



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025 ISSUE 14

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons families,

What a wonderful day of footy we had at Scammell this week! A massive thank you to our superb Secretary, Caz, for organising & facilitating the team photos – she was at the Clubrooms at 6am to prepare and finally left after 4pm! It's this kind of effort that often goes unnoticed but is essential for the smooth running of our Club. Thanks Caz!

Speaking of photos, it was fantastic to see so many smiling faces, perfect hairdos and spotless uniforms! We're sure that the photos will be going straight to the pool room after Presentation Day (September 21st).

This week the Oakleigh Dragons hosted the IKON Women & Girls Round at Scammell Reserve. The vibe was electric, with all Dragons girl's teams playing back to back and followed up by the U18 Div 1 Murrumbidgee v Prahran game. The U11 Girls team kicked it off with a brilliant win against Mordi-Brae! This team has beaten all the odds, and today they played like a cohesive group with nothing to lose. With females in the roles of Coach, Assistant Coach, TM & Trainer, it was a fitting way to start the round. The U14 Girls worked hard and showed the Dragons spirit once again, never giving up until the final siren went! The U15 Girls then pulled off one of their best victories – beating St Peter's who they have never won against in a 2 point nail-biter which had the crowd on their feet screaming til the very end! Congratulations to Giann, Alexis & Lucia for being awarded Best on Ground!

Congratulations to Raj in U11 mixed, Sophia in U14 girls & Bonnie in U15 girls for celebrating their 50th games. Superb milestone for you all – we're super proud of your achievements!

Good luck to our U9s for their Lightning Carnival next weekend! We can't wait to see you at Grub to hear all about your awesome efforts! Grub will be hosted by the U15 Girls next week and the following week by the U16 Boys teams. We'd love to see all the teams getting down to Grub over the next 2 weeks to celebrate the wonderful 2025 home & away season coming to a close.

See you at the 60th Celebrations this Friday night (15th) at 7pm. It's not too late to get your tickets - Dragons 60th Anniversary

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)

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

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MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Raj Moloney, U11 Mixed



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Sophia Francis, U14 Girls



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Bonnie Allan, U15 Girls



REMINDERS

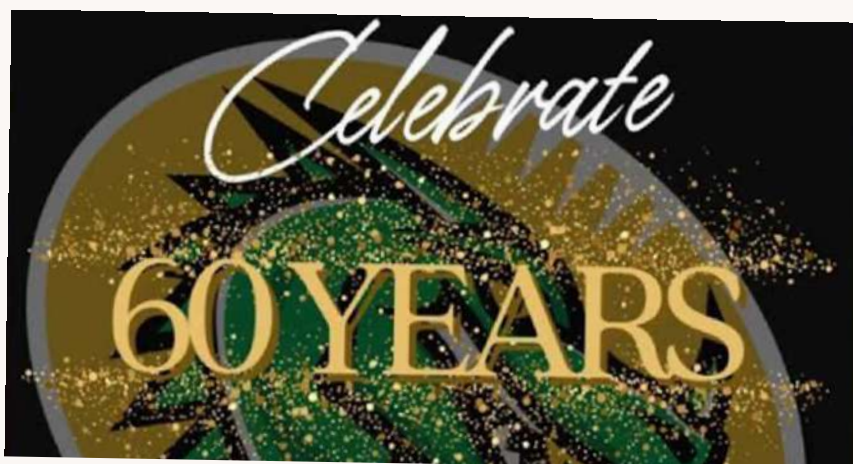
DRAGONS CELEBRATE 60 YEARS – THIS FRIDAY NIGHT!

When: Friday, 15th August at 7pm

Where: Scammell clubrooms

Cost: \$60 per head

Book a spot now to be a part of celebrating this massive milestone!
Cocktail attire, food provided. Drinks at bar prices.





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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Next Gen Oakleigh

Proudly Presenting

1/3 Albert Avenue OAKLEIGH VIC



James Grosso

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AUCTION Sat 30 Aug at 1:00 pm



PERPETUAL 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 secretary@oakleighdragons.com.au



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



COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

Well, here we are again - another season done and dusted.

After the last four weeks of footy, I really thought we were building momentum and would be right in the contest today. But full credit to East Malvern - they came out switched on and showed us how the game is meant to be played. From the first bounce, we were a bit flat, and unfortunately, that carried through all four quarters.

That said, there were still plenty of positives to take from today. We had some fantastic individual efforts out on the ground. It was great to welcome Zephen back after missing last week - he slotted straight back into defence and got to work without missing a beat. Elijah once again showed his incredible consistency. Week in, week out, he gives nothing less than 100%, and today was no exception.

