



# Finley High School

## 15th August 2025



Phone:(03)58831344

Director Awards 2025 - Cathy Rorato, Mr O'Leary, Rosie, and Kirstie Chesworth

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Newsletter Week 4, Term 3 2025

### A WORD FROM MR WARD

#### Public Education Week

We were thrilled to launch Public Education Week with a heartfelt assembly celebrating our staff, students, and the broader community highlighting their remarkable achievements.

This year's Education Week Awards were presented to:

Rosie - for six years of dedicated student leadership on the SRC.

Cathy Rorato - for her exceptional fundraising efforts as P&C Secretary and her contributions to the Year 12 graduation.

Kirstie Chesworth - for her time and dedication to Work, Health and Safety at FHS.

Mr O'Leary - in recognition of nearly 40 years of outstanding service in Science, Agriculture, and coordinating whole-school events.

These staff join an exceptional group who have received this Public Education Week Directors Award in the past and we also recognise their achievements.

#### Celebration of Past Education Week Award Winners

2019 Mr O'Hora, Mrs Parr, Riley Dempster and Emma Carey

2020 Mrs Baxter, Mrs Dempster, Mrs M Jackson, Mrs O'Hora.

2021 Mrs O'Bryan, Mr Webb, Mrs White and Larshya Suthasamohan

2022 Mr Whitty, Ms Walker and Sarah Bauer

2023 Mrs Jenny Philpot, Mrs Jodi Brown, Claire Ingram and Mr Paul Jones

2024 Mr Hay, Mrs Maxwell, Mrs Congram, Roree Wallis

## **Tocumwal Lions Children of Courage Awards**

Congratulations to Harry W and Levi J who were recipients of the Tocumwal Lions Children of Courage awards. The award ceremony was set in the school holidays but as the boys were away for this event, we welcomed representatives from Lions to our Tuesday assembly to present these awards. The boys also received a voucher from the Southern Riverina Gliding club for a flight opportunity.

## **Year 10 Subject Interviews**

It's that time of the year has arrived where Mr Tooke coordinates subject selections for our Year 10 students going into Year 11 and 12. It is essential that we provide considerable support and tailored guidance to ensure students pick the right subject for them in preparation for the expectations going into their senior years and beyond. A parent information session will be held in the school library on Monday 18th August at 7pm.

## **Bullying No Way: National Week of Action – 11 to 15 August 2025**

At Finley High School, we recognise that standing up against bullying requires more than awareness it demands action. During the National Week of Action, we will be encouraging every student and staff member to embody the theme "Be bold. Be kind. Speak up." in practical ways: by acknowledging and celebrating that everyone is different, stepping in when we witness unkindness, and offering support to anyone who may feel isolated. Through our wellbeing and SRC team we are building a culture where courage and kindness go hand-in-hand and where every voice matters.

## **Riverina Athletics**

Congratulations to all those student who travelled to Albury for the Riverina athletics carnival on Friday the 1st August. Mr Tooke managed the team and was again very impressed by the students efforts and willingness to give their very best. The following students achieved outstanding results and we wish those travelling to Sydney for the state championships all the very best.

Stella Williams - High Jump

Levi J - Long jump, high jump, 100m and 200m

Zara W - Discus - finished first in her age group

Amber L - Javelin - finished second in her age group

Jordan S - Javelin - finished first in his age group

Tehya K – Discus

## **Mrs Parr**

Mrs Parr has taken maternity leave a little earlier than expected and we didn't get a chance to give her a good send off. I would like to wish Mrs Parr and her family all the best as they start this exciting time in their lives. We will miss Mrs Parr as she plays a big part in the school day, as our esteemed music teacher.

Mr Burden will step into the music teacher role with Miss Chelsea Taylor, whilst Mrs McNaught will backfill most of Mr Burden's Geography classes.

### **Mr Maxwell's Practicum Experience**

Mr Maxwell will be undertaking a six-week teaching placement as part of his professional development and further studies in education. This placement will take place from Week 3 to Week 8 of term 3. During this time, Mr Maxwell will be completing his practicum in the woodwork and metalwork classes, working alongside experienced teachers to further develop his skills in teaching Industrial Technology subjects. This hands-on experience is a valuable part of teacher training and will support his continued growth as a teacher at FHS. To ensure continuity of learning, Mr Noonan will take over Mr Maxwell's regular classes throughout term 3. We appreciate the ongoing support of our students during this time and wish Mr Maxwell all the best as he undertakes this important phase of his teaching journey.

### **St Joseph's Jerilderie Public Speaking Competition**

It was a privilege to return to Jerilderie as a judge for the annual public speaking competition this year alongside Mrs Joy Knight. We had two students compete in the junior section and four in the senior section, with students from both St Josephs and Jerilderie Public school. After hearing them present their prepared speeches they went into an impromptu speech. We were inspired by their creativity, confidence, and clarity. Congratulations to all participants and all the best to Koa and Devante, who were the winners of each section and now go onto the regional final.

