



# Finley High School

## 7th March 2025



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*Year 12 Retreat*

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**Newsletter Week 6, Term 1, 2025**

### A WORD FROM MR WARD

This will be my last newsletter for Term 1, before I head off on leave next week. While I'll miss several key events that are highlights of Term 1, such as Harmony Day, the formal assembly, and marching with the school on ANZAC Day, I have full confidence that the school will continue to thrive in my absence. The school is in great hands with Mr Whitty, and I look forward to reconnecting with everyone when I return at the start of Term 2.

#### **Year 12 Retreat**

Thank you once again to Mr Hay and Jodi Brown along with Mrs White who conducted a very successful Year 12 retreat. This annual event is key to prepare the students for their final three terms of high school. It builds teamwork, cooperation and the necessary skills required to be as successful as possible.

#### **Rochester Show**

I ventured to Rochester on Saturday the 22nd February to spend quality time with our show team who again represented the school with distinction, winning a number of classes. Thank you, Mrs O'Leary, Mr Webb and Mr O'Leary who supported and guided the students, who attended.

#### **International Women's Day**

This week it is International Women's Day on Saturday, 8 March 2025 with the theme being: "Accelerate Action." This year's theme calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a future where no one is left behind. Central to this vision is empowering the next generation—youth, particularly young women and adolescent girls, as catalysts for lasting change.

Here's to strong women: may we know them, may we be them, may we raise them.

## Year 7 SRC Members

Congratulations to the following students who were voted in by their peers at the recent Year 7 SRC elections.

Harley Dundon, Levi Jakeman, Henry Pascoe, Lucia Ferres, Chelsea Kennedy, Piper Kydd. We had 13 nominations, and each student gave a 3-minute speech to their peers, staff and myself. I was incredibly impressed with the nominees and the way they delivered their speeches, never an easy task. Not everyone was selected, and I encourage the students to nominate again in 2026.

## Cricket

Well done to the boy's cricket team and their coach Mr Noonan, who had a great win against Barham High School, but unfortunately were not able to follow that up against Corowa.

## Zone Swimming

Congratulations to all those students who competed in the zone swimming carnival in Hay. A massive thank you Mr Maxwell for managing the team and to all those who volunteered and supported the students in getting to Hay. Good luck to all those students who are now heading to Leeton for the Riverina carnival on March 11. We have a team of 22 competing, with 7 relays.

## Preventing Bullying: Our Commitment to a Safe and Respectful School Community

We are committed to fostering a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where every student feels valued and respected. Bullying in any form is not tolerated, and we take proactive steps to prevent and address it in our school community.

Here are some of the ways we are working to prevent bullying:

1. **Clear Anti-Bullying Policies:** We have established clear guidelines that define what constitutes bullying and the consequences for such behaviour.
2. **Education and Awareness:** Our school organizes workshops, activities, and assemblies focused on promoting kindness, empathy, and respect for others. Students learn how to recognize bullying behaviour, how to stand up against it, and the importance of inclusivity.
3. **Support Systems:** We offer a variety of resources for students who are affected by bullying. This includes counselling, and trusted staff members students can turn to for help.
4. **Open Communication:** We encourage ongoing conversations between parents, teachers, and students to ensure that any issues are addressed promptly.
5. **Regular Monitoring:** Staff members are trained to recognize the signs of bullying, and we ensure that our playgrounds, walkways, and classrooms are supervised to prevent incidents from occurring.

We believe that by working together, we can create an environment where students thrive, build positive relationships, and feel safe to express themselves.

*Jeff Ward – Principal*



# *Year 12 Retreat*

On Thursday 20th February students and 4 fearful teachers ventured to Albury for the annual Year 12 retreat. It was a great opportunity for us kids to have fun, bond, and laugh together, and for the teachers to see how amazing we were at tennis, swimming, and trivia.

There were so many memorable moments, but some standout highlights include: one cabin watching a horror movie at night (which resulted in fright keeping them awake for a while), Harvey bringing (and then dropping) his PS4, Fin almost breaking his wrist, Mrs White and Rosie showing us some of their magic tricks, Ava and Georgia giving a mind-blowing demonstration of their twin telepathy, and Harvey performing Teenage Dream by Katy Perry.

