



Finley High School

26th September 2025



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Newsletter Week 10, Term 3 2025

A WORD FROM MR WARD

Year 12 2025

Congratulations and farewell the incredible Year 12 Class of 2025. This week we have held a formal assembly, farewell BBQ, a fun and entertaining mock assembly, breakfast BBQ and some character days as the Year 12s enjoy their final week of school. Special thank you goes out to their Year Advisor, Mrs White who has done a phenomenal job leading and supporting this group. We wish them all the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

The formal graduation evening is this Friday night, and the HSC exams start on Thursday 16th October with the English paper.

We are proud of each one of you and can't wait to see the amazing things you'll accomplish in the years ahead.

Joyce Yeo Memorial Most Outstanding Pavilion Exhibit.

Last week I congratulated all those involved in the Finley show. I would also like to acknowledge Miss Sarah Taylor and the students involved in the Picasso cow project which started back in February 2024. We won the Joyce Yeo Memorial Most Outstanding Pavilion Exhibit.

Berrigan RFS 125 Celebration

A massive shout out to all those parents, staff and students that assisted with the catering at the Berrigan RFS 125 celebration last weekend. What a wonderful P & C we have and thank you for your time and efforts.

Congratulations to Ms Bower

Ms Tanea Bower has been successful in gaining a place at the RFS Young Members Leadership College in Manly. This is an extremely competitive process and assessment and is testament to Ms Bower's hard work not only with the school program but her community RFS work. She will be attending the college in the school holidays and we wish Tanea all the very best.

State Athletics

Congratulations to the following students who competed at the CHS athletics championships at Homebush

Levi Jakeman - gold in the High Jump and silver in the Long Jump, finalist in the 200m.

Zara Williams - 14th Discus

Stella Williams - 12th High Jump

Jordan Swann - 5th Javelin

Amber Lawlor - 14th Discus and Javelin

Tehya Kelly – 12th Discus

Levi Jakeman will go on to the NSW All Schools state Athletics Championships to be held in the school holidays. All the best Levi.

Berrigan 4ths Premiers

Congratulations to the Berrigan 4ths football team that won the Picola League Premiership. An outstanding effort and well done to Jordan Swann who was awarded best on ground. Congratulations also go out to the Jerilderie under 15, Berrigan under 17 and Tocumwal B grade netball teams who all had students playing in the grand finals. Runner up is still an outstanding achievement; you all did your communities proud. Well done.

Riverina Cricket

Congratulations to Tom White who has been selected in the Riverina Cricket team to compete in the state championships on the Central Coast.

Melbourne Show

Good luck again to all our students, staff and parent helpers who are venturing to the Melbourne show these holidays. The work everyone puts in to make the event such a success is incredible. A full report will be in the next newsletter.

Year 11 Exams

Congratulations to our Year 11 cohort who recently completed their final exams. Next step the HSC with classes scheduled to start next term.

Staff Recognition

It is wonderful to receive feedback recognising our staff giving up their own time to assist others.

"Miss Sarah Taylor, Mrs Eliza Tobin and Mr Craig Burdon have all been wonderful representatives of your school and we can't thank them enough for their expertise, knowledge and talent in helping us with lighting, the backdrop and prop building."

-Finley Public School

Victor Chang School Science Award

This year's recipient of the Victor Chang School Science Award is Bethany Loughridge. Established in 2004 the Victor Chang School Science Award celebrates gifted students, in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. This is a very prestigious award that honours the life of pioneering cardiac surgeon, Dr Victor Chang. Congratulations Bethany.

2026 Leadership Team

I would like to congratulate our 2026 leadership team for 2026.

Captains: Bethany Loughridge and Tom White

Vice Captains: Maggie Bramley, Lilly McNamara, Melanie Omondi and Remi Pyle.

This year's leadership team comes with exceptional talents, each bringing something unique and special. Each candidate wrote an introductory letter, gave a heartfelt speech, were voted on by their peers and staff, and sat through an interview. They were measured on all this and their overall impact at Finley High School now and into the future.

Jeff Ward - Principal



ANNE FRANK EXHIBITION

On Thursday 11th September, we took 50 students to Deniliquin to visit the *Anne Frank: Let Me Be Myself* exhibition. Students learned about the short but impactful life of Anne Frank, with a particular focus on the efforts of her family and other collaborators who helped them remain in hiding for over two years.

The excursion included a short film about Anne's life, followed by an immersive VR experience that allowed students to walk through the Secret Annex where Anne and her family lived while evading the Nazis.

