



Finley High School

7th February 2025



Phone: (03) 58831344

Email: finley-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Newsletter Week 2, Term 1, 2025

A WORD FROM MR WARD

Welcome back

After a rejuvenating holiday break, I am absolutely thrilled to be starting another school year at Finley High. The start of a new year always brings a fresh wave of energy, and I can't wait to see all the incredible things we'll accomplish together. From the classroom to the playground, there's so much to look forward to—new friendships to form, new ideas to explore, and new challenges to conquer. I'm truly excited to witness the growth, creativity and passion each of you will bring to our school community.

Staff returned on the 31st January for four days of professional and mandatory learning. We also used this time to reinforce our high expectations and plan for and develop strategies to ensure we continue to improve and engage our students.

We welcomed back Mrs Jackson who returned from Maternity leave and Mr Eldridge (Will) who returned from paternity leave. We also welcomed Ms Sofia Avellanal who begins a practicum experience teaching in the HSIE faculty.

On the 6th February all students returned, including a new Year 7 cohort supported by their Year Advisor Miss Taylor. It was wonderful to see so many students in full uniform ready to start a new year. I spoke at our first assembly about the opportunity to start fresh, to reset and set yourself up for a fantastic year by aiming high and not be afraid to challenge yourself.

2025 Executive Structure

Principal - Mr Jeff Ward

Deputy Principal - Mr Matt Whitty

Head Teachers

English – Ms Jess Laxton

Maths – Ms Anna Gorman

Science – Mr Michael O'Leary

PDHPE and Wellbeing – Mr Alex Hay

HSIE – Mr Matt Tobin

CAPA/TAS – Mrs Robyn O'Leary and Mrs Eliza Tobin

Inclusion – Mrs Amy Baxter

Administration Manager – Ms Vanessa Martin

Year 7 Advisor 2024

I'm excited to announce that Miss Bower has accepted the role of Year Advisor Year 7 2026. We will organize school visits in early Term 2.

Staffing Updates

Mrs Noble – relieves as the learning and wellbeing officer for the Narrandera district in Term 1. Mrs Baxter will relieve as the Head Teacher Inclusion in her absence.

Mr Hay will continue as the Head Teacher Wellbeing but will also be the Head Teacher of PDHPE. Thank you, Mr Tooke for leading this faculty for the last 6 years.

This year we have received a 1.2 staffing allocation to support administration. Mrs Elyse Price will be working 3 days a week in the front office and Mrs Abbey Philpot will be working 3 days per week as a science assistant.

We will be recruiting a new math teacher, with the process starting shortly.

We will also be recruiting a permanent Inclusion teacher and SLSO, as the Department has approved a 4th teacher and SLSO to our Inclusion faculty.

Australia Day Awards

Congratulations to the following individuals and teams who were recognized at the recent Berrigan Shire and Murrumbidgee Council Australia Day Awards.

Congratulations Charlotte Rafferty who was selected as the Berrigan Shire Council Young Citizen of the Year.

Jasmine Burke nominated for Sports person of the year and won the Berrigan Shire Council Young Achievers Award.

Finley High was nominated for the Youth Digitisation Project (Community Event or Community Organisation of the Year).

Congratulations to the students who play in the Tocumwal FNC U/13 netball and U/17 Football teams, nominated for sports team of the year.

Congratulations to our Murrumbidgee Council Little Aussie Award winners Lexie Bryce and Hamza Swaid who join us in 2025 (year 7).

Congratulations to the Finley Show committee who won the Community Event or Community Organisation of the Year. FHS is proud to play a big part in this success with our support and staff who are part of this team.

Congratulations to Matt Mueller Berrigan Shire Council Citizen of the year. Matt is a very supportive parent who helps out especially with our Agriculture and show team.



Mr Ward, Mr Whitty and Mr O'Leary during Staff Development Day practicing bushfire evacuation drill.



