office expense		\$455,886	
Admin expense		\$101,906	
Venue expense		\$237,676	
Depreciation, amortisation and interest		\$72,864	

### Cash Flow

The actual cash at bank position of the Club largely tracked the projected profile, with two exceptions:

- The increased registration of children for the Junior Domestic Summer 2022-2023 seasons produced a positive spike;
- A slight change to the timing of receipts and payments relating to EDJBT23 changed the profile slightly.

Overall the Club ended the financial year with 4.32 months of average fixed expense as cash at bank, and no debt.



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.

The full audited financial statement, in statutory format, is attached and, if approved, signed by the President and lodged with Consumer Affairs Victoria.

Steven Chadd  
Finance Manager

**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (INC)**  
**A.B.N. 36 062 433 113**

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 MARCH 2023**

**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (inc)**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**A.B.N. 36 062 433 113**

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**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (inc)**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**A.B.N. 36 062 433 113**

Your General Committee presents this Report on the entity for the financial year ended 31st March 2023.

**General Committee**

The names of each person who was a part of the General Committee at the date of this report are:

Peter Meehan - President  
Paula Hogan - Vice President (Staff and Procedures)  
Leighton Lewis - Vice President (General)  
Narelle Kent - Secretary  
Rachel Morgan – Chair Welfare Committee  
Connor Amey-Matthews – Chief Executive Officer  
Carrie Davies – Chair Junior Championship Committee  
Symon Mountford – Chair Technical Officials Committee  
Chris Mullins – Chair Finance Committee  
Anna Henderson – Ordinary Member  
David Hickman - Ordinary Member  
Duncan Norman – Ordinary Member  
Benjamin O’Loughlin – Ordinary Member  
Steven Chadd – Finance Manager

**Principal Activities**

The principal activity of the entity during the financial year was:

*To serve the surrounding community by the provision of opportunities for recreation & enjoyment.*

No significant changes in the nature of the entity's activity occurred during the financial year.

**Operating Surplus**

The operating surplus of the entity amounted to \$305,762.28 for the period ending 31 March 2023.

**Reserves**

The General Committee resolved to create a Capital Fund Reserve, into which \$150,000 was set aside for improvements to non-owned joint-use assets.

**Significant Changes in the State of Affairs**

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs during the financial year.

**After Balance Date Events**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the entity, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the entity in future financial years.

**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (inc)**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
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**Future Developments**

The entity expects to maintain the present status and level of operations and hence there are no likely developments in the entity's operations.

**Environmental Issues**

The entity's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

**Indemnifying Officers or Auditors**

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the entity.

**Proceedings on Behalf of the Entity**

No person has applied for leave of a Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the entity or intervene in any proceedings to which the entity is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the entity for all or any part of those proceedings.

The entity was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

**Auditor's Independence Declaration**

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 is attached to this financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the General Committee.

President:  
Peter Meehan

Date: 29 May 2023

**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (inc)**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
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**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	1,273,332.28	1,300,588.96
Accounts receivable and other debtors	4	5,500.00	43,264.10
Inventory	5	88,295.00	78,414.76
Total current assets		<u>1,367,127.28</u>	<u>1,422,267.82</u>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Buildings, equipment	6	1,997,037.66	2,025,048.45
Loan to supplier - secured		3,995.00	4,675.00
		<u>2,001,032.66</u>	<u>2,029,723.45</u>
<b>Intangible assets</b>			
Goodwill	7	0.00	0.00
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>3,368,159.94</u>	<u>3,451,991.27</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade creditors and other payables	8	294,117.73	254,315.86
Bank loan - unsecured (Current)		0.00	60,000.00
Total current liabilities		<u>294,117.73</u>	<u>314,315.86</u>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Bank loan - unsecured		0.00	369,395.48
Total non-current liabilities		<u>0.00</u>	<u>369,395.48</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		294,117.73	683,711.34
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>3,074,042.21</u>	<u>2,768,279.93</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus		2,924,042.21	2,768,279.93
Capital Fund Reserve	9	150,000.00	0.00
Net worth		<u>3,074,042.21</u>	<u>2,768,279.93</u>

**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (inc)**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
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**INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Revenue	10	3,504,070.10	2,079,219.71
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Administration expense		52,703.92	48,808.73
Audit fees		5,435.14	5,137.50
Camps, tours and tournaments		379,487.31	172,483.47
Coaching and development		96,173.02	75,282.31
Competition expense		1,106,709.51	454,457.21
Cost of sales		359,588.96	186,892.78
Depreciation and amortisation expense		50,504.52	76,904.79
Employee benefit expense		514,307.94	396,941.63
JobKeeper wages		0.00	-392.99
Finance expense		22,775.68	24,513.47
Other expenditure		74,198.34	60,975.17
Venue expense		536,423.48	272,460.58
Total expenditure		<b>3,198,307.82</b>	<b>1,774,464.65</b>
<b>Operating surplus/(-deficit) for the year</b>		<b>305,762.28</b>	<b>304,755.06</b>
Transfer to Capital Fund Reserve	2(l)	150,000.00	0.00
<b>Net surplus/(-deficit) for the year</b>		<b>155,762.28</b>	<b>304,755.06</b>

**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (inc)**  
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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Total \$
<b>Retained Surplus</b>	
Balance at 1 April 2021	2,463,524.87
Surplus/(-deficit) for the year	<u>304,755.06</u>
Balance at 31 March 2022	<u>2,768,279.93</u>
<b>Capital Fund Reserve</b>	
Balance at 1 April 2021	0.00
Transfer for the year	<u>0.00</u>
Balance at 31 March 2022	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Net Worth 31 March 2022</b>	<b><u>2,768,279.93</u></b>
<b>Retained Surplus</b>	
Balance at 1 April 2022	2,768,279.93
Surplus/(-deficit) for the year	<u>155,762.28</u>
Balance at 31 March 2023	<u>2,924,042.21</u>
<b>Capital Fund Reserve</b>	
Balance at 1 April 2022	0.00
Transfer for the year	<u>150,000.00</u>
Balance at 31 March 2023	<u>150,000.00</u>
<b>Net Worth 31 March 2023</b>	<b><u>3,074,042.21</u></b>



**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (inc)**  
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**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

		2023	2022
	Note	\$	\$
<b>Cash from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from customers		3,541,834.20	2,052,769.20
Payments to suppliers and employees		-3,095,105.99	-1,635,421.81
Interest paid		-22,775.68	-24,513.47
Net cash provided by/-(used in) operating activities	11(b)	<u>423,952.53</u>	<u>392,833.92</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Net purchases from buildings		-22,493.73	0.00
Net cash provided by/-(used in) investing activities		<u>-22,493.73</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Proceeds from borrowings		680.00	340.00
Repayments of borrowings		-429,395.48	-60,000.00
Net cash provided by/-(used in) financing activities		<u>-428,715.48</u>	<u>-59,660.00</u>
<b>Net increase/(-decrease) in cash held</b>		<u>-27,256.68</u>	333,173.92
Cash at beginning of financial year		1,300,588.96	967,415.04
Cash at end of financial year	11(a)	<u>1,273,332.28</u>	<u>1,300,588.96</u>

**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (inc)**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

**1. Statement of significant accounting policies**

**a) Statement of compliance**

The committee has determined that the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial report is a special purpose financial report which has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements

AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows

AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors

AASB 1031 Materiality

AASB 1048 Interpretation of Standards

AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures

**b) Basis of Measurement**

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical cost and do not take into account changing money values except where specifically stated.

**2. Statement of significant accounting policies**

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

**c) Buildings and equipment**

Each class of buildings and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

**Buildings**

The amount for Buildings is shown at cost less any contributions received and depreciation. All buildings have been constructed on school premises with joint-use agreements with Victorian Education Department in place. The Club has no effective title/ownership in the premises.

**Equipment**

Equipment is measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairments losses.

The carrying amount of equipment is reviewed annually by the committee members to ensure that it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets.

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**Depreciation**

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready to use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are:

Buildings ..... 2.5%  
Capital fit outs ..... 7.5%  
Equipment ..... 10%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are recognized immediately in profit and loss.

When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

**d) Income tax**

The association is a not-for-profit organisation and is exempt from income tax under section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

**e) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits, held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

**f) Revenue**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

**g) Inventory**

Inventory held for sale is measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

**h) Goods and Services tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST.

**i) Borrowing costs**

All borrowing costs are recognised in income in the period in which they are incurred.

**j) Trade creditors and other payables**

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period, which remain

**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (inc)**  
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unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days on recognition of the liability.

