



THE ACORN

SEASON 2024 ISSUE 7

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Dragons,

It is that time of the year when we take a moment to acknowledge all our Volunteers during National Volunteer Week. To all of our registered volunteers, thank you. Whether it is at training or on game day, every person makes the team effort and allows the game to go on.

Thank you also to the Committee, a few of whom have stepped up in the past week, while I've been unwell.

Well done to the U15 Boys team for Grub. Fantastic effort boys in serving and cleaning up afterwards.

To all our teams, well done on the adjustments to your divisions after the grading rounds. Keep up the skills practice at training and listening to your coaches. Keep on improving week by week.

If you haven't already done so, please apply for your WWC check. The SMJFL has completed a sweep of all Clubs' volunteer registrations and we have a small handful of volunteers that need to make some adjustments to their registration, until these are rectified they will be unable to complete any game day duties. It will make it easier for your Team Manager to assign tasks if there are many volunteers to choose from.

Hope to catch you all back at Grub on 2 June, hosted by the U10 Mixed team.

Go Dragons!

Brodie Phillips
President

GO DRAGONS

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 Kenny

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

2024 MAJOR SPONSORS



**CLAYTON &
CHADSTONE**



CONTACT DETAILS Brodie Phillips Ph: 0499 999 863 secretaryOYCFC@gmail.com www.oakleighdragons.com.au

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

Former AFLW player Brooke Patterson ran training

Former AFLW player Brooke Patterson from LaTrobe University took the U18 girls through a Prep to Play session on Tuesday night.

The session involved:

- Prep-to-Play Warm-up
- Prep-to-Play Contact drills
- Prep-to-Play Strength activities

Brooke (pictured holding the footy) went through a number of activities and taught the girls tackling techniques to help ensure they protect themselves, and their opponents, on the field.



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



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.



REMINDERS

Name, Age group

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TEAMS

All communications between opposing teams must be done via the Team Manager only. Team Officials, parents and spectators must not communicate with the opposing team officials or umpires.

RUNNER ROLE

A runner must be over 16 years old.

Runners may deliver a message to a maximum of two players then must immediately leave the field. No on-field coaching is permitted.

A runner should never communicate with the opposing team's umpire escort, the opposing team's players or any other officials.

MEN'S TALK + BBQ

RAISING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

OUR PROFESSIONAL PRESENTERS:



MARK FOLEY



MICHAEL
DILLON

The SESPAN will provide an interactive presentation on raising awareness of men's mental health and well-being.

The important topic of suicide will be tackled in response to increasing male suicide rates, particularly in senior aged men.

Join us at South Oakleigh Bowling Club
1216 North Road, Oakleigh South
on Wednesday 12th of June from 6:00pm

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

REGISTER THROUGH THIS LINK:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mens-talk-and-bbq-raising-mental-health-awareness-tickets-878551480127?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

FREE EVENT!

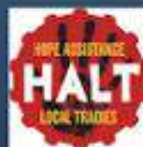


Support
information will
be available



Rotary  Oakleigh
Clayton
Huntingdale

Temple Society
Australia



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



What is your name?

Hi, I'm Anne Sturrock

Which age group/s do your kids play for at the Dragons?

U15 boys and U14 girls.
Funnily enough this year Elliott and Tash are both wearing jumper number 20, which makes spotting them much easier!

What volunteer role do you do at the Dragons?

I'm the Acorn Editor as well as Trainer for U14 Girls.

How long have you been at the Club?

I started at the club in 2018, when Elliott started playing for the U9s.

What other roles have you done during your time at the Dragons?

Most game day roles such as goal umpire and time keeper, but never boundary umpire.

What do you do outside of the Dragons Football Club?

No day is the same at Oakleigh Primary School, where I work as an Admin Assistant. I deal with all sorts of crazy situations, from a shoe kicked on the school roof to groups of friends trying to convince me they all need to go to sickbay!

My 3 kids Elliott, Natasha and Fraser - aged 15, 13 and 10 - definitely keep me on my toes with their zany antics.

