

## **GREG JEFFERS**

### **Summary of his significant contributions to the Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club:**

**After 12 years of outstanding service to the Club, Greg left to take on a role at Basketball Victoria as General Manager -Leagues and Competitions.**

**Greg's dedicated leadership and communication skills were stand-out features** of his tenure at the Club which grew from **4,200 members** and a turnover of just over **\$1m** when he started to one of Australia's most successful and stable basketball clubs with over **6,000 members** and a turnover of **\$2.7m.** when he left.

There are many significant Club developments that were driven by Greg during his tenure as CEO.

- **Montmorency SC stadium** – key role in its development (\$19m)
- **Two upgrades of Eltham HS stadium:**
  - in 2015 upgrade to public toilets which were also changerooms (\$110k funded by EWBC)
  - b) \$1.1m (EWBC funding) for two changerooms and a video room on show court, Referee Room, exclusive basketball club access at stadium entrance, new cleaners' room, reshaping of Club Office and relocation of uniform shop. We built the school a new storeroom and staffroom area. This project then played politically into the funding received at the 2018 Victorian election for Monty.
- **Restructured and rebuilt senior representative program from lower end of Big V State Championship to being the 16<sup>th</sup> club selected for the inaugural 2019 NBL1 season to being re-licensed within the first 10 associations in July 2021 for a further two years.**
- **Youth Men went from 1-21 and a percentage of 52% in 2013 to being a powerhouse in the competition.**

- **Basketball Victoria's 2017 Junior Association of the Year**
- **Basketball Victoria's 2018 Association of the Year**
- **VicSport – Community Event of the Year – Eltham-Dandenong Junior Basketball Tournament**
- Re-branded our own beginner program '**Cub Squad**' underpinned by 'Kinder Club.' Stepped away from national body, to only then lead the change within Basketball Australia's Aussie Hoops program.
- Growth from **175 junior domestic teams in 2012 to a high of 285 teams pre-covid**
- **Ongoing improvements in the running of the Eltham Dandenong Junior Basketball tournament** including making the tournament cashless and significant enhancements to the fixturing and grading processes over the **2 COVID impacted years** which have been used in recent tournaments. Still very much involved and a key component of the tournaments continued success.
- **COVID19** had a **significant impact** on the operations of the Club. Greg's management of the Club during this period which included a level of communication to our members that was second to none, is something for which the Club will always be grateful. We know that there were a number of Clubs that copied Greg's communications.
- **Still coaching**

This **list** of achievements is **impressive**, but it is the **cultural aspect** of his contribution that also needs to be recognised. He **came in** at a very **challenging time**, and **left** the club in pretty much the **best position, socially as well as materially, that we have ever been in.**

**Not everyone agreed** with every decision Greg made, **but everyone was heard**, and he had a **genuine empathy for every part of the organisation. Everything was done fairly and in the best interest of the members of the club.**

A significant factor in Greg's success was his **ability to forge effective relationships** across the vast range of people who deal with the club:

**politicians and government, basketball staff at every level and across the wide geographic area, our own staff, technical officials and especially our members.**

**These “soft skills” are not reflected in bricks and mortar or financial results but make an organisation such as ours stronger and more resilient.**

**With the exception of David Hickman, there has been no-one that has made a bigger contribution to the ongoing success of the Eltham Wildcats Basketball Club.**

**Greg was awarded LIFE Membership of the Club in 2023**