



# Finley High School Newsletter

Principal: Mrs H McRae

Deputy Principal: Mr P Velikans

30<sup>th</sup> January 2015

## KEY DATES

### February

- 9-11 Year 7 Camp  
12 Swimming Carnival  
19 Boys and Girls Open Basketball  
24 South West Riverina Zone  
Swimming

### March

- 2 Immunisation – Year 7 Boys and  
Girls.  
Year 11 and 12 Boys and Girls  
3 Open Boys and Girls Touch  
Football  
6 Riverina Swimming  
12 Open Boys and Girls Soccer

## Principal's Message

Welcome back to Finley High School for 2015. I hope that all families are feeling refreshed and enthusiastic about commencing a new year of learning at our terrific school.

I extend a very warm welcome to all our Year 7 students who have settled into the routine of learning at high school very well. Welcome also to all our new students across Years 8 to 12

## Staff Changes

We have had some staff changes since 2014.

**Mr Paul Velikans** is the new Deputy Principal. Paul comes from Billabong High School (Phil Carroll's school) where he was the Head Teacher English. He has already been busy getting to know the students and the routines of Finley High.

**Miss Kate Allan-Georgas** is a new teacher in the support staffroom. She is busy getting to know the students in her care and we wish her every success in her new career.

**Mr Garry Harding** has returned to us after a year helping out Deniliquin High School in their TAS faculty. He will work with and then replace Mrs Tobin when she commences maternity leave later this term.



Mr Paul Velikans



Miss Kate Allan-Georgas



Mr Garry Harding

Miss Ziva has taken 2015 off to travel the world. She will be replaced by Mrs Manser and Miss Eldridge.

We welcome back Miss Burgess (now Mrs Fisher) as she returns from maternity leave.

Miss Heath took the opportunity to move closer to home and accepted a position at Scone High School during the holidays. While we are seeking a replacement for her, Mr Cleal is taking her classes. Miss Laxton has been appointed as the new Year 8 adviser.

Mr Singsam has also left Finley to move to Queensland to be closer to his family. Mrs Fulton has kindly offered to come out of retirement for the first couple of weeks of school to ensure all Music students have a qualified teacher to start the year. Many thanks Mrs Fulton. A new teacher should be appointed soon.

Please do not hesitate in contacting any of the teachers at school should you have a concern about your child and their learning.

### **P&C**

I would like to extend an invitation to all parents, that the Finley High School P&C meet in the staff common room at the school every second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. All parents are welcome to attend to learn about what is happening at the school and discuss with other parents how best to contribute to improving facilities and resources at the school.

### **2014 HSC Results**

Congratulations to the Year 11 and 12 students from 2014 who achieved some excellent results in their Higher School Certificate last year. Jeshua Milburn achieved the highest ATAR and is to be congratulated on being the Dux for 2014. Chloe O'Bryan achieved results in the top bands in all her subjects while Zoe Richardson and Molly Sexton both achieved band 6 in PDHPE. Many, many students were offered places at universities and we wish them all success in their future endeavours.

### **Australia Day Award recipients**

Several students from Finley High School were nominated for Australia Day awards in our shires. Two students were successful in winning awards. In the Berrigan Shire, Chelsea Dempster was awarded the Junior Citizenship Award while in Jerilderie Shire, Isobel Bradford achieved the Junior Sportsperson Award. I congratulate these girls and the other students in our school who were nominated on their truly outstanding contribution to their schools and communities.

### **East Timor Trip**

As many of you would know, a small group of Year 12 students are embarking on an immersion tour to East Timor in the next school holidays. While the students pay for all their own expenses, they do raise money to take over to the communities in which they stay. The money is spent to provide everyday items and basic resources which we take for granted.

They will be holding many fundraising activities this term, in order to be able to give as much financial assistance as possible to these far less fortunate people of East Timor. We encourage everyone to try and support these students at their efforts whenever possible throughout this term.

