



THE ACORN

SEASON 2024 ISSUE 13

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Dragons,

A big thanks to the U12 mixed team for Grub on Sunday, fantastic effort team.

Congratulations to Raegan De Vries (U18G's) and Jeremy Lazaris (U15B's) on their 50 Game milestone.

Thanks to Gavin Kenny for organising a joint training session with the 3 girls teams last Wednesday evening. Olivia Vesely and Charlotte Simpson from St Kilda AFLW sure made it a memorable evening for the girls.

We are getting to the serious end of the season now. Our U8's and U9's have one round remaining in the home and away season before their Lightning Carnival on 11 Aug. Our U10's two more before their Lightning Carnival. The whole Club wishes you all the best for the end of your season.

Our next 4 age groups are all performing well in their respective divisions. U11 Mixed in a Division of 6 teams are top of their ladder. Our U12 Girls in a division of 10 Teams are currently sitting 4th. The U12 Mixed in a division of 6 teams are top of their ladder. Our U14 Girls in a division of 6 teams are currently top of their ladder.

Our U15 Boys claim to be in the "top 8" (thanks Troy Morton) and our U18 Girls are "doing the heavy lifting" (credit to Sienna Bernardo). On a serious note we hope all teams have a great end to their season. Your hard work and perseverance during the season has paid off.

We will be looking to book in our Coach Catch up sessions very soon, and announce, our #LockedIn Coaches for the 2025 Season.

Time to get your haircuts and clean your boots this week so they're ready for Sunday's Team Photos. Please arrive 10 minutes before your scheduled photo timeslot and put your smiles on early, ready to go.

See you 'round the grounds
Go Dragons!

Brodie Phillips
President

2024 MAJOR SPONSORS



**CLAYTON &
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 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

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



MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

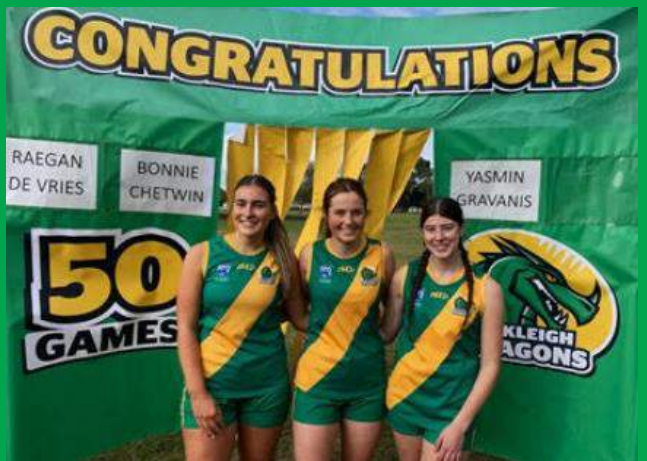
Raegan De Vries, U18 Girls



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Bonnie Chetwin, U18 Girls



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Yasmin Gravanis, U18 Girls





CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Jeremy Lazaris, U15 Boys



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



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



REMINDERS

MATCH DAY FILM OR PHOTOGRAPHY

If you believe someone is filming or photographing your team during the game, please speak to your team manager. Only SMJFL accredited photographers are allowed to film or photograph games – these photographers have completed SMJFL's 2024 Accredited Photography program.

If a Coach or Club would like to have a game filmed for development or training purposes, permission should be obtained from the opposing club before the game. This can be done via the Committee prior to game day or via the Team Manager before the game.



TEAM PHOTO DAY SCHEDULE

All team photos are being taken **this Sunday, 4 August**. Add this date to your calendar!

- 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!**

U9 Mixed	7:00 am
U8 Mixed	7:30 am
U18 Girls	8:00 am
U10 Mixed	8:20 am
U11 Mixed	8:40 am
U12 Girls	9:30 am
U12 Mixed	11:00 am
U14 Girls	12:30 pm
U15 Boys	1:00 pm



Team Photos

Scammell Reserve

SUNDAY 4TH AUGUST



SUPPORT OAKLEIGH JFC
& YOU COULD WIN THE

TOYOTA
GOOD FOR FOOTY
RAFFLE

3 TOYOTAS UP
FOR GRABS!

**PRIZE
POOL**

\$ 293,762

TICKETS

\$5

ALL PROCEEDS
GO TO
OAKLEIGH JFC



BUY TICKETS AT

toyotagoodforfooty.raffletix.com.au/oakleighdragons



THE TRYBE



WIN CASH FOR YOUR CLUB

Simply make any footwear purchase at your nearest Trybe store during the 2024 football season and the winning club with the most purchases will win \$2,000 to go towards club equipment and supplies.

