



# Finley High School Newsletter

Principal: Mrs H McRae

Acting Deputy Principal: Mrs P Jackson

18<sup>th</sup> June, 2015

## KEY DATES

### June

26 Last day of Term Two

### July

13 Staff Development Day

14 Students return to school.

16-19 Bendigo Sheep Show

17 Year Ten Student Information Day

20 Year Ten Parent and Student Information Night.

28 ICAS English Competition

31 Riverina Athletics

### August

5 Year Twelve Study and Information Night  
Parent Teacher Night – all years

21 HSC Trial Exams

24-25 HSC Trial Exams

### September

3 Years Nine and Ten Future Moves Campus Visit

17 Year Twelve Formal Assembly  
Year Twelve Graduation Dinner

## Principal's Report

### Riverina Trainee of the Year

Finley High School is proud to announce that Shania Bentley has been successful in being named the Riverina School Based Trainee of 2015 at a ceremony in Wagga Wagga last week. Competing against the best school based trainees and apprentices in the region, Shania stood out as an exceptional trainee who effectively balances school and work commitments with determination and efficiency.

Shania now goes on to Sydney to compete against other regional winners for the title of State School Based Trainee of the Year. We know she will be an excellent ambassador for her family, workplace and school. We congratulate Shania on her outstanding achievement and wish her well in the state finals.



Above: Kay Hull, Former MP for National Party, Shania Bentley and Ian Balcomb.

## **Homework Centre**

The Homework Centre is continuing to thrive on a Thursday afternoon with more and more students taking advantage of going to the library after school until 4:30 pm to get assistance with homework and assignments or to just have somewhere quiet to study with friends. I encourage all students to take advantage of the possibility of one-on-one help from the teachers and staff of the school.

## **New Staff**

We are pleased to welcome to the staff Mr Chris Puruntatameri as a Student Liaison Support Officer. Chris has been working with students in schools in the Northern Territory and Queensland and will be working at Finley High School in classrooms, four days per week. Chris will also be working with our Aboriginal students on developing cultural awareness through a series of activities and workshops to be held throughout the year. Any Aboriginal parent or community member who would like to assist Chris and the school with raising the understanding of local Aboriginal culture and customs in the school, please do not hesitate to call me at school.

## **P & C and FADAMS**

People often ask about what is so good about Finley High School? There are many things that make this school such a terrific place to work and have the next generation educated; and one of the main things is the community feel of the school.

Working with the P&C last weekend serving food for the FADAMS production "Caravans" was a testament to the power of a community working together to achieve some positive outcomes for the school.

There was a team of parents and volunteers who prepared the food in the school's commercial kitchen; a team of students, teachers and school assistant who were responsible for creating the wonderful desserts; another team of parents, teachers and students served the food, washed and cleaned up in the space of less than two hours; and then there were the parents, students and community members who were on stage entertaining an appreciative audience. All working together to make the community a positive place and to raise valuable funds to assist the school in making it the best place it can be.

It is this spirit of helping each other that makes the communities of Finley, Berrigan, Jerilderie and Tocumwal great places to live and raise families

I am so proud to be the Principal of Finley High School.

## **Review**

As a part of our regular review of practice at Finley High, we have decided to review the structure of the senior curriculum and are inviting parents to give their input. The college model has now operated for three years, and we are interested in the thoughts of parents on the positive and negative ways this has impacted on student education.

Students in Year Twelve last year completed a survey on their views of the model and we will again survey the current Year Eleven and Twelve students on their views.

We now invite parents of students in Years Eleven and Twelve to also give their comments on the model.

You can do this in two ways.

1. You can print off the survey attached to the back of this newsletter and send it in to me, or
2. You can complete the survey online and email it back to the school. (An email entitled "Senior Curriculum Survey" will follow this newsletter email).

I encourage as many parents as possible to respond to this survey in order to guarantee we are providing the best possible opportunities for success at Finley High School.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at the school.

### **National Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with a Disability Survey**

Last week, all parents should have received a letter from me about the National Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with a Disability Survey. This is a survey of **how teachers have adjusted their teaching and students work so students can achieve to their best at school**. It does not involve interviews with any student. It is a collection of evidence to show that teachers are following their obligations by catering for the broad range of needs in the classroom, in the playground and on extra curricula activities.

It includes information on how they change their teaching for a wide range of students – from those with diagnosed disabilities, those who teachers have identified that need extra assistance, those who are working with learning support teachers, those who have ongoing medical needs or even those who need ongoing assistance coping with the anxiety attached to being a teenager.

