



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025 ISSUE 12

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons,

Firstly, a massive thank you to those who attended our session with Dr David Munro on Wednesday night. It was a fantastic opportunity to listen to an expert on concussion, and the feedback we received was extremely positive. As a result of this session, and the information gained from it, we are currently reviewing our concussion policy & guidelines. We'll let you know as soon as the updated guidelines are published on the website. We will also have a new head knock assessment tool for Trainers to use, which will likely provide more clarity on the decision of whether to sit players out or not during a game. David will also be making his slides available to us, so we will send those out via email once we have them. In summary, David told us that there is no global agreed definition of concussion. No objective measure for testing concussion. If in doubt, sit them out. We're not asking Trainers to diagnose concussion, but to identify whether there is a suspected concussion so that we decide whether the player can return to the field.

Congratulations to Adam Choucair on his 100th game! What a sensational milestone for you, Adam. We're super proud to be part of your footy journey & to have you celebrate this achievement at our Club!

Just a reminder about a couple of upcoming events which we're all excited about. Round 13 is August 10th and the Oakleigh Dragons JFC will be hosting the IKON Girls & Womens Round. This is the perfect round for us to host in the year that we have become a signatory on the Women & Girls Club Charter. All of our girls' teams will be playing at Scammell, back to back games from 9:30am. The round will conclude with a high-level girls' match (U18, Div 1 Murrumbeena v Ormond) as the finale is a fitting way to recognise and celebrate the contribution of women and girls to our game.

Finally, don't forget to purchase your ticket to celebrate 60 years of our wonderful Club. It will be a very fitting tribute to this place where so many people have created and shared millions of memories.

See you at Grub this weekend, hosted by the U11 and U14 girls' teams.
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: 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

Adam Choucair, U16 Boys

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



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.

REMINDERS

STOPPING THE CLOCK DURING A MATCH

The Clock can only be stopped for an injury during a match where the player cannot be removed from the ground AFTER a period equivalent to one quarter of the game has lapsed. For example if a player cannot be moved from the ground until an ambulance arrives.



Harcourts

Next Gen Oakleigh

Proudly Presenting

3/11 Reid Street, Oakleigh South



This private and peaceful villa is the ideal investment for buyers at every age and stage of life. Nestled at the end of a no-through road within moments of conveniences and parkland, this single-level residence is a purchase you can make with both your head and your heart.

Central and Stylish Easy-Care Villa

From this impressive home, endless amenities are within easy reach including bus transport, Huntingdale train station, North Road and Warrigal Road shops, Oakleigh Central, Chadstone, Monash University, and the Monash Freeway direct to the CBD. In your downtime, enjoy local reserves, dog parks, and several golf clubs.



James Grosso

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james.grosso@harcourts.com.au



AUCTION Sat 16 Aug at 2:00 pm



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





COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

We are over half way through the 2025 season, but the Committee is already looking ahead to next season. We are looking to fill the following Committee roles:

SECRETARY (Executive Committee)

Deal with Club mail, take minutes of meetings including AGM, attend League meetings as required. Maintain Club Policies and By-Laws. Liaise with League, distribute mail/correspondence as required within Club and externally, main contact point for Club. Oversee running of the Club along with President and Vice President. Complete corporate reporting requirements to Consumer Affairs.

TREASURER (Executive Committee)

Maintain the Financial Accounts of the Club, including banking. Present timely and accurate reports and budgets to the Committee. Liaise with various Committee members regarding budget requirements and income and expenditure.

Please speak to Justine or Caz to discuss these roles.



ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME!

For more information:

secretary@oakleighdragons.com



PETUAL CLUB AWARDS 2025 NOMINATIONS

Jock Hepburn For loyalty to the club that would not normally be expected

Nomination:

Reason:

Irene Bourke Presented to a person(s) who is/are involved, committed volunteers for the Club (other than committee members)

Nomination:

Reason:

Life Members Presented to a person with 5 years significant service to OYCFC

Nomination:

Reason:

Family Award In recognition of outstanding participation, commitment and contribution made to the Club by an entire family, both on and off the field.

