



Finley High School

1st August 2025



Principal and Head Teacher Sydney visit and Staff Development Day lunch

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Newsletter Week 2, Term 3 2025

A WORD FROM MR WARD

Two weeks into the term, and the school is already buzzing with activity. Staff returned refreshed from the break, with day 1 dedicated to professional development, planning, and preparation. A special thank you goes to the Year 12 Hospitality class, who provided a delicious luncheon that was greatly appreciated. Well done to Mrs McNamara, Mrs Maxwell, Rosie, Chloe, and Paige for their terrific efforts. This term, we're pleased to welcome back Mr Noonan, Mrs O'Bryan, and Mr O'Hora. We also extend our gratitude to the staff who stepped into their roles during Term 2 your support has been invaluable.

Mental Health Day (Last Day Of Term 2)

Last term we finished up on the Friday with a Mental Health and Wellbeing afternoon. I would like to extend a massive well done to Chelsea Coulson who instigated this day wanting to bring awareness to mental health, not just on a specific day, but every day. Students added a splash of colour to their uniform and gave a gold coin donation to raise money for Kids Helpline. Special thanks also to Mrs Whitty, Mr Hay, Jodi Brown and Mrs Sharp for supporting Chelsea with the organising and running of the Wellbeing afternoon.

Sydney Secondary College Collaborative Visit

This week Mrs Baxter, Mr Hay, Mrs Laxton, Ms Gorman and I travelled to Sydney to spend time with colleagues at Sydney Secondary College. The college is a group of schools that include Balmain, Leichhardt and Blackwater Bay. The visit was a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with colleagues and share ideas, visit classrooms and look at programs from a high performing inner city school. We would especially like to thank the college Principal Julie Ross and her staff for their hospitality.

ANZAC Bench And Mural Project

During the break Mr O'Hara collected our ANZAC bench. This project was possible through an ANZAC grant and a wonderful donation from the Finley RSL sub-branch. We are currently working on a mural to be placed behind the bench. Once completed this area will honour all those who have served and given their lives to our country. Finley HS has a proud tradition of ex-students serving our country. We have started this project off with a generous community person making a \$1000 donation to the mural.

Burn Bright

During the July school holidays, Lilly McNamara attended the Burn Bright National Leadership Camp in Sydney, joining 110 delegates from across Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, and Nepal. Burn Bright is dedicated to empowering young people by helping them build leadership skills, strengthen their wellbeing, and foster meaningful relationships. Lilly was full of enthusiasm and energy when she sat down with Jodi and me to share her experience, reflecting on the engaging activities, lasting friendships, and the significant improvements she's seen in her wellbeing, resilience, and leadership confidence. We look forward to Lilly sharing her inspiring story with the school community.

Pulse

Finley High school students along with Ms Bower and Sharree Groesch attended three days of music, dance and drama in Deniliquin in week 2. The workshops and final performance on the Thursday night were outstanding. It was well received by students with clear positive impacts on learning, wellbeing, and engagement.

Year 12 Interviews

As Year 12 begin their final term Mrs White and I recently concluded interviewing all but four of the students and can share the following information about our cohort. 50% of the group are looking at university, with 1 looking at the military, 3 intend on going into local business or trade, 1 aims to enter the mining industry, 4 students indicated a career working with animals from Ag science/stock and station agent/animal science, 7 students indicated a career in the health industry from nursing/paramedicine/aged care/social work, 2 students want to go into law, 1 student looking at electrical engineering and 4 students looking to go into teaching.

Bendigo Sheep Show

I was able to drop into the Bendigo Sheep and Wool Show during the holidays and spend time with Mr Webb, Mrs O'Leary and 8 outstanding students. The team won all their novice classes, got a second and a fourth in the open mixed pair class a 2nd with a ewe lamb, 3rd with an August drop ram and a 4th place with one of our ram lambs. Mrs O'Leary said it wasn't as successful as the last couple of years but still very respectable.

Staffing update

Next week marks Benn Wright's final week as our relieving Director. Benn has been successful in securing the permanent Director role for the West Wyalong network. Over the past 12 months, Benn has led our network with dedication, professionalism, and integrity. It has been a pleasure working with him, and we thank him for his leadership and support during his time with us. We wish Benn all the very best as he takes on this exciting new opportunity. Mr Derek Noffke has been appointed the relieving DEL position. You may remember Mr Noffke as Principal of Finley Public School in 2018 when I first started here. We wish Mr Noffke all the best in his new role. We also welcome Laura Keech to the network as the new Principal of Jerilderie Public School. We have had a good working relationship with Laura when she was at Berrigan PS and we look forward to continuing this with her.

