



THE ACORN

SEASON 2024 ISSUE 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Team,

Thanks to everyone who made the ANZAC Medal night come together. A special mention to Caz and Johnny B the MC for pulling it all together. Jackson Leopold for getting the microphone working from what I could see from the FaceTime call. Matt Wilks for pulling out the actual medals from my bag (in Elwood) to get to Caz and up to Grub so they could be hung around our players' necks. That is a real team effort. Whilst any football injury is not nice, I can say the St. Kilda City player was released from Hospital late on Sunday night and our Club has wished him a safe and speedy recovery.

A BIG congratulations to the U8/U9's teams for hosting a fabulous night, so sorry I missed it. It sure seemed like a massive night.

This round we had our first 50 gamer banner run through at Scammell. What a milestone Fiona Shaw. Keep an eye on the Socials for more and show it some Dragons love.

Upcoming Round 4 marks the end of the Grading Rounds and this week we have asked your Coaches and Assistant Coaches for feedback on where they see our teams fit within the Age Group and current division, so we can take this information into the last Grading Committee meeting on 6 May. There may be some movement up or down, until then keep your chins up and play till the final siren. Having a look at where our teams are currently sitting I am really proud of the effort every single registered volunteer and player puts in every week, sometimes it's not recognised in the scores yet we get up and do it all again.

From the games I caught on the weekend, they were all played in good Dragons spirit. A big "Thank You" to Zoe Robertson who played two games back-to-back. First for the U11 Mixed, then straight into the U12 Girls match. Well done Zoe, it seemed like you could run all day.

Next Grub is Sunday 19 May (Round 6) and the U15 Boys have the gig to bring it up to the U8/U9 effort.

See you around the grounds on Sunday.

Go Dragons!
Brodie Phillips, President

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CHADSTONE**



2024 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Brodie Phillips

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Caz Hayes

Treasurer: Volker Heinze

Registrar: Kane Leopold

Compliance Officer: Vacant

Property Officer: Vacant

Canteen Manager: Vacant

Sponsorship Coordinator: Phil Sturrock

Social Media: Gavin Kennv

Football Operations Manager: Vacant

Team Manager Coordinator: Ross Black

First Aid Coordinator: Emily Heverin

Child Safety Officer: Janine Bird

Boys Coaching Coordinator (Youth): Vacant

Boys Coaching Coordinator (Junior): Vacant

Girls Coaching Coordinator: John Bernardo

Incident Coordinator: Jackie Wise

Bar Manager: Gab Dunn

Social Committee: Vacant

General Committee:

Annelise Scott

Justin Scott

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THE ACORN

SEASON 2024

ISSUE 4

ROUND 3 / SUNDAY 28 APRIL

MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Fiona Shaw, U18 Girls



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If you have any photos you'd like included in the next Acorn, please email them with a description to Anne at a.sturrock76@gmail.com



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



ANZAC PRESENTATION

A huge thank you to Life Member Jim Hall who presented the ANZAC Day medals to our deserving winners. It was an honour to have Jim present the awards in his SAS beret.

Jim spent many years on the Dragons Committee and continued as our Bar Manager even after his boys Benjamin and Jackson had finished their junior football years at the Dragons.

Congratulations to our ANZAC medal winners for demonstrating the ANZAC spirit - qualities of skill, courage in adversity, teamwork and fair play.

U8 Mixed - Eli Brown

U9 Mixed - Reyan Shah

U10 Mixed - Boyd Littlejohn

U11 Mixed - Deon Vithanage

U12 Mixed - Alex Reading

U12 Girls - Kiana Persi

U14 Girls - Layla Guergues

U15 Boys - Henry Spencer

U18 Girls - Chanel DiRienzo

U18 Girls - Jessica Hopgood





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Shop in-store and show either your club bar code below or your PlayHQ registration to our store team. We'll then add this to your club's total and track the total purchases for your club throughout the season.

