



# THE ACORN

SEASON 2026 ISSUE 9

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons,

Firstly a massive thank you to all of those families who attended Grub @ the Club this week – it was a very difficult and heartbreaking day and night as we honoured the memory of our Secretary, Lisa. As I mentioned at Grub, the SMJFL have offered their support through the Danny Frawley Centre, in the form of counselling either individually or in a group. Please reach out to the Exec committee if you would like any further information about this. We want to acknowledge the league for attending the U14 Mixed game on Sunday and supporting our committee and the team. As a Club, we will be providing support to the Falla family by raising money to go towards meal deliveries and cleaning services. We will finalise the details of this at our Committee meeting this Wednesday night, but to kick this off all proceeds from this week's meat raffle have been donated to the Falla family fund.

A celebration of Lisa's life will be held at Bunurong Memorial Park, 790 Frankston-Dandenong Road, Dandenong on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 11am, with refreshments afterwards.

This week's Grub was hosted by the U9s & U10s, and what a wonderful job they did! With such a massive turnout, we were worried there wouldn't be enough food, but these 2 teams have learnt from all the others before them and it was a huge success. As always, thanks so much to the Team Managers of these teams, Nicole and Ram, for coordinating the night. Speaking of the U9s, what a sensational day on the park they had this week! Their hard work and effort is finally paying off, and word is getting around so expect more players rocking up to join this awesome team!

The U12 Mixed team had a sleep in as the first game at Scammell at 10am, and after a huge fight and with some key players out, they went down by 11 points. Well done to Josh on the awesome achievement of running through the banner for his 50<sup>th</sup> game! Next up on the track were the U18 girls, who were hungry for a win after a series of losses!

With Georgia celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> game (what a sensational milestone, congrats G!) and Lucy her 50<sup>th</sup> (fantastic effort Luce!), this team was in beast mode right from the start. Read their match report for full details!

## 2026 MAJOR SPONSORS



### 2026 COMMITTEE / OFFICIALS

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

Football Operations Manager: Ross Black  
Team Manager Coordinator: Vacant  
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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**FACEBOOK** Oakleigh Dragons Junior Football Club    **INSTAGRAM** @oakleigh\_dragonsjfc



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

The last game at Scammell was played by the U14 mixed team, and after a beautiful tribute to Archer's Mum, Lisa, and a minute's silence, the boys showed that they were ready to play. In a nail-biter against Bentleigh, who had graciously offered to move the game to our home ground, the U14s unfortunately couldn't quite secure the win this time. With no games at Scammell next weekend, I may see you around different grounds for Round 10! Go Dragons!

Go Dragons!

Justine Leopold  
President



## Important dates

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

**24**

JULY

**Adults social event**

🕒 TBA

**2**

AUG

**Team photo day**

🕒 Schedule TBA

**7**

AUG

**Kids social event**

🕒 6-8pm



## MILESTONE GAMES!

### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Josh Buxey, U12 Mixed

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### CONGRATULATIONS

# 50 GAMES

Lucy Woodworth, U18 Girls

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## 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



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ROUND 9 / 21 JUNE

## CONGRATULATIONS

Georgia Simpson, U18 Girls

# 100 GAMES



### 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)



### 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.



## REMINDERS

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### TEAM BENCH AREA

The Team Bench area is where it all happens during a footy match. The Coaches manage their game play strategy and team structure here. It is important that they have the space to focus on these important tasks. As such, this is a reminder that in addition to Players participating in the match, only the following Team Officials are allowed in the Team Bench area during a footy match:

- Coach
- Assistant Coach
- Trainer
- Runner

They must all be wearing the appropriate SMJFL bib.

No other person is permitted in the Team Bench area during the match.

The Team Manager has the authority to ask people to leave the bench if they do not fall into the above categories.



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# DRAGONS

## KIDS SOCIAL NIGHT

Get ready for a night of fun, laughs, games and prizes!  
Bring your team mates and put together your own team  
table for an awesome night featuring:



CARD  
GAMES



FUN  
CHALLENGES



HEAPS OF  
PRIZES TO WIN



SILENT DISCO  
FINALE!