**k) Loans and receivables**

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in active markets and are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

**l) Reserves**

The General Committee resolved to create a Capital Fund Reserve, into which \$150,000 was set aside for improvements to non-owned joint-use assets.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>3. Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash on hand	717.70	487.55
Cash at bank	1,272,614.58	1,300,101.41
	<u>1,273,332.28</u>	<u>1,300,588.96</u>
<b>4. Other debtors</b>		
Other debtors	5,500.00	43,264.10
	<u>5,500.00</u>	<u>43,264.10</u>
<b>5. Inventory</b>		
Stock on hand	88,295.00	78,414.76
	<u>88,295.00</u>	<u>78,414.76</u>
<b>6. Building and Equipment</b>		
Buildings at cost	3,361,113.66	3,346,292.02
Less contribution - buildings	-724,930.00	-724,930.00
Less accumulated depreciation - buildings	-646,401.91	-596,313.57
Total buildings	<u>1,989,781.75</u>	<u>2,025,048.45</u>
Equipment at cost	94,285.08	86,612.99
Less accumulated depreciation - equipment	-87,029.17	-86,612.99
Total Plant and equipment	<u>7,255.91</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Buildings and Equipment	<u>1,997,037.66</u>	<u>2,025,048.45</u>
<b>7. Goodwill</b>		
Goodwill at cost	10,000.00	10,000.00
Less accumulated amortisation - Goodwill	-10,000.00	-10,000.00
Total Goodwill	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>

**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (inc)**  
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	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>8. Sundry creditors and other payables</b>		
Sundry creditors	49,508.98	50,915.97
Accrued expense	65,912.00	49,796.60
Pre-payments	3,378.97	3,378.97
GST and PAYG	100,266.00	96,381.77
Superannuation, annual leave and LSL	55,051.78	38,242.55
Bonds	20,000.00	15,600.00
Other	0.00	0.00
	<u>294,117.73</u>	<u>254,315.86</u>
<b>9. Reserves</b>		
Capital Fund Reserve	150,000.00	0.00
	<u>150,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>10. Revenue</b>		
Registrations	1,661,286.84	993,645.76
Takings	691,636.49	363,092.74
Camps, tours & tournaments	569,486.36	289,204.45
Retail sales	325,466.93	181,706.18
Coaching/development clinics	186,759.39	69,458.24
Sponsorship and donations	68,434.09	114,889.61
Grants and subsidies	1,000.00	67,150.00
Other income	0.00	72.73
Total Revenue	<u>3,504,070.10</u>	<u>2,079,219.71</u>
<b>11. Cash flow information</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents:	1,273,332.28	1,300,588.96
<b>a</b>	<u>1,273,332.28</u>	<u>1,300,588.96</u>
<b>Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities</b>		
Surplus/(-Loss) from ordinary activities:	305,762.28	304,755.06
Less transfer to Capital Fund Reserve:	<u>-150,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Net surplus</b>	<b>155,762.28</b>	<b>304,755.06</b>
<b>Non-cash flows in surplus</b>		
Depreciation and amortisation	50,504.52	76,904.79
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities</b>		
(-Increase)/decrease in receivables:	37,764.10	-26,450.51
(-Increase)/decrease in inventories:	-9,880.24	15,649.99
Increase/(-decrease) in payables:	39,801.87	21,974.59
Increase/(-decrease) in reserves:	<u>150,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>b Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<u>423,952.53</u>	<u>392,833.92</u>

**12. Related parties**

There were no related party transactions conducted during the year.



**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (inc)  
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**SCHEDULE 1  
REGULATION 15  
FORM 1  
ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION REFORM ACT 2012  
SECTIONS 94 (2)(B), 97 (2)(B) AND 100 (2)(B)**

**Annual statements give a true and fair view of financial performance and position of the  
incorporated association**

We, Peter Meehan and Steven Chadd, being members of the General Committee of the Eltham  
Wildcats Basketball Club (inc), certify that:

*"The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial  
performance and position of the above-named association during and at the end of the  
financial year of the association ending 31 March 2023."*



Signed:

Date: 18 May 2023



Signed:

Date: 18 May 2023

**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (inc)**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
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**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE  
CORPORATIONS ACT 2001**

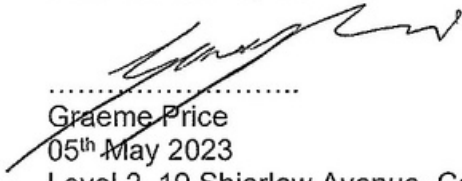
**Eltham Basketball Club Inc**  
**A.B.N. 36 062 433 113**

**Auditor's Independence Declaration**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 there have been:

- i. no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- ii. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Price Gibson Pty Ltd



.....  
Graeme Price

05<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Level 2, 19 Shierlaw Avenue, Canterbury

**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (inc)**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**A.B.N. 36 062 433 113**

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF  
ELTHAM BASKETBALL CLUB INC**

To the members of

**Eltham Basketball Club Inc**  
**A.B.N. 36 062 433 113**

***Scope***

***The financial report and directors' responsibility***

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report of Eltham Basketball Club Inc for the year ended 31 March 2023. The company's directors are responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of Eltham Basketball Club Inc and are appropriate to meet the need of the members.

***Audit Approach***

We conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the company. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members. We disclaim any assumptions of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgment, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

We have undertaken these procedures to form an opinion whether, in all material respect, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies, so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the company's financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, are appropriate to the needs of the members.

We formed our audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB (inc)**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
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- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosure in the financial report, and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosure used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors.

We performed procedures to assess whether the substance of business transactions was accurately reflected in the financial report. These and our other procedures did not include consideration or judgment of the appropriateness or reasonableness of the business plans or strategies adopted by the directors and management of the company.

***Independence***

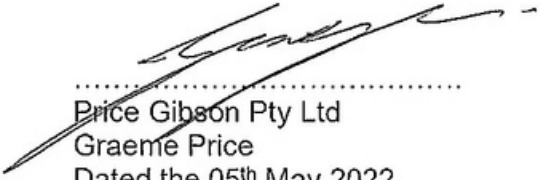
In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements and the Corporations Act 2001.

***Qualification***

As is common for Clubs of this type, it is not practicable for the Eltham Basketball Club Inc to maintain an effective system of internal control over receipts until their initial entry into the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to receipts was limited to the amounts recorded (including the associated reporting of GST).

***Qualified audit opinion***

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had the limitation discussed in the qualification paragraph not existed, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the Club as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, and the results of its operations for the year then ended.



.....  
Price Gibson Pty Ltd  
Graeme Price  
Dated the 05<sup>th</sup> May 2022

# Tournament Report

The Eltham Dandenong Tournament ran from Thursday January 26 to Sunday January 29 this year and was a tremendous success. In last year's report we stated that we hoped and looked forward to 2023 returning to pre- COVID numbers, welcoming back our interstate and international visitors and adding more games from for every team as we used to. As you can see from the following table: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. We had hundreds of teams come from Interstate, as well as multiple teams from New Zealand and Singapore.

	2023	2022	2021	2020
<b>Teams</b>	1408	1030	720	1421
<b>Players</b>	13208	9940	6682	13314
<b>Games</b>	4196	1910	1638	4435
<b>Venues</b>	27	23	15	27
<b>Courts</b>	131	89	66	141
<b>Referees</b>	646	413	405	670

New additions to the Tournament included a move to 1-hour schedules for all grades (while maintaining the 5-game minimum), live streaming plus commentary of the A grade Grand Finals at Montmorency Secondary and a new website. Despite some hiccups on the technical side of the website, feedback from the Tournament and its direction has been overwhelmingly positive and we are grateful for the Wildcat community that helps facilitate it.

This event does not run itself of course, and there is a special group of individuals who operate behind the scenes to make this happen. This involves a degree of commitment and sacrifice during the typical summer break that very few people would be willing to make. It is not abnormal for the cleaners of the stadium to be shocked as they arrive at 2 or 3 in the morning to find Tournament workers still at their desk toiling away to make sure that they stick to the timelines that people have come to expect after so many years. Despite its size the staff behind the scenes refuse to sacrifice quality for quantity. You will have to forgive me for the long list of thankyou's that will follow but when you run an event this size there are so many individuals that need to be recognised and too often their work can be taken for granted or go unnoticed.

Starting with our permanent staff, Office Manager Sophie Foote managed all the venue staff with aplomb and dealt with a constant stream of phone calls and issues through the weekend. Operations Manager Jacob Burnham managed to juggle being the primary person in charge of preparing all our regular competitions and programs at the start of the year, while also taking a key role after hours on referees' allocations for the tournament, making for a massive workload which he managed seamlessly. Jordan Canovan our Business Manager was in charge of social media (Website: 15595 visits; Facebook: 67.618k page reach; 35,594 video views; Instagram: 37.8k page reach; 724 new followers) as well as all retail and now TWO canteens over the weekend. Referees Appointments Officer David Brogno led the team during the Tournament managing the integration of new systems with skill and patience, and finally our Finance Manager and Referee Director Steven Chadd who played a pivotal role in guiding the referees and dealing with the follow up from on-court incidents.

Special recognition to our CEO, Connor Matthews who was a key driver of the tournament's success with the responsibility for the overall co-ordination of this significant event. A great first-time effort.

Then of course there is an extra group of people who aren't permanently employed by the club who take leading roles in the operations of the tournament. These individuals commit to doing whatever it takes to make sure their department creates an enjoyable experience for every team, club and individual involved over the weekend. Our former CEO Greg Jeffers couldn't keep himself away from the Tournament and led the fixturing team, a task that is not only time consuming, but so meticulous that he would be one of a handful of people even capable of taking on the task. His expertise and skill were central to the success of the tournament. Long-time administrator and our statistician's manager Alicia Vengust has managed the communications and back-end admin of the tournament for over a decade now, and her capability in this role is irreplaceable. Alicia filled this role as meticulously as she always does while still working full-time elsewhere– an extraordinary effort. Working under the guidance of both Greg and Alicia it would be remiss of me not to mention the efforts of Breanna Hogan, who despite being her first year with a defined role, committed 100 percent to learning and then actioning multiple different tasks behind the scenes, and her dedication was incredibly impressive.

