



# Finley High School Newsletter

Principal: Mr J Ward

Deputy Principal: Mrs P Jackson

12<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## KEY DATES

### December

- 12 Rewards Excursion to Melbourne
- 17 Presentation Night 7pm-8:45pm
- 18 Last day of Term 4
- 19 – 20 Staff Development Days

### January

- 27 Australia Day Holiday
- 28 Staff Development Day
- 29 Years Seven, Eleven and Twelve return to school
- 30 All students return to school

### February

- 3 – 5 Year Seven Excursion to Howman's Gap

## Principal's Report



Above: Jerilderie Public School Captain, Chelsea Winn, the recipient of the Sir John Monash Award for Outstanding Personal Achievement with Mr Ward.

As we come to the end of the 2019 school year I thank all those staff, students and parents who have given so much to ensure the school is run efficiently and students learning is the key to everything that we do. It has been a wonderful year, I would like to wish everyone a relaxing break and Merry Christmas.

## NSW Bushfires

The recent bushfires in Northern NSW and Queensland were devastating and unfortunately there were lives lost, homes destroyed, and many schools and communities affected. I extend a massive thank you to Brian O'Hora, our much loved GA and Fire Captain who volunteered his time to fight fires around the Armidale area. Thank you Brian for your service.

## Final Presentation days and evenings

Our final presentation evening starts at 7pm on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December. This is a wonderful evening where we get to acknowledge all the students who have worked hard and achieved success. We also get to farewell those staff and students who are leaving us, and acknowledge all the wonderful achievements of 2019. During week 9 I have accepted invitations to attend Jerilderie PS, Finley PS, Berrigan PS, Blighty PS and St Joseph's Jerilderie presentation days and evenings. Unfortunately, I could not attend Tocumwal PS or the TAFE's presentation evenings as there was a clash. I look forward to attending these events and meeting the students and parents of the students, coming to High School next year.

## Tirkandi Inaburra

Next week Mr Hay and I will attend the graduation ceremony for one of students who has been attending Tirkandi Inaburra. Tirkandi is an Aboriginal cultural and development centre for boys aged 12 -15. Located near Coleambally it mixes education with cultural identity, self-esteem and resilience. It has been some time since I have been to Tirkandi to watch a student graduate, so it will be exciting to share in the graduation with Cameron Algie and his family. We congratulate Cameron and look forward to him returning to Finley HS In 2020.

## Farewell Dinners

This time of the year can be a wonderful time to celebrate and farewell staff who have made a big difference at FHS. Last week I was fortunate enough to attend dinners where we farewelled Marg Close and Kaylene Dawe. These were well attended celebrations of their careers. We wish them all the best and thank them for their contribution to FHS.

## Congratulations Mrs Coombs

Mrs Jane Coombs will be made a permanent member of staff starting in 2020. With Mrs Close retiring this meant Mrs Coombs went from a permanent part time member of staff shared between the Finley Primary and High School to a full time member of our staff. When sharing this information with Jane she was very excited and we look forward to many years of Jane welcoming parents, students and community members to our school through the front office.

## Mobile Phones

Finley High School, like many schools has decided that it is time to ban mobile phone use at all times at school including recess and lunch. This decision was made in collaboration with the P & C, SRC and staff. Considerable research suggests that the time spent on a phone looking at social networks, playing video games or watching the screen leading into class is not productive and in fact increases anxiety, especially if this is negative. Cyber bullying and the negative use of phones is also a concern. An information letter has been sent home to parents and carers.

## Work experience

Can I thank all those businesses and organisations that hosted our Year Ten students last week. I was overwhelmed with the number of positive reports I received. A big thank you to Mrs Philpot for her organisation.

Right: Lochie Lawrence working at Murray Motors



## **Student Teachers**

This week we farewell our four student teachers who have been with us all term. Thank you, Mr Daniel Bale, Mr Tom Atkinson, Miss Evie Podlich and Miss Abi Probahar. We wish you all the best in your future careers as educators.

