



THE ACORN

SEASON 2026 ISSUE 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons,

Welcome to the 2026 footy season! The Committee (new and old members) have been working really hard to prepare for the upcoming season. It all began with the induction of a new Secretary & Treasurer - Lisa Falla & Carlie Harrison respectively. Welcome to these wonderful new members of the Executive Committee - already your tireless work has made such a difference and we look forward to working together to raise our Club to even higher standards this year! Our new Canteen Manager is Ruby Davidson, whose sister Camryn plays in the U18 girls team - Ruby is very passionate about making some big improvements to the Canteen this season, so make sure you check out the offerings on Sundays! Our new Medic is Oscar Morton - Oscar is an Oakleigh Dragons past player, and is excited to be able to provide a calm, caring & compassionate Medic for our Club. Another Oakleigh Dragons past player (and current Seniors player) taking on a role at our Club is Jackson Leopold - our newest Bar Manager. He has big shoes to fill by Gab Dunn, so we wish him all the best! We would love to see more Committee members this year, as many hands make light work, but also because we appreciate two-way communication with all of our teams. If you're interested in attending, please reach out to one of our Committee members - you can tell who we are by our polo tops!

There have been a few great things happening at the club in the last couple of months, including the purchase of a new ice making machine for our Trainer's room (thanks for the grant, Phil Sturrock!). Dr David Munro attended again this year, to provide a very informative session on head knocks, concussion diagnosis and management. Dr Munro is a fantastic resource for our Club, and details of his clinic will be circulated in the coming weeks.

One of the most exciting pieces of news I have to share is that for the first time in the history of the Oakleigh Dragons, Auskick will be hosted at Scammell Reserve! This will be in conjunction with the sessions at Oakleigh South Primary School. Players can register with the Oakleigh Auskick Centre and participate on Fridays at Scammell 5-6pm or Saturday mornings at OSPS. Thank you to AFLVic and our Auskick Coordinator Tanya Shroff for helping to make this happen!

2026 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Justine Leopold
 Vice President: Ross Black
 Secretary: Lisa Falla
 Treasurer: Carlie Harrison
 Registrar: Kane Leopold
 Compliance Officer: Vacant
 Property Officer: Vacant
 Canteen Manager: Ruby Davidson
 Sponsorship Coordinator: Phil Sturrock
 Social Media: Sarah Arnott

Football Operations Manager: Ross Black
 Team Manager Coordinator: Lisa Falla
 First Aid Coordinator: Oscar Morton
 Child Safety Officer: Kathleen Windsor
 Boys & Mixed Coaching Coordinator: Paul Guergues
 Girls Coaching Coordinator: Marco Persi
 Junior/Senior Club Liaison: Marco Persi
 Incident Coordinator: Ross Black
 Bar Manager: Jackson Leopold
 Social Committee: Vacant

General Committee:
 Joel Harrison (U10M)
 Annelise Scott (U12M)
 Justin Scott (U12M)
 Kathleen Windsor (U13M)
 Dave Falla (U14M)
 Sarah Arnott (U14G)
 Lisa & David Gee (U17.5B)
 Justine Karauria (U18G)

2026 MAJOR SPONSORS



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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

We welcome some really exciting new Coaches to our Club this season:

U9s James Lavdas, U12 Assistant Joel Harrison, U13 Christian Bernardo & Assistant Antony Bernardo, U14 Josh Consolmagno & Assistant Nick Torpey, U14 girls Ruby Ford & Assistant Coaches Natalie Carbonaro and Jess Hopgood, and U18 girls Assistant Coach Sienna Bernardo. This is a wonderful representation of the excellent relationship we have with the Oakleigh Amateur Football Club (Krushers), with 7 of our new Coaching staff being Seniors players. What awesome role models we have for our children at this Club.

Thanks to our Sponsors - Harcourts, McDonald's, RM Building & Design Group, Kwik Kopy Braeside, StoreLocal Oakleigh. Sponsorship provided to the Club enables us to ensure registration fees stay low (especially compared to other Clubs). If you know of any other companies who are looking to get involved in sponsoring a local Club, please send them to the Committee for a chat!