Scholarships

Congratulations to Melanie Omondi who has been awarded a prestigious Acacia Program Scholarship. There were many high-quality applications for scholarships and winning this is a significant achievement. The scholarship will last for 2 years with a total value of \$2000 to be used on educational expenses.

Ava Schlink recently received a highly commended for her application for a 2025 Harding Miller Education Foundation Scholarship. Although not successful we are very proud of Ava and wait in anticipation for what may come. The selection process this year was incredibly competitive with 933 applications received from 371 schools - representing every state and territory. Only 230 scholarships were awarded.

Highly Commended: The application was highly commended by our judges, and the student has been placed on our Highly Commended List. The application was very strong and met all of our criteria, but we, unfortunately, do not have the funds available to offer a scholarship at this time. We are running a fundraising campaign over the Christmas period in the hope of securing donations to support additional scholarships. Should we receive adequate additional donations, new scholarships will be offered to these applicants who have been placed on our Highly Commended List.

2024 HSC results

Congratulations to the class of 2024 who achieved outstanding HSC results. The results were fantastic and I am proud of each and every student who sat the HSC in 2024. Everyone had a different story, and the majority of the students achieved the result they were after to pursue their career of choice.

The students who achieved the highest results included: Sarah Bauer, Alison Kleinschmidt, Jasmine Burke, Cutta Dundon, Daisy Daniel, Erica Nicholls, Mikayla McDonnell and Sienna Burke. Both Sarah Bauer and Alison Kleinschmidt achieved ATARs in the 90's with Sarah just edging out Alison for the Dux of the year.

The subjects that achieved the highest results included: Economics, English Advanced , Geography, Modern History, Hospitality, Primary Industries, Agriculture, CAFS, Music and PDHPE.

Probus

It was a pleasure to speak at the February Probus meeting alongside school leaders Olivia Campbell, Rosie Steel, Dan Eldridge and Chloe Rorato. During the meeting, we discussed several key topics, including the current financial challenges facing families, the evolving landscape of education, and the transition from school to work and university. A highlight of the meeting was the students discussing the need for and active use of mobile phones along with their career aspirations. In addition to the discussion, we had the opportunity to connect with members over a cup of tea.



Jeff Ward - Principal

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FINLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Monday 10th February	Long Distance Swimming Events
Tuesday 11th February	Whole School Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 12th February - Friday 14th February	Year 7 Excursion Howmans Gap
Monday 17th February - Tuesday 18th February	UOW Trip
Thursday 20th February - Friday 21st February	Year 12 Retreat
Monday 24th February	Open Cricket - Deniliquin
Tuesday 25th February	Travelling Road Universities and TAFE Visit
Thursday 27th February	Zone Swimming Carnival
Tuesday 4th March	School Photos
Wednesday 5th March	Year 5 & 6 Open Night
Thursday 6th March	Open Basketball - Deniliquin
Friday 7th March	Girls Under 15s AFL Trials
Tuesday 11th March	Riverina Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 12th March - Monday 24th March	NAPLAN Year 7 and 9
Friday 14th March	Boys Under 15s AFL Trials

NAPLAN INFORMATION

NAPLAN disability adjustments

<input type="checkbox"/> Extra time (ETA, ETB, ETC)	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative items – audio	<input type="checkbox"/> * Scribe
<input type="checkbox"/> * Double extra time	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative items – visual	<input type="checkbox"/> * Braille test material
<input type="checkbox"/> Rest break	<input type="checkbox"/> Colour theme	<input type="checkbox"/> * Large print test material
<input type="checkbox"/> NAPLAN support person	<input type="checkbox"/> * Colour contrast modification	<input type="checkbox"/> * Electronic PDF tests
<input type="checkbox"/> Oral/sign support person	<input type="checkbox"/> * Assistive technology	<input type="checkbox"/> * Black and white masters

Naplan is held from the 12th March 2025 until 24th March 2025 for Year 7 and Year 9. Students will complete online exams in Reading, Writing, Language conventions and Numeracy.