OAKLEIGH JFC



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TRYBE EASTLAND, EASTLAND SHOPPING CENTRE

Winning club will be determined by the highest percentage of their total 2024 membership shopping at The Trybe. This would be calculated based on total footwear units to % of players.
1 footwear unit = 1 entry. Competition runs from 25th March to 30th September



AUTUMN FAMILY FETE

**OAKLEIGH SOUTH
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

SATURDAY 11TH MAY

AMUSEMENT RIDES, FOOD & SWEET STALLS,
CAFÉ, CARNIVAL GAMES, SILENT AUCTION,
FRIENDLY FARM ANIMALS, PLANTS,
PRODUCE, FACEPAINTING, SILENT DISCO,
DUNKING MACHINE, SHOWBAGS, PRE-
LOVED BOOKS & TOYS, HUGE
ENTERTAINMENT STAGE AND LOTS MORE.

RIDES

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CARS * BALL CRAWL * SIZZLER * GIANT
FUN SLIDE * TEA CUPS * CHAIR-O-PLANE *
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INFLATABLE * DRAGON WAGON COASTER *



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UNTIL: 10AM FRIDAY 10TH MAY



COACHES' REPORTS

U8 MIXED JAMES CHAPPEL

Oakleigh Dragons faced Cheltenham Panthers today and started off with our first game at Scammell Reserve, it was an early start at 8am. We started the game off well and improved on things that we have practiced at training. It was the case of the other team being more confident and cleaner with their disposal. The encouraging thing is that we had six on the bench with two more girls joining the team this week.

We had some really good individual performances with Max Moloney and Eli playing really well. Elijah continued his good form and tackling pressure to set the tone for the third quarter. We finally kicked our first goal with Zephan slotting it in the third quarter, the kids were ecstatic. Rishon played well continuing on for last week. I would like to say thank you to all the parent volunteers that helped out this week and for the successful grub at the club run by the U8-9s.

U9 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

The under 9s came up against Black Rock for our first away game this season in what was perfect conditions for a game of football. After having the bye the previous week, it was important to start the game well.

The first quarter was a tight battle with our defence particularly standing up well under pressure from repeat entries early on to be able to keep us in the game.

The next two quarters were competitive with some free-flowing football on display by both teams making it an entertaining game for all. The message at three quarter time was simple, the team that could keep up the pressure would end up happiest at the end of the game.

The kids tried their best however ran out of juice which led to a couple of late goals to the opposition. Special mentions go to Luke, Max and Oli who tried and tried all game and to Guy for kicking his first goal.

A highlight for me were the defensive efforts of Reyan who was awarded the ANZAC Medal and Flora which contributed to us turning the ball over in dangerous positions and hitting the scoreboard something that has been a key message around sacrificing for the benefit of the team.

We move onto next week. Go Dragons!!

U10 MIXED ADRIAN SANZARO



This week, we welcomed two debutants, Tara and Luka, to the team. We faced a challenging match against the Hampton Rovers. In a very tight and congested game, our team fought hard, demonstrating great tenacity in the midfield. Our players were relentless in their pursuit of the footy throughout the game. Although we were a bit unlucky in front of goal early on, our ability to mark the ball stood out, a skill we've been working on in training. It was a solid team effort, but unfortunately, we just fell short of singing the team song.



However, the team achieved the goal of taking 10 marks during the game, which means they'll get to decide how to spend the last 20 minutes of training on Wednesday. It's a well-deserved reward for their hard work, and I'm excited to see what they come up with.

U11 MIXED JAI ROBERTSON

The messaging to the team this year has focused on pressuring the opposition and being accountable to the player you are playing on, with this we put ourselves in a position to be competitive. From the first bounce, our pressure was on and I could see repeated efforts and multiple players attacking the ball at contest. Our midfield were winning the clearance game at stoppage and this resulted in plenty of play in our forward half.

In his best game for the club, Deon rebounded off half back consistently and then kicked a goal in the 4th quarter to top off his great work. Darwell was a huge physical presence for us again, with his repeat contested work across the whole game. It was with much gusto that we got to belt out the song for the first time this year, it was so amazing to see the look on the players faces when we got the win.

Also a big shout out to Wyatt and Ethan who also kicked great goals for the team.

U12 MIXED ALLEN COOK

Today we played St Peter's away at Centenary Park on a perfect day for footy. CoCaptains were Archer and David who both train hard every week and set a great example for their teammates on game day and today was no exception.

The wind caused some challenges with our disposals but it did not stop our run. As a group we continued to work for each other and outnumber around the footy all game.

