



# THE ACORN

SEASON 2025 ISSUE 4

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons,

Happy Mother's Day to all the Mums, Grandmothers and any other women who are a mother figure to the kids at our wonderful Club. It was absolutely fantastic to see all of the different ways each team celebrated these very special women – from a super sweet video of the U11s, the U10s guard of honour, the U15 girls 'loving' the dancefloor in the middle of the change room with their Mums, to a flower given to Mum's by the U16 boys. The weather once again turned it on for us – amazing sunshine but also some super hard grounds at the moment.

Congratulations to 3 of our U13 mixed players who celebrated their 50th game this week: Ben Hopgood, David Koutsoubos & Jonah Zgournios – it's a sensational achievement and we hope to see you running through the banner on your 100th game as Dragons in the future!

Round 4 brings the last of the grading games, so remember to keep your heads up and play hard & clean like a true Dragon. The league will have a very long meeting on Monday night (May 19th) to discuss grading, and Round 5 fixture will be released on Wednesday 21st.

A huge thank you to Christelle Perez who has agreed to take over the social media coordination – it is definitely not my forte and I'm sure you'll see a huge improvement in the promotion of our Club going forward. Christelle will create a WhatsApp group for you to send photos/videos to for inclusion in our social media. If you aren't already, follow @oakleigh\_dragonsjfc on Instagram & Facebook!

Grub at the Club this week will be hosted by the U9 Mixed team and we'd love to see another awesome turnout like we did in Round 1. See you Sunday!

Justine Leopold  
President

# GO DRAGONS

### 2025 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Justine Leopold  
Vice President: Ross Black  
Secretary: Caz Hayes  
Treasurer: Volker Heinze  
Registrar: Kane Leopold  
Compliance Officer: Vacant  
Property Officer: Emma Hastings  
Canteen Manager: Kai Deorffus  
Sponsorship Coordinator: Phil Sturrock  
Social Media: Christelle Perez

Football Operations Manager: Ross Black  
Team Manager Coordinator: Sharon Stevenson  
First Aid Coordinator: Emily Heverin  
Child Safety Officer: Kathleen Windsor/Christelle Perez  
Boys & Mixed Coaching Coordinator: John McLaughlin  
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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**FACEBOOK** Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club **INSTAGRAM** @oakleigh\_dragonsjfc





## MILESTONE GAMES!

### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Ben Hopgood, U13 Mixed

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### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

David Koutsoubos, U13 Mixed

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### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Jonah Zgournios, U13 Mixed

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## REMINDERS

### UMPIRE ESCORT ROLE

Umpire Escorts must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid WWCC uploaded in PlayHQ.

The Umpire Escort must escort Field Umpires to and from the ground at the start of the match, during breaks, and at the end of the match. Umpire Escorts should offer drinks to the Umpires during breaks (ask your Team Manager for a water bottle).

The Umpire Escort is responsible for monitoring the Interchange. Players must enter and leave the field during a game via the designated Interchange Area unless a Player is injured. An injured Player may leave the field wherever is convenient and safe to do so, but their replacement must enter via the Interchange Area, and only once the injured Player is off the field.

The Umpire Escort must stand near the Interchange area during play, and may stand immediately inside the fence (but doesn't necessarily need to).

**The Club also asks that Umpire Escorts ensure all gates around the oval are secured during play, so as to prevent injuries to Players on the field.**



## Harcourts Next Gen Oakleigh



**Character, Comfort & Convenience Combined**



*Presenting to you*

**33 Queens Avenue, Oakleigh**



3  1  1 

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# HAPPY Mother's DAY

Thank you for everything you do!







# UNIFORM SALES

**TO ORGANISE UNIFORM SALES,  
CONTACT EMMA ON  
0411 966 226**

**OR EMAIL CAZ AT  
[SECRETARY@OAKLEIGHDRAGONS.COM.AU](mailto:SECRETARY@OAKLEIGHDRAGONS.COM.AU)**





## COACHES' REPORTS

### U9 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

Today we hosted SBMT and what a great morning for footy, the kids all arrived with a bounce in their step and this showed in how we started the game.

The first quarter started off really well with us holding possession and keeping the ball in our forward half, this was a talking point at training and resulted in us hitting the scoreboard multiple times. With Max M having clearance after clearance and Elijah having plenty of it in the forward 50.



This continued with each quarter and improved each quarter coming into the last with a big ask from me to kick 4 goals in the last quarter and they did exactly what I asked with Max B slotting 3.

This was our best performance this season to date and I was very proud of everyone, we will keep on improving each week and can't wait till next challenge. Happy Mother's Day to all the beautiful Mums

Go Dragons!!



### 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.



## U10 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

Round 3, the Oakleigh Dragons under 10's came up against Highett away and again glorious conditions for footy. The under 10's honoured the mums, grandmothers and those who play a special role in their lives for Mother's Day by running through a guard of honour at the start of the day, a big shout out to Pete (Flora's dad) for capturing this special moment on video.