In the summer season, I'm the Registrar for Oakleigh Little Athletics and the U6/7 Coach, which is a lot of fun.

I love creating art – drawing is my current interest – and reading books, usually way into the night.

My secret addictions are eating chocolate and playing Pokémon Go.

What sport did you play as a kid?

I played tennis and badminton as a kid, but to be honest wasn't very competitive. Give me a good book, or a creative art project back then, and I'd be much happier.

If you could have a Super Power, what would it be?

The ability to speak and understand any language – a bit like the Tardis from Doctor Who. Very useful when travelling overseas or shopping in Oakleigh!

COACHES' REPORTS

U8 MIXED JAMES CHAPPEL

Oakleigh Dragons U8's Faced Dingley Dingoes, the game started off well and for the first half both teams were scoreless it was a beautiful morning for football. Such an early start at 8am it's hard to get the kids motivated and warmed up so we will be concentrating on maybe the following week arriving a little bit earlier to the game. As I said, the first half went really well and very competitive holding tackles and linking up really good passages of play the second half went downhill a little bit where we found ourselves to be chasing the opposition and not creating our own play. I believe this is just to concentration and as I said, we'll be working on this at training.

We had Rishon and Zephen in the midfield and they linked up really well together creating some really good inside 50s for us and Elijah again with his tackling pressure was really good. Special mentions to Jude with probably 10 second-half tackles in the defense. Luca showed some promising aerial marking and was really good down back and forward for us. We will continue to improve each week. We have two weeks off now due to King's birthday weekend so we will regroup at training and hit the next game firing.

U9 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

The under 9s took on Mordi-Brae with an early start at Walter Galt Reserve. The focus for us this week was to start the game well. We had a great training session on Wednesday night which flowed into the pre-game warm up and this gave me some confidence heading into the game that the kids were switched on and ready to go.

From the first bounce, our pressure and intensity were on with repeated efforts and an even attack on the ball from our players. We got the jump on the opposition with Max looking extremely dangerous forward of the ball and converting some great team play into goals. This was extremely pleasing as this had been the Achilles heel for our team the last few weeks.

The message at the breaks were simple, maintain this level of effort and the results would go our way. In a very tight contest, all day it was amazing for us to be able to sing the song loud and proud at the end of the game, a great team effort.

Some special mentions go to:

- Oli and Luke for their relentless attack on the ball and second/third efforts leading the way for our team and dragging everyone along with them.
- Bodhi who played his best game for the year in a new role playing in defence setting the tone early on for the team.
- Max for being a dominant forward target for the team all day.
- Lex, Sam K and Flora whose defensive pressure and tackling all game led to turnovers for the team which led to us being able to score.
- And finally, to Patrick who put his body on the line at the death stopping an almost certain goal.

Well done team on an amazing game. Let us take this momentum forward for the reminder of the season. Go Dragons!!!





U10 MIXED ADRIAN SANZARO

We came up against our toughest opponent yet in the Mordi-Brea footy club. It was a tight first quarter, with the opposition gaining the upper hand late due to their speed and desire to play on. This put our backline under a lot of pressure with the opposition having repeated entry.

The second quarter was a lot closer and of a high standard of football, the best we have played and seen all year. Again, we let a few through later in the second with the opposition kicking a few from distance.

The third was very similar to the second, shout out to Francesco for his toughness in the contest, having multiple clearances in the third. Connor with a great goal in the term as well. The direction the game was heading didn't reflect how hard the team were at the ball, tackling, and pressuring the opposition.

Mordi-Brea got on top in the last with a few quick scores; however, we fought it out to the end as we have all year. William put in another strong effort, Josh didn't stop running all game, and Luka had his best game since joining. Pleasingly for me, it was a whole team effort, something we have been working on. Though not our day, it was one of our stronger efforts. Despite the outcome, there were many positives to take away from the game, and it's clear that the team is progressing and improving with each match.

