

ELSTERNWICK CRICKET CLUB



Information Summary 2023

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Elsternwick Park Main Oval and Pavilion

1 Introduction

Elsternwick Cricket Club welcomes new players and provides this information summary to prospective players and recruits to serve as an introduction to the Club. The summary provides detail of the Club's playing arrangements, administration, history and facilities.

The Club currently consists of:

- Four senior men's teams playing Saturdays in the Victorian Sub-District Cricket Association (VSDCA), widely considered the second strongest turf competition in Victoria (after Premier Cricket)
- Senior men's team playing one day turf matches on Sundays in Cricket Southern Bayside (CSB)
- Senior women's teams playing turf cricket on Sundays in CSB
- J.G. Craig Under 15 Representative team playing in January in the VSDCA
- Under 15 and under 17 boy's teams playing turf cricket on Sundays in the Inner South East Cricket competition
- Under 17, 14 & 12 girl's teams playing in the All-Girls Cricket Competition (AGCC)
- Junior teams (Rookies, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16) playing on synthetics wickets on Friday nights and Saturday mornings in the South-East Cricket Association (SECA)
- A Master Blasters program for 7-10 year old's
- A Junior Blasters program for 5-8 year old's

The Club is located at Elsternwick Park, within the City of Bayside. We are fortunate to have excellent playing and social facilities thanks to recent multi-million dollar investments by the state and federal governments. Support is provided by the Bayside City Council and our joint tenants, the Victorian Amateur Football Association, the VAFA Umpires' Association, and the Old Melburnians and Elsternwick Amateur Football Clubs.

In the last decade, the Club has been strong on field, as well as socially, financially, and administratively. Our 1st XI has been a finalist six times in this period, playing off in the Grand Final in 2018/19, the mens 3rd XI were premiers in 2022/23 and women's team minor premiers and grand finalists in 2022/23. The Club is looking to build on these solid recent performances to become a powerhouse of Victorian community cricket.

2 Brief History

The Club was founded in 1900 and played on a ground that was loaned by a local private landowner. In order to develop its own facilities, the Club commenced a campaign to raise funds for the building of the ground, now known as Elsternwick Park Main Oval. The ground was opened in 1903 and the Club staged a re-enactment of the opening in November 2003 to celebrate the centenary of the ground.

In the early years of the Club, fundraising enabled the development of tennis courts, a hockey ground and pavilion. Later, lawn bowling facilities were added, resulting in a large sporting complex for the locals. The Club was the managing body responsible for the maintenance of the grounds and other facilities.

In 1908, the Club joined the Victorian Sub-District Cricket Association as a founding member.

In the 1930's, the second ground was completed. At that time, Elsternwick Park became only the second complex in Australia with two turf grounds, the other one being the Sydney Cricket Ground. Interestingly, the Club was the first owner of a motorised turf roller in Australia.

The Club has continued to play a significant role in the development of Elsternwick Park's facilities, with the construction of a pavilion in 1983 and the building of synthetic practice wickets on Oval No. 2 in 1989. In 2002 the Club was instrumental in installing an automatic sprinkler system on the main oval. The \$6.4M redevelopment of Elsternwick Park Main Oval in 2018 and the completion of Oval No.2 reconstruction in 2019 provides the Club with facilities the equal of any in Melbourne.

The Club has had a continuous association with Elsternwick Park for over one hundred years and looks forward to continued occupancy for years to come.



3 Senior Cricket

The Club fields six (6) senior or open age teams, which are affiliated with the Victorian Sub-District Cricket Association (VSDCA) and Cricket Southern Bayside (CSB). The VSDCA is the second most senior cricket competition in Victoria and comprises teams from the entire metropolitan area of Melbourne, from Werribee to Croydon, Melton to Noble Park.

