



Navy Blue Newsletter

December 2025



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



I hope this message finds you well and that you have had a great Xmas with family and friends and are looking forward to 2026.

The first half of the season for the men's VSDCA four sides has been the best we could ask for, with the firsts, thirds and fourths all sitting on top of their ladders and the seconds are second just 3 points off top spot.

The Saturday and Sunday fifths have been competitive, and I am sure they will climb their ladders in the second half of the season.

The women's team has been hit by injuries unfortunately making it hard to have a consistent team on the field this year. They are still improving each game and with several new players and training and I am sure some wins aren't far away.

The junior section of the club has been tremendously run by Raj and we have a number of these sides going to play finals as well. This year the coaching and training has stepped up another level. He has been ably supported by Bailey Peacock and the junior coaches.

There is a real buzz around the club whether it be at training, or each weekend, with numbers being the strongest they have ever been and spots in each eleven becoming more and more competitive as the season progresses.

There have been some outstanding performances with bat and ball across all elevens which has led to the current success of the sides, LJ Edwards has been the standout in making 593 runs including 3 hundreds.

Off the field the club has had a successful Games Night, Trivia Night and a great Xmas BBQ organized by the social committee.

I would just like to thank Robyn and John Christensen and Ray Street for the amount of time and effort that they have put in so far this season, a lot of you would see them doing so much around the club, but like Ray there is also so much done that you don't see them do.

Thanks all on the Committee for their hard work, it has been great to have everyone working hard to make the club successful both on and off the field. Special thanks to Cam, David, Matt and Raj for their work.

The second half of the season is where Premierships are won and successful teams play their best cricket, all the best to the Subby sides and to all the other teams representing the Eels enjoy your cricket and make sure you make plenty of runs and take plenty of wickets.

I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

John Dunnachie

President

SENIORS

Christmas Ladder Updates

Caulfield RSL 1 st Grade	1st
2 nd Grade	2nd
3 rd Grade	1st
4 th Grade	1st
Saturday XII	4th
Sunday XII	7th
Women's 1 st Grade	10th



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Women

The women's team has had a tough start to the year with some injuries but the team as a whole has improved each game. We are still falling short of getting a win, but have come incredibly close on 3 occasions so the win is just around the corner!

We have welcomed three new players this season - **Cath Fernando**, who has shown a willingness to be thrown in anywhere - including wicket keeping for the first time and taking a catch and a run out in that game! **Michaela George**, who only learned to bowl a few weeks ago and has already taken a wicket. Finally, **Pam Kallianiotis**, who has shown great courage in the field.

The standout player has been **Shannon Elphick** (pictured above) with 189 runs at an average of 63 (leading the division) and 8 wickets at 17 (equal third in the division).

The team has again been led very well by captain **Caroline Larcher** and Head Coach **Tom Collins** (who has been well assisted by Bailey Peacock)

Top 3 run scorers:

- **Shannon Elphick** 189 @ 63
- **Caroline Larcher** 99 @ 33
- **Cath Fernando** 64 @ 64

Top 3 wicket takers:

- **Shannon Elphick** 8 @ 17
- **Louise Tobin** 7 @ 24
- **Sharon Greenfield** 3 @ 54

Louise Tobin

Women's Director of Cricket



Men's 1st XI

After falling short by a wicket in the final over against Malvern in round 1, the 1sts have gone undefeated and sit 3 points clear on top of the ladder ahead of bayside rivals Brighton in second.

The team's success has come off the back of strong team bowling performances, and incredible start to the season from **LJ Edwards**, who needs just 45 runs to break the men's 1st XI season aggregate record, with 7 games to play! Not only is LJ averaging 119 with the bat, his 593 runs have come off just 402 balls, a strike rate of 148, and two of his hundreds have come against last year's premiers in Caulfield and Preston. Young Englishman **Will Tripcony** has also impressed with 191 runs and seems close to scoring a big one after many starts. The bowling trio of quicks **Jacob Kerr** and **Jack Phillips**, and English orthodox **Fahad Sabir** sit 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the league wicket tallies respectively and have formed a dynamic and threatening bowling group. Jacob (pictured above) is having a breakout season that has included career best figures of 7-27 against Plenty Valley. As scorer Ray Street frequently says, onwards and upwards.

