



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025 ISSUE 11

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome back to footy Dragons families!

Another full day at Scammell this week with 5 games at our awesome home ground. The energy around the ground was palpable, the kids and parents were obviously super excited to get back to footy after the school holiday break. It's great to see so many smiling faces – and none more than the absolute influx of 50th gamers we had this week! Congratulations to Francesco Giampa from U11 Mixed, James Tesoriero, Bronx Sapsed, Elijah Windsor, Wyatt Scanlon & Hugh Wagner from U12 Mixed and to Jessica Tesoriero & Semira Persi from the U14 Girls teams. We love the devotion you all show to your footy and to the Dragons, keep it up!

On Wednesday this week, we had a special session with Dr David Munro who talked about head knocks and concussion – what to look for, what to do and also an opportunity to ask Dr Munro questions. This was an invaluable session and we'll share information from this session in a future edition of the Acorn.

Another special opportunity for all of our female players, was an 'all girls training session' this Thursday night. It included all of the Dragons girls teams, who participated in awesome drills and games with the Krushers female players. The training concluded with a shared meal in the rooms, which is a Seniors tradition. A massive thank you to Pat Torpey and his team of officials & players for organising this fantastic initiative. Don't worry Mixed teams, your time will come soon!

Go Dragons!

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 &
CHADSTONE**



CONTACT DETAILS Justine Leopold Ph: 0404 843 040 secretary@oakleighdragons.com www.oakleighdragons.com.au

FACEBOOK Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club **INSTAGRAM** @oakleigh_dragonsjfc



MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Semira Persi, U14 Girls



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Jessica Tesoriero, U14 Girls



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

James Tesoriero, U12 Mixed





CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Bronx Sapsed, U12 Mixed



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Elijah Windsor, U12 Mixed



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Wyatt Scanlon, U12 Mixed



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Hugh Wagner, U12 Mixed



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Francesco Giampa, U11 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

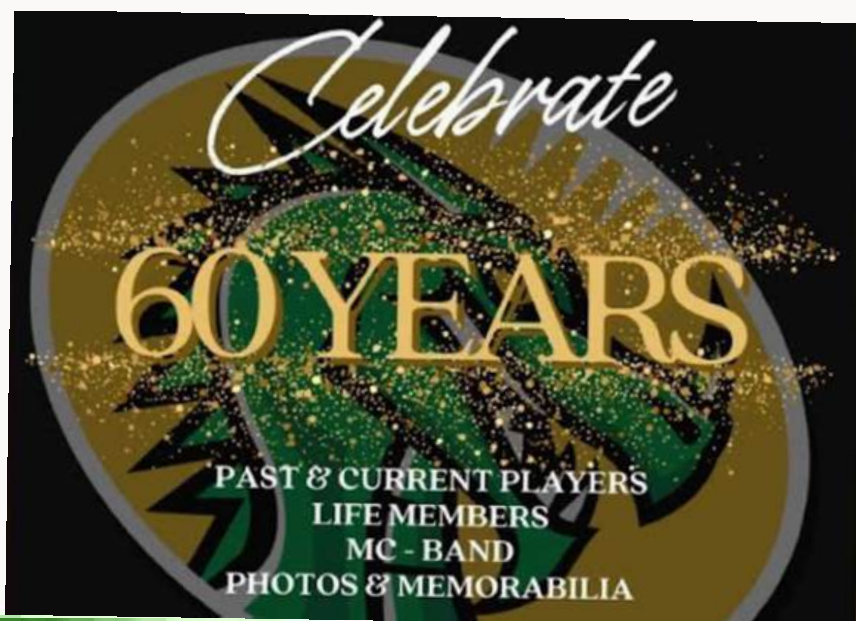
SAVE THE DATE: DRAGONS CELEBRATE 60 YEARS

When: Friday, 15th August at 7pm

Where: Scammell clubrooms

Cost: \$60 per head

Cocktail attire, food provided. Drinks at bar prices





TEAM PHOTO DAY SCHEDULE

All team photos are being taken on **Sunday, 10 August**. Add this date to your calendar!

- All photos are taken at Scammell Reserve
- You **MUST** be there 15 minutes before your scheduled photo time or risk missing out
- Full game day gear including **GREEN SHORTS** and clean footy boots
- If your team is playing away bring white shorts with you to change into after the photo
- No visible undergarments under your jumper (skins under shorts OK, but not full length)
- **DON'T BE LATE!** No photo shopping anyone into the photo who arrives late.
- No individual photos, only 1 team photo per team will be taken.

TEAM PHOTOS

at Scammell Reserve

Team	Photo time	Photo arrival time
U11 Mixed	7.00am	6.45am
U9 Mixed	7.30am	7.15am
U16 Boys	8.15am	8.00am
U11 Girls	8.45am	8.30am
U12 Mixed	9.00am	8.45am
U14 Girls	9.45am	9.30am
U10 Mixed	10am	9.45am
U15 Girls	11am	10.45am
U13 Mixed	12.30pm	12.15pm

**SUNDAY,
10 AUGUST**



DON'T BE LATE!