We found some early goals and held our lead throughout. Some brilliant running displays from Finn and Teddy in particular and Alex kept bulldozing through every contest while Masaki and Jonah also fought hard all day. We had a handful of goal scorers and it was great to see Paulie and Olly kick their first goals for the season.

Special mention to Archer for his bravery in coming back onto the ground after a knock. Enjoy your family holiday mate and see you upon your return.

Another special mention to Steve who played his first game in the Dragons jumper. He made some contests and laid strong tackles and we are excited for his season ahead. Overall, a great team effort boys.

Close call as so many boys gave their all but our ANZAC Medal winner is Alex Reading.

U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

After a great win away from home in round 2 we were back at Scammell against Port Melbourne Colts

It was shaping up to be a battle, we only had 11 players and thanks to Zoe, playing for us from the mixed team, we were able to field a team. It was 12 vs 14 on the field for the entire match and Port had 6 on the bench, little did they know how fierce and determined our girls are when they cross that white line.



We started with a bang, Sophia dominating the ruck, Jess running and breaking through packs and Ruby tenaciously winning the ball from the centre so our forwards were able to capitalise with a 5 goal first quarter with the wind.

We knew it would be a tough second quarter, less players, Port with the wind but our girls love a challenge. Port threw everything at us but our backline was a brick wall, Tyra held her ground and wouldn't let anyone pass, Giaan was sweeping around the backs and clearing the ball. Mabel stopped countless attacks and Alexis made sure no Port player was going to have an easy time on the ball with her massive tackles.

We kept them scoreless and managed 1 goal ourselves.

The snakes at half time kicked in and we went bang!! Lois doing a power of work keeping the ball moving forward assisting in our goals. Skye, even though sick all week continued her amazing goal scoring ability piling on the goals. Victoria chimed in with an amazing side step to run into an open goal.

Our ANZAC Medalist Kiana worked tirelessly all day, kicking our first goal of the match and in the last quarter setting up our last goal.

Having no bench our players were asked to play in different positions and without complaint they tried and excelled. Alexis in the ruck looked comfortable, Mabel our unstoppable full back ran through the middle and forward nearly kicking a goal. It was Zoe's first game with us though she fit in seamlessly, linking up down forward and nearly kicked a goal. The team work was awesome to watch. Giaan and Lois went on ball and dived in under the back and got it out to our runners.

It was a great team effort full of camaraderie and mateship.

Bring on Round 4!

Dragons 12.9.81 def Port 0.0.0

Goals: Skye 6, Victoria 2, Kiana 2, Jess 1, Sophia 1

U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

The u14 girls came away with a brilliant win on a beautiful autumn day, coasting to a 101-0 win. This was certainly a different Cheltenham team that knocked us out of the finals last year so it was hard to gauge the form but take nothing away from this super group of players as they ran on, played and celebrated as ONE. We have been strong on togetherness and inclusiveness this year and it is starting to show at every training session and game.

After a strong start to the game with Sienna bagging a couple of early goals, the girls got into their rhythm, stuck to the



team instructions and soon it became evident that the ball was going to be in our forward line for most of the day. This then allowed us to flip the board upside down, put girls in unfamiliar positions and out of their comfort zone with some defenders going forward and vice versa. Semira looked just as comfortable up forward while our goal sneak Yana mopped up everything at half back.

Congrats to Lavinia kicking her first goal for the u14s and Layla kicking her first goal in just her 2nd ever game of footy, ending up with 2 goals and the ANZAC medal. Sienna came out firing for us, kicking a bag along with a couple of huge, crunching tackles. And I was only joking when I said "see if anyone can hit the Tesla behind the goals". The



midfield group again kept winning the ball and driving it forward and helped keep it up there. We rotated quite a few through there with Bonnie having a great game. Defence was solid as usual when the ball came their way, with regular forwards Yana, Sophie and Zoe ending the game there. Zoe had some moments along with a couple of selfless goal assists.

An impressive offensive game from our girls and we head down to Beaumaris for our next test. Well done to our u14 stars.

Goals - Sienna 4, Layla 2, Tash 2, Yana 2, Lucia 1, Milly 1, Lavinia 1, Zoe 1



U15 BOYS CALEB QUMIVUTIA

The u15 boys faced St Kilda City/Port Melbourne. The boys after a hard week on the track and a great warm-up got out to a flyer kicking 6 goals within the first quarter and went into the quarter time with a 32pt lead.

