



Finley High School

23rd May 2025



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Newsletter Week 4, Term 2 2025

Year 8 and Year 12 Hospitality classes

A WORD FROM MR WARD

I would like to extend a massive well done to all the students who regularly attend our school. Education is vitally important and regular attendance at school is essential for students to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier, and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

Congratulations Melanie Omondi

Melanie recently travelled to Sydney with her parents where she received the Public Education Foundation's Acacia Program Scholarship. The scholarship provides financial assistance and mentoring/career advice to high potential students attending schools in specific school regions in NSW. Each scholarship consists of a bursary of \$1,000 per year for three years (total \$3,000) to support the students studies whilst enrolled in high school, plus mentoring/career information opportunities with an Acacia Fellow. Special thanks to Mrs Dempster and Mrs O'Bryan who supported Melanie through the process.



Melanie receiving her scholarship

Well Done Lucy Mueller

The school has placed a video of Lucy Mueller's time and efforts at the Royal Easter Show on Facebook. Lucy presented this to me and I was so impressed I wanted to showcase her talent to our community.

Congratulations to Ms Bower

Ms Bower recently graduated from the University of New England with a Master of Special Education (Special and inclusive Education). This is an incredible achievement that already adds to her exceptional skills as a math teacher.

Audit

This week we were audited on a number of administrative processes by a senior auditor from the Education Department. The two day process was comprehensive and the school presented extremely well. Well done to our Administration team who have all worked extremely hard in ensuring a positive outcome in the audit process.

P & C

I attended my first P & C meeting for the year and it was great to share the evening with such passionate parents. Special mention to our committee:

President: Mr Paul Jones (who is in his final year)

Vice President: Mrs Jodi Brown

Acting Secretary: Mrs Cath Rorato (Expressions of interest are being sought for this position)

Treasurer: Mrs Ange Urquhart

Primary School Visits

Last Friday saw the last of our transition visits to our feeder schools. This would have to be one of my favourite jobs sharing the energy and excitement with the Year 6 students. Thanks to Jodi and Ms Bower who did a terrific job. We are looking at potentially 60 – 65 students starting in Year 7 next year. Special thanks to the principals and Year 6 teachers for their hospitality. If you require further information about our school please don't hesitate to contact us.

Parent teacher night

Thank you to all the parents that attended a very successful parent teacher night on Monday night. It was a great opportunity to meet teachers, get feedback and work on strategies to improve their child's learning. If you require further information or missed the evening please don't hesitate in reaching out.

Thank you Brian and Jenny O'Hora

I would sincerely like to thank Brian and Jenny for their years of work with the Dairy Show Team. Brian and Jenny have decided that it is time to say goodbye to this wonderful initiative which brought so much joy to so many students and themselves. They have forwarded the balance of their account which is donations and personal contributions to the school of just over \$2000, this will go towards another initiative of their choice.

Special mentions to:

Our show team who are at the Holbrook sheep show this week with our super Ag teachers Mrs O'Leary and Mr Webb

Students and staff travelling to Melbourne for the Year 8 History Excursion, studying Chinese history. Thanks to our passionate History teachers Mr Tobin, Mrs Baxter and Mrs Jackson.

Our tremendous careers advisors Mrs White and Mrs Philpot for their organization of the White card course and Welding program running out of Finley TAFE

Our hard-working coaches Mr Tooke, Mr Hay and Jodi Brown for supporting and guiding our Swan shield footballers and Boys and Girls basketball teams.

Thank you Mr Tobin (rel DP) and Mr Burdon (rel HT) for your leadership whilst

Mr Whitty has enjoyed a break travelling around the ancient sites of China.



