



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025 ISSUE 15

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To the Dragons of 2025,
I have to start this week's Acorn by acknowledging a wonderful milestone that we celebrated on Friday night – 60 years of our amazing Club! The night was a huge success, with many stories being told about the Dragons of old – and the evolution of the club to what it is today. And what is it today? A Club that celebrates diversity, where everyone is welcome – regardless of background, ability, identity, age or skill level. We are constantly removing barriers to participation and ensuring that all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. I'm so proud to be the current President of this Club, and I hope that more of our community will get involved in helping to run this fantastic place that we all enjoy. If this is something you'd like to do, reach out to myself or Caz or anyone on the Committee for more information.

Congratulations to Kai Eykman, from U12's Mixed team, on reaching his 50th game. What an impressive milestone for this great player.

The U9 Mixed team finished up their 2025 season with an epic lightning carnival this week. The energy, camaraderie & teamwork within this team has improved every single week and their performance in the lightning carnival put all their awesome skills on display for the huge crowd. Congratulations to James, Matt & Ram for the enormous effort you have put into your team this season – I am positive that the parents are super grateful to have such a wonderful crew leading the players this season.

At the other end of the age group, we had a sensational match between our U16 boys and their families! The boys were only allowed to kick with their non-preferred foot and only allowed 1 bounce when travelling. There were some very funny moments throughout the game, and probably some sore adults the day after!

Good luck to the U10 Mixed team who will play their lightning carnival next week. Enjoy every precious moment which signifies the last of your 2025 season. Don't forget, we would still love to see all our players at Grub next week – hosted by the U16 Boys team – regardless of whether you're still playing.

Also, keep September 21st free for our annual Presentation Day! Details to be sent out soon. As always, please reach out if you have any feedback about how we're tracking this season and/or future planning for 2026.

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 Coordinator: Sarah Arnott

General Committee:
Annelise Scott
Justin Scott
Joel Harrison (U10M)
Kathleen Windsor (U12M)
Lisa & Dave Falla (U13M)
Justine Karauria (U15G)
Lisa & David Gee (U16B)

2025 MAJOR SPONSORS



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

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



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025

ISSUE 15

ROUND 14 / 17 AUGUST

MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50

GAMES

Kai Eykman, U12 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



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

SAVE THE DATE – 21 SEPTEMBER PRESENTATION DAY

More details to follow soon.





109/6 Dalgety Street, Oakleigh, VIC 3166

HOUSE OF THE Week



1 Bedroom 1 Bathroom 1 Carpark

Harcourts
Next Gen Oakleigh

17D Chester Street, Oakleigh

Dev Bala

0424 810 402



James Grosso

0458 037 060



U12s and U13's Training Session with Robbin Nahas

Former Richmond and North Melbourne AFL Star and Dragons junior footballer Robin Nahas ran training for our U12 and U13's Teams on Friday night. The weather was miserable but the spirits were high with Robbie sharing his views on how to succeed in modern day footy and the boys lapping up every word. It was a fantastic session focused on tackling technique, the importance of keeping shape across the ground and how to put the opposition under pressure when they have the ball.

The session was well received by the U12s and U13s and helped set them up for exciting results on the weekend.





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

Oakleigh Dragons Under 9s – Lightning Carnival Recap

The Oakleigh Dragons Under 9s headed to St Paul's for the Lightning Carnival, with games kicking off at 11am. It was a perfect day for footy – the sun was out, adding a real finals feel to the atmosphere. We played three games throughout the day.

Game 1 – vs Waverley Park Hawks

We started strong, with every player sticking to their role and applying early scoreboard pressure through repeated forward entries. This was easily our best performance of the season. Elijah dominated in mid, while Cooper C had his best game of the year, attacking the contest and forcing multiple turnovers. Although we didn't get the win, the team played hard and showed great effort from start to finish.

Game 2 – vs Hampton Rovers

This was our most competitive game of the day. Elijah and Max M stood out, and the entire team played their roles well. We had plenty of forward entries, especially in the second half, which was played on our terms. It was a great display of how far we've come – the boys' hard work is really starting to show.



Game 3 – vs Highett

We came out firing in the final game, dominating play early. Harvey P, Byron, and Zephen gave it everything in a tough contest. The first half finished strongly thanks to Hamish and Cooper C, who were excellent in front of goal. In the second half, we took control of the game. Our forward entries were effective, and when the ball came back, Zack stood tall in defence with his best game of the season. It was a fantastic way to finish the day – a full team effort from start to end.