Applications for any disability provision is now available. Some provisions require approval from NESA. These include colour contrast modification, double extra time or a scribe. If your child has a diagnosed condition, and would benefit from these provisions, please collect a disability adjustment form and provide documented evidence of the learning condition. As some of these provisions close early, it is important to complete these actions early. These provisions are marked with an * in the part of the form below.

Colour contrast modification, double extra time and a scribe applications close on 21st February 2025. These provisions generally assist students with specific learning disorders. These provisions usually require some form of medical evidence to support the application to NESA.

All other provisions requested must be completed by the 28th February. Parent withdrawal and exemption forms are available from the front office. They must be completed by the due date, for the appropriate action to be completed.

If you have any concerns, please contact Finley High School (03 58 831344).

Miss Coates

WELCOME MS SOFIA AVELLANAL

Where are you from?

I am from Sydney, NSW. Currently living in Stanmore but I have moved around a bit throughout Sydney

What subjects will you be teaching here?

I will be teaching Geography and super excited about getting involved in the HSIE faculty.

What are you looking forward to most about working at FHS?

I am most excited about the opportunity to engage with the local community and build meaningful relationships with students in a rural setting! Having lived my whole life in Sydney I really look forward to working in a bright school community within a small town! Sydney can be fun and exciting but exhausting too.



EXCURSION INFORMATION

Year 7 Howmans Gap Excursion

We are excited to be taking our Year 7 cohort on the annual Howmans Gap Excursion next week from Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th February, for three days of fun and adventure.

On Wednesday students will need to be at Finley High School (Tocumwal St) at 6am, ready for a 6.30am departure. The students getting picked up in Berrigan will be picked up at approximately 7am, across from the Shire building. Please ensure they are there by 6.45am.

On Friday, the buses will return Finley High School (Tocumwal St) at approximately 5pm. Students getting dropped off in Berrigan will be there at approximately 4.30pm outside the Shire building.

Any changes will be posted on the Finley High School Facebook page.

Checklist

- Have you completed the permissions via school bytes or note?
- Have you paid or spoken to the school about a payment plan?
- Have you clearly indicated any medical or dietary needs your child has?
- If your child will be picked up & dropped off in Berrigan, have you let the school know?
- Have you and your child ensured they have everything they need for the camp including a single fitted sheet, pillow with a case and sleeping bag?
- Is all medication clearly labelled and ready to hand to a staff member before departure?

Year 12 Retreat

Our annual Year 12 Retreat will be held Thursday 20th - Friday 21st February. Please ensure your permission notes are completed and payment made as soon as possible.

The Retreat is a fantastic opportunity for our Year 12 students to strengthen connections and set up for success with study skills, organisation and goal setting.

If you or your child has any questions regarding these excursions, please do not hesitate to call the school for more details.