Year 9 student Ava with Mr Ward

Jeff Ward - Principal

Year 6 Transition Visits

Over the past few weeks Principal Mr Ward, 2026 Year Advisor Ms Bower and Student Support Officer Jodi, have travelled the area visiting local Year 6 students. These visits are a vital step in our high school transition program. The main objective of the visits was to help Year 6 students gain a clearer understanding of what to expect at Finley High. These sessions aimed to ease anxieties, answer questions, and provide practical information about life at high school. The visit also aimed to build a positive connection with our feeder schools.



Cross Country

Finley High School Cross Country Carnival was held on Wednesday 7th May. The course was once again located at the showgrounds and pony club jumping course. Staff and students participated, all keen to do their best. Two options were given to the students, running or walking the 3.5km course. The weather presented early as excellent running conditions, but as the day progressed the wind picked up making the run more challenging, nevertheless, the mood and energy of the staff and students was excellent.

The results on the day were outstanding. All students and staff competed in the one event on the same course, allowing staff, seniors, juniors, girls and boys to all compete to be the first athlete to cross the line.

In lightning pace, Blake V (13:01) was first back, with Jackson P (14:13) coming in second place overall. First female to cross the line was Amber L, with Bella R finishing second in the females. This was a great effort from all four junior students. Many staff were active on the day, Mr Tooke in fine form finished first, with Keeley Coates coming in second position. The winning house was Murray.

Whole School Cross Country Results

Opens - 1st - Harleigh C & Olivia C

17 Years - 1st - Jeremy D & Chloe R, 2nd - Hunter G & Bianca G, 3rd - Matt D

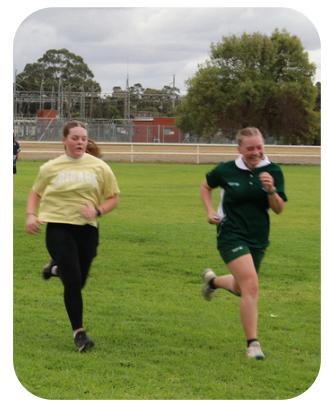
16 Years - 1st - Blake V & Lillian B, 2nd - Tom W & Matilda B, 3rd - Ryan B & Amelia H

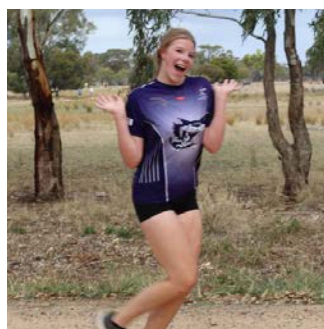
15 Years - 1st - Elliott L & Bella R, 2nd - Evan L & Addison B, 3rd - Corey D & Lucy M

14 Years - 1st - Jackson P & Amber L, 2nd - Ollie R & Abby M, 3rd - Lachlan M & Sienna

13 Years - 1st - Sam H, Lexie H & Ivy M, 2nd - Rory B & Lyla R, 3rd - Toby L & Piper K

12 Years - 1st - Levi J







Careers Day Out

On Wednesday the 8th of May Year 10 headed to Shepparton for the annual Careers Day Out. There were hundreds of students from schools throughout the Shepparton district present. Students had the opportunities to mingle and interact with a wide variety of employers and industry personnel as well as tertiary providers in the form of TAFE and University representatives. Students had many opportunities to not only ask questions but to also engage in hands on careers activities and games. There were freebies and prizes to be won amongst a great deal of learning and fun. Hopefully every student found an area of interest on the day.



Year 12 Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported the Year 12 students who are fundraising for their graduation. They recently held a raffle and the winners were:

First prize: A whole lamb - Chris Saunders

Second prize: A Country Road picnic basket - Trent Robinson

Third prize: A hamper - Vicki Kempton

Fourth prize: A hand-crafted serving board - Tim Price

Some of our Year 12 students volunteered their time last weekend assisting the Apex Club at the Finley BNS Ball. They whipped up 100s of bacon and egg rolls under the guidance of Mrs Philpot and Bec Belling. Ava, Georgia, Olivia, James, Rosie and Chelsea along with Mr Ward flipped eggs and fried up the bacon. Harleigh, Shikaya and Demi put the egg and bacon rolls together and kept the frantic service up to the hoard of hungry revellers. They also spent time cleaning the grounds in the marquee area and wiped down chairs and tables for pack up. They did a fabulous job, made even more fabulous for the fact they started at 6am and worked tirelessly without complaint.



