



# THE ACORN

SEASON 2025 ISSUE 16

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons,

What a pleasure it was to go around the grounds this week – I managed to catch the U10s lightning carnival, the U11 mixed & U14 girls games at Scammell, as well as the U13 mixed game at Como Park. The highlight had to be going to see 2 of our Dragons girls who are on loan to St Peter's/Bentleigh for the season. We sadly couldn't provide an U18 girls team for these awesome young women to play in, but their commitment to their footy has meant that they have been a wonderful addition to St Peters. Congratulations to Jess Hopgood for celebrating the exceptional milestone of 100 games in junior football! Jess has been such a loyal Dragon, and we look forward to welcoming her back to Oakleigh as a senior footballer next year. Well done also to Natalie Carbonaro for her 50<sup>th</sup> game, which was also celebrated by St Peters. Another huge highlight was the spit cooked up by Roy & Ross – lots of supervision all day to make sure the meat was absolutely perfect! Thanks to all of the U16 boys and their families for providing a fantastic last Grub at the Club for 2025.

This week saw a record breaking number of players (5 in the U16 boys!) running through the banner to mark awesome football milestones! Congratulations to: U16 Boys - Henry Spencer, Lachlan Wilks, Joshua Weymouth for 100 games and Peter Glass, James Gee 50 games; U11 Girls – Giann Barratt 50 games. U11 Mixed – Krishiv Shah 50 games.

Finally, a reminder that we need volunteers for the roles of Secretary & Treasurer for Season 2026. We cannot run the Club without these crucial roles. If this is something you're interested in, please reach out as we can provide lots of support to help you.

See you all at Presentation Day on September 21st! Go Dragons!

Justine Leopold  
President

# GO DRAGONS

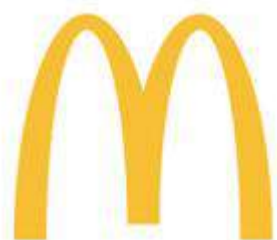
### 2025 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

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**



**Harcourts**  
Next Gen Oakleigh



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

**FACEBOOK** Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club **INSTAGRAM** @oakleigh\_dragonsjfc





## MILESTONE GAMES!

### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Giann Barratt, U11 Girls

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### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Krishav Shah, U11 Boys

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### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

James Gee, U16 Boys

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## CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Peter Glass, U16 Boys



## CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Natalie Carbonaro, U18 Girls



## 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.





## CONGRATULATIONS

Henry Spencer, U16 Boys

# 100 GAMES



## CONGRATULATIONS

Lachlan Wilks, U16 Boys

# 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





## CONGRATULATIONS

Joshua Weymouth, U16 Boys

**100  
GAMES**



## CONGRATULATIONS

Jess Hopgood, U18 Girls

**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](mailto:a.sturrock76@gmail.com)





## REMINDERS

### NOMINATIONS FOR PERPETUAL AWARDS

Nominations for Perpetual Awards are being sought in the following categories:

- **Jock Hepburn Award** - For Loyalty to the club that would not normally be expected.
- **Irene Bourke Award** - Presented to a person who is an involved, committed volunteer for the Club (non-committee members).
- **Life Members Award** - Presented to a person with 5 years significant service.
- **Family Award** - In recognition of outstanding participation, commitment and contribution made to the Club by an entire family, both on and off the field.
- **Coach of the Year** - In recognition of outstanding leadership, commitment and contribution made by a coach.

If you believe there is anyone at the club who is a worthy candidate, please complete the nomination form found on the next page of the Acorn.

All nominations can be emailed to Caz at [secretary@oakleighdragons.com.au](mailto:secretary@oakleighdragons.com.au)





# PRESENTATION DAY

**WHEN:** SUNDAY, 21ST  
SEPTEMBER

**WHERE:** SCAMMELL  
RESERVE

- \* CLUB AWARDS \* TEAM AWARDS
- \* UNIFORM DONATIONS
- \* CANTEEN





Nominations  
now open for

# **PERPETUAL AWARDS**

- Jock Hepburn Award
- Irene Bourke Award
- Life Members Award
- Family Award
- Coach of the Year Award

More information and Nomination Forms  
can be downloaded from the latest  
Acorn newsletter



