**Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries** 

#### Media Release

### Students sink their teeth into fruit and veg science competition

Published Friday, 12 March, 2021 at 03:15 PM

## Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities

The Honourable Mark Furner

Registrations are open for school students to enter a national competition that focuses on the role science and agriculture plays in the sustainable production of nutritious and healthy food for the world's people.

Now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, the Schools Plant Science Competition is being run by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries' Hermitage Research Facility at Warwick.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities Mark Furner said this year's topic 'Grow it, Taste it, Don't Waste it!' celebrated 2021 as the International Year of Fruit and Vegetables.

"Last year, more than 1,800 students from 100 schools submitted science and art entries and 108 schools from across the country have already registered to be part of this year's competition," Mr Furner said.

"Students will conduct hands-on experimental investigations on vegetable plants, research horticultural pests and diseases, undertake interesting taste testing and food spoilage experiments and pitch a new idea or concept to help combat global food wastage.

"They will also be immersed in nature with the QuestaGame 'Pest Invaders' mobile gaming app to spot and identify pests that impact our precious plant life and interfere with agricultural production. And they will be in the running for a selection of fantastic awards and prizes.

"Students with a flair for art can also enter the Art in AgRiculTure Awards, which combines the International Year of Fruit and Vegetables and DAF food research projects with the National Science Week theme for students.

"The National Science Week theme is 'Food: Different by Design' and students will be asked to create a "superhero" character to help promote a new "super" fruit or veg that's been developed in a science lab."

Hermitage Research Facility Schools Plant Science Competition entries close on 25 June 2021 and registrations are open until the end of May.

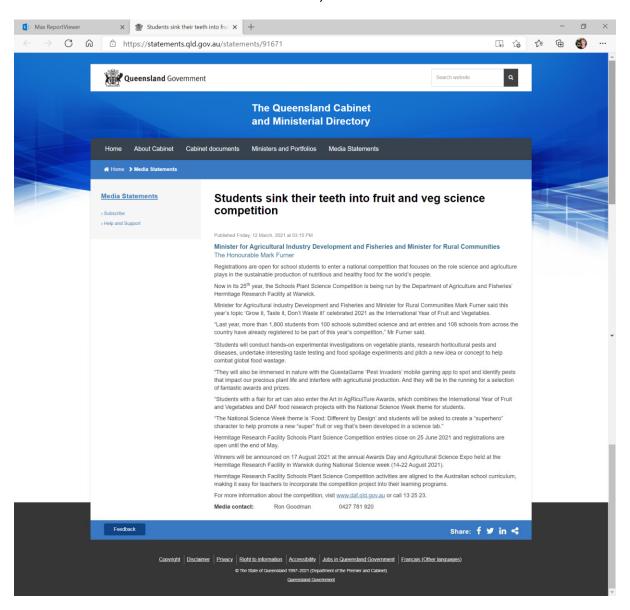
Winners will be announced on 17 August 2021 at the annual Awards Day and Agricultural Science Expo held at the Hermitage Research Facility in Warwick during National Science week (14-22 August 2021).

Hermitage Research Facility Schools Plant Science Competition activities are aligned to the Australian school curriculum, making it easy for teachers to incorporate the competition project into their learning programs.