Big mentions also go to Sasha and Byron, who both gave everything they had out there. Their effort and commitment didn't go unnoticed.

Looking back over the season, it's been another really enjoyable year. I hope I've done my part to help every player improve, build confidence, and enjoy their footy. Watching the development of each individual and the growth of the team has been incredibly rewarding.

We've still got the Lightning Carnival next week, one last chance to finish the year strong, enjoy our footy, and hopefully hit the scoreboard with a bang.

A huge thank you to all the parents and volunteers who've supported the team throughout the season, from helping at training to game day duties, your contribution doesn't go unnoticed, and I truly appreciate it.

To Matt and Ram - thank you for being by my side all year. Your support has allowed me to focus on coaching, and it simply wouldn't have been possible without the two of you.

To Kate and Nicole - thank you for taking such good care of the kids as our medics. Your care and calmness on the sidelines made a big difference, and we're lucky to have had you both.

As for next year - who knows what it will bring? But one thing's for sure: I'm really excited to see how each player continues to develop, and I look forward to seeing their hard work pay off.

Thanks again for a great season. Let's give it one last big effort at the Lightning Carnival!
Go Dragons!!

U10 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

The Dragons travelled to face AJAX in immaculate overhead conditions – perfect for footy. We knew this was going to be a tough challenge, with our earlier encounter this season being heavily one- sided in their favour.

Before the game, we spoke about belief – belief in ourselves, in our teammates, and in what we can achieve together. The message was clear: if we stayed positive and played as a united team, we could take on anyone.

AJAX burst out of the gates in the first quarter, putting early scoreboard pressure on us. However, our tackling and defensive pressure were outstanding, and at quarter time I reminded the players to stick with it – keep applying that pressure, trust each other, and the rewards would come. And come they did. Over the next three quarters, not only did we match AJAX, but we also outscored them – showing incredible fight, skill, and determination. Every player contributed, every contest was hard-fought, and the teamwork was simply exceptional.

Special mentions go to:

- Happy Birthday to Blake, who had the honour of captaining the team today.
- Reyan, who was acknowledged by the opposition as Player of the Day for his determination and will to compete all game.
- Reyan and Lex, who both kicked their first goals of the year, giving us multiple avenues to goal (6 goal scorers)
- Jayden, who played a selfless defensive role to limit the impact of AJAX's most dangerous player.



This was, without doubt, the best team performance of the year and the proudest I have been as coach of this group. Hopefully, we take from this game a genuine belief that no matter the size or ability of our opposition, if we work hard for each other, pressure the opposition, and play with that intensity we can match anyone and that's the pathway forward for this group.

Go Dragons!

U11 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

An 8am start at Scammell was made even earlier with photos at 6:45am, but it made sure the boys were wide awake come game time and the results really showed! Archer was our captain this week, and he talked about staying focused and positive, and playing as a team and having fun. It was a great message for our boys, and meant we were in the right headspace from the start.

Ormond have proven over the year that they are a really good team, having knocked us off comfortably earlier in the season. As they have done all year, our boys led by Archer rose to the challenge of playing one of the best teams in the division, and we came away with a great win.

Highlights for the game were how we supported each other right across the ground. We had a focus of supporting our back 6 – and it was fantastic to see our midfielders, and even some forwards pushing down to provide support.

Another highlight was at halftime we talked about how Ormond would come out and give their best to get their side back into the game. Our midfield accepted that challenge, and we kicked 3 goals in 4 minutes to start the term in our most stunning patch of form for the season.

Koby Pendlebury was exceptional kicking 3 goals, and the midfielders all led the way driving us forward and stopping countless attacks. We had 18 U11's playing for the first time all season, and it was pleasing to see how the kids worked together to get the result. It was a fantastic team effort.



Special mention to Ollie T who played up an age group for us. He had an exceptional day, showing how tough and skillful he is. Thanks also to Sam Hill for filling in.

With 2 games to go, we are now destined to play in the finals which is very exciting for the boys. We had a long, tough road in terms of wins and losses over the past 2 seasons, so it is really pleasing that the boys have earned the right to play in finals.

Thanks again to all the volunteers.

U11 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

This week was Women's and Girls round at Scammell. The girls were full of energy after the team photo, and you could tell they were pumped to take on Mordi Brae. We welcomed a new player to the team. Of course, we all missed our coach, but the spirit was high, and the girls were ready to go.