Top 3 run scorers:

1. **LJ Edwards** 593 @ 119
2. **Will Tripcony** 191 @ 32
3. **Cameron Christiansen** 116 @ 116

Top 3 wicket takers:

1. **Jacob Kerr** 22 @ 12
2. **Jack Phillips** 20 @ 13
3. **Fahad Sabir** 20 @ 14

Men's 2nd XII

The seconds have had a somewhat frustrating first half of the season due to wash outs against Kew and Strathmore, but have set up their season with 5 strong wins and sit in 2nd place. Skipper **Lachy Baker** has once again led the way with the bat, getting starts in all but the T20 round, and going on with these starts to post three 50+ scores, including a terrific 127 against Plenty Valley. **Sam Groves** is hot on his heels with a hundred of his own against Preston to go with two 50s, and coach **Tom Collins** has shown his class in the middle order. **Calen Richmond** has continued his form from 2024/25, leading the attack with 13 wickets, with further contributions coming evenly from multiple sources.

Top 3 run scorers:

1. **Lachlan Baker** 298 @ 60
2. **Sam Groves** 246 @ 82
3. **Tom Collins** 97 @ 49

Top 3 wicket takers:

1. **Calen Richmond** 13 @ 16

2. **Bailey Dale** 7 @ 10

3. **Sam Groves** 7 @ 18

Men's 3rd XII

The men's 3rds have recorded an incredible 20 wins in a row! The streak, which started in round 4, November 2024, includes last year's premiership victory and a run of 8 straight wins to start season 2025/26 in the step up to division 1. Led by captains Max Nethercott and Tom Ashman, the 3rds sit 13 points clear on top of the ladder on 49 points. It's been an even contribution across the board, with 5 players scoring 100+ runs and 6 players taking 7+ wickets. Stand out performances with the bat include **Jensen Kelsey**'s 101 against Oakleigh in round 3, **Max Nethercott**'s 91 in the T20 round & **Raj Kuver**'s 86 against Malvern in Rd 2. Talented youngster (under 15) **Krish Talwar** scored his first 50 for the 3s in the T20 round and has made a number of solid contributions so far with the bat this season. With the ball, **Hayagreev Bashyam** took 6-18 off 9 against Caulfield, **Venkat Vijay** starred with 4-12 off 9 against Croydon, **Henry Bennett** ripped through Malvern with 4-17 off 7.2, **Sean Kingston** tore apart Oakleigh with 4-23 off 7, and **Raj Kuver** did Raj Kuver things with 4-15 off 6 against Balwyn.

Top 3 run scorers:

1. **Max Nethercott** 200 @ 67

2. **Raj Kuver** 138 @ 46

3. **Jensen Kelsey** 122 @ 122

Top 3 wicket takers:

1. **Tom Ashman** 10 @ 11

2. **Venkat Vijay** 9 @ 16

3. **Hayagreev Bashyam** 8 @ 9

Men's 4th XII

The super 4s sit four points clear on top of the ladder ahead of Oakleigh, the only team to defeat them this season, by a solitary wicket in round 3. A somewhat shaky 1 wicket win against Malvern in the T20 round is a bit of an outlier when it comes to the 4th XI victories, with commanding outright victory against Bayswater, a likely outright victory against Malvern that was denied by the weather, and a 10 wicket win against Croydon closer to the norm for the 4ths this season. Co-captains **Dec Harrington** and **Sud Sridhar** have been in the runs, and spin twins **Jimmy Collins** and **Steve Jackson** continue to terrorise 4th XI batters. Young guns **Max Glasic** and **Max Flavell** have shown serious promise thus far and will no doubt progress up the grades in 2026.

Top 3 run scorers:

1. **Declan Harrington** 122 @ 41
2. **Sudarshan Sridhar** 121 @ 24
3. **Harry Dassanayake** 80 @ 27

Top 3 wicket takers:

1. **James Collins** 14 @ 7
2. **Steve Jackson** 12 @ 11
3. **Max Glasic** 8 @ 9

Men's 5th XII Saturday

Our newest team has had a somewhat challenging start to the season, largely on the back of some, at times, confusing fixturing that has seen them play Mordialloc 3 times in their 8 matches. All three have resulted in victories, but the side are yet to crack a win against the other opposition, despite being highly competitive in every match. Captain **Neal Smith** has done a stellar job galvanising the group, with a number of new players joining the club in 25/26. These include **Ethan Hall**, **Yas Kariyawasam** and **Benji Copeland** who have impressed with the bat thus far. **Tim Fonda** has been a force with both bat and ball, taking 11 poles @ 6 and consistently picking up wickets, and has been well supported by **Ollie Rowland** and **Chas Gordon**. The Saturday 5ths sit in the top 4 and are well placed to make a run at finals in 2026.