We have some old Honour boards at the Club that were taken down when the new clubrooms were built, the details that were on these boards have been added to the new boards that appear on the walls inside the clubrooms. The Club cannot store these old boards anymore as they are very large and take up a lot of room in our storage, so if you are interested in taking some of this memorabilia home, please contact me on president@oakleighdragons.com.au

A reminder that Round 2 kicks off this Sunday at Scammell Reserve with five exciting home games. The day begins at 8:30am with our U9s and wraps up with the U17.5 boys at 2:30pm. Our first Grub at the Club will be proudly hosted by the U18 Girls, and ANZAC Day medallists will be awarded within each team to honour outstanding contributions of courage and commitment. We look forward to a great day of footy and community spirit!

The U18 girls team will also be the first of our teams to create some special content for our socials, so stay tuned on Instagram & Facebook to see what they come up with!

Looking forward to seeing some happy faces on the footy field this weekend! Go Dragons!!!

Justine Leopold
President

GO DRAGONS

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



REMINDERS

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Oakleigh Dragons takes child safety seriously and as such is governed by its own Rules and By-Laws and those of SMJFL, AFL VIC and Victorian Government Legislation. The SMJFL requires that anyone taking on a role within a team must:

1. hold a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC)
2. be registered as a volunteer with Play HQ.

All game day roles allocated by Team Managers to parents/guardians require a valid WWCC. We ask that one parent/guardian from every family holds a valid WWCC. For volunteers, obtaining a Working with Children Check is simple and free. Apply here: www.vic.gov.au/working-with-children-check

If you already hold a WWCC, please ensure that Oakleigh Junior Football Club is listed as a linked organisation on your WWCC.

There are no WWCC exemptions for Police or VIT holders, in line with SMJFL policies.



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Oakleigh South Primary School

Autumn Family FETE

SATURDAY 2ND MAY

10AM - 4PM

AMUSEMENT RIDES, FOOD & SWEET STALLS,
CAFÉ, CARNIVAL GAMES, SILENT AUCTION,
FRIENDLY FARM ANIMALS, PLANTS,
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FOR UNLIMITED RIDES BETWEEN 10AM-3PM,
TICKETS AVAILABLE UNTIL 4PM FRIDAY 1st MAY





COACHES' REPORTS

U10 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

The Oakleigh Dragons U10s were hosted by the Caulfield Bears in a high-tempo game that reflected the strong work we've been doing at training. Sasha stood out with his relentless ball pursuit and tackling pressure in defence.

We played a moderate first half, with everyone fulfilling their roles, applying strong tackles and linking up well as a team. In the second half, we started on the back foot, but Caulfield fought back and at times we found ourselves chasing rather than creating play.

Sasha and Zephen were outstanding in defence, combining for over 20 marks and providing great rebound from the backline. Among our 3 debut players, Cooper P, Hayden and Isaac made a strong impact with their efforts. And great to have Luca back in the team providing some athleticism.

Overall, there is room for improvement but it's great to see all the kids enjoying their football.

U12 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

What a stunning morning to kick-off round one for 2026! The girls had a decent pre-season; we even managed one of our training sessions down at the beach. With a smaller group of girls returning back from 2025, we've had a bit of recruiting to do - we're so happy to welcome all of our new players and congratulations on them for their first game!

Our first match was against East Malvern and our girls came out strong. They showed us some fierce tackling and great hand balling, with most of the first half played either in the centre or our forward. East Malvern still managed to kick two goals in the first quarter, but we answered back with Pippa Rogers kicking our first goal for the season in the second quarter!

The girls were having an awesome time and couldn't wipe the smiles off their faces in the halftime break. They did look a little bit tired and in the second half they dug deep and showed determination. Pippa scored another goal in the third, and Sam Kalaitzis (Sammy-K) scored our third goal, with our fourth and final goal scored by Paige O'Brien in the last quarter.

We're so proud of the girls coming out strong for their first game of the season and can't wait to see how much they grow in the coming weeks. Big thanks to the parent volunteers this week we've got such a great support crew, the games really can't happen without you!

3-2-1 Dragons!





