



Finley High School

24th October 2025



Phone: (03) 58831344

SRC Reps with Year 6 students at taster day

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

Newsletter Week 2, Term 4 2025

A WORD FROM MR WARD

Welcome back, everyone! I hope you had a fun and restful break, and you are ready for an exciting new term. We are off and running with so much to report on.

Melbourne Show

It was a privilege to spend some time once again with our Ag Show Team at the Melbourne Show. I couldn't have been prouder of the team and the growth in the students involved. Thank you to the team led by Mr and Mrs O'Leary, Mr Webb and Miss Abbott. Once again the team did exceptionally well. Thank you to all the parents who assisted to ensure everything went so well.

Year 6 Taster day

We were thrilled to welcome the Year 7 cohort of 2026 for their Taster Day, a fantastic opportunity for students to experience a day in the life of our school. The day was filled with engaging lessons, new friendships, and lots of enthusiasm. A huge thank you goes to Ms Bower for her exceptional organisation, ensuring the day ran smoothly from start to finish. We also extend our thanks to all the staff who delivered such enjoyable lessons. We look forward to Orientation day on the 2nd December before starting with us in 2026.

Congratulations to Levi

Levi Jakeman competed in the NSW All Schools' Championships in Sydney over the break and won the gold medal in the High Jump and silver medal in the long jump. Well done Levi, we are very proud of your achievements.

Stage 2 History

Thank you to Mrs Jackson and Mrs Baxter who will be attending Berrigan and Tocumwal Public Schools this term to deliver a history program to stage 2 students. This initiative is focusing on strengthening transition programs for Stage 2 students in our local schools. We have reached out to our other schools to gain any interest.

Congratulations to Ms Bower

Ms Bower has been appointed the Unit Commander of the Deniliquin Conargo SES unit. This is a significant achievement, and we are very proud of your efforts and the role this service and your leadership play in the community.

TAFE YES Program - Year 10 Construction

Thank you once again to TAFE NSW for facilitating another wonderful work program for our students this term. Each week, a small group of students has had the opportunity to work at TAFE, this time on an exciting project they'll be able to take home. I had the chance to drop in this week and saw several students hard at work and it was great to see their progress firsthand. We're looking forward to returning in a couple of weeks, hopefully with our Careers Teacher, Mrs White, to see the final products and celebrate their achievements.

Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 work experience is fast approaching. It will be in Week 7 of this term (24th - 28th November). Paperwork for this has been distributed. Please contact Mrs Philpot if you have any questions.

Congratulations to Marley

Marley's story 'Mummy's Hero' was selected as the secondary category winner of the country press NSW 125th Anniversary Writing competition. 'Mummy's hero' is a story about the illusion of war in childhood fantasies verses reality. This is an outstanding achievement, and we are very proud of Marley and the support she received from Mrs Dempster. Marley was featured on the front page of the SRN this week.



HSC Exams

We wish our HSC class all the very best with their exams which started on Thursday 16th October with English. The last exam is Physics on the 7th November. The media unit reached out and received the following comments from our students. Dan found the English Advanced paper alright and felt that his teacher had prepared him well for the questions in the exam. Dan hopes to undertake a GAP year with Defence as an Electrical Engineer before heading to Uni to further study Engineering.

Chloe said that she had made the most of the days before the exams by studying at school where she could get extra assistance where necessary from her teachers. Chloe also sat the English Advanced exam and hopes to study next year to become an Allied Health Assistant.

Rosie found the English Standard exam was ok but felt the exam time flew quickly. Rosie is looking forward post exams to do some travelling before undertaking an Ag Science degree.

Olivia felt her constant study, preparation of study notes, undertaking past papers and even deleting her social media to avoid distraction all helped to set her up for success in the exams. Olivia hopes to pursue Politics and Law at university next year.

Year 12 2026 Assembly

Congratulations to our Year 12 class of 2026 who were presented to the school and acknowledged as our new school leaders. Their year advisors Mr Dempster and Mrs O'Bryan presented the students to the school and Mr Noonan gave an exceptional speech that focused on not only on what he has achieved in his life but what the year 12 students can achieve. Thank you to Mrs Maxwell who catered for the event.