U15 Boys and Girls Basketball - Deniliquin sports stadium

"Young Spiders swish but can't find their swing"

On Thursday the 15th May, the Under 15 Finley High School boys' basketball team took to the hardwood at the Deniliquin Sports Stadium with high hopes, hungry hands, and a playlist that somehow blended Kanye West with Cold Chisel. Under the calm chaos of Coach Jodi Brown's courtside presence, the boys were ready to leave it all on the floor.

Game 1 - FHS Spiders vs Hay "Hay Bails"

In the first game of day the young spiders stepped straight off the minivan and right into the thick of it against a solid Hay team, always a tough assignment at a neutral venue. The game started slowly with a record number of air balls from both ends of the court made defence the priority as Elliot 'The Airbender' and Jordan 'Sky Hook' were dominant on the boards, pulling down rebounds like they were snatching dreams out of mid-air. On the perimeter, Jack 'In the box' and Evan 'The Sherrif' handled the rock with some serious sauce-breaking ankles, beating defenders, and threading passes like they were working at Spotlight. Meanwhile, Campbell 'Clampdown' was a defensive menace. If your name was on the scoresheet, it wasn't by his doing. Campbell smothered plays, picked pockets, and made the opposition earn everything.

This one came down to the wire. In a heart-stopping finish, the Spiders fell just short, 21 to 20, after Hay managed to drop a soul-crushing bucket in the final tick of the game. Although the final second loss stung, the boys walked off with heads high and fire in the belly.

Game 2 – FHS Spiders vs Balranald Bombers

In game 2 it was Jordan 'Buckets' who lived up to the name, draining mid-rangers and getting to the rim like he had VIP access. Taylor 'Whispers' was ice-cold under pressure, sneaking up on opponents like a librarian making smart plays and keeping the tempo steady while the chaos unfolded around him. Defensively, it was again the duo of Loughridge and Reynolds who set the tone, contesting everything that dared to fly near the paint.

A dominant second half, slick ball movement, and a serious lift in intensity put the boys back in business. After a close first half, the Spiders kicked the door down in the second, storming to a commanding 26-10 win.

Game 3 – FHS Spiders vs Barham

Given that the boys unfortunately narrowly dropped their first game to Hay, they would not qualify for the first place play off and would enter the consolation round for 3rd place. Although with a McDonalds soft serve on the line there was still plenty to play for.

With that in mind the Spiders came out firing and never looked back. An early run in both halves set the tone for a 24-14 win, built on fast breaks, pressure defence, and team-first basketball.

From the tip off Jack was everywhere—boards, assists, hustle plays—playing like a man with a point to prove. Swanny and The Sherrif turned defence into offence with ease, while Dean and Thornton connected like seasoned pros. It was a full team performance, punctuated by thunderous rebounds, crisp passing, and that unmistakable Spider grit.

Though they narrowly missed progressing through, the Under 15s boys showed massive heart, hunger, and hustle. From buzzer-beaters to blowouts, they gave it their all - and looked good doing it finishing 3rd overall.



On the girl's side of the draw 8 of our fiercest competitors took to the courts with all the intensity that you have come to expect. This wasn't just basketball-it was a four-game campaign of heart and hustle.

Game 1 - Finley vs Hay

The girls opened their campaign with a statement 22-6 Win, shutting down Hay with aggressive defence and crisp offence. Adelaide 'The Maestro' got things going early, delivering two slick no-look assists in the opening minutes to ignite the crowd and her teammates.