I would like to sincerely thank Mr Tobin, Mrs Philpot, and Gayle for accompanying me on the excursion. I also extend my thanks to the Deniliquin Library and the Peppin Heritage Centre for generously hosting our students. Finally, I wish to commend the behaviour, respect, and curiosity of our students, who participated thoughtfully and engaged meaningfully with this important learning experience.

Mrs Jackson



Rotary boosts Finley High Show Team with \$5000 donation

The Finley Rotary Club has once again thrown its support behind local students, presenting a cheque for \$5000 to help the Finley High School Show Team attend the 2025 Royal Melbourne Show.

Rotary representative Barry Wilson attended the school's recent Open Day to present the donation to staff and students, alongside the team's rising two-year-old bull, FHS Unstoppable. The bull will feature as Lot 18 in the Royal Rumble auction on 4 October at 3:30 pm, while Shorthorn judging takes place on 2 October.

Rotary has been instrumental in supporting the Show Team for the past four years, contributing more than \$21,000. With the costs of transport, food, and accommodation continuing to climb, this support ensures all interested students have the chance to take part in this valuable experience.

Participation in the Royal Melbourne Show allows Year 11 Primary Industries students to demonstrate the skills required for the Prepare Livestock for Competition unit, while also contributing over 35 hours towards their mandatory work placement. Students gain lifelong, transferable skills in teamwork, responsibility, and communication - and love every moment of being part of the team.

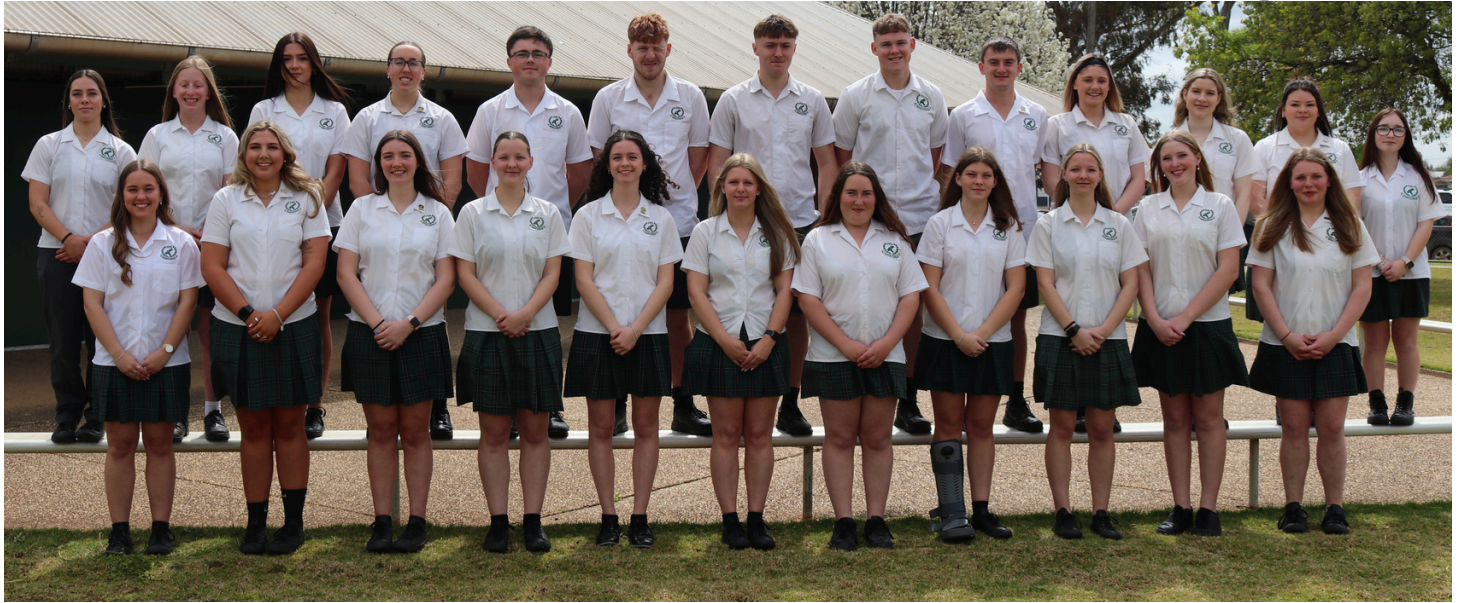
"We are envied by many other schools for our ability to support students in attending these events at reasonable cost to families. This is only possible because of the outstanding generosity of organisations such as Rotary, and we are thrilled to receive this donation."