**PARENTS ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO  
STAY AND JOIN IN THE FUN TOO!**



**FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**



**CLUB ROOMS -  
SCAMMELL RESERVE**



**6:00PM - 8:00PM**



**ALL AGES WELCOME**



**\$10 PER PERSON -**

Tickets available online  
(preferred for catering purposes)  
or at the door



**PARTY FOOD AND  
SNACKS PROVIDED**



**GRAB YOUR TEAMMATES, BRING YOUR BEST GAME FACE  
AND GET READY FOR A FANTASTIC NIGHT AT THE DRAGONS!**



**TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE!**

<https://www.trybooking.com/DMNVR>



## Harcourts Next Gen Oakleigh



Leafy Family Living with Character & Warmth



42 Dalny Street, Murrumbeena

# FOR SALE



3  1  1 

**James Grosso**

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ROUND 9 / 21 JUNE

**ADAM PALMER'S**

# **HYPNO HYSTERIA**

**YOU'RE HYPNOTISED!**

**YOU BE THE STAR!**

**LICENSED TO THRILL**

**BE BLOWN AWAY BY THE POWER OF THE MIND**



**SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST**  
**WA SCAMMELL RESERVE**  
7.30PM START

**\$40 TICKET INCLUDES 2 HOUR SHOW & LIGHT FINGER FOOD.**  
**DRINKS AVAILABLE AT BAR PRICES.**

[GET YOUR TICKETS AT: www.oakleighafc.org.au/product/hypno-hysteria/](http://www.oakleighafc.org.au/product/hypno-hysteria/)



## COACHES' REPORTS

### U9 MIXED JAMES LAVDAS

What a special day for our U9s, recording our first win of the season with a fantastic away victory against the Waverley Hawks. The team has been working hard all year and it was terrific to see their effort, teamwork, and determination rewarded. Every player contributed to the result, and the excitement after the final siren showed just how much it meant to the group.

A massive thank you to our U10 helpers, Gianni, Ethan, and Elijah, who once again stepped in and made a huge contribution. Their leadership, skill, and willingness to help the younger players was invaluable and played a big part in the team's success.

With the regular coach away in the USA, a special thank you also goes to David, who stepped up to coach the team and did a fantastic job guiding the players throughout the day. His encouragement and leadership helped keep the team focused, and he played a huge role in bringing home our first win.

Most importantly, this was a true team victory. The players fought hard for each other, celebrated every contest, and never stopped trying. It was great to see the confidence grow as the game went on, and everyone should be incredibly proud of being part of a memorable milestone for the team. Congratulations on your first win, and let's keep the momentum going!

### U10 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

Today we played at Wellington Reserve against the Waverley Park Hawks, and the ground was enormous, which made space and running patterns a big factor throughout the match. We have been well matched with this team in the past, and today was no different, with both sides having periods of control and momentum.

In the first quarter, Oakleigh led the way. The ball spent most of the quarter in our forward half, which was encouraging from a pressure and territory point of view, but we struggled with our forward set up and found it difficult to convert our chances into scoreboard pressure. We moved the ball into good areas and created opportunities, however our finishing did not reflect the amount of play we had. Overall, it was a promising start and a clear step in the right direction.

The second quarter was much the same as the first, with plenty of possession and repeat entries, but we were not able to make it count as consistently as we would have liked. As the quarter went on we faded heading into half time, and Waverley were able to steady and stay in touch. Luca and Elijah were strong contributors, finding plenty of the ball, working hard around the contest, and gaining valuable metres to help drive play forward.

My message at half time was to stay positive, make sure we were first to the ball, and not worry about what the other team was doing. The focus was on keeping our effort high, sticking to our roles, and lifting our intensity at the contest so we could put ourselves in a position to finish the game strongly.

In the second half, we looked to have lost some legs on the big ground, and our fitness started to show as the game opened up. Waverley hit the scoreboard in the third quarter and opened up a lead while we found it harder to maintain the same level of repeat pressure and clean ball movement that we had earlier. In the last quarter, we dug deep and kept working to give ourselves a chance to get back into it. Cooper P scored after having two earlier shots, which was a good reward for persistence, and we continued to push right to the end. We fell just short, but the effort was strong all day and there were positive signs to build on from the way we competed and responded under pressure.