Included in the grading team were David Hickman, Bianca Ananiev and Peter Wise who put a lot of time into researching and analysing results. Ryan Gardiner, Ethan Clare and Amy Shaw were part of the referee allocations team who worked long and frantic hours to get the job done. To our team of over 65 venue administrators who operate as the customer facing staff and deal with the litany of things that come up during game operations – you are incredibly appreciated, and we enjoy watching the many familiar faces return each year. Whether it be former Eltham club members returning to help out or friends from neighbouring Associations, the community that is formed between these individuals is something really special.

We couldn't do this tournament without the support of other clubs and Associations, whether it be venues, iPads for scoring, staff and of course the teams that actually play the games – the basketball community always supports our tournament in so many ways. We see the event as a representation of not just Eltham and Dandenong but all the participant clubs and the incredible basketball culture we have in Australia and Melbourne. Very rarely have we not received an enthusiastic yes when asking for help from other members of the basketball family, and we thank them for that.

To all the Eltham teams competing we hope you had a blast. In total 13 teams won their respective grand-finals – congratulations to them on a massive effort.

Girls 12.3 / Girls 12.4 / Girls 14.4 / Girls 16.3 / Boys 12.2 / Boys 12.8 / Boys 14.6 / Boys 14.7 / Boys 14.8 / Boys 16.5 / Boys 20.2 / Domestic Boys 10C3 / Domestic Boys 14.2 / Domestic Boys 16.31

A shoutout to our 14.1 Boys who showed their elite status within their age group, making the grand final in front of a raucous crowd on Eltham High Court 1, unfortunately going down by only 8 points to South Australian team Forestville – well done to coach Rachel Wallace and the squad!

As has always been the case, the Tournament's financial contribution to the Club remains significant and this year exceeded \$150,000. The following analysis shows a comparison to the 2020 result as comparing to the COVID years is meaningless.

Item	EDJBT23	EDJBT20
<b>INCOME</b>		
Players:	\$412,660	\$368,433.25
Teams:	\$71,288	\$60,733.29
Plus other income:	\$21,079	\$3,945.90
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$505,027</b>	<b>\$433,112</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
Venue hire:	\$101,536	\$93,426.78
Head Office admin:	\$46,599	\$36,544.50
Venue admin:	\$46,107	\$29,389.50
Referees:	\$107,974	\$104,078.00
Trophies:	\$28,999	\$23,328.29
Referee supervisors:	\$4,200	\$2,120.00
Miscellaneous:	\$16,760	\$8,619.00
<b>Total expense</b>	<b>\$352,175</b>	<b>\$297,506</b>
<b>SURPLUS/-DEFICIT</b>	<b>\$152,852</b>	<b>\$135,606</b>
Surplus/Income %	30%	31%

Peter Meehan  
Tournament Director







# Basketball Development Report

Development was a big focus in 2022/23 with new programs starting up and others being revamped to provide quality programs to those from as young as 2 years old, through to those at the highest levels of our junior representative programs. We also saw some new faces and have some recognisable names involved in these programs which have lifted the standard of development opportunities we've been able to provide.

## Beginner Programs

Beginner programs have been a constant feeder into our junior domestic competition for many years now and numbers are continuing to grow. In Term 1 2023, manager of the beginner programs Keely Gray notified us she was starting a full-time job and that she wouldn't be able to commit to running the program. This provided us the opportunity to review the structure of how we run the programs. What we concluded was we needed at least two people to help manage the load of the program and we were very lucky to find two qualified individuals to run the program moving forward in Lorraine Harris & Taya Lupton. Lorraine is a life member of the basketball club and a long-time coach at many levels. Taya is an administrator at the club, has coached domestically and has studied in the sports development field at university. Thanks to Keely Gray for doing such a great job in her time in the role and good luck to her in her future endeavours.

## 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 participation numbers were relatively steady into the start of the financial year around low to mid 60's mark. Late in 2022, we had some discussions with the coaches around ways we can improve the sessions which included slowly incorporating some more complex drills so kids felt more comfortable moving on to the Cub Squad program. Another key change was reducing the sizes of the sessions slightly to help each participant to be able to get more individualised feedback. Because of this, the numbers dropped slightly however it has allowed for the coaches to work more closely with each of the kids to develop their skills.

Kinder Club Registrations			
Term 3 2021	71	Term 3 2022	64
Term 4 2021	59	Term 4 2022	56
Term 1 2022	62	Term 1 2022	53
Term 2 2022	62		

### **Cub Squad Aussie Hoops**

Cub Squad Aussie Hoops is our beginner's program for 5-10 year olds which is in partnership with Basketball Australia. Our program remains one of the largest in the country! We run Cub Squad across 10 sessions each week, this include Girls Only sessions and Game Ready sessions (transition program to junior domestic).

Registration numbers for Cub Squad Aussie Hoops continues to be massive with Term 1 2023 setting a record for the biggest single term Cub Squad group ever with 337 participants. This would be one of the main reasons for our record breaking numbers in the U9-U11 junior domestic age groups for Winter 2023.

A change made to the program this year was to more actively customise the sessions from term to term including, adding more 'Game Ready' sessions in Terms 1 & 3 so we can get as many children ready to join a domestic team as possible as we've found some families are keeping their children in Cub Squad longer than needed. By providing more of these sessions and having the coaches provide feedback to the parents on the participants, we've been able to get more transition into domestic teams than ever before.

In late 2022, Basketball Australia contacted us to discuss our merchandise model we use for Cub Squad Aussie Hoops as up until this point we were the only Aussie Hoops affiliated club that didn't use the Aussie Hoops standard merchandise and instead had our own Eltham Wildcats branded and coloured uniforms & balls. After multiple meetings with them, Operations Manager Jacob Burnham was invited to present at a Basketball Australia run forum on the benefits of branding your beginner programs which is something we've been very passionate about as it allows children from as young as 2 to have their own Eltham Wildcats singlet and ball and feel a part of our basketball community.

<b>Cub Squad Aussie Hoops Registrations</b>			
<b>Term 2 2021</b>	319	<b>Term 3 2022</b>	318
<b>Term 3 2021</b>	329	<b>Term 4 2022</b>	310
<b>Term 4 2021</b>	242	<b>Term 1 2023</b>	337
<b>Term 1 2022</b>	295		
<b>Term 2 2022</b>	265		

## **Junior Domestic Boys & Girls Skills Academies**

### **Wildcat Domestic Academy U9**

In June 2022 the Junior Domestic Lead Coach at the time Mannon Nolan-Black established an Under 9 Domestic Academy which was selected from a talent identification camp that was held over the school holidays. There were 44 kids selected for the academy which went for 2 blocks of six weeks across June – August. During this time Mannon departed from her domestic coaching role, and sessions were managed by Jason Harris & Jason Maywald. After these two blocks the program was reviewed and didn't continue.

### **Junior Rep Preparation Program**

Also starting in June 2022 was our Junior Rep Prep program which was also run by Junior Domestic Lead Coach at the time Mannon Nolan-Black. This also was run in 2 blocks, with the first block having 81 participants across 2 sessions and the second block having 66 participants. These were set-up as open to any Under 9 or Under 11 domestic players looking to trial for the first time for the 2022/23 Junior Championship season. After Mannon's departure from the program Jason Harris & Merryn Brown ran these programs successfully.

### **Junior Domestic Boys & Girls Skills Academy**

Once the Junior Championship season was under way, there was still a demand for upskilling in the younger junior domestic ranks. Our goal was to find a couple of coaches who excelled in these age groups to help these kids who were seeking the extra development to improve and progress towards trialing for rep in the 23/24 season. We were very lucky to have Elise Maher take on the girls academy and Jhye Burton take on the boys academy which took place on Monday evenings. We received large amounts of positive feedback on these sessions and was able to also get some younger coaches involved to help upskill their coaching ability. Across two sessions we had 37 girls and 77 boys between under 8s and under 14s which only left a handful of spots remaining across the sessions.

### **Junior Championship Development**

VJBL athletes at Eltham are now being offered more opportunity to work together with other like minded athletes in addition to their scheduled training sessions with their current Champ teams.

The Wildcat Academies (WRA and WPA) commenced late last year and were received very well by athletes and families involved. In 2023 these programs return and have been improved again in their second iteration. The Wildcat Representative Development Program (WRDP) was also added this year and offered to all remaining Champ athletes at Eltham providing similar opportunities to athletes in the WRA and WPA.

These programs give the athletes the opportunity to not only work on their individual skills but also gain further understanding of team concepts and styles of play. Many venues and providers can offer the ability to coach athletes and further their individual skillsets, however these Wildcats programs heavily emphasise team concepts and styles of play that are most successfully taught in this manner.

