



THE ACORN

SEASON 2026 ISSUE 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons,

Firstly, a massive Happy Mother's Day to all our wonderful Dragons Mums, Grandmothers and special women in our lives. We hope that you were all very spoilt by your Dragons on the weekend, there were definitely some exciting games played in your honour! Check out the socials for the awesome photos that were captured on this really special day.

Last Sunday saw the final grading game for 2026, and it's clear that the Dragons teams play to win no matter what! Other Clubs may not put their best team on the ground, or may play differently in grading rounds, but at the Dragons our culture is to always go out and do our best - our U12 girls team absolutely did that, with their sensational first win of the season, by a massive 60 points! These girls are still building their numbers, but their enthusiasm and skill is second to none. If you have any friends who are in Grade 6 and looking to play with a great team, send them to our U12 girls! There was definitely a winning theme on Mother's Day - with our U12 girls, U14 mixed, U14 girls, U18 girls & U17.5 boys all coming out victorious at the end of Round 4.

On Friday, we saw the very first ever season of Auskick at Scammell begin and it was an absolutely sensational night. We had 17 players registered - from 5 years of age all the way up to Grade 5 - but we were absolutely blown away when over 40 players showed up! It was an amazing vibe around the Club, and the Coaches Dave Dawson & Lavinia Mandile having to think on their feet to cater for much larger numbers than expected. The Auskick families were treated to a free sausage sizzle, and spilled into the clubrooms for a refreshing drink to finish up a very successful first session. We'd love to see some of our Dragons families coming down to get around these awesome young players, so feel free to drop in on Fridays 5-6pm.

Next week we will hold our very first "Feedback Committee meeting", proudly hosted by Grill'd Chadstone, where every team will be represented and have the opportunity to provide feedback about the season so far and what they'd like to see at our wonderful Club in 2026. We're always interested to hear feedback, so please don't be afraid to have a chat to your Committee members on game day or at Grub. You'll get some information about these amazing people on the socials this week!

Good luck to all our teams in Round 5 - the first non-grading game of the season. Remember to play your best and have fun, regardless of whether you agree with grading or not! See you around the grounds next week. Go Dragons!

Justine Leopold, President

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





REMINDERS

SAVE THE DATE – KIDS SOCIAL EVENT

KIDS SOCIAL EVENT!! For an evening full of fun!
WHEN: Friday, 19 June, 6-8pm





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GET TO KNOW OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OAKLEIGH DRAGONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Get to know me!

Justine Leopold
PRESIDENT

2026 PRESIDENT

- 1 Favourite AFL Team?** Collingwood
- 2 Coffee Order?** International roast w 1 sugar
- 3 Go-to Karaoke Song?** Meatloaf - Bat out of Hell or Queen - Bohemian Rhapsody
- 4 Why did you take on your role?** I was 'asked' by Pat Heverin to be the first female President 🤪
- 5 Who takes the longest to reply in the committee chat?** Me about this!! 😂

#OakleighDragons

OAKLEIGH DRAGONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Get to know me!

Ross Black
VICE PRESIDENT

2026 VICE PRESIDENT

- 1 Favourite AFL Team?** Carlton
- 2 Coffee Order?** Latte.
- 3 Go-to Karaoke Song?** Toxic: Brittany Spears
- 4 Why did you take on your role?** I really wanted President 🤪
- 5 Who takes the longest to reply in the committee chat?** Rossy 🤪

#OakleighDragons

OAKLEIGH DRAGONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Get to know me!

Lisa Falla
SECRETARY

2026 SECRETARY

- 1 Favourite AFL Team?** Essendon
- 2 Coffee Order?** Skinny cap
- 3 Go-to Karaoke Song?** no to any karaoke 🤪
- 4 Why did you take on your role?** To meet more people at the Club
- 5 Who takes the longest to reply in the committee chat?** Ross!! 🤪

#OakleighDragons



GET TO KNOW OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Continued)

OAKLEIGH DRAGONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Get to know me!

Kane Leopold
REGISTRAR

- 1 Favourite AFL Team?** Carlton
- 2 Coffee Order?** Long Mac
- 3 Go-to Karaoke Song?** Bohemian Rhapsody - Queen
- 4 Why did you take on your role?** I wanted to get more involved and help out the club.
- 5 Who takes the longest to reply in the committee chat?** Rosy ☹️

2026 REGISTRAR

#OakleighDragons

OAKLEIGH DRAGONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Get to know me!

