



# THE ACORN

SEASON 2021 ISSUE 3

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The weather was fantastic for football and we saw some big wins but also some big losses. Unfortunately, that is football!

Those with the big wins must always play with dignity and be gracious in those wins, those who had the big losses must keep trying until the final siren is sounded but also hold your heads up high after the game!

A big thanks to everyone who has been helping out at the club as it is great to see everyone happy and playing football.

The Oakleigh Dragons will be holding a Trivia Night soon in the clubrooms and we need 1 table per age group. Now is time to start talking about your tables and gathering numbers for your table. This night is for the parents only and a great way to meet and greet other parents within the Oakleigh Dragons football community/family.

Good luck this week and continue to play good honest Dragons football.

Pat Heverin

# GO DRAGONS

### 2021 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Pat Heverin  
Vice President: Vacant  
Secretary: Melita Keywood  
Treasurer: Tony Trent  
Registrar: Kane Leopold  
Child Safety Officer: Eloise Nidorfer  
Incident Co-ordinator: Sonya Moreland  
Compliance: Kathy McGeoch

Football Manager: David Cash  
Boys Coaching (Snr): Jeff Fortune  
Boys Coaching (Jnr): Gary Ryan  
Girls Coaching: Simon Greely  
Canteen Manager: Clancy Phillips  
Bar Manager: Vacant  
Property Officer: Michelle England

### 2021 MAJOR SPONSORS



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## MILESTONE GAMES!

### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

**CAMPBELL GREEN - U12 MIXED**



Having a milestone game?

Send details and photo to Kathy at [complianceOYCFC@gmail.com](mailto:complianceOYCFC@gmail.com)



## CANTEEN NEWS



Make sure you say hi to Clancy and the amazing canteen team when you're next at Scammell Reserve. Keep Cups available in the fabulous Oakleigh Dragons' green and gold for \$12 including your first hot drink free!



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If you have any photos you'd like in the next Acorn, please email them with a description to Kathy at [complianceOYCFC@gmail.com](mailto:complianceOYCFC@gmail.com)







### COACHES' REPORTS

#### U9 MIXED FERGAL HOURIHANE

This week we welcomed Prahran to our home ground in unseasonably warm conditions. The game was an arm wrestle from start to finish with Prahran holding on for an 8 point victory.

Our defence was excellent all day - led strongly by Finn and Cuan with strong efforts from all the other defenders - special mention to David in his first game who was excellent.

Our midfielders worked tirelessly all day - with great run and kick from Ethan and Masaki - special mention here to Harrison who didn't react to provocation and let his football do the talking.

It was a tough day for our forwards but they tried their best and kept showing for the ball and attempting to lock the ball in their zone - special mention to Paul who scored his first major.

We asked for "second efforts" today and we got that along with tenacity and controlled aggression. We have lots of little things to work on but this team has lots of potential.

Well done Boys!

#### U10 MIXED DAVID CASH

V St Kilda City Wattie Watson Reserve

A great test for our boys in the St Kilda wind on Sunday – the pressure on us was the most we have had on our team so far – kicking against the wind in the 1st Q had us down, but playing ok at the 1st break, the back line held up strongly but the repeated entries they had eventually got them a couple of goals.

In the 2nd Q we had some very good play and got the game back to a more even contest, the opposition were a bit stronger than previous teams we played both in skills and body strength, but we matched them and won the quarter nicely with a couple of goals ourselves.

In the 3rd Quarter they had the wind again and although we got the ball into our forward line once or twice, we couldn't quite get it across the line at our end, and unfortunately, they kept scoring well with the wind.

The last quarter we were set to come home strong, and although we had most of the ball in our forward half, we couldn't peg back the deficit.

Overall, the team had some great learnings from the game especially after our 2 previous wins, I think the loss, although the boys were disappointed, will be beneficial for all involved to keep our feet well grounded. They played well and we all should be very proud of them, they didn't lose their cool and all the players should keep their heads held high.

We will continue to move all the players through all the zones on the ground, as I think it's important that they learn all parts of the ground – and we stuck to our plan of moving the players each quarter to ensure everyone gets a fair go in each area.



### U11 MIXED YELLOW MARK D'ROZARIO

The Under 11 Yellow had a close game at Walter Galt Reserve in Parkdale. The smaller ground suited the team and the game swayed with each quarter and was tight until the end. The tackle pressure from everyone in the team was terrific.

Paul was great in defence and Cameron did a fantastic lock down role on the opposition's best player. Harland was an everywhere man kicking 2 goals running from half back. Kavya is only in his third game but he was showing a lot more confidence in the contests and showing a lot more fight for the ball.