The Association divides its 32 member clubs into four geographically aligned groups; North, South, East and West. Elsternwick Cricket Club is in the South Group and has a healthy rivalry with its South Group neighbours being Brighton, Caulfield, Ormond, Malvern, Moorabbin, Oakleigh and more recently, Port Melbourne. In the 1st and 2nd XI, each group plays the other on a three-year rotation so that in the 15 game season the Club plays the seven other members of the South Group and the eight clubs in the rotated group. In the 3rd and 4th XI, to minimise travel, competitions are geographically aligned and then separated into two divisions. The 15 home and away round season generally comprises a mix of 45 over one-day games and 80 over two-day games. In recent years the Association has also conducted a Tuesday evening T20 competition for the 1st XI. All one-day and T20 games are played in coloured uniforms with white balls while two-

day games are played in traditional whites or creams.

The VSDCA competition has supported many young players to go on to play first class cricket. In addition, the VSDCA provides a high standard of competition, utilising excellent facilities, which appeals to former first-class players who are not wanting to continue with the extra burdens of Premier cricket. Accordingly, VSDCA cricket provides an environment that is ideal for the tuition of young cricketers. Sub-District cricket also prides itself on providing a strong social aspect to competitive cricket.

International cricketers who have played VSDCA cricket in recent years include Damien Fleming, Mick Lewis, Adam Dale, Michael Beer, Lahiru Thirimanne and Tillakaratne Dilshan.

Elsternwick's 1st XI has recently included several former Premier 1st XI cricketers at any one time with captain/coaches generally being well-performed ex- Premier players. Over the last twenty plus seasons the Club has been fortunate to retain the services of many of its captain/coaches as players once their tenure in the position has ended.

Elsternwick has had three players go on to play Test Cricket after representing the club. Keith Miller played at Elsternwick as a young man and was patron of the club for many years. Fellow World War II airman Ross Gregory was also an Elsternwick lad. Cameron White played in the club's 1997 premiership winning R.M Hatch side before representing Australia in all formats.

Junior players from Elsternwick who have progressed to play 1st XI Premier Cricket in recent years include Matthew Shimell (Monash Tigers), Liam Murphy, and Michael Nyary (Prahran), Darcy Daly (Melbourne), Andrew McGorian (St Kilda), Mackenzie Harvey (Carlton), LJ Edwards and Zach Grundmann-Perera (Dandenong). The Club has and will continue to welcome these players back to the club when their Premier careers are finished.

In addition to our community, social and junior development goals, the club strives to be successful on field. We aim to win the VSDCA club championship every season and individual team premierships. Recruiting is focussed on bringing in quality people to build upon our club culture which, as evidenced by our consistent top 3 finishes in the VSDCA Spirit of Cricket Award, is very strong. We strive to support each and every player to enjoy their cricket and be their best on and off the field.



4 Junior Cricket

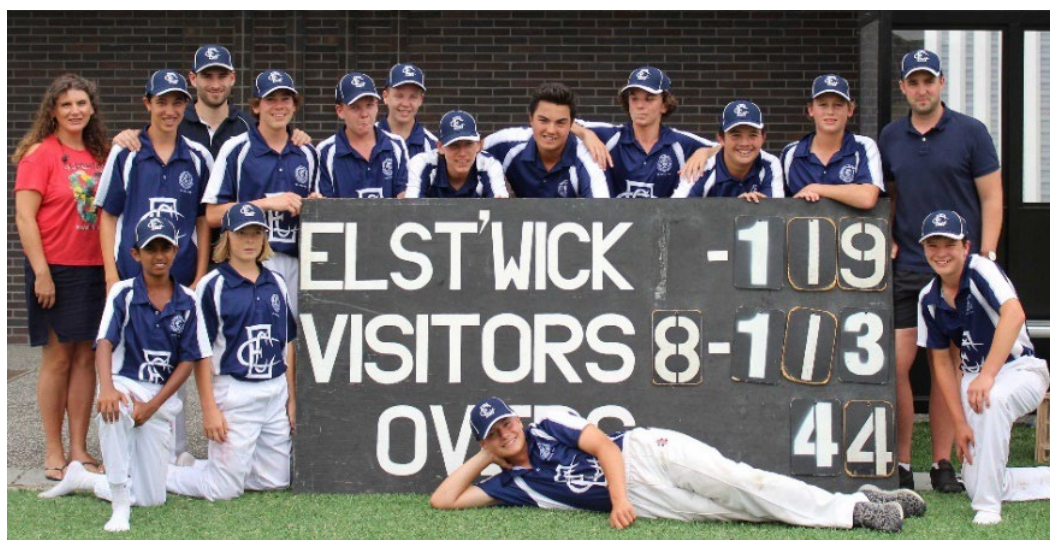
Elsternwick's commitment to developing junior cricketers begins with 5-8 years old children participating in a Junior Blasters program on Saturday mornings. At this age group we are teaching young kids the basics of cricket through game-based activities. The Club also has a Master Blasters program for 7 to 10 years old age group. This program consists of games played in a hub at Brighton Beach Oval on Saturday mornings against other nearby clubs.