Amongst all the antics, there were some very wholesome moments, with each student receiving a letter from their parents and from their teacher mentors. The support, encouragement and well wishes contained in these letters were not only an extremely kind gesture, but also a reminder to the students that we have so much support around us and that even though this year will be tough, we have wonderful people in our corner to embolden us and cheer us on.

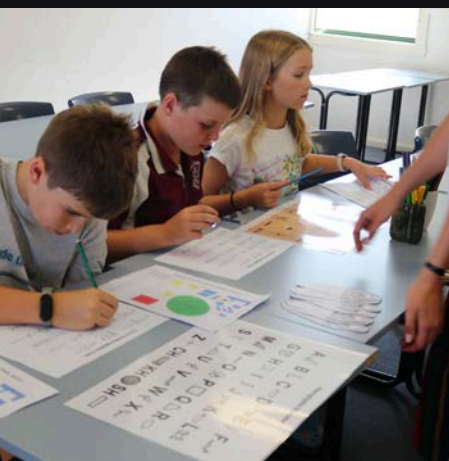
The retreat was a great way to reflect on the year ahead, remember what we've achieved so far, and get ready to face the final stretch of Year 12 with strength, resilience, positivity and fun. Thank you to Mr Hay, Jodi Brown, and Mrs White for organising it and putting up with us for 2 whole days and Mr O'Hora for driving the bus.

## **Chloe Rorato**





# Year 6 Open Night & Year 7 Welcome BBQ





# Year 6 Open Night & Year 7 Welcome BBQ





# *Around The School*

## **Year 12 - SLR**

On Friday 28th Feb Year 12 Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation class headed to the lake to participate in some stand up paddleboarding.

The timetable gods have gifted us with a double every second Friday so we will try to get out and experience some of the great sporting and recreational activities in our area.

Huge thanks to those who allowed us to borrow the boards.



## **Year 10 Science - Making Mineral Paint**



## **Scots Equestrian Interschool Challenge 2025**

Year 9 student Holly Arthur and her horse Chico had a great few days winning the Prelim Championship out of 30 riders and getting reserve champion in the showing section, 6th in the Handymount and then came 4th overall in the intermediate Year 7-9 section out of 54 riders.

Holly rode two horses and did all elements including dressage, jumping, showing, games and handymount.

Holly was so proud to represent her school and is now looking forward to the State Championships in April at Boneo.



# *Travelling Road Show*

On the 25th Feb Year 11 and 12 students had the opportunity to attend the Travelling Roadshow at FHS. This saw CSU, Latrobe Uni, Wodonga TAFE and TAFE NSW Riverina attending Finley High School. The presenters provided an overview of what they had to offer students post school from early entry, to courses available, pathway options and even accommodation away from home. Students then had the opportunity to speak one on one with the institution representatives about their own personal journeys into tertiary study and what options they might be best suited to. There was a lucky door prize on the day which contained a few goodies from the various institutions which was won by Chelsea C.



## *Legal Aid Talk*

On Wednesday 5th March Year 10 students attended a presentation by Legal Aid on Rights and Responsibilities. This was a lead into their work experience which will happen next term. Students were walked through various scenarios of rights and responsibilities both in life and the work place. They tried their hands at being the lawyer who decided if an action was a form of harassment or not and whether provided statements around issues in the workplace were actually fact or fiction. They were introduced to Fairwork's P.A.C.T calculators around award wages and talked through examples of how or when they would use these tools. The group were extremely respectful and mature in their discussion around sensitive issues and engaged actively with the presenter. Hopefully now they can not only identify issues but are also aware of where and how they can access support and assistance if needed.



# Open Boys Cricket

**Monday, February 24, 2025**

## **Round 1: Finley HS vs Barham HS (20/20 match)**

Finley won the toss and elected to bat. The pitch was green but slow and the outfield was very slow so opportunities for boundaries was limited. We had a slow start with openers Tom and Logan trying to see off the opening bowlers. They put on a 13-run partnership before Logan misjudged a ball and was bowled for 6. Tom was run out seven runs later for 7. Jordan came in next and started solidly as Ryan tried to hold up the other end so that Jordan could play with a little more freedom. Unfortunately, Ryan was bowled a little while later with the score at 3/20, so the team was in a bit of bother at that stage. Our middle order of Jordan and James steadied the ship a little and began to score more freely which allowed Archie to accrue runs quickly when he followed Jordan in after he was caught behind for 17. James eventually fell to a good ball for 12 and Chase came in close to the end of our innings and was there to see Archie finish not out on 40.