Top 3 run scorers:

1. **Ethan Hall** 135 @ 27
2. **Yas Kariyawasam** 93 @ 47
3. **Jack Ridley** 83 @ 83

Top 3 wicket takers:

1. **Tim Fonda** 11 @ 6
2. **Ollie Rowland** 6 @ 10
3. **Chas Gordon** 5 @ 8

Men's 5th XII Sunday

The Sunday weather has presented a challenge for the Sunday 5ths who have missed 4 of a possibly 11 games due to washouts. They have picked up two wins and, like the Saturday 5ths, been largely competitive in all other encounters. The most stirring of their victories was against Bayside, a 7 wicket win that came on the back of young **Mitch Tiu's** first senior 50, new player **Ethan Hall's** 50 off 32 balls, and **Zach Peddersen's** 54 off 25 balls, **Steve Davey** also chipping in with 27 off 13 balls at the death. Skipper **Dylan Flavell**, **Noah Portelli** and **Tim Fonda** have all contributed with

50s during the season, and young **Joel Ambrose** nearly reached this milestone scoring 49 not out in round 3, a sign of things to come. **Haydn Thompson** and **Steve Davey** have been regular contributors with the bat thus far. Wickets have largely been shared around with no one taking more than a bag of 3, **James Devesey** and **Michael Davey** have been consistent, and you may have noticed that **Chas Gordon** has 6 wickets at 8, to go with his 5 wickets at 8 in the Saturday 5ths, an excellent season thus far.

Top 3 run scorers:

1. **Haydn Thompson** 118 @ 30
2. **Stephen Davey** 93 @ 23
3. **Dylan Flavell** 88 @ 22

Top 3 wicket takers:

1. **James Devesey** 7 @ 16
2. **Michael Davey** 7 @ 22
3. **Chas Gordon** 6 @ 8

Cameron Christiansen

Men's Director of Cricket

EELS IN THE LOCAL MEDIA

Edwards on record track after masterclass

Masterclass century inspires big win

Kerr named in metro melbourne team of the week

JUNIORS



The Elsternwick Junior Cricket Program has enjoyed an outstanding first half of the season, both on and off the field. From school-based programs at St Joseph's Primary School to having two teams sitting inside the top four on the ladder, it's been a terrific start for our cricketers.

Our program simply wouldn't run without the incredible support of our coaches, team managers, and parents who help prepare players week in week out. A huge thank you to everyone involved, your dedication has made the first half of the season fly by.

It has also been fantastic to see growing numbers in our Cricket Blast program, where the foundations of skill development and a love of the game are built. A big thank you to Cam Christiansen and Marshall Dray for leading these sessions and creating such a fun and engaging environment.

There have been some outstanding individual performances across the age groups:

- **U14s: Anant Sachdeva** smashed a brilliant 100* off just 57 balls
- **Rookies: Flynn Carter** impressed with a rapid 40 off 20 balls
- **U12 (2): Orlando Harrison** remains unbeaten this season, scoring 113 runs so far

Our U15 Development team has also seen an exciting transition, with Bailey Peacock stepping into the role of Head Coach. Bailey has received nothing but praise for his leadership and the way he challenges the group of 16 players to improve both on and off the field. Despite several matches being washed out, the team has recorded one win from three games played. This program is a vital pathway for the club, with many of our current senior players having come through this system.

The representative **JG Craig team** has been selected and training together since September. Coaches Tanish Bedi and Bailey Peacock have worked tirelessly with the group and believe the team is in a strong position both competitively and culturally. We're confident it will be a fantastic tournament and hope the players enjoy every moment of the experience.

Overall, the junior program has been a huge source of pride for the club this season. The future of

Elsternwick Cricket Club is bright, and we're excited to see what the rest of the season brings.