This weekend the students are running a "Mud Run". See the details below:

*The Timor Immersion Group of 2015 and Real Boot Camp by Real Soldiers invite all community members to attend 'Mud 4 the Fund', a 5km obstacle challenge, on Saturday the 31st January to fundraise for the upcoming trip to Timor Leste.*

*The 5km course will contain 15 different obstacles, with a 2km option available for children. A barbecue breakfast will be provided by the Finley Pony Club and other food will be available on the day, as well as face painting and massages.*

*Registration will be at 7:30am at the Finley Showgrounds - \$25 for adults and \$15 for U-15s. Come along for a fun and challenging day and support the Timor Immersion Group!*

### **Tips to succeed at high school**

Finley High School offers many opportunities for students to achieve their best. I have a few tips which may assist FHS students to succeed and make the most of the learning opportunities offered.

1. **Be at school every single day, unless you are too ill to do so.** No-one can be successful at school if they regularly miss classes – it is an impossibility
2. **Come to school with a positive “can do” attitude.** Making the most of class time and leaving the socialising for recess, lunch, before and after school will mean that you are focused and prepared to do your best on every task.
3. **Ask questions if you don’t understand** – you probably aren’t the only one who doesn’t get it!
4. **Be organised** – Use a diary each and every day to write down what you are required to do. Have a calendar or wall planner on your wall at home to write down when you need to have tasks completed.
5. **Get involved** – in as many events and opportunities that you can as so much can be learned outside the classroom.

### **Tips for Parents**

A couple of tips for parents/carers:

1. **Stay involved** – continue to be a part of the education of your child. Keep in touch with your child’s year advisers about any issue that may be affecting your child’s learning. Volunteering at the canteen is a great way to get to know your child’s teachers and friends
2. **If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!** – If your child tells you something that doesn’t quite sound right, call the school to confirm. It only takes a minute but may avoid some dramas and heartache down the track.

There will be more tips to come throughout the year.... Stay tuned!

Helen McRae

Principal

### **Sick Bay**

I would like to remind students and parents that if they are sick, students should go to sick bay. Mrs Braine will assess the student and phone parents if necessary to collect their child from sick bay.

I would ask parents not to make arrangements to pick up their sick students if they phone home as the school must keep records of when students leave the school. I seek the support of parents in referring their sick child to sick bay should they call home themselves.

## Careers Update

### Class of 2014 University Update

This report only contains statistics for students applying for Tertiary study in Victoria. NSW data will be reported in due time. In the class of 2014 - 30 students applied for tertiary study in VIC. Of the 30 applicants, 28 (93.33%) were successful in receiving Round 1 offers. Of these offers 83.33% were made into Commonwealth Supported Places. The gender breakdown was 11 males and 17 females being made VTAC offers. The institutions included:-

- Latrobe University both Melbourne and Bendigo Campuses
- Deakin University both Geelong and Burwood Campuses
- University of Melbourne Parkville Campus
- Monash University Caulfield Campus
- RMIT both City and Bundoora Campuses
- Federation University Mt Helen Campus
- Victoria University both St Albans and Footscray Park Campuses
- Sunraysia Institute of TAFE Mildura Campus
- Australian College of Sports Therapy City Campus
- Australian Catholic University Melbourne Campus

Well done to the Class of 2014. We look forward to hearing from you and would love for you to contact us to confirm your actual whereabouts in the near future.

### TAX FILE NUMBERS PROGRAM CHANGED

Students can no longer obtain a tax file number through the school. From January 2015 students requiring a TFN can apply online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post Office. More information can be found at [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au) by searching QC27248.

