



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025 ISSUE 2

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons families,

Welcome back to a brand-new season of footy! Whether you're returning for another year or joining us for the first time, we're thrilled to have you as part of our club community in 2025. I spent a very entertaining day at Scammell, watching five home games with a wide array of teams – from the energetic Under 9s all the way through to the fierce U16 boys. The Under 12 girls are continuing to recruit players, and although they had to forfeit their first game, they played a fantastic first game together in a friendly match against a huge Beaumaris team. Keep your heads up girls, we'll build this team from the ground up!

We honoured the ANZACs with a moving minute of silence before each game, creating a powerful and respectful moment that brought everyone together in remembrance. It also reinforces the Club's strong emphasis on community values this season: respect, teamwork, and inclusion.

A massive thank you to the U10 Mixed team for hosting our first Grub at the Club, it's a huge effort when it's the ANZAC Day medal presentation and the wonderful turnout meant that an emergency delivery of pizza's was required! Congratulations to all of the recipients of this prestigious award! We also had 2 players run through the banner for their 100th game which is an outstanding achievement. Congratulations to Jack Seabrook & Patrik Bakalis!

Oakleigh Amateur Football Club (O AFC) will be hosting their Annual BCNA (Breast Cancer Network Australia) Charity Luncheon on 10 May. In partnership with the Oakleigh Dragons, the O AFC is collecting donations to fill hampers that will be raffled on the day in support of this important cause. If you or a local business you know would like to contribute, please reach out to Emily Heverin on 0479 071 145. You can also buy tickets for the luncheon at <https://www.oakleighafc.org.au/product/bcna-ladies-lunch/>

Looking forward to another great day of footy next Sunday, with another five home games at Scammell. Keep supporting each other at training & on game day, remember our Club motto "Through football, better citizens". See you round the ground next week. Go Dragons!

Justine Leopold
President

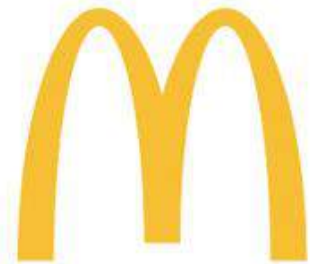
2025 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Justine Leopold
Vice President: Ross Black
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Treasurer: Volker Heinze
Registrar: Kane Leopold
Compliance Officer: Vacant
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Girls Coaching Coordinator: John Bernardo
Junior/Senior Club Liaison: John Bernardo
Incident Coordinator: Caz Hayes
Bar Manager: Gab Dunn
Social Committee: Vacant

General Committee:
Annelise Scott
Justin Scott
Sarah Arnott
Joel Harrison (U10M)
Kathleen Windsor (U12M)
Lisa & Dave Falla (U13M)
Justine Karauria (U15G)
Lisa & David Gee (U16B)

2025 MAJOR SPONSORS



**CLAYTON &
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MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

Patrick Bakalis, U16 Boys

100 GAMES



CONGRATULATIONS

Jack Seabrook, U16 Boys

100 GAMES



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





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.

U9 Mixed - Sasha Kamtikar
U10 Mixed - Jayden Schurr
U11 Mixed - Lucas Neys
U12 Mixed - Thomas Morel
U12 Girls - Lucy Foster

U13 Mixed - Finn Thomson
U14 Girls - Ruby Arnott
U15 Girls - Sienna Leopold
U16 Boys - Mitch Phillips





REMINDERS

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- We ask that one parent/guardian from every family holds a valid WWCC. For volunteers, a Working with Children Check is simple and free. Apply here: www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check

If you already have a WWCC, please make sure that Oakleigh Junior Football Club is listed as a linked organisation on your WWCC.

- Please note all volunteers must also register as a volunteer at Play HQ at: www.playhq.com/login and login or create an account.



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UNIFORM SALES

EVERY WEDNESDAY

6.15-7PM

@ SCAMMELL RESERVE

TO ORGANISE UNIFORM COLLECTION AT
ANOTHER TIME, CONTACT EMMA
ON 0411 966 226 OR EMAIL CAZ AT
SECRETARY@OAKLEIGHDRAGONS.COM.AU





COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

Oakleigh Drangons U9's Faced Dingley Dingoes, the game started off with great tempo and lots of game plays we have been practicing at training. Some great individual performances, with Cooper C hunting the ball and if he didn't have it laying lots of tackles.

With the first half we played so well with all children playing their roles, as a team went really well and very competitive holding tackles and linking up really good passages of play. The second half we started off well but Dingley started to hit back on the score board where we found ourselves to be chasing the opposition and not creating our own play, Sasha played some fantastic footy as well as Zephen in the defense and they linked up really well together with over 20 marks between them creating some really good exits. With 6 new first gamers today I need to mention two in Bryron and AJ having a big impact on the game with their skills and effort. We have improved so much from last year, it's really great to see all the kids loving the game.

With our ANZAC Day Medalist in Sasha he showed great courage and determination, he stood up when we needed him. I was so proud to have been able to present him with the award, he has shown that he listens and wants to be the best player for the team.