Bella 'The Pocket Rocket' turned defence into instant offence with a coast-to-coast steal and layup, while Maddy 'The Chef' was unstoppable on the boards, grabbing three offensive rebounds in one possession before powering one home.

Ava 'The Compass' had the baseline on lockdown, cutting off every drive and frustrating Hay's guards into turnovers. Late in the game, Emily 'Mayhem' went beast mode on first substitute with an immediate impact, hitting back-to-back fast breaks off steals to seal the dominant win.

Game 2 - Finley vs Barham

Game 2 against Barham unfortunately was a heartbreaker being handed a 12-14 loss. A low-scoring grind that came down to the dying seconds. But make no mistake, it was a battle. Stella 'The Nightmare' was a force inside, pulling down rebound after rebound like it was her personal mission. Midway through the first half, she sparked a momentum shift with a strong putback and a foul drawn. Emilee 'The Enforcer' was everywhere, diving for loose balls, setting rock-solid screens, and rallying her teammates with relentless voice and energy. Jasmine 'You Know What's' kept the team composed under pressure, threading a pass-through traffic to set up the Maestro for a crucial jumper late in the second half. But a last-minute turnover and Barham's lucky floater at the buzzer stole the win.

Game 3 - Finley vs Balranald

The girls came out breathing fire after the Barham loss and left Balranald looking for answers. Emily opened with a corner 3-pointer and the Spiders never looked back. Rourke and Easty turned into the dynamic duo in the full-court press, forcing five straight turnovers in the first five minutes. Jasmine and Adelaide ran the show like co-conductors, directing plays, feeding cutters, and keeping the tempo relentless. Pricey added some flair with a euro-step finish, while Sneddon capped things off with a dagger elbow jumper to close a near-flawless performance taking the win 26-2.

Game 4 - Finley vs Deniliquin

The final showdown. Archrivals. High stakes. High intensity. Unfortunately, high pressure got the better of the girls in this one. Deni jumped out early, and despite a few flashes of brilliance, Finley couldn't claw it back.

Still, the moments came. Adelaide launched a perfect cross-court pass to Jasmine, who drained a silky jumper. Maddy fought like she was owed something in the paint, snagging three boards in one brutal possession against Deni's twin towers.

Stella swatted a shot into the bleachers mid-way through the second half, drawing oohs from the crowd, and Emilee brought the noise, in defence like a true competitor - even when the chips were down.

Bella and Emily kept grinding to the final buzzer, refusing to let Deni have a free ride. And Ava, even in the final minutes, was still diving, scrapping, and showing what the green, red and black is all about.

From fast breaks to flash passes, floor burns to big boards, this team brought everything. The girls played for each other, for the jersey, and for the school. And although the final game didn't fall their way finishing with a 6-24 loss, the pride, potential, and passion were undeniable.

As always, they represented FHS with class, courage, and composure. On court and off, they were a credit to the school.



U15 Boys AFL – Albury/Lavington “The Spiders spin a tenacious web but cannot catch their prey”

On Tuesday the 6th of May, our esteemed Under 15 boys jumped on the bus under the expert guidance of Coach Tooke. The music selection enroute was eclectic, to say the least—ranging from Enya to AC/DC, hardstyle electronic, and a number of tracks that were quickly skipped due to explicit content. Regardless, the boys were fired up and ready to kick the dew off the Lavington main oval for a 9:45am start.

Game 1: Spiders vs Narrandera - The first opponent of the day was Narrandera High, who had a journey of their own-their bus breaking down halfway. It gave our boys a psychological edge, and we sought to take full advantage.

The work started in the middle with Lucas ‘Bash and Crash’ and the human whippet, Jack, asserting dominance from the first bounce with a flurry of forward 50 entries to Hudson, the bear in the square. With the forwards and midfield firing, the backline joined the action through the tenacious pressure of Evan and Xavier.

After scoring the opening goal, the game played out like a tug-of-war, but the boys held firm and ground out a gritty 13-point win.

