



THE ACORN

SEASON 2026 ISSUE 6

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons,

Firstly a massive thank you to all of the Dragons who made it to our first Feedback Committee Meeting of 2026. It was a fantastic night held at Grill'd Chadstone, one of the SMJFL's major sponsors, and almost every team was represented! We had a mini-Committee meeting, followed by a feedback session - with information shared by the Committee and by members from each team. It was generally really positive, and any areas for improvement that were identified will have action items attached to them in the near future. Please feel free to send me any feedback in the future to president@oakleighdragons.com.au or come & have a chat at Grub or on game days!

Round 6 brought with it a significant difference in the positive vibes from our spectators, and it was very welcome! Overall, the League has noticed an increase in the number of complaints with regards to spectator behaviour, so it was fantastic to see that just through a bit of reminding, our families were able to show the respect we've all come to expect at the Dragons. Thank you!

Huge congratulations to Connor Graham and Evan Lavdas from the U12 Mixed team on playing their 50th game, such a fantastic milestone.

The games were hard fought this round, and most teams are in the correct division according to strong competition and skill level. For any teams who suffer significant losses, please remember to celebrate the small wins - like a great handball, a kick that hits the target or a tackle that holds up the opposition. Keep your head up and have fun, and before you know it, you'll be back in the game! This Sunday marks the SMJFL's Reconciliation round. As a Club, we recognise and respect the Traditional Owners of the land on which we play. Reconciliation is about learning from our shared history, building understanding, and creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all players and families. So I would like every team to find a way to recognise this very important week - play indigenous music during your warm up, talk about what respect means to your team and how you show it to yourself & your teammates on and off the field, form a guard of honour before the game - just some ideas, but don't feel limited to these!

It is with great sadness that I heard the news yesterday of Neale Daniher's passing. This absolute football legend has had such a massive impact on the game and the culture of Australian Rules Football, and we know he will leave a void but also set a wonderful example for humanity. This weekend, we have no games being played at Scammell, but we encourage all families to get their old & new Big Freeze beanies out on Sunday. Vale Neale Daniher.

See you this weekend at Grub - hosted by the U12 & U14 girls teams. 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
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Sponsorship Coordinator: Phil Sturrock
Social Media: Sarah Arnott

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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)

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MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Connor Graham, U12 Mixed



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Evan Lavdas, U12 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





REMINDERS

IMPORTANCE OF CHILD SAFETY

As part of the clubs ongoing commitment to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all young people involved in the Oakleigh Dragons football club, we would like to remind everyone of the importance of reviewing our Child Safety Officer & Policy.

The policy outlines important information on:

- promoting cultural safety, diversity and inclusion
- recruitment and training of staff and volunteers
- risk management practices to prevent harm of abuse
- expectations around communication and interaction with children
- the process for reporting any child safety concerns or complaints

We recommend all members, coaches, volunteers and parents take a few minutes to read through the policy. We also encourage discussing the policy with your children so they understand their rights and feel confident to speak up if something doesn't feel right.

The policy can be found on the club website or by clicking the following link
<https://oakleighdragons.com.au/oycfc-child-safety-officer/>

Children and families can report concerns directly to the clubs child safety officers at
childsafetyOYCFC@gmail.com



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



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MONDAYS WHEN YOU DINE IN AND SPEND \$20



How it works

1. Join Relish rewards and pick your Aussie Rules team.
2. Your AFL team wins, you get a free burger coupon sent to your email & Relish account.
3. Dine in on Monday, spend \$20 and redeem your free burger.



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

The team showed great determination and effort all day, continuing to work hard against bigger and stronger opposition. It's fantastic to see the group improving each week and never giving up, with everyone putting in for their teammates and showing real passion for each other.

Alec was outstanding with his pressure around the contest, constantly chasing, tackling, and making opponents earn every possession. Apollo worked tirelessly all day through the midfield and in defence, giving great effort wherever he was needed.

In defence, Armaan, Chinnh, and Captain Vian all battled hard throughout the game, putting their bodies on the line and competing strongly. Leon and Stephen also worked hard in the ruck, continuing to contest well and give our midfielders opportunities around the ground.

The coaches are really proud of the effort, teamwork, and attitude the players are showing each week. The passion they have for one another and their willingness to work hard as a team is great to see.

U10 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

Today we hosted Highett Football Club. We arrived early and the kids were ready to go from the start. We were in a good position with only one player on the bench, so rotations were minimal and everyone had to stay engaged and work hard for longer stints on the ground.

