



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Bendigo Bank teams up with organic school

Cleveland State School students are learning about the joys of growing their own food and healthy eating choices.

This school is just one of 1400 schools around the country involved in the Australian Organic Schools initiative – a free program that provides teachers with lessons about gardening, soil health, cropping, harvesting, cooking, and nutrition.

The Victoria Point Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank teamed up with Australian Organic Schools to help Cleveland State School buy equipment like sheds, greenhouses, seeds and class resources.

The funding is part of the program's school sponsorship initiative which links schools with local businesses and community organisations.

Victoria Point Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank Manager Justine Kennedy says, "It is such a worthy program, we saw the good work being done by sponsor branches in Victoria and realised there wasn't anything like that in Queensland.

"It is something a bit different that helps teach our kids to grow and eat well. I think the benefits are huge, some kids don't have the ability to have a garden at home and this is a fantastic way for businesses to get involved in the local community."

Principal of Cleveland State School, Judy Dale, says the school is getting a lot of pleasure from the Australian Organic Schools initiative.

She says, "Not only are our vegies growing wonderfully here at Cleveland State School but thanks to the Australian Organic Schools program, our students' knowledge and skills in the areas of organic gardening, nutrition, biology, recycling and sustainability are also growing.

"It is a delight to watch our students, teachers and parents learning and working together in our garden. Thank you to our partners in this learning project, the Australian Organic Schools program and the Bendigo Bank for providing this fantastic opportunity."

Australian Organic Schools recently welcomed My Kitchen Rules' host and judge Pete Evans as an ambassador.

Program Manager Jane Burns says, "Support from local businesses like Bendigo Bank enables schools to do so much more as projects such as edible gardens and outdoor learning areas are often unable to be funded.

"It helps them give students a very rounded education, contributing to learning life and vocational skills and encouraging a healthy, organic attitude to living which we see them carry back to their homes and families."

**Extra information:** Australian Organic Schools is available to all schools [organicschools.com.au](http://organicschools.com.au) It is an initiative of the country's largest organic advocacy group, Australian Organic which owns the logo that appears on the majority of organic products on our shelves Australian Certified Organic.

Australian Organic media Kathy Cogo 07 4771 3714 | 0466 015 183. Images available.



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