### **Wildcats Academies – Monday Nights**

- Wildcats Representative Academy – WRA (offered to selected U12 & U14 Athletes)  
50 Champ Athletes participated in Term 1
- Wildcats Performance Academy – WPA (selected to selected U16 & U18 Athletes)  
49 Champ Athletes participated in Term 1

The Wildcat Academies are run on court by head coaches Allison Tranquilli (2 time Olympian and 3 time World Cup representative) and Sam Short (former Australian Junior, NBL Championship winner and current Eltham NBL1 player). Allison and Sam are supported by experienced Champ coaches and senior players from the Eltham NBL1 teams. The Academy athletes were also lucky to recently have guest coach Ian Stacker on court.

The Academies also include 3 x 45 minute off court interactive mindset skills sessions. The mindset concepts and skills are intended to complement the physical skills they learn in the Academy program.

WRA and WPA athletes will play together in the Nunawading Kings Birthday Tournament to further apply the team learnings they have been working on throughout the year.

### **Wildcats Representative Development Academy (WRDP) – Sunday Mornings**

- Available to all Champ athletes (U12-U18 boys and girls) not enrolled in a BV State Development Program or Wildcat Academy.
- 144 Champ athletes participated in Term 1 2023

The WRDP sessions are run on court by existing Champ coaches with varying levels of experience. The sessions are headed by the more experienced coaches allowing the remaining coaches to watch and learn from others before supervising individual groups on court. This has been a great learning tool for those coaches wishing to broaden their knowledge and further their coaching.

The content of the sessions on court for the WRDP is comparable and has been derived from that being run in Wildcats Academies.

## Holiday Camps

Holiday programs continue to be a staple of the school holiday breaks at the Wildcats with offerings for players of all standards.

In the Term 2 & 3 school holiday breaks we were fortunate to have Matt Bongetti our women's NBL1 coach lead our two junior championship camps helped by NBL1 players Hailey Leidel, Korinne Campbell, Josh Sykes, Mitchell Dance & even former import Illy Bonhomme. We had great numbers for these camps across Terms 2 & 3 with Term 3 camps being our first camps run in the new Montmorency Secondary stadium.

In January we ran both a Junior Domestic & Junior Championship skills camp to help kids get their touch back leading into the Eltham Dandenong tournament. We had great numbers register with Nic Nolan running those camps who excels as a skill development coach. Also in January we had Pete Maunder from No Limits Basketball run a camp only open to Eltham Wildcats players. Pete & No Limits specialise in advanced footwork and finishing techniques many of which are very centred around the NBA of today and the most up-to-date advancements in skill development.

For our camps in the Term 1 holidays in 2023 we recruited high level coaches/players purposefully to have some big names from our NBL1 programs running camps providing opportunities that not many clubs would have access to. Some of these opportunities included:

- Melbourne United big man Callum Dalton running sessions catered for junior 'talls' and worked on post moves, footwork and more.
- Josh Sykes & Hailey Leidel ran some small group sessions for kids of any level which sold out very quickly.
- Sydney Kings star Angus Glover and South-East Phoenix guard Owen Foxwell run camps for Junior Championship kids with the likes of American imports Hailey Leidel, Josh Sykes & Louise Forsyth helping them out too.
- Hailey Leidel & Louise Forsyth ran our SP Solutions Girls Only Domestic Skills Camp which had great numbers.

A focus for these camps was coach/player ratio that would give the best experience possible for the participants to gain feedback and feel like they have learnt some extra tips from their basket coach across the session.

We at the Eltham Wildcats would like to extend a big thank you to all our coaches who help either run the camps as head coaches or ring coaches whether they be NBL1 players or whether they're Junior Championship players who are working on their coaching skills as without them, we wouldn't be able to provide these opportunities for skill development.

<b>Camp Registrations for 2022/23</b>	
<b>Term 2 - 2022</b>	<b>399</b>
<b>Term 3 - 2022</b>	<b>374</b>
<b>January - 2022</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>Term 1 - 2023</b>	<b>306</b>

### **3x Cup Tournament**

In January 2023, Basketball Victoria announced a new framework for 3x3 basketball to become a more structured and permanent part of the junior basketball landscape. As a part of this structure clubs all around Victoria held 3x3 tournaments in the Term 1 holidays which are classed as 3x Cup Qualifier tournaments.

For those who are unaware of how 3x3 works, each team has 3 players on the court at any given time, it is timed and has a target score of 21. It is very high paced with limited stoppages. Once a team scores, the other team simply grabs the ball out of the rim, gets the ball outside the 3pt line via passing or dribbling and instantly can try to attack the basket. Since its introduction to the Olympics in Tokyo 2021, 3x3 has been quickly gaining popularity worldwide.

In the Term 1 holidays we held our qualifier tournament which attracted 111 teams of players from Under 11's to U19's which was beyond our expectations and was a great result seeing as it's has been some time since we've hosted a similar event. Senior Administrator Breanna Hogan alongside Operations Manager Jacob Burnham ran the tournament which took place on one day, starting at 9am and finishing at 4:30pm and used all 10 rings across Montmorency Secondary's five courts.

Teams were graded into pools based off the level they play in the VJBL/EDJBA and were guaranteed 4 games. Each grade then had finals. The winners of the top divisions in each age group have received automatic qualification for the 3x Cup State Qualifiers in the Term 2 holidays. There will also potentially be spots available for some of the 2nd and 3rd placed teams depending on the number of entrants state-wide. These teams will represent Eltham and if they are successful in the next stage they will then qualify for the 3x Cup Tournament in the Term 3 holidays at the State Basketball Centre.

The feedback on our tournament was overwhelmingly positive and many have asked to run more tournaments in the future outside of the qualifiers which we will look to do.

### **Walking Basketball**

Walking Basketball is a low-impact, social and fun way to improve the levels of physical activity for inactive and slightly active Australians, including those recovering from injury. It is predominantly targeted at those aged 60+ but not exclusive to that age demographic.



Our Walking Basketball program has been very successful over the last 12 months. We now have 18 regular members and are continuing to grow. Our members skills, game play and fitness has improved out of sight.

Optimal Health Lab have become the major sponsor of our Walking Basketball program allowing it to remain free of charge and for our members and local community to continue to improve on their skills, fitness, and overall wellbeing.



Our Walking Basketball team also competed in the first ever Walking Basketball tournament hosted by Basketball Victoria at the State Basketball Centre during Seniors month last October. A volunteer driver from the Nillumbik council got us to and from the event safely in a community bus. The team played a total of two matches and enjoyed a complimentary lunch afterwards. Our group is looking forward to the next event this coming October.

Most recently we have been in contact with other local Walking Basketball groups to organize some regular matches. We have our first intraclub match on the 1st of June at Bulleen. We also have been in contact with Basketball Victoria about the potential opportunity to play a showcase match against Frankston Walking Basketball at the Eltham vs Frankston NBL1 South match on the 17th of June.

### **Primary School Programs**

The Eltham Wildcats run free basketball clinics for local primary schools and preschools in our community. Majority of the clinics are held in term 1 & 3 to align with the junior domestic seasons.

We continue to be involved in the 'Sporting Schools' program that provides schools Government funding to conduct sporting clinics for their students.

In 2022 we visited 5 primary schools & 2 preschools teaching over 1,890 participants basketball skills. This year (2023) we have already visited one kinder and had 66 participants.

### Participating Schools & Preschools:

Research Primary School  
Watsonia Heights Primary School  
Watsonia North Preschool  
Kangaroo Ground Primary School

Streeton Primary School  
Panorama Heights Preschool  
Lower Plenty Primary School

Jacob Burnham (Sophie Foote/Jordan Canovan)  
Operations Manager

# Operations Report

In 2022 we had one of the biggest operational changes in the clubs history with the completion of the new Montmorency Secondary College stadium, providing the club with:

- 3 more courts, creating a 5 court district at Montmorency Secondary
  - Allowing for more programs & room for growth of team numbers
- New offices with capacity for increased staff numbers
- 1100 seat grandstand
- Function room which can be used for education of staff/referees/players/coaches and also used for functions and senior game nights.

As with any construction project, it took a little longer than expected but on July 25th we were able to utilise the new stadium to hold the first session of our new championship academies, the first program to take place in the new venue. Immediately following that the first games that were played in the stadium was our domestic competition, with dozens of EDJBA teams able to enter the building for the first time in awe of the facilities. Over the following weeks we were able to host our last 3 NBL1 double headers of the 2022 season in the venue, which was a great success with crowds up to roughly 900 people in attendance.

Something we have been trialling on some of our NBL1 games is running a bar out of the function space. This meant acquiring a temporary liquor license and making sure we meet the regulations set by the VGCCC. We've kept alcohol consumption restricted to upstairs at the games to help keep the safe family atmosphere in the crowd. So far it has run well and although the revenue isn't substantial, we believe it is catering to a group of people who we haven't in the past and has been a positive experience for them. We are in the process of getting a permanent license, but we are waiting on our joint use agreement with the school before we can submit the paperwork.

In March 2022, the general committee approved the clubs proposal to engage with a company called Glory League. Glory League is a business that provides automated cameras which record games and automatically upload them to their platform to be accessed by those who were involved in the game. On the platform, coaches have the ability to clip and flag videos which will help visualise key teaching points, offences etc. Pending school approval, the goal is to have these cameras installed in Eltham High School & Montmorency Secondary College and will be used for games at all levels from Under 8's domestic through to Over 30s on a Monday Night.

