



Finley High School

4th July 2025



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2025 Cowra Show Team

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Newsletter Week 10, Term 2 2025

A WORD FROM MR WARD

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding term, it's a perfect time to reflect on the achievements, growth, and moments of pride that have filled our school community over the term. Whether it's through academic success, acts of kindness, or quiet, consistent effort, our students continue to demonstrate what it means to be respectful, responsible learners. This week's final assembly was a celebration of the many individuals who exemplify these values every day. From those who earned awards to the countless others who quietly go about doing the right thing without expectation of recognition we see you, we value you, and we are proud of what you bring to our school.

Thank you to all our students, families, and staff for your support and contribution this term. We wish everyone a restful break and look forward to an exciting new chapter when we return. Staff return on Monday 21st July and students return on Tuesday 22nd July.

Under 15 Soccer/Netball/AFL

Our Under 15s have had several opportunities to showcase their skills on the sporting field lately. Our girls and boys soccer teams travelled to Leeton, where they unfortunately both went down to strong opposition. Thank you to Mr Tooke and Mrs Loughridge for coaching and driving the students.

We sent two teams to Barham in trying conditions last week. They had mixed results, more so because Mrs Sexton did a great job of mixing the teams rather than having a stronger and weaker team. Thank you also to Mrs Marsden and Mrs Price for driving, umpiring and supporting the teams.

This week our boys and girls AFL teams travelled to Barham for a Gala Day against Deniliquin, Barham, Balranald and Hay. Our boys' team were undefeated all day and our girls' team had 1 win and 2 very narrow losses. Thank you to Mr Tooke, Mr Hay and Miss Taylor for supporting our students on a successful day.

Acknowledgement On Assembly (Attendance Awards And The Performing Arts)

It was terrific to acknowledge the 45 students, who received an award on assembly for achieving an attendance percentage of 97% or above this term, this is an incredible number of students that gets better every year.

Congratulations to Bethany and Elliott Loughridge, who gave an incredible duet performance at our final school assembly this week. We are fortunate to have such talented and dedicated performers in our school community.

Deni Health Day

Thank you to Mrs White who took a large group of students to Deniliquin TAFE for a career's health day. I was able to drop in briefly and the students were engaged in several workshops, discussions and demonstrations. From all reports the students got a lot out of the day, here's hoping we inspired a future generation of potential nurses and health care workers.

Mrs Singleton

Sarah Singleton will be working at Blighty PS in Term 3. Ms Jess Johnson will be stepping in for Sarah in the pay office at FHS. We wish Sarah all the best.

Launchbox - Ignite Your Student's Passion For Space And STEM.

Well done to Mrs Tobin who was successful with her application to participate in Launchbox 2025. LaunchBox makes space exploration accessible to Year 7 and 8 students. We simplify satellite engineering, letting kids design, build, and compete to launch their own CubeSat using stratospheric balloons. This hands-on program sparks curiosity, builds confidence, and inspires future STEM careers, offering a 360-degree approach to space missions, emphasizing that the space industry extends far beyond astronauts and engineers, with diverse career paths across a wide range of fields. Give your student an unforgettable learning experience – 'Ad Astra' - reach for the stars with LaunchBox.

Here is the link to more information <https://www.fleetspace.com/launchbox>

Secretary Roadshow For Principals - Albury

Principals in the Riverina came to James Fallon HS this week to listen to the Secretary of the NSW Department of Education, Mr Murat Dizdar. This is an opportunity to hear the latest developments and reforms occurring in the department. There was considerable time for Q&A and workshops. It's always nice to rub shoulders with those at the top who make the big decisions and let them know where Finley is on the map.

Mental Health Wellbeing Afternoon

A big shout-out to Year 12 student Chelsea Coulson, who has been instrumental in working with staff to spark important conversations around mental health. Thanks to her initiative, we'll be holding a Mental Health and Wellbeing Afternoon on the last day of term to promote awareness and encourage open dialogue. Students are invited to add a splash of colour to their uniform and bring a gold coin donation in support of Kids Helpline. The afternoon will include a guest speaker Michelle Smith from Southern Riverina Wellbeing Collaborative, team-building activities, a mental health-themed Kahoot, and a collaborative art activity. The SRC will also host a BBQ lunch with music and games to bring the school community together.



