Principal’s Report

Thanks

As I have been absent for much of this term, I would like to thank Tricia Jackson for stepping into the role of Principal. She has done an outstanding job along with the support of the executive and school staff. I appreciate their support. I am now back on board and looking forward to my new role as Principal of Finley High School.

Roll Over

The school has rolled over to commence the new year. Years Eleven and Twelve have started their Preliminary course work and the school seems quite settled. Reports are currently being completed and should be given to the students to take home this week. Mr Lethbridge is on leave for the remainder of the year, so he handed the Year Nine reports out before he left at a special assembly before roll over.

Building and Construction Course

Eight Year Nine boys nominated to be a part of a six week Building and Construction Course in partnership with TAFE. Every Wednesday, they turned up for school in their work gear ready to work. Their project? - a memorial garden for Lucas McCaw. They worked tirelessly on designing, planning, forming up, concreting and planting. The result is a fantastic garden, which they will care for, in the centre of the school playground. This was a great initiative and one which we would like to continue with TAFE in the future. Tom Burns and Andrew Penney have written about the experience (see article and photos below).

School Fees

Finley High School offers a wide variety of courses for students to undertake. Some of these courses (like Food Technology, Wood, Metals, Hospitality etc) need to use a lot of resources in their practical components. Students are charged subject fees for these courses to cover the cost of the materials they use. To date, the payment of these fees, (which parents agreed to pay when signing their children’s subject selection forms), has been poor. In fact, the contribution to school fees in 2014 is down significantly from 2013.
It is not too late to catch up on payment. Invoices have been posted every term to parents. If you have lost your last invoice, please call Mrs Close in the front office for a new one.

If this trend of not paying subject fees continues, we may not be able to offer the practical component of these courses as they are now.

**Outstanding fees means the school has less money to spend on resources necessary for students at Finley High School to receive the best education possible.**

Voluntary Contributions – are kept at a minimum. They cover expenses like photocopying, textbook purchase and upkeep and whole school resources like the Gym, sport equipment etc. While these are called “voluntary”, they are necessary for keeping the school up to date with equipment. When we don’t collect these fees, it will impact on our whole school resources.

If each of us can contribute our little bit to the school, it will help to maintain and even improve the facility and resources we have at Finley High School.

**Executive Leadership**

On 28th October, the executive ventured to Sydney to visit Ryde Secondary College and Rooty Hill High School. A little reluctant at first, all the Head Teachers came away enthused and inspired by some of the programs in these schools. We found out that in some areas, here at Finley High School we “do it” better than these schools. However we did pick up some new ideas to look at to improve outcomes for students at Finley High School. These may include: a more proactive role for the Senior Leadership Group, formation of a Learning Centre, electronic roll marking and the development of student profiles in an electronic form. I hope to see these initiatives developed in the school as part of the school improvement plan. I look forward to some follow up programs being introduced in the coming months and years.

**Presentation Night**

Presentation night is scheduled for Thursday evening of December 11. The evening will commence at 7 pm. We invite and encourage all parents to attend this special night to celebrate the achievements of our students. Next Wednesday will be the final Formal Assembly for the Year. It will commence at 10.00 am.

**KRAM Draw**

Winners from this week’s KRAM draw are:

- **Ipod** Shania MacCullough
- **iTunes** Zoe Barlow, Thomas Apps, Benjamin Lawrance
- **Voucher** Joe Gray, Isabella Jackson

Congratulations to these winners. Handballs will be drawn next week.

Helen McRae
Principal

**Lucas McCaw Memorial Garden**

The Lucas McCaw Memorial Garden has been a great success and will be a constant reminder of how much Lucas’ life impacted on the lives of the people around him. Construction of this masterpiece began on Wednesday the 15th of October 2014 and was completed on the 5th of November 2014. Eight students, Jake Thompson, Daniel Hustwayte,
Fraser Taig, Andrew Penney, Lachlan Pyle, Tom Burns, Zeke Carruthers and Lochlan Robinson from Year Nine, constructed the garden over a four week period.

Above: (L-R) Mrs Helen McRae, Jake Thompson, Brendan O’Brien (TAFE), Daniel Hustwayte, Fraser Taig, Andrew Penney, Lachlan Pyle, Tom Burns, Zeke Carruthers, Lochlan Robinson and Mrs Deb White

We began by demolishing the copper log fence around the new site of the garden, and levelling the ground around the current site of the V-shaped slab. Once all the turf was removed, we prepared the area to be boxed for concreting; but this was no easy venture! We had to test many different designs and locations.