Go Dragons!

U10 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

What a way to start the season for the Under 10's!! We came up against Ormond at Home for the ANZAC round and the kids put on a great team performance. The work had been done by our kids during the preseason and it was great to see so many of the things we had been working on together put into action on the field.

The focus for our group is all about the effort we put in, something we have absolute control of and pregame we spoke about as individuals and a team we get an opportunity to improve ourselves every training session and every game, this is the mantra that we will stick with week in week out!!

A complete four quarter effort today was on show with contributions from everyone at various stages throughout the match standing up when needed it's hard to single out individuals, a great problem to have as a coach.

It was fantastic to see three new faces debuting for the club today (Liam, Hugo and Ziggy), all three applied themselves exceptionally well in their first games of footy. Well done to Jayden on being awarded the ANZAC Medal for our group, thoroughly deserving on the back of his work ethic, selflessness, courage, and teamwork.

The coaching group are so proud of the amazing team effort today, a great way to start the season singing the club song loudly and proudly.

Go Dragons!!



U11 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

The boys were bleary eyed but excited to get out to Hampton.

In U11's you move away from zones and on the big ground and the kids were chomping at the bit. Against a crafty opposition, we had some great passages of play, with strong teamwork throughout. We were particularly dour in defence so big shout out to all the players who spent time down back.

Our run of 7 straight behinds was ended by a miraculous check side by Jimmy M - the goal, and the subsequent team celebration were unbelievable!

Our tackling pressure was excellent, particularly as the undersized team coming up against some really big opposition. We demonstrated many traits of the ANZAC's - courage, teamwork, leadership and camaraderie so the boys should be proud of their efforts. Congratulations to our ANZAC Medallist Lucas Neys.

We look forward to our next grading game at home against East Brighton. Signs are positive that our team is tight knit and ready to play for each other and have fun.

Thanks to all the volunteers!

U12 MIXED ALEX O'BRIEN

We took on Mordi-Brae on a Sunday morning at Walter Galt Reserve in Mentone. We wanted to focus on pressure, hitting targets and having fun.

We started the game really well and were in front at quarter time, we were moving the ball well into our forward line and made it tough for the opposition to move the ball as well.

We started the game with 17 players and the lack of rotations and rest caught up with us by the end of the game. We battled well for the last 3 quarters but their extra players took their toll.

It was a great effort by everyone with special mention to Thomas Morel (ANZAC Day Medallist), Max Morel, Blake, Darwell, Andrey, James T and James S, Charlie, Hamish and Theo.

Our captains for the week were Anastasios 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 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

After a few training sessions together, the girls and I were really excited for our first match of the 2025 season. We had a couple of new team members and five girls returning after the 2024 season and felt optimistic for a good match. Unfortunately we had to forfeit due to not having enough players, but Beaumaris kindly agreed to a friendly match and we played with one less player.

Our seven girls were keen to get on the ground and had great comradery and energy running out to start the match. We paused and stood arm-in-arm for a minute silence to honour the ANZACs and their sacrifices for Australians.



First quarter Beaumaris quickly scored a couple of goals – but our girls made them work for it. Second quarter they had a full side of fresh legs. Despite this, we managed a few runs forward but couldn't quite convert to score.

After halftime the girls didn't fade and they showed some amazing stamina to keep pressure on with lots of big tackles, a few clearances and getting possession, passing and hitting their target. This showed how well the girls are already working well as a team.

They all didn't stop moving and never complained about running and working hard. We didn't score the game, but it was obvious we lost by a lot. The girls were a little disappointed but still came away with big smiles and had a lot of fun. I'm so proud of their determination and mateship on ANZAC weekend.

Lucy Foster was awarded the ANZAC medal for a wonderful first match; she played in the ruck and showed bravery and speed on the ground. We'd love to see a few more girls join our team; we're having lots of fun already!
3-2-1-Dragons!

U13 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We played Mordi-Brae away today for our first grading game to get the season started. They are a strong side and played a division above us last season so we knew it would be a good test to see if we've improved over the preseason.

Although there was no official ceremony run at the away ground, our boys were aware of the importance of the week and bought into the ANZAC spirit of mateship and working for each other with some really strong chasing, shepherds and tackles made be all.

It was great to see Nate and Jon play their first official games in the Dragons jumper and a bonus to have Big David K on the team again.

We are fortunate to have lots of leaders within the team and it shows when we play. Masaki has been leading by example at training so was our nominated Captain today and had a fantastic game down back.

The engine room was also strong and inspired their team mates with their physicality and gut running.

We got our nose in front early and though it was an arm wrestle, we were the better side for the majority of the day and held on for an impressive win.

Though we did have several standouts today, our most consistent player across the 4 quarters was Finn Thomson and he is our nominated ANZAC player of the day.

Special mentions also to Alex and Teddy for some electrifying runs today.

Great work team!

