



THE ACORN

SEASON 2023 ISSUE 10

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Team,

Thanks again to the U16 & U18 Girls Teams for hosting Grub. It was great to see families back at the Club after our break. Thanks to everyone involved in another great night.

Grill'd Community Jar month has unfortunately been changed from July. We are hopeful that it will be rescheduled for September. Watch this space and hold on to your Awesome Effort Awards until we have it 100% confirmed. We are sorry for the confusion around the dates.

For the older teams that have upcoming nights booked with Movembers "Ahead of the Game" or "Mental Fitness" sessions, these are compulsory. Any player unable to attend their allocated session should speak with their Coach in the first instance. These will be located in the Bowls Club right next door.

July is Women's Coaching Month! There is more info below, however, I wanted to say the increase from 2 all girls teams in 2022 to 4 in 2023 is amazing and we have our first Female Parent Coach, which is just fantastic. Since the inception of the AFLW, 7 seasons in 6 years, participation has increased in women's and girls football by nearly 200%. Let's keep the momentum and see where we can get to.

Team Photo schedules have been emailed out to you all. If you haven't received this yet from your Team Manager, please contact them directly. Please arrive no later than 10 minutes prior to your scheduled time with Green shorts, clean boots and officials in their bibs. There is a tight turn-around between photos, so please ensure you are on time and ready to go. Don't forget to pack your White Shorts too if you're off to an away game!

In conjunction with the AFL/SMJFL and Auskick there is an upcoming "Unders Program". This program is designed to be a feed in to Junior Clubs by giving players game day experience over 4 matches (scheduled for August), as a lead in to Under 8's in a Junior Club. The Club will be donating some size 6 green shorts to the Oakleigh Auskick Centre. If anyone has any no longer used, clean, size 8 Green shorts to donate to these players and give them a head start to their future careers at Dragonland, please drop them off at the Club.

Get behind the club and buy some tickets for the Toyota Good for Footy raffle. All proceeds go towards our club!

Lastly, a great fundraising effort by the U18 Boys in their push up challenge and thank you to the community that contributed.

Have a fun and safe Round 11 and see you all back at Grub when the U14 boys host on 30 July. Go Dragons!

Brodie Phillips, President

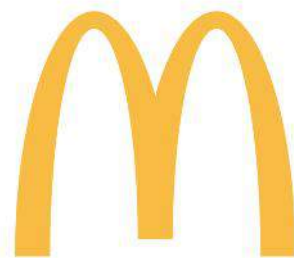
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FACEBOOK Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club **INSTAGRAM** @oakleigh_dragonsjfc



TEAM PHOTOS THIS SUNDAY

All team photos are being taken this coming Sunday, 23 July.

- All photos are taken at Scammell Reserve
- You MUST be there 10 minutes before your scheduled photo time or risk missing out
- Full game day gear including GREEN SHORTS and clean footy boots
- Bring white shorts with you if you're playing away and need to change
- No visible undergarments under your jumper (skins under shorts OK, but not full length)
- DON'T BE LATE!

U13 YELLOW	●	7.00AM
U9 YELLOW	●	7.30AM
U10 GREEN	●	7.45AM
U14 BOYS	●	8.15AM
U9 GREEN	●	8.45AM
U13 GREEN	●	9.00AM
U10 YELLOW	●	9.15AM
U16 BOYS	●	9.45AM
U14 GIRLS	●	10.00AM
U12 GIRLS	●	11.15AM
U18 BOYS	●	11.45AM
U18 GIRLS	●	12.00PM
U16 GIRLS	●	12.30PM
U11 MIXED	●	1.15PM



Team Photos

**SUNDAY
23 JULY**

Scammell Reserve



GET BEHIND THE CLUB & YOU COULD WIN BIG!

