



# Finley High School

## 6th June 2025



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**Newsletter Week 6, Term 2 2025**

## A WORD FROM MR WARD

Sitting down to write this fortnight's newsletter, I was struck by the sheer number of opportunities, experiences, and events our school has offered recently and I feel like I've only just scratched the surface. I'm incredibly proud of what we're able to provide for our students, and I'm continually impressed by the dedication of our staff who make it all happen, as well as the enthusiasm of our students who embrace these experiences. I've said it before, but it's worth repeating: Finley High School continues to punch well above its weight. We have so much to be proud of. Next week, I'll be attending the NSW Secondary Principals Conference in Bathurst. It's always a privilege to share with my colleagues across the state just how outstanding our school community is.

### Athletics Carnival

A huge thank you and well done to all the students who participated and gave their very best, and to the staff who helped set up and supported what was a fantastic day of athletics. There were so many memorable moments, outstanding performances, and even records broken all of which you can read about in Mr Hay's upcoming report. Thank you to Mr Hay for his excellent organisation. We also extend our best wishes to the students and staff heading to the Zone Carnival in Finley. Lots of photos from the whole school athletics carnival are featured in this newsletter.

### Year 10 Work Experience

This week, our Year 10 students have ventured out into the community for work experience. We've seen them in a wide range of settings from shops and worksites to machinery workshops, pharmacies, offices, and salons. Each year, we are incredibly grateful to the businesses and organisations that generously support this valuable program by welcoming our students and giving them real-world insights. A special thank you to Mrs Philpot, who does an outstanding job coordinating this important opportunity for our students.

## **Uniform Update – New Tracksuit Pants**

A big thank you to our P&C for providing the school with new tracksuit pants just in time for winter. The new design has been very well received, with positive feedback from students about both comfort and style. Please note, the tracksuit pants are only to be worn during PE practical lessons or for sport. They are not a replacement for the standard grey school pants and should not be worn as part of the regular school uniform.

## **Zone Cross Country**

13 students travelled across to Balranald for the zone cross country carnival. Lillian Baker was the standout competitor winning the 16 years age group, with Blake Vidler coming second in the 16 years boys group. Overall, the students did exceptionally well and we wish them all the best at the Riverina carnival in Gundagai.

## **Out and About**

It's always a highlight of my role to get out into the community and see firsthand the incredible learning experiences our students are engaged in. Recently, I've had the pleasure of visiting several groups and programs that showcase the breadth and quality of what we offer at Finley High School.

- Year 11 Primary Industries students were out at Springfield for lamb marking. A huge thank you to John Hawkins, Matt Mueller and John Braybon for generously hosting our students. Their support provides an invaluable hands-on learning experience, topped off with a terrific BBQ.
- A group of Year 9 and 10 students have been participating in the YES TAFE Welding Program at Finley TAFE. It's fantastic to see students gaining real-world skills and exploring vocational pathways.
- I also checked in with our Year 12 Visual Arts students, Olivia and Charli, as they work on their final HSC pieces. Their creativity and dedication are inspiring, and I'm very much looking forward to seeing their finished works.

These experiences are a wonderful reminder of the diverse and engaging opportunities we provide to students—both in and out of the classroom.

## **Year 12 Interviews**

Mrs White and I have begun our Year 12 interviews, and it's been a rewarding experience speaking with our senior students about their goals and future pathways. Many students are already well on their way to achieving their dreams, while others are still exploring their options and benefiting from some additional guidance.

## **Chess team**

Our chess team of Elliott, Toby, Thomas and Eli, (Ryan was away) went down in their recent challenge with Border Christian College. From all reports they did an outstanding job hustling their pawn pieces around the chess board. Thank you to their coach and manager Mrs Begbie for all her organisation and support.

## **Principal Professional Learning**

Over the past two weeks, I've had the opportunity to visit Barellan Central School and Barham High School for the Riverina Principal Meeting and the Deniliquin Network Principal Meeting. These gatherings are a valuable chance to connect with fellow principals, share both the successes and challenges we face, and reflect on how we can continue to improve outcomes for our students. The days are focused on Departmental updates, professional presentations, and ensuring we are all aligned with the high expectations set for public schools across NSW. It's always encouraging to see the great work happening in other schools, and I come away with new ideas and renewed confidence in the direction we're heading at Finley High School.

*Jeff Ward - Principal*

# What's happening at Finley High School?

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	P & C Meeting Tertiary Tour
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Riverina Cross Country
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Zone Athletics Carnival
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Cowra Dorset Championships
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Berrigan Shire Council Expo
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Zone Netball Barham
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 9/10 Health Expo Day Deniliquin
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Formal Assembly
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	15's AFL Barham (Boys & Girls)
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	MADDD Production
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Last Day Of Term
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Staff Development Day
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Term 3 Starts All Students



# *TAFE Welding*

Finley High School have 10 students from Year 9 and 10 undertaking the TAFE Youth Engagement Welding Program this term through TAFE NSW at the Finley Campus. The students are learning about the different types of welds and have been working on a series of small and larger projects. The program is hands on and very practical. The TAFE have set up 7 individual mobile welding bays and the students are being taught by TAFE teacher Franc Prestia who travels over from Wagga for the Friday classes. This has been a great opportunity for students to engage in a tertiary style learning program whilst gaining very useful practical skills. FHS would like to thank Finley TAFE and Matt Hannan for the support in getting this program happening.