Carlie Harrison
TREASURER

- 1 Favourite AFL Team?** Carlton
- 2 Coffee Order?** Flat White
- 3 Go-to Karaoke Song?** Summer Rain
- 4 Why did you take on your role?** My kids both play at the Dragons and background is in banking & finance, so I thought I could put my knowledge to good use and be part of a great community!
- 5 Who takes the longest to reply in the committee chat?** Kane ☹️

2026 TREASURER

#OakleighDragons

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



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.

COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED JAMES LAVDAS

We didn't get it all our way today against SBMNT, but that doesn't tell the full story! Our young boys and girls showed plenty of heart, stepping up their pressure and working together as a team.

Special mentions to Chinnh, Petros and Armaan for strong defensive work and keeping the opposition on their toes. Joey showed relentless endeavour in chasing the footy, Leon stood tall in the ruck, and Isaac fought hard in and under.

It was also fantastic to see Christopher and Alec play their first games - great effort! And a warm welcome to Vian and Dante, our newest club members.

The effort, determination, and teamwork on display are exactly what we want to see, and with continued focus, the results will follow. Momentum is building every week

U10 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

We were hosted by Highett today starting a bit later and we didn't complain as it was Mother's Day, the team turned up early and looked to be eager to hit the field.



The 1st quarter was very even but considering we had a good warm up we struggled to get the ball in our forward line so we changed up some positions and did all we could to win the ball out of the midfield trying our all to get first hands



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on the ball. Some good individual performances with a new player David H doing it all with plenty of really good team things, with David being new to football he has improved massively over the last two weeks, starting at training this week doing all the hard work and has paid off- Congratulations David!!

The second quarter was almost a mirror image of the first. At training we have a goal this year and this is to have a more consistent team plan and trying to get all players playing this brand of football, it will come and over the last two quarters this showed with all players doing their best to try turn the game around.

Some really good team plays in the last quarter with the coaches' instructions to be man on man and win the 50-50 ball. The last quarter was by far the best for the day with it spending almost the whole quarter in our forward line. And multiple shots on goal, it was a very close game in the end and words from the Highett's coach saying Oakleigh play very well and did lots of great things throughout the game.

Some players I'd like to mention

- Elijah tried so hard all day and was in almost everything driving the ball forward with every play.
- Liam H such a great runner and was in lots of plays today a massive asset to the team.
- Hamish's second half after we put him in the midfield set the tempo with gaining territory and breaking tackles.
- Max M put some really good pressure on throughout the game up forward not allowing ball to exit.
- Zephen the plug of the team not allowing the opposition to score easily and is most consistent game to game

In the end this was our last grading game and will be interesting to see the division we are placed in and can't wait.

Happy Mother's Day to all the mums they do a tremendous job love from all the Dragons!!

See you next week!!

U12 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

Happy Mother's Day to all the Dragons mums and special women in our community!

Round four and we played Ormond at Scammell and the sun came out for a beautiful day of footy. Our last two rounds were a bit rough but showed us where we could improve our game and we were fortunate to have Paul Guergues come to training and give us a master class in kicking. We certainly put our new skills to use!

Our game plan was to look after our teammates by backing each other up, talking to each other on the field and celebrating our success. We came out strong and it was evident early we had a good chance for a win. The girls worked really well as a team clearing the ball out of contest and making big kicks down into our forward line. They made some beautiful plays with lots of handballs hitting the mark, lots of marks taken and so many attempts at goal! The game was played mostly in our forward line which meant lots of opportunities for our girls to score. And score they did! Pippa kicked three goals, Sam kicked two goals, Anika kicked two goals, Charlotte kicked one goal, Rachel, Sophie, Aria and Tara all kicked points!

While the back line didn't see much action Holly, Mikayla and Kendyl made big tackles and kept the pressure on Ormond. It was so nice to see the girls get an opportunity to show off their footy skills with a more even competitor in Ormond; our win was much needed motivation. That's the end of our grading games-bring on the rest of the season!

We still need a few more Dragon gals to join our team (the girls are asking when do we get a bench?). Would love the Dragon community to keep a look out and help us recruit a few more players to join our amazing team.

3-2-1 Dragons!



U12 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

The U12 mixed team had a Bye this week, so were able to spoil their mum's with their undivided attention!

U14 GIRLS RUBY FORD

The Under 14 girls put together a terrific team performance this weekend, showing toughness, pressure and great teamwork across all four quarters. The girls attacked the contest hard and were rewarded for their effort with a strong performance from start to finish.

Ruby was best on ground, leading the way with an outstanding defensive game. Her pressure around the contest was elite, finishing with an incredible 8 holding-the-ball tackles that lifted the team and constantly turned defence into attack. Her effort, intensity and willingness to hunt the footy set the tone for the group all day.

It was a fantastic all-round effort from the team, with everyone contributing and sticking to the game plan. The girls should be proud of the way they competed and supported each other throughout the match.