Glory League have become a partner of Basketball Victoria and through discussions with them and other clubs, it has become apparent that these systems will become expectations and available at almost all venues over the next few years which is of great benefit for the development of juniors and adds extra content for Senior domestic players which can also be used by the club to advertise the competition.

### **Administration Program**

In the last 12 months we have had 29 new administrators join our team and have an additional four new staff about to attend their first introductory training session. Each new administrator went through our training program and successfully graduated to a junior administrator. Since the administrators graduated, over 70 percent of them have been promoted to more senior roles within our program.

In early 2023, staff attended an International Women's Day dinner held by Nillumbik Council at the Eltham Community Centre. Across the evening they gave out different awards for young leaders in the area across different industries. Ava Geary, one of our talented up and coming administrators was recognized for her efforts, winning the Young Sports Leader Award by Nillumbik council. Ava has been an administrator at the club for a couple of years now and has been a great leader and hard worker in that space as well as taking on the Big V & NBL1 game commissioner roles when she was only 16. This was a great acknowledgement for her hard work and dedication towards making the Eltham Wildcats a better place for all.

Overall a very exciting year for the operations at the Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club with more developments coming in 2023.

Jacob Burnham (& Sophie Foote)  
Operations Manager



# Senior Domestic Report

The Senior Domestic program has continued to become an important part of the community as it provides over 1300 players the opportunity to stay active, have a social outlet and keep on playing the sport they love that many have enjoyed for most of their life.

Team numbers have remained relatively steady with a slight decrease this season on the previous two, however after speaking to those who didn't return on the phone or via email, most of the reasoning were areas out of our control such as injuries, player availability etc. with many stating they plan on returning in future seasons. We're hoping with some new developments coming in 2023, it will help our ability to advertise the program to increase team and participation numbers.

Some changes in the program in 2022, included moving away from the payment system Teampay and switching to a similar system called Teammo. Whilst these team sheet payment systems are similar, we felt Teammo provided more features as well as allowing us to move away from Teampay which was becoming difficult to administer. Teammo also allows us to use their payment requests feature for other uses such as Junior Championship second instalments which had become increasingly more difficult to find a solution for with the program continuously growing. Teammo also allowed us to remove the need of paper forms to manage game night payments due to Teammo's dashboard, where you can mark off teams as paying via other methods meaning the system covers all the options we provide to teams (just under 50 percent of teams pay by card on the night). Teammo also allows teams to pay for weeks in advance or even the season if they so wish which gives more flexibility to teams in the situation where their team manager may be unavailable that week.

In Autumn 2023, due to some imbalances and awkward numbers of A grade teams in Monday Open Women and Thursday Open Men, we were forced to try and come up with a creative solution to a difficult problem as we don't want the A grade teams having to play against the same teams every 3-4 weeks and also don't want to have to bring up a team from B grade when there is an obvious gap in standard and they would be beaten comfortably every week. What we came up with was an A/B combined grade however A grade teams still play mostly against A grade teams and B grade teams mostly play against their grade, however they all have crossover games throughout the season which helps A grade have a wider range of opponents and no individual B grade teams getting disadvantaged. Their ladders function separately, so A grade will have its own finals series to B grade. Feedback on these systems has been positive and have been running smoothly.



Season	Team Numbers
Spring 2019	164
Autumn 2020	160
Autumn 2021	170
Spring 2021	167
Autumn 2022	165
Spring 2022	165
Autumn 2023	160

### Unified Basketball

Unified Basketball launched in 2021 led by Wildcats parent Naomi Symington and her family in conjunction with Special Olympics Australia. Unified is a program that promotes and creates social inclusion between individuals with and without intellectual disabilities through sport. How it works is, Unified Basketball pairs a Unified Athlete with an intellectual disability with a neuro typical or traditional participant, called Unified Partners. They are then placed into teams and compete against each other on a Wednesday evening alongside the Mixed Senior Domestic competition at Eltham High School.

Numbers have continued to grow since the program. In 2021 Unified started with 3 games on a Wednesday, but in 2022 we expanded the program to 4 game slots (8 teams) that compete each Wednesday and train on a Sunday evening.

This is a great program that we're proud to be involved with however all the credit and praise for the programs success has to go to Naomi Symington and her family who put endless hours into the program improving it every term and providing such a welcoming and safe environment for all to enjoy.



## **North East D-League**

The North East D-League had its inaugural season in 2019 as a competition targeted at current/former Big V/NBL1 players as well as the top senior domestic players and the best players finishing up in the VJBL to have a suitable competition to play in during the off-season. The D-League is not only a competitive basketball competition, it also provides opportunities to referees to develop on a higher standard of play and a social aspect of meeting new people in the basketball community due to players being drafted into teams. It also has some extra features not seen in other senior domestic competitions such as shot clock with 14 second resets, 3 referees, stats recorded, games recorded for highlights etc.

After two cancelled seasons due to COVID, we were finally able to hold our second season in 2022 in the new Montmorency Stadium. Due to the level of interest, we increased the league from 6 teams to 8 which meant there was 64 players registered to the competition. These players were then drafted by 'General Managers (GM's)' into the 8 teams.

One of the major changes for 2022, was getting James Smith from JR Smith Media on board who took the online engagement and content surrounding the league to a whole new level. 3/4 games each week were livestreamed to YouTube and highlight tapes for each round generated from those streams. From those clips we were easily able to generate top 10 play countdowns and more. Some of the clips were so successful that they received 20+ thousand views online.

A big thank you to the sponsors of the North East D-League in 2022 that were Air Fusion Heating and Cooling, Taylor Teamwear, Naught Gin & JR Smith Media.

On Grand Final night we had the stand out for Montmorency Court 1 with roughly 250-300 people in attendance as well as having a temporary license for the bar running upstairs where we also held the season awards after the game.

For the second straight season the Grand Final went into overtime, where a dramatic tip-in from Sean Clarke sealed the championship for the JR Smith Media Turtles and James Smith taking out the Grand Final MVP honours.

Overall, a very successful second season for the competition with 100% of players on the end of season survey saying they wish to return in future seasons. The North East D-League will make a return in August 2023 for it's third season.

Jacob Burnham  
Operations Manager







# Junior Championship Report

Brad Johnson recently stepped down as Chair of the Championship Committee after steering us through the final challenging COVID interrupted seasons. We thank Brad for the time and effort he contributed to the program. Carrie Davies has since been appointed to the position and brings many new and fresh ideas to the table. Carrie has children that have progressed through the junior ranks at Eltham and has a great understanding of how things operate at our club. Good luck Carrie and we look forward to you taking the reigns, supported by the remaining members of the Committee.

This Championship season we had 729 athletes trial for a place in a Championship Team at Eltham. This unprecedentedly large number of athletes meant that the planning and organisation of the Trials Process needed to be 'on point'. In excess of six thousand emails in total went out to families during this intense and sometimes emotional time for some. The work that is put into the communications behind the scenes cannot be underestimated and this trials season we divided the admin duties between Championship Committee members Matt Evans, Leanne Giardina and Jason Arena. Michelle Lewis also provided a guiding hand throughout this period. Many thanks to these members and all coaching staff that contributed large amounts of their time during this period.

Late in 2022, on completion of the Trials Process a review was held with the aim of identifying any opportunities for improvements with the process for 2023. Members of the Championship Committee, coaching leadership and office staff all made meaningful contributions to the review. We feel confident that we can learn each year and continue to improve the Trials Process.



On completion of the Trials Process we entered 57 boys and girls teams into the VJBL. This is an increase in comparison to 53 teams last year. As always, we're not limited by the number of talented athletes wishing to play at Eltham, but rather by the number of suitable coaches to take the helm of our teams. The importance of upskilling and supporting domestic coaches at Eltham is paramount if we wish to see more coaches move through to Championship level in this regard. The recent appointments of Jason Maywald, Merryn Brown and Tom O'Connor into coaching leadership positions at a Domestic Level will help greatly with this and now complete the coaching structure at all levels of the Club in accordance with the plan put together by the General Committee in 2019.

Our coaching staff are again led by Craig Stratford as our Director of Coaching assisted by Leighton Lewis. Returning are Jason Harris as lead coach for the U12-14 boys and girls and Chris Cameron as lead coach for the U16-18 boys and girls. This season we are lucky to have also appointed Dean Gluyas as our Championship Coaching Development Officer.

Dean has a vast coaching resume that includes junior basketball right through to NBL1. Dean attends our home venues on a Friday night supporting coaches and also makes himself available for training sessions to help or advise Champ coaches when required. Many teams this season have already benefited from Dean's knowledge of the game.

The Wildcat Academies (WRA and WPA) commenced late last year and were received very well by the Champ athletes and families involved. In 2023 these programs returned and have been improved again in their second iteration. The Wildcat Representative Development Program (WRDP) was also added this year and was offered to all remaining Champ athletes at Eltham, providing similar opportunities to the athletes in the WRA and WPA.

The Wildcat Academies are run on court by head coaches Allison Tranquilli (2 time Olympian and 3 time World Cup representative) and Sam Short (former Australian Junior, NBL Championship winner and current Eltham NBL1 player). Allison and Sam are supported by experienced Champ coaches and senior players from the Eltham NBL1 teams. The Academy athletes were also lucky to recently have guest coach Ian Stacker on court.