### **Regional Development Australia Roundtable Discussion**

I was recently asked to attend a Regional Development Australia (RDA) roundtable discussion focused on the unique opportunities, challenges, and aspirations of the Berrigan region. The discussion was facilitated by RDA Murray Chair Kylie King, and attended by the RDA Murray Board and CEO, along with the Berrigan shire council mayor, CEO and local business people. I was asked to give my insights and knowledge on education and youth. RDA Murray is part of a national network committed to driving economic growth, fostering regional partnerships, and supporting local development initiatives. They work with local industry, local government, and community organisations to identify opportunities, overcome challenges, and promote a thriving Murray region. Here's hoping we made an impact.

### **Riverina Public Speaking Competition**

Congratulations to Eloise Harris who represented FHS at the Riverina Public speaking competition. I was fortunate to listen to her speak and she was exceptional. Her prepared speech on gender equality was outstanding, whilst her impromptu was on a top priority. Thanks goes to Mrs McNaught who was, as ever very supportive, giving advice, along with mentoring and coaching Eloise.

*Jeff Ward - Principal*



# Education Week Assembly



**Public  
Education  
Week 2025**

4-8 August  
Ignite your potential





# Be Bold. Be Kind. Speak Up.

Finley High School proudly supports Bullying No Way: National Week of Action 11th to 15th August 2025.

Bullying No Way Week is a commitment being made by thousands of schools and supporters across the country. The theme for this year's campaign is Be Bold. Be Kind. Speak Up.

It takes a community to be brave and address bullying behaviours, within and beyond the school gate. Students can be bold, kind and speak up to support others being bullied. While trusted adults are there to support children and young people learn how to be kind to each other and report bullying.

By working collaboratively within our community, we can collectively help reduce bullying.

Families play an important role in helping children understand bullying and know how to respond to it.

If your child tells you about things at school, or you observe something in public that involves conflict or bullying, take the opportunity to talk about what bullying is. You can learn more about what defines bullying at [bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://bullyingnoway.gov.au).

Questions you could ask:

- What do you think bullying is?
- Have you seen it? How did you feel?
- Have you ever felt scared at school because of bullying?
- As well as me, who are the other adults you would talk to when it comes to things like bullying?
- Have you or your friends left other kids out on purpose? Do you think that was bullying? Why or why not?
- Have you ever tried to help someone who is being bullied? What happened? What would you do if it happens again?

Remind your child that bullying is never okay and discuss how they can respond safely if they experience or witness it.

Encourage them to seek help from a trusted adult and keep seeking support if needed.

By promoting open communication, we empower children to stand up against bullying and create a safer environment where everyone can feel that they belong.

For more information visit [bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://bullyingnoway.gov.au).

# *Spotlight on SBATs*

Remmi Wardlaw is completing her Certificate II in Agriculture. She works one day per week with Morroco East Pastoral Company on the Lower River Road.

Remmi completes her theory work through Finley High School.

As you can see, Remmi absolutely loves the outdoors and isn't afraid to get her hands dirty.

This qualification can lead Remmi into further agricultural study and is a great starting point to fully understand the industry.



## *NSW Public Speaking - Junior Secondary Competition*

Eloise Harris competed in this competition on Monday 11th August. Eloise prepared a five-minute speech on gender equity, and on the day, had five minutes to prepare a two-minute impromptu speech titled 'Top Priority'.

Eloise is to be congratulated on her outstanding prepared speech. The adjudicator praised her effective eye contact and expressive use of hand gestures, as well as her anecdotes and the great examples used to support her interesting ideas. Her impromptu speech was delivered with confidence and fluency, but she just needed to include a bit more. Eloise was not chosen to proceed to the next round, but she can be proud of her achievement.

Kirriy Hooper also prepared for this competition but was ill and therefore was unable to participate.

I enjoyed the time spent mentoring these students, and I encourage them to participate again next year. Hopefully, other students will also consider taking part in public speaking as it is a great skill to develop.

**Veronica McNaught**

**Public Speaking co-ordinator**





# *Riverina Athletics*

Well done to all students who competed at Riverina Athletics in Week 2. A special mention to Zara, Stella, Amber, Jordan, Tehya and Levi who have all qualified for State later in the term.





# Future Ag Expo





# Pulse





# Netball

Well done to our Under 15s netball team who participated in a netball carnival in Albury yesterday. The girls won their pool games quite comfortably and played off against Billabong High School in the semi final. They were down 8-6 at half time but came out firing in the second half winning the game 17-14. On the other court rivals, Albury High (coached by Mrs Sextons daughter) also won their semi final game against Koorungal High School. Finley's performance on the day obviously scared off Albury as they then elected not to play off in the Grand Final against our girls as both teams progress to the next stage anyway. The girls finished the day undefeated meaning they now progress to Sydney to represent the Riverina next term.



## Graduation Dinner Ticket Sales

**Year 12 Graduation dinner tickets are  
now available to purchase.  
Tickets can be purchased from the  
pay office.**

**Ticket sales close 1<sup>st</sup> September**

**If you have any queries please see Jess  
in the pay office and she will be happy to  
assist you**



# *Literacy and Numeracy*

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

**Use Subtitles** - Watching TV or movies with subtitles on can help with reading fluency and word recognition.

**Play Word Games** - Games like Scrabble, Boggle, or crossword puzzles build spelling and vocabulary.

**Break Down Big Tasks** - Help them break writing assignments into small, manageable steps: brainstorm, plan, write, edit.