The boys had set themselves up for a good game however, they had to go into the wind in the 2nd quarter and play good team footy. The boys lowered their eyes and were able to hit up targets kicking a further 3 goals. The boys carried this form into the 3rd quarter, unfortunately the game was suspended just before 3 quarter time due to an injury to a St Kilda City player with the scoreline 72 – 15 in our favour.

We, as a team, wish the St Kilda City boy a speedy recovery!

U18 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

Oakleigh 1-0-6. East Malvern 7-9-51



We started the game with 2 special events, celebrating Fiona Shaw's 50th game, well done Fiona on a fantastic achievement and acknowledging the ANZAC spirit with a 1 minute silence.

We hosted East Malvern today and boy did they show their dominance in that first quarter, slamming on 4-4-28 to our 0. Come the second quarter and we started playing on equal terms. Absolutely everyone went that extra level and nullified East Malvern's dominance. It was the best I've seen this group play as a united team. In the third and fourth quarters we again matched it with East Malvern. But it was in the last minute of the game that the crowd erupted when after taking a few bounces, Chanel launched a perfect drop punt that landed in Charlotte's arms she quickly played on and hand balled to Ebony who took a bounce then kicked it into our forward line to Taylor's brilliant lead. It was then pounced on by Bonnie who was running into an open goal but received a free kick for a push in the back. The siren sounded so Bonnie kicked truly after the siren for a coast to coast GOAL!!!

Our ANZAC medal could honestly have gone to a huge number of girls today. Choetso was brilliant all day. Gisselle and Emily dominated with possessions and runs. Raegan rucked her heart out with huge presence around the ground.



Ebony, Gracie and Bonnie were thrown into all different positions and were great as our marking targets. Lily and Fiona pressured and provided huge drive from the back half. Taylor, Charlotte, Tayla and Nicole drifted between the wing and the forward lines providing huge tackling pressure and those link up options. Freya spent 98% of the game trying to convince me to put her back onto the ground after rolling her ankle in the first 2 minutes.

So today the ANZAC medal went to Chanel DiRienzo. Chanel played the perfect game. She took on everything and everyone that stood in her way and in doing so stopped many opposition goals whilst providing a fantastic drive from the last line of defence.

Well done girls, we didn't get the win but we never gave up.

U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

Fantastic weather greeted us at Columbia Park as we took on the Waverley Hawks in ANZAC Round.

The girls started well and Sophie B was able to get 2 goals on the board in the first quarter. The Hawks were able to get their running game going and kicked away in the second and third quarters. Our girls fought hard in the last quarter and both teams were able to kick a goal each in the final term.



It was great to have Bridget back in the team and she had plenty of the ball, took marks and kicked a goal. Yasmin played well in a number of positions and kicked her first goal for the Dragons. Jess did some great things in the backline and stopped a number of scoring opportunities on the last line of defence. Nat, Olivia R and Olivia J all ran hard through the midfield. Sophie B was lively up forward and found the goals a couple of times.

Ayla went in hard for the ball all game and copped a knock under her eye in the third term for her efforts. Hopefully the blood will come out of the jumper and the stitches won't hurt too much!

A good effort. Let's stick together and keep working hard as a team.



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
14-Apr	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1		U18 Girls Teams
21-Apr	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2		
28-Apr	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	ANZAC Medal presentation	U8/9 Mixed
5-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4		
12-May	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Mother's Day	
19-May	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6		U15 Boys
26-May	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	National Volunteer Week, 20-26 May	
2-Jun	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8		U10 Mixed
8-10-Jun	No Games / Interleague Carnival				King's Birthday	
16-Jun	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9		U11 Mixed
23-Jun	No Games				School Holidays	
30-Jun	No Games				School Holidays	
7-Jul	No Games				School Holidays	
14-Jul	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10		U12 & U14 Girls
21-Jul	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11		
28-Jul	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12		U12 Mixed
4-Aug	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13		
11-Aug	Lightning Carnival	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14		
18-Aug		Lightning Carnival	Round 15	Round 15		Committee
w/c 19-Aug			Semi Finals	Semi Finals		
w/c 26 Aug			Grand Finals	Prelim Finals	Father's Day	
w/c 2-Sep				Grand Finals		
TBC		PRESENTATION DAY, SCAMMELL RESERVE				