Nomination:

Reason:

Coach of the Year In recognition of outstanding leadership, commitment and contribution made by a coach

Nomination:

Reason:

Nominated By (Name):

Signed:

Seconded by (Name):

Signed:

Submit to Secretary at secretaryOYCFC@gmail.com

COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

Dragons under 9's hosted Dingley at Scammell reserve this morning. We started the game off really well continuing from a great pressure game last week, it was pleasing to see all players working as a team and this showed in the performance today.

The 1st quarter played into our hands with the team controlling the play with clearances and repeat forward entries with Jude having a shot, and when the ball went into their forward line our defenders were ready and cleared the ball working together.



The second half of the game was pretty even with both teams tackling really well and putting pressure on each other. I had some supporters tell me that it was one of the better games they have seen for the year and this shows how much we've improved. At training we've worked on so many different aspects of the game that the team is implementing and it is really improving how they play the game. I'm very proud of the team.

Some individuals I'd like to mention, Elijah in the middle with a solid performance and Zephen down back having a brilliant year of football,

Max M with 3-4 goal saving tackles today, also Ethan hitting the board with some great kicks.

We didn't get to sing the song but at least we got some reward for effort this week. Thanks to the supporters and parent helpers. Go Dragons!

U10 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

On a mild July morning at Scammell Reserve, we came up against a spirited Prahran outfit in what turned out to be a terrific contest showcasing teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship.

We started the game strongly, with our midfield taking control early. Their dominance around the contest provided the forwards with plenty of opportunities, and they did not disappoint - capitalising well on their chances and hitting the scoreboard effectively.

The second quarter saw a noticeable dip in our work rate, allowing Prahran to fight their way back into the game. Their pressure lifted and they were able to level things out, reminding our group that nothing comes easy.

At half-time, the message was clear: get back to the fundamentals and lift our intensity across the ground. The boys responded brilliantly.



The second half was arguably the best team football we have played all season. Our link-up play was smooth, we shared the ball selflessly and defensively we were rock solid - keeping Prahran scoreless after the main break. It was a complete team effort.

We had multiple goal kickers on the day, with Luke, Bodhi, Francis, and Sam H leading the way. Oli, Luca, and Max were outstanding in providing drive forward, with powerful and direct entries that set up many of our attacking plays.

A huge thank you to the 12 boys - Reyhan, Ethan, Oli, Sam H, Guy, Liam, Angus, Jayden, Blake, Ziggy, Alex and Jack - who each rotated a quarter for Prahran, who were three players short. It meant every player could enjoy a full game of footy, and the way our boys embraced this challenge showed the exceptional spirit and sportsmanship that defines this team.

Lastly, a special shout-out to Flora. While we were saddened to learn she will miss the remainder of the season due to injury, it was fantastic to have her down supporting the team today. You are very much still part of this group, and we are all behind you.

The team belted out the song with pride after the final siren - a fitting end to a fantastic day of football.



U11 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

Tested against the top team, the boys tried valiantly but fell short against a strong St Kilda City.

Our day started bright - Koby and the Pendlebury's invited our newest Dragon, Christian down to training and Sunday was his first game. I was really proud how our boys welcomed him into the team - it was a great sign of teamwork and care. And with 4 of our regular starters away or unwell, and no reinforcements available - a new Dragon couldn't have come at a better time taking our numbers to 15.



Despite being several players down, the boys started brightly. Christian capitalised on some midfield dominance early. Some may say Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera kicked the goal of the day, but for our boys it was most certainly seeing Christian snapping from the pocket and joining the illustrious first kick, first goal club. Well done Christian!

With 15 players and limited rotation, the boys tried their hardest but tired in the second quarter. The damage was done in that quarter, with St Kilda City showing why they are undefeated and sitting on top of the ladder kicking quick goals.

