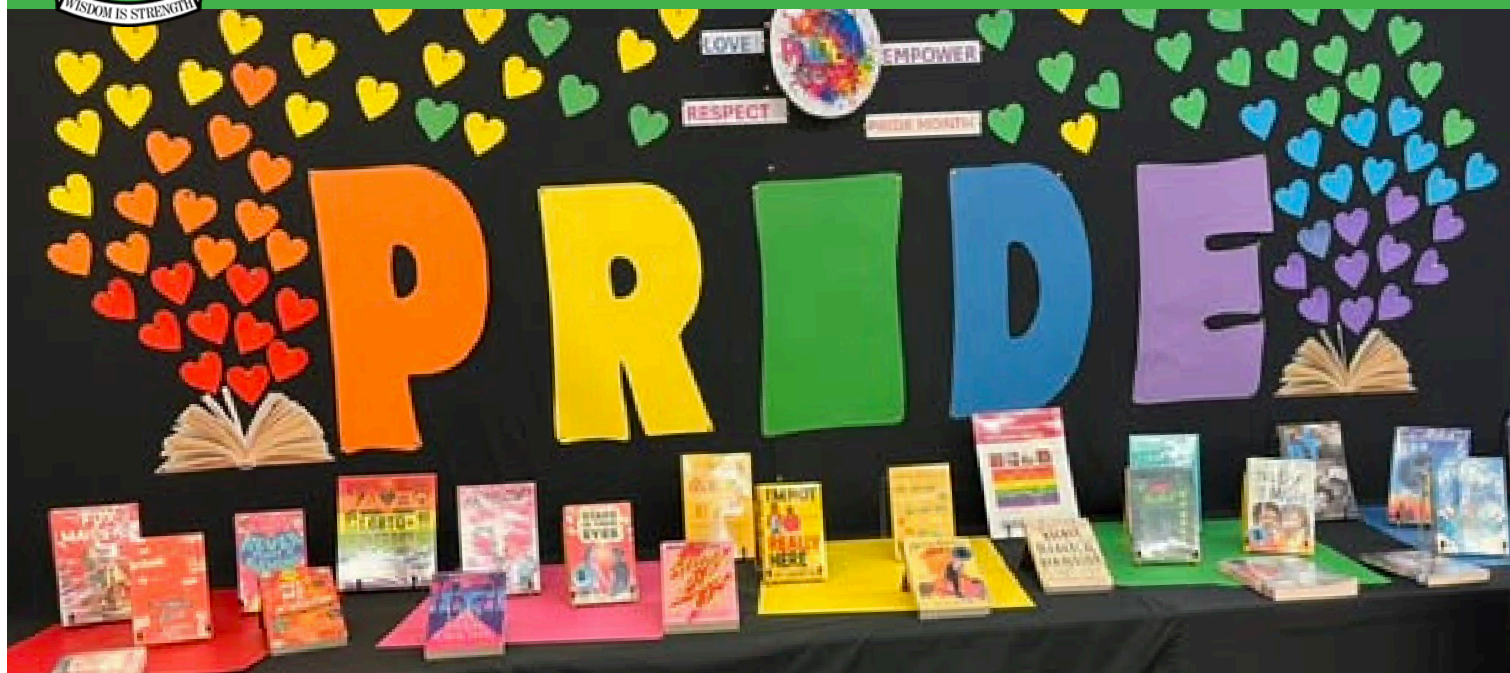




Finley High School

20th June 2025



Phone: (03) 5883 1344

Library Display

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

Newsletter Week 8, Term 2 2025

A WORD FROM MR WARD

This week I met with Matt Hannan and Tyrell Ingram from TAFE NSW to put the final agenda together for our NAIDOC assembly early next term. NAIDOC Week will be celebrated from Sunday 6th July to Sunday 13th July during our school holiday break. This year marks a significant milestone, the 50th anniversary of NAIDOC Week, which began as a movement advocating for the recognition and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The theme for NAIDOC Week 2025 is "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy." This theme celebrates the achievements of the past and looks forward to a bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of young leaders, the vision of communities, and the legacy of ancestors. It emphasizes the importance of honouring the past, empowering the present, and shaping the future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. At Finley High School, we proudly have 34 students who identify as First Nations students, five of whom are in their HSC year. Our goal is to continue promoting cultural awareness, equity, and inclusivity, ensuring that all students are given opportunities to learn and grow in an environment that respects and celebrates their heritage.

