



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025 ISSUE 17

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons,

Finals Footy hit this week – with 6 out of 7 of our eligible teams competing! It was so great to watch our U11 mixed team battling it out at Murrumbena, desperately trying to overcome finals nerves and play their own game. On to the U15 girls playing their arch nemesis in East Malvern, with one less player on the field and a finals monkey on their back! Then off to Bentleigh to see our U11 girls team trying to bounce back after an upsetting loss last week – this group of girls played their best game of the season, showing true Dragons spirit in the face of adversity! Unfortunately, the Dragons were defeated in 5 out of the 6 finals games, but there were some great lessons learned on the field this week! Congratulations to our U16 boys who came away with a fantastic win! Also a massive congratulations to Tom Nolan & his wife Lauren on the safe arrival of their daughter, Maeve.

Congratulations to Thien Dharmendra from U11 Mixed who played his 50th game on the weekend, what an amazing accomplishment.

As we head into the close of the 2025 season, I'm super excited to announce that we have locked in a new Coach for 2026 – Josh Consolmagno will be Coach of the U14 Boys next season. Josh played for the Dragons as a Junior, and currently plays for the Oakleigh Krushers. He is a wonderful addition to our Coaching staff and we know the U14 boys will thrive next year under his training.

Finally, a reminder that we are currently looking to fill the roles of Treasurer & Secretary – they are an integral part of our Club & we cannot operate without them. Please see myself or Caz for further information.

See you at Presentation Day on September 21st from 11am.
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



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



MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Thienn Dharmendra, U11 mixed



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If you have any photos you'd like included in the next Acorn, please email them with a description to Anne at a.sturrock76@gmail.com



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.



THE ACORN

SEASON 2025

ISSUE 17

ROUND 16 / 31 AUGUST

Get behind our

PRELIMINARY FINALISTS

Who: U16 Boys

When: 12:30pm, Sunday, 7 September

Where: Highett Reserve



Go Dragons!



PRESENTATION DAY

WHEN: SUNDAY, 21ST
SEPTEMBER AT 11AM

WHERE: SCAMMELL
RESERVE

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

HOUSE OF THE *Week*

10A Luain Avenue, Oakleigh South VIC 3167



4 Bedroom 3 Bathroom 2 Carpark

Harcourts
Next Gen Oakleigh

17D Chester Street, Oakleigh

James Grosso
0458 037 060



Dev Bala
0424 810 402





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.au



COACHES' REPORTS

U11 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

Inaccuracy, and a strong Lions team meant our season came to an end with our boy's showing courage and determination all the way to the end.

The boys had earned their spot in the final 4. Throughout the season we'd faced adversity through numbers, playing with grit and camaraderie all the way. We welcomed countless U9 and U10s to fill in and our boys embraced them each, and every week. So with Evan Lavdas flying in from Greece the night before the final – it meant for the first game all season we had all U11s available and that gave us confidence.

Celebrating Thien's 50th game, we went in united and in the first quarter we dominated play. The mids were on top, and we peppered the goals but unfortunately failed to convert our chances kicking 4 behinds.

In the second it was an arm wrestle and against the wind our midfield and defence held strong, conceding only 1 goal.

At half time, we talked about needing to lift again, playing together and remaining level-headed no matter which way the scores went. Despite James Scott dominating the ruck, it was the Lions who took their chances in the premiership quarter winning it out of the middle kicking 3 goals and establishing what would be a match winning lead.

In the last term we all had belief that we were still in the game. It was going to take an almighty effort – and that is what the boys gave. Our midfield dominated, and the ball stayed in our forward line. The back 6 were dour and conceded only 1 goal into the wind. Whilst in the end the margin was too big to overcome, it was fitting when late in the game Thien in his 50th game marked strongly and converted our first goal.

The boys were rightfully disappointed – but again we showed the Dragon spirit in defeat. We were respectful, and our tears subsided when we sang happy birthday to Jago and ate sweet doughnuts! Playing together and celebrating these things is the most important part of playing in a team.

I'd like to thank all the parent helpers, and the kids for the season.

Special mention to Felicity and Kate for being the best team managers I could ever have. When no one was willing, you both put your hand up for the job and I am very grateful for that.