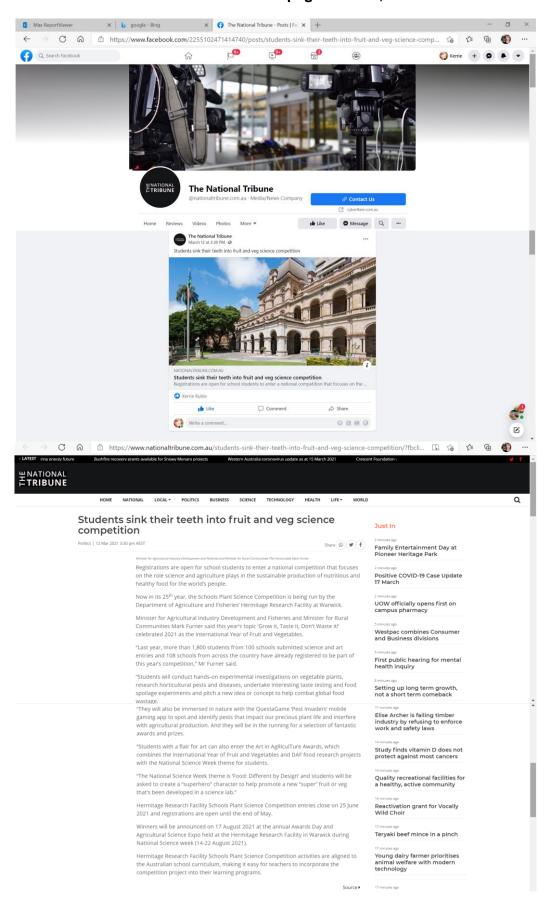
For more information about the competition, visit www.daf.qld.qov.au or call 13 25 23.

Media contact: Ron Goodman 0427 781 920

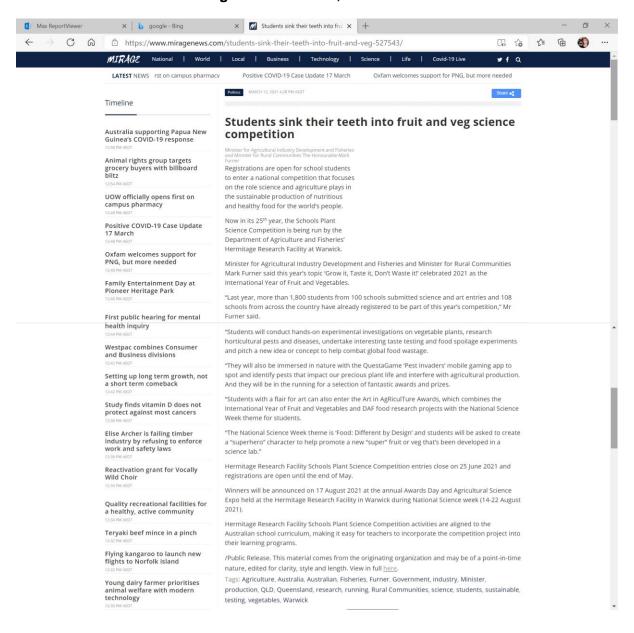
## Queensland Government, Queensland Cabinet & Ministerial Directory, Media Statement, 12 March 2021



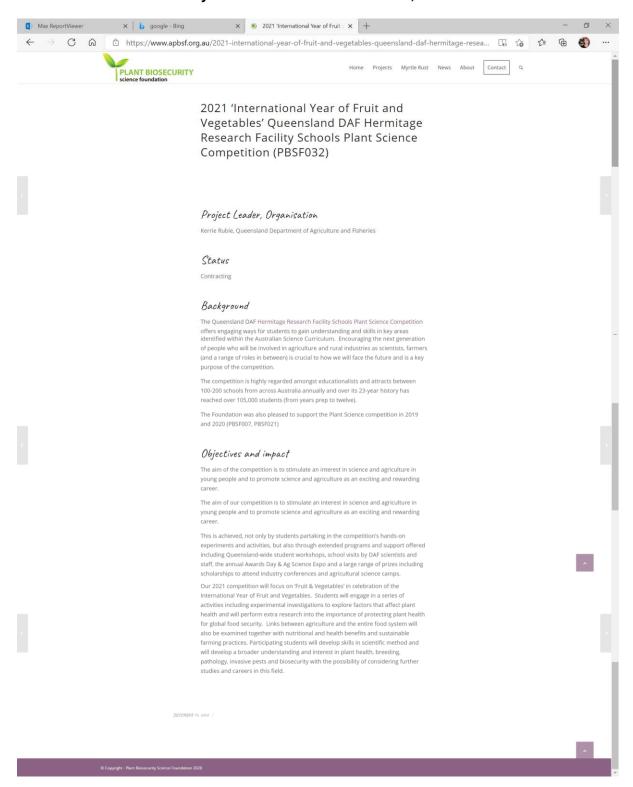
### The National Tribune Facebook page/website, 12 March 2021