## **School returns**

Staff return on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Year 7, 11 and 12 return on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020

All students return on the Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## **Farewell to the following staff**

As we come to the end of another school year I would like to farewell the following staff and thank them for their service to Finley High School and Education.

### ***Marg Close***

After 19 years at Finley High School Marg Close has announced her retirement. In my time at Finley High School I have found Marg to be extremely thorough and hard working. Working in the front office she looks after all the enrolments, attendance, excursions and payments, not an easy job and one which commands due diligence. On a personal note I know it was with a sense of pride Marg was able to spend her last year at Finley High School working, whilst her grandson started year seven. We wish Marg all the best in retirement and thank her for her many years at Finley High School.

### ***Kaylene Dawe***

After 31 years working as the High School Canteen manager Kaylene has decided to take a well earned break and retire. I cannot fathom how many students, staff and parents Kaylene has met in that time, how many sandwiches she has made and how many pleases and thank you she has received as she served our students. In my short time at FHS I have been extremely impressed with Kaylene's dedication and pride she has as she works long and hard to ensure the quality of service and product she delivers is first class. On behalf of so many, thank you Kaylene and may you enjoy a well deserved break. We hope to see you back as a volunteer one day.

### ***Maria Hurd***

It is with much sadness that Mrs Hurd is moving to Albury where her husband has received a transfer with his work. Mrs Hurd is one of the best educators I have ever met. Her dedication to teaching and learning is first class. The time she puts into ensuring students receive quality lessons and feedback in a timely manner is to be commended. I have never heard a bad word about Mrs Hurd from students, staff or parents. A quality person who has given so much time to many extra curricula activities especially the student magazine, this years edition being her last. We wish you and your family all the best Maria.

### ***Alex Smyth***

Alex has been at FHS for the last two years and has made a tremendous impact in his time here. Working in the Special Education unit Alex is much loved by the students and staff. He has put in significant time to support a number of students especially those who need additional support and guidance. Our winters won't be the same without Mr Smyth walking about with his beanie and long locks hanging out the back. Mr Smyth is looking forward to heading back home.

### ***Wendy McQuarrie***

Wendy joined us this year from Coonamble High School. She has made a significant difference to the learning of so many in the science department. Her peers often comment about her passion and dedication to the sciences and she will be missed. Wendy has had an extraordinary teaching career including time spent in Italy. We wish Wendy all the best as she looks to spend more time on the south coast.

**Sam Sharman**

Sam joined us in term two moving down from the North Coast. Sam is dedicated to the arts and he has given up many a weekend to give the art room a lift and from the positive comments I have received from so many students Sam will be missed. Sam is looking forward to heading back home and I thank him for his time at Finley High School.

**Alana Gear**

Alana joined us from West Wyalong HS in term two in the TAS department. Alana has made a significant contribution to the TAS Faculty in a very short time. She is extremely dedicated to her subject area and was very keen to be involved in extra curricula activities. She was an important contributor to our uniform committee and can for many years know she played a big part in that change. Alana is moving to Gulgong High School where she is taking up a permanent position in the TAS department. We wish Alana all the best.

**SRC Induction**

This week we celebrate the achievements of those students who are working at or towards being respectful, responsible learners. I congratulate all those who are receiving awards and have consistently demonstrated that they are achieving excellence at Finley High School. The assembly was an induction for our 2020 SRC group. I congratulate the following students and I look forward to working with them in continually improving our school.

**Year 7**

Stevie Bateman  
Josie Coombs  
Kohan Joseph  
Erica Nicholls  
Riley Sutton  
Claire Ingram

**Year 10**

Jemma Coombs  
Abbey Marshall  
Zander Nash  
Karla Nicholls

**Year 8**

Meg Marshall  
Jacob Orro  
Amarlee Price  
Dakota Pyle

**Year 12**

Jacob Boyd  
Meg Marsden  
Sarah Orro  
Elle Rochford

**Year 9**

Isabella Kelly  
Phoebe Kennedy  
Madison Kleinschmidt  
Riley Kleinschmidt  
Alana Steel