Harvard Leadership Course

I just wanted to share some exciting news about a scholarship I recently received to attend the Harvard Principals' Centre in Australia: Leadership for Excellence program. I'm very much looking forward to this opportunity and hopefully it may lead to further study in the USA. The scholarship provides me with \$5,240 tuition subsidy, \$1,310 for 5 nights' accommodation (including breakfast) in Sydney, and a travel allowance if you live more than 4 hours' drive from Sydney. I look forward to sharing more details as I embark on this exciting journey.

NAIDOC Assembly

Finley High School and the TAFE Aboriginal Education and Engagement team led a NAIDOC assembly on Friday 25th July. Associate Professor Brett Biles from the University of NSW was the guest speaking and led a yarning circle with our first nations students. Brett shared with us his early life as a proud Murrawarri man originally from Brewarrina, and for the past 20 years, he has lived and worked on Wiradjuri country. He is the inaugural Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Engagement and Research at UNSW, where he plays a leading role in shaping and advancing Indigenous research and engagement across the university. The day was concluded with a BBQ for the staff and students who participated. Special thanks go to Tyrell Taylor and Matt Hannan from TAFE NSW, Sharree Goesch the schools Aboriginal coordinator and all the staff and students from FHS and TAFE who made the day a success.

Jeff Ward - Principal



AI Information

While AI can be beneficial in supporting students' learning, it also raises concerns about plagiarism and the authenticity of student work.

To maintain fairness and uphold academic standards, the school has clear guidelines for instances of suspected plagiarism. If a student is found to have submitted work that may not be their own, they will be required to provide evidence within 24 hours to demonstrate that the work is entirely original.

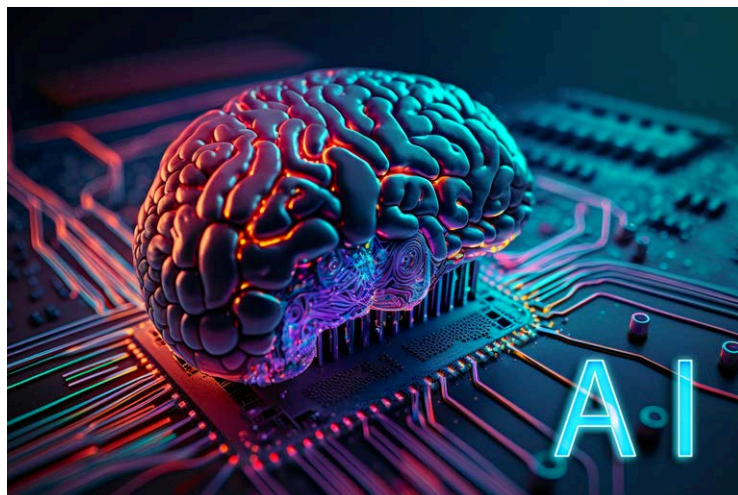
Please note that the **onus is on the student to prove they did not use AI or plagiarise**, which is why it is of the utmost importance that students maintain clear, continuous records of their work, including document history. In some cases, teachers may also verify authorship by interviewing students about the content, structure, and ideas in their submitted work.

To support this, all students are expected to keep clear evidence of their ongoing work. This includes using tools like Google Docs to track their idea development, revisions, and final edits. The document history is a valuable way for teachers to see how students have constructed their responses over time.

You can help at home by:

- Encouraging your child to start assessments early and keep drafts
- Checking in with them about how they are progressing with research and planning
- Talking to them about the importance of completing their own work

A copy of the school's assessment policies is available from the school website. If you have any questions about plagiarism or assessment expectations, please don't hesitate to contact the school.



NSWCHS Squash



During the last week of Term 2, Bella attended the CHS State Squash Championships, and the Riverina Girls team finished in 3rd place. Bella played exceptionally well and was selected in the NSW Under 15 team to play in Cairns in late August against Queensland and New Zealand. It's a wonderful achievement and we are very proud of Bella.

State Cross Country



Congratulations to Blake and Lilly who both competed in the NSW cross country championships in Sydney in the first week of the term. We are very proud of their efforts and thank their families for making the long trip to Sydney so that they could compete.

Ski Trip

From the 23rd to the 25th of July, a group of excited students from Finley High School headed to Falls Creek for an unforgettable snow adventure. Staying just five minutes from the top of the mountain at the Howmans Gap Community Centre, students were perfectly positioned to make the most of their alpine experience.

Led by Mrs Tobin—who did an exceptional job organising the trip—and supported by Mr Tobin and Mr Maxwell, the group was also joined by students and staff from Deniliquin High School. This collaborative excursion allowed students from both schools to build friendships and share the experience of learning new snow skills together.

The group was fortunate with the weather, enjoying clear conditions on the mountain and dodging poor weather either side of the trip. Whether it was skiing or snowboarding, the trip was packed with fun, learning, and plenty of memories.