From the Blasters programs budding cricketers graduate to organised teams that compete in the South East Cricket Association (SECA). Elsternwick fields rookies, under 12, under 14 and under 16 teams, all of which have made regular finals appearances. Each season the Club fields between 6 and 10 junior teams providing cricket opportunities for around 100 local girls and boys. Further growth in junior girls and under 15/17 boys teams playing Sundays on turf is the current focus of the club.

An important obligation of VSDCA clubs is to field an under 15 representative team in the VSDCA's J.G. Craig competition (formerly Hatch), an annual round robin tournament which is played during the January school holidays. Clubs are expected to locate the cream of junior cricket talent from local schools and associations to represent them during the competition. The competition is a significant step in the Cricket Victoria's mission to identify the elite cricketers of the future.

The Club's Hatch teams won back-to-back Shields in seasons 1996/97 and 1997/98 and a third in 2001/02. In 2005/06 and 2011/12 the team finished runner up. This is an exceptional performance in a fiercely competitive carnival comprising 32 clubs. The club continues to get significant benefits from the contacts with these players and the goodwill flowing from parents exposed to the Club's development plans. Many of the Club's former Craig / Hatch players, including Cameron White, Aiden Blizzard, Adam Bull, Joel Davies and Daniel Sartori have gone on to have distinguished careers at Premier level and beyond.

Over the years the Club has run junior development clinics during the off-season for groups of promising young players. These sessions are conducted by well credentialed coaches, usually current or former Elsternwick senior players, and have proved beneficial to both the individual players and the club.



Elsternwick JG Craig Squad – January 2019

5 Administration

The Club is an incorporated association with an active committee that meets monthly. Committee elections are conducted each July at the club's Annual General Meeting. The Club has sufficient willing voluntary workers with the necessary capabilities to adequately manage the Club's activities and is fortunate to have a group of dedicated and long serving committee members. The committee is organised into six sub-committees responsible for the activities of the Club being Administration, Finance, Playing, Junior, Facilities and Club. All senior players are encouraged to contribute to the success of the Club by taking on a significant off-field volunteer role.

The Club holds a Restricted Club Liquor Licence and is a member of the Australian Drug Foundation's Good Sports Program.

All players and office bearers of the Club are covered by Cricket Australia's National Insurance Scheme.

All members performing duties on behalf of the Club that requires interaction with children are expected to hold a current Working with Children Check.

The Rules, By-Laws and Policies in place to govern the operation of the Club can be found on the club website.



6 Finance

The Club is financially stable and can generate the funds it needs to meet the normal expenses of running a cricket club. Funds are generated by: -

- Memberships and subscriptions
- Bar sales and social functions
- Sponsorships
- Fundraising initiatives

The major expenses relate to the provision of equipment, funding junior activities, ground hire, curating and coaching. Despite increases over the years, the Club has demonstrated the ability to meet its expenditure, by careful budgeting, and disciplined and imaginative fund raising.