The WRDP sessions are run on court by existing Champ coaches. The sessions are headed by the more experienced coaches allowing the newer coaches to watch and learn from others before supervising individual groups on court. This has been a great learning tool for those coaches wishing to broaden their knowledge and further their coaching.

With the middle of the VJBL season fast approaching we have many teams showing significant improvement as the season progresses at varying levels. In the U12-U18 age groups we have 6 of a possible 8 teams having made VC. These teams are now looking to make the top half of their pool to progress to the top 10 of VC and potential finals at the top level of basketball in Victoria. Of particular note are the 14-1 boys coached by Rachel Wallace, who with one game remaining prior to selections remain a good chance to make the U14 Club Nationals. Good luck Rachel and team.

One of the goals of the Championship program at Eltham is to provide a great base for aspiring junior athletes to reach the elite levels of the game. With this in mind, there is now a very strong link between our older VJBL teams and our senior program. We currently have a number of U18 girls playing significant roles in our Women's Youth League Team. Many of our VJBL players have been given the opportunity to train with both our Youth League and NBL1 teams.

We have many athletes from Eltham accepted into Basketball Victoria Programs such as the U12 Jamboree, Future Development Program (FDP) and the State Development Program (SDP). We wish these athletes all the best on their journey and encourage them to keep working hard to achieve their goals.

We congratulate Addison Knight (U16 Vic Metro), Zahn Agosta (U20 Vic Men), Carly Stones (U18 Country Assistant Coach) and Matt Bongetti (U20 Women Vic Navy Head Coach) for making teams playing Nationals this year.

Leighton Lewis  
Vice President (General)



# Technical Officials Report

The term “Technical Officials” encompasses our Statisticians, Scoretable officials, Referees and Referee-coaches, of whom we have more than 200 in total. Some members cover several roles, and also other roles in the Club.

This is my final such report: after 22 years as Director of Officiating and a further 12 years as Deputy Director, I have retired from this role; therefore, I am going to indulge in a little reflection. Combined, this tenure represents half a lifetime of working with our referees and referee-coaches and must be one of the longest continuous appointments in Victorian officiating history.

The fundamental goal of this role is to train sufficient numbers of quality officials to meet the quota requirements imposed on the Club by the VJBL: we have achieved that goal each and every year, and in recent years we have done so easily. And we are renowned at state level for having very high standards.

We have also adhered to the guiding principle of this Club: to provide pathways through participation. In the past 34 years we have seen three of our members reach the NBL, with Mitch Hare achieving the rare honour of officiating in the NBL Grand Final Series. And we have had many officials reach WNBL standard, with Elliot Green officiating in the finals series for the past two years.

In addition, we have had, and continue to have, many officials who officiate successfully in BigV and VJBL representative competitions.

And we have achieved a few awards along the way:

- Referee Branch of the Year (twice)
- Referee Advisor of the Year

This is pretty good for a medium-sized program.

It's a fact that most of these achievements come 80% through the individual's own hard work and commitment, and 20% through the help of others. If I were to claim 20% of that 20% then my small contribution is still cause for pride in their achievements, and in all of our officials.

In the same time frame, we have developed programs for both Scoretable officials and Statisticians. Both have grown from relatively small programs to having representatives on the international stage in both disciplines, led by Amy Vine and Alicia Vengust, respectively. I certainly cannot take any credit for their achievements, but I can applaud them.



Also, on further reflection the issues that I raised in my first report more than 20 years ago remain the same today: we cannot retain referees. We have no problem recruiting and training beginners, but as soon as they reach senior ranks the incessant complaints extinguish their enthusiasm and we lose them. This has worsened post-CoVid, which explains why we have such difficulty staffing games, especially mid-week games. It's a self-defeating process, but neither I nor anyone else has an answer, short of zero-tolerance.

In every report I always thank the people who have supported me across the year, but this one is the most sentimental. So my thanks go to the many referee-coaches we have trained and who continue to support our referees. We trained a whole new crop just a few months ago and I admire their enthusiasm.

I thank the seven referee-branch Presidents who have always been supportive of our refereeing program, and the many former and present committee members.

I thank the good people who have taken specific supporting roles, particularly in referee welfare (Karen Nelsen) and in referee appointments (Des Buchan, Jacob Burnham and David Brogno come to mind).

But more than anyone I cannot thank nearly enough Laurie Nelsen, who has been my deputy and my fundamental support these past 22 years. I simply do not have the words to recognise his hard work, innovation and leadership of our referee education over that period. These qualities were recognised by the Basketball Victoria Technical Officials Commission with an Outstanding Service award, which speaks volumes. All I can say is "thank you."

The other source of support has always been the Executive and Management of the Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club itself. The relationship between the Club and its technical officials has always been a supportive and respectful one. This is relatively rare in our world, and I'm really grateful.

The reason I retired is because the role requires not only knowledge, but more so energy, enthusiasm and innovation. The Club conducted a detailed recruitment and selection process for my replacement and interviewed a number of very fine candidates. In the end analysis the Club has appointed Pat Zerna, who has been with the program for about 15 years and is a well-qualified referee-coach at state level, as the Director of Officiating from 2023 onwards – I know he will be successful because he embodies those qualities. I just hope he lasts as long as I have!

Steven Chadd  
Director of Officiating

# Senior Championship Report

## Youth Women

### Season 2022 awards winners

- Youth Women MVP: Jamie Weddle
- Most Improved: Jess Del Brocco
- Rookie of the Year: Reese Cameron
- Golden Hands: Jess Del Brocco

In 2023 the Youth Womens team finished with a 10 win and 12 loss record, an improvement from their 5 win and 8 loss record in the Covid interrupted 2021 season. Coach D'Wayne Hogan led the team with great dedication and expertise with a squad full of Eltham juniors and plenty of opportunity. A special note to Jamie Weddle who was nominated for All-Star Five after leading our team in scoring. Following the season coach Hogan decided that it was the right time to move on from the role and find a bit more balance in his life outside of basketball. We are incredibly thankful for his involvement in the program over the few years in which he presided over it.

It is important to note that many of the Youth league eligible players within our womens program chose to play NBL1 in 2022, some of which are now playing in both Youth and NBL1 in 2023. Coupling this factor along with a few new additions to the team, this has made for a very strong Youth Women's team in season 2023. New Head Coach Scott Delzoppo has done a fantastic job in uniting the group towards their ultimate goal of promotion to Youth League Championship division and its fair to say they haven't taken a step wrong in their pursuit of this, holding an undefeated 12-0 record at the time of writing. We can't wait to see them finish off their season and then compete in the new BigV grading system for next year which will give them the chance of re-establishing themselves in the top flight Youth Division.

## Youth Men

### Season 2022 Awards Winners

- MVP: Kye Agosta
- Most Improved: Mitch Blackburn
- Rookie of the Year: Zahn Agosta
- Golden Hands: Kye Agosta

The Youth Men fell just short of a playoff birth in 2022 holding an 11 win and 11 loss record. This is following a season in which many of the Youth league veterans in Sam Whelan, Ovie Magbegor and Thomas O'Connor aged out of the program and moved permanently into NBL1. In what was a super competitive team for court time, it was great to see opportunities given to so many Eltham juniors, some of which have been with the program since under 9's!

It's also important to note that one of those under 9's Zahn Agosta made the u20 Victorian team and played a big role in their bronze medal winning efforts. A big thank you to Jonathan Goodman who coached the team for the 2022 season.

In season 2023 we have seen coach Rod Degenhardt take over, a familiar face to the program having been involved in our VJBL and EDJBA program for a number of years now. Coach Rod has a strong group of players that maintains its core from the year before with a few changes. Eltham currently sits third on the ladder at the time of writing with 7 wins and 5 losses. The integration of the NBL1 and Youth league programs has been an important part of the program and that can mean difficulty for coach Rod in not having consistency in the line-up as players move from Youth to NBL1 as required. However, it also ensures opportunities can be spread through the entire squad on match days.

## **NBL1 Men**

### **Season 2022 Awards Winners**

- MVP: Sam Short
- Team Player: Ovie Magbegor
- Golden Hands: Owen Foxwell

The NBL1 Men began their 2022 season with a rough start, struggling to pick up their first win for a number of weeks. Following some outstanding coaching work the team stormed home in the second half of the season, reaching a 7 win and 15 loss record. It was fantastic to see local talent and South-East Melbourne Phoenix player Owen Foxwell win the NBL1 South Youth Player of the Year across the entire competition. His breakout campaign quickly made him must-watch for NBL1 fans and Eltham Juniors alike.

Utilising the momentum from 2022 coach Craig Stratford and the team have achieved unprecedented success for Eltham at this level in 2023, with the team currently sitting at the top of the ladder with 9 wins and 3 losses. Some incredible NBL level additions to the team in Angus Glover and Callum Dalton has complemented a returning core of crowd favourites in Owen Foxwell, Josh Sykes and Sam Short, making for an intimidating starting 5.





Of course its great to see long-time Wildcats in Ovie Magbegor, Sam Whelan, Christian Yammouni and youngsters such as Alek Bandilovski, Noah Todd and Zak Cunningham also receive their opportunities on court.