After half time, our boys led by Francesco stepped up to another level. The boys' determination despite being undermanned was a credit to them. When momentum isn't on your side, it takes courage and determination to change the course of the game and our leaders showed they have what it takes to do that. James Scott, Jimmy and Koby in the middle worked tirelessly, and the back 5 defended so well. Some strong tackling by our forwards

and link up play meant we stopped St Kilda City's momentum and gave ourselves a chance to score. Our third quarter was our best for the day - as coaches and parents we loved how they responded under pressure.

At three quarter time the spirits were high - our Captain George reminded them to give their best for the team and they sure did this. Despite exhaustion, they continued to work hard and played the game out, of which we were proud. St Kilda City kicked goals late to seal the win, but our boys can be proud of their effort.

After the game, the boys reflected on the game and the fact that for periods of the game we really took it up to the top team. They have belief that when we play the best teams in our division that we always have a chance and that it takes a full team effort to take that next step.

Thanks again to all the volunteers.



U11 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

It was four seasons in one day for Round 11 footy - a bit of rain, a bit of wind and a bit of sunshine. The U11 girls played Ormond at EE Gun Reserve with an unusually late game at 1:05pm (nice for the parents to get a chance at a sleep in after the early one last week).



We fielded a strong side with a few girls on the bench (still a bit novel) with a good chance for a win. Our game plan was to put pressure on Ormond and make big tackles, contest the ball every chance and stick to our players. The girls really impressed us and applied our strategy 100%. They were right there in every contest, tackling, bumping and applying pressure. Some of our newer players found their inner beast making some big brave tackles, we just got a bit stuck on taking the next step to pass it out to our players and move the ball down the ground.

The rain set in in the second quarter and slowed the game down, but the Dragons dug deep and kept the pressure on. Ormond managed a few goals and lots of

points, and we finally recorded a score in the third quarter. We always finish strong and the Dragon train came rushing home with two goals in the fourth. The final score was 33-14 to Ormond, although as usual the girls finished the game with big smiles on their faces. All the parents commented on how well the girls played and how they demonstrated strong team spirit (I can tell by the chit-chat levels that the girls are all becoming good friends).

The Dragons and Krushers female teams combined for an all-girls training session last week and it was fantastic! Thank you to the older girls for your encouragement, role-modelling and footy friendship. Another example of our wonderful girl's footy community at Dragons/Krushers Footy Clubs.

3-2-1-Dragons!

U12 MIXED ALEX O'BRIEN



We took on South Melbourne Districts on a cold and slippery Sunday morning at Warwick Armstrong Oval in Albert Park. We wanted to increase the focus on pressure and our contest work.

We got off to a slow start as we were not used to the ground and conditions. We were glad the quarter time break came to reset and re-focus. The opposition were stronger at the contest and following a few adjustments at quarter time we overcame this and started to control the game more from then on. We kicked 3 goals in no time in the second quarter. Darwell, Hugh, Wyatt and Ethan were our main targets up forward and did a great job.

The last 3 quarters our defence held up really well and we ended up singing the song loud and proud. Blake, Anastasios, Charlie, Bronx and Eli 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, Theo, James T, Maison, Max and Tommy Morel.

Our captains for the week were Deon and Andrey 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!





U13 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We played the Vampires at home this Sunday in a highly anticipated match as this has been the only team we've been able to defeat so far since landing in Div 2. We had some players out due to illness and a few boys trying to shake off a bug during the week and went into the game with 1 on the bench whereas the opposition has a full side with 4 on the bench. This is worth noting as Scammell is a fairly large ground so having the ability to rotate and rest players is an advantage.

Having said that, we were happy to welcome back Gregory from a long term injury and he slotted into the backline without missing a beat. In fact our entire backline led by Jon and Masaki, who were supported by Karlos, Jimmy and Ben H, played an excellent close checking game to keep the opposition goalless after half time in a low scoring affair.

Our mids also worked tirelessly with 2 way running, strong tackling and shepherding to get the upper hand around the contest with Finn kicking our only major for the day. We asked the boys to play smart wet weather footy and take territory and they all bought in, particularly William who kept driving the ball forward and putting the opposition's defence under pressure.

We had the majority of the territory in the 2nd half but the opposition worked hard to block up our forward line and we just couldn't find that last goal to get over the line.