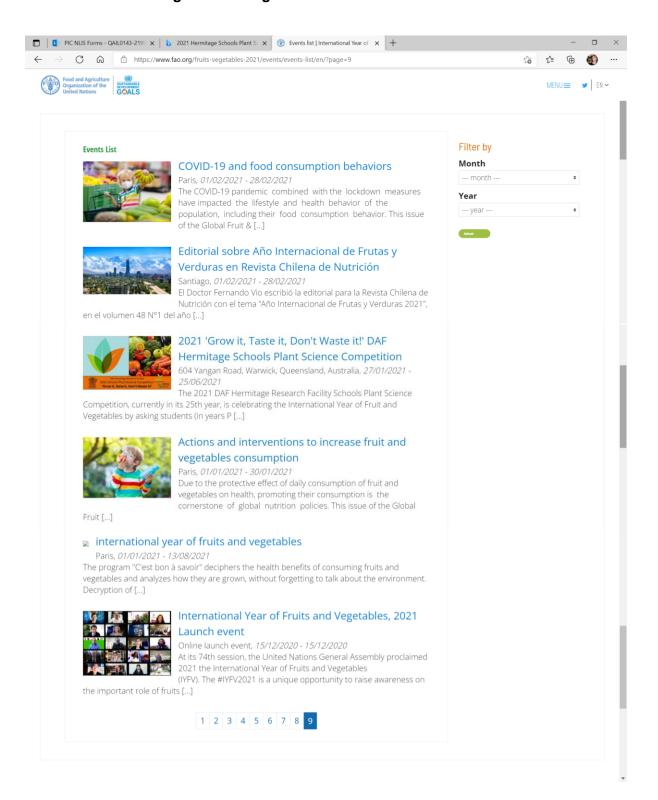
### Mirage News website, 12 March 2021



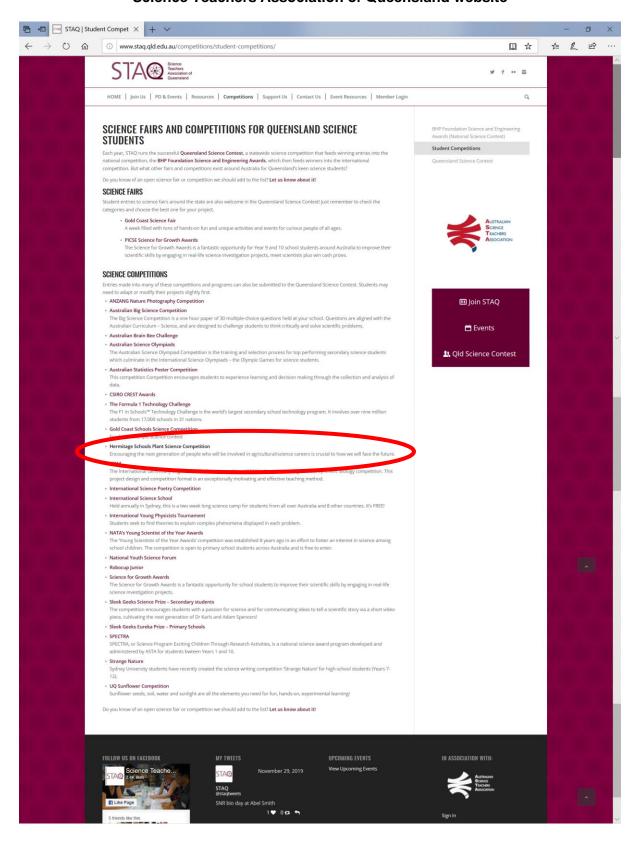
### Plant Biosecurity Science Foundation website, 14 December 2020