This year the Oakleigh Dragons are participating in the Toyota Good For Footy raffle. Tickets are just \$5 and all proceeds go to the Dragons. There are some amazing prizes up for grabs, including three new Toyotas. Head to toyotagoodforfooty.raffletix.com.au and search for Oakleigh JFC, or click on the link toyotagoodforfooty.raffletix.com.au/oakleighdragons



TOYOTA

GOOD FOR FOOTY

RAFFLE

*Support Oakleigh JFC and you could win
with the Toyota Good for Footy Raffle.
Tickets are just \$5 and
100% of the proceeds go to Oakleigh JFC.
There's \$252,846 in prizes up for grabs, including
three new Toyotas!*

toyotagoodforfooty.raffletix.com.au
Oakleigh JFC





July is AFL's women's coaching month!

At the Oakleigh Dragons, we are passionate about increasing the number of women and girls who are coaching our junior teams.

This year, we have a record number of girls playing across 4 teams and only one female parent Coach. We want to continue to grow the number of girls playing and women/girls coaching at the Oakleigh Dragons.

We are looking for Mum's, Aunties and current players from our under 16 and under 18 girls teams who are interested in coaching to get involved. There are a number of roles available if you are interested, such as; Coach, Assistant Coach, Development Coach plus part time roles. You don't need previous experience, as long as you're willing to give it a go and learn.

There will be support provided by the club (John Bernardo – Girls Coaching Coordinator/Under 16s Girls Coach and Justine Leopold – Under 14s Girls Coach) to ensure that you have the skills, support and confidence you need.

If you are interested, please reach out to John Bernardo (0411 795 274), Justine Leopold (0404 843 040) or David Cash (0408 822 339) to have a chat.



Special training session for U16 & U18 Girls

The U16 and U18 Dragons trained with the Women's Krushers team on Tuesday night this week.

Peter Francis, the 1979 VFL Carlton Premiership player and father of Krushers men's coach Jimmy Francis, ran training for the girls.

Peter has been involved with the Gippsland Power AFL team for the last 25 years and had plenty of good advice. The girls all enjoyed a change of scenery and participated in some different drills.





COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED GREEN JAKE BENOITON

A tough day for our boys, who faced the prospect of a forfeit if not for the support of a few of our Under 9 Yellow pals. A big thanks to Boyd, Brodie, Thien and Sam for helping ensure we got a game underway. We took on a very good St Bede's team who had an experienced edge on our lads we just couldn't bridge. I put the onus on the boys at halftime not to let the game just fade away and to their credit they stuck at the task for the remainder of the game. A long season seems to be wearing on our boys a little bit at the moment and some key absentees never helps.

Couldn't be prouder of the effort of the lads though who stuck to our pressure game and battled away. We seem to be a little bit bereft of luck in front of goal over the past six games as well but that will hopefully change sooner rather than later.

U9 MIXED YELLOW DANIEL AITKEN

We took on East Brighton at Scammell Reserve and with 4 late withdrawals on the morning of the game due to sickness unfortunately we went in undermanned again.

After a few weeks off with school holidays, the way the boys started the game was brilliant with lots of forward entries and great pressure across the ground by all. We couldn't convert the effort on the scoreboard but at quarter time I made mention to the boys to continue going and the scoreboard would take care of itself.

Across the next two quarters that's exactly what took place with multiple goals kicked by Bodhi, Koby and Max. Unfortunately, being short a couple of players versus the opposition, wore our boys down in the last quarter, however I was super impressed with the fight and determination right the way to the final siren.

Lots of positives to take forward for the remaining three games, let's go Dragons!!!

U10 MIXED GREEN ALEX O'BRIEN

On a great morning for football we faced AJAX at Scammell Reserve. After a couple of weeks off due to school holidays we were a bit rusty early on and as the game went our passages of play improved and made more of our opportunities later in the game.

It was a well contested game by both us and AJAX and well done by everyone where at the end of the game we sang our song loud and proud. Well done to Thomas E, David, Ethan, Thommy M and Archer (Captain for the week) on putting in solid performances.