## Year 11 Mock Interviews

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 all Year 11 students attended a Mock Interview with local businesses. Students had been preparing for these interviews during Careers lessons and had written cover letters and resumes for the various mock positions available. Students dressed up in appropriate interview work wear and attended an interview with various employers from our local businesses. Students were put through the formal process of attending a job interview where they were asked a variety of questions under pressure situations. Employers evaluated each student and their resumes and decided on the best candidate for each position. For some students this was their first experience of a formal interview and they were very nervous. From all reports the students did a fabulous job and once they got over their initial nerves really showcased their worth as valuable employees. This week the students will have a small celebration where candidates who were “awarded the job” will receive a prize.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful employers and businesses who have supported the program in 2019. Biralee Pre School, Finley Public School, TAFE, Elders, Hutcheon & Pearce, Taylor & Whitty, Finley RS Club, TDH Plumbing, Berrigan Shire and IGA. Without this support this invaluable learning experience could not happen.

A reminder to Parents and Carers to please  
return RSVP's for the Finley High School  
Presentation Night



## Agriculture News

### Finley Regional Care visit.

Sport took a different path for the Ag Group last week as we went on an excursion to the Berriquin Nursing Home up the road. The main difference was we also walked with us two sheep, three cows (Millie, Quantum and Pamela) and 5 one-day-old Sussex chickens hatched at school.

Our aim was to share the great things we have at school with some of our precious community. The residents loved it. Chickens were taken through the corridors of the home (the cows and sheep were not) and the sheep and cattle made friends with the residents who were able to come outside on the chilly morning into the courtyard.

The students were simply fantastic, chatting about the Ag program and taking the animals around for people to pat and ask questions. Three of our prac teachers also came to witness our wonderful students in action. We look forward to visiting next year, hopefully the visit brought a smile to the faces of the wonderful residents at Finley Regional Care.





## North Wagga TAFE Agriculture Careers Showcase

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 15 students had the opportunity to attend the Agriculture Careers Showcase at North Wagga TAFE. Students chose 3 workshops from Wool Careers, Agricultural Technology, Fencing, Horticulture and Landscaping, Animal Handling and Genetics, Ag Mechanical and Chemical Applications.

Drones in agriculture was popular as the opportunity to fly one was available. Ag mechanical gave an insight to the exciting technology that is now available to farmers. Terrific training opportunities in TAFE were outlined throughout the day. Although a hot day, the Finley High School students were outstanding in their participation, receiving many favourable comments for their attendance.

Pictured right: Shiane Mason flying a drone.



## National AGDay Careers Competition

The third “Imagine Your Dream Career in Agriculture” competition coincided with National Agriculture Day on November 21. The competition encouraged students in Years 5-12 to envisage their own career in STEM based agriculture.

Ex Finley High student, Aimee Snowden from Little Brick Pastoral created ten STEM agricultural photographs showcasing LEGO® minifigures to represent science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers. Students could choose one of Aimee’s characters on which to base their entry or alternatively build and photograph their own LEGO® character. They were then asked to identify their interests and the subjects they excel at, research pathways they might take to achieve their agricultural career dream and to write a day-in-the-life story on their chosen career.

Winner of the 7-10 section was Madison Kleinschmidt. Runner-up was Hugh Burton. Madison won \$250 as joint winner of the section.

“Research tells us that young people going from primary school to high school have closed their minds to 70% of the careers that are available in agriculture,” Aimee Snowden from Little Brick Pastoral said, “and our teachers are being asked to prepare students for the jobs of the future that haven’t been invented yet. It has never been more important for agriculture to have a presence in schools and to help open young people’s eyes to the huge array of exciting and innovative careers that our sector offers – jobs that are literally helping to feed and clothe the world.”

Aimee’s national speech announcing the winners can be found at



<https://art4agriculture.chat/2019/11/19/announcing-the-winners-of-national-agday-careers-competition/>

## Understanding the ATAR

UAC has a new two minute video that may be a simple resource to help families understand the ATAR. Please see a copy of the video link below

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= NNx5NVFPQk&feature=youtu.be>



## Canteen Roster and Community News

### CANTEEN ROSTER

Canteen Contact and Number  
0473 946 683

...LADIES, please note 10am start....

