



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025 ISSUE 7

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons,

Once again, we've been blessed with stunning weather to watch our awesome Dragons on the footy field. Thanks to the U12 Mixed team for hosting Grub this week – it's such a wonderful opportunity to catch up with your teammates and celebrate all the positive things from the game you've just played.

Congratulations to Victoria Lo Presti from the U14 Girls for celebrating her 50th game this week! Well done on a stunning effort & a great game of footy to boot! Massive shout out to the U11 Girls team who keep jumping on the recruiting train – another new player this week so another canteen/merchandise voucher! This group of girls have faced great challenges since the beginning of the season, not having enough players to field a team, losing their ANZAC Day medallist to injury, then dropping down an age group. But their positive spirit keeps rising to the surface and there's no doubt that every single week they continue to improve. Don't worry girls, your first win is just around the corner – start practising the song at training so you know the words.

The U15 Girls and U13 Mixed teams participated in the Ahead of the Game program – a free initiative that aims to educate young players and umpires (aged 12-18 years) and their support networks of parents, coaches, and club volunteers on the importance of mental health. Giving them tools to deal with life's challenges and the confidence to support their mates through tough times, whilst empowering them to look after their own mental wellbeing. Thanks to Phil Sturrock for organising these sessions – we'd like to see as many players as possible getting involved in this super important initiative this week and next.

Enjoy the Kings Birthday weekend & if you're wanting to catch some Oakleigh Dragons action, check out Troy Morton and Sienna Leopold playing for the U15 Boys & Girls Div 2 teams!

Go Dragons!

Justine Leopold
President

2025 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

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Justine Karauria (U15G)
Lisa & David Gee (U16B)

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MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Victoria Lo Presti, U14 Girls



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



INTERLEAGUE JUMPER PRESENTATION

Congratulations to all of our Interleague players pictured below - Sienna Leopold, Lucia Shaw and Troy Morton - who were presented with their footy jumpers last week.

Congratulations also to U14 Girls Skye Schurr and Jessica Tesoriero who were selected to play for the U14 Next Generation Academy.



REMINDERS

HEAD INJURIES & CONCUSSION

Australian football is a high contact sport, but footy rules have always had a focus on protecting the safety of players, with the most important body part being the player's head.

Head injuries can be associated with serious and potentially fatal brain injuries. Concussion is a brain injury caused by collision with another player (which includes whiplash from body contact) or with the ground, resulting in movement of the brain within the skull causing temporary dysfunction.

Any player who sustains a head injury during a match must come off immediately and be assessed by their trainer using the HeadCheck Concussion Management app. Players may not want to stop playing, or may say that "it's not that bad", but they must leave the field and undergo a proper assessment - no exceptions. Whether you're a coach, a parent, or a player, it's about smart play for the long game.

If concussion is suspected, the player must not return to play in the same game and must be medically assessed as soon as possible after the injury. The player must get written clearance from a medical practitioner to return to training and playing.

Trainers remember: if in doubt, sit them out. Let's keep our players safe.



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025

ISSUE 7

ROUND 6 / 1 JUNE



FOOTY TRIVIA NIGHT

OAKLEIGH DRAGONS SOCIAL NIGHT

FRIDAY 18TH JULY 2025

\$20 TICKETS | TABLES OF 10 | 7PM START | SCAMMELL CLUBROOMS
BYO NIBBLES | DRINKS AT BAR PRICES
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS – NON FOOTY RELATED
FOOTY GEAR WELCOME | GOLD COIN GAMES & REVERSE BINGO



FOR TICKET SALES GO TO – WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DCJAB





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Harcourts Next Gen Oakleigh



33 Queens Avenue, Oakleigh **Sold** Prior to Auction
Sold for \$1,245,000



James Grosso

P | 0458 037 060

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COMPULSORY



MENTAL HEALTH SESSIONS

Held by the the Danny Frawley Centre, these mental health sessions are tailored to each age group (U13 - U16).

Learn how to access the tools and support needed to tackle life's challenges, so you can Play Life Better.

Attendance is compulsory for all U13-U16 players with sessions held at the Oakleigh South Bowling Club (next door to Scammell).

DATE	TIME	TEAM	PROGRAM
Thursday, 5th June	6:00 - 6:50pm	Under 14 Girls	The Challenge - Ahead of the Game
Thursday, 12th June	5:30 - 6:30pm	Under 15 Girls	Mental Fitness
	6:30 - 7:30pm	Under 16 Boys	Mental Fitness

Please note, the U13 Boys session was cancelled for Thursday 5th.



COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

We were hosted by Dingley today and we are very familiar with this team as we have played them for the 3rd time this year already. We definitely started on the back foot with lack of concentration, allowing them to run off without any tackling pressure. We are still learning our kick ins, we have been consistently practising and explaining to the team we want to kick wide when exiting defence, but want to avoid kicking across goal which allows the opposition to score easily.

Big special mention again to Zephan and Max B who were rock solid in defence. With Elijah and Cooper C putting



constant tackling pressure on all game we came off at 3/4 time and all I said to the kids is that I wanted one goal from them this quarter and this came from Cooper C scoring the teams' whole score. We definitely have lots of areas to improve but seeing certain players thrive each week makes the coaching staff very proud. Our rolling roster is allowing the players that miss out to play up in the under 11 as they are short, and with promising feedback from their coaches.

King's birthday weekend coming up, we have the week off so enjoy your time away from footy and we will regroup after this.

Go Dragons!!

U10 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

It was a challenging outing for our team this weekend as we travelled to take on AJAX away. From the first bounce, it was clear we were up against a well-drilled and physically strong opponent who made it difficult for us to move the ball forward and generate scoring chances.

Despite the pressure, our backline stood tall throughout the game. Led superbly by Luke, the defensive group showed resilience and commitment, repeatedly repelling AJAX's forward entries, and keeping the scoreboard in check as best they could.

While it was not our day in terms of results, there were still positives to take away. It was a valuable learning experience for our young group, and we know there is lots to work on going forward. With continued effort, growth, and belief in our process, we will come back stronger.

Heads up, team - better days are ahead!

U11 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

On Sunday, we travelled to Ormond and delivered a strong, even team performance. A big thank you to our fill-ins, Ethan and Sasha, for helping us field a full side.

Our defence, led by James S, Raj, Chris, Connor and Krishiv, stood tall and provided great drive from the back. The midfield group - James Scott, Koby, Ari R and Francesco - worked hard all game to win territory and create opportunities. Well done to Francesco Giampa for receiving player of the week (pictured).

Up forward, Jimmy was a reliable target, while Evan and Ari K applied excellent pressure at ground level.

A great team effort all round! We're looking forward to a well-earned weekend off and welcoming back some teammates from injury soon.

**U11 GIRLS TARA ROGERS**

Who said footy is a winter sport!? Another beautiful day for round 6 footy. Under 11s played Ormond at EE Gun Reserve. We are still recruiting girls and now have 14 players! A few were away so we played one short with 11 on the ground. We came out really strong and our ruck was excellent at tapping the ball out to our midfielders, but Ormond scored a couple of quick goals in the first quarter. Our girls kept the pressure on with some big tackles and a great defensive game, touching the ball and saving Ormond from scoring more goals.

Second quarter we demonstrated great teamwork and communication and the girls congratulated each other for their efforts on field. We managed to move the ball into our forward line with some good big kicks and reading the play. Half time our girls found their second wind and maintained their stamina. Some quick ground ball pick-ups and handballs down the ground resulted in our first goal! This boosted the girls confidence and we started really setting up the opportunities. Our ruck stayed strong, helping us keep possession of the ball a lot. When we could clear out and make a run for it we managed

quite a few attempts at goals with a total of 3 different goal kickers!

Even though we lost by a goal and couple of points we are really proud of how far the team had come already this season. We're so proud of their skill development. Lots to keep practising - I'm looking forward to training, consolidating our skill and giving it our all for the rest of the season.

3-2-1-Dragons!



U12 MIXED ALEX O'BRIEN

We took on South Melbourne on a cold Sunday morning at Scammell Reserve. We wanted to increase the focus on pressure, moving the ball quickly and having fun.

In the first quarter the conditions were wet and slippery and both teams struggled to handle the conditions therefore no goals were kicked.

Once the conditions improved the game opened up and we were able to move the ball forward through great teamwork and increase the scoreboard pressure.

The defence was great all game led by Kai, Bronx, Charlie, Wyatt, James T, Paige and Eli. Anastasios, Darwell and Thomas Morel were great targets forward and we ended up singing the song loud and proud.

It was a great effort by everyone with special mention to Phoenix, Hamish, Theo, Hugh, Blake and James S. Thanks to Koby and Francesco for helping out from the under 11s

Our captains for the week were Ethan and Max Morel (pictured) who led the team exceptionally well.



We still have areas for improvement and we can work on them at training and bring it out on game day.

Go Dragons!

Thanks to our U12 mixed team who work well both on and off the field!



U13 MIXED ALLEN COOK

After last weeks' disappointing game we brought more of a running focus at training this week and spoke about the importance of playing your role within the Team and it was good to see the boys put this into action today against the Vampires.