We knew what to expect with our opposition, having played against them in previous years many times. Across the ground they just had too many winners whereby we struggled to gain field position constantly being on the back foot. At quarter time it was put on the group to lift the intensity and work rate as Highett led us to the ball and outran us.

I was pleased with the response as we started to lay some more tackles and slow them down during the second term, however, as the game wore on the weight of possession they had was telling as our backline struggled to keep them out.

A special mention goes to Jack German for his never say die attitude. He chased all day and was absolutely spent at the end of the game. We reiterated before the game and throughout that effort is the non-questionable part of our game and Jack can hold his head high in that regard.

Overall, I think we had defeated ourselves before the game started thinking that as they were bigger than us that we could not match them, and as we know mindset is an equally important part of competitive sport.

Lots of room for our group to improve which is exciting, and belief in each other is a big part of this. We get another opportunity next week back at home after a few weeks away.



## U11 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

It was Mother's Day, and Scammell was buzzing. The sunshine and not so early start made for a carnival atmosphere, as we attempted to get our first W for the season.

After a tough couple of weeks, we had belief that if we focused on effort, pressure and team work we had a big chance. With 4 players unavailable this week, we welcomed three under 9's to double up after the early game in Elijah, Sasha and Max. Our captains for the week Thien and James Sanzaro both focused on the significance of the day, and the role their mums had had on them and their football journey – they dedicated the game to all the mums out there.

The game was tight, with both teams evenly matched. We had spent a fair bit of time working on our positioning around the ground, and together with our pressure around the ball it held us in good stead. With Connor and the back 6 a kick behind the play, and Jimmy and the forwards a kick or two in front of the contest – we looked united.

Koby hit the scoreboard twice in the first half, the first a beautiful snap, and the second coming with a kick after the siren. Francesco had bullocked the ball forward time and again, and we were full of momentum – the kids were up and about!



In the third quarter, they came back strongly – despite some incredibly dour defending led by our two captains. We encouraged the team to stay positive because we were within striking distance.



At the last break, we had belief despite trailing on the scoreboard. We again remembered why we were playing – and the boys went out and gave their all. George's snap ignited the team, and therein we peppered the goals. St Kilda City surged, and a brilliant chase down tackle by James Sanzaro which went against us meant the game stayed out of reach.

We were incredibly proud of the team's efforts. Our two captains lead admirably, and the rest of our boys made all the U9 fill-ins feel supported. After the game we talked about taking pride in our performance even when we are the runners up – all kids should hold their heads up high after performances like that.

Happy Mother's Day to all – and again thank you to all the volunteers.

## U12 MIXED ALEX O'BRIEN

We took on Beaumaris on a beautiful Sunday afternoon for Mother's day at Donald McDonald Reserve. We wanted to increase the focus on pressure, playing on and having fun.

We had 18 players and decided to use Koby and Francesco from the Under 11s, thanks for helping out. We had a bench to use which helped in the warm conditions.

The first quarter was tight. The second and third quarters were the best we played all year. Kai, Darwell and Phoenix were our targets forward and did a great job. Charlie, Eli, Wyatt, James T and Anastasios were great in defence and made it hard for the opposition to move the ball. It was great to play four quarters of solid football and sing the song loud and proud at the end of the game.

It was a great effort by everyone with special mention to James S, Hamish, Ethan, Deon, Maison, Max and Thomas Morel. Congratulations to Hugh on kicking his first goal.

Our captains for the week were Theo and Bronx who led the team exceptionally well.

We still have a lot of room for improvement and we can work on a few areas at training and bring it out on game day.

Go Dragons!





## U12 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

It was a beautiful day to celebrate Mother's Day and girls footy! We had a couple new recruits over the week and the girls and I were training hard to come back from our tough day last Sunday. Despite dropping down to the U11's competition, we fell just short of minimum numbers for registrations, so played our third (and hopefully final) friendly against Brighton Beach Red.

The size and skill were more evenly matched and our girls got the opportunity to showcase the skills we've been working on. Brighton kicked a few goals quickly, but our Dragons responded with one of our big kickers slotting a goal towards the end of the first! Our first goal for the season was well-celebrated by the girls and gave us some inspiration and confidence heading into the second quarter.



We tweaked positions a little and our new recruit (and secret weapon) with quick legs put pressure on in the centre to help move the ball into our forward line for a couple more goals. Brighton still managed to put points on the board and we were trailing at half time but you couldn't wipe the smiles off our girls' faces. Our number one supporter who was out with an injury had the biggest smile of all - we were all so proud of their first half!

Third we dominated and kicked more goals again, with the ball hardly leaving our end. Some beautiful handballing and more confident tackles gave our girls more chances to score. Brighton had far more players and maintained stamina, but we pushed hard in the fourth to keep up and were determined to not let the game get away from us. Unfortunately, we couldn't quite catch up to Brighton but the girls came off the ground looking happy and celebrating our stunning performance.

Each one of the players has progressed their skills in the first few weeks and I can't wait to see what we achieve over the whole season. We're so happy to have a few more players join our Dragon Gals - we would still love to see a few more girls join the team to make a full side. We're having so much fun and have made lots of new friends already.

3-2-1-Dragons!