Our aim was to play a strong defensive game, and the girls stuck to the plan. We came out strong in the first quarter, keeping the ball in our forward line. Then, a brilliant moment - Lucy kicked our first goal of the match, setting the tone for the rest of the game! Giann was our defensive wall, supported by Zoey in half-back, always clearing the ball out when it looked dangerous. Our girls kept Mordi Brae from scoring and maintained the defensive pressure.



As the game progressed, the girls' teamwork was on full display. We saw great handballs, with the girls moving the ball quickly and reducing opportunities for the opposition. Everyone contributed, and we continued to stop Mordi Brae from getting anywhere near scoring goals.

Great job to our other goal kickers, Pippa, Anais and Emily. Some fantastic marks from several players kept the ball moving to our forward line. Holly was exceptional in the ruck, tapping the ball to our advantage and working hard to give us clear possession.

Every player stepped up today and showed how much they've improved, particularly using drills from training. The girls demonstrated not only their skills but also their ability to work as a unit, applying their training in the game. The defence was

outstanding, a big win for the girls! Everyone should be proud of their performance.

Giann was awarded Female Player of the Day for her exceptional defensive work. She was a brick wall, stopping every Mordi Brae attack and keeping us in control throughout the match.

A dominant win, a fantastic team effort, and plenty of individual brilliance. Let's keep building on this momentum for our last round game!

Final Score
Oakleigh: 41
Mordi Brae: 3



U12 MIXED ALEX O'BRIEN

We took on Port Colts on a beautiful Sunday morning at JL Murphy Reserve in Port Melbourne. We wanted to increase the focus on pressure and have a better start to the game.

We only had 17 players but with help from some of the Under 11s we managed to get to 20. Thanks to Koby, Francesco and Connor for helping us out.

We got off to a slow start for the first 10 minutes and were just trailing at quarter time. We were glad the quarter time break came to reset and re-focus. The second quarter was one of our better terms for the year with Darwell, Hugh, Max and Wyatt being good targets up forward and did a great job.

The last 2 quarters our defence held up really well and we ended up singing the song loud and proud. James T, Anastasios, Charlie, Theo 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, Maison, Tommy, Andrey and Kai.

Our captains for the week were Hamish and Ethan 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 Murrumbena away at their home ground on an absolutely perfect day for footy. They defeated us comfortably last time we met, so the boys were looking to get one back on them.

Despite the challenging season thus far, the boys have kept working hard at training and turned up ready to get stuck in and try to earn their 2nd win for the season.

Our focus in recent weeks has been on bringing team mates into the game by using overlap handball and lowering the eyes to find the right option by foot. It was great to see this “team first” style of play help us get the first goal on the board straight out of the centre. It gave the boys a real lift and they never looked back.

While inaccurate in front of goal, the opposition kept pressing and testing our backline which held up strong yet again. Masaki, Jon, Karlos, Jimmy, Greg and Ben P all played tight, contested, selfless footy with each boy standing up when required to save what looked like certain goals on several occasions. There were strong tackles and big defensive punches by Jimmy, Greg, Karlos and Jon and Ben P took his best high mark for the season so far. Masaki’s overlap run out of the backline was fantastic, combining with Karlos for give and get handballs and his ability to then compose himself and find a team mate by foot was outstanding.

Our mids were instrumental in getting the win with James and Big Dave dominating in the ruck to give the mids first look. Finn wasn’t quite at 100% but showed guts to work through it and have a day out with a bag of 5 brilliant goals while also setting up a couple for his team mates. Alex and Archer played their typical fierce brand of footy in tight to help drive the ball forward. Teddy showed his speed on the outside with some trademark dashing runs and Jonah took some great grabs and kicked a sensational dribble goal from the boundary.

Our forwards kept presenting and got some reward with Will chasing down a rolling ball to soccer it through. Nate was relentless with his run and chase as our tall defensive forward. Thomas, David G and Olly did their jobs at the fall of the ball and put pressure on to keep the ball in our forward line. Ben H put his nose over the ball and was able to pick up a loose one in a pack before snapping a great goal. Harrison also plucked a loose ball in congestion before snapping truly to help secure a big win.

Excellent Team effort all round today. Well done Dragons!!

U14 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

Our Under 14 girls welcomed Hampton Rovers to Scammell Reserve on a sunny 18 degree day to celebrate Ikon Women and Girls Round. The SMJFL had AFLW umpire representatives and officials present to celebrate the round, and after the match make a speech and celebrate the players for their efforts.