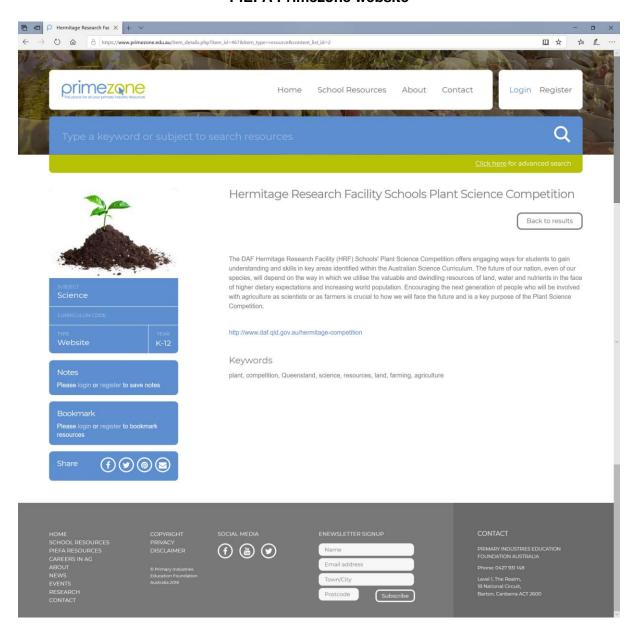
### Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations website



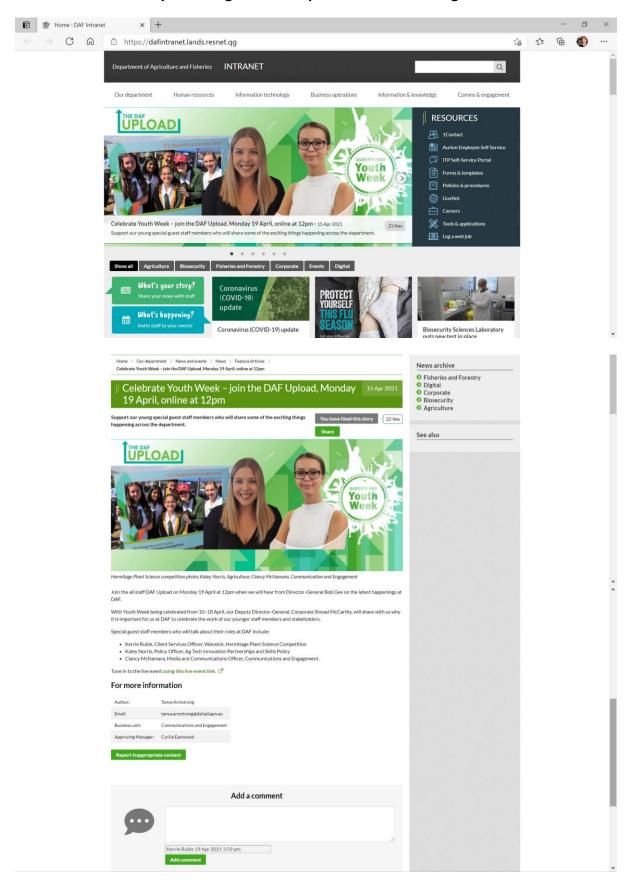
#### Science Teachers Association of Queensland website