Pride Month

June is Pride Month, and the NSW Department of Education is proud to participate in celebrating and promoting inclusion and diversity within our schools and the wider community.

I would especially like to acknowledge and congratulate our incredible Library staff — Mrs Begbie, Mrs Philpott, and Mrs Jarrett — for once again creating an outstanding Pride display. Their thoughtful curation of books, flags and promotional materials not only highlights the importance of Pride but also fosters a welcoming and supportive environment for all staff and students.

Thank you for your continued commitment to making our school a place where everyone feels seen, safe and valued.

Respectful, Responsible Learners

Multicultural Education & EALD (English as an Additional Language or Dialect)

We are proud to welcome students from a diverse range of countries to Finley High School, including Kenya, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, Iraq, and Croatia. These students bring with them a rich tapestry of languages, including Tagalog, Afrikaans, Arabic, Croatian, Shona, Swahili, and Thai, which enrich our school community and broaden our cultural understanding. Diversity in education encompasses a wide array of differences, including socioeconomic backgrounds, languages, abilities, learning styles, and life experiences. Recognizing these differences helps create a stronger, more vibrant community that values the unique contributions of every student. We all have a role to play in fostering an inclusive environment. By respecting differences and supporting one another, we contribute to a community where everyone is valued. Stand up against discrimination and injustice, and advocate for equal opportunities for all

NSW SPC Annual Conference 2025 – Bathurst, NSW

This year, I had the privilege of attending my 11th NSW Secondary Principals' Conference in Bathurst. The event featured a diverse range of keynote speakers and leaders, each offering unique perspectives on the challenges and opportunities in school leadership. Key speakers included Matt Church, Dr. Jodie Lowinger, Murat Dizdar, Sharan Burrow AC, Dr. Stephen Gapps and Matina Jewell. The conference also included focused workshops and panel discussions that supported ongoing professional learning, leadership development, and educational excellence.

Homework Club

Our homework club starts up again next week and I would like to thank Mrs Baxter for initiating this. It runs from 3:30pm – 4:30pm every Wednesday in the Library, this is an opportunity for students to complete assessments, homework or work on a task with staff present. I would also like to thank the P & C who will be contributing an afternoon tea. Hope to see you there.

Congratulations to Lillianna MeyerVale

Lillianna took out the 2025 National Pony Race Series Final on the Gold Coast in fine style on Saturday, 7 June. We are proud to continue supporting Lillianna on her journey and celebrating her successes as she works toward her dream of becoming a jockey in Group One races like the Melbourne Cup.

NSW Public Schools Survey

This week students at Finley High gave valuable feedback about their experiences at their school. The survey covers a range of topics, including student engagement, learning experiences and wellbeing at school, and is one way in which students can have a voice about their time at school. The data can support schools in their planning, reporting and excellence. This includes helping to identify strengths and areas for improvement, assess how current initiatives are going and inform future programs.

Congratulations to Our Cross Country Team

Congratulations to all the students who travelled to Gundagai for the Riverina Cross Country Carnival. Despite the cold and foggy conditions, our team of 10 participants showed great determination and fortitude. A special mention goes to our top achievers; Levi Jakeman, who placed 3rd, Blake Vidler, who placed 4th and Lillian Baker, who placed 8th. These students have qualified to represent Riverina at the NSW Championships, an outstanding achievement. Well done to all who competed.

Jeff Ward - Principal

Work Experience

Once again I would like to thank our many local employers who go out of their way to support Finley High School's work experience program. Without their continual assistance students would not be able to participate in this valuable learning experience.

I would also like to thank employers from other parts of the state and interstate.

Year 10 students opted for a wide variety of occupations including agronomy, diesel mechanic, hairdressing, nursing, engineering, teaching, stock and station, retail, bakery, childcare, hospitality, veterinary, building, radiology, community care, sports administration, roofing, farming and air conditioning.

One student "didn't want her week to end!"

One employer commented that "this was the best student we have ever had!"

Many employers wanted to keep the students!

What better recommendation can there be?

I was thrilled with the very positive reports I have received. It makes the organisation well worth it.