### **BATTING Highlights:**

Finley H.S. finished on 5/112 from their 20 overs.

Jordan caught for 17 (3 fours).

James bowled for 12.

Archie not out 40 (2 sixes, 3 fours).

Barham HS top order collapsed early due to some very good bowling and their middle order didn't offer too much resistance either. Wickets continued to tumble and the tail enders were mopped up quickly. They were dismissed after only 9 overs at 10/16. It was a very strong win to say the least.

### **BOWLING Highlights:**

Lucas 2/6 (3 overs) + 1 catch. At one stage he was on a hat-trick.

Jordan 1/4 (3 overs) + 2 catches

Evan 2/0 (1 over)

James 3/2 (2 overs) + 1 catch

Chase 2/3 (2 overs)

## **Round 2: Finley HS vs Corowa HS (20/20 match)**

Finley won the toss and elected to bat first against a strong Corowa team who had crushed Deniliquin HS in their round 1 match. We had played Corowa in the Riverina Regional Quarter Final in 2023 so we knew they were going to bring a strong squad into play on this occasion as well. Corowa bowled tightly and restricted our ability to score quickly. Essentially this was the difference between the two teams on the day. Finley HS were unable to score enough runs to put any real scoreboard pressure on the opposition. Finley finished their 20 overs at 5/70. Jordan (26) and Archie (17) again led the batting with Ryan (9) holding up one end in two separate partnerships, in an effort to give support to those two "bigger hitters". As stated, 70 runs off 20 overs (3.5 runs per over) just wasn't enough to be competitive against a quality batting side. On the positive side, we only lost 5 wickets - but didn't score quickly enough.



### **BATTING Highlights:**

Jordan not out 26 (2 fours).

Ryan bowled for 9.

Archie caught for 17 (1 four).

The Corowa were able to relax at the crease and score at a low runs per over pace. They were in no hurry to score. On the day they had an opening batsman who dominated their innings by scoring 42 not out. WE bowled well but unfortunately didn't have the luxury of a "buffer" of runs to play with. Corowa ended their innings at 3/71 off only 14 overs. Finley unfortunately dropped a chance from their best batsman early on in his innings and that mistake definitely impacted the result as he went on to dominate.

### **BOWLING Highlights:**

Jordan 1/8 (2 overs) + 1 catch

Tom 2/17 (3 overs) + 2 catches

**NOTES ON THE DAY:** Finley HS students performed admirably against older competition. Being an "Open Boys" competition means that the squad can be selected from Yr 7 to Yr 11 cohorts. This year the majority of our boys came from Yr 8 and Yr 9. This gives away a number of years to other teams sometimes! Hopefully, however, this will result in stronger performances over the next couple of years as these boys become older, stronger, gain more experience and therefore gain more cricket 'nous'. It must be said that the entire squad played and behaved in a way that shed wonderful light on the school as a whole. They were dressed impeccably and showed courtesy and respect to their opposition right throughout the day. That old saying in sport "that you learn more from losing than winning sometimes" was particularly true of their game against Corowa. Now it's Forwards and Onwards to more challenges!!



*Left to Right: James, Chase, Jarred, Logan, Ryan, Nick,  
Tom (c), Archie, Jordan, James, Angus, Evan  
Lucas (absent)*



# Zone Swimming Carnival



The Finley Zone Swimming Carnival was held at Hay swimming pool on Wednesday 26th February, bringing together talented swimmers from across the region for a day of strong competition, sportsmanship, and team spirit.

Students displayed outstanding effort in all events, with many qualifying for the next stage of competition. The level of enthusiasm and determination was evident as swimmers gave their best in freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and relay events.

A huge thank you to the staff, officials, and volunteers who ensured the event ran smoothly, as well as the supporters who cheered on our athletes throughout the day. Your encouragement made all the difference!

We now look forward to seeing our successful swimmers represent the zone at the upcoming Riverina carnival on the 11th March. Well done to all competitors for their hard work and dedication!