Fionn played in all positions and kicked a cracking goal from the boundary and showed great run all day. Archie and Oli kicked lovely goals for the team from hard running. Ali was terrific in the contests as was Oli. Darcy Ryan was the clearance king again getting the ball out of packs with a quick kick on several occasions. Max and Jethro showed glimpses of brilliance with overhead marks and quick ball movement. Troy gave a lot of good contests and Liam filled in for us and was terrific at full forward. Darcy Moreland was the star of the day. Defensively and attacking he didn't put a foot wrong and played an all-round great game.

Peter D and I were very happy with how the boys played and were amazed at their efforts.

Most importantly, a big thanks to Jean, and the team of parent helpers.

Go Dragons!

### U12 MIXED ANDREW GREEN

The Under 12's played at Scammell Reserve today in sunny and warm conditions against Ormond. Both teams were so far undefeated, so this was going to be a challenge and with a limited bench the boys were going to play a full game. Oakleigh Under 12's fought hard and came away with the 1 goal win, with a score of 35 to 29.

The competition was very hard and the boys had to dig deep to maintain composure in the positions around the ground to ensure there were no gaps.

The second quarter started very well with an amazing string of plays which was very pleasing to watch. However, by the end of the 2nd quarter we had leaked 3 goals and scores were even. As they say it's a game of 4 quarters and in this case just playing the complete quarter.

The boys dug deep and tackled hard which certainly stopped Ormond from getting the break on any plays and we held on to a win.

With the bigger grounds, more space and no zones the boys are concentrating on the positions on the ground and how to use them. This is slowly but surely coming together.

A great team effort.

Also a big thank you to all the parents who help.



### U12 GIRLS TONY WARD

Oakleigh Dragons v SPMJFC Peter's Doggies

We played at home against SPMJFC Peter's Doggies, and while we had a loss the previous round against the Caulfield Bears, based on the way we trained, I was pretty confident that we would put in a good showing.

We had 12 girls available for the game, which was fantastic – we had more girls than the opposition! A tremendous welcome to Alicia, Kiana and Semira, who joined the team and played their first game for the Dragons.

Coming into this game, we were one win and one loss against an opposition that had lost their initial two games to start the season. So I was expecting a good, hard and close contest.

There were many key objectives that we talked about before the game:

- Effort, pressure and tackling.
- Be first to the ball. Play in front.
- Look for our teammates. Kick to space to our teammates' advantage.
- Help, support and back up your teammates
- Encourage and talk

We named Maddi as captain for the day, and we lost the toss and commenced the game kicking against the breeze.

On a pretty windy day, the game was very much in the balance all day, with the scores being quite close for most of the contest. As with the previous two games, the girls worked hard, put the effort in, pressured the opposition and tackled hard. Through hard work and effort, the girls were rewarded by winning the game against a very committed and determined opponent. Well done.

All the girls, as with the previous two games, put in the required effort and played well:

- As mentioned, we had three girls playing their first game for the club - Alicia, Kiana and Semira – you all should be very proud of your efforts. With more training and more match play, you will only improve!
- Elaine, Maddi and Thalia spent most of their day in the back zone and worked exceptionally well together in a cohesive back zone unit. The girls are starting to understand and embrace how we want them to play the back zone and how they need to move the ball from the back to mid zone – so well done.
- Sienna started in the forward zone and kicked two goals but then moved into the mid-zone. She teamed up with Tess and Zoe (who both had fantastic games) and combined exceptionally well. As a mid-zone, the girls worked extremely hard and were able to work well both offensively and defensively. I was delighted with how hard the girls worked in this zone.
- Camryn (one goal), Skye (one goal), and Tash (three goals) spent the majority of the day in the forward zone. All girls worked extremely hard to keep pressure on the opposition backs, keep the ball in our forward zone, and to kick seven goals on a pretty windy day was a great effort. My highlight for the day was Skye kicking a goal - that had the whole crowd pumped – well done, Skye.





Overall, I thought the attitude was fantastic this week. As the experts say, “you play as you train”, and we trained well on Friday, and the results were there for all to see. Well done, girls.

Next week we play against East Brighton Vampires JFC, who have won two games and lost one, the same position as us – this will be another big challenge – one which I hope the girls are looking forward to - bring on round 4!