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



U9's PIE NIGHT

The U9's mixed team braved the elements for an action packed training session followed by a delicious pie night this week. What a great way to wrap up a training session, it's hard to beat a combo of footy and pies!



ALL-GIRLS TRAINING SESSION

Our all Girls training session was a roaring success, bringing together our U11, U14 and U15 Girls teams with the Krusher's Women's Team. A range of drills and fun activities were enjoyed together and the evening finished with a meal together in the club rooms laid on by the Krusher's.

A big shout out to Pat Torpey and his team of officials and players for organising this fantastic initiative.





COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

Today we faced St Peter's at Centenary Park. It was good to get back into football after the break.

Last week at training, we focused on our tackling and bumping as we knew that St Peter's were a bigger team than us so we knew they were going to be a physical presence. We started the game off really well and the team brought their tackling and pressure where the opposition struggled to get it past our midfield most of the day.

The second quarter started off, promising again with a lot of individual efforts with Elijah making many clearances and Harvey Mandrell using his pace and speed to our advantage and I gave him a license to run with the football. Zephan down back all day, stood up strong with Jude, giving us an option down forward in the first half with a few shots on goal.

In the second half we started the same as the first two quarters where our pressure and hunger for the football continued for the majority of the game unfortunately our hard work didn't show on the scoreboard, but we managed to hit the scoreboard in the last quarter which brought the teams spirit up.

The team is continually improving which showed in today's game and if we continue in this direction will be a very good team in the years to come. It's good to see different players playing in different positions and playing well, and even the players that are rotated off continually supporting the team on the field.

Go Dragons!!

U10 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

The Oakleigh Dragons were back in action this weekend with an away game against Highett under perfect skies. With sunshine overhead and a beautifully wide oval underfoot, conditions were ideal – but coming off the school holiday break, we knew the biggest test would be matching the physicality of a bigger-bodied Highett side.

The opening stages were tough as we worked to rediscover our rhythm, but credit to the team – they responded with grit and growing confidence. Luke and Olie were tireless through the midfield, working both ways, winning clearances, and keeping the ball moving forward under pressure.

Up forward, we struggled early to connect and generate scoring opportunities. At half-time the challenge was set – increase the work rate and push hard up the ground to present. Max answered the call in style, taking strong marks, hitting the scoreboard, and showing great team awareness with bringing his teammates into the game with a beautiful pass to Ethan, who calmly slotted a goal to cap off a great passage of play.

Luca had his best game for the Dragons – brave, relentless, and always around the ball. He consistently put his head over the ball, showing courage and commitment, and ran tirelessly from siren to siren. It was a great example of the kind of effort that lifts a team. Flora once again showed her class and toughness down back, leading with her fierce tackling and smart positioning. It is clear we have found her spot – a rock in defence.

While it was a tough contest, we showed improvement as the game went on and matched the intensity of our opponents for parts of the game. There is plenty to build on as we head into the final stretch of the season. It was a fantastic opportunity for the kids to experience a larger ground, which will serve them well as they step up in future seasons.

U11 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

A game where we celebrated Francesco's 50th, and overcame a strong St Paul's outfit to run away with the win.

After an arm wrestle in the first quarter where both sides gave everything, the Doggies skipped away and earned a handy lead at half time. Where we didn't take our chances, they capitalised and were rightfully full of energy leading into the main break. Both teams were undermanned early so had to cover a lot of ground – but it was the Doggies who did it better in the first half. Full credit to them – they had our boys on the back foot.

Impressively, and after regrouping at half time they united as a team in the premiership quarter. Our Dragons got back to playing team football – in the spirit we've seen throughout the first half of the season. Despite being behind they narrowed the deficit and we were within striking distance at 3/4 time.

In the last quarter, with Francesco as their motivation the team lifted again and capitalised as we rode a wave of momentum. In the end, Bodhi had kicked 4, Sam Hill had chimed in for 2 quick goals and the game was on our terms. When George Moloney kicked a check side and cheekily did his best Jack Ginnivan impression, there were smiles all round.

At the end of the day, it was a wonderful example of teamwork, persistence and resilience against a strong opposition. Great to have Archer and Lucas back from long term injuries, and wonderful to see our leaders stand up including James Scott, James Sanzaro, Francesco, Connor and all the back 6. Thanks to the U10's who filled in – without them we wouldn't have had a team.

Thanks again to all the volunteers, and congrats to Francesco on celebrating 50 games!

U11 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

It was an early game at 8 am for the under 11's in round 10. We played the top of the ladder team Bentleigh and we braced ourselves for a tough match. I'm still enjoying having a full side with a couple of subs on the bench. We came out



with lots of energy and tried to stay warm in the cold morning weather and we managed to make it hard for Bentleigh to score their first goal. Our game plan was to stick to their players and contest every pass and make a second and third attempt to get the ball. Our experienced players made some big tackles and key intercepts to move the ball into our forward half but we couldn't manage to get points on the board in the first quarter.

