



# THE ACORN

SEASON 2026 ISSUE 5

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons,

Well the rain came down but there were still lots of smiles for our Dragons kids! The day at Scammell started with the U10s who are just getting better & better every week. This team of legends absolutely love being out on the field, and it shows in their tackles, handballs and goal kicking! Next up were the U14 mixed team, in a rematch from Round 1 where the game was abandoned just before half time due to a serious injury. These boys have a fantastic focus on cohesion and teamwork this season, and each week they continue to impress their Coaches & their families with the way that they are playing. Unfortunately they lost to Dingley, however this is sure to be a rivalry to watch going forward.

Next up the U14 girls played against East Sandringham, and it was a tough game with the rain proving challenging for groundballs and clean kicks. The scoreboard didn't accurately reflect the work that our girls put in, and ultimately going down by 39 points in their first loss of the season. Heads up girls, the future looks bright for you! These girls also showed a huge amount of support & enthusiasm for their awesome Coach, Ruby Ford, in her VFLW debut for the Box Hill Hawks on Saturday. We're so delighted for Ruby, and we look forward to watching you make your mark in the VFLW world!

The U12 girls ran on the field with gusto, proving the rain doesn't dampen any Dragons spirits! It was a really tough game against SMDJFC and unfortunately our girls weren't able to convert their developing skills into goals this time. Finally, the round finished at Scammell with an absolute nail-biter of a match! The U17.5 boys began with Lucas Dvorzak running through the banner for his 50th match – congratulations on this awesome achievement Lucas! A really strong start for our boys in the 1st quarter made it seem as though it would be an easy win, but East Brighton came back in the 2nd quarter and didn't give up until the final siren. Well done boys, you kept your cool, played your own game and came away with a well-deserved victory.

A massive congratulations to Skye Schurr & Ruby Arnott (U14 girls) and Alex Reading (U14 mixed) for their selection in the 2026 Interleague squad – this is a tribute to all of the hard work these players are putting in, and the Oakleigh Dragons are super proud of you!

A very strong reminder to all of our Dragons families - we're here for the kids, and the season has not started well with regards to spectator behaviour. At our Club, we believe junior football should be a positive, safe and enjoyable experience for every child involved - including our umpires. Umpires play an essential role in our game. Many are young people themselves, learning and developing just like our players. Without them, there is no game.

## 2026 MAJOR SPONSORS



### 2026 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

President: Justine Leopold  
Vice President: Ross Black  
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Treasurer: Carlie Harrison  
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Compliance Officer: Vacant  
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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)

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



## President's report (Continued)

We ask all players, coaches, volunteers and families to lead by example each week by:

- Respecting umpire decisions, even when we may disagree
- Encouraging players to focus on effort, teamwork and sportsmanship
- Using positive and supportive language from the sidelines
- Remembering that junior football is about development, participation and enjoyment.

Our behaviour on game day helps shape the experience for every child at the ground. Showing respect to umpires teaches our players important values that extend well beyond football. Thank you to all of our families for helping create a welcoming and respectful environment for everyone involved in our Club and the game.

See you next week!

Justine Leopold  
President



## 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



## MILESTONE GAMES!

### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Lucas Dvorzak, U17.5 Boys



### 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

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### PLEASE REMEMBER

- The Players Play
- The Umpires Umpire
- The Coaches Coach
- The Parents Support

Please respect all officials.

You have all signed a Code of Conduct, so play and support the Dragons according to that code.

Get behind our teams and give them the positive support they need and deserve.



## Harcourts Next Gen Oakleigh



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## SPECIAL AWARD

Congratulations to Tara who was nominated for 2025 SMJFL Coach of the Year.

Tara has been an amazing addition to the Coaching staff at the Dragons for 2025 as coach of our U11 Girls team. Tara has a natural Coaching ability that cannot be taught. She helps players learn responsibility and teamwork in a positive way and has a genuine love for youth development. She empowers our Girls by encouraging them to express themselves on the field and make their own decisions and has a focus on long-term development rather than just winning, helping players build confidence and sportsmanship. We are excited to see how Tara and her team develop over the next few years!



### 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.

## 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



## COACHES' REPORTS

### U9 MIXED JAMES LAVDAS

Another strong effort from our U9s this week, away against the Caulfield Bears. The team kept fighting hard all game and showed great resilience, especially with the backline under plenty of pressure at times. Despite taking a lot of hits, the defence stood strong and never gave up.

A huge congratulations to Chinh, who captained the side this week and was deservedly named Man of the Match. Chinh led from the front with courage, effort, and determination around every contest.

Leon was outstanding in the ruck, giving our midfield first use of the footy and competing strongly all day. Miley also impressed again, laying plenty of tackles and showing lots of fight and intensity whenever the ball was nearby. Christopher was a real soldier in defence, working tirelessly to stop opposition attacks. His effort earned him a move into the midfield, where he helped Petros and Joey work hard to drive the ball forward and create opportunities for the team.