#### December

12 J Turner  
13

16 J Burdon  
17 C Alexander  
18 J Loughman  
19 C Moloney

A reminder to Parents and carers:  
School uniform orders are due in  
by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Sample uniforms will be available to try on for  
sizing on the following dates:

- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 9am to 11am  
in the Multi Purpose Room.
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 9am to 11am  
in the Multi Purpose Room.
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 9am to  
11am in the Multi Purpose Room.

**Uniforms are only available from the Finley  
High School uniform shop**



# Finley High School

## Uniform Order Form

Orders must be returned to the front office with full payment



Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Cost	Size	Quantity	Total Cost
<b>Girls Uniform</b>				
Shirt - White short sleeve with Finley High School emblem	\$25			
Shirt - White long sleeve with Finley High School emblem	\$28			
Skirt - Tartan summer weight fabric	\$43			
Skirt - Tartan winter weight fabric	\$50			
Shorts - Tailored grey	\$30			
Pants – Tailored long grey	\$35			
<b>Boys Uniform</b>				
Shirt - White short sleeve with Finley High School emblem	\$25			
Shirt - White long sleeve with Finley High School emblem	\$28			
Shorts - Tailored grey	\$30			
Pants - Tailored long grey	\$38			
<b>Jumpers (Unisex)</b>				
Wool blend	\$60			
Poly/cotton blend	\$42			
Jacket – soft shell with Finley High School emblem	\$48			
<b>Sport Uniform (Unisex)</b>				
Shirt – green polo with Finley High School emblem	\$32			
Shorts – green with Finley High School emblem	\$30			
Tracksuit pants – green	\$60			
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$	
<b>TOTAL PAID</b>			\$	

**NB: Full payment is required with orders.**

- Payment options: Cash, card, cheque
- Payment by VISA or MASTERCARD will incur a 1.5% surcharge

The School Uniform Shop will be run by the Finley High School P&C Association.

This is the only official uniform outlet for Finley High School.

## Boys School Camp – Feeding frenzy for the Finley boys in the Mountainous Victorian Bush

“Sir, the trailer door’s open!” We had only just left Finley when the boys noticed something was wrong. I climbed into the back of the bus and noticed their observation to be correct. The trailer door had in fact come open somehow, and we had lost a couple of swags. The first hiccup of the trip had not waited long to come to us. Mr Hay went back to look for the lost swags while the bus pressed on.

We arrived at Wenham’s camp around midday and the boys piled off the bus with their bags. We didn’t have a lot to do, as our back-up vehicle with all the sleeping gear (well, most of it) was still about an hour away so we weren’t able to set up camp yet. After a quick chat we ate some lunch and then the boys were sent off into the bush to gather firewood.



Within about half an hour enough timber had been gathered to build a new block of classrooms for our school. A few of the young boys were a bit standoffish at first and not chipping in with the team effort to gather giant logs and armfuls of sticks, but this changed over the course of the trip.

With Mr Hay still on his way we went for a walk around the large clearing to get our bearings and check out some of the previous student’s attempts at building shelters, which were scattered throughout the surrounding bush.

Our gear had arrived by the time we made it back to camp. The boys were put to work setting up their sleeping arrangements and to organise themselves in their designated groups. Unfortunately, the lost swags remained undiscovered, but luckily for us Mr Johnson had saved the day by lending us a couple of his own swags. Mr Hay was quite glad that he wasn’t going to have to bunk out in Robbie Hamman’s giant Taj Mahal tent with some of the boys. Due to its sheer size and luxury compared to a swag, this tent quickly became an unofficial communal tent for the boys as it could fit all of them inside!







After setting up camp the boys were once again ravenous – a common theme throughout these three days, you'll soon find out.