*Jeff Ward -
Principal*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FINLEY

HIGH SCHOOL TERM 4

Monday 27 th - Friday 31 st October	Year 10 Exams
Friday 31 st October	World Teachers Day
Thursday 6 th - Friday 7 th November	Under 15s State Netball Wollongong
Friday 7 th November	End of HSC Exams
Tuesday 11 th November	Remembrance Day Morning Tea
Wednesday 12 th November	Transgrid Workshop Deniliquin
Thursday 20 th November	Battle of the Bands
Friday 21 st November	Yea Show
Monday 24 th - Friday 28 th November	Year 10 Work Experience
Tuesday 2 nd - Thursday 4 th December	Year 10 Excursion
Tuesday 2 nd December	Year 6 Orientation Day
Monday 8 th December	Year 10 Driver Ed Deniliquin
Wednesday 17 th December	Presentation Evening
Friday 19 th December	Last Day of Term 4

HPGE



At Finley High School, we are committed to fostering the growth and success of our High Potential and Gifted students.

High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) aims to identify, nurture, and extend students' abilities so they can achieve personal excellence and thrive in their areas of strength: intellectual, creative, social-emotional, and physical. At FHS, we strive to recognise students' high potential and giftedness across these domains, and to provide rich, challenging opportunities that encourage them to excel and reach their full potential.

This fortnight's HPGE Excellence in Focus is...

INTELLECTUAL DOMAIN

In Year 10 History, students have been developing their analytical writing skills using a PEEL paragraph scaffold to strengthen their ability to structure and justify historical arguments. As part of their current study of Indigenous Rights and Freedoms, students explored the complex and often sensitive debate surrounding Australia Day. To extend those in the HPGE intellectual domain, students were challenged to adopt and argue a perspective opposite to their own beliefs. This task, which drew on a range of balanced sources - including newspaper articles, journals, and opinion pieces - aimed to deepen students' empathy, critical thinking, and capacity to engage thoughtfully with multiple viewpoints on a contested national issue.

PEEL Planner

Should Australia Day be changed to a different date to better represent all Australians?

P	POINT Clearly state your main argument in response to the question. Decide whether you believe Australia Day should or should not be changed, and explain your reason(s).	e.g. Australia Day should be changed because... Australia Day should remain on 26 January because... Australia Day should be changed because many people still work during Australia Day.
E	EVIDENCE Provide your first specific piece of evidence (e.g. historical fact, statistic, or quote). Choose evidence that supports your viewpoint. For example, there are articles, historical events, or public opinion polls.	e.g. 26 January marks the arrival of the first fleet and the beginning of British colonisation, which led to the dispossession of Aboriginal peoples. A 2024 Deakin University poll found that 80% of Australians still want to keep Australia Day on 26 January.
E	EXPLANATION Explain <i>why</i> this evidence is relevant and why it supports your argument. Make your case for the evidence supports your argument about whether the date should change.	e.g. This suggests that changing the date could help Australia move toward reconciliation and respect for indigenous history. This indicates that most Australians still value tradition and see the day as a time to celebrate national achievements.
L	LINK Conclude by summarising your point, restating your evidence, and connecting it to the broader historical context. Summarise your main viewpoint and connect it back to the broader context of the issue for Australia as a nation.	• e.g. Overall, this shows that keeping Australia Day on 26 January excludes many Australians and prevents true national unity. • In conclusion, Australia Day should remain on 26 January, as it represents an important historical event and fosters national pride.