U14 MIXED JOSH CONSOLMAGNO

Round 4 was away against St Paul's, and the boys got a great win for all their mums on Mother's Day.



The boys started the game on fire in the first quarter, kicking the opening three goals of the game. Late in the quarter, St Paul's managed to get one back after we dropped off slightly.



In the second quarter, the boys continued to attack hard and added another four goals. St Paul's were able to kick another two due to us being a little loose in defence.

At half-time, the message was clear - we needed to improve our team defence and work together to stop St Paul's from getting easy goals.

The boys responded brilliantly in the third quarter, shutting St Paul's out completely while adding another two goals ourselves.

In the final quarter, the boys stayed disciplined with their team defence, only allowing one more goal while kicking another two to finish the game strongly. A fantastic team performance and a great 53-point win by the boys!

U17.5 BOYS TOM NOLAN

U17s took on Hampton Rovers at home for our round 4 clash. The Dragons were eager to show what they had learnt from round 3.

Conditions were perfect for the Mother's Day clash and Oakleigh started strongly kicking 3 goals to 0 in the opening quarter. Hampton fought back in the second quarter, kicking 2 unanswered goals. With around 6 minutes to go in the quarter, Oakleigh were unable to take advantage of their dominance and were only 17 points ahead. Eventually Oakleigh managed to break through and kicked 3 quick goals before the main break.

It appeared that Oakleigh gained confidence from this as they started the 3rd quarter strongly. The Dragons continued to play their brand of footy and reaped the rewards in the 2nd half. In the third and fourth quarters, Oakleigh managed to outscore Hampton 11 goals to 2.

A strong performance by the Dragons for their final grading game and a great way to celebrate Mother's Day. The real challenge will come for the remainder of the year as each week will be a more even contest. Let's see if the boys can continue to perform under pressure and look forward to the challenge ahead.





U18 GIRLS PAUL GUERGUES

It was a very Happy Mother's Day at Shane Warne Oval with mum Linda Thomson stepping up to deliver an inspiring pre-game speech that set the tone for the day.

Our leaders took control of the game early, led by Layla G in defence, Julia and Sienna through the midfield, and Milly Black in the forward line, it was a complete team performance with relentless tackling, pressure, and teamwork across the entire game.

Georgia was in full beast mode from the first ball up to give our midfield first use of the footy – and when the G-Train gets going, there's no stopping her. After dominating the early stages of the game but struggling to convert, it was Milly Black that stood tall to mark and kick the first goal of the game.

It was more of the same in the second quarter with complete dominance and the game being played in Oakleigh's half. Any time East Sandy tried to move the ball forward, they were met by a disciplined and solid defence who shut them down. Lucy took a strong contested mark at half back and sent it back from where it came, while Lucia kept bobbing up everywhere and was rewarded when she kicked our second goal of the day.

The magnets were shuffled for the second half, but it was the same result with this amazing group of girls who just know how to play their role and execute the game plan. The flood gates opened up in the third quarter with 4 goals piled on.

Julia got things started with another powerful burst from the midfield and finished with a classy goal. Then Sienna wanted a piece of the action and produced a genuine contender for goal of the year. Receiving a handball from Lucia and heading towards the boundary line about 30 metres out, she snapped beautifully across the body and watched it sail through the posts. Ava then capped off another dominant quarter for Oakleigh with a sensational long-range goal.



Layla Christian was everywhere in the last quarter and came so close to kicking a goal on a number of occasions. Lucia kicked her second goal for the day, and Emma 'Biscuits' Cooke kicked a nice goal to cap off what was a solid all round team performance.

Every single player contributed to this win, and the girls showed that they will be a force to be reckoned with this year - capable of taking on any team and any challenge.



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Important dates

Stay up to date with what's coming up this footy season

19

JUNE

Kids social event

🕒 6-8pm

24

JULY

Adults social event

🕒 TBA

2

AUG

Team photo day

🕒 Schedule TBA



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	Cabrini/Wellness Round	
10-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Mother's Day	
17-May	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5		U17.5B
24-May	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Grill'd Round	
31-May	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Reconciliation Round	U12G/U14G
7-Jun		No Games			
14-Jun	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Monash Round	Maccas Fundraiser
21-Jun	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9		U9/U10M
28-Jun	Round 10	Round 10	Round 10	TS4A Round	
5-Jul		No Games		School Holidays	
12-Jul		No Games		School Holidays	
19-Jul	Round 11	Round 11	Round 11	IKON Round	U12M
26-Jul	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	TAC Round	
2-Aug	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Team photos	U14M
9-Aug	Round 14	Round 14	Round 14		
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		