U12 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

Round 1 U12 Mixed vs Waverley Park Hawks

After a bleary eyed first quarter, our boys woke up in the second quarter and what ensued was a tight, hard fought contest with our boys going down in a close one.

Three debutants for the club, a couple of boys new to the U12's and a bunch of boys keen to kick off the year. Waverley Park kicked the first, and then it see-sawed from there. Our play early was a little reactive, but once the boys kicked into gear after quarter time we played some exciting football.

Waverley Park brought a great intensity - and it ultimately put them in front midway through the last quarter. An incredible team goal early in the last quarter when we needed to score was a highlight. What started with defensive pressure, some deft skill and hard work, and was then finished off by some individual brilliance by Ari SR and Jimmy kept us in the contest. With Francesco injured and some boys tiring, Waverley Park made the most of their big numbers and ran out the game strongly.



We learnt some lessons which will help us build into the season. More voice and communication all over the field will help when we are a player down, or when we are tired. As coaches we are excited to get all the boys on the park because we know when we do it well we are in for some exciting football.

Congratulations to Will Matthews who kicked his first goal in his first game. To Paddy and Billy who also debuted - the season is looking good with you both in the side. Also shout-outs to Raj, Ari, Francesco, Will and James Scott who gave us great drive in the midfield.

Next grading game is against Dingley - the boys are already looking forward to the challenge ahead!
Thanks to all the volunteers!
Go Dragons!

U13 MIXED CHRISTIAN BERNARDO

We have been given the privilege of taking on the role as coaches for the u13s this year. Although our preseason and time to get to know the players hasn't been as long as we would have liked, our Dragons put up a great fight against the Sandringham Zebras.

We unfortunately started the game with 5 less players, yet the boys dug deep and our defence, consisting of Charlie, Tommy, Eli, Blake and Bronx, were able to hold off the consistent rebounds back into the defensive 50.

Across the board, our pressure and tackling was through the roof. We asked the boys to hunt in packs at quarter time and results were shown in the second quarter.



We couldn't be prouder of the team and in the end it was Sandringham's complete bench and quick rotations that got the better of us. Nonetheless we look forward to getting back to training and preparing to take on Caulfield at home next week.

U14 GIRLS RUBY FORD

The U14 girls delivered an outstanding performance on the weekend, securing a dominant 14–56 victory in a game that showcased both skill and determination. Despite heading in with just 13 players, the team showed incredible resilience and work rate, refusing to be disadvantaged even as the opposition fielded an extra player.

From the first bounce, our girls controlled the game with relentless pressure, strong ball movement, and excellent teamwork across the ground. The numerical disadvantage never looked to phase them, as they consistently outworked their opponents and maintained control in all areas of the field.

Skye and Jess were clear standouts, leading from the front with their intensity, skill, and ability to impact contests. Their efforts set the tone for the entire team and were instrumental in driving the win.

On the scoreboard, it was a fantastic team contribution, with Sophia, Skye, Jess, Anthea, and Alexis all hitting the scoreboard and capitalising on the team's dominance going forward.

Overall, it was a complete performance, full of effort, cohesion, and confidence. The girls should be incredibly proud of how they handled the challenge and delivered such a convincing win.

U14 MIXED JOSH CONSOLMAGNO

We started the year at Scammell, taking on Dingley with only 16 players.

The boys were up and about pre-game excited for Round 1 and ready for the challenge of playing one less player on the field.

We started the first quarter strongly, kicking the opening two goals through good ball movement, great team pressure, and solid defence.

The second quarter followed a similar pattern, with continued good ball movement and pressure. Dingley worked their way more into the game, but the boys responded well and kept pushing to get back on top.

Unfortunately, just before halftime, a Dingley player went down and required an ambulance, and the game had to be called off.

The boys were playing really well despite being undermanned. Bring on next week.



U17.5 BOYS TOM NOLAN

The u17s boys played Mordi-Brae away for their first home and away game for the year. After lots of training the boys were finally ready to get into some serious football.

The message for the boys from the beginning was to play our style of footy, no matter how challenging it becomes. In the first quarter it was a close contest from the start with both sides making the most of their forward entries. The Dragons were rusty early as they were a little untidy with their disposal and Mordi-Brae could not miss at goal. At quarter time the Dragons were up by a goal.