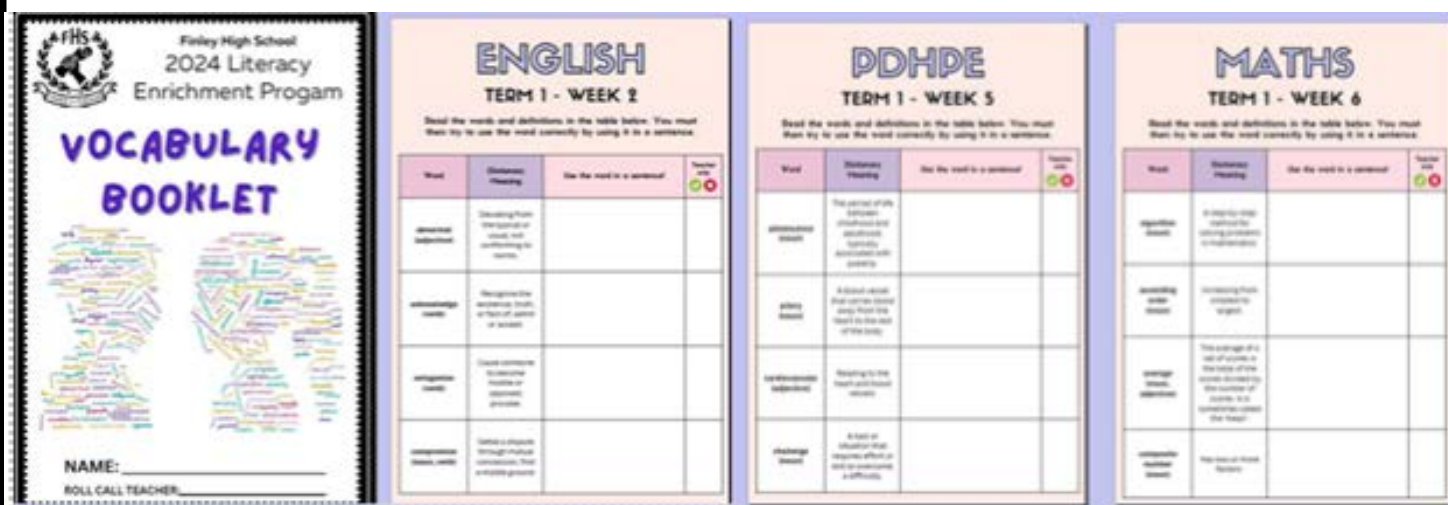
LITERACY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Finley High School's 'Literacy Enrichment Program': supporting student success

At Finley High School, fostering strong literacy skills remains a key priority. Our Literacy Enrichment Program, which focused on vocabulary development, achieved positive outcomes in 2024 and has been thoughtfully updated for 2025 to build on these successes. Vocabulary consistently emerges as an area requiring growth, according to NAPLAN and Check-In Assessment data, and is crucial for literacy development. Research shows that students need to understand 95% of words in a text for full comprehension, making vocabulary one of most significant factors that impacts student outcomes.

What we achieved in 2024

Last year, Year 7 and 8 students participated in weekly vocabulary exercises during Monday morning roll-call. They worked through activities designed to improve their vocabulary knowledge, with advanced booklets available for select students. Teachers provided support by explaining word meanings in context and offering timely feedback. Post-testing each term demonstrated consistent growth, with an average of 75% of students showing vocabulary improvement across the year. However, staff and student feedback highlighted areas for improvement, such as the need for deeper understanding of words in context and building on a broader range of skills.



Exciting changes for 2025

Based on feedback and assessment data, this year's program has expanded its focus to include a wider range of literacy skills, and will be completed by students in Years 7, 8 and 9. Key updates include:

- **Enhanced vocabulary skills:** Greater emphasis on using context clues to interpret word meanings.
- **Reading comprehension:** Analysis of literary passages to assess how word choices shape meaning.
- **Critical thinking:** Activities like 'word clines' to explore subtle differences between synonyms.
- **Spelling and grammar awareness:** Morphological tasks and sentence construction activities.

- **Creative and collaborative tasks:** Encouraging students to brainstorm, problem-solve, and seek peer assistance.
- **Metalinguage and visual Literacy:** Helping students develop a deeper understanding of how language functions.

To keep students motivated, each week's activities vary to maintain engagement and challenge their thinking.

Exploring Vocabulary
Finley High School (Term 1)
2025 Literacy Enrichment Program

LET'S GET STARTED...
Welcome to our vocabulary-building journey! In this booklet, you will explore exciting words that will enhance your reading, writing, and communication skills, but also to developing your vocabulary to improve it here and there.