Each day began with an 8:30am lesson led by experienced instructors who worked closely with the students to develop their skiing and snowboarding skills. With a wide range of abilities in the group, the instructors ensured that everyone was supported, challenged, and able to improve at their own pace. Whether it was a student's first time on the snow or they were building on past experience, all participants made noticeable progress across the two days.

A big thank you to the staff who made this opportunity possible, and congratulations to all the students for representing Finley High School so well.





Where are they now?

Steph Wright

Steph completed Year 12 at Finley High School in 2018, before going on to study a Bachelor of Biological Sciences, majoring in Zoology, at La Trobe University, Melbourne. After graduating, like many others post-COVID-19, she was eager for a change of scenery and new experiences. This led her to accept a four-month contract with the Plant Biosecurity division of the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (now DAFF) in Sydney. In this role, Steph worked across two teams—the Vector Monitoring Program and the National Border Surveillance Team—where she was involved in surveillance for exotic mosquitoes and a range of other invasive insect species. Following that contract, she joined the Khapra Surveillance Team, focusing on the detection of the Khapra beetle, a serious exotic pest of cereals and grains. She was soon offered a further contract with the Vector Monitoring Program, where she has remained for several years. During this time, she has collaborated with teams across Australia to help prevent the establishment of exotic mosquito species and their associated human and livestock pathogens. Steph now serves as the Regional Vector Coordinator for Victoria and Tasmania. She enjoys the diversity of her role, which combines fieldwork, laboratory tasks, and office-based responsibilities



Year 11 - Helping Hands at the Finley Pony Club Horse Trials

On the weekend, our Year 11 students showed impressive dedication and teamwork as they volunteered at the Finley Pony Club Horse Trials to start raising funds for their 2026 graduation.

Despite the cold and wet weather, students juggled their busy schedules, including part-time jobs, sport, and other responsibilities, to support the cause. They took on a range of roles, from preparing food to serving customers in the canteen, all with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. In addition to raising funds, students also enjoyed the opportunity to watch the three phases of the Trial: Dressage, Show Jumping, and Cross-Country.

The students' efforts not only helped raise valuable funds but also reflected the strong sense of community and commitment within the year group. Thank-you to the Finley Pony Club for providing the opportunity for Year 11 to kick-start their fundraising for their graduation.

Well done, Year 11, and congratulations to all involved!



Appreciation From Public

"I was assisting in the dressage arena at the Finley Pony Club event on Saturday 26th July. It was a real winter's day. Cold and windy with the occasional shower of rain.

On arrival at lunch, we were advised that the canteen was operated by Year 11 Finley High School Students and one Year 7 Student.

We wish to thank these students for the very warm food and their very warm welcome and hospitality. The students were very friendly, helpful and courteous.

The students showcased the integrity of Finley High School.

Kind regards

Louise"

Events & Activities

For Year 12

Friday 19th September

- A BBQ Lunch will be provided for Year 12

Monday 22nd September

- Classes as normal - Year 12 encouraged to dress up Dynamic Duos / Groups. Graduation rehearsal.

Tuesday 23rd September

- Classes as normal - Year 12 encouraged to dress up in the theme of the 80's. Formal assembly rehearsal.

Wednesday 24th September

- Year 12 encouraged to dress up as "Oldselves"
- Year 12 & Staff Breakfast @ 7am FHS BBQ Area
- Year 12 Mock Assembly - FHS staff and students attend only
- Final Formal Assembly @ 12.30pm - 1.30pm - Finley High School Hall - Parents and family friends invited to attend the ceremony. Students may leave school with family at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Thursday 25th September

- Students to attend FHS – setting up the RS Club Auditorium for the Grad Ball. Lunch at the RS Club at student's own expense. Students will walk to and from the RSC Club from FHS and will be supervised by Mrs White. Students who wish to leave early that day should have a note from home.