The first quarter was very competitive, with both teams fighting it out through the midfield and spending a lot of time there. The boys did a great job linking up, tackling, and working as a team to keep the pressure on. There were plenty of contested moments and repeat efforts, and the group stayed committed to supporting each other around the ball. When the ball went into our defence, Max M and David stood out with their efforts and composure. David, in particular, has come leaps and bounds from never having played football to now being into his third or fourth game and really hitting his stride. He is reading the play better each week and getting more confident in his positioning and decision making. Luca, Zephan, and Liam H also did an excellent job with their run, carry, and kicking into our forward line, helping to move the ball forward when opportunities opened up. Both teams struggled to hit the scoreboard in the first quarter, which showed how contested the midfield battle was and how hard both sides were working to shut down space.

The second quarter was very similar, with strong competitiveness through the midfield and plenty of pressure on the ball. Each time the ball went into our forward line, they were able to move it out quickly, which limited our ability to build scoreboard pressure. This appears to be due to some structural set ups we will work on at training over the next week. We worked hard to get the ball forward, but we could not keep it locked in for long enough, and Highett were able to rebound effectively. We moved a few things around at half time to try to improve our forward entries, but we still found ourselves stuck around centre half forward. We did not have structure closer to goal, and they were able to clear it easily. This is something we will work on at training this week to improve, so our forward entries give us a better chance to set up, apply pressure, and convert our work into scoring opportunities.

The second half was a strong contest, with Highett getting ahead after a couple of poor decisions on our side and a lapse in concentration regarding our defensive positioning. The effort and intent were still there, but those moments made a difference and we will use them as learning points. Overall, it was a very good game, and both teams played to the best of their abilities. It showed that Highett and Oakleigh are well matched, and it was a good test for us in a tight,



competitive match. I always look forward to playing Highett, as they are a club with a similar culture to Oakleigh, and it is great to see both teams compete hard on the field.

Game day is not possible without the parent helpers, especially Ram for doing so much. I appreciate all the help we receive, as it makes a big difference for the team and helps everything run smoothly. Go Dragons.

U12 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

Round 6 was a game away at Brighton Beach Junior football club and while the parents were spotting the ex-AFL players, we were welcoming our two new players in Tiana and Mina; we are so happy our Dragons girl gang is growing! Our game plan was to be first to the ball, apply pressure and make second and third attempts.

As usual the girls were fierce and their tackling was strong and consistent. Sophie, Annika and Holly were animals in the midfield! The girls were excellent at standing on the mark and Chelsea made a brave smother. Kendyl was strong in the back line and made a goal-saving tackle. Aria was our fearless captain and role modelled determination and persistence in the last quarter.



The forward line didn't see much action but Annika managed to kick our one and only goal for the game. Next training we will work on contested marks and accuracy in our kicking. Grill'd round awards went to Sophie, Holly and Aria. I'm feeling good about our next couple of games and confident we will rise to the challenge in the coming weeks!

Can't finish without saying we could still do with a few more players for a solid team - any 11/12yo girls in our footy community out there??? We are having a lot of fun!!!

3-2-1 Dragons!

U12 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

In Connor's 50th game the boys came out to play - holding off a fast-finishing Beaumaris team at Scammell Reserve. Beaumaris were there bright and early ready to play whilst our boys filtered in bleary eyed. They were looking for their first win, we were just looking to wake up 5 minutes before the game!

But the boys woke up alright. And quick. We spoke about tackling pressure and second efforts and right from the bounce that is what they delivered. We jumped Beaumaris, and managed to convert with 3 goals in quick succession. Ari SR, James and Francesco all hit the scoreboard which was exciting!

After that the game turned into a grind for us. Beaumaris stepped up their pressure - and used their leg speed. Our defenders were under siege for what felt like the remainder of the game. Tireless defending, and a couple of quick breakaway plays where we weren't able to convert meant the game could have gone either way.



A couple of shout outs - Ary K for a desperate tackle that locked the ball in our forward line and allowed Francesco to kick a goal. Blake for a huge second quarter where he put his body on the line, and stopped multiple attacks. And then Oscar - who in a desperate lunge late in the last quarter got a fingernail to what looked a certain Beaumaris goal. All of these individual efforts reflected the way we want to play as a team - and it was amazing to see everyone stepping up.