Jeff Ward - Principal

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FINLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Monday 21st July	Staff Development Day
Tuesday 22nd July	All Students Return Term 3
Wednesday 23rd July - Friday 25th July	Ski Trip
Tuesday 29th July - Friday 1st August	School Dental Visit
Friday 1st August	Riverina Athletics Albury
Tuesday 19th August	MADDD Matinee 15s Netball Knockout
Wednesday 20th August	MADDD Performance
Friday 22nd August	Year 11 School Captain Speeches
Monday 25th August - Friday 29th August	Year 12 Trial Exams
Monday 1st September - Friday 5th September	Year 11 Hospitality & Business Work Placement
Monday 15th September- Thursday 18th September	Year 11 Exams
Friday 19th September	Term 4 Formal Assembly 12:30 Presentation of 2026 School Captains
Monday 22nd Spetember - Friday 26th September	Melbourne Royal Show
Wednesday 24th September	Year 12 Final Assembly
Friday 26th September	Year 12 Graduation Dinner



Year 7 & 8 Hospitality





Cowra Dorset Championships



Formal Assembly



Respectful, Responsible Learners

15s Football

Such a fun day in Barham for the Under 15s AFL Carnival especially for the girls. Most of the girls had limited AFL experience. We did have some experience with Maddy P, Marlee S, and Lexie M, who play AFL weekly and were able to take the lead on the field with their consistent composure and hunger for the ball. They also directed the girls in a warm up and drills before their games. Each of our players had some hidden talents that showed through as we faced tough opposition. Sophie U, Emily M, Adelaide H, Ava E and Taylah D ran through our middle and hunted for the ball with relentless tackling. Emilee S was on ball and a weapon that couldn't be caught. Abbey T, Holly A, Charlie G and Eliza G were fearless in the back line as they defended the goals. Phoebe H and Stella W could leg it down the field in a matter of seconds with their long strides, speed and agility. Jacinta E was incredibly versatile and went from defence to mid and then to the goals. Jacinta was able to take a mark beautifully in front of the goal square and make the only goal for the day for us. Ruby B achieved her goals for the day which were to tackle the opposition to the ground and be tackled to the ground. She provided team morale, laughs and plenty of positivity for the day. Unfortunately we only got one win for the day but we made good friends with the girls from Hay who we supported to fill in some numbers when they took on Barham. Barham was too strong overall but we all had a blast working together on the field.

Miss Taylor

Art Teacher and Head Coach



Scores:

Finley (7) V Hay (2)

Finley (1) V Barham (6)

Finley (0) V Deni (6)



Scores:

Finley (60) V Balranald (6)

Finley (27) V Barham (7)

Finley (31) V Hay (0)

Finley (14) V Deni (13)

15s Soccer

On the 24th June 2025, the Girls and Boys U15 soccer teams travelled to Leeton to compete in the next round of the Bill Turner Cup.

First, the girls took to the field to battle MacKillop High School (Griffith). Marlee S gallantly stepped up to be goalie and made many terrific saves, booting the ball right out to the centre line. Abby M's fleet footwork and Amber L and Holly A's staunch defence saw many goals saved, while Emilee S popped up everywhere across the field to block the ball. Bella R directed the team from the right wing while getting into the action at every moment possible. Despite some solid teamwork Finley was down 7 goals at half time.

Second half saw some fresh inspiration as Maria S and Piper P took to the field for the first time. Maria's lightning legs saw her sprinting all around midfield and forward, while Piper's perfect positioning saw her well placed to make timely kicks throughout the half. Marlee S stepped into defence and came into her own, flying across goals, making excellent saves left, right and centre. Maddy P donned the goalie gloves and was absolutely phenomenal, getting her hands on the ball and letting very few goals through. The ball sailed down the field with Ava E and Adelaide H working feverishly to break through MacKillop's indomitable defensive line. Lucy M performed solidly throughout the centre with a full body block turning the ball away.

As is often the way in soccer, the score line did not reflect the ferocious battle of the game. The full time score was 9-0 against Finley, but our girls can hold their heads high for a valiant effort against a very experienced team.