The pressure all over the ground was there from the start with Harvey, Rishabh, Deon, Tyler, Ben, Greg and Kai on combining well in their varying positions they played to defend well and move the ball forward to create plenty of opportunities for our forwards. James, Max B and Maison were great targets up forward and made the most of their opportunities.

A special mention to Ollie, Krishiv and Koby from the under 9s for helping us out to make up 18 players for the day.

It was great to see us play more as a team as the game went on and let's continue to do that for the rest of the year. Go Dragons.



U10 MIXED YELLOW RICK DAVIES

We played in perfect conditions at East Malvern against a strong opposition.

It was great to have a full squad which resulted in us putting in a spirited performance.

Hamish was a key player in the midfield and in the last quarter moved forward setting up a goal for Seth.

Josh and Bronx were on a wing each in the first half and both played their best games for the club. They spread the ground that allowed us to move the ball forward.

Another competitive game for the team and looking to reproduce that effort again next week.

Captains Hamish and Cameron (pictured)



U11 MIXED ALLEN COOK

It was great to be back on our home ground today at Scammell on a perfect day for footy.

The boys always seem to lift when playing at home and we needed to be at our best coming up against one of the stronger sides in our league in Prahran.

We play a brand of strong, contested footy which always keeps us in the game and we encourage the boys to back themselves, use their speed and share the ball into space. These are our standards and today we asked a bit more.

Key focuses for the day were getting first hands on the footy and everyone making Repeat Efforts to help their teammates win the ball back off the opposition. Very proud to say that the boys did what we asked.

We controlled the footy in our half for large portions of the game but the opposition made scoring difficult by flooding our forward line and blocking up space so we weren't able to find that last connecting mark within scoring distance. On multiple occasions, our Repeat Effort focus was on display and looked at its best when we won the ball back and transitioned forward by running in numbers and sharing it with smart handballing.

The best example of this was a repeat effort chase and tackle from William on the wing to win the ball back. He moved it quickly on to Finn who passed it to Harrison who then passed it forward to a dangerous position in the pocket. Leo then swooped and slotted a beautiful running goal from a tough angle.

We were right in it at half-time but a few of our boys were showing signs of tiring. Unfortunately, we lost one of our leaders and most physical players; Alex to injury early in the 3rd quarter so had no bench. Losing Alex rattled the boys a bit but they eventually regained their composure and got back to work.

Again we started to control the footy and locked it in our forward line when Spyros was rewarded for his efforts with a nice goal. All over the ground, the boys kept working for each other by repeatedly chasing and tackling but the opposition was cleaner with their ball use and much stronger in the air which was probably the difference and we went down by a few goals.



Great effort from ALL of the boys today with the main standouts being William, Ambrose, Matty, Masaki, and another fantastic 4 quarters from Finn.

Plenty to work on boys. See you at training.

Go Dragons!!

U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

On a beautiful sunny afternoon at Scammell we hosted Hampton Rovers, a team that beat us by 10 points in torrid conditions back in late May on a sodden Princes Highway Reserve.

On this occasion though, like the weather, our girls shone. With just 13 players on a full ground and no bench we asked for a big effort and did they ever deliver.

In a tight first quarter that, despite some relentless Dragons pressure, had yielded just two behinds it was Kiana that emerged from a crowded pack to boot the first goal with just 16 seconds left on the clock.

We started the second quarter as we ended the first. Ruby and Olivia were relentless in midfield, effecting turnovers and allowing Miette to drive forward, delivering balls deep into our forward line. Jess was everywhere, bouncing between defensive duties and running the ball through the middle of the ground. Skye, back fresh after injury, peppered the goal with shot after shot kicking four straight behinds, including two posters. She hadn't quite fully calibrated those shooting boots...yet.

In the final minutes of the first half the inevitable Hampton fightback came but they got no joy from a resolute back line as Greta, Lavinia and Semira tackled hard and marked anything in their air space. The Dragons took their 10 point lead into the long break.