Raj Kuver

Junior Coordinator



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SOCIAL



The social sub-committee of Henry Bennett, Cooper Davies, Jack Phillips, Tom Cooper, Matt Littlechild, Robyn Christiansen, Ray Street, John Christiansen and MC Michael "Woodystock" Wood have brought us together for:

- a 'Super pairs Games night' (**Tanish Bedi** and **Calen Richmond** as sandpaper and **Cam Bancroft** pictured below),
- the annual Wickas dinner with special guest speaker Bryce McGain, expertly interviewed by **Dan Cherny**
- the Trivia night which took us on a psychedelic trip back to the 60s. It turns out, we don't know much about the 60s...
- and our X-Mas party which lasted long into the night





There is lots more to come off field as we move into the 2nd half of the season, put the following dates in your diaries! Ed is ready, are you?

- 14th Feb - Bayley House Bushrangers vs Elsternwick CC
- 17th Feb - Gary Rosewarne Cup (ECC vs EAFC T20)
- 7th Mar - Senior Vote Count
- 8th Mar - Eels Bash

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

As always, the Eels legion of volunteers pitching in to contribute off-field have been incredible in season 2025/26.

Robyn Christiansen has been nothing short of a marvel, coordinating selection dinners and events in addition to her role as treasurer.

Matt Littlechild has done a superb job across the club, including running the Eels Raffle which has been a lot of fun (for some more than others), and is an important fundraiser.

The legend that is Ray Street curates during the week, scores on the weekend and connects us to our past players and supporters with aplomb.

To these and all the many volunteers across the club, thank you so, so much. You are what makes our club such a special community to be involved in.





COMMUNITY NEWS

We're delighted to share some wonderful news from our playing family! A heartfelt congratulations to all our current and past players who have recently welcomed new additions to their families:

- LJ and Carra Edwards welcomed Nyah Edwards
- Lachy and Riley Baker welcomed Tobias James Baker
- Will and Eliza Long (along with chuffed grandparents David and Karen and Aunties Emily and Grace!) welcomed Mia Elizabeth Long
- Tim and Francine Bourke welcomed Sonny Francis Bourke

We'd also like to recognise former player Mackenzie Harvey on his Shield debut for South Australia, and Tom Paddington on his selection in the Victorian Metro Under 19 team and debut for St Kilda 1st XI.



Elsternwick Cricket Club's Head Coach, Tom Collins, is now offering personalised one-on-one coaching sessions. With 10+ years of coaching experience and a UK Level 2 qualification (currently completing Level 3), Tom works with players of all ages, abilities, and genders – from beginners developing fundamentals to advanced players fine-tuning their game. Whether you're looking to improve your technique, sharpen your match awareness, or build confidence at the crease, Tom's tailored approach ensures each session helps you reach your goals.

Contact 0466 912 212 or Tom.collins07@hotmail.co.uk Available weekdays and weekends by appointment



Fast-track your development with professional, pathway-level coaching from juniors through to adults. Bailey Peacock, drawing on his experience within the Somerset County Cricket Club Pathway, delivers high-quality sessions that build strong fundamentals, tactical clarity, and match-winning confidence. Bailey works with batters, bowlers, wicketkeepers, and all-rounders, helping players refine their technique, make smarter decisions under pressure, and perform with greater consistency on match day.

Rates 60 minutes | \$50 90 minutes | \$75 120 minutes | \$100

Contact 0490 808 712 Available weekdays and weekends by appointment.

Ready to elevate your game? Book a session now!

FUNDRAISING

The Toyota Good for Cricket Raffle is back, tickets are \$5 with all proceeds going directly to the club, and you could win one of three cars! Click on the image below to purchase your tickets in the draw.

You can get your very own Eel's branded Shiraz, 6 bottles for \$50, by emailing Club President John Dunnachie at johnd@bikecorp.com.au.

Return your bottles and cans to any container deposit scheme location, using the code

C20000039963 to raise 10c per bottle for the ECC.

Elsternwick CC has partnered with The Pass. Every dollar spent at a participating venue gives you access to a number of great inclusions and supports the Eels.