Final Scores:

Oakleigh: 7.6.48

SPMJFC Peters Doggies: 5.3.33

Best Players: Team Effort

Goals: Tash 3, Sienna 2, Camryn 1, Skye 1

### U13 MIXED DARREN GRENFELL

**Opponent:** Home game vs Hampton Rovers AFC

**Result:** Oakleigh Dragons won 71 - 38

**Match Day Captain:** Oscar

**The Match in a paragraph:** What a super effort. Short on numbers (at times down to only 14 on the ground), the boys put their heads down and played some terrific football. Kicking with the wind in the first quarter the team put through four goals to grab a good lead that they would not surrender for the day. A vastly improved effort on bending down and picking up the ball rather than kicking off the ground, and overall better team positioning, saw a very brave and determined Dragons' victory.

**Special mentions from the game:**

- Dean, Patrick and Jacob for their wall like defence, particularly in the first half.
- Mitch's run down tackle in the second quarter.
- The dangerous pairing of Oliver and Rayaana in a new look forward line, continually marking and winning possession of the ball despite being outnumbered.
- Mitch's first run down tackle in the third quarter.
- Tom, Seb, Dean, Oscar and Ethan's willingness to run and carry the ball.
- Mitch's second (and best) run down tackle in the third quarter, dragging down the opposition's best player right in front of the Dragons' roaring supporters.
- The theatrical, and often amusing, goal umpiring performance put on by Tony. And with so many points kicked in the match, he certainly had plenty of chances to work on his craft.
- Thanks to Elliot from the Under 12's for filling in again.

**Goal Scorers:** Oliver (4), Mitch (2), Ethan, Jacob, Rayaana



### U14 MIXED TIM MORELAND

There was one key message I wrote on our whiteboard after the game - "Great Team Effort"...

We came up against East Malvern at DW Lucas Oval today and with a 156 point win it was an absolute pleasure to watch the lads play some fantastic clean running footy. We may not have had the pressure of past weeks, however all of the things we work on at training was on display for all 4 quarters.

We made plenty of rotations in different positions and we saw some outstanding play. Our first half centre clearance dominance through Jake, Bailey, Stevie, Theo & Yanni was awesome and continued to drive the ball into our forward line with clean regularity.

We tried a few things off half back and Georgios and Ethan racked up running possessions contributing as extra mid fielders.

Jack A & Jack W ran all day and again supported the mid field attack in the first half. We span a few through the wing and Ryan T & Aiden's follow up second efforts was immense even with minutes to go in the game.

Raffa was put up forward in the first half and showed his class with some solid grabs finishing off with a couple of goals. It was awesome to see Lachie kick his first goal for a while after a strong mark deep forward. Matt F heat for the contest was obvious and he had a hand in several goal scoring opportunities. In the last quarter Nicho presented forward and was hit up on a couple of occasions which is exactly what we're looking for.

Henry's run from half back was good to watch and there was no way the opposition was scoring with the intensity and effort of Max, Robbie and Zed.

Isaac was immense in multiple positions and worked hard all day. Mason ran himself into the ground as always and was awesome, Christian gave us an injury scare before the game however came on as a lively option and Nick F finished off his defensive game with a great running goal in the last quarter.

Our running link up play and support of one another all day was a credit to the lads and Tim, Bruce and I at times were just enjoying the game play and creative team footy. It was awesome to watch so well done to all and we look forward to next week in continuing our improvement.

Go Dragons!

### U14 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

It was a cracking day for our girls to head down to Malvern. After getting help from Sienna Leopold from the Under 12's and borrowing 2 girls from the opposition we took to the field.

1st quarter, we came out flying, with the great pressure applied from Poppy and Mia we kept the ball locked in our forward line, we had snagged 3 goals in no time when the ball went down to our backline a huge save from Jessica kept Malvern scoreless for the quarter.



2nd quarter saw much of the same pressure and with that came another 2 goals, so going into the big break we skipped out to a 5-goal lead.

3rd quarter, and I asked the girls to lift as we lost Chelsea, our ruck, to a netball tournament. Thanks for playing the first half and dominating the ruck. I turned to Nicole to take on the ruck duties and she definitely came to the party. Together with sister Fiona, they rucked for the second half and did a fantastic job. Scoring was very even in that quarter.

4th quarter and the poor girls really started to tire. The warm day and the fact that we have no bench has taken a toll on the girls late in the last two games. I couldn't have been prouder as all of them never ever gave up and again kept retaliating every Malvern forward entry. Led by our fullback and captain Eva together with Ella and everyone else pushing back, we ran out winners 42-24.

Well done girls!!