### Upcoming Events

#### Year 12 Melbourne Tertiary Tour

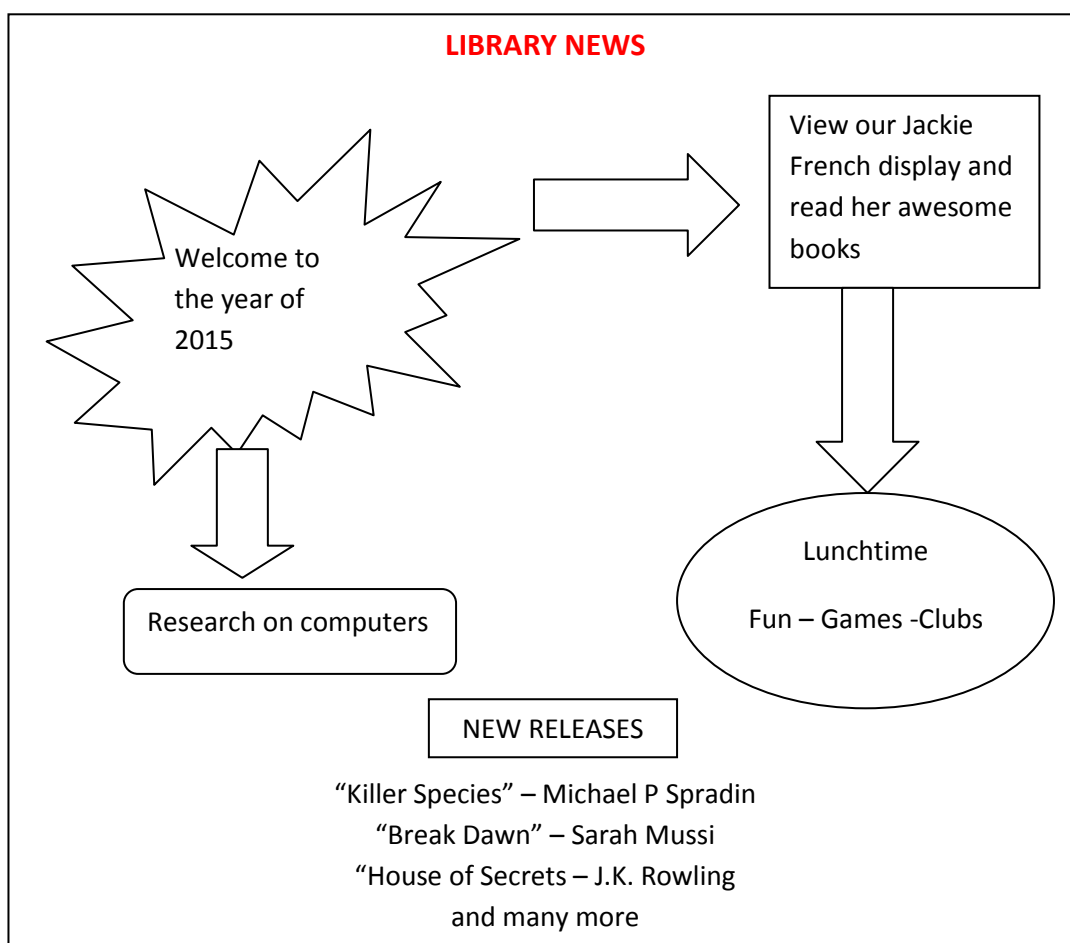
This week and next, students in Year 12 will be offered an expression of interest to attend the 2015 Melbourne Tertiary Tour. The note includes a draft itinerary and rough costing. Students are requested to discuss the excursion with their families and if they wish to commit to attending they need to return the signed permission slip and a \$50 deposit by the 13th February so as bookings can be made. If you have any questions regarding the trip please feel free to contact the Careers Staff.

### CSU My Day

CSU offer students the chance to attend a campus and experience life as a student for the day. Over the course of the year MyDays will occur for a range of courses. On February the 27th the Wagga Wagga Campus will be hosting a MyDay for B.Medical Science, B.Nursing, B.Pharmacy, B.Medical Radiation Science. The day runs from 10am-2pm. Students are required to register for the day before the 20th February. Registration forms can be obtained in the Careers Room. Please note though this is not a school excursion, so parents are responsible for organising travel for their student to and from the event.

### Year 10

Students in Year 10 are encouraged to start thinking about possible work experience placements for this year. We encourage students and parents to start discussing possible options, keeping in mind that students can attend workplaces in NSW or VIC, however they must organise their own travel and accommodation. A work experience package will go home with students early this term outlining the process.



## Welcome to science Year 7

Our new year 7 students have made a great start to the year. They have settled into their school work quickly and look fantastic in their uniforms. It is very pleasing to see the vast majority of the students have all the gear that they need for the school year. Pictured are 7A in their first Science lesson with Mr Webb.