The collection of data is anonymous but will be helpful for the government to allocate resources for the support of students in our school and determine future policy on support of students with learning needs in our schools. I have attached the letter at the end of this newsletter. Please contact me if you have any questions, or you wish your child's data not to be included in the survey.

Mrs H McRae  
Principal

### **Reports**

Reports were issued at the end of last week. If families require a second report for a parent who resides elsewhere please leave details with the office.

### **State Public Speaking**

Congratulations to Chelsea Dempster who represented the Riverina in Sydney last Friday at the semi final of the SMH Plain English Speaking competition. Her 8 minute speech, titled 'Modern day Slavery' was excellent, as was her impromptu on 'An End of an Era'. Chelsea competed against a field of 24. She was not selected in the final six but we are proud of her outstanding overall achievement.



## Athletics Carnival

It was wonderful to see so many students attend and participate in the annual athletics carnival. We had three of our students break records (since 2005) these were:

- Levi Middleton: 17 boys javelin (42.16m)
- Dora Miaoudis: 14 girls javelin (28.15m)
- Joe Catena: 17 boys shotput (12.51m).

As always, every participant receives a house point- all which contribute to the final tally.

This year TUPPAL were victors.









Pictured above: students enjoying the athletics carnival.

Ellen Downey

### **Riverina Cross Country**

Congratulations to Ben Ashley-Cooper who ran 4<sup>th</sup> in the 13 years and Cameron Isedale who placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 17 years and over. Well done to all who competed.

Mr John Lethbridge

### **Junior Social**

The SRC will be hosting the Junior Social (Years Seven, Eight and Nine) next Wednesday night. Tickets can be purchased from a SRC representative. Drinks and lollies can be purchased on the night.

*Cost:* \$5  
*Date:* 24<sup>th</sup> June  
*Time:* 6pm to 9pm  
*Theme:* I can't believe you're wearing that!

## Library News

Our library is buzzing with activity during class, recess and lunchtimes. Come and enjoy the energy and feeling of competition!

Apart from reading and research, there are board games, jigsaws, chess and the challenge of selecting which Premier's Reading book to read – letters H, I and J are currently on display! Chess tournament and comic book club are on this week!

## Open Girls Netball Gala in Wagga Wagga

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June the Open Girls Netball team (pictured below) competed in a Gala Day at Wagga Wagga. The day saw the girls compete against four different schools. The first game was against Billabong High School and it was a very competitive game with all of the team contributing, the girls lost 16-20. Next game was against Murray High School and the team was able to successfully work together to come away with a win, 16-12. The third game was against Koorimal High School and this saw the team working together effortlessly, even with people out of their normal positions. The girls were able to secure a solid win, 20-14. The final game was against Gundagai High School, who needed some support in an extra player, which the girls were only too happy to give with Zoe Stephens playing for the opposition. With positions mixed up and the girls working effortlessly they were able to come away with a very convincing win, 26-4. Thanks to Miss Burgess for organising the excursion, Karen Donkin for umpiring throughout the day and the parents that assisted with travel to Wagga Wagga.





Miss Scott

### **Under 15s Basketball Gala Day at Deniliquin**

On Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> of June a group of boys and girls went across to Deniliquin to compete in the Basketball Gala Day. The boys' team faced off against Barham High School and while competitive were not able to come away with a win. The girls then played Barham and worked hard to come away with a convincing win. The Deniliquin High School teams were strong and proved to be too good for our teams. Thanks to the parents that assisted in taking students to Deniliquin.



Under 15s Girls Basketball team: Top (L-R) Jessie Read, Piper Hicks, Chelsea Taylor, Katie Archer, Tiarna Burke.

Bottom (L-R) Eloise Ashley-Cooper, Emma Carey, Kezley Murphy-Riddell, Holly Robinson and Dora Miaoudis.

## Year Seven 2016 Open Night

On Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June the school held an Open Night for potential Year Seven students. The night involved a tour around the school beginning at the Ag plot with the visitors gaining information about what the school offers and the opportunities available for students interested in Ag. Volunteer teachers and students then took groups around the school to see the school gym, the library, art rooms, hospitality rooms, science and some were able to look through the woodwork room. There was positive feedback from the night and students got a taste of what opportunities will be available to them at Finley High School. Thanks to all those who were involved and I look forward to seeing some new faces in 2016.