### U15 BOYS JOHN McLAUGHLIN

Opponent: Ormond FC Away Game

Result: Oakleigh Dragons lost by 92 points

Another great day for footy and our first visit to Ormond JFC was an exciting time as we were having our first game in Division 2. We knew it was going to be a real challenge for the team.

We, like Ormond, started with the bare minimum 18 players. There was a 3-4 goal breeze blowing away from the grandstand. Ormond won the toss and kicked with the wind. We soon discovered that the standard of footy our opposition was playing was higher than we had encountered previously. By half time they had secured a lead of 32 points.

The boys tried hard, but the scoreboard pressure was too much in the end and we were soundly defeated. We stuck to our game plan and there were definite signs that we can play at this level, we saw patches of this on Sunday, and hopefully with more consistency in the future. We believe we will be able to learn from this immediately. We will come together at training and look forward to playing our rivals Waverley Park Hawks on Sunday.

Special mentions from the game:

- All the boys tried hard and had the courage not to give up on the day. The boys were disappointed after the game, but the coaching panel is positive we will improve at this level.
- Tommy H and Oscar M worked hard all day playing on the ball for most of the game
- Billy R was good again playing forward and in the ruck against some tall and agile players.
- Pan, who after being out of football for several years, was our only multiple goal scorer.
- Alex H and Jackson D proved again they will be real assets to this team.
- The spirit within the group is really developing and this loss will not dampen the boy's enthusiasm

See all the boys at training his week. We look forward to the challenges ahead.





### U16 GIRLS SIMON GREELY

Under 16 Girls – Round 3 – vs Port Melbourne – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

We went to Port Melbourne on another beautiful Sunday afternoon with 20 players ready to give their best after a spirited training session last Friday. Port Melbourne, unfortunately, had 4 players who I wouldn't mind betting will come into AFLW draft calculations in about 2 years, and they controlled the match, along with their 6 next best players who still played at a high level too.

Even though we were clearly outmatched we did not give in and continued to do the best we could for 4 quarters. There were a couple of passages of play that were really positive and hopefully after re-grading at the end of Round 4 we will be competitive on the scoreboard again.

Two 100+ point losses in a row would deflate most teams, but this bunch were reasonably upbeat after the match and we look forward to more learning and improvement at training and in the matches to come.

Score: Oakleigh 0.0.0 Port Melbourne 22.11.143

Better contributors: Daisy, Ashlee, Britney, Giselle and Freya.

### U17 BOYS FABIAN AMEDEO

The boys started off really well with multiple entries in the forward line. Unfortunately they didn't convert enough to get reward for their hard work. In the second quarter it was all Highett taking advantage of the wind and kicking 5 goals for the term.

It was a warm Autumn day and the boys were feeling it. However they came out in the third quarter and played some terrific football. Unfortunately we couldn't keep it going in the last quarter and Highett kicked away. There were some really solid performances from our boys with Sid Fortune dominant all day. Josh Mohammad put his silky skills on display as did Sam Ison in the center. Jimmy was dynamite on the wing and never stopped running. Sammy McKenzie made a welcome return to the club with a solid display.



### SMOKE-FREE

By law, smoking is banned within 10 metres (about two car lengths) of any public outdoor sporting venue during an organised under-18s event.

The ban includes training or practice sessions to prepare for an organised under-age sporting event, and breaks or intervals during the course of the event, training or practice session.



### GRUB AT THE CLUB SCHEDULE

Subject to change during the season depending on game times, your Team Manager will keep you posted.

**Don't forget – Grub's Gone Green! BYO plates and cutlery.**

Date	U8 & U9	U10	U11-U13	U14+	Holidays	Grub at the Club
18-Apr	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1		U14 Mixed
25-Apr	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Anzac Day	U11 Mixed
2-May	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3		
9-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Mother's Day	
16-May	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5		U16 Girls & U18 Girls
23-May	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6		U15 Boys
30-May	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7		
6-Jun	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8		U17 Boys
13-Jun	NO GAMES				Queen's Birthday	
20-Jun	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9		U12 Mixed & U13 Mixed
27-Jun	NO GAMES				School Holidays	
4-Jul	NO GAMES				School Holidays	
11-Jul	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10		U12 Girls & U14 Girls
18-Jul	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11		
25-Jul	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12		U10 Mixed
1-Aug	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13		
8-Aug	Round 14 / LC	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14		U9 Mixed
15-Aug		Round 15 / LC	Round 15	Round 15		
22-Aug			Semi Finals	Semi Finals		
29-Aug			Grand Finals	Preliminary Finals		
5-Sep				Grand Finals	Father's Day	