## **NBL1 Women**

### **Season 2022 Awards Winners**

- Womens MVP: Rebecca Pizzey
- Most Improved: Anna Burrows
- Rookie of the Year: Ally Marshall
- Golden Hands: Rebecca Pizzey

The NBL1 Women's team finished the 2022 season with 9 wins and 13 losses. In what was a difficult year with injuries and absences the team battled through and put on some impressive performances throughout the season. It was great to see Anneli Maley achieve so much success outside of the Wildcats with her selection to various Australian 3x3 teams, her WNBL MVP and finally her Opals selection at the FIBA World Cup in Sydney.

What an incredible achievement for her individually and a great role model for Eltham and its pathway. During the season the Head Coaching role was taken over by Matt Bongetti and we thank him and his team for their hard work.

Matt returned to the role in 2023 and so has the core of the starting group that our fans have grown to know and love. Anneli Maley, Bec Pizzey, Hailey Leidel and Tayla Wynne are all back with the team, as is Lily Scanlon who has made an much-awaited return to the court as one of the most dynamic players in the league. Lily has been battling injuries for the past 18 months or so and to see her on court competing again is a fantastic story. The team is currently sitting at 7 wins and 5 losses and sitting within finals positions at this point despite Anneli only having played 3 games due to WNBA and Australian commitments.



## **NBL1**

Of course the big-ticket item for the NBL1 program was the move to our new Montmorency Secondary College stadium. Overall this has given us capacity to increase crowds from a maximum of 450 to now having 1100 fans able to attend. To see over 600 attendees pretty consistently at our games at Montmorency is an awesome feat as a club. We have loved the energy from our home crowds that the venue has allowed us to provide for and seemingly so do the teams, having only lost one game between both sides in their 12 matches at home in 2023. The facility also gives our players a high caliber venue that is the envy to many other clubs throughout the league.

Overall with both NBL1 teams cementing themselves in the finals race, this has been a banner year for the program. We are looking forward to hopefully hosting our first ever NBL1 finals game this year, and to see both teams continue to excel through the later stages of the season.

It's incredibly important to note that the Senior teams do not just exist for their own success. The philosophy of the program has always been to establish the connection between the grassroots of our club and the Senior Elite. This is why you will see all of our players on court after the game taking photos and signing as many signatures as they can with the Eltham juniors who attend. They coach in our representative academies, they attend both rep and domestic trainings. Many of them also host their own camps where players of all skill levels have the ability to gain access to some of the best talent in Australia as well as overseas. We are incredibly thankful for the work of all members of the program in ensuring that this connection to the community is their highest goal.

We would also like to thank the incredible work of our venue staff that work tirelessly on gamedays to provide the best possible experience for our fans. This year saw the transition of long-time game commissioner Brie Mountford to our young but incredibly committed and competent duo of administrators in Ava Geary and Breanna Hogan. Brie was at the core of the gameday management at Eltham for roughly 5 years, we are eternally appreciative for her dedication and expertise in the role, we look forward to her continuing to be a part of the club in other aspects.

The teams are also supported by our team managers, and our gratitude goes out to Heather Douglas, Jhye Burton, Linda Mountford and especially Jodi Vine who has gone above and beyond in her duties this year to ensure everyone is prepared for the season.

Connor Matthews  
Chief Executive Officer

# Junior Domestic Report

This is always a great fun report to write on how our domestic program continues to flourish in many ways.

Firstly, I would love to say that I am extremely proud of the work our club and its volunteers with their commitment to growing junior basketball participating for all aspects of the community. The dedication and patience is something that is pleasing to see and that many do not understand from the outside.

This is a massive thank you to our age group convenors for their many hours of thankless work done behind the scenes by a great group of men and women volunteering their time to ensure that all players and coaches are able to participate in our sport with our club.

We are fortunate to have a wonderful boys coordinator overseeing over 200 teams and assisting where necessary. Lara Masters is a lady that continues to grow with the program and her knowledge of the kids is something that we look to for support.

Congratulations on another strong year and look forward to the next challenges.

## Coach Education and Development

Thank you to Jason Maywald who started as a domestic coaching advisor during the Summer season and we are pleased to say that we have increased the team to include 2 other long time club members.

Our coaching development advisors are Jason Maywald, Merryn Brown and Tom O'Connor. All 3 coaches have been involved in the club for many years and have coached at various levels during their time. All 3 coaches have had vast experience from either coaching and/or playing over their careers.

At the beginning of the Winter season all the coaches advisors planned the new and prospective coaches evening with on court sessions to assist in the development. This was attended by with great numbers of both male and female participants including a variety of ages which was fantastic to see.



All our coaches advisors are available to be contacted and will be around the courts to lend a hand or be a resource to all our new and existing coaches seeking assistance by helping with training and game plans, personal growth over all the age groups. Please say hi to them when they come and introduce themselves to you.

### Enrolment Numbers

Enrolments listed below have increased from the same period last year. Summer saw 36 additional boys teams and 9 girls team and the Winter season has seen an increase of 2 boys and 5 girls teams based on the same seasons last year.

The Summer season saw a record enrolments including teams entering the EDJBA season. With 309 teams, this was a big season and another record was in the under 14 boys age group with a team number 50.

Summer 2022/23								
	U8	U10	U12	U14	U16	U18	U21	
Boys	22	34	41	50	39	25	5	216
Girls	8	18	19	21	19	4	4	93
								<b>TOTAL 309</b>

Winter 2023							
	U9	U11	U13	U15	U17	U19/21	
Boys	39	37	45	42	29	9	201
Girls	18	21	19	19	9	3	89
							<b>TOTAL 290</b>

The Winter season we have had to ensure a hard close off for registration. This is due to a number of reasons but the main one is to ensure that our age group convenors are able to process the team selections in a timely manner and keep within the timeframe set out for the EDJBA competition. We have continued to see additional players being put into the program. This set up of a hard close will continue as it has been very effective.

### Domestic Committee

The next 12 months our joint Committee is looking at reviewing various aspects of the program. Items on the agenda are the domestic awards/presentation, coaches reports, team manager guide, ways to increase talent identification and continuation of coaches support among a number of others items.

Thank you to those members for assisting and giving feedback and advice on items that were raised over the year.

## **Reports/Complaints**

The Summer season has seen an massive increase in complaints and reports not only with our club but in the competition in general. Can I please remind everyone that there is a 'Code of Conduct' that we all need to abide by. All information is on our club website or Basketball Victoria's website.

There is a new process that has only just been introduced. There is a complaints form which is done electronically. Should you wish to report anything, please go to our club website and send it through. Alternatively contact the junior domestic email and we will investigate your query.

## **Acknowledgments**

Thank you to the many people that I list below for the dedication and tireless work in ensuring that our children are able to participate in a great community sport and continue to make themselves available as the season progresses.

Boys program – Age Group Convenors – Kelly Sharple, Narelle Kent, Lucinda Boca, Michelle Giosis, Cherie Hazelman, Tracey Cole, Matt Evans, Ali Brown, Clare O'Sullivan, Cate Forbes, Crystal Oliver, David Hickman for his continued involvement in team selections and Lara Masters as the boys coordinator.

Girls program – Age Group Convenors – Amy Chubb, Vanessa Edwards, Jemima Edwards, Katrina Read, Suze Park, Jamie McNamee, Anna Lewis, Tanya Blake. Note that the girls coordinator position is vacant. This position is open to anyone wishing to look at being involved. Please contact Paula at [juniordomestic@elthamwildcats.net.au](mailto:juniordomestic@elthamwildcats.net.au) to find out more.

A reminder to all that the club has a Wellbeing Committee available to assist anytime should you need assistance. All details are on the club website or contact the office for details.

I would like to thank all the members of the club office team. Their efforts and support are fantastic and ready for when we call on them. Thank you.

If anyone is interested in becoming part of the Domestic Committee, girls coordinator, age group convenor, administration work, coach or would like to know more about any role within the junior domestic program, please contact Paula Hogan. All welcome.

Paula Hogan  
Vice President &  
Domestic Program Overall Co-ordinator & Committee Chair







# Retail Report

## Wildcat Store

The last 12 months our focus has been on selling the old and outdated products that had been laying dormant in the Wildcat Store. We now have new and updated products revitalising the Wildcat brand for both winter and summer garments. We have introduced puffer jackets/vests, bucket hats, new design hoodies, long sleeves and t-shirts (plus more) and in the coming months trackies and beanies. We have also teamed up with local supplier Honeycutt Collective on a collaborative Wildcat street wear t-shirt.

## Point of Sale

The point of sale system for both canteens and the Wildcat Store has changed over from Kounta to Square. Square allows more practical use for our customers providing a simple tap and go procedure rather than the old Eftpos machines. We have also been able to use these systems for pop up stores, the bar at Montmorency and NBL1 ticketing showing their versatility. We are also able to track and keep up to date with real time sales via the app.