U14 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

Footy season is back and it was great to have a full team ready to go. This year the 14 under girls have a wonderful blend of girls from the 2024 U12 team, U14 girls and we welcome Ellie and Bella playing for the first time for the Dragons.

We played away to Ormond and after a slow start we got our mojo back and the game started to fall our way. Our mids started dominating, Mabel with her strong tackles and pressure, Ruby A either at the bottom of the pack or chasing



down opponents, Jess sweeping around the back or bursting through packs while Skye ran forward and kicked 3 goals for the day.

Our backline led by Semira stopped Ormond time and time again with Ruby T, Lois and Anastasia making it difficult for their opponents every time the ball went into the back line.

Semira's long kicks to the wings freed up Miette and Alexis to move the ball swiftly down the flanks to our forwards. Kiana, Sophia and Lavinia were busy setting up and moving the ball deep into our forwards where Mia and Vicki were able to create a heap of scoring opportunities.

New to our team but playing as though they've been with us for years Bella went from wing to ruck and gave us first use of the ball and was at every contest competing bravely. Ellie showed her versatility playing down back and forward, getting to the ball and continually beating her opponents.

Congratulations to our ANZAC medallist Ruby Arnott.

Great start to 2025 and can't wait to see what this team can achieve together

Dragons 4 - 6 - 30 def Ormond 3 - 1 - 19

U15 GIRLS PAUL GEURGES

Opening game for 2025 was against St Kilda at our home ground with a lot of familiar faces, 3 new additions, new coach, a lot of pre match nerves but a new mindset and approach. Our game style and expectations had been addressed all summer and it was time to see if it would all come to fruition.



Well we came out of the rooms firing and it was evident our girls were here to rock n roll. Once again, it was Yana Nicky D Ciorciari who got us going on the scoreboard with a soccer goal in the square and finished with a nice bag of 3. From there on, we ticked along nicely as a team and you wouldn't have thought it was our first hit out for the year, especially without a bench.

The structure was on point. Our kick in set up, the kick out tactics, positioning around stoppages, our overall skill and link up.... It was very, very pleasing to watch.

Our 3 new faces, Sienna U, Astrid and Charlee were all fantastic in their first games for the Dragons with Charlee also kicking her first goal.

It was a very even contribution across the field, with our defence holding up so well which kept the ball in our half for the majority of the game.

Layla and Zoe stood tall in defence with Lucy reading the ball so well, Millie was her pesty self, Cam rucked with aggression and gave our mids every chance. Milly ploughed on all day while the tractor, beastmode, the animal, ANZAC medallist, Sienna L won plenty of the ball and kicked 2 as well. Maddy rounded out the goal kickers amongst a lively forward group.

Highlight of the day was the incredible run down tackle by Christina who seemingly found another gear when she zoomed past us and was "loudly encouraged" by the coaches and spectators. Well done.



Overall it was a great team effort for our first game. Enjoy the win, it's a long season ahead with greater challenges waiting. Get to training, dial in and let's see where we can go. Well done U15s!

U16 BOYS TOM NOLAN

The u16s host St Kilda City/Port Melbourne for their first game of the year. With 6 debutants, one who has never played footy before, there was plenty of excitement amongst the group. The team also celebrated 100 games for Pat Bakalis and Jack Seabrook.



From the 1st quarter the boys performed strongly and followed the game plan perfectly. With plenty of space for the forwards to work in the side made the most of their opportunities and defended strongly. This led to keeping the opposition scoreless for a substantial lead.



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025

ISSUE 2

ROUND 1 / SUNDAY, 27 APRIL

The leaders in the second half demonstrated their composure and calm temperament as the opposition became fiery with the large margin. Captain Mitch led the way with his determination despite being slung in tackles and copping heavy knocks. Truly deserving of the ANZAC medal.

The boys reaped the rewards of a strong pre-season with a win and celebrated the two 100 game milestones in style.



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



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	
27-Apr	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	ANZAC Round	U10 Mixed	
4-May	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Community Umpire Round		
11-May	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Wellness Round/ Mother's Day		
18-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4		U9 Mixed	
25-May	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Grill'd Round		
1-June	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Monash Round	U12M & U12G	
8-June	No Games						
15-Jun	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7		U13 Mixed	
22-Jun	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8			
29-Jun	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	TS4A Round	U11 Mixed	
6-Jul	No Games					School Holidays	
13-Jul	No Games					School Holidays	
20-Jul	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10		Committee	
27-Jul	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	TAC Round		
3-Aug	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12		U14 Girls	
10-Aug	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	IKON Women & Girls Round		
17-Aug	Lightning Carnival	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14	The TRYBE	U15 Girls	
24-Aug		Lightning Carnival	Round 15	Round 15	The TRYBE	U16 Boys	
31-Aug			Semi Finals	Semi Finals			
7-Sep			Grand Finals	Preliminary Finals	Father's Day		
14-Sep				Grand Finals			
TBC	PRESENTATION DAY, SCAMMELL RESERVE						