At the front from left to right are Alexi Miaoudis, Vamos Patu and Natasha Jones



## Overdue English Texts

At the end of last year, letters were sent out to parents if their son/daughter had an overdue book. The books need to be returned immediately if they have been found. Alternatively, the money needs to be sent into school so the relevant books can be replaced. **THIS IS URGENT.**

Please encourage all students to look after books that they borrow and to return them as soon as they have finished with them.

Thank you. Mrs McNaught, English Head Teacher

## Swimming Carnival

The Finley High School Twilight Swimming Carnival takes place on Thursday the 12th of February, 2015. The students will go to class as normal for periods 1 to 4 and the first half of lunch, unless they have entered the longer distance races. At the commencement of the second half of lunch there will be a quick assembly and then students will be walked to the pool, supervised by teachers. The carnival is expected to finish at approximately 7.30pm with buses running to the town centres of Jerilderie, Berrigan and Tocumwal.

Each student needs to bring \$3 for pool entry or their Berrigan Shire season pass (to be shown on the day).

Students are encouraged to wear their house colours for the entire day; however, clothing needs to be appropriate for school and suitable for any practical lessons, this includes fully enclosed footwear. It is advised that they also bring a hat, sunscreen and water bottles. Parents are welcome to come to the carnival and enjoy the activities. There will be a BBQ and kiosk selling food and drinks.

On Friday the 13th the school will not be operating for normal lessons; therefore, students are not required to attend. Should the carnival be washed out, normal lessons will be held on Thursday and Friday with the carnival being postponed to a later date.

## Year 7 Excursion to Howmans Gap

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb

Departing: 7.00am from Finley High

Returning: Approx. 5.00pm

**Final payment is due on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February.**

## Year 7 Meet the Teachers BBQ

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February

5.30pm – 6.30pm at the BBQ area

BBQ and refreshments provided

This is great opportunity for parents/carers and students to meet both teachers and other parents in a friendly and informal setting.

### CANTEEN ROSTER

Canteen Contact and Number  
Mrs Kaylene Dawe 5883 1105  
....LADIES, Please note 10am start....

#### February

2	M Read, M Kleinschmidt
3	C Girdwood, F Aull
4	D Dalgliesh
5	R Rowe, K Steel
6	K Litchfield, J Congdon
9	J Chellew, S McLean
10	J Loughman
11	T Doohan
12	S Robertson
13	SWIMMING CARNIVAL

## Finley High School P&C Meeting

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015  
7pm in the staff common room.

The P&C meet every second  
Wednesday of the month.  
Everyone is welcome to attend.





# Community Announcements

## Community Transport

A new community transport service for the Berrigan and Jerilderie Shires will commence operating on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2015 and continue on the first and third Thursday of month. The bus will pick up from Jerilderie, Berrigan, Finley, Tocumwal, Barooga and arrive at Cobram at 10.50am, it will then leave Cobram at 2.30pm for the return journey. The cost is \$10 for the return trip and bookings are essential. For more information contact: Lockhart & District Community Services Phone 02 6920 4162.

## Intereach Ability Links NSW

Ability Links is a new approach to supporting people with disability aged 9 to 64 years, their families and carers in their communities.

Ability Links assists people with disability to live the life they want to live as equal and valued members of their local community. Ability Links also supports those communities to be as welcoming and inclusive as possible.

Ability Links co-ordinators, known as the 'linkers' work alongside people with disability to find out what is important to them, identify their dreams, goals and hopes, and help make these possible. Linkers work in partnership with people with a disability, placing them at the very centre of decision making about how they want to live their lives.

Community members, clubs, groups and businesses can also contact a Linker for information or support to be as inclusive and welcoming for people with disability as possible.

For more information please email [abilitylinks@intereach.com.au](mailto:abilitylinks@intereach.com.au) or call the Deniliquin office on (03) 58905200



The Lions Clubs of Berrigan, Deniliquin, Finley, Jerilderie, Oaklands and Tocumwal in conjunction with Lions International and Beyond Blue invite you to a

**Mental Health Forum**  
**Sunday February 22 at 1.30pm**  
**Berrigan War Memorial Hall,**  
**Chanter Street, Berrigan**

Two Guest Speakers  
Health Professionals will be present for consultation  
Afternoon tea will be provided

**For further information contact**  
**5885 2519**

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