U11 MIXED JAI ROBERTSON



We took on Waverley at their home ground on a wet Sunday morning. The messaging to the team before the game, as it is every week, was to pressure the opposition consistently and always be accountable to your opposition player. With this the team got off to a good start with Darwell taking a great mark in the goal square and slotting the goal. The rest of the term was very much a contested brand with our team by a couple of goals. Our defensive was very solid, let by one of our captains for the day Kai. Eli stepped up and laid some big tackles as did James Satchel with his mark and play on game fantastic to watch.

Second half was much the same with our team executing the game plan as requested, Theo, our other captain, tackled hard and Phoenix, who, in his first year, continues to shine with some great marking. Shout outs also to Hugh who battled hard and Deon who snagged a couple of goals in a dominant display.

U12 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We had a 9am start at Scammell vs Eastern Malvern today on what was a good day for footy.

Co-Captains were Leo and Alex and both boys gave 100% which is what we ask of our leaders. East Malvern are a big/strong opposition so we knew we'd be in for a real contest. Further, we have some players out and also had a few boys playing who are recovering from a bug so it was great to see them turn up and put in under duress.

We encouraged the boys to use their pace to stretch the opposition and the boys did what was asked getting us out an early lead at the first change.

We lost our way a bit in the 2nd and were behind at half time. In the 2nd half it was goal for goal in a low scoring affair and we had all the momentum towards the end of the final quarter but just ran out of time.



Some fantastic efforts today but the stand out was Masaki. He was amazing in the backline continually cutting off the opposition attack and sending the ball forward.

Alex, Karlos, Teddy and Jonah were also fantastic on the ball with Teddy taking off on another signature run down the wing and Jonah kicking a great running goal. Thomas E also kicked 2 brilliant goals and Ben kicked an absolute beauty which was great to see.

Eventually we went down by 2 points but the boys can hold their heads high as they played footy the right way. Big thanks to Max and Tommy for stepping up for us again. Very well played boys and we appreciate you.

See you at training boys.
Go Dragons!

U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

This week our team got even stronger with the inclusions of two new Dragons, Mia and Pippa. Our girls were so excited to have new team mates and with the help from Zoe up from the mixed team we had a full squad and bench.

We travelled back to Brighton Beach who have been the only team to beat us this year.

The match was tough from the opening bounce with lots of contested footy, heaps of pressure and a really even match. At half time both teams only had one scoring shot.

Our backline stood tough for the majority of the match. Alexis with her strong tackling, Lois stopping two players and saving a certain goal scoring opportunity. Jess started in the middle but went down back and took some great marks. Tyra and Ruby T got into the action and when they couldn't get the ball they made sure the Brighton girls wouldn't run away with it. Mia in her first game showed her footy smarts getting into great positions down back and with her big kicks will be a key for us down there.

Our goal scoring machine did it again, Skye kicking our only goal to give us a one point lead at ¾ time.

Sophia continues to shine in the ruck, getting to every contest and clearing the ball. The team work was great to see, Mabel from defence moved onto the ball and created a heap of pressure with her tackles and ball movement. Giann got in and under the packs while Kiana cleverly swept around the packs looking for players like Zoe and Anastasia who ran tirelessly along the wings creating chances for our forwards. Pippa was lively down forward and our goal sneak Victoria always looked dangerous when the ball is near. Emily continues to show her impressive skills, picking up the slippery ball as if it was a dry day and her great kicking was on display though we just couldn't get through the strong Brighton defence.

It was a physical game, Ruby A continues to play against bigger opponents with no fear and even though she gets slammed, dumped and hurt in tackles she goes back for more. It's her tenacity and courage that sets an example for our team. We play hard but we play fair.

Though the scoring shots were the same Brighton Beach got the win 3.0.18 to 1.2.8

We look forward to our next challenge.

U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

Well this was a statement game from our U14s girls!! What a win! Murrumbeena came to our ground with a strong reputation and a very good squad of 23 girls and our lot, well they were just their usual laidback selves pre-game, switched on during the warm up and then just went bang, coming away with a 40-7 win.

