

Actions from the Regions - Bundaberg



Avondale State School

Situated 30 kilometres from Bundaberg, and nestled beside the beautiful Kolan River, [Avondale State School](#) joined the program in Term 1, 2021.



School had a clear direction on how *Pick of the Crop* could boost the current school garden, link with parents and the school community, and increase opportunities for all students to access and try vegetable and fruit. School have participated in activities across all five Pick of the Crop components, as summarised here.

Community Learning with Farmers

- Had a farm excursion to Littabella Pines
- Farm donations for extra boost into the garden
- Attended June 2021 Interactive Forum connecting students to Agriculture



Teaching and Learning Programs

- Used planning days to source resources; plan for curriculum connections to school garden; and make possible linking with Christine Sorbello Nutritional Services to run workshops with students and parents around health and nutrition



Vegetables and Fruit @ School

- Re-instated parent-provided school wide fruit breaks
- Students access vegetables and fruit grown in the garden and either pick and eat or cooking activities
- Community volunteers regularly at school (Garden Granny) sharing expert tips and tricks



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Healthy School Environments

- Increased production in the school garden by:
 - developing community links to schools' Garden Granny, who works with students in the garden
 - increasing the number of garden beds, improving soil and planting vegetables, fruit and herbs
- Family and parent community volunteering at working bees
- Pick and eat opportunities are provided by the garden during breaks, planned lessons and while working in the garden
- Fruit and veggies from the school garden are used for brain breaks and cook ups



Parent Connections

- A series of nutritionist led workshops by celebrating learning with students and parents participating in hands-on cooking activities while reinforcing healthy choices
- Parents involved in the garden and helping at working bees
- Healthy Choices and lunchbox ideas are included in newsletters to families

Summary

By being part of Pick of the Crop, students have gained so many valuable experiences and opportunities. There have been shifts in behaviours and attitudes towards vegetables and fruit - extending all the way home with parent connections re-established through the school garden.

Great work Avondale State School!

**Bundaberg Pick of the Crop Regional
Coordinator – Jenna McCormick**