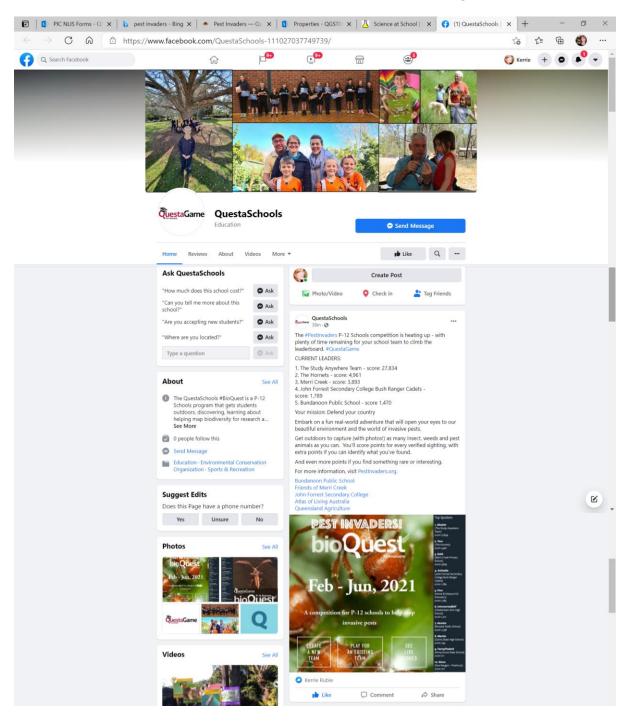
### **PIEFA Primezone website**



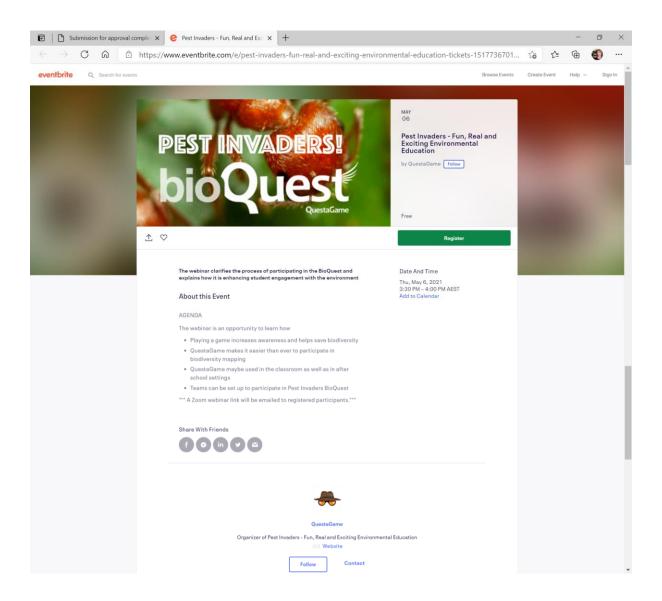
### DAF Intranet – promoting the DAF Upload Webinar during Qld Youth Week



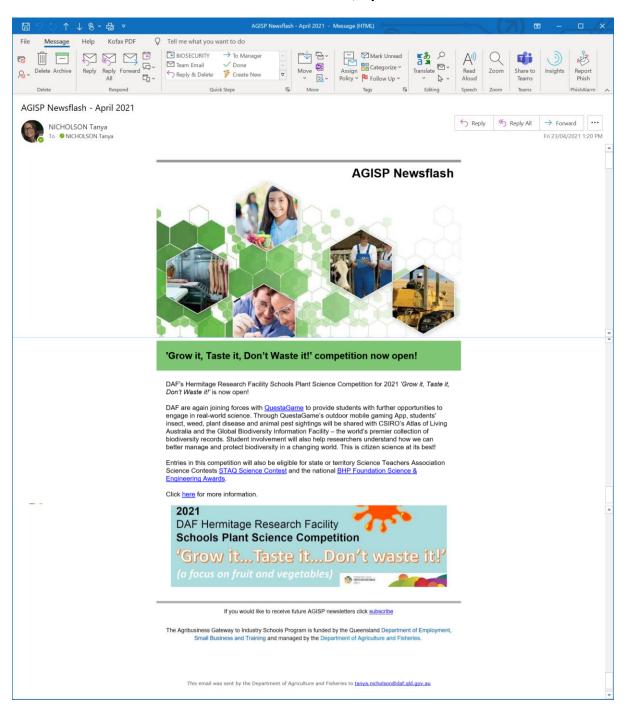
### QuestaGame 'QuestaSchools' Facebook Page