Miss Scott

## Agriculture HSC study day

On Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, five Finley High School students travelled to Wagga to participate in the MYday CSU Agriculture HSC study day. The day attracted over 170 students from across the Riverina region. During the day the students participated in a variety of workshops aimed at enriching their understanding of the course material and helping them to maximise their marks in the HSC exam. Staff at CSU wagga used their extensive facilities and expertise to give the students access to information and resources that complimented the work they have done in their schools. As well as gaining very useful information, the students were able have a firsthand look at the opportunities and resources that Wagga CSU has to offer.



Above (L-R): Cougar McGrath, Jorja Daniel, Kylee Hustawayte, Ashleigh O'Leary and Georgia McGrath at an interactive lecture on Mono gastric and Ruminant Digestive systems in the CSU veterinary science laboratory.

## Holbrook Sheep and Wool Fair 2015

Enthusiasm is particularly high at Finley High when around the Agriculture Show Team. There was no difficulty finding 25 students willing to attend the Holbrook excursion, unfortunately there was not enough space for many other eager students. This excursion complements the Prime lamb Production unit of work which the year 9 agriculture students

study this year. Although mainly year 9 students attended, 5 passionate year 10's, 2 keen year 8's and 6 eager year 7's filled the bus.

Holbrook Sheep and Wool Fair is a fantastic learning event. The first day is dedicated to schools, with about 10 Private and Public schools attending. The students rotated through 4 of the 9 workshops, learning about wool, merinos, meat sheep judging, livestock disease and handling sheep. The students commented on how much they learnt in these workshops.

After lunch it was full swing into judging the huge number of schools sheep. Finley students were excited to once again comprehensively win the coveted McDonald Trophy for the "Most successful school in the schools sheep competition". Our students exhibited the sheep to win the interbreed pairs and group classes, Reserve Champion ewe and Champion ram.

On Thursday, in the Poll Dorset section, all the sheep were judged again, with slightly different results. Nevertheless, Finley High won every class it entered and came away with Champion ram, Champion ewe and Reserve Champion ewe. Meg Marsden accepted the award on behalf of the school for most successful Poll Dorset exhibitor.

Particularly exciting was observing our students successfully judging merinos, wool and meat sheep. Meg Marsden was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the junior section of Merino judging, Sophie Lostroh was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Meat sheep judging, Mitchell A'Vard won the Fleece judging junior section, with Hamish Congdon 3<sup>rd</sup> and Ally Barry was second in the Fleece judging senior section. Darcy Webb topped it off, coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Zone Final for Meat Sheep judging, qualifying for the State Final at the Sydney Royal Easter Show 2016. Darcy joins the procession of Finley High students to qualify in recent years for State and National finals of sheep or cattle judging and parading.

We are very proud of the "give it a go" attitude of our students and their willingness to participate and learn as much as they can. What a fantastic group of students and ambassadors for Finley High School.



Above: Finley High School Team.



Above: Mitch feeding up.



Above: Emma Marsden, Zac Barlow, Isaac Arnold and Sarah Cameron.



Above: Hamish Congdon and Mitch A'Vard



Above: Darcy Webb placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Zone Final.



Left: Katie Archer accepting a trophy from Bill McDonald

## Grey Fergie help

For a number of years now, Finley High School has been fortunate enough to be able to have hay grown and cut on the crown land between the Saleyards and the Berriquin nursing home. This has been made possible through the efforts of Noel Avard, Ian Sneddon and Neville Sleeman. This year they have sourced the oat seeds from Dean Knight and they fertilised the plot with fertiliser supplied by MIA rural in Jerilderie. The team worked the plot using their lovingly restored Massey Ferguson tractors. If the rains come and the Corellas go we should be able to cut hay for our cattle later in the year.

Right: Neville Sleeman working the plot on his grey Fergie.



## Work Experience 2015

Term 2 Week 9 saw Year Ten students heading out on their first round of Work Experience. For some this is their first taste of the “real working world” whilst others are quite used to this environment from part time jobs and work with family businesses. All the same, the longer hours, unfamiliar learning tasks and the need for constant engagement makes for a change from the 9 – 3 of school days, so for many the process can be quite tiring by the end of the week.

It is always amazing to go into work places for onsite visits and to see our students looking so grown up. It is a pleasure to see them on task doing things they are interested in outside the regular school subjects.



Above: Brooke Morham at Angels Be Hair Studio



Above: Dale Rees at Rees Fertilizers

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our host employers and local businesses for their ongoing support of this wonderful program, which we believe gives the students a fantastic insight into possible future careers that they can never hope to get just from reading about it in books or online. We thank you and look forward to a continuing working relationship.



Above: Michael Henshaw at HQ gym



Above: Rhiannon Murphy-Riddell at Finley Public School.