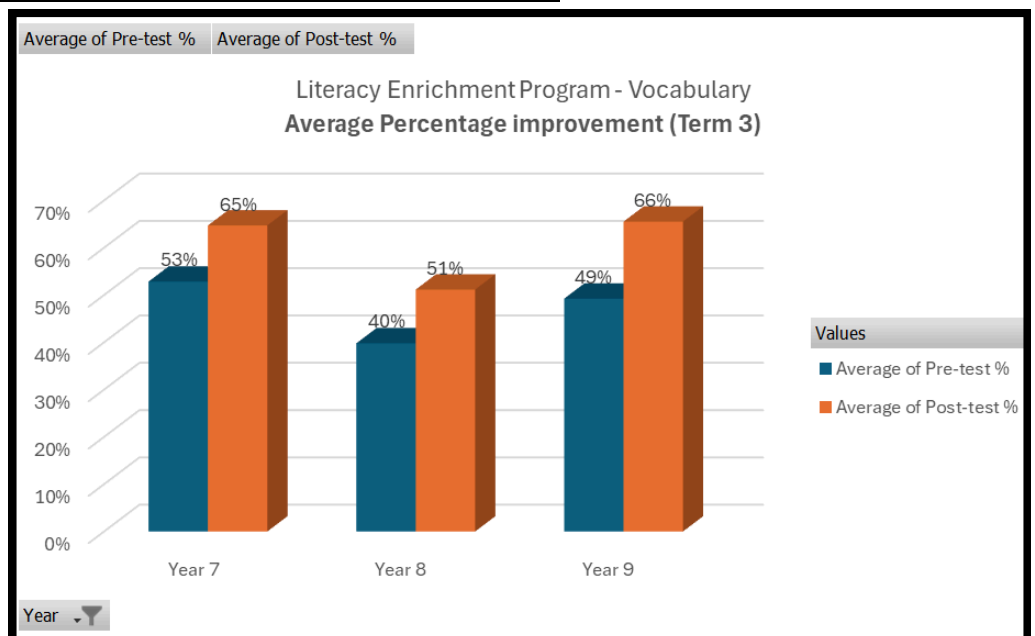
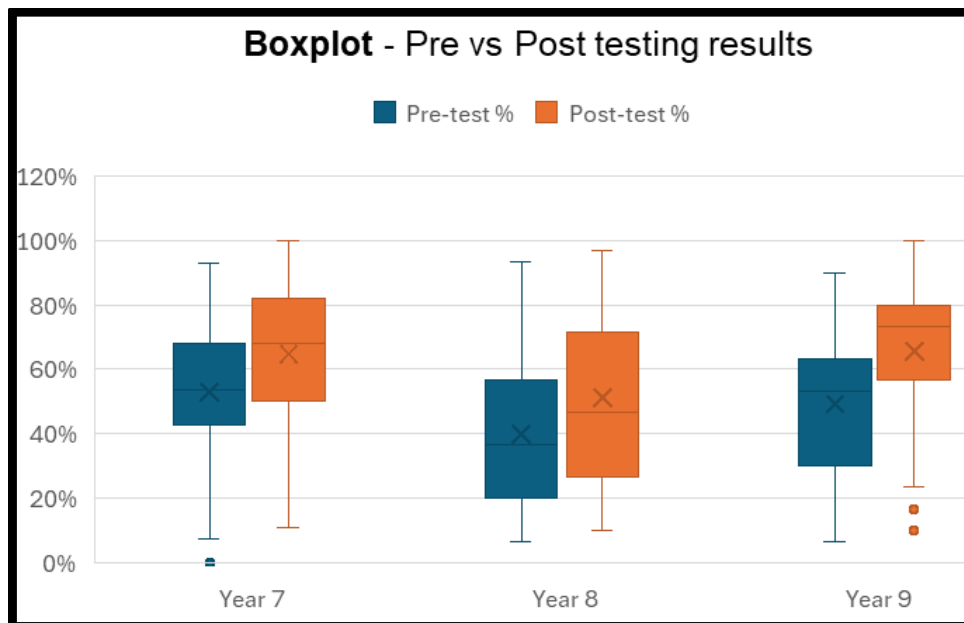


FHS Literacy Enrichment Program

Throughout this year, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have taken part in weekly literacy activities during roll call, focusing on building vocabulary knowledge and skills. A strong vocabulary is the foundation for reading comprehension, confident writing, and success across all subjects. When students understand and can use a wide range of words, they can think, learn, and communicate more effectively.

In each term, all students complete pre and post tests to measure their progress. Most recently, in Term 3, the results show a clear upward trend across every year level, with most students improving their literacy scores after participating in the program. Year 9 students made the biggest gains, with an average increase of 17 percentage points, while Year 7 and 8 students also showed steady growth.

While students are progressing at different rates, the overall pattern is very encouraging. The results reflect both the impact of the focused vocabulary program and the dedication of teachers to improving literacy outcomes for all learners. These gains show that even short, consistent bursts of literacy practice can make a meaningful difference to student learning and confidence. If you have any questions about the program, please reach out to Ms Jess Laxton.