With no time to lose, the boys stepped straight into the fray to take on St Francis College (Leeton). With Evan L's strong hands in goals and Kaleb L and Charlie R setting up a solid defensive position, Finley set out to redeem themselves from a staggering 16-0 loss time last time we faced this school. Leeton took an early 1 goal lead but were immediately answered with James W providing an assist to Elliott L to kick Finley's first goal. Jordan S provided strong tackles in midfield, while Jordan D kept the pressure on in the front line, including a neat header break through the defensive line. Jack S subbed on to provide back-up in the defence, while James W spun through the whole forward half like a tornado, picking up the ball and delivering it towards the goal. Leeton answered with several goals of their own.

After facing a strong NW wind in the first half, the score at half time was 4-1, and the Finley boys entered the second half feeling that they were definitely still in the game. Logan's fleet feet bore him through the defence line multiple times as he sprinted toward the goal. Harrison W's terrific passing and technical throw ins set Finley up for success. Early in the half, Toby L managed to steal the ball from a Leeton defender to deliver a well placed goal. Taylor T put pressure on the side line, forcing throw ins, while Tom M tore up and down the right wing, swinging in to save goals.

Leeton kicked in a corner – Jordan S cleared the ball out directly to Elliott L at the centre line, who dribbled all the way through Leeton's defenders to put the ball in the back of the net once again. With the score now at 5-3, Finley were still clinging to hope. Charlie's desire to slide tackle was fulfilled late in the half when he scooted in to save yet another goal. Ev's many glorious saves were unfortunately countered by some very impressive teamwork from Leeton who put away several more goals.

Despite their best efforts, the final score of 7-3 against Finley did not reflect the brilliant game that was. The boys were very pleased with the game and the vast improvement over the previous result.

Congratulations to both teams on a lovely day out, perfect behaviour and terrific soccer – you have done FHS proud.

Mrs Loughridge

15s Netball

Last Wednesday, Finley High school took two teams of Year 9 students to participate in the Zone Netball Carnival. The weather was challenging with intermittent rain and wind gusts. The students had a full schedule with each team playing 7 games of 2 x 8 min halves. Despite the weather the students played competitively and



had mixed results. The teams chosen were a mix of abilities and local clubs, allowing the students to combine and develop teamwork in different groups. The students are to be commended for their sportsmanship and support of each other. Elyse Price and Penny Almond umpired throughout the day, both doing an excellent job. Special thanks to Mrs Marsden who stepped up and drove the bus for the day.

Mrs Sexton
PE Teacher

Science

Mrs Sharps Year 7 Science class. The participants had to make their own boats with two A4 pieces of paper and a limited amount of tape to carry weights across the water.

1st place was Jenny and Hil with 550g

2nd place was Lauren and Gabby with 525g

3rd place was Jaxon with 350g



Deni Health Day

On Thursday 26th Sept, 20 Year 9 and 10 students headed to Deniliquin TAFE for a hands on taste of careers in health. Students attended a series of workshops where they were introduced to the roles involved, heard from people working in that industry and their pathways through their careers and then were able to try a few tasks they may encounter as part of that job. Workshops on offer included Nursing, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Allied Health Assistant, Speech Therapy, Paramedicine and Exercise Physiology. In the nursing workshops students were able to practise sterile wound care, measuring vitals of BP and oxygen/heart rate and temperature. They also learned to draw required medicine dosages and administer these intravenously into the dummy arms. The OT workshop saw students try to manoeuvre around in manual and motorised wheelchairs, as well as looking at a variety of modified daily implements designed to make life easier for those in need. The physiotherapy group saw a plaster cast be applied and had the opportunity to try on a variety of rehabilitative devices from moon boots to knee and neck braces. The Allied Health group got busy with modified physical games where they had to play rob the nest with pegs and hoops to practise fine motor control along with a variety of other modified games. The Paramedic group provided lifesaving ABC and the exercise physiology group undertook some physical challenges from wall sits to planks. On site on the day were also personnel from CSU, TAFE NSW, Intereach and a variety of mental health providers who were available for students to talk to about possible careers and courses available. FHS would like to thank CSU ThreeRivers for helping to fund transport on the day and to Katie Friedlieb for her organisation of such a fantastic learning resource and for the provision of the BBQ lunch. A great day was had by all.