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

**Use Technology** - Support the use of maths apps like GeoGebra, Desmos, or Photomath for practice and exploration.

**Ask About Their Maths Day** - Regularly ask what they learned in maths and have them teach it back to you.

**Build Confidence** - Focus on effort and improvement, not speed or right answers alone.

# *Medical Information*

## **Reminder to Parents About Medication at School**

If a student requires prescribed or non-prescribed medication at school, parents/carers must complete a written request. Students must not carry medications unless there is a written agreement between the school and the student's parents/carers.

For further information please refer to [Administering prescription medication \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/health-and-safety/keeping-your-child-safe-at-school/medication-at-school).

If your child requires medication at school, please complete and return the Request for Support at School of a Student's Health Condition to the Front Office or speak to Elyse or Jess if you have any concerns or queries.

# Shout Outs

Thank you to Lyn and John who have given up their time to teach our TAS staff about bee keeping and harvesting honey. Our bees are very healthy! Keep an eye out for our first batch of Finley High School honey... coming soon 🐝

- Mrs Tobin and Mrs McNamara



I'm writing on behalf of Merlo Australia to commend the students from Finley High School who visited our stand at the FutureAg Expo. Our Managing Director, Michael Lombardo, specifically asked me to pass on his compliments regarding how well-behaved and engaged the students were during their time with us.

It was a pleasure to see such genuine interest and curiosity from the students as they interacted with our team and explored our telehandler machinery display. Their enthusiasm and respectful attitude stood out to all of us, and it's a credit to the school and its staff.

We're always excited to see the next generation showing interest in agricultural machinery and technology, and we hope the students found the experience both informative and inspiring.

Thank you once again, and please pass on our positive feedback to the students and staff involved.

**Cathy Pham**  
**Sales and Marketing**



# Australian Geography Competition



The Australian Geography Competition is a national event that challenges high school students to test their geographical knowledge and skills. It encourages students to engage with real-world issues such as environmental change, urban planning, and global development. Open to students from Years 7 to 12, the competition promotes a deeper understanding of the world around them and provides opportunities for top performers to be selected for further national and international geography events. It's a great way for students to extend their learning and passion for geography beyond the classroom. Well done to Year 8 students Kirrily and Tye who competed this year.

## Australian Defence Force - Event Details

Learn more about Australian Defence Force (ADF) roles available in the Navy, Army and Air Force by attending the upcoming information session happening on:

- Date: Tuesday, 26 August 2025
- Time: 6pm to 8pm approx.
- Venue: Club Mulwala, Melbourne Street, Mulwala.

This information session will be hosted by current serving military personnel who understand the Defence application process and can answer your questions. If you would like to attend and learn more about the ADF and the 300+ roles on offer please follow the link and register your interest [ADF Careers - Mulwala Defence Careers Information Session](#)

# Let Me be Myself

## THE LIFE STORY OF ANNE FRANK



Photo from the collection of the Anne Frank Stichting (Amsterdam)

**20<sup>th</sup> June - 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025**  
**Peppin Heritage Centre Gallery**

**OPEN 7 DAYS | MON- SAT 9AM - 4PM | SUN 9AM - 2PM**

**SCHOOL GROUPS WELCOME**

PHONE: 1800 650 712

295 GEORGE STREET, DENILQUIN NSW

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## *Anne Frank Exhibition*

There is currently a wonderful exhibition on display at the Peppin Heritage Centre Gallery in Denilquin called Anne Frank-Let Me Be Myself.

The second travelling exhibition 'Learning with Anne Frank' is on display at the Denilquin Library. This component introduces students to Anne Frank and the Second World War, it is an ideal way to introduce these topics to young people. Tour the Secret Annex where Anne Frank spent more than two years hiding from the Nazis during World War II via the virtual reality headset. By walking through the rooms where she lived, examining objects she brought with her, and listening to quotes, participants will learn about this moment in history.

**Respectful, Responsible Learners**



**We're walking  
to remember  
those lost to  
suicide.**

Please join our workplace ❤️



**BEC FROM ODESI  
COLLECTIVE WILL BE AT  
THE LAKE WITH HER  
COFFEE VAN**

**SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**Join Us at the Finley Lake  
between 8am & 10am and Walk  
to remember those lost to suicide,  
and help Australians in crisis.**



  
**OUT OF THE  
SHADOWS WALK**

 **Lifeline**

**TO DONATE  
PLEASE SCAN THE  
QR CODE**



**Well  
Being**

**Southern Riverina  
Wellbeing Collaborative**



Finley Community Church invites you to our

# BUSH DANCE

7pm Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2025  
@ the Finley High School Hall  
All ages welcome

Please bring a  
plate of supper  
to share

**Cost:  
Free!**

Enquiries: Leanna Loughridge  
0437 949 688