Also to Kris – the boys have learnt plenty about structure, tactics and what it takes to be a good footballer... we are lucky to have a coach with such experience to support the team.

I am so incredibly proud of our team – I am enormously privileged to have had the gig as coach in season 2025, and I look forward to welcoming all the boys back in the U12s where we can have another crack at winning that elusive premiership.

U11 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

After starting the season, not sure if we could get numbers for a full team we managed to scrape into the finals by one percent! It was back to Bentleigh to play the top team again.

The mantra for this game was to try our very, very best and to have fun. We also knew the girls would have to dig deep and give 200% playing a mostly defensive game this week.



Bentleigh hit the ground running and kicked three goals in the first five minutes. But our Dragons girls were brave and fierce and thanks to some strong defenders, we stopped many more goals going through.

In the second quarter the girls put on amazing pressure and were able to shut Bentleigh's game down with them hardly scoring. This was thanks to lots of tackles, lots of running down, and sticking to their players. We even managed to get a point on the board.

In the third they got away from us a little bit more, but the fourth quarter was where we came back roaring.

At three-quarter time I asked the girls to dig deep and give it everything for their last quarter of footy for the season, and don't forget to have fun! They ran out there and smashed it! There was play in our forward line and a determined lead resulted in our first goal! The girls celebrated with cartwheels and a big group hug, followed by the loudest Dragons crowd cheering you've ever heard! This inspired and motivated the rest of the team and we had our second goal not long after with a clever snap out of the scrum. I have to admit I was a little disappointed when the final bell rang because I really thought the girls had a little bit more in them.

If we had a few more weeks together, I think we could've had Bentleigh, but in the end the win went to them (convincingly).

It's been such a pleasure getting to know the girls and all their families, this season. I say it every week but I really am so proud of how far we've come. The girls showed so much determination, resilience and finished every game with a smile on their faces. Every one of them are good sportswomen and are passionate about playing good footy.

I'm looking forward to finishing the season with our presentation day in a few weeks and a break over the summer before we hit pre-season early 2026.

3-2-1 Dragons!

U12 MIXED ALEX O'BRIEN

We took on Port Colts in a Semi-Final on an overcast Sunday morning at JL Murphy Reserve in Port Melbourne. We wanted to increase the focus on our defence and starting the game well.

The first 10 minutes of the game we started well and were only down by 3 goals at quarter time. We tried our best in the second quarter with the defence holding up as best as they could and were only trailing by not many more at half time.

We changed a few things around at half time but Port Colts were too good on the day. Everyone tried their best and can't wait for next year.



Our captains for the week were James S and Bronx who led the team exceptionally well.

We had a great year to finish in 3rd position, it wasn't our day in the Semi-Final and we can learn a lot from this to be stronger and better going forward.

Go Dragons!



U14 GIRLS MARCO PERSI

The footy Gods were definitely against us today with personnel issues and player availability coming into the game. We took to the field with magnets changing across the board more than a moyu 21x21 Rubik's cube.

In true Dragons style we piled on the pressure and crowded the contest early. The intent was there, but Ormond managed to get us on the outside forcing us to defend most of the quarter, and to be down by 8 points at quarter time.

In the second quarter we adjusted by spacing ourselves better across the ground led by our on-ball General Ruby A. It immediately changed the shape of the game with the ball spending most of the time in our forward line with constant repeat entries. Somehow we couldn't quite get it on the scoreboard, albeit an unlucky poster and a few that bounced sideways or went out of bounds.

The girls continued this into the third quarter and despite no bench and playing one short on the field dominated play again in the third term for another poster and a few goal saving tackles from Ormond. We were admirable in our pressure and intent, however somehow lost the quarter to trail by 13 points at the last change.

We threw Skye up forward who threatened several times late, and kept willing herself to win ball after ball. Miette worked so hard on the wing to give us opportunity after opportunity alongside Sophia, as did Kiana. Ruby A, Ellie, Mabel and Alexis all had moments to give us a chance. Soph strode forward many times and almost goaled or put the ball to Vicky and Marlie in great positions near goals. They almost got through multiple times.

Lavinia, Ruby T, Semira and Lois all repelled many balls in the backline. Bella helped with a power of extra ruck work in Jess' absence, and marked her dangerous opponent brilliantly all day.