## HOUSE OF THE

*Week*

1/16 Mora Avenue, Oakleigh VIC 3166



3 Bedroom 2 Bathroom 1 Carpark

### Harcourts

Next Gen Oakleigh

17D Chester Street, Oakleigh

James Grosso  
0458 037 060



Lily Parsonage  
0405 116 084







## PERPETUAL CLUB AWARDS 2025 NOMINATIONS

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

*Nomination:*

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*Reason:*

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

*Nomination:*

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*Reason:*

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

*Nomination:*

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*Reason:*

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**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:*

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*Reason:*

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

*Nomination:*

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*Reason:*

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*Nominated By (Name):*

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*Signed:*

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*Seconded by (Name):*

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*Signed:*

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Submit to Secretary at [secretary@oakleighdragons.com.au](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@oakleighdragons.com)



## COACHES' REPORTS

### U10 MIXED **DANIEL AITKEN**

We wrapped up our 2025 season with the Lightning Carnival, once again blessed with perfect conditions and a beautiful sunny day. Today was all about fun, enjoying our footy, and finishing the year with a positive mindset.



#### Game 1 vs Ajax Sharks

We were a little slow out of the blocks again – something that has been a theme for us lately – but the kids fought back strongly. Hugo showed just how much he has improved this year, leading the midfield with confidence and drive. Luke went forward in the second half and proved dangerous, hitting the scoreboard and giving us a great start to the day.



#### Game 2 vs Mordi-Braeside Mustangs

This game was tough – our opposition were much taller and stronger across the ground, and their physicality and pace were telling. Despite being outplayed, Oli battled fiercely in the midfield, showing great determination, while Alex stood out with his strong attack on the ball – a real highlight for the coaches.

#### Game 3 vs East Malvern Knights

Once again, we came up against a bigger-bodied side, but this time we really took the fight up to them. Sam H was outstanding in the midfield, driving us forward with a terrific performance. At half time we were only a kick behind, and in the second half we lifted – Oli was excellent at centre half forward, and Max, digging deep and pushing through on one leg, hit the scoreboard to lift the team. A real highlight in the second half was the teamwork, looking laterally, switching the play, and running to support with handball receives. This is exactly the style of play we have been training for, and it was brilliant to see the kids take the game on in this way.





The 2025 season tested us at times but also gave us plenty to celebrate, but it has been such a rewarding year watching this group continue to grow, compete, and enjoy their footy. I have loved every minute of my three seasons coaching this team, and I am excited to watch them continue to develop in the years ahead.

A huge thank you to all the parents for your support throughout the year. A special mention to Carlie, our fabulous team manager, Dan my assistant, and Joel our runner – your help with the kids has been invaluable. Well done Dragons – what a great way to finish the season!

## U11 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

Celebrating Krishiv's 50th and our final game of the regular season, our Dragons were united and came away with a strong victory against the Panthers.

The Panthers are a big, strong side and it was clear they wanted to finish the season strongly. With 3 U9's filling in for us, across the park we were shorter in stature, but we made a point of sticking to our plan and executing a true Dragons game of football.

There were several stand out games by individuals, but overall it was a pleasing team performance. Connor and James Sanzaro were so strong in and around the ball, plus across half back. Koby's dash and how we moved the ball quickly meant we were always dangerous moving forward. Our midfielders did a good job despite being outnumbered at the contest for most of the game. Chris played his best game for the season, snagging an important goal in the process. So many positives which is the sign of a strong team.

During the game we made a point of calling out where the Dragons spirit was on show. As a side we are stronger together, and we loved hearing players shower their teammates with praise. Lots of examples of picking their teammates off the ground, following team rules and remaining positive. With the finals approaching, I'm confident that our team has what it takes to really test the top teams.

Congratulations to Krishiv on 50 games, and to the boys for finishing the season so strong. They've now put themselves in a good position to have a crack at winning a final or two.

Thanks to all the volunteers.

3 sets of brothers, pictured right, pulled on the boots for the under 11s today. Ari, George and Archer had their under 9 brothers, Sasha, Max and Elijah qualify for finals with them.







## U11 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

The gals played the final game for the season against Bentleigh at their home ground. Another beautiful day for girls footy and we celebrated our final game with some little gifts to each other to thank everyone for an amazing season. Giann was captain for her 50th game - congratulations Giann!



