

Bowen & Burdekin schools enjoy a Fruity Fiesta



End of 2022 'Fruity Fiesta' celebrations in Bowen and the Burdekin strengthened farmer and community connections.

In term 4, Helena De Bortoli, Regional Coordinator for Bowen and the Burdekin invited all 13 Pick of the Crop schools in the region to participate in a 'Fruity Fiesta' celebration event.

What was the aim of the event?

The aim was to strengthen actions happening in schools on the five Pick of the Crop components, which include farmer and food connections; teaching and learning; veggies & fruit@schools; healthy school environments and parent connections.

The event focused on improving students' awareness, attitudes and behaviours towards production, access and consumption of fresh local produce.



What happened?

Eight schools signed up to participate in the 'Fruity Fiesta' event in the last 2 weeks of term. Each chose activities to implement, including:

- Phenomenom! (a free Australian Curriculum-aligned learning resource);
- George the Farmer (free curriculum-aligned learning resources);

- Get fruity (creative fruit taste experience);
- Inviting parents/caregivers to the event;
- Dress up (favourite fruit design/colour);
- DIY fiesta flare (one school had a picnic!); and
- Incorporating activities into an existing school event, such as a community day.

Schools also received fresh fruit for their event.

Who supported the event?

The event would not have been possible without kind donations and distribution of amazing fresh, local fruit from local farmers and agriculture industry:

- *Euri Gold Farms*, donated mangoes to participating Whitsunday schools;
- *Pucciarmati Mangoes*, who donated mangoes to four schools;
- *Pontarelli Farms*, who donated watermelons for Burdekin schools;
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in partnership with Bowen Gumlu Growers Association, who donated rockmelon and watermelon to 3 schools; and
- *Stackelroth Farms*, who helped deliver the melons to Bowen and surrounding schools.

Pick of the Crop is so grateful for these farmers and agriculture industry members in supporting local schools and Pick of the Crop, particularly when it was peak production season when this event happened!

Celebrating success!

This event celebrated all the great work that has happened in 2022. By holding such events alongside implementation of Pick of the Crop, students have increased opportunities to learn about and eat more veggies and fruit into the future.

For more information on Pick of the Crop – see www.hw.qld.gov.au/pick-of-the-crop.



Fruity Fiesta!

Please join us to celebrate all of our amazing efforts achieved this year on...



A special thank you to our local farmers/agriculture organization's who have kindly donated fresh fruit to support our event!



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