



THE ACORN

SEASON 2026 ISSUE 14

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hey Dragons,

Well it's a wrap for Season 2026 for two of our teams – the U9s and the Auskickers! The U9s enjoyed a fresh, wet Sunday morning lightning carnival at McKinnon Reserve. They have improved so much over the season and are showing true Dragons spirit at every match. Thanks to Coaches James & David (and fill-in Joey) and TM Nicole for all their work this season.

Our Auskickers are in the middle of a 4-week program run by AFL Vic which gives them the opportunity to play against other U7s from SMJFL Clubs. These kids are brilliant at celebrating every mark, kick and handball and we can't wait to welcome them to the Dragons family in the future.

This week at Scammell was busy once again, with 5 home games. The U14 mixed were a bit shocked at the 8:30am start, but it proved to be the right one as they played what I believe to be the best game of their season. The teamwork, camaraderie and high level of skill was definitely on show in Round 14! Then came the girls....U12s, followed by U18s and finally the U14s. If you want to see talent, enthusiasm, teamwork and elite celebrations, then get on down to a Dragons girls game! Congratulations to Lavinia and Emily from U14 Girls and Lucia in U18s for celebrating your 50th games in style - the U18s finished their home & away season with a nailbiting 5 point win and secured their spot in the finals!

The U17.5 boys were the last game and they came out with happy faces ready to celebrate Mitch & Ari's 100th games! What a massive achievement boys - we're so proud that you have reached this amazing milestone at the Dragons!

Good luck to the U10s who will be playing their Lightning Carnival this weekend!

A massive thank you goes to Sarah Arnott this week for organising our first, absolutely hectic, kids social night. Around 50 Dragons kids came along on Friday night and tried their luck on 10 minute-to-win-it activities, a massive duck hunt, and an energetic silent disco. It's fair to say the adults were more exhausted than the kids after the clean up, but it was well worth it for the massive smiles on all the kids' faces.

Don't forget Presentation Day is Sunday 13th September. Information about the Perpetual Award nominations will be shared this week, so start thinking about and nominating those volunteers who have gone above and beyond and deserve to be recognised for their contribution to our Club!

See you around the grounds,
Justine Leopold, President

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)

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



MILESTONE GAMES!

CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Emily Carbonaro, U14 Girls



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Lavinia Mandile, U14 Girls



CONGRATULATIONS

50 GAMES

Lucia Shaw, U18 Girls





CONGRATULATIONS

Mitch Phillips, U17.5 Boys

100 GAMES



CONGRATULATIONS

Ari McLeod, U17.5 Boys

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





REMINDERS

NOMINATIONS FOR PERPETUAL AWARDS

Nominations for Perpetual Awards are being sought in the following categories:

- **Jock Hepburn Award** - For loyalty to the club that would not normally be expected.
- **Irene Bourke Award** - Presented to a person who is an involved, committed volunteer for the Club (non-committee members).
- **Life Members Award** - Presented to a person with 5 years of significant service.
- **Family Award** - In recognition of outstanding participation, commitment and contribution made to the Club by an entire family, both on and off the field.
- **Coach of the Year** - In recognition of outstanding leadership, commitment and contribution made by a coach.

If you believe there is anyone at the club who is a worthy candidate, please complete the nomination form found on the next page of the Acorn.

Email nominations to Caz at secretary@oakleighdragons.com.au

Nominations close 5pm, Wednesday 19 August.

Take the opportunity to recognise the people who go above and beyond to make our club such a great community.



PERPETUAL CLUB AWARDS 2026 NOMINATIONS



Jock Hepburn For loyalty to the club that would not normally be expected

Nomination: _____

Reason: _____

Irene Bourke Presented to a person(s) who is/are involved, committed volunteers for the Club (other than committee members)

Nomination: _____

Reason: _____

Life Members Presented to a person with 5 years significant service to OYCFC

Nomination: _____

Reason: _____

Family Award In recognition of outstanding participation, commitment and contribution made to the Club by an entire family, both on and off the field.

Nomination: _____

Reason: _____

Coach of the Year In recognition of outstanding leadership, commitment and contribution made by a coach

Nomination: _____

Reason: _____

Nominated By (Name): _____

Signed: _____

Seconded by (Name): _____

Signed: _____

Submit to Secretary at secretary@oakleighdragons.com.au



Harcourts Next Gen Oakleigh



Charming Home in Peaceful Court Position.



8 Rua Court, Oakleigh.

Auction

Saturday the 29th of August at 1:30pm.