It's been a long year, full of ups and downs, but I've enjoyed every minute of it. The team has grown together, and I'm really looking forward to seeing what this group can achieve next season. A big thank you to Ram and Madhavi – our ultimate team managers – as well as my right-hand man Matt, and all the parent helpers throughout the year. Your support made this season such a success.

Well done, team!



U10 MIXED DANIEL AITKEN

Our last home and away game of the season saw us take on Brighton Beach at Scammell Reserve in an early start. You could sense from the warm-up that we were a little flat, and Brighton came out strongly, jumping us in the first quarter.

We were not able to bring our trademark pressure – the backbone of our game and the clearest sign that we are switched on. As a result, we struggled to generate meaningful forward entries, while Brighton got on top. There were moments of unsportsmanlike behaviour from the opposition, but I am exceptionally proud that our group never dropped to that level and instead showed great character.

Special mention to Luke and Oli, who never gave up and were absolute rocks in defence, making the scoreboard look far better than it could have been. Reyan and Hugo also deserve credit for their relentless running and willingness to take the game on, providing spark and effort all day.

One of our ongoing challenges for this group is to block out these distractions and channel them into a positive response – lifting our intensity and showing the fight we all know this team has. Footy is hard enough game to play let alone trying to do so with negative thoughts.

We now have a fantastic opportunity to put this behind us and finish the season on a high at next week's Lighting Carnival. Let's train well, enjoy ourselves, and most importantly, smile and celebrate playing footy with our teammates. Go Dragons!



U11 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

Going into the second last round of the regular season, the boys relished being back at Scammell Reserve. We'd played against St Bede's Mentone Tigers twice during the season, and we knew that they would be desperate to get the win.

Josh our captain spoke of being mindful of how we play as a team. He called us to respect the opposition, and support each other as teammates. This was a message we spoke about a lot - we want to be a team who win, lose or draw - rain, hail or shine – who gives their best effort and treats the opposition with respect. We wanted to play with the true Dragon spirit – courageous, hardworking and determined.

The boys showed this in spades, and we were very proud of them. We hit the scoreboard when we got the chance, and we defended dourly when SBMT surged forward. The stand out was Koby Pendlebury who kicked 5 goals including one of the best snags you'll ever see in junior football, with 4 bounces and a kick from long range capped off with an unbelievable celebration. Jimmy, Archer, Sam Hill, Francesco, and Christian Nicolaou all kicked 2 goals each – and Ary S-R chimed in with a beautiful check side where he snapped high and then gave a wonderful salute to his family and friends as it sailed through.

Other highlights included when Ary K, Chris and George all put their bodies on the line taking marks or laying tackles. The midfielders never stopped trying – and it is pleasing to see them rotating positions to bring others into the game and to ensure we are always running out quarters and games.



Lastly a shout out to Josh Buxey who lead the team superbly as our designated captain. I've been so impressed throughout the season by the boys who have stepped into the captain duties - everyone has had the chance to toss the coin and each of them has brought their own style and commitment to that role. As the season progresses and the finals roll around, having leaders right across the field is going to be crucial if we are going to accomplish what we set out to achieve.

Thanks again to all volunteers.

U11 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

The Under 11 Girls had a Bye this week.

U12 MIXED ALEX O'BRIEN

We took on Hampton Rovers on a beautiful Sunday morning at Scammell Reserve. We wanted to increase the focus on our contested work and a better start to the game.

We got off to a great start and kicked 2 goals in the first few minutes of the game and were just trailing at quarter time. The second and third quarters were a great battle between the teams and we were just trailing at 3/4 time. At 3/4 time we re-focused and reset and ended up singing the song long and proud.

Max, Hamish, Blake and Darwell were good targets up forward and did a great job. James T, Anastasios, Charlie, Theo, 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 James S, Wyatt, Tommy, Andrey, Hugh, Ethan and Paige.

Our captains for the week were Kai (50th game) and Phoenix 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 Mordi/Brae away at the 8am slot on what turned out to be a perfect morning for Footy. M/B got the better of us last time we met by 8 goals so the boys were ready to show how much they've improved during the season and really take it up to them.

We were fortunate to have former AFL Star and Dragons Jnr Robbie Nahas take the boys for training on Friday night and he did a great job sharing some fresh views and keeping them motivated even when it was raining sideways!