- Understanding and comprehension: A rich vocabulary enhances your ability to understand texts and conversations, making it easier to engage in discussions and discussions.
- Expressing yourself clearly: A wide vocabulary allows you to express your thoughts and feelings more effectively, improving your communication and understanding with others.
- Building confidence: Knowing the words to use with confidence, helping you articulate your thoughts and participate more confidently in discussions and presentations.
- Academic success: A strong vocabulary is essential for success in school, as it helps you understand and communicate complex concepts and perform better on tests and assignments.
- Life-long learning: This program is designed to open up new ideas and perspectives, making you more engaged with different subjects and making learning a continuous journey.

As you work through this booklet, remember that every new word you learn is an important step towards becoming a more skilled communicator and thinker. So, let's dive in and start expanding our vocabulary together!

Happy learning!

NAME: _____
ROLL CALL TEACHER: _____

WEEK 2 WORD WEB
This activity focuses on the word 'inevitable' and its related words. You will explore the meaning of the word and its various uses.

WEEK 3 CONTEXT CLUES
This activity focuses on the word 'inevitable' and its related words. You will explore the meaning of the word and its various uses.

WEEK 4 VOCABULARY WHEEL
This activity focuses on the word 'prevalent' and its related words. You will explore the meaning of the word and its various uses.

WEEK 5 BREAK IT DOWN
This activity focuses on the word 'prevalent' and its related words. You will explore the meaning of the word and its various uses.

WEEK 6 WORD CLINES
This activity focuses on the word 'quiet' and its related words. You will explore the meaning of the word and its various uses.

WEEK 7 SENTENCE SCRAMBLE
This activity focuses on the word 'prevalent' and its related words. You will explore the meaning of the word and its various uses.

Measuring success

Improved pre- and post-testing will help capture not just vocabulary retention but students' ability to apply their knowledge in new contexts. This shift supports a more authentic assessment of their growth in literacy.

We look forward to seeing how our students benefit from this enriched program throughout 2025. Thank you to our dedicated roll-call teachers for their ongoing support in guiding students through these valuable literacy exercises, and to the passionate English team who conduct the pre- and post-testing and reinforce students' knowledge and skills in the classroom.

Together, we are empowering students with the communication skills they need for academic success and lifelong learning.

Ms Jess Laxton
Head Teacher English & Literacy Co-ordinator

IXL INFORMATION



Respectful
Responsible
Learners

FINLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Mr J Ward B.HSc. Grad.Dip.SecEd
Deputy Principal: Mr M Whitty B.A. / B. Teaching

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Dear Parent/Caregiver.

Finley High School runs a program called "IXL" (I excel).

How does IXL Run?

- IXL operates for Years 11 and 12 and will run as a 3-period block once per week.
- Teachers of years 11 and 12 will provide work for students in their classes to complete during IXL. **These tasks are compulsory.** Teachers set, check and monitor that these tasks have been completed. In some circumstances, the tasks form the foundation of future learning in the classroom.
- Students will be provided with a booklet that they will complete each week. In the IXL booklet, students will plan their IXL time to ensure that all their allocated tasks are completed. This booklet will be kept and monitored on a weekly basis by the IXL coordinator.
- **ATTENDANCE AT IXL SESSIONS IS COMPULSORY. Parents of absent students will be contacted each week.**

What are the goals of IXL?

- We want all students who leave Finley High school to have skills for life. IXL is to encourage senior students to become lifelong independent learners and develop organisational and planning skills. Students will develop responsibility and accountability for more of their learning.
- Reducing face-to-face teaching in the HSC course by 1 period per subject per cycle has enabled 1 extra subject to be offered on each line.
- This has broadened the curriculum in the senior school.

Where does IXL occur?

- IXL sessions occur in the VTR and library which have been refurbished for this program. The library is be closed to all other classes during these times and will be for the exclusive use of Year 11 or Year 12.

Who will supervise IXL sessions?

- IXL sessions will be supervised by the IXL coordinator and the teacher librarian.