VALID Science 8 Assessment

Dear Parents and Carers,

During Term 4 students in Year 8 will participate in the VALID Science assessment.

The VALID assessment is a NSW Department of Education online assessment available to schools to assess and monitor student learning in science.

This is a diagnostic test, with tasks framed on Stage 4 outcomes and essential content in the NSW Science Years 7–10 Syllabus (2018). Students will be tested on their:

- knowledge and understanding of science;
- understanding and skills in the process of scientific investigation;
- ability to evaluate evidence, make judgements and think critically; and
- ability to access information and communicate scientific ideas.

The assessment can supplement existing school practices to identify how students are performing in science and to help teachers tailor their teaching more specifically to student needs. Students with disability may receive the same level of support during the assessment they would normally receive in the classroom.

The assessment will be scheduled for our Year 8 students during Weeks 3 /4. A personalised electronic report describing the knowledge and skills demonstrated by your child in the test will be available from the school.

Optional advice: Students will be asked to bring headphones or earbuds that plug into a computer to enable them to hear audio during the assessment. Earbuds used for mobile phones or other portable devices may be suitable for use during the assessment. The type of computer connection needed is an audio jack or USB. If your child needs earbuds provided by the school, they should speak to their teacher.

Where required, the assessment platform provides an on-screen standard calculator which can be used for calculations.

Michael O'Leary
Head Teacher Science and Agriculture



Some of our wonderful SASS staff celebrating an early Christmas get together

Speak and Share - Mental Health

October is Mental Health month, a time where communities come together to raise awareness and promote mental health. It is an initiative that encourages open conversations about mental health, reduce stigma and promote positive wellbeing, by highlighting the importance of mental health and enhancing skills for people to seek support for themselves, and also others.

At Finley High School we understand the importance of mental health and aim to educate and provide support for our students and staff on positive wellbeing. We do this by:

- creating safe spaces for students and staff
- embedding mental health education and self-care practices
- highlighting the range of supports available
- encouraging daily wellbeing habits; connecting with others, seeking support
- organising focused events, presentations and programs

On Friday 17th October, we were excited to have the team from Intereach at FHS to offer information and facilitate activities, as part of October Mental Health month. This was an opportunity for students and staff to understand our local and national mental health services, online services and support. Recharge and Connect activities, that promote connection and self-care, were also facilitated at our Wellbeing Hub for all interested students and staff.

On Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st October FHS hosted Speak and Share presenters. Speak and Share is a mental health organization that encourages tough conversations and challenges mental health stigma. By creating a safe environment for mental health to be discussed, they are about dispelling the elephant in the room and normalizing open mental health discussions. All students had the opportunity to participate, and the program was extremely well received.

FHS continually strive to provide our students and staff current and effective wellbeing and support options. We have a number of supports within school community, strong local connections and online information to ensure the best possible options are available.

If your child is experiencing mental health concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to our Wellbeing Team; Principal, Deputy, Head Teacher Wellbeing, Student Support Officer, or their Year Advisor.