Once we all agreed on a design, it was time to measure up and start preparing the 2x4 lengths to make the housing for the slab to be laid. This was a lengthy process, as we all needed to revisit the dreaded trigonometry classes to work out our dimensions! Mr Lethbridge was pleased to see our use of mathematic techniques and to see Andy do some work for once!

To follow that, we added the finishing touches to the boxing and put in some plastic to prevent water rising through the slab, followed by mesh to add tensile strength. Using a combination of premixed aggregate, cement powder and water we made the concrete that would be used to fill the moulds. The ratio started off at 1 cement to 3 aggregate but due to either a lack of resources, or just bad mixing, we had to change it to 1:4. The slab went down easily and we took turns in troweling, edging and sponging the fresh cement. The cementing was a huge success and a large hurdle cleared.

Once the slab dried we began the process of digging out holes to add in a new and improved copper log fence. After Fraser snapped a shovel handle clean in half, we were left with just the one shovel. This impaired our rate of progress minimally and we proceeded to have the fence finished by the skin of our teeth, as there still laid a huge obstacle; the roses you can see surrounding the concrete ‘V’. This took great effort to have the holes dug into abnormally dense soil and then have them planted, weed-matted and mulched all in the period of an hour!
The students involved would like to thank Brendan (Albury TAFE) for coming all the way from his home in Albury and showing us the life skills that we have learned; Mr Lethbridge for helping organise the fundraising and letting us out of class for six days; Mrs White for working with the TAFE to get this to happen; Year Nine for contributing and donating cakes and goodies for the bake sale which raised the funds for the project; Mr O'Hora for lending us his equipment and supplying materials; Mrs McRae for giving the all clear on everything listed above and, most of all, Lucas, for the memories that will last a lifetime.

By Tom Burns and Andrew Penney.

**Presentation Night and ‘Waterwheel’ Magazine Sponsors 2014**

Finley High School sincerely thanks the following businesses for sponsoring the 2014 Presentation Night and ‘Waterwheel’ Magazine.

- Alison Kable Financial Services
- Andrew Cherry
- Apex Club of Jerilderie
- Barooga Sports Club
- Berrigan Economy Harrows
- Berrigan Pharmacy
- Berrigan Shire Council
- Blighty Football Club
- CA and JM McNamara
- Conargo Shire Council
- Council of the Shire of Jerilderie
- Dawmac Industries Berrigan
- Dempster Seed Grading
- F.A.D.A.M.S.
- Faxford Pty Ltd
- Finley Bowling Club
- Finley Community Help Group
- Finley Golf Club Limited
- Finley High School P&C
- Finley Newspapers
- Finley Returned Soldiers Club
- Finley Tyre Service
- Gavin’s Bike and Small Engine Repairs
- Griffith Skills Training
- Hand and Furniture and Bedding
- Jerilderie Lions Club
- John Williams Member for Murray-Darling
- Joyce McDonald
- K & A Foods
- KM & WM Kelly & Sons
- Riverina Garage
- Lions Club of Berrigan
- Lions Club of Finley
- Lodge Riverina Thompson
- Lumley’s Solicitors
- Neil Cameron Earthmoving
- PA & JL Scott
- Pan’s Hong Loch Chinese Restaurant
- Rees Fertilisers Finley
- Rorato Nominees Pty Ltd
- Scotties Machinery Sales
- Soroptimist International Finley
- St Vinnies
- Sussan Ley
- The Red Chair Coffee Lounge
- The Vault Clothing
- Tocumwal Big 4 Tourist Park
- Tocumwal Pharmacy
- Tuppal Dairy
Community Announcements

Morundah Market Day

Sunday 14th December 2014, 10am to 2pm. Held in and around the Morundah Palladium. Lots of stalls. Café with sandwiches and cakes (including gluten free).

If you would like to have a stall or need further information please contact Paula Trengrove on 0428 371 275.

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 people with 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 or call the Deniliquin office on (03) 58905200

Finley High School
P&C Meeting

Wednesday 3rd December 2014
7pm in the staff common room.

Please bring a plate of nibbles to share in celebration of the last meeting before Christmas. We look forward to seeing you there.

CANTEEN ROSTER

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

November
21  K Litchfield
24  D McLean
25  F Aull
26  L Knight
27  T Anderson, D Thomas
28  T Jones, G Gale

December
1   K Steel, W Cleve
2   H Harris
3   J Hawkins
4   L Bryce
5   J Chellew