



# THE ACORN

SEASON 2025 ISSUE 5

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons,

It was great to see the last of the grading games went off without any match conduct forms being filled out for negative behaviour - from the Dragons or our opposition! As I said at Grub last night, we are a family oriented Club so everything we do, we do for our kids who want to play footy. Rossy, our VP & Footy Ops Manager, has been collecting a lot of feedback from the Coaches and will represent the teams at the League's Grading meeting on Monday night. Thanks for all your hard work Rossy! Fixtures for Round 5 will then be released on Wednesday 21st May.

Another acknowledgement of super hard work was that of the U9s team who hosted Grub on Sunday night, the food was amazing and I heard (but didn't get to taste) that the crowd favourites were the pork sliders and the cookies! Great to see so many players there - we would love to have each team represented at each Club with players and parents alike.

It's wonderful that every week, we have more people putting their hand up to get involved in the running of our Club - our next role to fill is that of Canteen Manager. Check out the Dragons website for a description of the role, or give me a call to discuss. Speaking of the canteen, you may or may not be aware that we have an awesome new coffee machine this season! There are 3 options for your hot drink needs - warm up your hands with one of our mugs, ask for a take away cup or save 50c by bringing your own KeepCup (KeepCups also available for sale at the Canteen).

This week, we had one of our Dragons players achieve a sensational milestone - the first female player to reach 100 games for the Dragons! Although we were unable to fill a team for the U18 girls this season, we have 3 players who are still Dragons but are on season permit to play at St Peters/Bentleigh. Congratulations to Ruby Keech on this extraordinary achievement - we are super proud of you and you will always be a Dragon to us!

Stay tuned for details about our 60th Anniversary celebrations - Sarah Arnott and the 60<sup>th</sup> Committee are working hard to ensure this enormous accomplishment! Go Dragons!

Justine Leopold  
President

### 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: Vacant

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



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**FACEBOOK** Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club **INSTAGRAM** @oakleigh\_dragonsjfc





## MILESTONE GAMES!

### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Karlos Webster, U13 Mixed



### CONGRATULATIONS

Ruby Keech, U18 Girls  
Playing on a season permit for  
St Peter's/Bentleigh

# 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](mailto:a.sturrock76@gmail.com)





## REMINDERS

### IMPORTANCE OF CHILD SAFETY

As part of the clubs ongoing commitment to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all young people involved in the Oakleigh Dragons football club, we would like to remind everyone of the importance of reviewing our Child Safety Officer & Policy.

The policy outlines important information on:

- promoting cultural safety, diversity and inclusion
- recruitment and training of staff and volunteers
- risk management practices to prevent harm of abuse
- expectations around communication and interaction with children
- the process for reporting any child safety concerns or complaints

We recommend all members, coaches, volunteers and parents take a few minutes to read through the policy. We also encourage discussing the policy with your children so they understand their rights and feel confident to speak up if something doesn't feel right.

The policy can be found on the club website or by clicking the following link

<https://oakleighdragons.com.au/oycfc-child-safety-officer/>

Children and families can report concerns directly to the clubs child safety officers at [childsafetyOYCFC@gmail.com](mailto:childsafetyOYCFC@gmail.com)



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# 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 were hosted by St Kilda City and it was another beautiful day for footy. We started with 27 children resulting in a large bench, so we spent a lot of time rotating the kids.

The 1st quarter the ball spent a lot of time in the St Kilda forward line but we managed to slow their attack with Zephen and Sasha taking many marks and kicking back to the mids. Max M had 5-6 clearances with Hamish R playing well. The second quarter we managed to hit the scoreboard with Max B showing his skills and determination up forward.



After half time we found ourselves ball watching and allowing the opposition to run around with no pressure. We had some good contributors all day in Elijah with really good tackling pressure and just hunger for the ball. We will continue to work in this area to improve at training. We didn't get to sing the song but tried all day and I'm very proud of all the kids. It's been hard the last two weeks with having so many on the bench and we are working on strategies to combat this. It's great to see such large numbers and we are all improving each week.

Go Dragons!

### U10 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

Back at home after a couple of weeks on the road, it was a beautiful early morning for footy at Scammell. We took on Mordi-Brae and the focus was to bring massive effort all day long and play a great team game.

Our captains for the week were Bodhi and Xavier, Happy Birthday to Bodhi, we hope enjoyed the rendition of happy birthday before we ran out.

The first quarter was an even battle with both teams playing some good competitive footy. We came out in the second quarter and the opposition got the jump on us and I thought we started to drop our heads a little bit. The message at halftime was to bring greater effort and intensity as we were getting beaten both in the contest and on the outside through work rate.

Our tackling pressure and intent picked up as the game wore on, it was great to see the response with Luke and Hugo leading the way in the midfield.

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



## U11 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

The boys ventured out to Southern Road Reserve to play St Bedes-Mentone Tigers, and with a massive amount of determination we came away with our first victory.

The start of the season has been tough at times, but the boys have hung in there. There was a strong sense of optimism this week and the boys had belief. With Ary K and Koby P as our co-captains giving stirring speeches pre-game, the boys were ready to go.

The Tigers slammed on the first two goals of the game and our defence was under enormous pressure. They held firm and Raj, Connor and co were massive. There was a strong breeze and the Tigers used it well - our boys had their work cut out for them.

At the quarter time break we reminded the team that with the wind we had to be aggressive and wanted to kick long. It didn't take long for us to kick our first goal with Evan Lavdas crumbing nicely and slamming it through. We started to surge forward, and not surprisingly it was Jimmy M next who goaled and we had a head of steam at the main break.