9/10 SILVER - TWIST RINGS - 9/10 SILVER - TWIST RINGS - 9/10 SILVER



Darcy Sutton



Lilly Baron



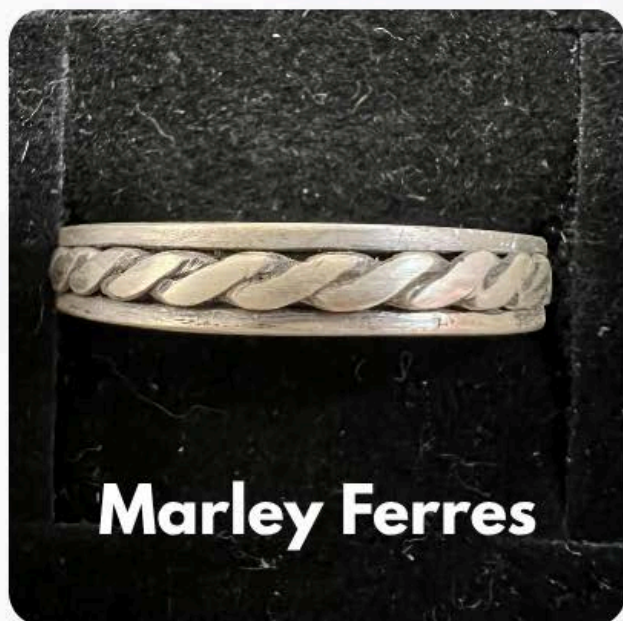
Sativa Morgan



Lillian Baker



Mia Kernaghan



Marley Ferres

ANZAC Mural

Scott Vidler did an exceptional job completing the ANZAC mural during the holidays. I hope this addition to the school is a wonderful tribute and reminder to our students and community of the sacrifice and service our defence forces. We plan to unveil the mural at a special Remembrance Day service on the 11th of November at 9am. If you would like to donate, please contact the school. Thank you to Finley RSL Subbranch, Berrigan RSL Subbranch, Finley High School SRC, Finley High School P&C, ANZAC Community Grant and an anonymous donation towards the mural and ANZAC bench.



Every Day Counts!

At Finley High School, we know that being at school every day makes a real difference — not just for learning, but for friendships, confidence, and a sense of routine. When students attend regularly, they're more connected, more engaged, and better prepared for life beyond school.

All students are expected to attend school every day, unless they are unwell or have a justified reason for being away. Every missed day adds up — and even a few absences here and there can make it harder for students to keep up with classwork and stay involved. We understand that sometimes there are unforeseen circumstances that can impact attendance. If your child is having difficulty getting to school, please don't hesitate to reach out to their Year Advisor, our Head Teacher of Wellbeing, the School Student Support Officer, or a member of the Senior Executive Team. Alternatively, please notify the school of any attendance concerns through the parent portal. We are here to help find solutions and support your child to attend regularly and thrive at school.

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Build friendships



Develop life skills

education.nsw.gov.au



Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

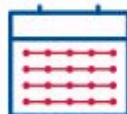
they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight
(M) (X) (W) (T) (F)
(M) (T) (W) (T) (F)

=

4 weeks



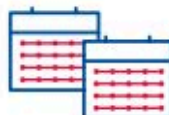
=

Over **1** year missed

1 day per week
(M) (X) (W) (T) (F)
(M) (T) (W) (X) (F)

=

8 weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed

education.nsw.gov.au





130 Year Commemorative Time Capsule

As part of our 130-year celebrations, we're thrilled to announce the creation of a commemorative

Time Capsule

to be buried on our school grounds.

We are offering families, businesses & community groups the opportunity to purchase space in the capsule.

You can include:

A message, drawing, letter, photo, or small item that reflects your connection to Finley, our school and life in 2025.

*Prohibited Items Include: Phone, Headphones, Watches, Gaming Consoles, Batteries/Battery Operated Devices, Digital Media such as CD, DVD or USB.

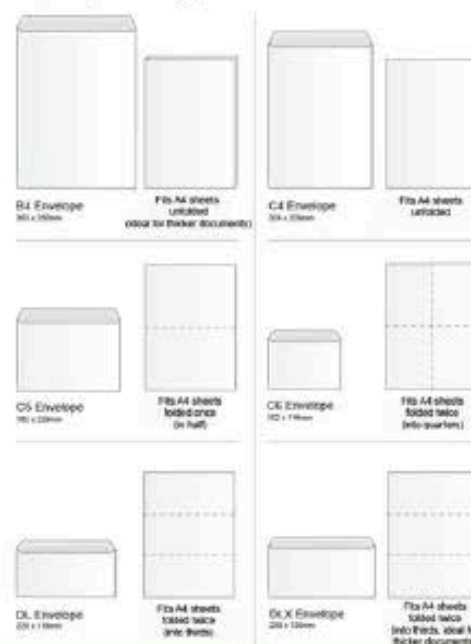
TIME CAPSULE CONTRIBUTION OPTIONS

Large Envelope (B4 405 x 305) - \$100

Medium Envelope (C5 229 x 162) - \$50

Small Envelope (DL 220 x 110) - \$10

Envelopes Sizing Guide



PLEASE COMPLETE & RETURN THE
'INFORMATION FORM' TO SECURE
YOUR ENVELOPE.