Bentleigh were a very strong side all season and we knew we had our work cut out for us. The girls showed huge effort and put lots of pressure on with almost every one of Bentleigh's possessions contested in some way. Bumps, tackles and chasing down resulted in many turnovers and our girls getting the ball.

Despite our possessions, we couldn't seem to move the ball down the ground into our forward line and we played a mostly defensive game. Our solid defenders did an awesome job of stopping so many goals and showed determination time and time again every time Bentleigh scored (which was a lot!).

By the last quarter our girls looked a bit flat and thankfully the final bell rung us out. As I said to the girls

post-match - we've come so far. We started the season with 6 team members, and ended the season with 6 subs on the bench! I'm so proud of everyone who has joined us to have fun and make new footy friends.

We now know we've scraped into the finals, so it's up against Bentleigh again.

We're going to approach this game with a positive sports attitude, demonstrating resilience and determination. But most importantly we're going to have fun!

3-2-1-Dragons!

## U12 MIXED ALEX O'BRIEN

We took on the East Brighton Vampires on a beautiful Sunday morning at Scammell Reserve. We wanted to increase the focus on our pressure and have a better start to the game.

Unfortunately we got off to a slow start and the game was a battle for the first 2 quarters and it was evenly poised at half time. The half time break was good timing and enabled us to re-focus and reset. We played a lot better in the third and fourth quarters and ended up singing the song long and proud. Darwell, Anastasios, Blake, Charlie and Hugh were good targets up forward and did a great job. James T, Theo, Bronx, Eli and Ethan 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, Max, Tommy, Andrey, Maison, Hamish, Deon and Kai.

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

We still have a lot of room for improvement and we can work on our skills and contested work at training and bring it out on game day especially with finals next week.

Go Dragons!





## U13 MIXED ALLEN COOK

We played ladder leader Prahran away for our final round of the season. Prahran taught us a footy lesson when last we met, defeating us by 10 goals way back in Round 5 so we saw this as another opportunity to gauge our growth and improvement since then.

The grounds and conditions were perfect but for some reason we didn't get out of the blocks with the energy and fight that we've demonstrated over the last few weeks giving the opposition the upper hand in the 1st quarter.

We asked the boys to dig deep in the 2nd and commit more to the contest and they responded well with Nate the "Terminator" putting his body on the line, Karlos doing the same and James "the Colonel" Sanders starting to take over in the ruck which saw us still in the hunt and just 3 goals down at half time.

The 2nd half was an arm wrestle and the opposition kept us on the back foot with their run and clean ball use but our backline held up well again with Jon, Masaki, Jimmy and Greg holding them out on several occasions.

Our mids showed great fight and at times took ascendancy with Alex, Finn, Jonah and Archer battling hard to push the ball forward into our 50 but we struggled to find connection. We managed our first major with Harrison kicking a miracle snap that bounced through to give the boys a lift and a bit of hope going into the last quarter.

The opposition took the wind out of our sails with a quick goal early in the last but the boys kept toiling away and it was great to see Big Dave Koutsoubos take a strong mark and kick our second goal for the day in a low scoring affair.

We did have some unwell and banged up boys so it was a great effort to fight their way into the game and give the ladder leaders a bit of a fright eventually going down by 4 goals - HUGE improvement since the last time we met and that's what it's all about.

While we did not make finals, the boys should all be proud of their efforts and take confidence in that they definitely deserved to be in Division 2 notching up 3 wins for the season and competing well in most games.

Congratulations boys and thanks for all of your efforts. To the Assistant Coach Gary, our Runner George K, Trainer George M, Boundary Umpire George Z, Goal Umpire Panny and Co Team Managers Lisa & Dave Falla; Thanks so very much for the time and effort you all gave this year so the boys could enjoy playing together. Thanks also to all parents who took their turn in the rotating roles.

Go Dragons!

## U14 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

Our final home and away match was played at Scammell against the strong unit Beaumaris. We were up against it even before the game started having one less on the field and no bench though our girls fought gallantly all match without complaint.

The match didn't go our way, though what shone through was our desire to compete and work as a team led by our captain Skye who worked tirelessly on the wing all match willing herself to link up between lines. Jess again using brute force and determination in the ruck and bursting out of packs.