Regardless, it was a fantastic team effort from the boys and they should all take confidence out of the match as they did a lot right and in my mind, deserved the win.

Go Dragons!

U14 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

We travelled down to Ormond in an attempt to get our season back on track after some tough losses. Today we celebrated another milestone with Sophia playing her 50th and she played one of her best matches in her career.

It was a solid start but Ormond took the lead, we had limited chances early though we matched the intensity of our opponents but at quarter time we were two goals down. That's when the girls found another gear.

In the second quarter our girls started to claw their way back into the match led by Jess dominating the ruck and stoppages. It wasn't long until we hit the scoreboard with some great set up work by Mabel giving the ball off to our super sub Giann, playing in the under 11's then stepping up and kicking our first and second goal. Our on ballers fought to win every contest, Ruby A was at her tenacious best and our goal sneak Victoria showed her competitiveness when moved onto the ball. Down at half time but 4 scoring shots to 1 we knew this game was there for us to win.

The third quarter started with a flourish, Sophia kicking two amazing left foot goals from close to the boundary line putting us in front. Our connection was wonderful to watch, Kiana's marking and finding teammates with clever ball use, Skye's two way running linking up from the backline to our forwards. Our wingers took control, Marlie using great body work to create time and space for her teammates and Alexis piling on the pressure with her chasing and tackling.

Holding onto a one point lead and with no bench, the girls had a fight on their hands but they were at their gritty and gutsy best in the last quarter. Our backline stayed strong and composed led by the ever zen Semira. Lavinia with her strong marking combined with Lois and Ruby T not allowing their opponents any space, Ormond never stood a chance. Bella was at her combative best and with Miette running off the half backline and clearing the ball constantly we were not going to give up our lead.



As a coach and parent I am so proud of our girls' attitude and respect towards the opposition and officials. They continue to be great role models and I'm grateful to be a part of their footballing journey.

Dragons 4.2.26 def Ormond 4.1.25

U15 GIRLS PAUL GUERGUES

A tough day at the office for our girls this week, and a tough opponent in Beaumaris who sit on top of the ladder.

After 3 weeks of no footy, unfortunately the girls couldn't get going and were unable to get out of second gear. Beaumaris were just cleaner with their possessions and were able to hit targets, and more importantly, hit the scoreboard with 3 goals to nil half time.

Our girls copped an old fashioned spray at half time which seemed to spark them up in the 3rd quarter. Natasha scored an absolute beauty of a goal in the 3rd quarter, and the girls managed to play the game in our half for the entire quarter.

But it wasn't enough unfortunately. One quarter of decent footy and one goal is simply not enough to win a game. The final quarter was a hard slog, and we just couldn't keep the footy in our forward 50 for long enough to cause any damage.

Thank you to the 4 under 14 girls that came to help us out – Skye, Alexis, Mabel and Lois.

A finals campaign is still a chance for this group. We will need to win 2 of our last 3 games. But it can and will be done.

U16 BOYS TOM NOLAN

The U16s boys hosted Caulfield and hoped to continue their recent form. Oakleigh were able to field a full side for the first time this season and it showed with their enthusiasm before the first bounce.

It was competitive early with both sides fighting to gain the ascendancy, but it was Oakleigh that kicked the first goal of the game. Caulfield displayed patches of quick ball movement from their backline and were able to get their first goal for the quarter as well. However, at quarter time Oakleigh were up by 2 goals after a tight battle early.

In the second quarter, Oakleigh focused on their defensive set up and this allowed for repeated forward entries. Caulfield found it more difficult to exit Oakleigh's forward line and with the benefit of a full team, the Dragons began to run over the top of Caulfield. The Dragon's controlled the game and didn't allow Caulfield to score until they added a point in the last quarter.



Oakleigh, for the second week in a row showed their ability to stick to a game plan and be rewarded with goals. A strong team performance, all players contributed throughout the day with multiple defenders able to kick goals as well.

A great challenge awaits them next week as they face the top side. Congratulations to Adam who was able to run through the banner to celebrate his 100 games.



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						

