

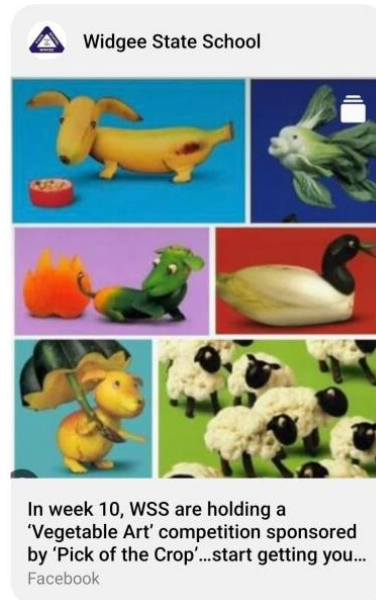


# Widgee State School – Fruit & Veggie Art Competition

Widgee State School is a rural school about 20 minutes north-west of Gympie, with 57 students. In 2023, it joined Pick of the Crop.

## Why did they join Pick of the Crop?

- The teaching staff are proudly “raising future adults”.
- Experiential and sensory learning is encouraged, and outdoor classrooms are as important as the indoor ones.
- Pick of the Crop funding boosted the school veggie gardens, which are now producing an abundance of produce for the Breakfast Club and tuckshop.
- The students appear happy, healthy, and confident and the environment is very welcoming.



## The Art Competition

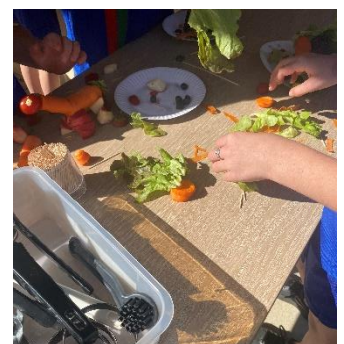
On 14 September, 2023, Keith Gilbert, Pick of the Crop Regional Coordinator for Gympie, hosted by Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers (BFGV), was fortunate to be invited to judge the students' **Fruit and Veggie Art Competition**, a Widgee Breakfast Club / Pick of the Crop Activity.

The place was abuzz when he arrived at the school, with about 20 students busy at their creations, and just as many were playing various, vigorous ball games.

## What happened

The artists were provided with a range of fruit and veggies (kiwi fruit, carrots, blueberries, oranges, bananas, celery), some cutting tools, plus toothpicks and skewers for assembly.

A veggie-loaded frittata fresh out of the oven provided sustenance, and when the bell rang, the figures were all placed around the benches for judging. One student remarked he was looking forward to eating his celery and banana king at morning tea.



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## The judging

With students in class, the principal, art teacher and Keith deliberated. The winner was clear.

The winner had made two entries – a banana sausage dog, and a kiwi and berry peacock (Keith's winner!).



The runners-up were more difficult to choose.

Some created whole landscapes with celery palm trees and cut-apple flowers.

Others had paid great attention to detail to distinguish the variety of animal – a king cobra snake, a brahman bull etc. All had put a lot of thought into their entries.

## The prizes

First prize was a basket of produce from Tony's Fruit and Veg from Farms and Markets to You.

BFVG provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize - "Princess Bee and the Boy" book, signed by the author, Matthew Middleton (a Sunshine Coast local and native bee enthusiast).

All entrants received Pick of the Crop seed packets, PodSquad balls and stickers.

## Success of the event

It was a great activity to give the students confidence around handling, seeing and tasting different fruits and vegetables.

**Acknowledgment:** Health and Wellbeing Queensland thanks Keith Gilbert, Gympie Regional Coordinator and former Kitchen Garden Specialist, Bundaberg Fruit and Veg Growers Ltd for developing this factsheet.

12 October 2023

*Promoting a positive food culture in schools*

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