7 Facilities

The Club's senior teams play on Elsternwick Park Ovals 1 and 2 in the north section of Elsternwick Park. The junior teams play on Ovals 3 and 4, which form part of the open space in the south section of Elsternwick Park. Ovals 1 and 2 are top category sports ovals within the City of Bayside. Elsternwick Park is located a short drive from the city centre and is well serviced by public transport with trains, trams and buses all in close proximity to the ground. This makes it very convenient for senior players working and living in almost any part of metropolitan Melbourne to attend training and matches.

The Club is fortunate that the two senior ovals are adjacent. It means that players can maintain interest with another of the Club's teams during games and socialise quickly and easily after games.

In 2018 the Club moved from the Alex Johnston Pavilion that it had occupied since the 1980's to a newly constructed state of the art facility. This \$6.4M upgrade gives Elsternwick one of the best playing and social facilities in Melbourne.



Elsternwick Park Oval 1 Pavilion

In 2019 the club gained access to the new facility at Oval 2. The oval is named The Holmes-Todd Oval, after Graham Holmes of Elsternwick Football Club and Barry Todd of Elsternwick Cricket Club. Both men were stalwarts of their respective clubs. This standard of this facility means that all senior members of the club get to play on quality ovals with fantastic pavilions.



Holmes-Todd Oval Pavilion

The social facilities are used each training and match night, together with those special events in the Club's social calendar, including Trivia Night, Christmas Function and

Junior Presentation Night. The quality of facilities enables the Club to organise profitable social functions and provide an active bar.



Elsternwick Christmas Party 2018

A new synthetic practice facility was also completed in 2018. These nets have been built to a standard suitable for both senior and junior training.

Wicket preparation is organised by the Club through the employment of trained curators. The Club continues to look at ways to improve the standard of wickets on both grounds and has invested heavily on equipment including a ride-on roller in 2019 and other curating equipment. Outfield and general ground maintenance is provided by CityWide, a contractor engaged by the Bayside City Council. With the practice facility and both senior grounds being reconstructed in the last two years all players get to experience top quality surfaces for training and playing.

The Club discharges its obligations to cricket and the community generally by providing its facilities to numerous bodies. During recent seasons, the following events were held at Elsternwick Park: -

- Victorian Country Cricket League Country Week games
- Cricket Union of Victoria Zone Representative games
- Bayley House (intellectually disabled) group
- Over 60's Cricket Association matches
- Other social and charitable games

8 Social

The Club organises a comprehensive social calendar to fund its activities and for the enjoyment of members and supporters. In recent years the Club has conducted Trivia Nights, Poker Nights, Dinner Dances, Cocktail Nights, Christmas and End of Season Barbeques and Junior and Senior Presentation Nights.



The Club has a large body of loyal past players and supporters who are encouraged to attend functions, join the Club's coterie group, 'The Wickas' and generally contribute to the strength of the club. The "Wickas" group has held annual dinners since 1996 at venues around Melbourne and the members are enthusiastic in their support of the club. Recently, the Team of the Decade was announced at the 2021 Wickas Dinner.



Wickas Dinner and Team of the Decade - Holmes-Todd Oval Pavilion

To maintain contact with past players, the Club sends a newsletter to all interested past players three or four times each season, posts regular updates on the club website and tweets scores and individual successes during the year.

The loyalty and interest of players to the Club is demonstrated by the number of players and volunteers who have been with the club over many years.

The Club retains a good reputation for its camaraderie among opposition clubs and in the community generally.

9 Community

Elsternwick CC is essentially a locally based and focused organisation. Our membership largely comprises local residents but draws players from all parts of Melbourne. As mentioned previously, the proximity of the ground to the city centre makes training convenient for players working inner city - regardless of where they live.

The Club provides opportunities for people to engage with the club in a variety of ways and attempts to always be welcoming of people who may lack other options for social and sporting interaction.

For many years the Club has assisted in the annual collection of donations for the Red Cross in the local Bayside area. This has been co-ordinated by Mr Ray Street, who is a 250 game player, Vice President and Life Member of the club.