It was another game where the whole group showed terrific spirit, teamwork, and determination. The players continue to improve each week, and it's fantastic to see everyone supporting each other and never giving up. Well done team!

### U10 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

Today we hosted St Kilda City. It was a fiery clash, as we have already faced them during the grading games, and that was a close match. The main difference this time was the weather. Rain was forecast, and it was a typical wet-weather game with stoppage after stoppage.

In the first quarter, the game started well, with us driving the ball forward and having an early shot on goal. After the first two minutes, the contest became very even. We had the usual suspects, Zephan and Sasha, holding strong down back, with Luca and Elijah driving the ball out of the midfield. To the boys' credit, the skills were acceptable in the conditions, with plenty of marks and good ball use throughout the quarter. In the second quarter, the momentum shifted, with St Kilda City controlling more of the ball. They repeatedly moved it into their forward line, and we went into the rooms to review the team's structures and make a few small changes to the line-up.

The second half was back and forth, and it was a very competitive game, with both teams leading from the front through strong tackling and good movement. We dropped our heads briefly due to some poor decision-making, but at the final break I asked the boys to get back to basics and focus on enjoying the game. The last quarter featured some excellent movement out of the midfield, which led to Rishon having multiple shots on goal. Special mention to Max M and Cooper C for their outstanding work at the contest and their strong tackling pressure. Luca played his best game of the year, taking the game on, playing on, and gaining ground into the forward line. Gianni also took on a new role in defence this week and performed strongly.

It was great to see the hard work starting to pay off, with most players understanding the style of game we are aiming to play. The group continues to learn each week at training, and it is encouraging to see the progress. We did not get to sing the song, but we gave it our all and fell just short.

Thank you to all the parent helpers. Go Dragons!

## U12 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

Well, it was weather for the ducks at Scammell for round five against South Melbourne.

We are yet to field a full side, so if anybody spots any 12-year-old girls around the neighbourhood who look like they'd be good at footy, send them our way!

During the week we were lucky to have VFL coach Clint Johnson to take us for a combined session with the under 14's girls. We developed our kicking technique and handballing while drawing defenders in. The U14s are a great inspiration and role models for the younger girls.

Game plan in the wet was to kick long and back each other up on the ground. The girls did a great job as usual; lots of big tackles and a lot of the game played in our backline. South Melbourne had a few strong players and accurate kicks. The scoreboard didn't reflect our girl's efforts on the field and all the parents are very proud of them. We've had a few big losses and morale is a bit low with the girls. They work really hard every week with no bench but are still having fun and being determined.



Big congratulations to Elia who took a beautiful mark for her first game with us! Annika, Holly and Sam were super strong in our midfield. Sophie and Mikayla also great in the back. Paige made a goal-saving tackle and Pippa got lots of big kicks off. Kendyl and Rachel were determined and kept pressure on. Charlotte also strong with tackles and a few great marks.



We are going to keep working on our accuracy in kicking and how we can back each other up to play more strategically in the coming weeks. Thanks to the under 17.5 boys for hosting Grub at the Club, always a good feed and even better company.  
3-2-1 Dragons!

## U12 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

After a bye on Mother's Day, the boys were ready to tackle Mordi-Brae on their home deck. It was going to be a huge challenge, but in Evan Lavdas 50th game the boys came ready to play.

We started the game well - kicking the first two goals of the game through Billy and Archer. We had momentum, and on a small ground we were surging the team forward. Starting strong has been a focus for us, and it was pleasing the boys took their chances early.

Mordi-Brae are a good team, and they had some stars. So at quarter time we felt we needed to tighten up defensively. Ari SR took it on himself to play on one of Mordi-Brae's star players - and he managed also to kick a great goal. Ari showed that good players always work hard defensively and offensively. At the end of the quarter Mordi Brae got going and the scores were level at half time.

In the premiership quarter, it was Mordi Brae who took their chances. We played well, but couldn't convert in front of goals. There was some great team play in there, including a beautiful mark to Reyan, followed by a composed pass to Oscar in the hotspot. Oscar took a great pack mark - his set shot narrowly missing. The only difference in the quarter was Mordi-Brae kicked accurately - a reminder that good teams make the most of their opportunities. We'll focus on goal kicking on Wednesday!

At three quarter time we were down on the scoreboard and there were a few anxious faces. But we talked about embracing the challenge.

It didn't go to plan with Mordi-Brae slotting the first goal of the quarter from a great mark, and then an undisciplined 25m penalty.