I handed out fruit and muesli bars to each team, and before I could turn around they were all gone. Most of the conversation revolved around dinner – what it was, how was it going to be cooked, who was cooking it, and where was it? All of these questions were answered with a swift: "hold your horses. We can't eat until Mr McCarney arrives with all the meat." This was usually met with a large, collective grunt from each team. They were starting to get hangry, and once again were having

to wait for a teacher to arrive. I could feel a mutiny on my hands if it didn't happen soon.

The boys were given some free-time and I set up the slackline for them. This is a strap tied between two trees that is pulled taught so one can walk along it. At first it seems impossible, but with some perseverance and patience you can learn to stand on the thing, and then eventually take steps and walk along it. Nobody is any good when they first try, but if you persist then you are sure to improve. Many gave up after a couple of attempts, but my advice rained true with young Kane Wardlaw who didn't give up, maintained focus and attention on his balance and within a day he had mastered the line – walking along it with an ease that impressed all the boys and drove them to continue trying.



Mr McCarney soon triumphantly rocked up to a cheer from the campground. The more switched on students had already begun to prepare their veggies for dinner and now all that was left to do was to watch my Masterchef demonstration on

how to prepare lamb chops and veg à la McCarney. This recipe is a family secret and much too clandestine to publish, but if anyone is interested go and ask one of the boys and I'm sure they may fill you in on how this bush delicacy is prepared. Here's a hot tip: the secret ingredient is Gravoxx.







So our campers were left to their own devices to prepare and cook their meals as staff did the same. Although it was every man for themselves, dinner was cooked communally on the two fires between 23 people. I could feel the individual personalities becoming more accustomed to their teams and a fascinating amount of cooperation was witnessed by staff. This is mainly a credit to our older mentors, who I was extremely impressed with the whole camp. It would not have made such an impact and been such a positive experience without you boys.

That being said the younger boys certainly held their own as well. I've never heard such pleasant and polite manners from anyone that would compare with Brock Bear. He continually went out of his way to help others, staff members included, and was never not lending a hand in a positive way.

Destin Nshimirimana (pictured right) had never been camping before and at first, it definitely showed. He seemed a bit out of his comfort zone and unsure what to do to help his tribe. On the final morning, however, he was one of the first awake, helping to cut firewood and put it in the fire to get some coals going to cook breakfast on. The visible change in him was quite obvious.

A rousing game of spotlight was played after dinner. Nick Lunn managed to almost impale himself on a tree stump, hidden in darkness. His thigh looked like he'd been attacked by a shark but in suitable tough-as-nails form, Nick took it like a trooper.

Callum Belling managed to find me in the worlds greatest hiding spot. Surprised as I was that he saw me, I was kind of glad that I could stop lying in the dirt under a dark bush. I relinquished my spot but was sure to tell a select certain few of its whereabouts for future rounds of spotlight. I still reckon that I've never seen a greater hiding spot in my life.

I awoke the next day to Mr McCarney leaving early to head to Wagga. I slept in a state of slight panic after my fireside realisation the night before that I had forgotten bowls for cereal. It turns out that the 20 minutes I had down at the local IGA to quickly buy all the groceries before it closed the previous evening had not been long enough. For dinner the night before the voracious group had systematically devoured 15 kilos of potatoes, more than 40 onions, about 20 tomatoes, a bag of carrots and the largest tray of lamb chops you've ever seen. I needed more food!

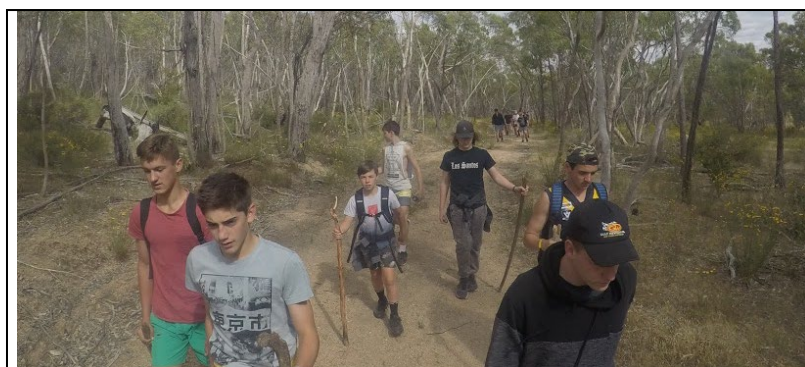
I notified a slumbering Mr Hay of my plan to drive to Wangaratta to buy more supplies and jumped in my car. It was only a short drive but it was so early I had to wait until Woollies opened at 7am. In the meantime I filled up our water tanks which had been sucked dry. Upon my return to camp I was greeted with a similar hero's greeting to what had met Mr McCarney when he arrived with the food the day before. The boys were all up and desperate for some brekky. Some had even been so daring as to chomp down some of their cereal without a bowl, or milk, for that matter...