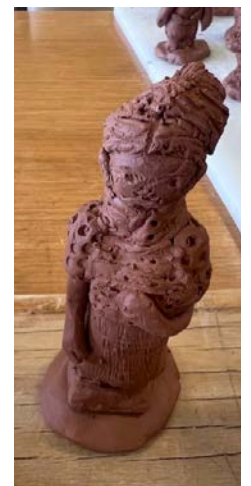




# *Year 8 Clay Terracotta Warriors*

As part of their study of Ancient China, Year 8 students have created their own clay Terracotta Warriors. This followed lessons about Emperor Qin Shi Huang and the discovery of the Terracotta Army in Xi'an.

Students explored the historical significance of the warriors before sculpting their own using clay, focusing on the features that make each figure unique. Bringing together students from multiple classes added to the fun and creativity, as they worked side by side to sculpt their unique masterpieces. The finished pieces will be displayed in the school foyer.





# *Whole School Assembly*



Principal's Awards



CAPA/TAS Awards for consistent effort in Semester 1 Year 7-8



CAPA/TAS Awards for consistent effort in Semester 1 Years 9-12

## *Year 9 English - Exploring The Shoe-Horn Sonata*

This term in Year 9 English, students have been studying *The Shoe-Horn Sonata* by John Misto, a gripping and emotional play that sheds light on the untold stories of Australian women in World War II. Classes have enjoyed taking on the roles of Bridie and Sheila, acting out key scenes and engaging with the play's use of sound, visuals and music.

In the photo, Chase and Jasmine from 9A perform the powerful final scene, where the characters share a poignant waltz to "The Blue Danube Waltz".



# Literacy & Numeracy Improvement Program

This term, the school has continued its Literacy and Numeracy Improvement Program, designed to reinforce key skills taught in the classroom. Each week, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 engage in short, targeted activities during roll call that focus on strengthening their literacy and numeracy skills.

The program has contributed to ongoing improvements in student outcomes, particularly in areas such as reading comprehension and number fluency.

Below is a sample of the tasks students have been completing as part of the program.

## Comparing Fractions

### Term 3 - Week 4

**Explanation** – Understanding the equivalence (same) relationship between a fraction, decimal and percentage. As well as using equivalence to compare and order fractions of the same whole.

**Example** –  $\frac{1}{2} = 0.5 = 50\%$  because five is half of ten and fifty is half of 100.  $\frac{2}{3}$  must be greater than  $\frac{1}{2}$  because  $\frac{2}{3}$  is greater than a half and  $\frac{1}{2}$  is less than a half.

Question			Answer			Teacher
Fraction	Decimal	%	Fraction	Decimal	%	
	0.8	80%		0.8	80%	
$\frac{40}{100}$			$\frac{40}{100}$			
$\frac{9}{10}$			$\frac{9}{10}$			
$\frac{15}{20}$			$\frac{15}{20}$			
		18%			18%	
	1.10			1.10		

## WEEK 4

### VOCABULARY WHEEL

Much of our language is based on Greek and Latin language systems. Fill in the wheel below by brainstorming words with the specified prefix, suffix or root word.

List as many words as you can that use this prefix.

List as many words as you can that use this suffix.



List as many words as you can that use these root words.

Teacher Checked? ☐ WKS 09

### Literacy Tips for Parents (Years 7–10)

- Read Together - Encourage your child to read a novel or article and discuss it with you over dinner.
- Model Reading - Let your child see you reading newspapers, books, or online articles—it shows reading is a lifelong skill.

### Numeracy Tips for Parents (Years 7–10)

- Talk Numbers Daily - Involve your child in everyday maths—budgets, measurements, time calculations.
- Cook Together - Use recipes to discuss fractions, ratios, and conversions.



# *Holbrook Sheep Show*



Congratulations to our outstanding show team at the Holbrook Show. Finley High School was awarded Most Successful School, a testament to the hard work and dedication of both students and staff. We also proudly took out Champion School Ram and Ewe and Champion Poll Dorset Ram with many of our students walking away with ribbons across a range of categories. Congratulations to Maggie who was a clear winner in the novice Meat Sheep Junior judging. Thank you to Mrs O'Leary and Mr Webb for your organisation, support, and leadership. These results reflect the time and effort you invest in providing such valuable opportunities for our students.





# Holbrook Sheep Show



Lindsey with Milk Tooth Shorn Ram 2431 took out first place.



Maggie with exhibit 2412 was awarded the School Champion Ram.



Lindsey with exhibit 2421 was awarded the School Champion Ewe.



Pair of Ewes class Hayley with exhibit 2410 and Lauren with exhibit 2421 placed first.



Interbreed Championship Group of Three, Abbey with exhibit 2421, Matilda with exhibit 2410 and Lilly with exhibit 2412 took out the Champion Ribbon.