Some rotations for the second half to freshen up a tired midfield group kept the Dragons on the front foot. Sophia was tireless in the ruck, consistently winning the hit outs that were gobbled up and thrust forward by Bonnie, Ruby and Stella. Skye was now finely tuned, ghosting in from the wing to kick two marvellous goals. The only dark clouds in a fantastic quarter was an injury to a courageous Ruby that would rule her out for the rest of the game.

In the final term the Dragons finished the job. Another goal for Skye to give her figures of 3.5 for the day and a well improvised goal for small forward Vicki to continue her impressive goal kicking run. In their best performance of the season the girls won the game by 36 points, keeping the opposition goalless and catapulting the team into third place on the ladder.

U13 MIXED YELLOW DAVID CASH

It was a sunny and warm afternoon game for the boys this week, with everyone at the ground ready to play. Chris spent some time before the game explaining the roles in different positions to help everyone have a good clear understanding of what we wanted as a team. I just asked them to "Have a Crack" again this week. The boys were keen and enthusiastic, and they came to play football.

As a coaching group, our aim is to get every single player playing the best football they can, and to continue to help them develop their skills and understanding of the game. There is no doubt in my mind that the players that put the time in (at training and away) continue to improve every single week.



There were many players this week that played the best game I have ever see them play, and as a team the "Never Give up" attitude of the group was on show big time, we didn't have a lot of luck on the score board, but in the last minute of the game we created 2 goal chances that didn't quite come off.

The middle line from our Club Song is **"We'll never weaken 'til the final siren's gone"**. And that is exactly what our team was like this week. The Boys should be all very proud of their efforts and hold their heads up high.

U13 MIXED GREEN TIM MORELAND

Coming back from our school holiday hiatus saw us take on St Kilda City/Port Melbourne in Elwood. Great conditions for footy and we really showed our continued improvement with fast quick hands and ball movement. Our team CARE focus resulted in a very comfortable win against an opposition we rate highly.

Harland, Curtis and Will were injury outs for us so it was great to provide an opportunity for Jaron, Hugo and Liam who were key contributors all day. It was a really pleasing team effort across the ground and we saw best games from a number of the boys today. Archie, Johnny, Troy and Heath stood up and worked hard all day. All played significant roles and applied plenty of forward pressure.

Our backs continue to lock down and repel opposition attacks so they're doing a great job. James, Oscar and Darcy R wore their opponents like gloves and contested hard all day. As we were down a couple of players we had to shuffle the magnets around which saw Cam go back for the game. He did a great job adjusting and contributed to several rebound attacks. Aidan controlled his defensive position well reading the play and Cooper lifted playing across the wing for majority of the game. Harrison continues to improve each game and his run and carry was noticeable providing several attacking moves. Paul was very handy in multiple positions. Tyler's hands from contests is impressive and he continues to work hard for his team mates.

Kaleb was awesome today both in the Ruck and forward providing several long kicking attacks. We know he can play in several positions so well done mate. Andrew's link up running attacks was great to watch and he continue to drives forward from stoppages. Tommy and Darcy M were great today providing leadership across the ground all game. Both controlled multiple facets of the game by not only hitting the score board, but providing several aerial contests.

We're really liking the way we're putting things together. Our challenge is to keep on improving and proving consistency when we go out to play each week. A really good team effort today...

Go Dragons 

U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

We played Waverley Hawks at Columbia Park. Playing our first game in 4 weeks due to the bye then school holidays, it was a lethargic start to say the least, finding ourselves 3 goals to none down at quarter time. But like many times this year, when the coaches push the button, these girls find something and their effort in the next 3 quarters were sensational.

Aside from allowing the opposition only one more goal after quarter time, we gave the forward line a lot of opportunities to score however we missed a few important opportunities to get goals on the board and the 3.6 to 4.2 score-line was the difference in the end, going down by 2 points in a frenetic last quarter where we surged forward but they kept repelling.