It was a very tight and contested first quarter and although we had superior field position, we just couldn't score a goal. Layla eventually opened up our account in the 2nd quarter and from then on, we managed to settle, get our set ups right and do what we know to do. Pressure, tackle, run, overlap. Their best player Lara was absolutely killing us, taking 6 intercept marks in the first quarter alone so a few of our girls up forward had a job at hand and that was to stick by her side. And once again, you give these girls a task or directive and it will be carried out.

Our backline again starred and our pressure without the ball was outstanding. We are strong on the one percenters... the follow up tackle, the chase down, the smother, the tap on... None of this goes unnoticed.

The relentless running and unbelievable pressure on the opposition, the ever improving skills, the camaraderie and welcoming of new players, and most importantly, the enjoyment... It's something us coaches take great pride in.



We just constantly surged the ball forward while we repelled any Murrumbeena forward movement. Our new training drills are showing up on game days and it is just pleasing to see. This was a super TEAM effort with many players continuing on with very good individual seasons. Well done Dragons!

Goals - Layla, Sophie, Yana, Tash, Sienna L, Anushka, 1 each.

U15 BOYS CALEB QUMIVUTIA

The U15s faced South Melbourne on Sunday at home.

The game started off a close contest with our midfield about to hold the ball and win the contest, however failed to convert when going inside 50.

After a halftime chat the boys implemented the game plan and instructions and started playing better footy and really spacing the ground leading to better flowing footy.

Jack Seabrook and Hunter Hayes were amongst Oakleigh's best for the day.



Thanks to the U15 Boys team (and their parents) for a great feed at Grub on Sunday!

U18 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO

Today we welcomed back Daisy “the Charger” Bird for her first game as we took on East Malvern in a late afternoon away game. We were hoping for a great close contest and we certainly got that.



In wet slippery conditions scoring was at a premium and the first 2 quarters were an arm wrestle with only the 1 goal being kicked by the Knights. Our backline led by captain courageous Lily Mae, with her freshly foiled hair held up time after time. Tayla, Charlotte, Raegan and Fiona provided that next link to help propel the ball forward. Emily made a guest appearance and made an impact after joining us straight from a tournament where she had played 10 games of netball. Taylor had a breakout game and was a target up forward.

Mid way through the last quarter East Malvern had skipped out to a 25-0 lead and anyone else would've given up, but this team doesn't

know the meaning of that. Wow, did it get exciting!! Everyone lifted, Nicole nullified their best player with close checking and pressure. Matisse got her groove back after a few weeks out injured and slotted a goal. Emily chipped in for another and the Knights were starting to worry. Sienna sold some of her famous candy to get the ball down to Bonnie, who kicked truly as the siren blew!! Falling agonisingly short we went down 25-18. Even though we weren't winning you wouldn't know it with this group of young ladies. You all hold your heads high and make us proud every week.

U18 GIRLS GAVIN KENNY

This week we played Mordi-Brae at home in wet and greasy conditions.

I asked the girls at the start of the game to forget about the scoreboard and just focus on their effort – one contest at a time.

For the first 3 quarters the girls played an aggressive style of football and took the game up to their opposition. Unfortunately after half time we lost Sophie C to a knee injury and Eva to a head clash which limited our options on the field.

In the last quarter the Mustangs got on top and took advantage of the extra players they had on the bench.

Ayla played a great 4 quarter game. Despite a serious blister on her foot, she took marks, tackled, got free kicks and used the ball well. Nat played a great role across half back and got lots of marks and kicks. Olivia Jackson threw her body around and was instrumental in our only goal in the third quarter when she earned a free kick and then handballed off to Bridget who goaled from long range. Bridget ran all day and would have had more possessions if not for the greasy conditions and wet ball that just didn't bounce her way for parts of the game. Emma played another good game, putting herself in good positions and handling the wet ball well. Her bone crunching hip and shoulder that left both players rattled for a moment, was an indicator of her commitment to the game.



Overall the effort of the team was fantastic with 30 tackles laid for the game and 12 marks taken in trying conditions. Keep up the good work girls!



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						