We couldn't question the players' effort. In the end Ormond got us by 18 points in a disappointing end to the season for the girls.

It's been a pleasure to be involved with the group this year. We've loved every minute of training and game day, seeing progress again, in a challenging year age-wise and numbers-wise. It has just come down to being unable to capitalise on linking up with handball and kick to a target ahead of the ball. That has been the ultimate difference in many games this



year, basically the skill level to move the ball quickly and effectively down the field, and not quite having more leading targets ahead of the ball.

To improve next year and to take their games to the next level next year, it has to come down to more preparation and work away from scheduled training. One and a half hours once a week at training just doesn't cut it if you want to improve as an individual and a team. There are a few players that put in extra time, and work hard on their games, but ultimately as a team, you get the sum of all parts and rewards are proportional to preparation.

We have a good environment and good people supporting you. It's up to you girls to put in what you want to achieve out of your football. If it is to have fun and be a part of a positive team environment, then you have achieved your goals admirably, and we applaud you.

If it is to get better results and really push for a true premiership, great things can happen when great preparation meets a fun learning environment. So for next year, decide early what you want to achieve as a group and then work backwards from there on how you are going to achieve it.

Thank you to all the behind the scenes work from Janelle, Marco, and the parents as volunteers, helping out at training, particularly Anna with her participation and snacks at training games, and Joey an equal in all respects to us coaches as our runner. Also a big thanks to the club and its committee for all their hard work as well to make it possible for our children to play at a supportive and welcoming club.

Go Dragons

U15 GIRLS PAUL GUERGUES

Finals footy for our U15 girls. After waiting on other results due to our last round bye, we earned our chance - and it was a showdown against our fierce rivals, East Malvern.

Once again, we were up against it before the first bounce. One short on the field, no bench, against a side with six rotating off the bench. But we've seen this movie before. The girls were unfazed. There were nerves, sure, but after a great build-up and warm-up, we knew they were ready.

The first quarter was tense and gritty, with both teams holding firm and neither managing a goal - a fantastic effort by our girls. In the second quarter, East Malvern eventually broke through our defence, but we answered right back with a sensational side-step and goal from Lucia to go into half-time with a goal each.

The second half began to wear our girls down. The opposition's constant rotations and running game were hard to contain especially with their sweeper roaming free at the back of the packs. At three-quarter time we asked for one last push, one more gut-busting effort - and they delivered. Every single girl walked off knowing she had nothing left to give. That's all we could ask for.

Coaches, staff, parents - we couldn't be prouder of this group of fighters. No other team in our division could've achieved what these girls did a fortnight ago, and to go down swinging and lose by only 12 points yesterday is testament to their tenacity and fight.





Thank you, girls, for all the laughs, the tears, the wins and losses, the training nights in rain and hail, the wonderful camaraderie, and for simply being a great bunch of players to coach.

That's a wrap for 2025. What a season. What a team.
Dragons on 3!

U16 BOYS TOM NOLAN

The u16s Dragons travelled to play Ormond as they held the home ground advantage for the 3 vs 4 final. Previously, Ormond got the win in their 1 home and away season match.

Oakleigh started the first quarter strong and kicked the first goal of the game to settle. It was a tight contest, but it felt like Oakleigh had control of the footy despite only being 1 goal up at quarter time. The second quarter was just as tight a tussle as both teams were fighting hard to gain ascendancy. Oakleigh managed to kick 3 goals, but Ormond kept in touch with 2 of their own. At half time, the game was on with Oakleigh ahead by 16 points.

The message at half time was clear for Oakleigh, continue to play attacking footy and eventually they will break clear. In the third quarter, that's exactly what happened as Oakleigh kicked 3 goals to 1 and were 31 points up at 3 quarter time. The boys knew that Ormond would come out aggressively to try and steal a win in the last. To Ormond's credit, they made Oakleigh fight hard for the win as they kicked 3 goals in the last to put the pressure on.

Through hard work and strong defence, Oakleigh held off Ormond to come away with the win. It was a great team effort and reward for their training. Now they move on to the next week with a chance to get to the last game of the year. In finals, anything can happen.





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					