We have a well settled side now so the boys know their roles and are playing them better every week. Our aim was to be strong and swarming at the contest then use our pace and kick to space when in possession.

The first half was an arm wrestle with the opposition taking their chances in front of goal and our boys being a little rushed and inaccurate in front of goal which saw us down by 10 points at half time.

We reinforced to the boys that they were doing most things right and just needed to avoid kicking to packs then have patience and show a little more composure when within kicking range and they all bought in.

We had winners all over the ground with Masaki, Jon, Jimmy, Greg, Ben P and Karlos playing tight, smart, percentage type footy down back making life very difficult for the opposition forwards and also taking them on when they had the chance to break lines and send the ball forward with M & Jon leading by example in this area.

Our mids made the most of James "the Colonel" Sanders best game in the ruck. He was key in our victory with a dominant 4 quarter performance against a taller opponent. He competed hard in the ruck and ran his heart out to get to the next contest all day.

Alex was back to his bullocking best and kept kicking to space so his teammates could use their pace - with Teddy being the primary beneficiary. Teddy also had his best game for the season kicking 2 fantastic goals and setting up a couple more with some beautiful short passes. On the other wing, Archer played his typical tough competitive style to drive the ball forward and Jonah played another commanding role in the centre running and competing in the air and on the ground while also notching up an important goal.

Finn starred again with plenty of work in congestion to take the ball away from the contest and find the best option in the forward line before moving forward in the last to kick 2 amazing goals.

Harrison was a big target down forward all day marking almost everything that came his way and getting involved in handball chains and tackling hard while Will burrowed in like a terrier and used every opportunity to take territory as did Dave Garcia who was having a great game before coming off injured. Ollie and Ben H also kept busy working hard for the crumbs around big Dave Garcia. I must also mention the Nate the "Terminator" who gave his all over 4 quarters as our pressure forward. He helped set the tone with his efforts to chase, tackle, smother and shepherd high up the ground and got plenty of his own footy to also have his best game for the season.

In the end the boys celebrated a well-earned team victory and belted out the song as loud as I've heard them this season.

Go Dragons!



U14 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

Today was an opportunity for our players to cement a spot for a Div 3 reserves final spot. The girls took on lower placed Prahran who could keep their finals prospects alive with a win against us.

We were 16 with no bench vs 19 and virtually threw the challenge out to our players that all we wanted was strong work-rate, to get to contests to support their teammates, and to see how hard they could run.



By games end, it was our girls' toughest and hardest running work-rate we've witnessed since coaching this group. There were no passengers. They ran and ran, supported each other, and even at times halved 1 on 3 contests against-such was our Captain Skye holding width on the wing, and taking on 2-3 on her own to win contests all day. Our speedster Miette took the other wing and duly did the same with precision and great placement to link up forward and back. At one stage she went for a sweeping run and bounce, almost scoring a goal. We love that she backed herself in. Another donation to the go fund me Miette running bounce account.

Jess did what she does best to get our first goal. She burst out of a stoppage from the inside taking on 2 tacklers near the 50m, took her full 15 metres of run and slotted one from 35metres out on a 45 degree angle! She probably gave Nasiah Wanganeen Milera a run for his money for metres gained today. Jess was electric in the contest to get to the outside again and again. She was also awarded 6 holding-the ball frees for the day. Ruby A was immense in the middle running down, tackling, winning and using the ball well all day, and is like a heat seeking missile targeting her enemy. She is also a great team player providing overlap with her drive from inside to the outside post clearance possessions. Ruby is the constant engine room of our on ballers. Alexis provided her ferocious tackling and power in the contest, pushed forward to take some impressive marks a few times and kick a set shot goal. Very impressive work. Dynamic and strong.

Oakleigh held an 8 point lead at half time only for some inaccuracy at goal we would've been further in front.

The girl's connection and link across the ground has been a focus this year to build on. One passage of play started with a holding the ball free kick at half back with precise kicks to Mabel, Skye, and onto Kiana for a goal. It was a great to see the girls linking well and moving the ball the length of the field multiple times today.

Ellie, Lois, and Vicki worked hard too with second and third efforts to keep the ball forward and stop any opposing rebounds. Ellie's forward pressure was elite today. Her will and want to hold the ball in was admirable. Mabel and Soph were at their best today providing contests and pressure up forward, which added score board pressure and plenty for Prahran to worry about. Soph aided Jessica with chop-outs in the ruck and was highly effective and one of our more impactful players on the day wherever she was playing. Mabel was back to her high-pressure and skilful best. Well done.