Mrs Robyn O'Leary

Head Teacher CAPA/TAS



Year 12 Final Assembly



Year 12 Final Assembly



Award recipients

Kirsty Callaghan Quiet Achiever - Ava Belling

Application And Endeavour - Olivia Campbell

Helen Dalton MP Award - Chloe Rorato

Excellence in SBAT Vocational and Workplace Learning -
Chelsea Winn & Charlotte Rafferty



Dynamic



Duos





80's



KISS OUR CLASS
GOODBYE



Breakfast



Staff Vs Year 12 Soccer

Today marked the 97th annual staff vs Yr. 12 soccer match held on the 'Tooke Oval' In front of a capacity crowd.

The sunny and dry conditions made for a fast game and although there were only 3 teachers take the field initially, it would be the teachers with the first forward play of the day which saw Dane Maxwell run into an open, unguarded goal only to miss from mere metres out. That wouldn't be his defining moment however as the disappointing result seemed to have ignited a fire within to bounce back and play a pivotal role throughout the match.

As the crowd filtered through the turnstiles, they would erupt as Tooke, Webb - the 2 time 'Whitty' medalist and Michelle Archinal - Defensive player of the year entered the arena. It didn't take long for all three to have an immediate impact as Webb showed why he is the best goalie this century with a diving save as soon as he stepped into the box. The steel capped blundstones copped an absolute beating with multiple long balls, giving the teachers the ascendancy forward of the pitch. Tooke rock solid behind the ball demonstrating class and wisdom unflustered in the heat of the contest, cool, calm and collected as his feathered salt and peppered mane would suggest.

The Archinal and Tucker match up fascinated onlookers with Michelle's footwork bamboozling those around her and multiple plays through the middle of the ground to counteract the wayward attacking efforts of Tucker, Sneddon and Rosie Steel. The history faculty came through clutch in the second half of proceedings and it would be the Baxter-Jackson package deal was well worth their lucrative and highly speculated contract, not so much for their ability to move the ball but more so their relentless trash talking which clearly played havoc on the mindset of their Yr. 12 opponents. The Math Faculty was notably represented with quality on the ball through Johnson and Bower who calculated every possibility, managed to work every angle and showed the students that trigonometry does come in handy if your're looking to dismantle your opposition on a Soccer pitch.

Livewire centre-forward Jye McGuire had everyone in attendance spellbound with his remarkable speed over 5 metres separating himself from the Yr. 12 defence and control that Messi himself would envy. It would be McGuire that landed the first blow into the bottom right corner that not even Mark Viduka would get a hand on. From here on the Yr 12's found some spark through Dan Eldridge who for the first time in history was sighted without Westcoast Eagles paraphernalia and Harvey Sneddon who although way active around the ground, was wayward with his endeavour to say the least. Olivia Campbell and Chelsea Singleton both fought hard to gain some momentum and their efforts paid off as a group of Yr.12 channelled their inner mighty ducks with a perfectly choreographed 'flying V' to surge the ball forward resulting in a goal to level the scores.

Keen to capitalise on their momentum, Yr. 12 pushed hard to double down but would only be denied by Di Sexton who has found a new lease on life after her recent ankle reconstruction, finding space where there was none and denying any chance of a pile on. From that point, it would be Price and Sharp on the wings combining dangerously, slicing through their opposition giving James McNamara nightmares in goals, who, to be fair, stood tall under pressure. It was the repeat saves that would be his undoing in the end after a clean gather and attempted launch that saw his shoe fly from his foot further than the ball and in the moments following, D-MAX saw his opportunity to rectify his earlier miss and made no mistake ruthlessly finding the back of the net as McNamara retrieved his shoe.

The final stages of the match played out as an arm wrestle with both teams' defence efforts putting the stamp on what was a great game seeing the staff eventual winners 2-1. The "Matt Whitty" Best on Ground award went to Jye 'Golden Boot' McGuire for his heroics and showmanship early in the game, controversially to the disgust of Gary "the brick wall" Webb who was looking to pocket his 3rd consecutive medal. Webb was contacted to comment but denied the request.

Staff coach Dan Noonan said "It was tight at different stages but we knew that we would come away with the victory. Even though it's a 1 off annual charity match, we decided to rest a number of our stars and that's why we only started with 3 on the pitch. Although Baxter and Jackson cost us over 8 million for the 1 off transfer I think it paid off dividends, and McGuire was huge. I just hope Gary recovers from not being named best on pitch, that's tough. Not to mention I'm a fantastic coach."