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



9353546543397

Alternatively, make a purchase online and enter the following promo code for your club and we can track.

OAKLEIGHFC

VISIT US AT YOUR NEAREST TRYBE STORE :

TRYBE SOUTHLAND, WESTFIELD SOUTHLAND
TRYBE FOUNTAIN GATE, WESTFIELD FOUNTAIN GATE
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



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



What is your name?

Kane Leopold

What volunteer role do you do at the Dragons?

Registrar

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

U14 Girls

How long have you been at the Club?

12 years

What's your favourite thing about being a part of the Dragon's Football Club?

I love the community spirit at the club, how everyone helps out and the friendships that our kids and family have made over the years.

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

General committee, runner and goal umpire.

What do you do outside of the Dragons Football Club?

I enjoy being outdoors, running, surfing, skiing and kicking the footy.

What sport did you play as a kid?

Football and cricket

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

I would love to be able to fly!

ALL GIRLS TRAINING WITH AFLW SAINTS

Last week we had our first ever all girls training session at the Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club – U12, 14 and 18s.

It was a great initiative to build connections between the girls' players and coaches within the club.

Olivia Vesely and Charlotte Simpson from the AFLW Saints came down and helped with training and answered lots of questions from the girls.



CELEBRATING OUR FIELD AND BOUNDARY

UMPIRES

WE THANK YOU ALL!

Jessica Hopgood - U18 girls
Elliott Sturrock - U15 boys
Takoda Arjana - U15 boys
Troy Morton - U15 boys

Sam Duckett - U15 boys
Noah Delaney - U15 boys
Natasha Sturrock - U14 girls

Elaine Zheng - U14 girls
Maddie Carlton - U14 girls
Sienna Leopold - U14 girls
Bonnie Allen - U14 girls



A huge thank you to all the Umpires from Dragonland. Many of our Dragons players are field or boundary umpires for SMJFL and Seniors football (SNFL) so may be involved with 2 or more games on top of their weekly match! This is a huge undertaking, but extremely rewarding. "It's a great experience and helps you with your game sense while seeing footy from a different perspective" stated Natasha, U14 Girls. "Umpiring helps you keep fit while making decisions under pressure when calling controversial free kicks. It pays really well too!" said Elliott, U15 Boys.

INTERESTED IN UMPIRING NEXT FOOTY SEASON?

If any of our Dragons players are considering umpiring next season, speak to our umpires listed above or your Coach. To register as a Boundary Umpire you should be in year 7 or higher at secondary school. If you are in year 8 or above at secondary school, you can register as a Field or Boundary Umpire. Of course parents and adults are welcome to become umpires, SMJFL welcomes umpires from all ages!



COACHES' REPORTS

U8 MIXED JAMES CHAPPEL

Oakleigh under 8's were hosted by St Paul's and it was a cold wet morning. The game started off very even with both teams showing promising passages of play, but the highlight for the 1st quarter was a fantastic tackling pressure from Elijah who set the tone of the game.

The second quarter we still lacked concentration and this showed with St Paul's kicking back to back goals. The second half improved with good passages from Luca, Eli and Ethan, highlight of the day was from Rishon as he collected the ball from directly in front of the goal and moved through the pack. We have been improving each week and players showing me that they have been listening at training, it is good to see the kids having fun and enjoying their football. Better luck next week and keep sticking at it. Go Dragons!!

U9 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

The under 9s took on Highett away for the second time this year. The ground was extremely tough for all to play on particularly the middle which was pure mud.

The last time we met this team they jumped us early making it a tough task playing catch up footy all day, so the message was clear pregame for the team, be first to the footy, hunt in numbers and maintain a high work rate.

Unfortunately, Highett started the better of the two teams with the game being played in their half for most of the first quarter. I thought our back six early on led superbly by Sam H, Oli and Ethan kept us in the contest at quarter time with a scoreless first quarter.

We needed to get to work in the middle as Highett were winning the centre clearance far too easily, so it was up to the midfield group to work together and lift their intensity. With Highett kicking with the breeze this quarter the weight of ball started to take effect and they kicked clear.