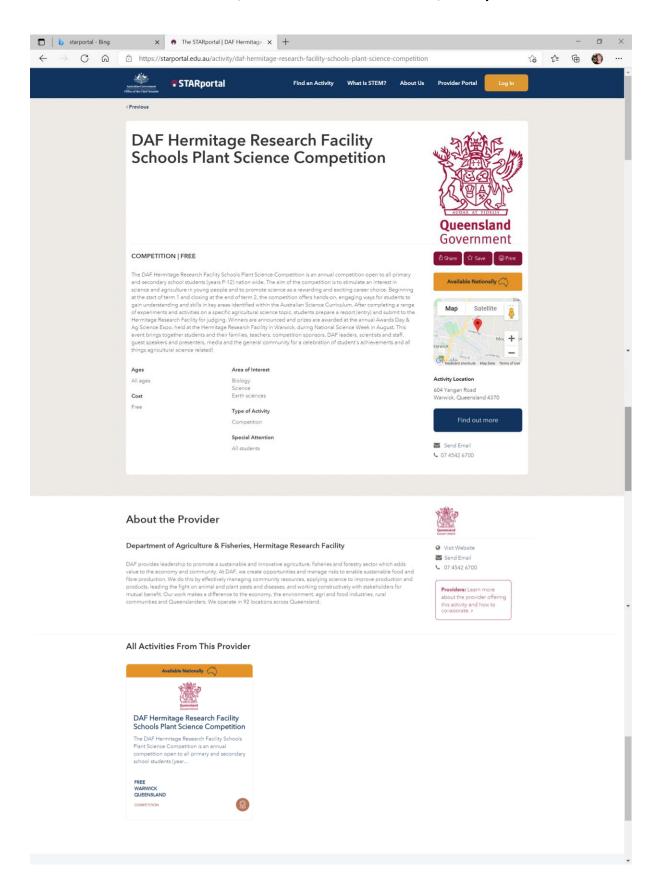
### Eventbrite QuestaGame 'Pest Invaders' BioQuest Webinar Invitation



### **DAF AGISP Newsflash, April 2021**



### Australian Government, Office of the Chief Scientist, STARportal Website



### Pilton State School Newsletter, 12 August 2021 & 22 April 2021



Despite having our band performances cancelled last week, it was great to have a couple of opportunities to perform for an aud Last Thursday our band students played for the Clifton Cluster Principals and the Assistant Regional Director – and it was their best performance this year by far! Special thanks goes to Melinda May and her Wild Sage catering that topped off the great day with a fantastic Mexican feast... it was so good.

### DAF Hermitage Schools Plant Science Competition Awards Day – 17 Aug now the 12 Oct It is with great joy, that I can report that our school took out Over-

all First Place in the Prep-Year 2 and Overall Second Place in the Year 3-Year 6 sections of the DAF Hermitage Schools Plant Sci-ence Competition for 2021. The students at our school can be very proud of the results that they have achieved. In the 'Art in Agricul proud of the results that they have achieved. In the Art in Agriculture' awards our school was also awarded the Champion School!
Additionally, individual students have picked up a swag of awards for their Science and Art submissions that we will not announce until attending the rescheduled awards day now on the 12 Oct. As this event is no longer in 'Science Week' we will look at holding a small science fair at school next week instead to ensure we celebrate science week. Well done to all the students and staff for an other great result!

24 Pilton Valley Road. PILTON Q 4361 Ph.: 0746964521 Fax: 0746964586

Thursday 12th August 2021

Term 3 Issue 3

### Gold Coast Recreation Centre School Camp – Mon-Wed Week 7 (23-25 Aug)

We are super excited to be heading to the Gold Coast for school camp in week 7 on Mon-Wed 23-25 Aug 21. Invoices for the camp cost of \$100/student have been emailed or sent out from school. As always, if there are any individual circumstances that we can help with to make camp workable, please come and dis-cuss this with me when you get the chance. We will be conductcuss this with me when you get the chance. We will be conducting some safe paddling in Tallebudgera creek, exploring the indigenous sites around Burleigh Heads, heading to Seaworld (including an exclusive lesson with the Dolphins), and having some climbing adventures before heading back to school on Wednesday by 5pm.