Continued,

Year 11 and 12 Teacher Responsibilities

- Each week teachers will set meaningful and compulsory learning activities for students to complete during IXL sessions (preferably with written instructions).
- Appropriate tasks could include: Reading and note taking from texts, answering exercises and questions from texts, answering exam style and past HSC questions, working on assessment tasks, preparing topic summaries, watching videos or movies that are directly related to course work (students must supply own earphones/buds), completing interactive tutorials and animations.
- Check and mark any set work and follow up with appropriate communication with the student and home. Record this in the HSC Monitoring folder.

Year 11 and 12 Student Responsibilities

- **BE RESPECTFUL:** to each other, to staff and to the library, following all rules on behaviour and attendance during IXL.
- **BE RESPONSIBLE:** be punctual and bring everything you require for 3 periods of independent learning during IXL each week.
- **BE LEARNING:** make wise use of your time; do your best to work hard and maintain your focus; develop some self-discipline and academic rigour. Your teachers will have supplied learning activities for you to do!

Michael O'Leary
(IXL Coordinator)

Jeff Ward
(Principal)

Travel Information for Excursions

When travel via bus for an excursion is offered this is the preferred method for students. If you are travelling in your private vehicle with students to any excursion then a Working with children's check is required. You can obtain a volunteer working with children's check through Service NSW.

From Service NSW Website:

The Working with Children Check (WWCC) is a requirement for anyone who works or volunteers in child-related work in NSW. It involves a National Police Check (criminal history record check) and a review of reportable workplace misconduct. Results of a National Police Check can take up to 4 weeks to be received.

The outcome of a check is either a clearance to work with children or a bar against working with children. If cleared, the check will be valid for 5 years, however applicants are continuously monitored.

The application is free for volunteers.



Canteen News

Finley High School Canteen and Uniform Shop

Contact – 0358882030

Volunteers are asked to please be at the canteen by 10am

Term 1 2025 Roster

Week 3	Wednesday 12th Feb - Robyn Groutsch Friday 14th Feb - Carmen Lawton
Week 4	Tuesday 18th Feb - Marg Close Friday 21st Feb - Chelsea Tanner
Week 5	Monday 24th Feb - Sam Arthur Thursday 27th Feb - Corrine East
Week 6	Tuesday 4th March - Liz Walsh Friday 7th March - Alicia Williams
Week 7	Friday 14th March - Tanya Bauer
Week 8	Tuesday 18th March - Kaylene Dawe Thursday 20th March - Sonia Frost
Week 9	Friday 28th March - Cath Rorato
Week 10	Monday 31st March - Sam Arthur Wednesday 2nd April - Anne Lee
Week 11	Thursday 10th April - Liz Walsh

P&C Information

Our first P & C meeting of the year is next week the **12th February at 7pm** in the school administration block. We welcome all new families to join and be a part of this productive group. Our P & C raises significant funds for the school to support every child, through sales in the canteen both with our uniform shop and with food and drink. We ask that you support this enterprise where you can. The P & C also works closely with the school on policy, decision making and support and is a great way to hear first hand what is actually happening at the school. Our P & C Executive is: President is Mr Paul Jones, Vice President Mrs Jodi Brown, Secretary Mrs Cath Rorato and Treasurer Mrs Ang Urquhart. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to give them or the school a call.

Finley High School Summer Menu 2025

HOT FOOD

Available by order only

Finley bakery Pie	\$6.00
Finley Bakery Sausage Roll	\$4.00
Mrs Mac Pie	\$4.50
Mrs Mac Sausage Roll	\$3.50
Sauce (tomato or BBQ)	.30

Available daily

Chicken Burger (lettuce and mayo)	\$6.0
Hot Dog	\$4.50
Hot Dog with Cheese	\$4.80
Chicken wrap	\$5.50
(chicken tender, lettuce, cheese, mayo)	
Chicken wrap with salad	\$7.00
Sweet Chilli Wrap	\$5.50
(sweet chilli tender, lettuce, cheese, mayo)	
Sweet Chilli Chicken wrap with salad	\$7.00