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James Grosso

P | 0458 037 060

E | james.grosso@harcourts.com.au



COACHES' REPORTS

U9 MIXED JAMES LAVDAS

On Sunday morning, our Mixed U9s Dragons came together for their final Lightning Round of the season at McKinnon Junior Football Club. It was a very cold and wet morning, but thankfully the rain held off long enough for the kids to get out there and enjoy their final games of the season. With 14 players available, our opposition kindly loaned us players so that everyone could get a great run and the kids could finish the season on a high.

Game 1 – Caulfield Bears

The Dragons started the first game full of energy and were well composed from the opening bounce. Within the first couple of minutes, Leo kicked his very first goal ever! The whole team gathered around him to celebrate, with plenty of high-fives and smiles all around. It was a fantastic moment for Leo and a great example of the team spirit these kids have developed throughout the season.

As the game continued, the Dragons continued to apply plenty of pressure. Their kicking, marking and tackling were fantastic to watch, and they fought hard right until the final siren.

Unfortunately, with only minutes remaining, the Bears managed to kick a goal and snatch the win from us. It was a tough result after such a great effort from the team, but the Dragons should be incredibly proud of the way they competed.

Game 2 – Brighton Beach

For our second game, we faced Brighton Beach, who also kindly provided two players so we could play 16-a-side. The start of this game was very different to our first. The Dragons were a little sluggish early on and Brighton came out strongly, kicking a few early goals. But as the first half progressed, the Dragons settled down, tightened up their defence and started putting pressure back on Brighton. The improvement was great to see.

After half-time, the Dragons came out looking like a completely different team. They were chasing hard, tackling, kicking the ball forward and linking up beautifully with handballs. They created plenty of opportunities and kicked a few points, but unfortunately couldn't find the goals they needed.

Even without getting the win, it was a fantastic way to finish the season. The kids showed great teamwork, determination and fight right until the end, and that is something they should all be very proud of.

A Fantastic Season

All of the parents should be incredibly proud of the development of their children this season. Every player has come such a long way, and it has been fantastic to watch their skills, confidence and understanding of the game grow.

James should also be extremely proud of what he has achieved with this team. From where they started at the beginning of the season to where they are now, the improvement has been enormous.





The Dragons have developed not only as individual players, but also as a team. Their skills have improved, their teamwork has strengthened, and they have learned to fight for each other and keep going right until the end. It has been a fantastic season, and I'm really looking forward to seeing this group continue to develop next season. If they continue to work together, build their skills and support one another, I'm sure the Dragons will give plenty of teams a hard, fair and competitive game next year! Well done, Dragons! What a season!

U10 MIXED JAMES CHAPPLE

Today we played St Kilda City away in freezing conditions, with a strong sea breeze favouring one end of the ground. Before the first bounce, both teams agreed to use the whole ground to help the boys prepare for next year now that the modified rules are finishing. That approach really suited us and it was clear early that the group was ready for the challenge.

In the first quarter we largely controlled territory, with the play set up in our forward half and the ball rarely leaving our end for any length of time. We created plenty of chances and moved the ball well, but our finishing let us down at times. We had multiple shots on goal that were a little wayward and we missed some simpler opportunities, yet we still dominated the quarter through repeat entries and strong pressure.

The second quarter followed a similar pattern. We continued to do the team things we have focused on over the past two weeks, staying connected, competing hard, and working for each other around the contest. We were strong around the ball and our marking was pleasing, with players presenting well and bringing the ball to ground when it was not a clean grab. That effort kept the pressure on and gave us continued opportunities going forward.

After half time the conditions were in our favour, and Oakleigh set the tone with great intent. Cooper Chapple made his presence known with a strong chase down that resulted in holding the ball, and he backed it up with some bone crunching tackles that lifted the group. The second half also highlighted the buy in from the boys, with consistent effort both at the contest and in supporting each other around the ground.

Luca has found some strong recent form and it continued today. He showed good athleticism with strong movement, reliable marking, and a willingness to run and carry. His work rate helped create options and kept the opposition under pressure.

Special mentions to Gianni and Eli for a great shot on goal, making the most of their chances when it mattered. Zephan, Liam and David also did an excellent job through the midfield, working hard in tight, following up, and helping drive the ball forward while keeping our shape.

After singing the song three weeks in a row, we have now finished the home and away season. All attention now turns to the lightning carnival at Port Melbourne, and we are looking forward to showing the competition how far the boys have come as a group.