Cereal was munched, toast was toasted and stomachs were filled. The boys were given some time to prepare themselves for the day and a morning bushwalk was announced.

Many of the boys complained when we began walking up the mountain, but I believe most of this must have been just general teenage grumbling because as the walk progressively became steeper and harder, much of the whinging ceased. It also may have had something to do with the inevitable and incessant hunger rising and raging inside their bellies.



Atop the mountain, after some of the boys posed for the new “profile pics”, we meditated. Looking around during this brief meditation it was the first time the group had sat in silence all trip. I could see Will Anderson, lost in a world of introspective Zen. Zander Nash had sought comfort up in the boughs of a tree. Liam Brown fell asleep on the ground. Kane Wardlaw and Lochie Lawrence had obviously taken my advice seriously, as they didn’t snap out of it for a good few minutes before we returned to our circle to reflect. If there is anything that any of these boys can bring home from this trip it

would be to take some time for themselves to sit and breathe and reflect. It doesn’t have to be for a long time or even every day, but it is so beneficial to our spiritual, emotional and mental wellbeing to partake in some sort of meditative practice every so often.







After lunch each team was given time to go and build a shelter in the bush, which Mr Hay and I would then judge based on certain criteria. One team failed miserably at this challenge, as their shelter fell down during the building process. They also neglected to create a map and therefore lost the challenge.

The other two shelters were immensely impressive and it was hard for Mr Hay and I to choose the winner. The team that won had put in the extra effort to make a warm, comfortable environment to live in, and had gone to extra lengths on the aesthetic design of the hut. The other team deserves an honourable mention as they snake-proofed their shelter better than I'd ever seen. They also included a handy shelf, which proved useful that evening.

Exhaustion was starting to build up noticeably in the boys as we began to notice that they were putting themselves to bed, or chilling in Robbie's giant tent during free time instead of kicking footys, throwing Frisbees, playing cricket or walking the slackline as usual. My whistle had begun to become their worst enemy as each time it was blown was met with an audible grumble from all the swags and tents before feet started to emerge followed by sleepy teenage boys putting on their shoes and gathering in a circle around the fire.

The next task was to keep a bucket of water suspended above their heads with their feet and then take their shoes off without dropping the bucket. I was captivated by the team strategies being employed during this task and we got a great laugh watching the boys struggle with this. The team who won was issued a reward (the sugary snacks had begun to be rationed out) and dinner time was announced – the menu being the same as the previous night except this time it was the largest tray of sausages you've ever seen in your life, instead of lamb.





Some got creative with their dinner, adopting a similar style to lamb chop à la McCarney, while others simply chucked their snags on a hotplate. Kane Wardlaw brought his own pan and was cooking up a storm. One team even managed to make chips and gravy out of their replenished supply of potatoes. It actually turned out alright, much to the ongoing, painstaking efforts by Jalen Rogan to be as prepared as he possibly could be.

Once it was dark enough it was time for the commando challenge, something which I had been eagerly awaiting myself and I knew had gathered much intrigue amongst the boys. A glass jar of 22 marbles was placed on the shelf in one of the shelters made earlier in the day. Their task was to infiltrate the bush as a team and sneak back to base without being detected by the three staff members hiding in the bush with their spotlights.