After half time we knew we had to hold them up whilst they had the breeze. In the premiership quarter we kept them to a couple of behinds and again our defence was rock solid - repelling time and again. Against the breeze it was tough, but one foray forward broke through the Tigers defence, where we surged forward late and George Moloney led out, marked, and snapped truly. Goals against the breeze were rare, and this one was celebrated with gusto!

In the last quarter, we pushed and pushed. The Tigers had a real dip, we knew they would and luckily we were able to withstand it. Koby was marking everything, and surging it forward. Jimmy kicked another, then Max M, one of our 5 U9's (pictured) snuck forward and fortuitously crumbed and snapped a goal. The crowd erupted and the team got around him. Our U9 fill ins were huge, with all of them stepping up.

From there we hung on and the boys sang the song proudly. It was wonderful to see them smiling and united, with full team work on display. It was great to have a tight, close match with both teams evenly matched. At Grub at the Club, Koby, Thien, Connor and George got the chocolates, but they could have gone to all players.



Thanks to all the volunteers!

## U12 MIXED ALEX O'BRIEN

We took on East Malvern on a nice Sunday morning at Scammell Reserve. We wanted to increase the focus on pressure, teamwork and having fun.

We had 19 players which included Paige for her first game.

In the first quarter we got off to a flyer and kicked 3 goals within minutes. The second quarter we played well without making the most of our opportunities. The last couple of quarters our defence held up really well and we ended up singing the song loud and proud. Kai and Darwell were our targets forward and did a great job. Eli, Bronx, Anastasios and Ethan were great in defence and made it hard for the opposition to move the ball.





It was a great effort by everyone with special mention to James S, Hamish, Blake, Maison, Max and Thomas Morel, Wyatt, Theo, Charlie and Hugh. Our captains for the week were Phoenix and James T (pictured) who led the team exceptionally well.

We still have a lot of room for improvement and we can work on our skills and fitness at training and bring it out on game day. Go Dragons!



## U12 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

Sunday morning the sun was out for our first official match of the season against Ormond at EE Gun Reserve. We had 10 players - still looking for a few more girls to make up a full side and we would love some spare bodies on the bench.

The girls played an extremely strong game and came out charging. Early peppering of the goals resulted in a couple of points, then a goal! A couple more followed and for the second quarter the ball hardly left our end. We were playing a more physical game and a couple of girls demonstrated new courage with their tackling. We were up by 3 goals at 3/4 time but Ormond got away from us and we lost the game by a few points.

So proud of all the girls, especially our superstar goal kickers and brave defenders. The girls were all having fun and all requested to play midfield to get their hands on the ball and give it their best shot.

Thanks to U9s for hosting the grub at the club on Sunday evening. We have more girls joining our team every week - still need a few more so all the footy gals out there - please come and join us!  
3-2-1-Dragons!





## U13 MIXED ALLEN COOK

This week we played St Paul's Doggies at home in perfect Autumnal weather and got a great win in front of our home crowd.

Every game brings a new challenge and today was no different. Once again, our mids were tested and once again they were able to withstand some real midfield pressure to get us moving quickly into attack turning the tables on our opposition. Our solid defence lead by Misaki (the wall) was extremely hard to penetrate. Up forward we floated James there and he was able to kick his first goal of the season (well done). Another notable mention was Karlos playing in his 50th and captain - getting a lot of the ball and tackling hard which we love to see.

During the week at training, we put a lot of emphasis into running hard and sharing the footy...getting our team mates more involved and was great to see this being played out today and noticed by the opposition coach as being the difference.

Really proud of our boy's hard work and commitment..keep it going. Go Dragons!!

## U14 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

The U14 Girls had a Bye this week.

## U15 GIRLS PAUL GEURGES

Our U15 girls went up against AJAX at their ground and we were treated to a very good team win and a thumping win. With the luxury of having 3 on the bench thanks to Jess and Mabel helping out, we were able to keep them fresh with rotations and positional changes.

It was evident that the other team were going to be outclassed by our lot but nevertheless, we asked for the foot on the pedal, give it all we have, celebrate the goals and especially the 1%ers, encourage and have fun.

Yana again got the first goal on the board for us and finished with a handy bag of 5. From then on, it was a pretty dominant display from this group of awesome girls. Cam again continued on with her excellent season with another superb game in the ruck, being responsible for many forward entries. Lucia was her powerful self, our rotating wings, Serana, Christina and Maddy stayed involved all day, the tractor (Sienna L) ploughed through the ground and kicked 4 from the midfield, Layla was super in the back line, Tash has slotted back into the team nicely and kicked 3, and Astrid was classy again while Sienna U is improving every single week.

Unfortunately for our girls in defence, it was going to be a quiet day when we win 128-0. Enjoy another win, it's only going to get tougher but if we play the way we did, look out.







## U16 BOYS TOM NOLAN

The U16s boys hosted East Brighton for their round 4 match up. With injuries and illness impacting the team, the Dragons were forced to play with 16 players for the day.

Winning the toss, the Dragons kicked with the wind and played to the conditions perfectly. Unfortunately, this was not reflected on the scoreboard as the team couldn't convert their opportunities. This meant that East Brighton were able to create a lead into halftime as they were more accurate in front of goal when they kicked with the wind.

In the third quarter, the Dragons made better use of their opportunities in front of goal and were able to get some goals on the board. However, it wasn't enough as playing 2 short proved to be the difference as they were unable to score enough to put pressure on the opposition. Kicking against the wind, compounded by fatigue, proved to be too difficult to overcome. Despite a valiant effort, the Dragons were unable to get the win.

The boys have a lot of positives to take out of the game and will look forward to a number of players coming back from injury in the coming weeks.



### 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						