Now at this point the game could have gone either way. We were 16 points down - and lesser teams would have packed it in. But giving up wasn't an option for our Dragons. First we arrested the momentum, and then our defender turned forward Chris Saisanos bobbed up for the first goal for us since the second quarter. With only a couple of minutes left, again we surged forward and you guessed it, Chris took his moment and slotted his second goal in as many minutes. With time against us, we kept kicking it forward. The forwards did their job and locked the ball in our forward line. Repeat stoppages and after a couple of ball ups, it was our fearless leader Francesco who managed to break free, and slot what would be the match winner!

The siren went - and the boys erupted. Joel rightly pointed out the need to stay humble in victory - and to our boys credit they did that.





What an effort - so pleasing to see the boys learn the value of digging deep and never giving in.

Thanks to all the volunteers, and congratulations to Evan on 50 wonderful games!

## U14 GIRLS RUBY FORD

Despite a tough result against the Zebbies, the girls showed plenty of determination and never stopped competing right until the final siren. Coming up against a strong opposition, the team battled hard all day and continued to support each other through every challenge.

Mabel, Jess and Skye all stood out with strong performances, working tirelessly around the ground and giving their all in every contest. Semira was enormous in defence, repeatedly stepping up under pressure and making countless efforts to stop the Zebbies from extending the margin further. Her courage and determination kept the girls fighting all game.

While the scoreboard didn't fall our way this week, there were still plenty of positives to take from the match, with the team's effort and resilience never dropping. The girls will regroup, learn from the game and come back stronger next week.



## U14 MIXED JOSH CONSOLMAGNO

The U14 Mixed team faced a tough challenge against Dingley in wet conditions at Scammell.

We started the game strongly, kicking the opening goal and creating plenty of forward opportunities early. Despite controlling patches of the first quarter, we couldn't add to the scoreboard, with both teams going into quarter time with one goal each.

The second and third quarters followed a similar pattern, with Dingley starting strongly and making the most of their chances to kick a couple of important goals. To our credit, the team responded well each time, working hard to regain momentum and get the game back on our terms. Unfortunately, we weren't able to convert our opportunities in front of goal.

Heading into the final quarter, the message was simple — keep fighting and never give up. The boys did exactly that, showing great effort and determination right until the final siren. While we went down by 30 points, the commitment and resilience from the group couldn't be questioned.

## U17.5 BOYS TOM NOLAN

The under 17s took on East Brighton at home. Oakleigh celebrated Lucas playing 50 games for the first proper game of the year. East Brighton came into the game undefeated for the year and it was wet conditions early on.

Oakleigh began the game strongly and adapted well to the wet footy. The Dragons kicked the opening 2 goals and played the game in our front half of the ground. The boys followed the pre match game plan perfectly for the first quarter. East Brighton managed to keep within striking distance as they often responded with a goal or 2 of their own.

Each quarter Oakleigh led but East Brighton managed to narrow the margin at each break. However, the Dragons managed to hold their nerve and hold East Brighton off despite losing our acting captain following a sling tackle and another player to a hit in a marking contest. The contest was heated and Oakleigh held a 3 point lead at the last break.

The last quarter was tight and East Brighton managed to take the lead with less than 5 minutes to play. Remaining cool under pressure the Dragons managed to find an inside 50 target with 2 minutes to go. Adam was able to calmly kick the goal and for the remainder of the quarter the boys fought it out to hold on by 2 points to the previously undefeated East Brighton.

## U18 GIRLS PAUL GUERGUES

A wet and early morning start for our under 18 girls, but the mood in the rooms and the pre-game warm up was very positive and upbeat.

With Maddy Carlton playing in her 50th game, the girls made their intentions clear from the start, coming out full of energy and ready to take on another big challenge.

The girls completely dominated the first quarter with 9 shots on goal. Unfortunately, only one of those shots were converted through for a goal, but South Melbourne didn't know what hit them after being undefeated in their previous 4 encounters.



The second quarter brought more accuracy in front of goal. Through a number of passages of play in which the girls transitioned the ball brilliantly from the backline into our forward 50, Ava, Biscuits, and Yana, were able to hit the scoreboard with 3 very nice goals. Lucia was winning the centre clearances, while the G-Train was winning contested possessions and setting the tone physically. She helped to create the first goal of the second quarter with a beautiful centring kick to the hotspot for Ava to pounce on.

The tackling and pressure across the ground was relentless and exceptional all day. Lucia came in for an earth-shattering bump on an opposition player in the third quarter to win another contested ball. Millie Thomson laid tackle after tackle after tackle, helping to force crucial turnovers.

Our midfield won repeated clearances at stoppages and sent the ball forward constantly, giving our forwards plenty of chances in front of goal. Our backline was simply impenetrable with Layla G having an outstanding performance. Ava finished the game with 3 goals, Biscuits continued her strong form with 2 goals, and Yana also hit the scoreboard with a major.

A very solid team performance once again against strong opposition. The challenges continue over the next 2 weeks with more tough opponents, but this group of girls have shown that they fear no one and will take plenty of confidence from their last 3 performances.



## 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		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		