### P&C Working Bee and School Surplus Tender Thanks to all the P&C volunteers attending the fo

# Pilton News



#### **Pilton State School**

What a great start to term we have had. It is hard to believe that we have only had a handful of days since the Easter break because we have had so much happen in that short period of time! Our students have been engaging in their new units of work, learning goals are being

24 Pilton Valley Road, PILTON Q 4361 Ph.: 0746964521 Fax: 0746964586

Thursday 22nd April 2021

Term 2 Issue 1

English - All the students in the Year 3-6 class will be investigating advertisements and media in term 2. This will include looking at persuasive devices and some visual literacy involving packaging. We all submitted our narratives or poetry in the 'Write-4-Fun' competition last term and were very proud of the fact that every student has been placed on the list to have their work published and moved into the second round of judging! Great job stu-

Mathematics - In Mathematics, all the Year 3-6 students are working on their understanding of number and operations at their different levels of difficulty. This includes continuing the learning of number facts for the Year 3 group. We have made steady progress with number facts and I am sure that the students still working on mastering these will continue to improve and succeed at these soon. Students will also be learning about the concepts of shapes, fractions and place value. The Year 5/6 students will be specifically developing their ability to apply their mathematical knowledge to problem solving and developing their understanding of formulas and algebra.

To enhance our Mathematics program, the Year 5/6 students will be competing in the Australasian Mathematics Problem Solving Olympiads and Maths Games. This consists of 5 separate problem solving competitions that are run one month apart from March to September. The overall aim is to encourage students to develop important mathematical problem solving skills in an enjoyable, non-threatening environment.







Humanities and Social Science - The Year 3/4 students continue to focus on communities in Australia in their studies for HASS during Semester 1. The Year 5/6 students have two unit for this semester that focuses on Australian history and what citizenship in Australia means.

Science - This term we are looking at biology for the Year 3-6 students. We are working on our Hermitage Schools Plant Science competition reports and posters on Mondays and Fridays. We are investigating the comparison between aquaponics and traditional agriculture, conducting a food spoilage experiment and we are certain that both these topics will be very interesting for our students!



### **NEWS from the HEIGHTS**

Term 3 SEPTEMBER 2021



### **SCIENCE UPDATE**

Term 3 has been another exciting term in the Science faculty both in our curriculum and co-curricular activities. Curriculum wise our students have been working on student experiments where they replicate the scientific method as best they can in a laboratory setting. They have also been working on research investigations that improve their ability to seek out, manipulate and manage new information to answer questions linked to real world problems.

Our co-curricular activities list this term has not been without its challenges with our annual Science Fair being cancelled due to COVID restrictions. This challenge however just made our science ambassadors even more excited for National Science Week



where we saw a variety of challenges presented to our students in all year levels – exploding watermelons and all. Our ambassadors were supported by our STEM Girl Power Camp Ambassador Catherine Tam who very successfully wrangled some excited Year 11 students.

Finally, our students competed in Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Hermitage Plant Science Competition where we placed first overall and with a number of outstanding individual results. Big Science competition results were also announced this term with 7 students receiving end of higher and Hamish McDonala receiving a night assimption. Adaltionally, 2 students attended the SPARK ed immersion program working in a fully functioning lab beside real scientists with another student due to attend next term. Another super successful term for our students who have been supported by our awesome science team.

### Invitation to 2021 Virtual Awards Ceremony, via email



## Virtual Awards Ceremony – 2021 'Grow it, Taste it, Don't Waste it!' DAF Hermitage Schools Plant Science Competition

Join us for a webinar on Oct 12, 2021 at 1:00 PM AEST.

Register now!

Join us in celebrating student's achievements in the 2021 'Grow it, Taste it, Don't Waste it!' fruit and vegetable themed DAF Hermitage Schools Plant Science Competition!

The session will include messages from Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, Mark Furner MP and Bernadette Ditchfield, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; the announcement of prize winners by Kerrie Rubie, Competition Coordinator and an inspiring, live presentation from Professor Neena Mitter, Director of the UQ Centre for Horticultural Science, followed by an interactive Q&A session.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**View System Requirements** 





## Media release

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities

The Honourable Mark Furner

### Students reap rewards from studying fruit and veggies

School students from across Queensland were today presented with a range of awards as part of a national science competition celebrating the International Year of Fruit and Vegetables.