Game 2: Spiders vs Yanco High - In Game 2, the Spiders faced Yanco High School, and it was yet to be seen whether their expertise in agriculture would match their footballing ability. New recruit Ollie ‘The Real Deal’ dazzled from the outset with a goal of the year contender: at a boundary throw-in deep inside the attacking 50, he tapped the ball to himself and snapped truly with barely any daylight to work with. The celebration? Just as elite.

Moments later, from the same pocket, Ollie took a contested mark and slotted an equally impressive drop punt for the Harvey Norman Play of the Day. This time, the celebration was premeditated—the double pistol, Western style, fired into the crowd. That energy was enough to see off Yanco for a 5-goal win.

Game 3: Spiders vs Deni High - The Decider - After a well-earned break, the football gods gave us the perfect script, archrivals Deniliquin High stood between FHS and a ticket to Wollongong. In the first half, Deni High hit the ground running, showing our Spiders a clean pair of heels and applying scoreboard pressure early. Enter Archie, who brought the noise with aerial contests, trying to ignite a spark. Despite a few forward entries, the Spiders could only muster a solitary point before halftime. The signs weren’t great.

Enter: Jordan. With the game slipping, Jordy stepped up and slotted the first major of the second half. Hope reignited.

Then came H. With a steely look and dynamic left boot, he declared, “If it is to be, it’s up to me.” A brilliant snap from a critical front and centre fell into the lap of the Barron who booted home another maximum which had the Spiders trailing by just 5.

Coach Tooke’s fingernails were officially gone as Deni mounted one last charge, managing a behind to extend the lead to 6. One straight kick needed to draw level.

With a minute on the clock, a fierce contest at half-forward saw H again prominent, this time taken high and earning a free kick right on the 50. Then the unthinkable, a 50-metre penalty was awarded for not returning the ball correctly. But instead of bringing him to the goal line, the umpire seemed to have his measurements creatively interpreted, moving the mark only about 15 metres.

With the crowd holding its breath, H. launched his trusty left into the Sherrin... and missed by the narrowest of margins. The siren sounded seconds later.

Although it wasn’t the result the young Spiders had hoped for, it was a phenomenal performance, showcasing determination, character, and plenty of promise for the seasons ahead. As always, the behaviour of all students was exemplary—a testament to the quality of the young men that Finley High School continues to produce.

Girls Open Soccer Gala Day



On Friday, 9th May, the senior girls' soccer team, with Mrs Begbie (fill-in coach and driver) headed to Wagga Wagga to play in the next round of the CHS championship. There were 4 teams playing: Wagga Wagga High School v Finley High and Albury High School v Murrumbidgee Regional High (Wade). The winner of these games then played off to go to the next round.

With many of our girls having played little or no soccer, the team did a fantastic job in challenging the more experienced opponent and making them more accountable. We even made their goalkeeper work hard. Although we lost 7 – 0, the score does not reflect the tenacity and effort of each FHS player. They gave their all. Our players were so encouraging and supportive of one another, making it the most enjoyable and fun day.

Thanks go to Mr Tooke for organising the team, Mrs Megan Hay for driving and support and Mrs Leanna Loughridge for being a great help with coaching on the day.

Team: Lilly B, Olivia C, Amelia H, Bethany L, D, Georgia M, Isabelle M, Lillianna M, Miller S, Rosie S, Remi W and Zara W.



P&C News

Tracksuit pants are available to purchase from the canteen for \$45.00. They are part of the winter sports uniform and are to be worn **only** in sport and PE lessons or on sporting representative days.

There has been an issue identified with a supply of Finley High School sport shorts. If your sport shorts are piling, then please take them to the canteen to be replaced. Thank you.

Finley High School P&C are currently looking for a secretary. This position does not take a lot of time. The role involves checking of emails, writing occasional letters and typing up the minutes of monthly meetings. If you are interested in this position, then please contact the school and they can pass on your details.