Ruby T almost took mark of the year in a pack whilst up forward. It was unlucky to not stick. She worked hard and linked well with her teammates again. Ruby T has really worked hard on her game this year and it's shining through. Lois also, who we stationed forward in a role reversal today due to her excellent last quarter last week in the forward line. Lois was unlucky after a fantastic mark and kick at goal that just missed by a whisker.

Our forwards provided great options and balance, with Kiana in particular dominating the area to be our dominant link from back half chains to scores. Her positioning, great spacing and cohesion to get into the right spots all day was what stood out in her game. She clunked some great grabs and got on the scoreboard for a goal.

Skye pounced on many loose balls forward out in space providing another challenge to Prahran in what was a Joey-inspired winning move carried forward from last week. Skye's speed, and timing to be effective to get to dangerous spots, had her peppering away at the scoreboard again, almost slotting one from the boundary at one stage in true Skye style!



Mabel showed great intent and pressure all day, especially late to hold the ball up when under pressure and outnumbered. It was pleasing to have her skill and contest up forward near her best again.

When the ball did get into our backline, Mia took on a new role in defence with a career best game taking double digit intercepts and rebound 50s. Lavinia marked and defended, Bella must've run a half marathon, and our impassable Semira saved the day with her elite full back work time and time again. She is the most reliable and talented player that never ever fumbles, regularly wins contests when outnumbered, and we are so lucky to have her. She saves more goals a season than any century achieving goal kicker.

With less than a goal in it late in the last term with Prahran peppering away, a tackle from Vicki saved the day late from an almost certain open goal, as she worked extremely hard to provide the chop out for those who needed an on ground rest. When others were tiring, Vicki was still running on top of the ground.

Our girls in the end held on to an 8 point buffer to victory. What a remarkable team effort today where there was not one passenger. The greatest team effort I've witnessed since being privileged to work with this team. So proud of you all, as always.

Look forward to welcoming Marco back next week from his coaching stint in Austria and Lithuania. Go Dragons!

U15 GIRLS PAUL GUERGUES

We played East Malvern away, at a ground with plenty of positive and negative (and painful) memories. Everything was against us from the get go. We simply just had to win this to stay alive with our bye coming in the last round.

16 vs 15 starting on the field, 4 on the bench vs no bench, down to 14 players after 10min, up against a towering ruck, a highly skilled sweeper off half back, a spare player on our goal line and a vocal home crowd. And our girls.... Well we just had grit, tenacity, determination and hearts of a lioness. We asked of the girls one thing in the huddle - you beat your direct opponent, we will win this. And we came away with a win for the ages, a win truly deserved by our girls.



We certainly looked vulnerable 2 goals to zip down at half time albeit having plenty of scoring opportunities ourselves. But we somehow managed to keep them goalless in the second half while scoring 4 goals with having only 2 permanent forwards although our efforts to lock the ball in our forward line was just immense.

The back line - just a massive, MASSIVE effort down there. Repelled many of their forward entries.

The mids/wings - relentless running, non-stop from this group, we pushed you from the boundary line and you girls just kept going. What a gutsy effort.

Forwards - outnumbered all day! But just kept pushing that ball forward and willed yourselves to get those goals for us.

Coaches/parents - exhausted!

We certainly couldn't be any more prouder of our girls. Just goes to prove that it's not the size of the dog in the fight but the size of the fight in the dog. The opposition played a tough and aggressive game style but we took the hits and came out victorious and silenced the crowd. What. A. Win.

Well done to our U15s girls. WELL DONE!! Go Dragons.

U16 BOYS TOM NOLAN

The U16s Boys had a family vs son match on Sunday. To even up the playing field, strict rules were put in place such as the boys could only kick with their non-dominant foot and only allowed one bounce when travelling. There were lots of funny moments throughout the game. Father-son umpires Ross and Oscar had a brilliant time umpiring/penalising the teams. Ross was adamant that the families smashed the boys 302 to something. Possibly the time keeping was biased but no matter the final score, a brilliant time was had by all players and onlookers. Let's keep this brilliant tradition going!





GRUB AT THE CLUB

Huge thank you to the U15 Girls and their families for serving up a delicious spread at Grub at the Club on Sunday.



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						