## U13 MIXED ALLEN COOK

Perfect day for Footy on Mother's Day and great for the boys to have their first hit out at Scammell for the season.

Big thanks to all the Dragon Mums for the work they do every day and the support they give the boys so they can play footy with their mates.

It was quite the occasion with 3 of the boys celebrating their 50th game in Ben Hopgood, David Koutsoubos and Jonah Zgournios. All the boys did themselves proud. Jonah in particular had a fantastic game which is no surprise as he has taken his training up a level over the last couple of weeks and that earned him Captaincy for the day. He led from the front with gut running and kept putting his body on the line for his team mates.

We put a challenge to the boys to play out of position today to give them a different perspective and role. To their credit they handled it well and worked together to take an early lead.

The opposition played some good strong footy but almost every time they took the ball forward, Masaki, Jimmy, Greg, Karlos, Nate and Co were waiting to intercept or apply pressure to cause a turnover which was great to see.





Our want to work for each other and ability to keep running was the difference in what was a pretty scrappy game. It got a bit heated at times but the boys did well to keep their cool and stay focused on the footy to get the win.

Well done Dragons!

## U14 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

On a sunny Mother's Day we travelled down to Hampton for an afternoon match. In the warm sun we battled bravely all afternoon.

The match was high pace from the get go, Alexis working hard in the ruck to get us first use and running around the ground, even streaming forward kicking a long goal. Having Mabel running through the midfield created our team's intensity with her tackling pressure and at a goal apiece at quarter time it was anyone's match.

We worked hard into the wind in the second quarter, our backline helped out by Miette creating much needed run and carry. Jess was back at her bursting best, breaking through the lines and taking great marks to stop the Rovers' flow.

Sophia moved into the ruck and was in everything, creating contests and gaining territory for our forwards to get to work. It was Anastasia with her wonderful kicking skills giving us a slim lead at half time after kicking a set shot after the siren.

As the game went on in the afternoon sun our girls willed themselves on, Bella running up and down the wings and helping out in the ruck, Ruby T competing hard and winning contest after contest on the half backline. Our goal sneak Victoria was put on the ball to give Ruby A a break down forward. Ruby is always putting in second and third efforts whenever she is near the ball. Victoria's ferociousness around the packs and willingness to get low and grab the ball was the energy we needed.

Doing our best to manage the players as we didn't have a bench Ellie went on the ball and was brilliant, picking up low balls with elegance and connecting with teammates to keep our flow.

At 3 quarter time the scores were equal, our backs did everything possible to hold the fast finishing fresh legs of Hampton at bay. Lavinia marking and stopping the attacks, Lois taking strong contested marks and if the ball went over the top Semira was there reading the play, marking or picking up the ball and sling shotting it out of the back line.

Our forwards did everything possible to get us over the line, Kiana keeping the forward pressure and Skye roaming around willing herself to contest after contest but unfortunately we just ran out of time and fell short.

I love our fighting spirit and can't wait to see our girls back in action, one thing is guaranteed, these girls will always give their all which makes all us parents proud.

Hampton 4-3-27 Def Dragons 3-2-20



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

Facebook: Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club

Instagram: @oakleigh\_dragonsjfc



## U15 GIRLS PAUL GEURGES

It was always going to be a massive challenge to play against our fierce rival East Malvern with no one on the bench and 3 of our players out through injury. But with our mums in the room pre-game providing some inspirational words, we knew we were up for the fight.

It was a scrappy first half with not much going our way. A real tough slog as we battled to stay in the contest. The girls came out firing in the second half with co-captain Elaine moving into the midfield to provide some grunt, and Camryn battling hard against a very tall opposition ruck - Cam was magnificent all day. Our midfield worked hard all day, and our backline stood tall to only concede 1 point in the second half.

The first goal came through sheer determination of the girls to lock the ball in our forward 50. A beautiful handball out the back of a contest by Christina to Sienna Leopold who kicked a sensational drop punt through the big sticks.

And in the final quarter, needing one goal to hit the front, the girls worked hard to get the ball to Yana who seized the moment, took her opportunity to side step and kick long for a wonderful goal.

An overall real gutsy win by the girls - a hard fought battle which the girls ultimately won by not giving up and having a never say die attitude.



## U16 BOYS TOM NOLAN

The u16s boys travelled away to play East Hampton Rovers as the boys looked to chalk up their second win for the year.

The first quarter started out a tight contest with Oakleigh going against the wind and getting the first goal on the scoreboard. Rovers slowly worked their way into the game with their overlap run and began to take advantage of the wind. With Hampton ahead, it was Oakleigh's turn with the wind. Unfortunately the Dragons couldn't capitalise with inaccurate kicking in front of goal.

The second half signalled frustration from the Dragons as they weren't able to be rewarded with scoreboard pressure in the first half. The Rovers were far too good as they got on with the job in the second half and punished the Dragons for their lack of focus. Eventually they ran away as convincing winners but the Dragons know on their best day they will be up to the task.

Lots to learn from and the boys should be upbeat for the next week knowing their best can be good enough.





## 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						