Schools Group of Three Class received the Champion ribbon. The photo shows Indie with exhibit 2421, Lexie with exhibit 2410 and Ava with exhibit 2412



# *State Football Carnival*

Congratulations to Charlie who took the field with the NSW under 15 CHS team this week in Albury. This is an exceptional achievement to be selected for your state. In support of Charlie we took both our boys and girls teams to Albury to cheer on Charlie and give the students an opportunity to witness some of the best under 15s age AFL players in the state. From this carnival Charlie has now been selected to represent the NSW All Schools team at the National Carnival in Brisbane next term.





# *Open Girls Netball*

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May, the Finley High School Open Girls Netball Team travelled to Albury to play a diverse range of schools from around the area.

Looking at our pool, we knew it was going to be a tough day. First up was Albury High with former student Molly Sexton as the coach. We barely had time to figure out combinations and get settled into netball before the game was over. Albury took the win with a score of 22-17. It was not the game we would have chosen to start on but we played well. We had to win the rest of the games to have a shot in the semi finals. Next up was Yanco Ag who seemed much taller than us however we outran them and came away with the win with a score of 16-13. Coolamon Central was next and they surprised us with their ability to hang on for the entire game and not letting us find a lead. This game was an opportunity to try a few new combinations before our final game. We ended up winning by 1 goal. James Fallon High School was next and we seemed to have the upper hand quite early and it was too hard for them to come back. Finley High won with a score of 22-5. When it came to the last game Albury had told us that Koorringal was incredibly hard and they were the team we needed to beat. Albury had only won by 1 goal to Koorringal. We knew it would be a battle. We had really fine tuned our combinations by this point. It was goal for goal until we took a little 3 goal lead at half time. Koorringal were not letting us take the win that easy. They came out fired up in the second half and brought it back to even. Again, we were going goal for goal. Fighting all the way to the end. Neither team was giving up their possession for the ball. When the siren went the scores were tied at 14 all. Koorringal had us on percentage and played off in the semi finals. Albury won against Corowa to make it through and then Koorringal drew with Narrandera and then played overtime with Narrandera winning by 1 goal. Albury and Narrandera progress through to Wollongong.

Obviously the competition was tight and Finley were right up in the mix. The girls surprised themselves with how well they played together.

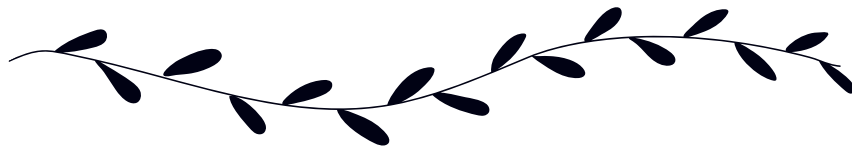
**Miss Taylor - Coach**



# Shout Outs

A big shout out goes to the Year 12 students who hosted a Biggest Morning Tea on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May for the staff at Finley High School in order to raise funds for the Cancer Council. Year 12 students baked up a storm with cakes, biscuits, sausage rolls, quiche, pizza, scones, rumballs, macarons, pork sliders and many other delicious morning tea treats on offer. Mr Tobin, Mrs Dempster and James McNamara were fortunate enough to win the lucky door prizes.

Thanks to the generosity of FHS Staff and the Year 12 cohort a total of \$306.94 was raised for the Cancer Council.



## Acknowledgement of Donation from the Second Hand Shop

Once again, Finley High School is incredibly grateful for the generous donation from the Second Hand Shop. This year, we are especially thankful, with the contribution increasing to an outstanding \$3,000. On behalf of the school community, we extend our sincere thanks to the committee and dedicated volunteers who make this possible. Your support continues to have a meaningful impact on our students. This generous donation will go towards funding our end-of-year rewards excursion, a celebration for students who demonstrate consistent attendance, a commitment to their learning, and uphold our core values of being respectful, responsible learners. Thank you for helping us recognise and celebrate the efforts of our outstanding students.

THANK  
YOU





# How to report serious cyberbullying

1

## Collect evidence

Screenshot the harmful content, webpage address (URL), account username.



2

## Report

Report to the online service - if they don't respond, report to **eSafety.gov.au**.



3

## Prevent further contact

Use settings to ignore, mute or block the other person and check your privacy settings.



4

## Get more help

Talk to a trusted adult or a counsellor about the impact.



If you are in immediate danger or at risk of harm call **Triple Zero (000)**.

If you need to talk to someone, visit [kidshelpline.com.au](https://www.kidshelpline.com.au) or call them on 1800 55 1800, 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

**Serious cyberbullying** means sending or sharing harmful online content that badly upsets someone under 18. It may make them feel harassed (hassled), humiliated (embarrassed), threatened (unsafe) or intimidated (scared to do or say something).

# HOMework CLUB

**DAY:** Wednesday

**TIME:** 3:30pm - 4:30pm

**WHERE:** Library

Homework club is  
back from 25th June  
(Week 9)

Come and have a yummy  
afternoon tea and get  
some help with your  
homework and  
assessments





# MND BIG FREEZE



Beanies \$25.00

Socks Small and Large \$15.00

Available at the front office while  
stocks last.