Deni Health Day

Respectful, Responsible Learners

Year 8 History Tutankhamun Tour

Last week, the FHS Year 8 History classes took Mr Ward and Mr Whitty on a tour to Ancient Egypt. Each group was assigned a room within Pharaoh Tutankhamun's tomb and conducted research on the key features. This included dimensions, important artefacts and intended purpose in the afterlife. Students were able to show and discuss what was found in the tomb in a practical way. The weather was a little unkind last week, which necessitated a late change to the gym to conduct two of the tours, whilst Mr Tobin's class braved the elements under the COLA. Well done to Mrs Jackson and Mrs Baxter for developing one of the student's favourite activities in History.



Gibb River Holiday

Chase Brown

On my trip to Kimberley, in the top of Western Australia I went to a lot of different places and saw a lot of amazing things such as the Devils Marbles, Mowanjumb Arts & Cultural Centre, the Prison Boab Tree and Tunnel Creek. These are the places in which I will be writing about.

The Devils Marbles is located near Tennant Creek in the Davenport Ranges in the Northern Territory. The area is a granite formation of large rocks that are round in shape. It is a geological site that is important to the local Aboriginal people of that area. The Devils Marbles, also known as Karlwekarlwe is a dreaming place, a place of significance in the Dream Time stories. Karlwekarlwe means round objects. Sadly most stories are only allowed to be told to certain Aboriginal people but we do know that Aboriginal people believe that people from the Dreaming there live in caves under the rocks. The Devils Marbles, once a giant mass of granite, now are round shapes formed by lines in stone from millions of years ago growing and splitting as the wind and rain pushed dirt off of them and then changing their sizes by a process called onion skin weathering. There is a walk we went on around the Devils Marbles called the Karlu Karlu walk. There is a lot of information about the area to read along the walk.

Tunnel Creek is an important part of the history of Aboriginal people in the area. Before I talk about the history of Tunnel Creek I think I should talk about how it was made. Tunnel Creek is a cave made of limestone. We walked through the caves which had water up to our necks in some spots. It was very dark and we needed torches. We saw an arrangement of animals including fish, bats and a goanna. Other people in there saw crocodiles. The history of Tunnel Creek is mostly about the life of one man named Jandamarra, and what he did, known as the Bunuba Resistance. Jandamarra was a young Bunuba man at the time of the white colonisation. He was just a young man who was banished by his people for encounters with women who were denied to him by his tribe's law. A while after being banished he worked on a station. He learnt English as well as working with stock, horsemanship and shooting. Although he lived what was called a White life he became greatly attached to his Bunuba ties and history, after being encouraged by his elders. He left station life to live within his Aboriginal culture. He later was arrested for stock raids and afterwards went back to his station life for a while. He shot his best friend, a local officer, shepherd and slave trader to free the Aboriginal slaves and took on a new life as a champion of the Bunuba people. After years as acting a part of the Bunuba armed resistance he eventually ended up in an un-winnable situation and took to Tunnel Creek as his last stand where Jandamarra died. Reconciliation is going on to this day.



Continued

Mowanjum Art and Culture Centre, located just outside the Aboriginal community Mowanjum near Derby in Western Australia. Visitors are not allowed within the community, so the art centre has a different entrance just before the town. There we watched a ten minute video about the community and focused on the Windjana, local Mowanjums deity. We looked at the Art Gallery which had pieces of work from local Aboriginal Artists. They all told a story of land and culture. We looked through the museum which explained the culture more. We learnt that one of the Aboriginal rock paintings we saw at Manning Gorge was of the Gwion. It is a rock painting of figures with long bodies and large heads and hands, found in the Kimberley region. We also got to play the clap sticks, they were very loud. The community has a festival each year but we were too early to go there. It raises awareness and celebration of the Mowanjum people and their culture.

The boab tree is a staple of its area and history in the Kimberley region. The Prison Boab Tree is located near Derby, and was used like a jail prior to Derby being built in 1883. The Aboriginal people were kidnapped in the Kimberleys. Kidnappers were known as blackbirders, usually white settlers in the area. The kidnappers were linked with the pearl industry and wanted divers for the boats. They would round the people up, chain them and walk them to the coast. And whilst waiting for the boats many of them were chained to the Prison Boab Tree. Sometimes they came as far away as Fitzroy Crossing and would walk for up to 48 kilometres each day in chains. Many farmers helped the black birders because they thought that taking the younger Aboriginals would help settle behaviours, however the Aboriginal people did resist.