At half time we made some positional moves and added some bigger bodies into the midfield to try and gain some ascendancy. The message to the group was around improving our work rate as a team. Second, third, fourth efforts not thinking that once you had disposed of the ball your job was done. To the team's credit we started to balance the game up and even the contest out rather than what happened in the first half where it was 1 v 3, 1 v 4.

Luke, Max, Aiden and Jayden all started to work well together through the middle, winning contested ball and making life tough for the opposition. A highlight for me was the tackling pressure that the team showed particularly from our small brigade in Jack, Reyan, and Sam K.

The last quarter saw again a more even contest, however we struggled to move the ball freely to provide our forwards with quality entries and opportunities.

I was proud of the fightback in the second half, unfortunately the jump Highett had was a gap too far too bridge. We look forward to getting back out next week for our last game of the season at home.





U10 MIXED ADRIAN SANZARO

Headed out to St Peters on the weekend, and the team was in good spirits, seeming for the first time to have some belief in what they could produce. The first half was a really tight contest, something we've been getting used to over the last few weeks. The ball spent most of the time in the middle, with both teams struggling to get it into their forward lines. St Peters was able to capitalise late in the first quarter, and unfortunately, we weren't able to do the same when we had the wind in the second term.

The third quarter was similar to the first, where St Peters got on top late and kicked ahead in the final moments. The Dragons fought hard in the last quarter, but unfortunately, we weren't able to reflect that in the scoreboard. The kids were disappointed with the result, which didn't reflect their efforts and the grit shown in the game. Krishiv, Thein, Francesco, Koby, and Archer had outstanding games.

With two rounds to go and tough opponents ahead, I'm really looking forward to seeing how far we can go.

U11 MIXED JAI ROBERTSON

We took on Cheltenham on a Sunday morning at Scammell Reserve. We continued to focus on 3 aspects of the game, pressure, skills and having fun.

We got off to a flyer as we continued our good from the previous week. This week we were consistent for four quarters.

At half time we focused on moving the ball quicker and the scoreboard took care of itself.

It was a great effort by everyone with the pressure from the side on a consistent basis for the four quarters and the ball movement was at a better level. Special mention to Bronx, Maison, Hamish, Blake, Darwell and both James's for playing great games.

Our captains for the week were Hugh and Eli who led the team exceptionally well.

We still have a lot of room for improvement and we can work on this at training.

Go Dragons!

U12 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We had a rare 8:30am start away against St Pauls this morning. This was another top of the table clash so interesting to see how we matched up against them.

CoCaptains were Archer and Karlos, a couple of our running machines and both boys rose to the occasion with Karlos sharing the 1 Percenter award with Jonah, thanks to multiple efforts to tackle, chase and pressure the opposition. Archer gave his all and kicked a great long goal with Finn and Ben also kicking truly in very tricky windy and rainy conditions.

Alex and Finn were strong through the middle and James stepped up when asked to Ruck against the oppositions most important player.



St Pauls are a tall side so we had asked our boys to use our run and spread and compete hard in the air to bring the ball to ground for our smalls to get to work. The boys did this to great effect and thanks to our disciplined backline lead by Masaki, we were able to hold the opposition to just 1 goal and get the win.

Fantastic effort Dragons!

U12 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

Round 12 we travelled to St Peter's for a super early and cold start at 8am and from the get go I was impressed with our team initiating their own "crazy 8" warm up before the opening bounce.

Right on queue the hail came, though today nothing would faze our girls. It was a strong start with Ruby A setting the standard and laying 2 strong tackles in the opening minutes. In tough playing conditions our mids kept the ball down forward but scoring was tough with Mia and Pippa working well in the forward line.

The second quarter was much the same, our team work was starting to prove the difference, Victoria and Emily on the wings providing heaps of run and carry and Anais bobbing up down front with a solid mark and setting our forwards up yet again. Our backline was a wall, Tyra and Ruby T competing fiercely and helping us keep St Peter's scoreless at half time.

Leading by a couple goals at half time and seeming to have the game in control we moved Alexis into the ruck and Sophia into the forward line with almost immediate effect. The goals started to come and with Jess moving into the middle the game was played in our half, nothing was getting past the centre. Mabel and Lois went onto the ball and piled on the pressure.

Having a big lead with a quarter to go the girls didn't take their foot off the gas, Skye having shots at goal at will, Kiana playing a kick behind the play sweeping up the ball and getting it back to our forwards who got rewarded for all their hard work and kicked a few goals.

My favourite moment came right at the end when St Peter's got a fast counter attack and were running into an open forward line and certain goal, but Giaan had other plans. She took off, chased down her opponent like a lion after a gazelle, tackled her to the ground and won the free kick.