It has been another strong finish to our season and I could not be prouder of the boys for the effort, teamwork, and improvement they have shown. A big mention to Matt Rogers for his work as assistant, to Tara for filling in and Ram, our team manager - we could not do it without you all.

Go Dragons.

U12 GIRLS TARA ROGERS

Round 14, we played a home game at Scammell against St Kilda. It was certainly footy weather with a little bit of rain and another day of strong wind.

Elia was captain this week and while we had a couple of players out, St Kilda were in a similar position and we ended up with two players on our bench, for only the second time this season! Our game plan was to keep up our pressure (not that we really need to tell these girls), play in front of their player to be first to the ball and clear the ball out of the contest to our next option one kick away.

The girls were pumped up for a good game and started their game energetic and super strong! Their energy and motivation translated on the ground with us playing most of the game in our forward half. Our first quarter was pretty even with a goal each and a couple of points. Some beautiful plays out of the middle by Elia, Annika and Sam. Tara demonstrated huge pressure and made some big tackles and efficient ground balls to turn over possession. Charlotte hardly missed a ball-up playing ruck, and Holly turned on her beast mode in the middle! Aria and Mikayla read the play in the back line like a picture book, and they formed a brick wall against St Kilda. Second quarter we came out confident again and peppered the goals; a point is still a score! Great pressure in the midfield by Mina and Rachel, and Chelsea finding her second gear to chase her opponent down.

At half time we were down by two points and I don't know who felt more tense; the players or the parents! We reiterated our game plan with the girls making some more beautiful plays passing the ball around to each other and making excellent clearing kicks towards our goals. It was hard to believe but they knocked up the pressure, St Kilda barely got the ball without copping a tackle from one of our brave girls. In the fourth quarter the girls dug deep and with Kendyl covering our backs, we managed to get away from Saint Kilda with Mina kicking her first goal, Paige slotting two goals and Pippa went up for a mark, handled the ball expertly to kick a point.

Amazing to see the girls are really consolidating their skills and look confident handling and kicking along down the ground. Maybe goal kicking practice is on the cards for our last training.

We came away with a terrific win and we all felt amazing to sing the club song, and head towards the end of the season on a high.
3-2-1 Dragons!

Special mention to Mina and Sam who participated in a 100 m sprint race at half time at the opening match of the AFLW season! We also had Rachel, Kendall and Holly, and Miley from the U9s team, forming a guard of honour for the footballers. So wonderful to see our girls represented and a huge celebration of girls and women in footy on Sunday!



U12 MIXED TOM MOLONEY

The U12 Mixed team had a Bye this week.



U14 GIRLS RUBY FORD

We hosted Prahran at Scammell in a match to cement our spot in the top 4. It was going to be a challenge without our tackling machine Ruby and booming boot Kiana, the team would have to work extra hard without a bench on a heavy track.

Defending into the wind for the 1st quarter the defense held strong, thwarting countless attacks. It was an old fashioned arm wrestle in tough conditions which ended with us having the only score for the quarter going into quarter time with a 1 point lead.

At the first bounce of the second we went down a player, the girls worked hard to quell being outnumbered but spent the quarter on the back foot. It was a carbon copy of the first, again we were able to keep Prahran scoreless but only managed another minor score. Anthea was clever up front but we weren't able to capitalise on her hard work.

They say the third quarter is the premiership quarter, and the girls came out of the sheds ready to play!! Alexis created energy in the ruck and got us going. Sophia, Jade and Victoria on the ball gave our midfield a new lease of life and with Mabel starting up forward we had a goal within minutes. The girls had flipped the switch and were starting to turn it on. We stretched our advantage kicking into the wind with Jess taking control of the far wing and Skye snapping truly for our second goal.

Our intensity was back and was led by Miette dominating her wing and when she wasn't streaming clear she was fiercely tackling and winning the ball back. Not to be out done, Bella was outstanding off the half backline winning all her one-on-one battles. Lois and Giaan again showing their defensive traits and smarts always being in the right place and being a wall down back. Lavinia made sure her 50th (53rd) was one to remember beating her opponent all day. In what was a great Dragons goal Semira battled to win the ball down back kicking it down the wing, Anais winning the ball getting it forward creating another goal. We weren't done. Winning the ball out of the center our clever goal sneak Emily celebrated her 50th match with a silky classy goal.

Finals footy await for these courageous, fearsome competitors. The Dragons are a force to fear!! Let's Goooooooo!!!