So it was on a firm Scammell deck, Hampton came out strongly and really challenged our midfield with some impressive work-rate and run on the ball to gain the ascendancy early. When we won the ball, we were always under intense Hampton defensive pressure, which made it difficult to complete forward chains. And whenever we were out and goal-bound, there was either a costly fumble or a cruel, unlucky bounce of the ball which cost us from making some scoreboard impact. We trailed by 2 goals at quarter time.

With no bench and under the pump, we swung the moves in the second and third quarters to change the mix up and get some fresh legs onto the ball. The girls responded well with drive and resilience to try to turn the tide, however Hampton always had an answer and extended their lead to 4 goals at half time and 6 goals at 3 quarter time.

Oakleigh's last quarter was our best, with players managing 2nd, 3rd, and 4th efforts. The ball spent a good majority of the last quarter in our forward half, and we finally managed our first score in the last quarter, unfortunately a point. The day belonged to Hampton, a significantly improved outfit from the team we played early in the year, and they were comfortable 7 goal winners. A difficult game for our players, but they always stick to the task and play the game out to the end.

As part of the Ikon Women's and Girls round, each coaching group was tasked to award a medal for the best player in their team. It was a difficult choice to single out one player, however, we were pleased to announce that Alexis thoroughly earned the medal with an inspired 4 quarter game full of run, tackling and played her standout best game for the year.

U15 GIRLS PAUL GUERGUES

Facing our fierce rival St Peters was always going to be a difficult task, but the girls were pumped for Bonnie's 50th game and they were ready for the big occasion, donning purple ribbons, for IKON Women & Girls Round at Scammell.

The game didn't start according to plan with St Peters scoring the first 2 goals of the game in the first 2 minutes, and things looked shaky early. But the girls tightened up and with 2 minutes left in the first quarter, Lucia won a contested ball, ran on and kicked it to Layla who took a strong mark with 3 players to contend with. She went back and slotted the goal, nice and calmly.



Sienna Leopold then kicked the second goal of the quarter after marking inside 50 and carefully slotting her set shot. The girls took the lead and went into the main break 3 points up.

The second quarter started the same as the first with St Peters kicking a quick goal in the first minute. Our backline was under the pump but held strong. Sienna Leopold pounced on a ball from a contest, kicked it inside our forward 50 to where Natasha read the play beautifully and ran on to kick a wonderful goal.



It was a real battle in the third quarter with our girls unable to hit the scoreboard and St Peters taking the lead. It was quite warm, and the girls came off at 3 quarter time 5 points down and looking exhausted.



But the girls took to the field in full beast mode, and they produced effort after effort to keep the ball in our forward line until Yana stepped up, grabbed the ball from a big pack and snapped from the pocket. The ball bounced and bounced and went through for a huge goal to take the lead.



It was a nail biting finish with St Peters throwing everything at our girls. But the Dragons stood tall with some amazing efforts. Milly Black laid a crunching tackle in the dying seconds to stop one final attack by St Peters, and every single girl contributed to a magnificent 2-point win.

Lucia won the IKON medal for best player after her hard work and relentless effort all day. She was involved in everything - taking contested marks, tackling and pressuring the opposition non-stop.

But it really was an amazing team performance. Well done girls and congratulations to Bonnie for her 50th game.

U16 BOYS TOM NOLAN

Oakleigh U16s boys travelled to Hurlingham Park to take on the East Brighton Vampires. The Dragons have been in good form since the bye and looked to improve on their previous performance against the Vampires.

The Dragons began the game strongly by kicking the first goal of the game. Despite having most of the footy, Oakleigh were unable to convert most of their opportunities and the Vampires were able to kick the next goal. Luckily, Oakleigh responded quickly and kicked a goal back taking a 10 point lead into quarter time.

In the second quarter, Oakleigh became more efficient at kicking at goal and extended the lead, kicking 3 goals to 1 in the second quarter. The spirits were high at half time as the boys played team first footy.

The Vampires came out strong in the second half, but Oakleigh were able to match them and continued to outscore them. Oakleigh were able to make the most of their opportunities and kicked 3 goals to the Vampires 2 and extend the lead at 3 quarter time to 30 points.

In the last quarter Oakleigh went on to finish the game strongly. Just as impressive as their attack, was Oakleigh's defence and ability to keep the Vampires to 1 point for the final quarter. Oakleigh weren't able to be rewarded for their dominance as they kicked 6 behinds, but they ended up 35 point winners. A good indicator of their improvement as they lost to East Brighton in their first match up in round 4.

Well done to Lachie on 100 games and the boys now have a well deserved break before their last game of the year before finals.

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						