Its efforts and attitude like that which makes us a great team.

U14 GIRLS JUSTINE LEOPOLD

We went back to East Malvern for our next challenge, on a typical wintery Melbourne day. Sun, mud, rain, wind, cold. Didn't put off our group. It was just a day of keeping your feet, staying on your opponent and moving the ball forward at all cost. And that they did. It's never a pretty game to watch in these conditions but our game certainly oozed grit, toughness, teamwork and an absolute will to win the ball and win the game as a team.





A great start to the less muddy end with Sienna L marking and confidently going back to slot it through. A quick snap not long after from the captain Milly gave us a 2 goal lead and then what ensued could only be described as a nerve wracking slugfest. While we didn't kick another goal for the next 3 quarters, it just showed all watching on what these girls are made of, considering the opposition and conditions we played in. It was a battle of the fittest, the toughest, who could be the cleaner player with the greasy ball, who could win the 50/50 contest, who wanted it more.

The standout for the Dragons was Elaine in defence who was involved in everything and repelled many forward entries. Anushka also went back and was superb in the last quarter,

halving some crucial 50/50 contests. Sienna L covered the muddy paddock all day with her gut run, Lucia, Milly and the midfield brigade tried all day and kept the ball moving our way. But a big congrats to those involved in the back line. They were the brick wall that East Malvern could not get through. Well done to all.

In the end, we walked off with a very gutsy 3 point win and a 2 game break on top of the ladder. An important win for the development of our group and showed us what they're able to do when it is tight and tough. Well done again our super u14s. You have 2 proud coaches who are enjoying the ride along with everyone involved with this team.



U15 BOYS CALEB QUMIVUTIA

On Sunday the under 15 boys faced the Dingley Dingoes. The 1st quarter started even with multiple inside 50s by our midfield group, providing deep entries into our forward line however, we couldn't capitalise through the big sticks and finished the quarter with 3 behinds compared to Dingley's 2 goals, 3 behinds. In the 2nd quarter, Dingley had the wind and went out to a 29 points lead.

After the break, Oakleigh came out and kicked 3 goals compared to Dingley's 2 goals, with Ari McLeod kicking 2 goals with other goals kickers being Oskar McCulloch, Hunter Hayes (with one working leg) and Mitch Phillips kicking his first career goal!

The boys went down by 45 points however, the step is in the right direction since the last time we played them! Congratulations to Jeremy Lazaris on reaching his 50th-game milestone!



U18 GIRLS JOHN BERNARDO / GAVIN KENNY

It was back to Scammell Reserve for our Round 12 clash with the Waverley Park Hawks.

The girls were having a great time pre game with some funky tunes pumping in the rooms before the match. It was great to celebrate the 50 game milestones of Reagan, Bonnie and Yasmin with a home game banner.

On another cold and windy day on a ground with a muddy centre, the instructions were to keep out of the mud if you can. The muddy bodies at the end of the game indicated that was easier said than done.



Kicking with the wind, the girls started well and controlled the ball for the most of the first quarter. Taking marks and laying tackles meant we had lots of opportunities to drive the ball forward. After a number of forward thrusts and pressure around the goal square, Hazza and Bridget were able to get two goals on the board by quarter time.

The second quarter saw the Hawks come back into the game and kick a goal. In the dying seconds of the half, a second Waverly goal was allowed despite most people at the ground thinking the siren had sounded before the ball left the players boot. Despite the controversy, there was only 1 point in it a half time. The Hawks were able to get a behind in the 3rd quarter and it was all even going into the final term. Despite the efforts of all the

players on the ground, neither team could score in the last quarter resulting in the second draw for the season for the U18 Dragons Girls.

Game highlights:

- Players taking marks (15 in total) Daisy, Ayla, Tayla, Lily, Nat, Freya, Brianna to name a few
- Fantastic effort (over 80 tackles for the game) a couple of beautiful tackles from Charlotte, Ebony, Reagan and Olivia Jackson
- Physicality – a great shepherd from Nat that put the opposition player on their backside
- Plenty of run from Sienna, Emily, Lily, Nat, Bridget and Matisse
- Great tandem ruck work from Daisy and Livvy
- Wonderful work from our statistician Lozza
- Awesome cheering and encouragement from the players on the bench.



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	Team photos	
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		
22-Sep	PRESENTATION DAY, SCAMMELL RESERVE					