Second quarter break we reiterated our game strategies and came out strong, ready to take on Bentleigh in the second quarter. Some tight defence and big tackles led to us moving the ball into our forward and we scored two goals for the quarter!

Unfortunately, we didn't manage to score the rest of the game while lots of the Bentleigh girls kicked goals to get them way ahead.

I say it every week but I'm so proud of how far the team has come this season and how much the girls have developed their footy skills by working hard at training (not talking too much) trying their very best on game day and most importantly having fun and making good footy friends.

Thanks to the committee for hosting grub at the club this week and thanks to the parents for a fun trivia night even though my table came last. 3-2-1-Dragons!

U12 MIXED ALEX O'BRIEN

We took on the East Brighton Vampires on a beautiful Sunday afternoon at Scammell Reserve. We wanted to increase the focus on pressure and starting well.

We had 5 players playing their 50th game, Great effort by Wyatt, Hugh, Eli, Bronx and James T (pictured below).



Last time we met, they got the jump on us so we focused on starting well this time. We kicked 3 goals in no time in the first quarter. Darwell, Max, Tommy and Ethan were our main targets forward and did a great job. The second and third quarters our defence held up really well and we ended up singing the song loud and proud. Blake, Anastasios, Theo and Charlie 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 Phoenix, James S, Hamish, Maison, Paige, Andrey and Kai.

Our captains for the week were Hugh and Wyatt who led the team exceptionally well (pictured).

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!



U13 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We played Prahran at home in great conditions this week. They are top of our Division and comfortably defeated us by more than 10 goals when last we met, so we were looking for an improved performance.

We've been working hard at training with more match sim and focusing on teamwork and repeat efforts. It was good to see the boys bringing these elements into the game in a tight first quarter with Jonah leading the way playing some inspiring unselfish footy.

However as the game wore on the opposition's fitness and speed gave them the upper hand and they steadily pulled away each quarter to claim a 7 goal win.

We were much more competitive this time around which shows the growth in the group.

We will continue to work hard on playing like a team and building connection in the group as the season rolls on.

Go Dragons!

U14 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

Today we celebrated Jess and Semira playing 50 wonderful games for the Dragons and they showed their leadership qualities with Jess's willingness to compete with bursting runs and Semira's calm, reliable safe marking and no nonsense clearing kicks down back. They are great role models with their own unique styles.

We played East Malvern today and our girls were faced with the challenge of being out numbered on the field and how to react when the opposition aren't always playing the ball and to the girls' credit they excelled at both and can be very proud of their performance, attitude and resilience.

It was a close game, down by 2 goals at half time but with plenty of possession.

The third quarter we took total control over the match, from zero scoring shots to almost 3 goals in 5 minutes but the bounce of the ball wasn't with us today. Getting within a goal but not being able to sneak in front.

Unfortunately in the end we weren't able to get the reward for the effort put in by the girls today and went down by 14 points though we showed great signs with our connection, communication and ball movement.

If the girls stay true to the course, follow the process, trust their ability and aim to be the best teammate not the best player, we'll be singing the song again soon.

Go Dragons

U15 GIRLS PAUL GEURGUES

The U15 Girls had a Bye this week.

U16 BOYS TOM NOLAN

The U16s Boys travelled out to Glenhuntly Park to play AJAX. It was the boys' first match in 3 weeks due to the byes and opposition forfeit. This allowed for some welcome inclusions back from injury as they looked to get back on the winners list.

The first quarter was a close contest, as Ajax provided plenty of run and carry. The Dragons managed to get some control late in the quarter and were rewarded with a goal before the siren that gave them a 2 goal lead at quarter time.

The Dragons appeared to settle back into footy after 3 weeks off and once the second quarter started, it became an Oakleigh domination. With a focus on ball control, keeping the forward line open and driving forward into the space, Oakleigh began to reap the rewards. The Dragons went into the half time break with a handy 46 point lead, after also keeping AJAX goalless for the second quarter.

In the second half, it was much of the same. To the boys' credit, they followed the game plan which allowed them to do plenty of damage on the scoreboard. The temptation for everyone to push forward and try and kick a goal would've restricted the ability to score, but the Dragons kept their structure. This meant not only were goals scored easily, but the opposition couldn't exit our half due to our strong defensive set up.

The Dragons ended up convincing winners with a special mention to Adam who played his 100th game. Well done Adam. The boys now look forward to our next opposition.





TRIVIA NIGHT

Trivia Night was held on Friday, 18 July and what a success it was! This fantastic night was well attended and everyone had a blast. In addition to a great selection of questions over the course of the evening, a reverse raffle and other fun games were held. A huge thank you to Sarah Arnott, who organised this event, and to everyone who helped make this night a success.



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

Grub was well attended on Sunday night, with delicious Ferrari pizza being the drawcard! Thank you to the Committee for organising 150 pizzas – that was enough for at least one whole pizza per person! This was particularly appreciated by the U16 boys team, who had a strong attendance and an equally matched appetite!



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.



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					