In the second quarter the contest was just as even as the first, with Mordi getting the average through straight goal kicking. Mordi kicked 5 goals from 5 shots on goal, compared to the Dragons 3 goals 4 behinds from our 7 shots. Mordi took a 2 point lead into half time, but Oakleigh were quietly confident with some room for improvement.

It was another tight tussle in the third quarter. However, Oakleigh did not take advantage for how much they controlled the ball. Mordi managed to keep up with Oakleigh and kept a 1 point lead at the final break, but it felt like Oakleigh had control if they played the right style.

The Dragons showed they learnt their lesson from the third quarter and broke the game open in the last. Unlucky to not take advantage of dominance, Oakleigh kicked 3 goals 6 behinds to Mordi-Brae's 1 goal 1 behind. In the end Oakleigh stuck true to their game plan as they ran away 16 point winners.

Congratulations to the boys for staying resilient as they were often behind by 1-2 goals throughout the day. Great reward for effort. On to the next week.

U18 GIRLS PAUL GUERGUES

The first match of the season brought plenty of excitement with 7 new players joining 2 returning teammates to take on Bentleigh/St. Peter's. The girls were off to a flying start, kicking 2 excellent first quarter goals.

The opening goal came from Ava following a great passage of transition footy. Zoe took a strong mark in defence before handballing to Layla Christian who delivered with precision to Ava. She went back and calmly slotted her first goal for the club. The second came from a stoppage in the forward line with Sienna snapping truly around the body.

Ava added 2 more goals in the second quarter, supported by some impressive team play, and the girls were looking strong with a 23-point lead at half time.

A tough third term however with no goals scored allowed Bentleigh/St. Peter's back in the game. Oakleigh's lead reduced to just 5 points at the final break, with the opposition full of energy and momentum.





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SEASON 2026

ISSUE 1

ROUND 1 / 19 APRIL

After an arm wrestle in the early stages of the last quarter, Georgia lifted around the contest to give the girls first use of the ball. Julia then took the game on, bursting from the centre, taking several running bounces, and finishing with a superb goal - one that would have made Buddy Franklin proud.

That moment sparked the team to finish strongly and to 'Empty the Tank'. Milly Black kicked her first goal of the season, and Emma Dean snuck forward to kick the sealer.

Well done girls on a fantastic first up team performance. So much to look forward to for the rest of the season.



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.



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 | U10 | U11-U13 | U14+ | Holidays | Grub at the Club |
|--------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 19-Apr | Round 1 | Round 1 | Round 1 | | |
| 26-Apr | Round 2 | Round 2 | Round 2 | ANZAC Round | U18G |
| 3-May | Round 3 | Round 3 | Round 3 | Wellness Round | |
| 10-May | Round 4 | Round 4 | Round 4 | | U14M |
| 17-May | Round 5 | Round 5 | Round 5 | Grill'd Round | |
| 24-May | Round 6 | Round 6 | Round 6 | Monash Round | U12M |
| 31-May | Round 7 | Round 7 | Round 7 | | |
| 7-Jun | | No Games | | | |
| 14-Jun | Round 8 | Round 8 | Round 8 | | U9/10M |
| 21-Jun | Round 9 | Round 9 | Round 9 | TS4A Round | |
| 28-Jun | Round 10 | Round 10 | Round 10 | | U17.5B |
| 5-Jul | | No Games | | School Holidays | |
| 12-Jul | | No Games | | School Holidays | |
| 19-Jul | Round 11 | Round 11 | Round 11 | TAC Round | U14G |
| 26-Jul | Round 12 | Round 12 | Round 12 | | |
| 2-Aug | Round 13 | Round 13 | Round 13 | IKON Women & Girls Round | U12G/U13M |
| 9-Aug | Round 14 | Round 14 | Round 14 | The TRYBE | |
| 16-Aug | Lightning Carnival | Round 15 | Round 15 | | Committee |
| 23-Aug | | Semi Finals | Semi Finals | | |
| 30-Aug | | Grand Finals | Preliminary Finals | | |
| 6-Sep | | | Grand Finals | | |
| TBC | | | Presentation Day | | |