Goal kickers - Sienna, Lucy, Yana



Notables:

- Misaki - what a fantastic game. Covered a lot of territory and got plenty of the ball. Opposition coach's award was deserved.
- Elaine - and I quote "geez she's everywhere today", played your heart out.
- Sienna - another tough gritty game from this onballer.
- Zoe & Cam - both thrust into the backline and saved many certain scoring opportunities for the opposition.
- Lucy, Yana, Serana and all the forwards, keep doing what you're doing.

Heads up girls. We know that if we put in a full 4 quarters, we will trouble sides. It was a superb effort considering the gap between games.

Bring on Cheltenham at Princes Hwy.

U14 MIXED MARCUS SPENCER

We played against: Murrumbeena/St Peters At: Murrumbeena Park

We entered the home stretch of the season knowing that we had a challenging run of games against the top teams coming up. Murrumbeena/St Peters are one of the teams we are battling with to make finals, which made this a really important game.

Once again we started slowly and gave up the first two goals of the game. Rather than looking refreshed after our two week break from playing, we looked a bit tired and lethargic. It took until late in the first quarter for us to register our first goal and that gave us some hope going into the second.

In the second quarter we began to take control of the game in terms of possessions and territory but we could not put that advantage on the scoreboard. Our midfield got on top and was able to provide plenty of opportunities for our forwards, but this did not translate to scores and we went to half time down by 11 points.

We finally started to get reward for effort in the third quarter. Campbell and Josh were dominating in the middle of the ground and Hunter moved into the forward line to take advantage of that. The backline held strong, with Mitch, Lachie, Henry and Adam working together to keep Murrumbeena/St Peters goalless for the quarter. We added 3.2 for the quarter and went into the last quarter 5 points in front.

But as the saying goes, as the game goes longer, big players don't get shorter. That was particularly true of this game as the 6 foot 5 ruckman from M/St P took over. The efforts of the second and third quarter seemed to take its toll on our players and we could not stop him taking marks at will. He was able to drift forward and kick three goals for the quarter and that was pretty much the game.

The loss leaves us outside the four on % and this week we face the undefeated AJAX team. A huge challenge, but one we will attack with gusto. With five games to go, we will need to win four of them to figure in the finals this year.

U16 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

Oakleigh 1-5-11 Ormond 2-7-19

A cracking day met us at E E Gunn Reserve for our match against the winless Ormond. And as I told the girls in the pre-game speech, these are the danger games. Football is definitely a mind game and Ormond did it better. We had moments of good footy with Bonnie giving us the lead with a first quarter goal. The girls battled on all day but Ormond ground us down and eventually took the lead. Emily was a warrior, Fiona did an exceptional roll in the ruck as did Ruby in the last quarter and Bonnie and Chanel presented all day.



U16 BOYS ZAC BARRETT / MASON ANSELL

This round saw the Dragon's under 16's team travelling to Port Melbourne to take on the amalgamated Port & South Melbourne team on their home deck. Both teams were coming off the two week break ready to start the second half of the season with a bang. Clever play and aggressive movement saw the Dragons forge ahead after the first break. The Second term saw a much more even contest with Port Souths managing to close the deficit and ignite a hot contest. This term saw a lot more physicality from both teams. Despite this, Oakleigh managed to hold on to a slight lead at the half time break.

Oakleigh emerged from the sheds after halftime motivated to stamp control on the match. The halftime rev-up must have worked as Oakleigh managed to pile on 8 goals to 2 in the premiership quarter.

The final term saw a weary Oakleigh side ready to take all that their opponent could throw at them. Whilst Port South's enjoyed the scoring end in the last term, they were able to kick 4 quick goals to start the quarter. This quick scoring made for some nervous moments at the end of the match. However, the Dragons were able to score a couple of goals of their own to finish out the contest in front.



The Dragons now have a couple of wins on the trot and a great opportunity to position themselves well for the second half of the season.

U17 BOYS JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

Result: Oakleigh Dragons lost by 34

What we know is that this is a very competitive division, and we must be near our best every game to get the win. The game was very entertaining and a high-pressure game. The score board did not show the tightness of the game with a few late goals to the home team.