I urge all parents and carers to assist students in gaining a meaningful placement within the specified time frame. The next block of Work Experience for Year 10 students is in Term Four- Week Seven (November 24th-28th). Students can go further afield than our local area. Paperwork will be issued closer to that time, however if you would like to get organised earlier, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jenny Philpot

Work Experience and SBAT Coordinator



Year 11/12 Deakin Tour

On Wednesday 11th of June whilst veiled in misty fog, 21 Year 11 and 12 students accompanied by Mrs White and Mrs Philpot headed out very early on the long road to Deakin Geelong for the Tertiary Tour. This feat was even more impressive given that Dan, Chelsea, Rosie and Angela had all made the trek through to Finley from Jerilderie to meet the 6:30am departure time.

The first stop was Deakin Waterfront where there was time for a quick bite to eat and a wander along the Geelong Pier to stretch the legs. Showcasing the latest casual fashions the FHS students all looked like perfect Uni students blending seamlessly with the locals. The first activity was a group presentation on what Deakin has to offer before heading out on a walking tour of the campus and the on-campus accommodation. Paige deserves a medal for completing this activity on crutches, given the crazy numbers of stairs, whilst her trusty but very helpful side kick Angela proved to have the patience of a Saint. Erica, Jack and Jeremy made excellent concierges holding the many doors for the group boundless times.

The students visited the Nursing and Midwifery Simulation center, the Design, Photography and Visual Arts Space and checked out the Architecture and Built Environment Studio that overlooks the Waterfront. One could imagine that this beautiful view could be quite the distraction. A stop at the campus accommodation also saw students getting a great appreciation of what their CDB home away from home could be with its quick stroll to Eastern Beach and it's stunning rooftop terrace views.. The group stopped for lunch in the Deakin Uni Pantry Café where despite the wait for food Erica's order of fish of the day actually proved to be the meal of the day. Ella proved that as a Uni student it is truly possible to survive on hot chips alone, whilst Harvey managed to be everyone's go to for getting rid of leftovers, even polishing off Anglea's 'organic' nuggets at tea time.

From here the group headed to the Waurn Ponds Campus of Deakin where our trusty Campus Guides, had decided it best to find a wheelchair for Paige due to the amount of walking ahead of us and for this we were extremely grateful. Cooper was disappointed that the Geelong Cats were not training during our visit but was still impressed with the sports facilities of the MCG sized AFL oval and FIFA grade soccer pitch and 8 lane athletics track. Arabelle made it a family reunion, catching up with not 1 but 2 sisters for the tour. Jack was impressed by the staircase wall of books in the library. Dan got to check out the state of the art Engineering precinct. James was on time at every point of the excursion. Tom and Jeremy may have decided that Uni was not for them but still found endless talking points. Overall though students were generally impressed with the modern look of the campus especially the gender neutral facilities which confused a few people at times (no names) and the vending machines which the boys gave a fair work out to. Mrs Philpot regularly commented on how clean the grounds and facilities were which was definitely a selling a point.

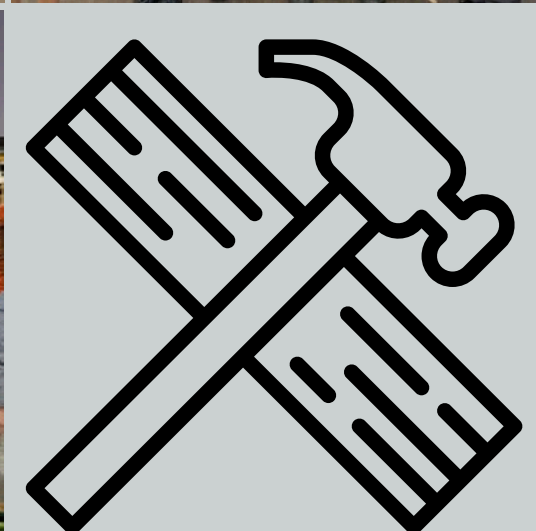
The final stop was a walk through of the various accommodation buildings at Waurin Ponds from the studio apartments, to the town houses and shared units . Unfortunately due to exams students were only allowed in the common spaces but this still gave an overview of the potential living arrangements. From here then it was back on the bus for the long traffic laden trip home. The slow going made the trip painful for those who had consumed too many liquids in the latter part of the day and after many pleading and desperate text messages to the front of the bus we managed to find a break in the traffic to pull over for a few emergency roadside bathroom breaks. Dinner got Ella's stamp of approval with more hot chips at the Wallan Roadhouse , whilst everyone else stocked up on lollies and more liquids for the trip home.

FHS students are to be congratulated on their behaviour throughout the day. Given the long hours they put in they were polite, interested and engaged at every stage of the trip. We would also like to wish Shaylee a happy 18th birthday which she made it home in time to celebrate .