Above: Damon Anderson at Tocomwal Public School.



Above: Linhy Taylor-Tran at Tocomwal Preschool.

## Charles Sturt University Year Nine Future Directions Day

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, twelve intrepid Year Nine students headed over to Charles Sturt University Albury Wodonga for a day of aspiration for further study. Despite the very wet conditions students completed two workshops, the first being a workshop on podiatry. Here students looked at the anatomy of the foot and its linkage to the leg, spine and neck. They completed an anatomy puzzle and tried altering their gait with high heels to see the effect this can have on their arches, calves and backs. They placed foreign objects under their soles and designed cotton pads to alleviate the discomfort caused by this. They learned that for every kilogram of weight a person carries that this is increased by 3-4x when running and thus the importance of appropriate footwear is vital for sport. They also learned that the average active person takes about 7500 steps a day. Therefore assuming a person walks every day, an 80 year old who began walking at 1 year of age would have taken 216,262,500 steps in their life time. If this person's stride was average, this would equate to about 174020 kilometers.



Above: Piper Hicks learning the anatomy of the foot.



Above: Hamish Congdon, Tyrone Smithers and Emma Marsden participating in the podiatry workshop.

The second workshop was tracking animals in the wild. This was possibly not the best wet weather activity. Students used specialised equipment to track bird collars that were located around the campus. What students discovered was that this can be a very challenging activity in open spaces and requires a great deal of patience and perseverance – somewhat like finding a needle in a haystack.



Above: Piper Hicks, Stephanie Wright and Madison Wooden participating in the tracking animals workshop.

Unfortunately at this point of the day the CSU people gave up on the much anticipated campus tour which was disappointing. However, students did a quick library tour and learned about using Advance Google Search to assist with their homework research tasks instead. After a scenic detour there was a quick stop at McDonalds before heading home.

### **Study Tips**

#### **How Do You Study?**

Do you JUST READ through what you did in class?

You definitely have to do more than just read if you want to remember and be able to use the information.

1. Make notes in point form - this forces you to think about what you are reading.
2. Start memorizing by testing yourself: read a section, see what you can remember without looking. Repeat until you are perfect.
3. Do as many questions as you can and check answers – questions from textbook/revision sheets/ practise essays . . . whatever you expect to see in the test.
4. Then ASK FOR HELP IF YOU NEED TO.

## Using Class Time Efficiently

Why? Simple: you will complete more work in class, so have less homework and of course you will learn and understand more!

How? LISTEN, CONTRIBUTE, STAY ON TASK and WORK TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.  
LEARN TO FOCUS and CONCENTRATE, even if it is not your favourite subject!

## Managing Workload

Want to avoid the stresses of last minute work? Don't we all!

At the start of every term put a TERM PLANNER on the wall at home with due dates for tests and assignments clearly marked. Also write into your diary – on your phone if you like.

When you get a task, make sure you UNDERSTAND THE REQUIREMENTS (ask if unsure)

Brainstorm the steps to complete this task and schedule into your diary so you have a plan to complete the work over the available time.

## Working Well at Home

Do you go home after school and just sort of 'wait' until you feel like working? And never feel like it so they just don't get started!

Do you start work not long after you get home, but drag your work out over the whole night working in front of the TV or the computer? You hardly get any work done and feel like you haven't had a break.

TRY: keep your school work and personal/social life separate. Alternate work and break time in 20-30 minute blocks. Try to really focus and concentrate on work for a block of time. Then at the end of have a proper break and really enjoy your free time.

## What Is The Best Way To Study?

The short answer – THERE IS NO BEST WAY!

Everyone learns in different ways, has different approaches and preferences, and what works well for one person may not work well for another.

This applies to all aspects of effective learning – time management, research skills, writing skills and so on.

YOU must try different techniques to see what works best for you. Your preferences could change over time, so it makes sense to at least once a year stop and reflect on your approach to school work: what worked, what didn't, what you should change, what new things you could try.

## Homework VS Study, What's The Difference?

HOMEWORK is the set work and assignments you HAVE TO COMPLETE by a set time. DO THIS FIRST.

STUDY means doing things that will ultimately help you get better results at school. This might mean

- reviewing class work for that day or week
- doing extra questions on areas you find difficult
- making study notes or flashcards
- doing questions from an additional textbook or study guide

It might also mean developing your own study skills!

## CANTEEN ROSTER

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

### June

- 19 K Litchfield, J Crowhurst  
22 M Kleinschmidt, D Jewell  
23 T Roe  
24 T Doohan  
25 L Bryce  
26 J Congdon, H Lewis

### July

- 13 **Pupil Free Day**  
14 J Chellew, H Harris  
15 N Curtin  
16 L Bryce  
17 M McCaw, C Moloney

## Finley High School P&C

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2015  
7pm in the staff common room.

