

# Growing a Healthier Future: Kluthuthu Christian College



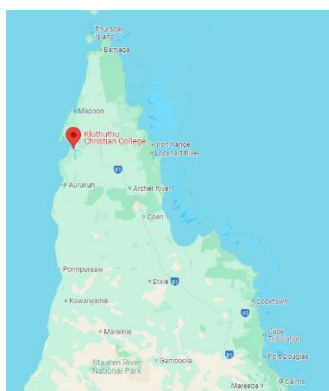
**Pick of the Crop is Health and Wellbeing Queensland's (HWQld) whole school healthy eating initiative, aimed at increasing opportunities for Queensland primary school students to learn about and eat more vegetables and fruit and promotes a positive food culture. It is now being piloted in 10 schools in discrete communities in Far North Queensland (FNQ) as part of the food security agenda.**

The FNQ Pick of the Crop (POTC) pilot has been adapted to align with the unique strengths and challenges experienced by schools in the region and is being implemented as a pilot under the [Gather + Grow 2023–2032 Queensland Remote Food Security Strategy](#).

For this pilot, remote schools located in discrete communities of FNQ will receive \$8,000 of grant funding over two years, an increase of \$1,000 compared to other regions, to address higher supply costs and costs of program delivery in remote areas. Additionally, POTC action plans will extend over two years instead of one, to provide a more flexible and sustainable approach to improving food security and student wellbeing.

## Kluthuthu Christian College

In January 2023, Kluthuthu Christian College was established in Napranum, a community on the western side of Cape York near Weipa.



As an independent school with 34 students, Kluthuthu Christian College is driven by a dedicated teaching team. The school is deeply committed to promoting the health and wellbeing of its students while offering rich learning opportunities that make use of the surrounding environment and learning by doing.

Kluthuthu Christian College aims to have a transformative impact on the community through high-quality education and social programs.

## Participating in Pick of the Crop

In July 2024, Kluthuthu Christian College became the first independent school to participate in POTC. This milestone marks a significant step in the school's commitment to enhancing students' understanding of nutrition, health, and wellbeing.

The college's journey began in May 2024 when HWQld visited the school, paving the way for the exciting developments that followed.



Since then, Kluthuthu Christian College has quickly showcased its potential, with the school establishing a thriving vegetable garden, filled with a variety of vegetables.

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## The impact on students

Principal Vernon Clark is enthusiastic about the impact of POTC on his students, stating they love the initiative, and are deeply engaged in the garden.



## The school garden

This has become more than just a place to grow vegetables; it's a hub for learning and overall wellbeing. The garden serves as a multifunctional space, offering students in all grades with a hands-on learning environment where they can explore fruits, vegetables, and nutrition.

It also provides a place that promotes social and emotional wellbeing, helping students connect with nature, culture, Country and each other.

The school plans to integrate the garden into educational programs, using it as a tool to enrich the children's learning experiences and also improve access to healthy food within the school community.

They also plan to showcase the garden's produce to the wider community by inviting parents and families to the school, celebrating the fruits of their labour together.



## What else will we see from Kluthuthu?

The school plans to:

- Further integrate food, nutrition, and agriculture education across the curriculum.
- Deepen students' understanding of food systems, growing cycles, traditional practices, and sustainability.
- Partner with local rangers and visit nearby food production sites so students will gain hands-on experience in these areas.
- Promote healthy eating through community outreach, using newsletters and events where students and locals can come together to see and taste produce from the school garden, fostering a broader culture of wellness.

Kluthuthu Christian College sets a powerful example of how local growing, community involvement and experiential learning can contribute to a healthier school environment - physically, emotionally and socially.

HWQld is excited to partner with such a unique and dedicated school, and we look forward to supporting the school on their continued journey of growth.

For more information on POTC, visit <https://hw.qld.gov.au/pick-of-the-crop/>

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