After 97 encounters, remarkably the ledger settled at 96 and 1 draw in favor of the staff.

Alex Hay

~~PDHPE~~

~~Head Teacher Well-being~~

Cadet Sports Reporter

Finley High School



AVOID THE FAKE NEWS - Stay up to date with the FACTS from Daily News

Annual FHS Staff vs Year 12 Soccer Match Report:

The Battle of Stamina, Strategy... and Substitutes

The much-anticipated annual Staff vs Year 12 soccer match kicked off in spectacular fashion - well, almost. Year 12 turned up in sharp kits, and game faces on, looking like they'd just walked off the A-League pitch. The staff, meanwhile, were conspicuously absent, still "warming up" (or perhaps hiding) somewhere in their staffrooms.

With only a handful of teachers on hand, desperate measures were taken. Several confused but enthusiastic Year 11 boys were recruited to the cause, quickly dubbed "honorary staff" to make up the numbers. Without them, the teachers would have been reduced to a four-a-side team, and Year 12 would have had a field day - literally.

Once the whistle blew, Year 12 wasted no time in showing their intent. Across the midfield, Winn, Grey, and Bonic showcased crisp passing and sharp runs, while Campbell, Mitchell, and Rorato held firm in the back line, protecting their goal with grit and determination. In the midfield, Marshall proved her capacity to multitask, holding strong in tackles while also managing to capture significant game moments behind the camera.

As the game progressed, staff reinforcements eventually began to arrive. One by one, more teachers trickled onto the field, lured either by the smell of competition or the promise of a post-game free period. Suddenly, Year 12 found themselves not only outnumbered, but facing fresh-legged teachers who had cunningly avoided the heat of the opening onslaught.

Sexton and Archinal worked tirelessly in the midfield for the staff, trying to contain the sure-footed Carter, who dodged and weaved with ease. Tooke and Johnson made some headway for the staff, occasionally sending the ball wide to Baxter or Sharp on the wings. These rare breakthroughs usually ended up at the feet of Bower or Maxwell, who both tried to valiantly deliver the ball further to the forward threats of Hay and McGuire. But time after time, the determination of Rorato, Steel, Mitchell, Campbell, and McNamara stood tall, repelling the advances of the tiring staff team. Thankfully for the teachers, Price and Jackson brought youthful energy and a much-needed injection of young legs to try and match the superior fitness of the Year 12 youngsters.

As the staff finally settled, at least a handful remembered they were there to play. Maxwell, however, should have gone to Specsavers, as his first shot, from directly in front of an open goal went spectacularly wayward.

Year 12 continued to move the ball around with style, with Eldridge and Carter regularly outpacing their staff opponents with quick feet and superior fitness. Unfortunately though for Year 12, McGuire snuck in a goal after a lapse in concentration from the back line. This, however, may have been less about staff skill and more about young McNamara showing respect for his elders, and in an attempt to ensure family Christmas went smoothly this year, kindly allowed McGuire to take an easy shot.

After the first score board addition, play resumed at pace. Year 12 team leader White and young gun Eldridge linked up smartly from the middle, while the ball ricocheted across the pitch like a pinball. Baxter, Archinal, Bower, Sharp and Price showed their class for the staff constantly pushing forward but they were continually met with fierce defence from Winn, Rorato, Campbell, Mitchell, Bonic and Steel. The young Year 12 lasses attacked the ball with less kicks and more cannon blasts which were powerful even if they were often slightly misguided. Like a rogue missiles they sent the ball bouncing unpredictably from foot to foot, keeping the staff scrambling in panic to try and maintain their upper hand.

Sneddon showed strong leadership, using his sheer strength on many occasions to clear the ball with booming kicks that sometimes cleared not just the goals but the field and the spectators as well. The staff held their breathe every time Sneddon loaded up. Gray also got in on the long kick action, unleashing a long bomb straight down the middle - much to her own surprise, and that of the staff around her. Tucker and Singleton worked extremely hard up forward, constantly feeding Eldridge and Carter, who peppered the staff goal. Yet Webb proved an impenetrable force between the posts, bravely throwing himself at the ball on every occasion and possibly scaring Year 12 strikers away with the threat of wearing one of his steel-capped boots and a subsequent disfiguring bruise for their Grad Ball next week. Persistence paid off however, as the youngsters eventually wore Webb down to find the back of the net and even the scores.