They are a strong team who kept pushing our boys all day which made for an exciting match. We changed up our ruck structure with Big Dave & James rotating through and both boys did really well when they were called on. This gave our mids first look and they did well to take territory and put the opposition under pressure.

We didn't have it all our own way though as the game stayed close and the lead changed a couple of times. It was pleasing to see such an even effort from all of the boys across the ground as that is what we are looking for to set up a successful season.

There was plenty of selfless footy with strong chases, smothers, shepherds and tackles. This generated lots of energy amongst the group and the on field communication was the best it's been this season so far. There were also a few highlights and none better than Finn's darting multi-bounce run in the last quarter before nailing a long goal to keep us in front and the boys hung on 'til the final siren.

Fantastic game Team. A well-deserved win.



U14 GIRLS MARCO PERSI



On another sunny Sunday at Scammell we celebrated Vicki's 50th game for the Dragons. We were playing Beaumaris Sharks in a top of the table clash.

It's was a sluggish start but after some good team build up Kiana was able to mark and goal and give us the early lead. In the 1st qtr our forwards Anthea and Marlie were busy trying to create opportunities and we had the lead at quarter time.

Beaumaris took control in the second quarter our on ballers had a handful containing their strong runners. The efforts of Alexis and Mabel chasing down players was great, Sophia worked hard in the ruck and Vicki in her 50th was in and under the packs.

In an old fashion arm wrestle the goals dried up in the 3rd term and it was a battle. We tried to get our run going with Ellie on the wing displaying her silky skills, Bella roaming the wing and throwing herself into the contests and Miette off the half backline running into open space. We were under the pump though, Lois winning contests against her opponents in the backline, Anastasia scrapping down back though we were down in the last change.

The girls responded and were led by Jess, Skye and Ruby A, willing and imposing themselves into the match and it wasn't long until we hit the lead. We were able to be in that position until the final 90 seconds of the game when they kicked the match winning goal. We tried to pinch the win by moving Semira who played another amazing role at full back into the middle to use her kicking skills to boot it down forward and give Mia a chance to score but unfortunately we ran out of time and went down 2.3.15 - 2.5.17

We win or we learn and we look forward to our next challenge.

U15 GIRLS PAUL GEORGES

This week saw our U15 girls head to nearby rivals East Malvern for what now feels like a grudge match after last year's concussion game. And as always, it was a fierce battle in a low scoring game however this did not reflect the dominance our girls displayed.



capped off another great game with a nice set shot goal.

We know and have seen that we can kick a big score but we now know we can fight out the tough, tight games and come out on top. This was a super win with a never give up attitude. Very proud coaches of an awesome bunch of stars. Enjoy the small break and back at it next week. Well done girls.

Thumbs up to Andrew the Dragon, the newest mascot for the U15 Girls team. Go Dragons!

The first half was an arm wrestle as both team's defence held up and although we had the majority of the ball in our forward line, we did miss chances to add some scoreboard pressure. Tractor finally got us on the board with a lovely snap in play, well supported by Astrid who found the ball at will and Jezza marking strongly overhead again. Millie T, from the pesty half back to the wing, out of her comfort zone and was superb all day. Elaine and Lucy held up any opposition advances while up the other end, Charlee presented all day with Maddie and Bonnie doing their part while Zoe woke up from a quiet first half and went full beastmode for the 2nd half. Cam





U16 BOYS TOM NOLAN

Oakleigh Dragons U16 boys played Cheltenham at home. After a bye round, the Oakleigh boys welcomed 6 players back into the side from injury.

Oakleigh got the first win of the day, winning the toss and choosing to kick with the wind. It was a tight contest early as both sides wrestled to get the first goal on the board. Cheltenham eventually broke through first, but Oakleigh responded and it remained even at the end of the first quarter.

In the second, Oakleigh managed the conditions well with controlled ball movement kicking into the wind. Playing to the defensive wing, Oakleigh were able to keep Cheltenham to 1 goal for the quarter. The game then opened up in the second half with Cheltenham managing to kick multiple goals against the wind, leaving Oakleigh 15 points down at 3 quarter time.

Oakleigh played aggressively in the last quarter and were able to kick multiple goals against the wind, unfortunately Cheltenham were able to respond as they were more efficient kicking it inside 50. A much improved brand of footy from Oakleigh as they controlled much of the game, but couldn't quite find targets kicking inside 50.

Plenty of positives to take from the game, as the ball movement will cause trouble to many sides coming up against the Dragons. The boys will just need to work on their entries inside 50 to reward their efforts.



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
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		U11 & 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						