At first, it was a bit too easy for us teachers, so the other two changed sides and I was joined by Alex A'vard to try and catch them. Immediately the game had changed. I could tell that McCarney and Hay would be rallying the troops and trying desperately to win this challenge. All of a sudden I could hear sticks snapping and leaves crunching from every direction. I could hear decoys being thrown and rattled all around me. It was on.

My night-vision had become accustomed to the point where I could basically see in the dark but every time I turned on my torch to spot some stealthy participant they had to readjust. I climbed a tree for a better vantage point and in the distance I saw a shadowy shape. I jumped down and inched closer. It did not move. Closer and closer I came until I was right on top of it. Will Anderson had gotten to within metres of the hut, but did not even realise. I sent him back to camp and went to find Alex to inform him that we needed to step up our game.

I soon found Lochie Lawrence in a similar way. He had gotten very close and was not moving at all, even when I stood over him shining my light in his face.

Zeke and Brock were actually found inside the hut by Alex. These two were a force to be reckoned with after they had teamed up. They were sent back to camp never to be spotted until after the game.

The commandos had upped their game, big time. Mr McCarney was found metres behind the hut. You could tell he had been working his way closer and closer for some time. Whilst following some sounds in the bushes I almost tripped over





Will Anderson, who had again gotten himself within spitting distance of the target. There were noises coming from all directions, and I still hadn't seen Mr Hay. I knew he'd be close.

Suddenly, a scream from camp: "We've got the marbles!"

It was Zeke and Brock, and it seemed that they had won! Two of the smallest boys in the whole group had somehow managed to stealthily sneak past myself and Alex A'vard, take the marbles out of the jar so they wouldn't make noise and got back to camp without detection. To say the least this was a huge upset, not because nobody wanted the boys to win, but mainly due to the fact that I never expected anyone to win! Mr Hay was leading an advanced, crack team of silent students, slowly and steadily, closing in behind enemy lines. Another few minutes and they would've had it, for sure. But all credit goes to Zeke and Brock who managed to snaffle it from under our noses, earning themselves a block of choccy that they generously shared amongst the rest of the boys on the bus ride home.

Our final night was capped off by a reflective chat around the campfire and some wise words from Mr McCarney. The boys spoke extremely maturely and responsibly about their time on the camp and why they were there. It was amazingly uplifting and heart-warming to hear them speak like this, and if last year's camp was my highlight of 2018, this camp certainly was a highlight of my career.

The last morning was spent tidying, cleaning and packing up, which didn't take long as the boys had been keeping the place clean and tidy throughout the few days and most of them had taken the initiative to pack up their gear on their own volition – they did not even need to be directed to do so. We went on one last bush walk before a final reflective writing activity.



The generosity and cooperation that occurred over the course of this trip was inspiring and really refreshing to see. After taking down a hundred bottles of beer off the wall (or singing about doing so) on the bus, we stopped in at Yarrowonga Maccas and I was overly impressed by how some students gave others money for food when they were left out – I myself was given some chips as I didn't have my wallet.

Needless to say, they ate their weight in McDonalds and KFC...

It was my absolute pleasure to take this group of fine, young gentlemen into the bush. I can speak for all staff involved that the boys were a credit to themselves and I couldn't imagine a better bunch of kids to do such an excursion with. The mentors excelled in remaining positive role models for the young boys to look up to and lead by example, forming positive connections that will benefit both them and their mentees for years to come. The growth and development within the young boys was also very noticeable and it was just awesome to witness this unfolding before my very eyes. I'd personally like to thank all the boys for coming and for



making it such a pleasant experience to all those involved. I'd also like to thank Mr Hay for coming, helping out and also being a great role model himself, Mr McCarney for all his help in organising and executing the camp, Mr Johnson for lending us his swags, and Mr Ward for the opportunity.

This camp will be my last hurrah here at Finley High School. I've thoroughly enjoyed working here and being given the opportunity to be the Boys Advisor for this year. I will certainly miss these kinds of opportunities, but what I will miss more than anything is the incredible children we teach.

Peace!

Smyth out.