## U12 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

Round nine we played against AJAX for the second time this season at their home ground in Princes Park Reserve, Caulfield South. It was a late game at 3pm but a beautiful afternoon for a kick of the footy!

Unfortunately we had some late withdrawals with some illness in the team so started our match with 12 girls on the ground. Our game plan was to keep our structure, tackle safely, not to crowd the ball and to dig deep and give it our absolute all in honour of Lisa Falla.

We came out hot and made some beautiful plays in the midfield with some handball clearances handballing to teammates which resulted in Holly scoring our first point. So close! The girls kept their structure and move to the ball beautifully down the field resulting in our first goal by Pippa! There was wild celebration and the girls patted each other on the back, congratulating each other on some beautiful footy. Not long after another beautiful clearance out of the contest in the midfield led to a big run by Sam (at least four bounces) a handball out to Pippa and another handball back to Sam and she kicked our second goal for the game!

Our defenders were our champions today! Kendyl and Aria were our brick wall in the back line and made AJAX's strong forward players work really hard. Sophie and Holly were strong in the midfield and laid some big tackles as always. Little Tara also had a strong game in the back line and was quick on her feet to make some nimble intercepts and chase down the opposition.

The rest of the game was scoreless but the coaching team and parents were all commenting on how much the girls have developed since our last game against AJAX. We're really proud of their efforts this week. It wasn't easy showing up when we were down on numbers but the girls remained determined and demonstrated some excellent football skills and ended up having a really happy and muddy match.



Thank you to the under 9s and 10s mixed teams for hosting Grub at the Club and making it a special night to honour our beautiful football gal Lisa. Sending Lisa's family and the Dragons community our warmest hugs during this tough time.

## U12 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

Back at Scammell, we lost in a tight, hard-fought contest.

Running through the banner for Josh Buxey's 50<sup>th</sup> game, the boys were excited. We sensed they were a little bit distracted, but we came out to play nonetheless.

Our opponents had some very talented players, including a very dominant ruck. It meant they were getting first use and our midfielders needed to think differently. Normally the ruck is an area we use to our advantage, but this week we couldn't rely on that. It was a real challenge for our mids – and probably reminded us how fortunate we've been to have big bodied midfielders who can generally get the ball going our way most times!

That said, at half time we were a bit flat – we challenged the small forwards to start putting tackling pressure on to lock the ball in our forward line. Our midfielders were also challenged to lift, to try to get the game on our terms out of the middle. And we implored our backline to hang tough – with the ball living in their forward line for the majority of the first half.



The boys responded well. In the second half it was more free flowing – and our boys lifted. We were tackling and putting a stack of pressure on our opponents. Again our backline dug deep – as a group they have really formed a strong bond and are very reliable.

With the game in the balance at  $\frac{3}{4}$  time we urged the boys to dig deep. And we had the ball in our forward line for large periods of the quarter but just couldn't score. We had a couple of set shots that went wide, something we'll work on at training. We gave a few too many free kicks away and let the opposition off the hook – and they scored the match sealing goal.

The highlight of the game was Eli's first ever goal which came from a terrific passage of team football. The defenders cleared it to Evan, who showed composure in handballing to Billy who then laced out Jimmy on the run. Jimmy turned and got the ball into space where Eli pounced and ran into an open goal.

Thanks to all the volunteers, and again to Josh for 50 wonderful games!

## U14 GIRLS RUBY FORD

The girls travelled to Toorak Park to take on Prahran and produced one of their best team performances of the season. From the opening bounce, the effort, intensity and teamwork were outstanding, with every player contributing throughout the game.

The team worked hard to move the ball, supported each other around the contest and never stopped competing. It was fantastic to see the girls backing themselves, applying pressure and encouraging one another all day.

A special mention goes to Jess and Emily, who were our standout performers. Jess was relentless around the ball, attacking every contest with confidence and determination, while Emily's work to mark deep in our forward line set her up for lots of shots on goal!

Most importantly, the girls showed great sportsmanship and represented the club proudly. The coaches were incredibly proud of the effort and attitude shown by every player.

## U14 MIXED JOSH CONSOLMAGNO

Round 9 saw us host Bentleigh in a hard-fought contest that featured plenty of momentum swings and had supporters on the edge of their seats until the final siren.

