



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025 ISSUE 10

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons,

Hard to believe that we've hit the school holiday break already! Yesterday I was absolutely honoured to witness our U11 mixed and U11 girls teams wearing their TeamSports4All socks at Scammell in back to back games. TS4A is an organisation that helps families doing it tough by covering the costs so kids can still play the sport they love – they pay for registration fees, uniforms, mouthguards etc for the entire junior career of the player! Our wonderful Club purchased the socks for these 2 teams this year in hopes that we will continue to grow our support of this awesome initiative. There's still time to donate to this cause, and next year we will be promoting it early enough so that any family can purchase socks for their players and contribute to the cause that's helping to make sport fair for everyone.

Congratulations to Oliver Zacharopoulos from the U13 mixed on his 50th game - another fantastic milestone for another talented Dragon.

Thanks to the U11 mixed team for hosting last night's Grub at the Club – it was an awesome variety of food and fantastic to see the team supporting each other with the clean up!

Last night at Grub, I spoke about saving the date for an information session we have organised with Dr David Munro, who is a specialist in concussion. We will be discussing what to do when there is a head knock, how to review/assess a player, the 21 day protocol and any other questions that we may have. This session will be held on Wednesday 23rd July (Time TBC) in the clubrooms. It is open to all families, including Coaches, Trainers & Team Managers. David will be attending again with a more specialised session for our Trainers at the beginning of next season. Please stay tuned for more information (including time), but save the date for a very informative evening!

At last week's Dragons Committee meeting, we had a good turnout with several teams represented. Ideally, we'd love to have a representative from every team. It doesn't need to be the same person each time - just someone who can share their team's perspective and help relay key updates from the meeting back to the group. We had a special guest last week in Jamie Howden, the CEO of the SMJFL. He was very open to discussion of any kind, so we spent a fair bit of time talking about grading and the challenges faced by the League, and by the diverse Clubs within it. Please reach out to your team's rep if would like more info on this! (continued on next page)

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
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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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PRESIDENT'S REPORT(continued)

Just a reminder that we have 2 exciting celebrations coming up in the next couple of months. The first is our Trivia Night - Friday, 18th July - which is our biggest fundraising event and sure to be a fantastic night. We're hoping each team has at least one table, but let's see which team can get the most people there (there may or may not be a prize for this). The second event is the celebration of our fantastic Club turning 60 years old! This is a huge milestone and we are extremely proud to still be operating with the same motto of "Through Football Better Citizens". Check out the socials for ticket details for both of these exciting events. Thanks to our Social Coordinator, Sarah Arnott, for your exceptional organisational skills!

Enjoy the school holiday break & I'll see you back around the grounds and at Grub hosted by the Committee on July 20th! Go Dragons!

Justine Leopold
President

MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Oliver Zacharopoulos, U13 Mixed



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



REMINDERS

TRIVIA NIGHT – SAVE THE DATE

When: Friday, 18th July at 7pm

Where: Scammell clubrooms

Cost: \$20 per head

Get your team together and book a table of 10 now!





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ROUND 9 / 29 JUNE

OAKLEIGH DRAGONS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Celebrate
60 YEARS

PAST & CURRENT PLAYERS
LIFE MEMBERS
MC - BAND
PHOTOS & MEMORABILIA

FRIDAY **15** AT 7:00 PM
AUGUST

WA Scammell Reserve

Cocktail Attire

\$60 pp - Food Included - Drinks at Bar prices

Tickets on sale NOW
www.trybooking.com/DDFLU





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GRUB AT THE CLUB

Huge thank you to the U11 mixed team for hosting Grub at the Club on Sunday night. The hungry crowd enjoyed an awesome variety of food as you can see pictured below.





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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



COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

Today we had the privilege of starting at 11:30am and the weather looked a bit gloomy, but rain held off for the game. We started the game off very-well, but towards the end of the first quarter we allowed the opposition to take a few uncontested marks which resulted in a few scoring shots for Murrumbreena. We had some really good pressure acts from Elijah and Cooper Chapple with great tackling also from Zephan providing an exit from defence almost every time it went in.