Friday 26th September

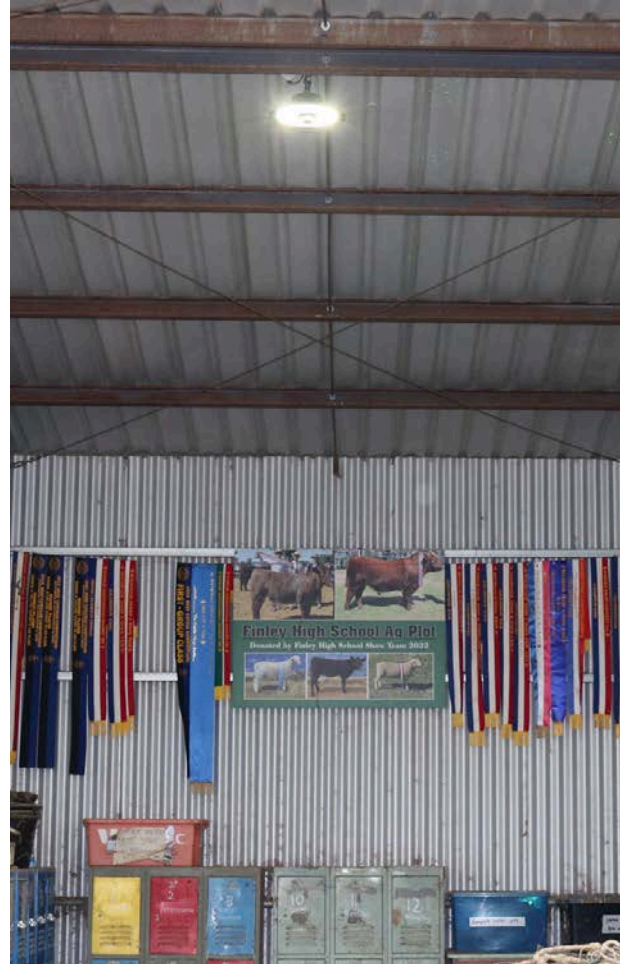
- Final preparations at the RS Club with Mrs White. Activities TBA once numbers known.

Year 12 are reminded to be submitting their required photos, Graduation and Waterwheel pieces ASAP.



Shoutouts

Finley High School would like to thank Tom from Koality Down Under for his contribution in upgrading the lighting system in the Ag Plot. Photos don't do it justice but these lights will make a big difference especially when working in the early hours of the morning.



Thank you once again for the generous financial support provided by the William Rubensohn Foundation Scholarship to our Finley High School Breakfast Club.

There support goes a long way in ensuring that many of our students particularly those who rise early, travel long distances, or come from families needing a little extra help start their day with the nourishment and care they need.

We deeply appreciate their continued commitment to our students' wellbeing.



Year 8 History - Homework Schedule

Year 8 students will complete a series of short, structured homework tasks this term to support their learning on Medieval Europe and The Black Death. Tasks are published on Google Classroom every second Friday and are due the following Tuesday.

Students who complete all tasks on time and to a good standard will be invited to a Homework Rewards Lunch at the end of term. We ask for your support in ensuring your child in Year 8 engages with this each fortnight.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the schedule or homework expectations, please don't hesitate to contact your child's History teacher:

- Mr Matt Tobin (8A)
- Mrs Madeline Jackson (8B)
- Mrs Amy Baxter (8C)

Please see the schedule below for details.

TERM 3 HOMEWORK SCHEDULE YEAR 8 HISTORY

Welcome to Term 3!

Below is your homework schedule for the term. This term, you will complete **five homework tasks**. Where possible, you will have 11 full days to complete each task (please note: the task due in Week 2 has a shorter timeframe).

- Each homework task is designed to take approximately 15–20 minutes.
- Tasks will be published on Google Classroom every second Friday and are due the Tuesday the fortnight after they are posted (as outlined in the table below).
- This term, students who consistently submit their homework on time and in a satisfactory manner will be provided with a rewards lunch at the end of term.

Important:

- Failure to complete homework tasks will result in attending a lunchtime catch-up session in Room 23.
- Students must engage with and act upon in any feedback teachers provide in the marking process.
- If you need help completing a task, experience internet issues, or have any other problems, please speak to your classroom teacher as early as possible to work on a resolution.
- Remember, the library is open every lunchtime and is available for you to use if you are unable to complete tasks at home.

Good luck, and stay organised! 😊

Homework Due Date	Published Date (this is the day the task will be published to the Google Classroom)	Short task description (for full task details please read the Google Classroom carefully)
<u>Week 2</u> Tuesday July 29 th	<u>Week 1</u> Tuesday July 22 nd	Students complete the document to create a timeline of the 5 major historical periods.
<u>Week 4</u> Tuesday August 12 th	<u>Week 2</u> Friday August 1 st	Students read about daily life in the Middle Ages and complete 10 comprehension questions.
<u>Week 6</u> Tuesday August 26 th	<u>Week 4</u> Friday August 15 th	Students examine the architectural features of Medieval cathedrals and show they can locate these features on a famous Medieval cathedral.
<u>Week 8</u> Tuesday September 9 th	<u>Week 6</u> Friday August 29 th	Students are to complete a simple Facebook Profile for a famous Medieval personality.
<u>Week 10</u> Tuesday September 23 rd	<u>Week 8</u> Friday September 12 th	Students write a 3-question quiz on the Black Death.

Please note: tasks and due dates are subject to change. When able, sufficient notice will be provided



Umpires Needed!

Full training provided.

Enquiries

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murrayvalleycricketumpires@gmail.com

Match Payments

A Grade - \$180, B and C Grade - \$150



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