Year 9 & 10 Wood Work



SBAT News

Charlotte will complete her Certificate III Health Services Assistance in Term 3 this year.

Charlotte has been an outstanding student. She works her practical shifts at Finley Hospital and completes her theory work through TAFE.

Completing the health services assistance course opens a variety of career opportunities. Charlotte may go on to work as an assistant in nursing, a patient care attendant, patient support assistant, patient services assistant or a patient services officer.

This is an excellent kick start into Charlotte's career in the health sector. Reports from staff at the Finley Hospital are very positive and they are all very impressed with Charlotte and the role that she plays at Finley Hospital. Pictured is Charlotte checking someones blood pressure in the Emergency Department.



Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy Tips for Parents (Years 7–10)

Encourage a Reading Habit

Help your child set aside 15 minutes each evening to read something they enjoy.

Talk About Current Events

Discuss news stories to develop vocabulary and critical thinking.

Ask “Why?” and “How?” Questions

Promote deeper thinking by asking your child to explain their views or how they know something is true.

Numeracy Tips for Parents (Years 7–10)

Play Math Games

Games like Sudoku, Uno, or card games help with logic and arithmetic.

Budget for Real

Help your child budget their allowance or plan for a small purchase.

Watch Sports Together

Discuss scores, percentages, player stats, and averages.

Year 12 - 100 days to go

This week Year 12 celebrated having only 100 days left on their count down of school days. Hot Chips and Cupcakes were the order of the day



Year 10 History

This term, Year 10 History students have been learning about Australia's involvement in the Second World War. As part of their studies, students were tasked with selecting an Australian serviceman or servicewoman and compiling a biography of that person's life, with a particular focus on their wartime service. Through this task, students developed valuable skills in locating and interpreting primary sources. More importantly, it deepened their understanding of the sacrifices made by so many men, women, families, and communities in resisting the Axis powers between 1939 and 1945.

On the following pages we are pleased to share the biographies of Year 10 students Lilly Baron, who researched the life of Tocumwal man Robert William Bryans, and Lucy Pyle, who explored the story of her great-grandfather and Finley local, Norm Wilson.

Madeline Jackson
History Teacher

Robert William Bryans

By Lilly Baron

Robert William Bryans was born on 13 March 1920 in Tocumwal, New South Wales. His father was William Robert Bryans, little is documented about his mother. However, we do know that his mothers name was Mary Eileen and had passed away in 1930 when Robert was just 10 years old. Robert's dad continued on to remarry to a woman named Mrs. W. Bryans'. Before enlisting to World War II, Robert worked as a bricklayer improver.

On 21 April 1941, at 21 years of age, Robert enlisted for World War II at Royal Park, Victoria. Throughout the war, Royal Park was generally known for and used as a military camp as well as recruitment centre. Robert was assigned service number VX53793 and positioned into the 2/21 Battalion. Roberts paperwork for enlisting reported him as being a male with brown eyes, dark brown hair, and to be of Presbyterian faith. None of his official records documented his height, weight, or other physical attributes. He was also listed as having no identifying features.

Robert began his military journey the day after his enlistment, on the 22nd of April 1941. He was taken on strength in the R.R.D., formally known as the Regimental Reconnaissance Division at Royal Park. This department had the responsibility of scouting, gathering intelligence, and issuing crucial information to the armoured units. Being "taken on strength" meant Robert had been officially placed into a unit, his being the 2/21 Battalion.

Just two days later, on 24 April 1941, Robert was granted leave without pay up until the 30th of April 1941. This means that Robert had left where he was stationed for a period of seven days without compensation. On the 2nd of May 1941 he officially rejoined the unit again. Details about why remain unclear. Following his return, he was posted to the 2/21 Battalion on the 8th of May 1941 and continued to march into the 2/21 battalion from R.R.D. On the 3rd of June 1941, he marched to 7 M.D. (military district) in Darwin, which was likely an act of administrative movement. Later that year on the 1st of December 1941, Robert updated the address of his next of kin to his father William. This act was likely in preparation for his nearing overseas service.

On the 13th of December 1941 Robert embarked overseas. After just four days at sea, he landed at Ambon. This is a city on an island in eastern Indonesia. As a Private (Pte.) in the 2/21 Battalion, he served for his country in Indonesia until the 20th of April 1942. This was when he was reported as missing in action. Following this report, It was sadly discovered that on the 1st of June 1942 he had been captured by the opposing side and was now a prisoner of war in Ambon. On Roberts official paperwork the red 'R' next to his prisoner of war statement tells us that this was confirmed and registered.