The first quarter was a good indication of what was to follow for the remaining quarters. Both teams crashed in hard for the contested ball and the tackling was good by both teams. We seemed to struggle going forward at times and that hurt us in the end. Very unlike our recent games we struggled with some linking up and fundamentals, there was many times we were going forward and an execution error caused a turnover and the opposition made us pay. I believe we worked as hard as them and got ourselves in good position to have the ball taken away by the opposition. Not having a game for 3 weeks may have had a negative impact as we were not as clean as we usually are, this will be worked on at training.

Special mentions from the game:

- Jacko L and Sammy H - both played their 100th games. We will celebrate more with them at home next Saturday. Both players are highly talented and great to have around the group. Hopefully they have enjoyed their time with the Dragons, I know they have gathered many friends along the way.
- There were some good individual performances with Aden, Pete, Specky and Oscar leading the way.
- The midfield was very competitive, and it was a real tussle all day.
- Joey and Stevie, on the ball and down back got a lot of the ball and repelled attacks many times.
- Once again, we can only praise the boys efforts during the game.

- There are 24 players most weeks and we need to rotate on a regular basis, the guys have been great with this and there has been no complaints so thanks very much.

We have 5 games to go and we are currently sitting 4th, we need to keep improving and the results will come, we will bounce back strongly this week.

See all the players at training this week. We are looking forward to the challenges ahead.

Go Dragons

U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

After a couple of weeks off, it was the fire breathing Dragons that got the best of the Beaumaris Sharks this week. Playing on a huge ground with only 14 players, we needed to be at our best to be competitive, and that's exactly what the girls did today. We ended up kicking 6 goals to 3 – Bridget got her first goal for the Dragons (yay). Gisselle also got one and Lozz and Lily G kicked 2 each.

Our midfield got first use of the ball all day and Daisy, Matisse, Tayla and Gisselle didn't stop running. Gecko, Livvy, Olivia J, Chooty and Lily were rock solid in defence. Our forwards, Olivia R, Lily G, Lozz, Bridget and Ella used the ball well and took their chances in front of goal.

A fantastic team effort that showcased our:

- Effort – everyone put in 100% and didn't stop trying all day
- Skill – a noticeable improvement in kicking, marking, handballing and general use of the ball
- Teamwork – helping out teammates with shepherding, tackling and talking

The only low point on the day was a last minute injury to Ella who had her ankle stomped on in the goal square when she was about to kick a goal.

Great game today girls, let's keep it up and finish off the season strongly!





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.

SOCIAL MEDIA



Don't forget to follow us on social media for all the latest news

Facebook: Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club

Instagram: @oakleigh_dragonsjfc

Oakleigh Rotary Market

EVERY SUNDAY 8AM - 1PM

HUGE RANGE OF WARES

- Fruit, vegetables & plants
- Clothing & books
- Tools & hardware
- Preowned treasures

...AND MUCH MORE

Corner of Hanover and Atherton Street, Oakleigh





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
23-Apr	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1		U16 Boys
30-Apr	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2		
7-May	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3		U9 Mixed
14-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Mother's Day	
21-May	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	National Volunteer Week, 15-21 May	Hosted by Special Guest
28-May	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6		
4-Jun	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7		U10 & U11 Mixed
11-Jun	No Games / Interleague Carnival				King's Birthday	
18-Jun	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8		U12 & U14 Girls
25-Jun	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	School Holidays	
2-Jul	No Games				School Holidays	
9-Jul	No Games				School Holidays	
16-Jul	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10		U16 & U18 Girls
23-Jul	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11		
30-Jul	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12		U14 Mixed
6-Aug	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13		
13-Aug	Lightning Carnival	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14		U13 Mixed
20-Aug		Lightning Carnival	Round 15	Round 15		U18 Boys
27-Aug			Semi Finals	Semi Finals		
3-Sep			Grand Finals	Prelim Finals	Father's Day	
10-Sep				Grand Finals		
TBC	PRESENTATION DAY (School holidays commence 16/09)					