# Rochester Show

We had an excellent show at Rochester. We were made to feel very welcome by the organisers and exhibitors.

There were 70 head of cattle exhibited so we got to see where our cattle stand.

Friday night was the Heifer classic. Ava placed third out of 8 exhibits with FHS Valentina. Lindsey placed 2nd out of 11 with FHS Unreal.

Saturday was a huge day in very hot conditions. Maggie placed 3 out of 5 with our steer FHS Velocity. In heifers 12-15 months there were 6 exhibits entered and Indie placed 4th with FHS Valentina and Gemma placed 5th with FHS Verity. In the Heifer class 18 - 20 months there were 3 exhibits. Ava placed 1st with FHS Unreal and Lilly was 3rd with FHS Utopia.

In the Best 2 Junior Heifers we placed 2nd in a very big class with Ava and Lilly teaming up and parading Unreal and Utopia.

In the cows class 20 -24 months Lindsey placed 2nd with FHS Ursula.

Kate paraded FHS Victory into 1st place against 2 other exhibits in the bull 12- 15 month class.

In the bull 15- 18 month class Maggie and FHS Unstoppable won in a massive class of 9. They went on to take out the Reserve Champion Junior Bull title.

Kate and Maggie teamed up with FHS Victory and FHS Unstoppable to win the best 2 Junior bull class over 3 other exhibits.

Our last cattle class was a Group of 3 where there were 5 entries. Maggie & Unstoppable, Lindsey & Ursula and Gemma & Unreal took out 1st place. Kate & Victory, Indie & Valentina & Bridie and Verity took out 4th place.

In paraders under 15 Ava placed 1st, Indie placed 5th and Bridie placed 6th.

In the 15 and over class Maggie took out 2nd, Lindsey 3rd, Kate 4th, Lilly 5th and Gemma 6th.

These were large classes of paraders and our students did very well.

**Mrs Robyn O'Leary**





# Where are they now?

## Lily-May Ogilvie

Lily-May left Finley High school in 2021. She had studied Hospitality in Years 11 and 12 and was awarded her Certificate II in Hospitality at the completion of her HSC.

Lily-May took on an apprenticeship at the Finley Country Club Hotel under the tutelage of Priuljith Unnikrishnan (known as Jithu)


Lily-May studied through TAFE for two years and is now a qualified chef. She absolutely loves her work and says that her Country Club is a very positive workplace.

Johnny Hopkins, her current boss is full of praise for Lily-May and says he can leave her in charge with great confidence.



www.smallsteps4hannah.com.au


# HANNAH'S STORY



These sessions aim to create more awareness and empower members of the community about the early warning signs of coercive control and the tragic but inspirational story of Hannah Clarke, her three children and family.