Our backline under siege but never dropping our heads led by the ever zen brick wall Semira, marking and kicking cleanly from the last line supported by Bella, throwing herself into every contest, not allowing her opponent any breathing room. When they aren't stopping attacks Lavinia steps up and puts her body on the line, holding up play and winning the ball on the ground.



Our versatile Miette playing on the half bank flank or wing looked magnificent with 2 running bounces leaving the opposition in her wake. We didn't get the ball to our forwards all that much but when we did Victoria and Lois looked dangerous around goal and with Mia switching from back to forward worked well with limited opportunities.

Our mids didn't stop trying all match, Kiana with her clever handballs, Ellie with her silky skills around the backs, Marlie down the wings using her speed to create space and Ruby T competing bravely.

Sophia was at her side stepping best from mid to forward, dancing through traffic to find her left foot and the ever fierce, tenacious Ruby A was everywhere.



We are finals bound and I am super proud the girls development this season and looking forward to a big finish in 2025

## U15 GIRLS PAUL GUERGUES

The U15 Girls had a Bye this week and got to burn off their energy playing Splatball, while keeping an eye on the other matches in their division to see if they'd play finals next week. As hoped, the results were favourable to us, and we leapt from 5<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> on the ladder by the time Splatball was done - it was an extreme high of post-Splatball adrenaline and the excitement of making the finals!







## U16 BOYS TOM NOLAN

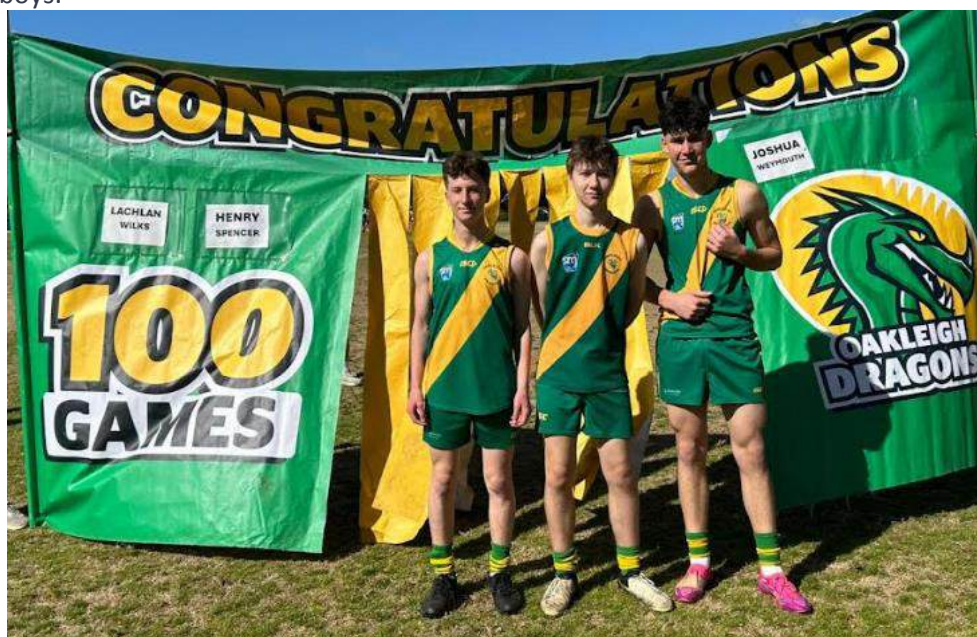
The U16s boys hosted Cheltenham in their last home and away game for the year. It was a great test heading into finals as Cheltenham sat second on the ladder.

The first quarter was an even contest, but Oakleigh managed to get the first goal on the board. In a tight back and forth contest, Cheltenham responded with their own goal and the scores were level at quarter time.

Taking advantage of the wind, Cheltenham managed to break away kicking 3 goals to 1. Inaccurate kicking from Oakleigh and a strong defence from Cheltenham restricted the Dragons ability to score despite having most of the play. Oakleigh were only able to score 1 behind for the remainder of the game and Cheltenham took their opportunities with some strong link up play.

Beaten by a better opponent on the day, the Dragons were shown what it will be like to play finals as they played a side with strong pressure and intensity. Possibly just what they need going into finals after playing some lesser sides.

Congratulations to Henry, Josh W and Lachie as we celebrated their 100 games at home and Pete and James for their 50 games. Well done boys.







## 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		
21-Sep PRESENTATION DAY, SCAMMELL RESERVE						