I think we found a new position for Hamish Rogers in the ruck as he made a lot of taps to our advantage today. In the last 3 quarters I believe that we definitely played a lot better than the first but just got overrun in each quarter. We had a really good entry into the forward line with a big kick from Elijah, which resulted in a scoring shot by AJ. Many people on the sideline said that we've improved a lot over the season and we are showing that our hard work at training is paying off with the defence kick-ins working very well today.

We had a few injuries today which I hope all the kids involved have a speedy recovery. Also a big thanks to Ethan who kept the bench nice and warm with some drills on the sidelines while he's recovering from a concussion. I would like to say

thanks to all the parent helpers and umpires as we had a very tough day on the field, we didn't get to sing the song at the end but are improving each week. Go Dragons!!

U10 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

We took to Princes Hwy Reserve on the weekend to face St Bedes/Mentone, with a clear focus going into the game: pressure, tackling, and defensive intent. Coming off strong momentum from the end of last week's game, we challenged the group to bring that same energy from the very first bounce - and they did not disappoint.

Our midfield group of Sam H, Sam K, Lex, Jayden, Reyan and Luca set the tone early with outstanding teamwork, linking up beautifully and applying relentless pressure around the contest.

Up forward, Max and Luke capitalised early on the midfield dominance, working together superbly to create and convert opportunities, putting real scoreboard pressure on the opposition. But it was our defensive efforts that truly shone. For three quarters, we kept St Bedes/Mentone goalless—a massive achievement at any level. Xavier and Hugo led from the back, taking multiple intercept marks,





and setting up attacking rebounds. Flora continued her fierce tackling form, taking on and beating players twice her size. Her tenacity inspired the entire group and epitomised the team-first attitude we are building.

We welcomed back Guy after being out injured for the past three weeks, and he was certainly hungry to get involved applying great pressure and tackling, being rewarded for putting his head over the ball. Both Ethan and Francis were able to finish off some great teamwork in the second half keeping the opposition at bay.

When the final siren sounded, there were 19 smiling faces, and the club song was sung louder and prouder than ever. This is hopefully a real benchmark performance that we will aim to build on for the rest of the season. Well done, Dragons!

U11 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

We came up against an undefeated Lions team - a challenge that excited the boys and that ultimately saw us deliver our best team performance of the season.

Both teams wore the Team Sports 4 All socks with pride. Our Captain for the week James Scott talked about how against a great team like Murrumbeena we would need to bring heaps of pressure and we would need to support our teammates along the way. Our captains this year have all done such a great job - we are lucky to have great leaders in our group.



We jumped out of the blocks - our midfield played united getting the ball moving our way. The surprise packet, young Sam Hill from the U10's bobbed up like a cork in the ocean to kick the first goal. It would be the first of 3 for the day for Sam, taking his chances in front of goal. By half time we had a strong lead and the boys were chock full of confidence.

After half time, the rain set in and it was Murrumbeena who stepped up in the conditions. They got well and truly on top in the midfield, kicking 2 goals to our none in the third quarter. Our defence was under immense pressure, and it took Krishiv, James and Josh to stand tall. At three quarter time the Lions were up and about, and our team was a little flat.

At three quarter time, the coaches laid out the challenge to the team, especially the midfielders. If we could win the battle in the last quarter, and match Murrumbeena's intensity we would give ourselves a huge chance of winning. And it was so pleasing to see James Scott, Francesco, Ary and all the mids rise to the challenge. We won the first clearance, surged it forward, locked it in our forward line, and scored the first and defining goal of the game.

From there Murrumbeena were gallant - they never gave in and it meant our defenders and midfielders had to fight right until the end. The most memorable moment of the game came late, when the Lions kicked to the hotspot and despite being outnumbered 2 to 1, Krishiv scrapped and scrapped, ultimately diving to stop a goal and saving the game. All players showed great desperation, and played like Dragons - our fans were so proud.



Against a great team in Murrumbeena, the game was played in fantastic spirits and all the parents from both teams were proud. For us it made for a great way to celebrate Grub at the Club!

At Grub, Jimmy M and Francesco won the awards, with special mentions to Sam Hill and Sasha who kicked goals despite being U9 and U10. Leading into the holidays, the boys are playing with smiles on their faces and developing a strong, tight bond. After the holidays we look forward to welcoming a couple of players back from illness and injury.

Thanks again to all the volunteers!

U11 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

Round nine we played a home game against Mordi-Brae at Scammell Reserve, and finally some real footy weather! It was wet and cold and muddy.