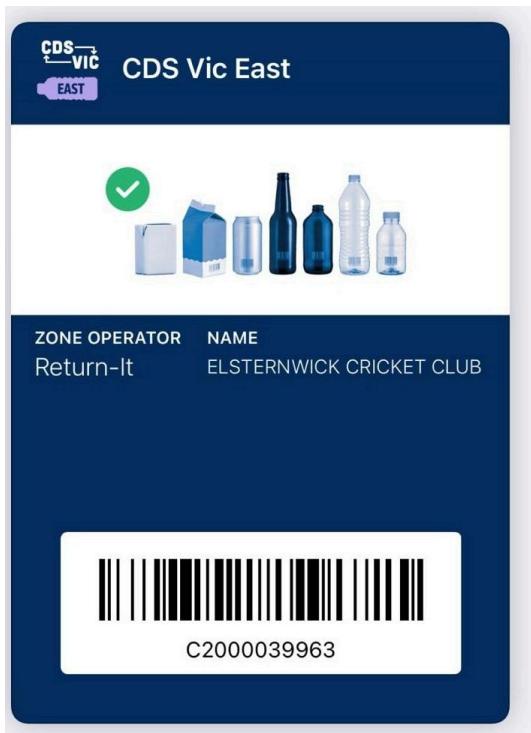


Good for Cricket Raffle

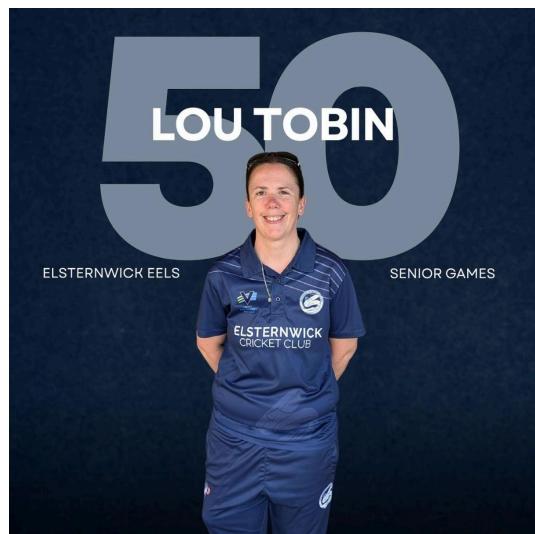
HELP US RAISE AND YOU COULD WIN!

We're fundraising with the Toyota Good for Cricket Raffle and we need your help. Tickets are just \$5 and 100% of proceeds go direct to the club. Plus every ticket sold puts you in the draw to win one of 37 prizes, including three brand new Toyota vehicles...

Now that's Good for Cricket.



GAMES MILESTONES



Congratulations to the following players who recently brought up milestones:

Patrick Hibberd played his 50th senior game in R6 against Kew on Saturday 22 and 29 November. Pat joined the club through the Craig shield, captaining that group in 21/22. Pat has worked his way through the junior and senior grades, playing a key role in the men's 3rd XI premiership campaign under the tutaledge of Zach Pedersen in 22/23, on his way to debuting at Men's 1st XI as player #648 in 24/25. He has scored 1359 runs at 27 including five 50s, and taken 68 wickets at 19 in all competitions. Yes Hib.

Dylan Flavell played his 50th senior game in R10 on Sunday 14 December against Bayside CC. Dylan has been an exceptional leader at the club since he joined, taking over from Ange Portelli as the captain of the men's Sunday 5th XI and building upon the fun and inclusive spirit of this side. He has made 1175 senior ECc runs at 38 including eleven 50s. Dylan on-field contributions have been matched by what he's been able to do off-field, playing a key role in developing future eels as

junior coach and team manager. It's people like Dylan that are the lifeblood of community and junior sport, congrats and thank you Dylan!

Pat Homberg played his 100th senior game in round 8 against Ormond on Saturday the 20 December. Pat, a two time men's 3rds XI premiership player, has a piled on 2055 runs at 25, striking at an impressive 115 runs per 100 balls. He has fifteen swashbuckling 50s and a 100 to his name, which includes a match winning 88 in the men's 3rds XI Grand Final in 2022/23. In 2024/25, he was named VSDCA 3rd XI Division 2 player of the season. Another who has made significant contributions off field in the junior coaching and social media spaces, people like Pat are heart and soul at the ECC. Congrats on your achievement Pat!



THE SWAMP PODCAST - SEASON 5





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