The next P&C meeting is Wednesday 11th June in the High School staff room located in the front office.



Item	Cost
Girls Uniform	
Shirt - White short sleeve with Finley High School emblem	\$32
Shirt - White long sleeve with Finley High School emblem	\$34
Skirt - Tartan summer weight fabric	\$58
Shorts - Tailored grey	\$40
Pants – Tailored long grey	\$44
Boys Uniform	
Shirt - White short sleeve with Finley High School emblem	\$32
Shirt - White long sleeve with Finley High School emblem	\$34
Shorts - Tailored grey	\$40
Pants - Tailored long grey	\$47
Jumpers (Unisex)	
Wool blend	\$64
Poly/cotton blend	\$52
Jacket – soft shell with Finley High School emblem	\$63
Sport Uniform (Unisex)	
Shirt – green polo with Finley High School emblem	\$47
Shorts – green with Finley High School emblem	\$40
Trackpants – black with Finley High School emblem	\$45



🔥 Exciting Opportunity for Finley High School Students NSW RFS Cadet Program Coming in Term 3! 🔥

We are thrilled to announce that Finley High School has been selected to host the NSW Rural Fire Service Secondary School Cadet Program in Term 3, 2025!

This nationally recognized program offers students an incredible opportunity to gain valuable life skills, develop leadership and teamwork, and foster a strong sense of community service – all while learning about the vital work of the NSW RFS in a safe and supportive environment (note: no live fire is used in training).

Through engaging activities including briefings, group discussions and hands-on exercises, students will learn:

- ✓ Basic safety and fire awareness
- ✓ Teamwork, leadership, and initiative
- ✓ Communication and problem-solving skills
- ✓ Equipment use and maintenance
- ✓ An appreciation of their local environment and emergency services

The Cadet Program promotes a deep sense of camaraderie and responsibility, and many students find it to be a life-changing experience that inspires future community involvement or even a career in emergency services.

We encourage all interested students and parents to consider this unique opportunity.

Let's work together to inspire our next generation of community heroes!

Places are limited, so stay tuned for permission forms and application details coming soon.

Warm regards,

Finley High School & NSW Rural Fire Service



A&A SMILES

School Dental Visits



A&A SMILES

Finley High School has partnered with A&A Smiles and is offering FREE dental check ups to any eligible student. The arranged visits will be occurring in Week 2 of Term 3. Please follow the instructions on the following page to register consent for your child. Alternatively, please see the front office and we can arrange a paper-based consent to fill out.



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:

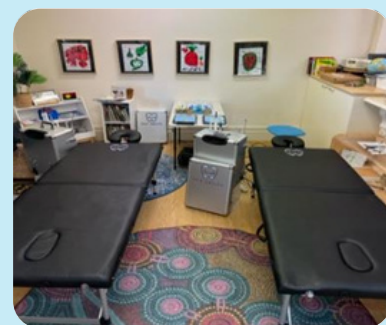
- Education: general dental knowledge, how often we should brush, how to brush and make healthy food choices.
- Comprehensive dental screenings for cavities, infections, gum diseases, and other concerning oral health issues.
- Professional cleanings to remove plaque and tartar buildup.
- Fluoride treatments 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.

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Respectful, Responsible Learners



1 JUNE 2025

SMOKE ALARM ACTION DAY



*Be smart. Take part.
Test your smoke alarm.*



On 1 June, pause and push the button!

- ☐ Find your smoke alarm
- ☐ Press the test button
- ☐ Hear the beep? You're good to go!

No beep? No alarm?
Replace it now, **your life might depend on it.**

Need a hand?



Fire and Rescue NSW offers FREE Safety Visits. Firefighters will come to your home, check alarms, and install new ones if needed.
Request a visit today.



Respectful, Responsible Learners

MND BIG FREEZE



Beanies \$25.00

Socks Small and Large \$15.00

Available at the front office while
stocks last.