In recent years, the Club has assisted the American Women's Auxiliary run it's Halloween Fundraiser for the Royal Children's Hospital, and provided its facilities to other community groups.

The annual Elsternwick vs Bayley House Bushrangers game is conducted towards the end of each season. Bayley House provides services for the intellectually disabled in the Bayside area and its clients certainly enjoy the game and post-match barbeque. This day is always a highlight of Elsternwick's year despite the Club never being able to record a victory against the strong Bayley House line up.



Bailey House Bushrangers – 2019

10 The Future

The Club's prospects for the future are excellent. The Club strives to continually improve its performance across all portfolio areas and is guided by its' Strategic Plan in these efforts.

Administration - the Club is very stable administratively and is governed by a committee of appropriately experienced members. The tasks required to run a cricket club effectively increase every year and a major focus for the Administration Sub-committee moving forward is to have all senior players undertake a significant volunteer role at the club each year. Work continues to fully define these roles to assist volunteers in their efforts to make the club stronger overall.

Finance - the Club has had some major expenses in recent years with the fit out of two new pavilions and the purchase of a ride on roller. Despite this the club has managed to balance its accounts and is confident it will continue to do so going forward. The major focus for the Finance Portfolio over the next five years is to significantly increase revenue to fund an increase in expenditure for facilities, curating and coaching. The Finance Sub-committee will ramp up sponsorship and fundraising efforts to achieve this goal.

Playing - after playing success in recent years, the Playing Sub-committee is working hard to ensure that the Club's on-field performance does not falter. The sources of future players will continue to be the Club's strong junior program and energetic recruiting. The goal for the Playing Sub-Committee over the next five years is to increase the size and demographic of the Club by entering a Women's team and Veteran's team into competition in this period. An increase in playing numbers is seen as key to improving the overall strength of the club.

Juniors - the Club has a well organised junior program catering for children from age 5 to 16. The key goals of the Junior Sub-Committee over the 5-year plan period is to increase player numbers slightly and improve the coaching and development of the players. Implementation of a girls only program remains a key focus.

Facilities - as noted previously, in the last couple of seasons the Club has gained access to a new practice facility and two reconstructed ovals and new pavilions. The Club will continue to invest in facilities, equipment and curating to provide the best possible environment for its players and supporters. The Facilities Sub-Committee main goals over the strategic plan period are to improve the pitch rating of Oval 1, fund and construct a fourth lane on the synthetic practice facility and investigate turf practice facilities.

Club - the Club Sub-Committee has responsibility for maintaining contact with past players, conducting engaging social events, ensuring the club is a valued member of the local community and generally promoting the Club. A key goal for this portfolio is to increase profit from social functions to enable investment in facilities and coaching.

Adherence to the goals and strategies contained within the strategic plan will ensure that the Club has the financial resources, people, processes and facilities to ensure continued success for years to come.

11 Contacts

Any person interested in playing senior cricket with Elsternwick Cricket Club should contact either of the following: -

Recruiting Manager

Cameron Christiansen
0422 418 431
cameronchristiansen85@hotmail.com

Men's Coach

John Watkin
0400 522 813
johnwatkin49@gmail.com

Junior club contacts are: -

Junior Coordinator

Michael McPhee
0438 053 318
michael_j_mcphee@hotmail.com

Blasters Manager

Bryan Hammer
0408 306 595
elsternwickjuniorcc@gmail.com

Other key contacts for the club are: -

President

John Dunnachie
0413 434 774
johnd@bikecorp.com.au

Secretary

Bryan Hammer
0408 306 595
elsternwickcc@gmail.com

The Club can also be contacted by mail or email: -

Elsternwick Cricket Club

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elsternwickcc@gmail.com

Further information can also be found on the club website: -

<http://www.elsternwickcc.com.au>

Or on Twitter, Facebook & Instagram

<https://twitter.com/elsternwickcc>

<https://www.facebook.com/thewickcc>

<https://www.instagram.com/elsternwickcc/>