By 1887 the government built a jail in Derby and the Prison Boab Tree was not used as much. There were Prison Boab Trees located in different areas of the Kimberleys. We visited the Prison Boab Tree. The area was very dry and bushy. It was a short walk to the tree from the car park. The tree was about 5 kilometres out of Derby. It was very large. Visitors are not allowed near the tree, it has fences because of its historical significance and value. It is also home now to lots of wildlife.

Throughout my trip seeing and learning about these places and their history I learnt and thought different things about these places. Like the creation and formation of the Devils Marbles or Jandamarra's last stand in Tunnel creek as well as the slaves forced to dive for pearls and kept at the Prison Boab Trees all of these things show us the rich history of Australia and how to avoid our predecessor's mistakes paving the way to our future while teaching us our past.

Chase Brown
Year 8



Spotlight on SBATs

Gemma is completing her School Based Traineeship as an Admin Trainee Officer at Finley High School. This is a Certificate II in Business qualification.

Gemma applied for and was successful in securing the Djinggi Scholarship which is funded by the Elsa Dixon Aboriginal Employment Grant.

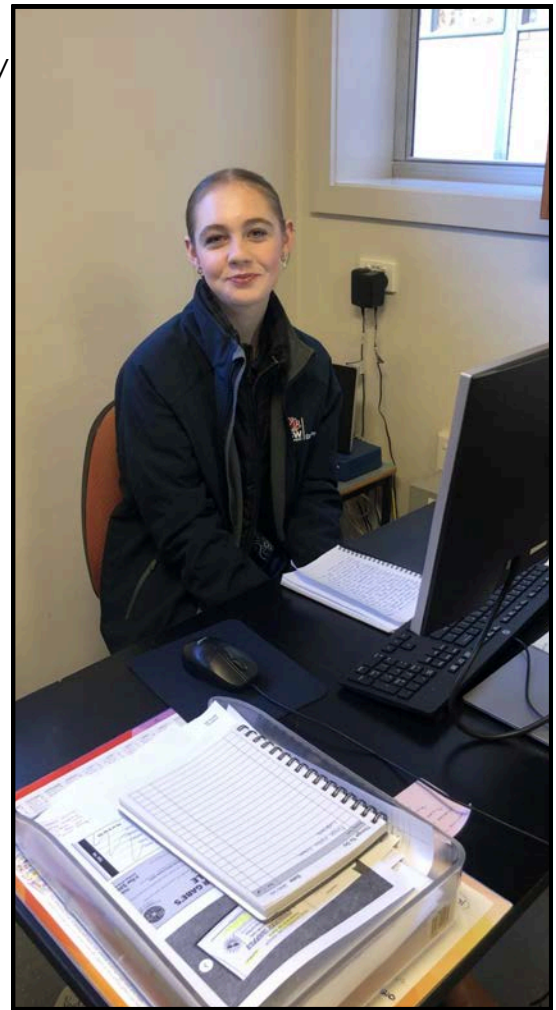
Finley High School agreed to take on an SBAT which provided an excellent opportunity for Gemma to work and study at school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the admin staff here at Finley High for their encouragement and assistance of Gemma.

Gemma works one day per week in the office at school and completes her theory work online with guidance from staff.

Some of the units Gemma is currently completing are -

- Use business software applications
- Write simple documents
- Collect and record data
- Organise personal work priorities.



Arabelle will complete her Certificate III in Early Childhood and Care at the end of next year.

At present Arabelle spends 1 day per week at the Finley Early Learning Centre.

Theory work is delivered online and Arabelle is doing extremely well and keeping up to date with all her assessments.

Some units covered in the course include-

- Support inclusion and diversity
- Nurture babies and toddlers
- Identify and respond to children at risk
- Observe children to inform practice.

Arabelle has prescribed hours to spend in all age groups to gain maximum experience.

This Cert III qualification will allow Arabelle to work in any childcare centre in Australia and can provide a stepping stone to greater qualifications and a university degree.

Jenny Philpot
SBAT Coordinator

Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy Tips for Parents (Years 7–10)

Write for a Real Audience - Encourage your child to write a letter, email, or review for something they care about.