Robert was likely held as a prisoner of war in the Ambon camp. This war camp was infamous for its harsh and severe conditions during World War II. Prisoners held here faced immense starvation, extensive disease, and extreme brutality from the hands of their captors. All these hardships are what led to a significant mortality rate, with between 400 and 532 Australian men dying before the war's conclusion. Tragically, Robert became one of many Australians to die at Ambon as a prisoner of war. He passed away due to illness on the 13th of September 1945 only eleven days after the war had officially ended.

Robert William Bryans is buried at Ambon War Cemetery in Maluku, Indonesia. His name is also honoured at the Tocumwal War Memorial to remember his sacrifices and contributions.

During his service abroad, Robert was awarded various medals. These included the 1939/45 Star, the Burma Star, the War Medal, the Pacific Star, the Defence Medal, and the A.S.M. Medal. All his medals were later given to his father, which allowed him and those around him to honour and remember Robert's sacrifice.

BRYANS.—In loving memory of the only son, William Bryans, also step-son of Mrs. W. Bryana, died while P.O.W. in Ambolna, April 21, 1945, VX53,793, 2/21 A Coy.
We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name;
But all that is left to answer now
Is your photo in a frame.
—Inserted by stepmother and father.

BRYANS. — VX53793 Pte R W died 21.4.45. P.O.W. Ambon. loved only son Wil. liam and the late Eileen Tocumwal N S W loved nephew Stella Britt, Molesworth St Nth Melbourne



Norman Keith Wilson - Nose gunner in the B-24 Liberator

By Lucy Pyle

Norman Keith Wilson (Norm) was born on the 25th of December 1925, in Cobden Victoria. Norm was the second eldest son of 8 children to Donald and Eileen Wilson. In his early years Norm often lived with his grandparents Jack and Mary Savage. He attended Cobden State School then Camperdown Higher Education school, but shortly left at the age of 14 ½. After leaving school Norm milked cows at Mr. Pilkingtons. In 1940, Norm began working at the Cobden Cheese & Butter Factory Company Limited. He worked in the Casein drying room, which was very hot. Norm then moved into the test room where the milk and cream brought in by farmers was tested for butter fat content. After 4 years of working at the factory he enlisted in the RAAF.

Norm enlisted in Melbourne for World War II on the 10th of March 1944. He was 18 years, 2 months old when he enlisted. Norm was 5 ft 11 (180cm) and 142lb (64kg). His chest measurements 32cm and 35cm expanded. Norm had hazel eyes and 20/20 vision. Norm had a medium complexion and light brown hair. Norm listed his religion as Presbyterian. He began his training at Somers. He then went to Ballarat for a wireless operator course, but he didn't finish that course as he was posted to the airgunners course at West Sale. When Norm finished his course he worked at RAAF headquarters, where he was then posted to Tocumwal for a conversion course on the Liberator Bomber aircraft. The course consisted of gun and Turret operation, and Gunnery and bombing practice. The Liberator aircraft crew had 11 bods, including a Pilot, Co-Pilot, Navigator, Engineer, Wireless Operator, Radar Operator, Nose Gunner, Bombadeer, Mid-Upper Gunner, Belly Turret Gunner and Tail Gunner. Norm was the Nose Gunner. As the Nose Gunner of the aircraft he shot at whatever threat came at the aircraft. The turret he sat in was a very cramped space with a diameter of 106cm. It contained two .50 calibre M2 Browning Machine guns, ammunition and the gunner's seat, but not his parachute.

On the completion of this course he was posted to 21 Squadron with service in Darwin and Morotia. On this operational tour he and his Squadron, mainly covered Convoys and flew coastal patrols. They also dropped supplies to prisoner of war camps that were scattered throughout the islands. For this operation he received campaign medals including, a 1939-45 War Medal, a Pacific Star - War Medal, a 1939-45 service medal and later in 1975 he received a 1945-75 Service Medal. Norm was involved in a conflict but there is no known information about it and Norm never wanted to talk about what happened.