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

[fhspandcassociation@gmail.com](mailto:fhspandcassociation@gmail.com)

### P&C NEWS - Helpers required

The P&C is catering for the FADAMS production. This is our major fundraiser for the year.  
We will require many helpers for the kitchen from 5pm on  
Friday 19th & Saturday 20th June.

**There is a matinee on Sunday 21st June, we will need slices & biscuits.**

If you are able to assist in any way,  
please contact Suzanne on 0417405107, 0358859229 or email [fhspandcassociation@gmail.com](mailto:fhspandcassociation@gmail.com)

# *Community Announcements*

## **50<sup>th</sup> International Children's Games**

The 50<sup>th</sup> International Children's Games for children aged 12 years to 15 years of age will be held from 11<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> July 2016, in New Taipei City, Taiwan.

In 2016 ICG, there will be 9 sports including athletics, swimming, tennis, taekwondo, table tennis, basketball, soccer, volleyball and handball.

Potential sponsors, Sporting Clubs, Service Clubs and parents are invited to learn more about this once in a life time opportunity from the athletes who were part of The Berrigan Shire 48<sup>th</sup> International Children's Games Team.

For business this is an opportunity to show case our region on an international stage and support the next generation. Can we do it?

Eligible athletes must live in **Barooga, Berrigan, Finley or Tocumwal** or the broader Berrigan Shire LGA or attend a school in the Berrigan Shire – meaning if you live in a neighbouring town and attend Finley High School – the athlete is eligible.

**Where: Finley Returned Services Club**

**When: Wednesday, 24 June 2015**

**Time: 6.15 pm – 7.15 pm**

For more information Jo Ruffin on Ph: 0488 099 78 or email: [JoanneR@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au](mailto:JoanneR@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au)

## **FADAMS' 2015 PRODUCTION "CARAVANS"**

Finley Amateur Dramatic and Musical Society's 2015 Production "CARAVANS" is soon to be performed in the Finley School of Arts Hall.

Dinner shows are to be held on the 19th and 20th June - tickets \$40 per person which includes a two course meal and entertainment. BYO Drinks and Nibbles.

A Matinee show is being held on Sunday, 21st June - tickets \$20 per person which includes afternoon tea. Tickets are available from Murray Hut.

"Caravans" is an hilarious comedy performed by a large cast of talented locals, including several FHS students. Come along for a great night of fine food, fun and laughter and support FADAMS who has been supporting the Finley High School for many years via the opportunity to cater and by annual donations.

For further information contact Ross Whittaker (President) 0419649508

## **Finley RSL Women's Auxiliary**

The Finley RSL Women's Auxiliary would like to invite you to attend a showing and talk about the 6 Women's Auxiliary Centenary quilts that are to be displayed in the auditorium of the Finley RSC on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

The story behind each of the handmade quilts will be delivered by Mrs Pauline James the Deputy State President CCWA. Gold coin donation upon entry with all proceeds being donated to Defense Care.



# FINLEY HIGH SCHOOL

*Teaching, learning and achieving in a safe and caring community*

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Acting Deputy Principal: Mrs P Jackson B.Com.Grad.Dip.Ed

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Director General Awards  
Teaching and Learning  
2000, 2003, 2005 & 2006

Dear Parent/Caregiver

Finley High School has volunteered to participate in a collection of data on students with a disability called the National Consistent Collection of Data on Students with Disability.

Data will be collected on the adjustments, accommodations and programs we have implemented to assist students at Finley High School.

This data collection process will not involve any interaction with the student. It is merely a collection of information about what teachers are doing in the classroom, in the playground and with extra curricula activities to support students who may require assistance on an ongoing basis in areas of learning, social interaction, health or physical disability.

Although the data won't be about all students in the school, I believe it is important that the whole parent body is informed of what the school is doing, so I am sending all parents the attached note.

The collection of data is collated at a national level anonymously and will be used to inform the government about future policy development and funding for schools.

As far as Finley High school is concerned, it will allow us to take stock of our procedures and policies for the future to ensure that all students with needs are able to achieve their best at school. It may also provide us with extra funds to expand our assistance programs to students.

If you do not want the data of your child entered into the database, you have the opportunity to "opt out" of this process. To do so, please contact me directly at the school.

Please do not hesitate to call me should you have any questions.

Helen McRae  
Principal