Dragons 4.4.28 def Prahran 1.2.8

U14 MIXED JOSH CONSOLMAGNO

A strong team performance at home this week saw the boys run out 14-point winners against Bentleigh.

We came out firing in the opening term, controlling the footy with some excellent ball movement and applying plenty of pressure around the ground. We created numerous opportunities in front of goal, finishing the quarter with 2.5, while keeping Bentleigh scoreless through some outstanding defensive work.

Bentleigh responded in the second term, finding their rhythm and making the most of their opportunities to kick two goals. We struggled to create scoring chances of our own, but the boys stayed composed and went into the main break ready to respond.

That response came in the third. The boys lifted their intensity, returned to the strong ball movement we showed early and worked hard defensively. We dominated the term, kicking 3 goals to 1 to take a 15-point lead into the final quarter.

The last quarter was a real arm wrestle, with both sides having their opportunities and kicking a goal each. The boys held their nerve and worked hard until the final siren to secure an important 14-point victory.



U17.5 BOYS TOM NOLAN

With a chance to solidify a top four spot and celebrating Mitch and Ari's 100 games, the boys had a lot to play for as the Dragons took on an in-form East Brighton.

The first half saw a hard-fought contest with neither team able to hit the scoreboard to great effect. Despite the offensive struggles, the Dragons defence held up superbly and the boys took a slim margin going into the half.

Coming out of the break, the boys tried their best to up the ball movement that they had been struggling to get going thus far, however East Brighton managed to thwart all attempts, and put some goals of their own on the board, to open a four-goal margin going into the last.

Despite their best efforts in the final quarter, the Dragons were unable to close the gap and eventually went down by 27 points. With plenty of learnings coming from the game, there's no doubt the boys will fight back bigger and better next week against rival Dingley and lock in their spot in the finals.

Congratulations again to Mitch and Ari on 100 games!

U18 GIRLS PAUL GUERGUES

The stakes were high for our Round 14 clash against East Sandringham as both teams needed the win for a place in the finals. Our girls started strongly with their tackling pressure on full display from the very first centre bounce.

Lucia, in her 50th game, was everywhere and working as hard as ever. Our defence was as solid as a rock and did not allow East Sandy to register a single score.

Layla Christian produced a moment of magic when she went on a run from the backline, through the middle of the ground and was agonisingly short of kicking goal of the year. But she wasn't done there - she pushed forward again and kicked a miraculous snap shot goal that was simply magnificent.



The second quarter was a struggle with East Sandy taking control and kicking 2 goals to our none. We were 4 points down at half time - but our girls were well and truly in the game, and they were up for the fight.

The momentum swung our way in the third with the girls coming out all fired up. Emma 'Bickies' Cooke kicked a very nice goal to steady the ship, then Teresa 'Tee Tee' Huang followed up with a beauty of her own. A 10-point lead at 3 quarter time - and we knew that East Sandy would come hard at us in the last quarter as their season was on the line.

They kicked the first and the battle was on. The game was on a knife's edge. Both teams going at it and it was anyone's game. With 5 minutes left on the clock - East Sandy kicked a second goal to put them in front.

It was over to our girls to respond - and boy did they respond. With less than 2 minutes on the clock - someone needed to step up - and it was the captain, Layla G. From Centre Half Back, Layla pushed forward to take the game by the scruff of the neck, seized the moment, and kicked a goal to put us back in front. The girls went absolutely nuts.



THE ACORN

SEASON 2026

ISSUE 14

ROUND 14 / 9 AUG

A famous victory - a magnificent win - and Finals Footy is guaranteed!



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



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	U9	U10	U11-U13	U14+	Holidays	Grub at the Club
19-Apr	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1	Round 1		
26-Apr	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	Round 2	ANZAC Round	U18G
3-May	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Round 3	Cabrini/Wellness Round	
10-May	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Round 4	Mother's Day	
17-May	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5	Round 5		U17.5B
24-May	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Round 6	Grill'd Round	
31-May	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Round 7	Reconciliation Round	U12G/U14G
7-Jun	No Games					
14-Jun	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Round 8	Monash Round	Maccas Fundraiser
21-Jun	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9	Round 9		U9/U10M
28-Jun	Round 10	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	Round 11	IKON Round	U12M
26-Jul	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	Round 12	TAC Round	
2-Aug	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13	Round 13		U14M
9-Aug	Lightning Carnival	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		
13-Sep	Presentation Day kicks off at 11am					