Expand Vocabulary - Choose a “word of the week” and challenge everyone in the family to use it in conversation.

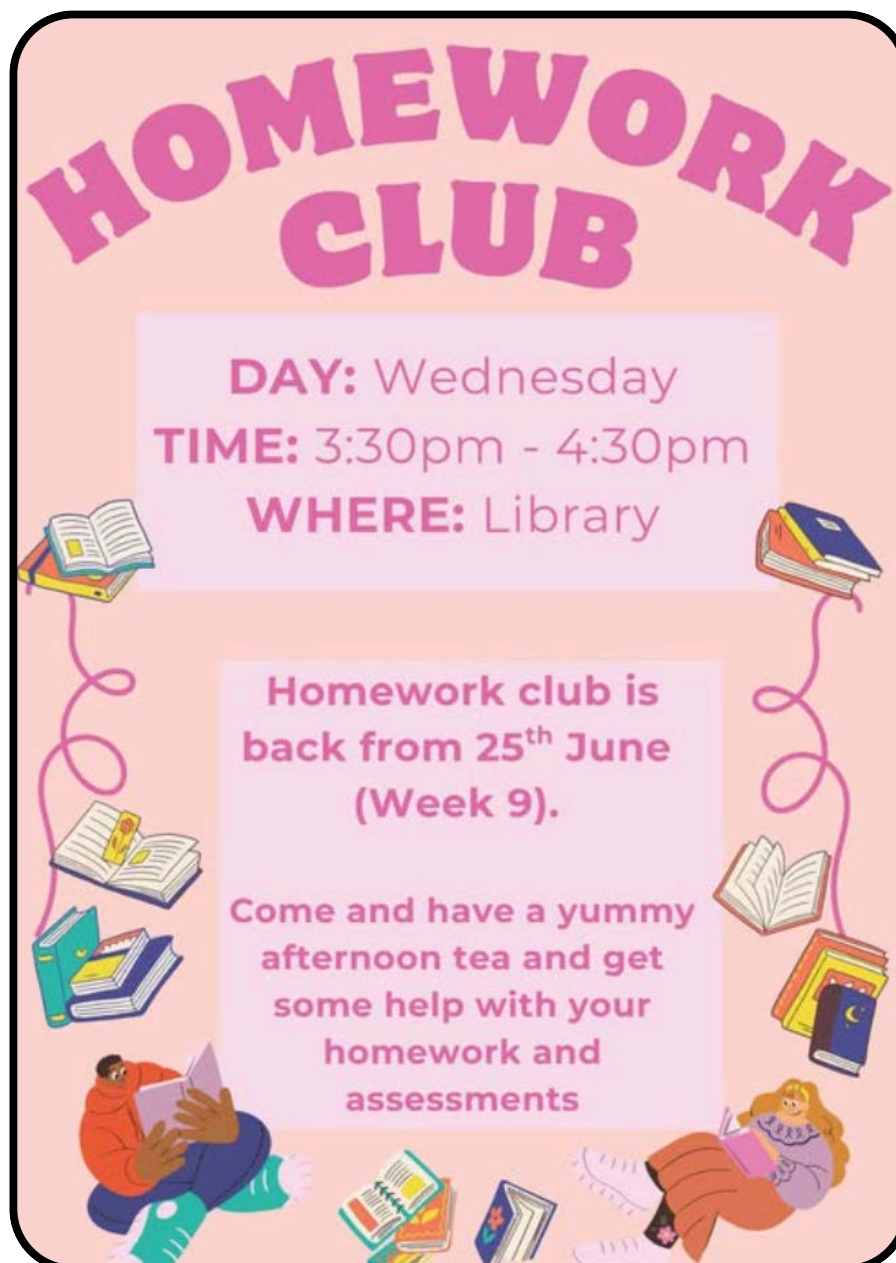
Keep a Journal - Encourage your child to write daily reflections or creative stories in a notebook.

Numeracy Tips for Parents (Years 7–10)

Ask “How Do You Know?” - Encourage your child to explain their mathematical thinking out loud.

Celebrate Mistakes - Normalise errors by discussing how mistakes help us learn.

Use Real-Life Graphs - Look at graphs in newspapers or websites and talk about trends and what they show.