The day started with Connor and Evan running through the banner, and we finished singing the song with gusto, high fiving the U17's before their game. Then, Ari SR and Connor won the grill'd vouchers for their efforts - all standing up when we needed them, running out big games. Special mention to the back 6 too - you all deserve a Grill'd voucher for your relentless defence!

A great start to the season – 2 wins from 2 and the boys should be very proud of their efforts. Thanks again to all the volunteers.



U14 GIRLS RUBY FORD

A tough day at the office for the girls against the Bloods, but there was still plenty to be proud of despite not being able to hit the scoreboard.

Mabel was outstanding down back all game, playing with strength and composure and continually putting her body on the line for the team. Semira was equally as strong in defence, working hard in every contest and helping hold the Bloods to limited opportunities.

Skye showed incredible determination all day, never giving up right until the final siren. Her run and carry through the middle created important momentum for the team and her effort never dropped.

While the result didn't go our way, the girls continued to compete and support each other all game, which is something to be proud of. Plenty to build on heading into next week.

U14 MIXED JOSH CONSOLMAGNO

Round 6 started nice and early at 8:30am away against St Peter's.

The boys came out with plenty of intensity, applying strong pressure from the opening bounce and holding St Peter's goalless in the first quarter. We had plenty of the footy ourselves but couldn't quite capitalise on the scoreboard, managing just the one goal for the term.

In the second quarter, our back six continued to stand tall, once again keeping St Peter's scoreless with some terrific defensive efforts. Unfortunately, we couldn't add to the scoreboard at the other end either.

The third quarter saw us continue to attack hard in search of another major. We finished the term with 1.3, while St Peter's managed just a single behind.

St Peter's came out firing in the final quarter, kicking the first two goals to cut the margin to just 3 points. The boys responded well, continuing to fight hard, and a terrific team goal late in the quarter sealed a hard fought 9-point win. A great team effort built on pressure and defence all day.



U17.5 BOYS TOM NOLAN

The u17s played Dingley at home for their round 6 clash. It would be the third time this year that Oakleigh took on Dingley, including our practice match. A good test to see how much the boys had learnt considering we had lost one and most recently won against Dingley.

Oakleigh started the game with a strong first quarter as they kicked the opening 2 goals, whilst also holding Dingley goalless for the quarter. It was an early, impressive display from Oakleigh as the game plan clearly clicked amongst the group.

The second quarter continued much the same and Oakleigh grew the margin with 3 goals to 1 in the quarter. However, for all of Oakleigh's dominance, Dingley remained within touching distance due to inaccurate goal kicking.

In the second half, Dingley came out strong and put up a challenge to Oakleigh kicking 3 goals for the quarter. Despite Dingley being more competitive, Oakleigh were able to hold them off and responded with 3 of their own goals.

Oakleigh started the 4th quarter strongly and effectively killed the game by kicking early goals to put Dingley out of reach. Dingley, to their credit, kept fighting and kicked some late goals. Luckily for the Dragons, they never allowed them to truly threaten a come from behind win, as Oakleigh held on by a comfortable 25 points.

The Dragons now look to their next test and play a strong side in Ormond away.

U18 GIRLS PAUL GUERGUES

We were expecting a tough opponent for Round 6 and that's exactly what we faced when we turned up for Beaumaris.

Our opponents were a highly skilled unit with plenty of firepower and well set up behind play, but our girls took the game right up to them and were never out of the contest.



THE ACORN

SEASON 2026

ISSUE 6

ROUND 6 / 24 MAY



One standout passage of play started with Layla Christian taking the kick in. She burst away and delivered a beautiful kick, hitting up Milly Black who presented strongly all day from Centre Half Forward. Milly hit up Zoe further down the line who in turn found Camryn in the forward line. Unfortunately, we weren't able to convert that amazing passage of play - and we were down a goal to none at the first break.

Our second quarter was far more dominant with Layla Christian playing out of her skin, taking numerous marks and setting up attacking opportunities. Ava, the current leading goal scorer of the league, converted 2 goals for the quarter to keep us right in the contest at half time.

Keeping Beaumaris scoreless in the third term, and a goal to Lucia put us only 3 points down at 3 quarter time - and it was game on.

The girls lifted their intensity and played some amazing footy despite being down in rotations through injury. Sienna ran tirelessly all day and was relentless in her desire to help drive the team forward. In the end, we just fell short, but it was a gutsy team effort and a performance to be proud of.

We take plenty of learnings from this battle with Beaumaris, and we know exactly where we need to improve to ensure that we play finals footy at the end of the season.



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



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		