The girls were certainly feeling the cold and it took them a little while to warm up and start really getting into the game. We had a strong defensive team and despite saving quite a few goals and turning over the ball many times Mordi-Brae scored quite a few goals against us in the first quarter. Despite this we managed one goal towards the end of the quarter and some good plays down the midfield into the forward line.

The second quarter was uneventful and us coaches were busy managing the novelty of having a bench and subbing the girls on and off. While the girls made some really good individual efforts with some beautiful marking and a few efficient plays with some accurate handballing and big kicks; Mordi-Brae got away from us in the third quarter.

We finished on a high and won the last quarter kicking 3 goals and we celebrated as if we had won the whole game with some big smiles and high-5s.



It was heart-warming to see the girls footy community banding together with both teams wearing the team sports for all socks in support of making football accessible for all players regardless of cost.

Big thanks to the under 11's mixed team for hosting grub at the club. We will continue training through the school holiday break and come back strong for the second half of the season. 3-2-1 Dragons!



U12 MIXED ALEX O'BRIEN

We were without our coach Alex today, who was interstate with family. The team knew they had to step up after a couple of losses.



We played the Hampton Rovers at their home ground today with the aim to get off to a fast start. Unfortunately, the Rovers kicked the first two goals. The team however remained focused and after a few unlucky bounces of the ball in the goal square, the Dragons kicked a couple of goals and soon after gained the lead. They continued to attack the ball in the second half pushing their lead out to 11 points.

In the fourth quarter both teams were looking tired, but the Dragons managed to hang on to win by 6 points. Although it's very hard to point out individual performance as every player put in their best effort to get the win, a few players come to mind. Phoenix in the ruck and around the ball, Darwell also with his efforts in the ruck and James T in the back line (especially in the last quarter).

Thanks to our Captains this week, Eli Windsor and Anastasios Michailidis (pictured).



A great team effort and thank you to all our volunteers who make it possible for the kids to play the game. Well done to all!



U13 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We played Mordi-Brae at home this week on a great day for footy. We got the better of them when we played them earlier in the year but there was nothing in it so we knew we'd be in for another tough game.

The game was fairly tight all the way through though Mordi-Brae used the ball much better than we did. They looked for their team mates, honoured leads, ran in number and were able to move the ball up the ground a lot easier as a result.

On the flip side, when going forward we have a tendency to blindly bang the ball long to a pack or in many cases straight to the opposition which starves our forwards of opportunities and sees the ball going straight back over our mids heads and into the opposition forward line.



Fortunately, Masaki, Jon and Jimmy were on their game and repelled several forward entries however they just had too much to manage and ultimately the opposition skipped away in the 2nd half and we couldn't go with them.

Congrats to Ollie on his 50th game today and great to see his confidence continue to grow out on the ground. Overall, the boys kept fighting to the end and eventually put together a few quality passages of play but it was too little too late.

3 weeks 'til our next game against the Division leaders and loads to do to ensure we are competitive. Looking forward to the challenge.

Go Dragons!

U14 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

The U1 Girls had a Bye this week.

U15 GIRLS PAUL GEURGUES

This week, our focus was on sending off our young gun Astrid Garric the right way. The energy and the vibe was fantastic before the game and the girls were up and about and in celebration mode for Astrid who was playing her final game of the year before heading overseas.

It was our first battle of the year with fierce rival St Peter's at Scammell. Sienna Leopold scored the first goal of the day in the second quarter, and the girls were up for the fight and looking good. With Lucy taking intercept mark after intercept mark, it felt like we would and should be able to get the job done.





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In the end, we weren't able to kick that final goal required to win the game, and we went down by 4 points. The ball was locked in our forward line for the majority of the last quarter, but the congestion was just too much, and we couldn't get it done.

But the focus was always on Astrid and emotions spilt over after the game. With her silky skills and her ability to be evasive in the contest, Astrid has been an absolute pleasure from the moment she arrived for pre-season training. She is an absolute superstar and a beautiful person who will be sorely missed. We simply won't be able to replace her.

All the best Astrid and thanks for your contribution to the team.

U16 BOYS TOM NOLAN

The U16 Boys were set to play East Malvern, but East Malvern forfeited the game due to insufficient players.



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 / Team Photos	
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					