Canteen News

Finley High School Canteen and Uniform Shop

Contact – 0358882030

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

Term 3 Roster

Week 1	Friday 25 th July - Robyn Groutsch
Week 2	Thursday 31 st July - Corrine East Friday 1 st August - Tanya Bauer
Week 3	Monday 4 th August - Juston Williams Tuesday 5 th August - Liz Walsh Friday 8 th August - Alex Redegalli
Week 4	Monday 11 th August - Heidi Bryce
Week 5	Tuesday 19 th August - Carina Rorato Friday 22 nd August - Carmen Lawton
Week 6	Thursday 28 th August - Ann Lee Friday 29 th August - Cath Rorato
Week 7	Monday 1 st September - Sam Arthur Tuesday 2 nd September - Marg Close Friday 5 th September - Tanya Bauer
Week 8	Tuesday 9 th September - Lyn Pascoe Friday 12 th September - Greg Lawton
Week 9	Tuesday 16 th September - Liz Walsh Friday 19 th September - Chelsea Tanner
Week 10	Friday 26 th September - Emma Dundon

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Futures Expo

WHERE TO AFTER SCHOOL?

Why?

Determining what comes next after school can be challenging for both students and their families. As children approach the later years of school, we encourage parents and carers to work with their children (and others involved in their care) to plan their transition post school life. The Futures Expo will help link students, their families and carers in with community organisations who provide services for young people in the area. We hope this expo assists in planning the pathways for our young people as they near the end of their schooling journey.

What?

The Futures Expo will have organisations attending from the community who provide services to young people. This will be an opportunity to meet local contacts and ask questions about the services they provide. Light morning tea will be provided

When?

Wednesday the 20th of August
10:30 am - 12:30pm
RSVP 1st August 2025

Where?

Cobram Civic Centre
Punt Road, Cobram VIC 3644





Who We Are:

We are a team of dedicated dental professionals with over two decades of combined experience. All our clinicians are licensed and experienced, committed to delivering high-quality dental education and preventive care to your child at their schools, in a friendly known environment.

What We Do:

Our mobile dental clinics are equipped with the latest dental technology, ensuring a comfortable and comprehensive check-up experience for your child. During our visit, we provide:

- Education: general dental knowledge, how often we should brush, how to brush and make healthy food choices.
- Comprehensive dental screenings for cavities, infections, gum diseases, and other concerning oral health issues.
- Professional cleanings to remove plaque and tartar buildup.
- Fluoride treatments to strengthen teeth and prevent decay.
- Deep fissure sealant applications to protect the chewing surfaces of the back teeth from cavities.



Information for Parents/Guardians:

Your child's health and safety are our top priorities. Our team follows a strict protocol to maintain a safe and sterile environment with our mobile dental clinics.

- Each child receives a comprehensive examination with a personalized dental report with our findings.
- Each child receives preventative care through, cleaning, fluoride application and fissure sealants for deeper pits.
- If additional dental treatment is needed, we contact you to seek immediate attention from your local family dentist.



How Do I Sign My Child Up for this amazing service?

It's simple using your phone you can scan our QR code shown below or type / click the following link to our website www.aasmiles.com.au/Consent-form/

For any questions or more information, please contact us at info@aasmiles.com.au or 0479 100 600.

Thank you for partnering with us to promote your child's dental health!



A & A SMILES

Your Child's Brighter Smile Starts Here.

🌐 www.aasmiles.com.au ✉ info@aasmiles.com.au ☎ 0479 100 600



Narrandera Town & Country

Open Gardens

Sunday 26th October 2025

ONLINE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM HUMANITIX

Online ticket holders can collect maps from
Plant Stall at Marie Bashir Park from 9.00am

\$25 PER PERSON ONLINE
(incl. Devonshire Tea + 25% Discount at Shady Gum Nursery)

GARDENS OPEN UNTIL 5.00pm

- LUNCH AVAILABLE -

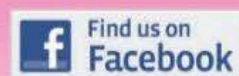
In aid of Narrandera Can Assist

Enquiries: 0428 597 655

Email: narranderagardenclub@gmail.com

facebook.com/narranderagardenclub

Instagram: [@narranderaopengardens](https://www.instagram.com/narranderaopengardens)



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