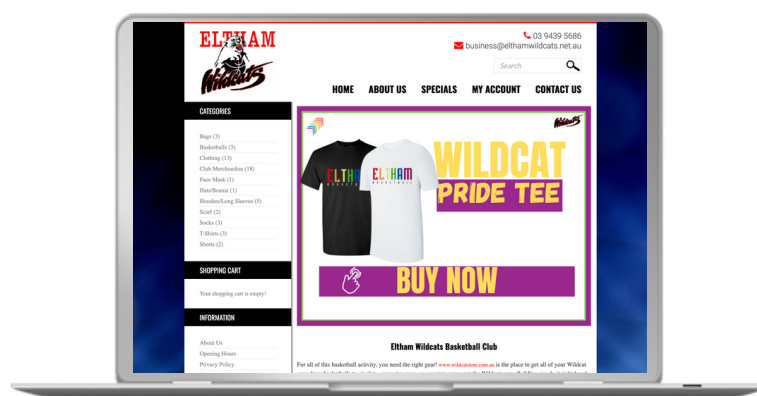
## Canteens

The Eltham Wildcats now manage and operate two canteens (Eltham High School & Montmorency Secondary College). The last 8 months we have been finding our feet with stock management, staffing and products that best suit both facilities. Both canteens have received new Brugnetti coffee machines. In the near future barista training will be utilised for our staff to help improve our service while Wildcat branding at Montmorency will be added to improve the shop front.

## Online Store & Pre-Ordering

The online store sold \$8,889 worth of merchandise during the last 12 months. This continues to be an added benefit to our consumers who prefer to click & collect. Pre-ordering merchandise via our online Cognito forms continues to be a success. We have sold over \$15,000 of garments in the last 12 months including customised warm up tops, puffer jackets/vests and hoodies.

Jordan Canovan  
Business Manager



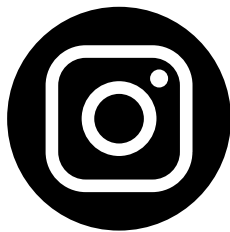
# Media & Marketing Report

## Social Media

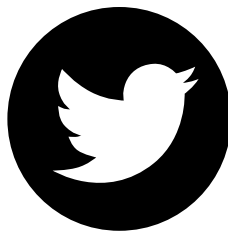
The Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club use social media platforms to communicate, promote and engage with our members and beyond. Facebook & Instagram remain our most popular medium with a combined 10,295 followers. This year we have introduced an Eltham Wildcats LinkedIn page. This page is used to connect the business aspect of the Club within our community by engaging local business, creating leads and promoting sponsorship.



5,793  
followers



4,502  
followers



1,201  
followers



361  
subscribers



29  
followers

**Total Followers: 11,886**

## Newsletter (The Prowl)

The Prowl is a monthly eDM newsletter distributed online via Mailchimp. The Prowl currently has a database of 11,081 and is viewed 30,053 yearly on average. 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 their brand and information.



## Website

We had approx. 222k page views and over 68 thousand new user logins to our website over the last 12 months. Our busiest period was during October 2022 & April 2023 due to Junior Domestic team announcements and the commencement of our Big V and NBL1 competitions.

Jordan Canovan  
Business Manager

# Sponsorship Report

A special thank you to all our club partners who continue to help us provide opportunities and pathways for our members at an affordable cost.

Jellis Craig and Max Kirwan Mazda continue their long-standing relationships as Major Partners of the Club for Junior Domestic/Introductory Program & Junior Championship. Acustruct & L&L Orthodontics remain as Major Partners of the men's & women's NBL1 programs while Jasco continues as the Major Partner of the Wellbeing Program.

Lyons Body Works Eltham remain the naming rights partner of our Youth League Women

SP Solutions, Airfusion, Sportfirst Eltham, Cole Family Chiropractic, Play Health & Fitness, RMIT and Sign Pro continue their valued partnerships with the Club.

The last 12 months we have added and increased a number of new and existing partnerships. Goalrilla & Jumpshots / Eltham Leisure Centre have now signed on as a major partners. Goalrilla Basketball has been at the forefront of basketball hoop innovation for the past 30 years and being conveniently located across the road from our new facility at Montmorency Secondary College it was the perfect time to commence a partnership. As part of the agreement Goalrilla has provided an Eltham Wildcats branded Dr Dish shooting machine for our community.

The Eltham Leisure Centre have been supporters of the Wildcats for a number of years and with the introduction of their new 'Jumpshots' basketball facility they increased their partnership to 'major partner' level.

The Optimal Health Lab have also increased their partnership to be the naming rights supporter of our Walking Basketball program. We also welcome Midland Roofing, Ace Electrics, Card Fever & AS Planning as new partners of the club.

In 2023 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

A review of our processes and procedures in early 2022 in line with Victoria's new Child Safe Standards guided the direction of our Child Safety and Wellbeing Committee throughout this past year. Our two main focus areas were continuing the education and empowerment of all Club members, including staff and volunteers, to act on Child Safety; and ensuring that we seek input from the children and young people in our Club on issues relating to Child Safety. As a Committee and a Club, we should be proud of the achievements we have made in these areas.

In working to continue the education and empowerment of all Club members to act on Child Safety we have put a big emphasis on the safety of our junior referees, who are integral to the functioning and success of our Club. In doing this we worked with numerous representatives from our referee committee to help us understand the child safety issues facing our junior referees and looked at how we can educate and empower these referees. We also looked at how we could promote a Zero Tolerance for referee abuse at all levels. A large percentage of our referees are under the age of 18 and therefore any abuse should be addressed from the perspective of the Victorian Child Safe Standards. This includes abuse from coaches, players, spectators and fellow referees. This abuse can significantly impact the children who are our junior referees.

The lead we have taken on this issue has the support of Basketball Victoria who also conducted their own Child Safe Sport Environment for Junior Referees this year. Basketball Victoria observed that "in the context of junior referees, a child safe culture is not championed and modelled at all levels of basketball from the top down and bottom up," however the work done by our Child Safety and Wellbeing Committee, in conjunction with the Referee Committee, has shown that Eltham Basketball Club is championing the safety of our referees. Some of the initiatives implemented include media around Zero Tolerance for referee abuse, the inclusion of Wellbeing information in the beginner referee courses, communication with coaches on how to appropriately interact with referees and ensuring that all our referees and referee coaches have Working with Children's Checks. This has boosted the existing wellbeing supports provided by the Referee Committee.





Our second focus of the past 12 months has been to ensure that we are seeking input from the children and young people in our Club on issues relating to Child Safety. With the support of Sophie Foote as our Wellbeing Officer in the front office of our Club, we have had two young people working with our Child Safety and Wellbeing Committee, providing great insights to support the work being done – thank you to Taylor McCrae and Alysha Naim. Building on this support we are currently planning the first Eltham Basketball Club Youth Forum to be held in July this year.

This forum aims to bring together young people from all areas of our Club to discuss topics and issues that concern them and their peers at our Club. The recommendations that come from this Youth Forum will be presented to the Club's General Committee who will endeavour to address as many of these recommendations as possible within the scope of the Club.

Thank you to Connor and Peter for the leadership of our Club that fully supports the wellbeing and safety of all our Club members. Underlying everything that we do in at Eltham Basketball Club is our Commitment to Child Safety:

All children who are a part of the Club have a right to feel safe and to be safe. The wellbeing of the children in our Club will always be our first priority and our Club has a zero tolerance to child abuse. Our Club aims to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and have fun and our Club's activities are always carried out in the best interests of the children.

Eltham Basketball Club is committed to stamping out all forms of abuse, with all members of the Club responsible for upholding this commitment. We strongly encourage members to be upstanders not bystanders.

Rachel Morgan  
Chair – Child Safety and Wellbeing Committee

# Tribunal Report

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Samantha Johnston, who has served as the Tribunal Secretary for over 5 years with exceptional dedication. Samantha has been the primary point of contact between the Tribunal and the club, playing a vital role in the governance of our association. Although often unnoticed, her contributions have been invaluable. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Jacob at the club, who has taken on the important task of facilitating communication between the club and the Tribunal. This role is often thankless, and I genuinely acknowledge your efforts.

Furthermore, I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow Tribunal members, who consistently go above and beyond their duties. I have observed that our members frequently take the time to educate the parties involved on the rules and their interpretations. This commitment to education is commendable and greatly contributes to the fairness of our decisions.

Additionally, I have noticed a significant improvement in the quality of reports over the past 18 months. I want to express my thanks for this enhancement, as it makes our jobs a little easier when we receive well-written reports. Your attention to detail and professionalism in preparing these documents is truly appreciated.

Since February 2022, we have conducted a total of 22 Tribunal hearings. For individuals found guilty, penalties have ranged from good behaviour bonds to 286 weeks for the most severe case. On average, penalties fall between 6 to 14 weeks. These statistics provide insight into the Tribunal's commitment to maintaining the integrity of our association.

Due to the diverse geographical locations of our Tribunal members, we have successfully transitioned most of our hearings to the Zoom platform. This adaptation has proven to be effective, and I anticipate that most of our future hearings will be conducted via Zoom.

Lastly, it is my genuine hope that our paths do not cross in the future, not because of any negative reasons, but because it would signify that our association has thrived, and our players, coaches, referees, and administration staff have adhered to the principles that govern our sport. Let us continue to foster a culture of fair play, respect, and sportsmanship, ensuring that the need for Tribunal hearings becomes a rarity.

In closing, I would like to emphasise that basketball is a truly great sport, and I wish you all an outstanding year ahead, both on and off the court.

Kieran Thorpe  
Chair, Basketball Victoria Tribunal (Eltham Association)



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**ELTHAM WILDCATS BASKETBALL CLUB**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23**