We got off to the perfect start, kicking the opening two goals of the game and setting the tone early. Bentleigh responded strongly in the second quarter, finding their rhythm and slotting three goals to take a narrow advantage into the main break.

The boys responded well after halftime, regaining control and kicking two important goals in the third term to keep the game firmly in the balance heading into the final quarter.

Bentleigh came out with purpose in the last, kicking the first three goals of the quarter to open up a 10-point lead. To our credit, we never stopped fighting. A late goal with just over a minute remaining reduced the margin to five points and gave us one final opportunity to snatch victory. Unfortunately, we couldn't find another major, and Bentleigh sealed the result with a late goal to run out 11-point winners.



While the result didn't fall our way, the effort and determination shown across all four quarters was outstanding. There were plenty of positives to take from the game as we look ahead to next week.

## U17.5 BOYS TOM NOLAN

U17s took on Caulfield away for our round 9 clash. This would be the second time the Dragons played Caulfield and would be out to make amends after going down by 10 points the first time.

It was tight early on with Oakleigh hitting the scoreboard first, but Caulfield responded with their own. After 20 minutes the teams were only separated by 2 points, with Caulfield holding the narrow lead. The 2nd quarter was another tight battle as both sides could only manage 1 goal each. Oakleigh were unable to get their game going as Caulfield defended and intercepted well. The difference remained 2 points at half time.

The message at half time was to lift the energy and play with a bit more dare as the team looked sluggish in the first half. Oakleigh's ball movement started off on the right note, but Caulfield defended well and eventually Oakleigh went back into their shell. Caulfield managed to extend the lead to 8 points at the final break.

In the last quarter, the Dragons responded to the message for everyone to play their role and play with some energy. Oakleigh controlled most of the quarter kicking 3 consecutive goals and taking a 9 point lead. Caulfield then responded with a goal to bring the margin to less than a kick, reminiscent of the past 2 games. The Dragons showed their improvement in staying composed in the final minutes. Every player played their role and the boys held on by 5 points.

A well deserved win, the boys move on to the next side.



Photo courtesy of SMJFL and Avinash Gulwadi

## U18 GIRLS PAUL GUERGUES

It was a big occasion for our girls at Scammell for our Round 9 clash against East Sandringham who were sitting 2nd on the ladder to our 5th. With Georgia playing her 100th game and Lucy playing her 50th game, the girls were in good spirits before the game and the mood was vibrant.

We knew it was going to be a challenge with key players out and no bench for the first time this season, so the messaging was to stay positive and have a team-first mindset.

The first quarter saw 2 brilliant goals with Yana getting on the scoreboard after breaking a tackle and kicking straight through the big sticks. Then Julia, back from a 3-week absence and all fired up, came bursting through the midfield and kicked a sensational goal on the run.

Julia wasn't done there, playing a magnificent first half through the midfield, she made her intentions clear and kicked another outstanding goal on the run in the second quarter. The play started with Layla Christian who took a strong contested mark at half back to spark the transition that ended with Julia kicking her second goal.

At half time, the margin was 2 goals in our favour, and we knew that East Sandy would come out firing after the break. They held us goalless in the third quarter, cutting the margin to 1 goal lead at 3-quarter time.

It was time to make a few changes and Millie Thomson moved into the midfield to run with East Sandy's most dangerous player. She played her role and did a magnificent job to put a stop on the Zebbies young gun.



Photos courtesy of Amy Hipwell

The girls gave it absolutely everything in the final term. Yana kicked a superb goal to stretch the lead to 2 goals, but the Zebbies kept coming at us and kicked a goal to reduce the margin. Milly Black then stood tall, pushing back from centre half forward to take 2 crucial contested marks at half back.

The girls fought hard to the final siren. The backline held up strongly under immense pressure, and the whole team put in a tough, gritty, and selfless performance to hold on for a memorable 5-point win.



## 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       |                   |





PLEASE JOIN US TO CELEBRATE  
THE LIFE OF

# LISA FALLA



FRIDAY 26TH JUNE  
AT 11AM

BUNURONG  
MEMORIAL PARK  
790 FRANKSTON-DANDENONG ROAD  
DANDENONG SOUTH



*Forever in our hearts*