By this point, even Tooke recognised the staff's unfair advantage in stacking their team and in the spirit of sportsmanship, the Year 11 "ring-ins" were sent packing back to the sheds, while Hall and Belling also rotated onto the bench for Year 12.

Steel proved her toughness time and again throughout the game, withstanding some rather underhanded staff tactics, including being pushed to the ground on multiple occasions. Still, she bounced back and Year 12 pressed on.

The staff, meanwhile, maintained their determination to win at all costs. They pushed forward relentlessly, though with age against them fatigue was clearly setting in. Ultimately, a miskick though from Year 12's goalie McNamara, who lost his shoe mid-clearance allowed Maxwell to redeem himself with an easy goal. Some say Hay had conveniently misplaced his glasses mid-match, and perhaps it was Maxwell who found them, allowing him to redeem himself and slot the winning shot.

When the final whistle blew, the scoreboard may have tipped in the staff's favour, but the true winners were clear. Despite being outnumbered for much of the game, Year 12's determination, flair, and cheek shone through. The staff hobbled away victorious in result, but Year 12 walked tall in spirit.

Best on Ground: For the staff, it was a hard-fought battle between "Shooter McGavin" I mean McGuire who made his presence felt up front, and Spiderman Webb, who used his 'spider -sense' and stood solid in defence all match. For the Year 12s, Carter and Eldridge were undeniable standouts with their speed and skill... and if you ask him, so was Sneddon in the midfield with his thunderous strikes.

Final verdict: The staff may have claimed the official win, but Year 12 claimed the glory.



Chess

The chess team, Elliott, Toby, Thomas and Ryan, travelled to Narrandera on Tuesday to play Temora High School in the semi final of the 2nd division competition. In spite of our best efforts, Temora was too strong for us on the day. We lost 3 - 1, with Thomas being our only victor.

The team has had an awesome year this year and will certainly be a force to be reckoned with in 2026.

We'd like to thank Narrandera Library, for allowing us to play the games in their beautiful space, and Temora High School for suggesting we meet halfway, saving us a 6 hour round trip. We wish Temora HS all the best in the final against Border Christian College (the only other team to beat us!!)



Squash

Congratulations to Bella, Piper, Milena and Emilee who won the silver medal in the NSW Girls squash knockout final. They fought out a tough game to eventual champions Kandos High School.



P&C News

On Saturday 20th September our P&C catered for the Berrigan Rural Fire Brigade 125 Year Anniversary Dinner & Award Presentation. With over 130 people in attendance it was a great night of celebrations, and a fantastic fundraiser for our school.

We would like to thank the following for assisting with preparations and/or at the event;

FHS P&C members & staff-

Donna Bain, Tanya Bauer, Kirstie Chesworth, Stacey Gorman, Sophia Ingram, Paul Jones, Tessa McNamara, Gaye Maxwell, Peta Neessen, Jenny Philpot, Cathy Rorato, Kate Steel, Caz Swann, Jeff Ward

FHS Students-

Year 11 & 12 Hospitality students, Millie Almond, Lilly McNamara, Remi Pyle, Arabelle Taylor, Ruby Taylor, Evie Cameron, Sophia-Ruby Morgan, Jordan Swann

Donations-

Aileen Begbie, Chase Brown, Sasha Congram, Paul Jones, Vanessa & Mackenzie Martin, Caz Swann, Rose Tilley, Rick Harris, Jeff Ward, Matt & Sami Whitty

Their contributions are very much appreciated and made the night a great success.

**Yours Gratefully,
FHS P&C Team**



School Donation

For his ongoing service to Finley High School, the class of 2025 have recognised our amazing GA Brian O'Hara with a special plaque to rename the GA shed to "Brian's Shed".

Finley Public School

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS IN EDUCATION

Saturday 4th October

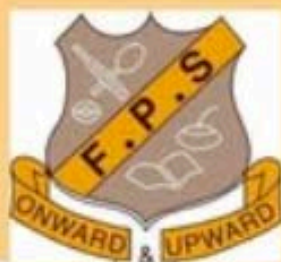
- 10am - Gates open - school displays, open classrooms
- 11am - School Song FPS Choir & Jade Camden
- 12pm - Performance item
- 2pm - Official Welcome & cut cake
- 4pm gates closed

Lunch available
Rub n Smoke
Odesi Coffee
Van here

Sunday 5th October

- 8:30am - School displays open and open classrooms
- Breakfast available
- 11am - Thankyou & gates close

find us on Facebook
@ Finley Public School 130
Years Celebration



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