ROLLS AND SANDWICHES

	Roll	Sandwiches
Chicken Salad	\$6.50	\$5.50
Chicken Salad with the lot	\$7.00	\$6.00
Ham Salad	\$6.50	\$5.50
Ham Salad with the lot	\$7.00	\$6.00
Tuna Salad	\$7.00	\$6.00
Tuna Salad with the lot	\$7.50	\$6.50
Salad no meat	\$5.50	\$4.50
Salad no meat with the lot	\$6.00	\$5.00
Tuna and Mayo	\$5.00	\$4.50
Roast Chicken	\$4.50	\$4.00
Ham	\$4.50	\$4.00
Cheese	\$4.50	\$4.00
Tomato	\$4.50	\$4.00
Egg/Curried	\$4.50	\$4.00
Vegemite	\$4.50	\$4.00
Ham And Cheese	\$4.50	\$4.00
Buttered	\$3.00	\$1.50

TOASTED SANDWICHES

Ham and Cheese	\$4.00
Cheese	\$4.00
Ham	\$4.00

RECESS

Cheese and Bacon Roll	\$3.00
Hedgehog Small	\$1.80
Hedgehog Large	\$3.50
Donuts (Fri)	\$3.50
Muffins (Blueberry or Chocolate)	\$3.50
Chips (Honey Soy/Sea Salt)	\$1.50

TUBS/PLATE OF SALAD

(Meat, lettuces, tomato, carrot, beetroot, pineapple, egg, onion, cheese, mayo)

Roast Chicken	\$7.50
Ham	\$7.50
Tuna	\$7.50
Salad no meat	\$6.50

DRINKS

	Large	Small
Flavoured Milk	\$5.70	\$3.00
Orange Juice	\$3.50	\$2.60
Dare Milk	\$5.70	
Plain Milk	\$2.50	
Nippy's Apple Juice	\$3.50	
Nippy's Apple Blackcurrant Juice	\$3.50	
Apple Juice Prima	\$1.50	
Tropical Juice Prima	\$1.50	
Water	\$2.00	



JERILDERIE FUN FAIR

SATURDAY, 1 MARCH 2025

MONASH PARK, JERILDERIE NSW

from 3pm

- Free Kids Activities
- Tiny Tails Wildlife
- Classic Car Display
- Market Stalls
- Outdoor Cinema
- Live Music
- Food Vans
- Licensed Bar
- Showbags

FOLLOW US



ADMISSION

\$10 Adult

\$5 Pensioner

Children FREE



*Funds raised at the Fair support the children
of St Joseph's Jerilderie Primary School*

Transgrid



BayWa r.e.
r.e.think energy





WE'RE LOOKING FOR ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS IN FINLEY

For more information
or to apply, visit
fire.nsw.gov.au/on-call
or call **02 5942 9000**



MAYBE IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT A SECOND JOB

Comprehensive training is provided for all on-call firefighters, covering all aspects of the work involved to keep your community safe. You'll need to:

- ✓ Hold a current NSW driver's licence.
- ✓ Be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or a permanent resident of Australia.
- ✓ Live or work within a reasonable distance from your local fire station.
- ✓ Have daytime availability to respond to emergencies.

Fire and Rescue NSW employs around 3300 highly-trained, professional, on-call firefighters throughout NSW to respond to emergencies share a commitment to helping their local community. Right now, we're looking for firefighters in your area.

Our firefighters are a diverse group of men and women who balance their work, study and family commitments. They enjoy being part of a team, working with the community and other emergency services.

On-call firefighters provide a high standard of response to fire and emergency situations. All our firefighters use specialised vehicles and equipment to prevent and reduce the risk of fire and potential loss of life and property. They also work closely with the local community to increase fire safety awareness and promote fire prevention, so if this sounds like you, please get in touch with us today.