Presented by  
**Michael Jeh**  
DV Prevention Educator

**TICKETS**  
<https://www.ticketebo.com.au/murrayhutwa/hannahsstory>



Murray Hut

FINLEY RS CLUB  
UPSTAIRS FUNCTION ROOM  
63-67 TOCUMWAL STREET,  
FINLEY



THURSDAY  
1ST MAY, 2025  
5.30 TO 7.30 PM

THIS IS A FREE OVER 17'S EVENT

Bookings Essential  
and will close  
24th April, 2025

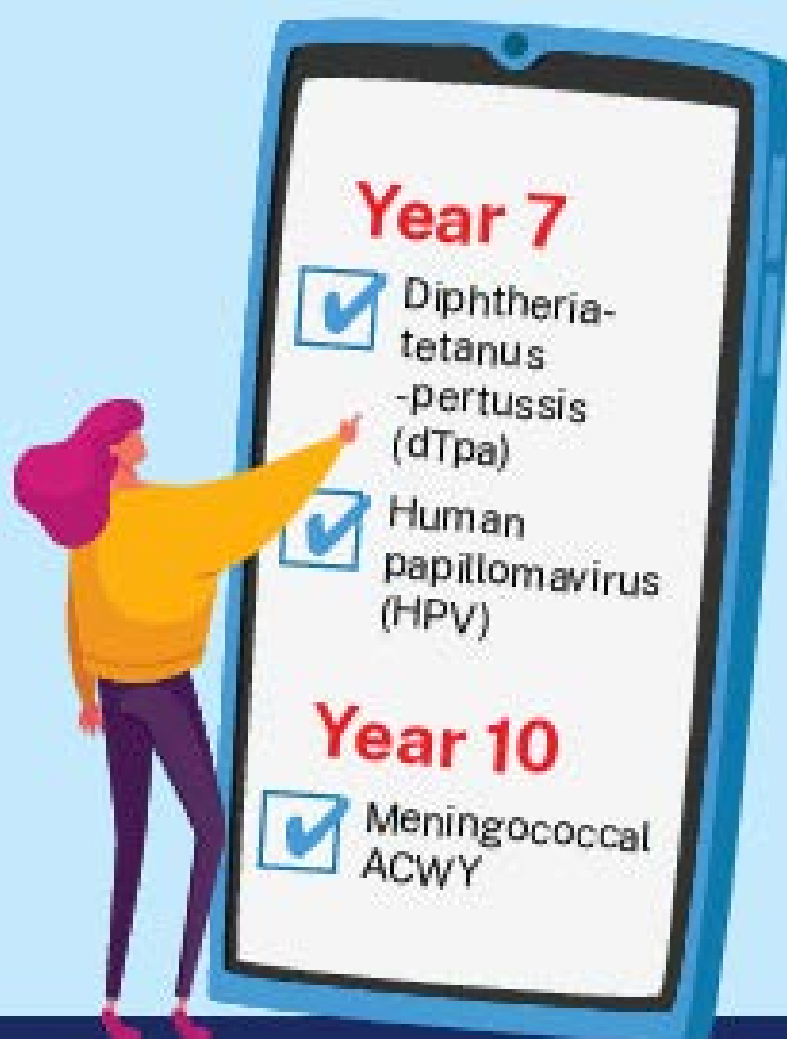
ENQUIRIES 0409 314 174

Due to the sensitive nature of the content, this event is suitable for adults and young adults aged 17 and over. We encourage community members to attend and engage in this crucial conversation.

# Is your child in year 7 or year 10?



Provide your consent for routine  
school vaccinations online



Scan the QR code to  
give your consent now



To provide online consent visit:  
<https://engage.health.nsw.gov.au/engage>

For more information visit:  
[health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination](https://health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination)



# Jerilderie Holiday Youth Program 14-16 April 2025

At the Jerilderie Race Course and Showgrounds  
For students in years Kindergarten to Year 12.

## Who?

The Jerilderie Uniting Church Congregation is hosting the Wesley International Youth Group 'DIGJC' from Sydney to experience country life and to run the holiday youth program. DIGJC are an inspirational and talented group of young Christians who want to share their time, their faith, and their gifts with the young people from our region.

## Who can come?

Years K-12 Monday-Wednesday:

The program will run from 9am till 4:00pm each day. Students K-12 are welcome to arrive from 8:50am. Please be prompt when picking up your young people at the end of the day.

## What to expect

Activities may include:

- A variety of sports
- Cooking
- Art and Craft
- Live Band
- Singing/Bible stories
- Guitar workshops
- Piano workshops
- Canoeing
- And more!
- Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

## Cost

\$10 per child per day (max \$20 per family per day). No child excluded due to family hardship.

Payment on the day with registration form

or by EFT to Jerilderie Uniting Church BSB 633000

ACC: 164881997

Email receipt names to [kelscomputers@bigpond.com](mailto:kelscomputers@bigpond.com)

## What to bring

- Wear appropriate clothing
- Enclosed shoes (preferably sport shoes)
- A drink bottle.
- A hat.
- Spare set of clothes (just in case!)
- Any donations of cakes or slices for morning and afternoon teas will be gratefully received.
- Registration forms must be returned and signed.

## Evening event

Parents / Caregivers and family are invited to join us at 6pm for a BBQ and evening activities on Wednesday night.

You will get an opportunity to see what your young people have done and be entertained.

## For more information and registration forms contact:

Jacqui Robertson:  
Ph: 0491 183 557  
[jacquirobertson58@gmail.com](mailto:jacquirobertson58@gmail.com)  
or  
Lorraine Comber  
Ph: 03 58 861576  
[lcomber@bigpond.com](mailto:lcomber@bigpond.com)