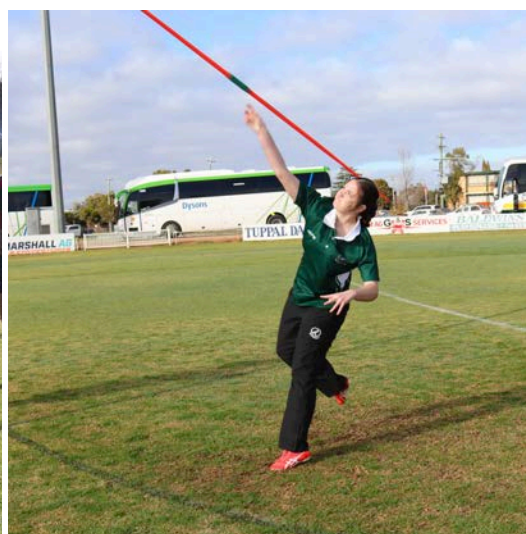
On the 13th of December 1945 Norm was discharged from service, just prior to his 20th birthday. He returned to work in Cobden at the Butter factory. He married Jean Condie in 1947, a year later they started to grow their family. Barry their eldest son was born in 1948, followed by Heather (my nan), then Joan (dec.), and lastly Bob.

Between the years 1954-55 he went to the Victorian Government School of Dairy Technology at Werribee, which he attended 3 months out of the year. The course had many different subjects related to dairy manufacturing that consisted of practical and theory work. After finishing his course he was appointed the position of Buttermaker at the Cobden Cheese & Butter Factory Company Limited. After two years Norm and his family moved to Dumbalk Victoria where he took the position of Butter Factory Foreman. Eventually, Norm got promoted to Product Manager. In 1961, he accepted a position as Butter Factory Foreman at Finley NSW Berriquin Dairy Co., then later transferred to manage their Cheese Factory in Deniliquin NSW. Norm soon returned back to work in Finley due to Murray Goulburn closing the Cheese Factory. In 1966, Norm travelled to New Zealand with the Society of Dairy Technology, where he toured a number of dairy factories. Norm moved to Mirboo Victoria in 1968 and after 2 years of being the Production Manager of the factory in Mirboo he gained a position with the Victorian Department of Agriculture, as Dairy Produce Inspector.

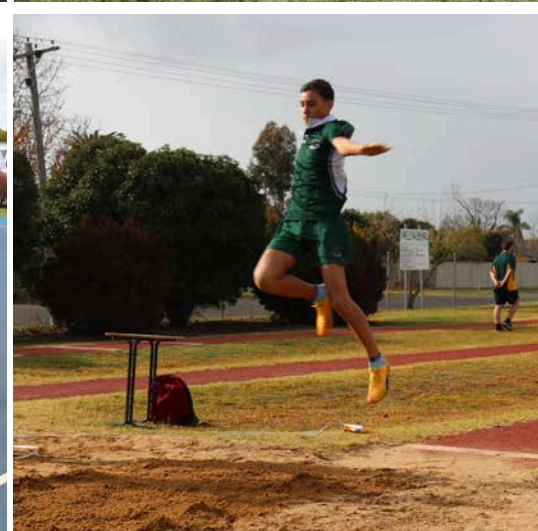
In 1985, Norm retired and moved him and his family back to Finley. His wife Jean died in 2015 at the age of 93. In retirement he became involved in the Finley Bowling Club holding the titles of Board of management & Secretary (7 years), Senior Vice President, maintenance and gardener (27 years) and a life member. Norm volunteered and played bowls up until his very last days. In 2024, Norman Keith Wilson passed away peacefully at 98 years old, in his 99th year. Norm is buried in the Finley cemetery next to his wife.



ZONE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL



ZONE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL



Year 8 Mathematics - Bridge Building Challenge

As part of their study of Geometrical Relationships, our Year 8 students recently took part in a hands-on Bridge Building Competition. Using only matchsticks and glue, students applied their mathematical understanding of angles, symmetry, and structural design to construct creative and functional bridges. It was fantastic to see such teamwork, problem-solving, and enthusiasm across all groups.

A huge congratulations to Group 4 — Jacinta, Lachlan, Hudson, Harrison, Emilee, and Jason — whose bridge impressed the judges and claimed first place in the competition.

Tanéa Bower

Mathematics Teacher





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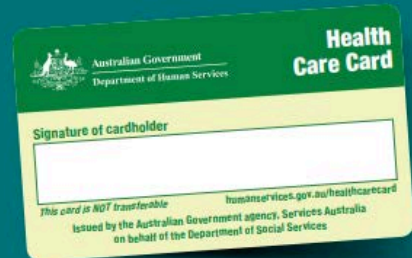
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