Themed 'Grow it, taste it, don't waste it!', the competition attracted more than 3,600 Prep to Year 12 students from 130 schools nationwide. The students took up the challenge to discover the role science and agriculture play in the sustainable production of nutritious and healthy food for people throughout the world.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries Mark Furner congratulated prize-winning students from nine Queensland schools in a virtual awards ceremony for the State Government's annual Hermitage Schools Plant Science Competition.

"The impressive science and art entries in this year's competition give us great hope for the future of science and agriculture", Minister Furner said.

"It's great to see young scientists applying themselves to learn about plant science and food technology and how this applies to developing better and tastier fresh produce that we enjoy as part of a healthy diet."

Students also researched issues such as global food wastage and explored new ideas—such as anaerobic digesters and vertical farming—to help reduce food losses and wastage throughout the paddock to plate process.

Major individual science award prize winners are:

### Paul Johnston Memorial Senior Science Award (years 10-12)

Michelle Springolo, Groves Christian College of Distance Education, Toowoomba

#### **Conference Awards (years 10-12)**

<u>Jeslyn Federico and Jessica Cuanico, Chinchilla Christian College</u> <u>Adrian Coleman, Glasshouse Christian College</u>

#### **UQ FEAST Scholarships (years 10-12)**

Cameron Colless, Atherton State High School

### Adrian Coleman, Glasshouse Christian College

Dayna Linton, Home Hill State High School

### <u>Crawford Fund International Agricultural Science Award</u>

<u>Years 10-12:</u> Michelle Springolo, Groves Christian College of Distance Education, Toowoomba

Years 7-9: Thomas Johnson, Faith Christian School of Distance Education, Rockhampton

Years 3-6: Year 3/4W, Rockhampton Grammar School

Years P-2: Year P-1, Pilton State School

### **QUT Most Outstanding Poster Awards (years 10-12)**

Ebony King, Glasshouse Christian College

### Ag Institute of Australia Junior Science Achievement Award (years 7-9)

Thomas Johnson, Faith Christian School of Distance Education, Rockhampton

### Joe Baker Outstanding Achievement Awards

Years 3-6: May Turkington, Pilton State School, Darling Downs

Years P-2: Jesse Campbell, Pilton State School, Darling Downs

The competition's Art in Agriculture section linked to the National Science Week theme for students 'Food: Different by Design", which saw students create a superhero character to help promote a new 'super' fruit or vegetable developed in a science lab.

Students from Pilton State School on the Darling Downs took out the top art prize of 'Most Outstanding School' and secured numerous individual awards with their fantastic fruit and veg superhero creations.

A third component of the competition involved students from across the globe partaking in a citizen science, biosecurity-themed adventure about the environment and the animals and organisms that invade plants.

The 2021 'Pest Invaders' BioQuest attracted 33 teams with 2,492 sightings, 4,227 identifications and 595 species mapped, via a mobile gaming app. Students from across Australia and even a team from the USA were among the prize winners.

Mr Furner thanked the competition's supporters including gold sponsors the Plant Biosecurity Science Foundation and the Grains Research and Development Corporation, and silver sponsors the Paul Johnston Memorial Trust, The Crawford Fund and the University of Queensland.

The following Queensland schools won individual and class science and art prizes:

- Centenary Heights State High School, Toowoomba
- Glasshouse Christian College, Sunshine Coast

- Chinchilla Christian College
- Mareeba State High School
- Groves Christian College of Distance Education, Toowoomba
- Atherton State High School
- Home Hill State High School
- Highfields State Secondary College, Toowoomba
- Bowen State High School
- Fairholme College, Toowoomba
- Faith Christian School of Distance Education
- Narangba Valley State High School
- Pimlico State High School
- Brigidine College Indooroopilly
- Rockhampton Grammar School
- Pilton State School
- Mareeba State School
- Cambooya State School
- · Cecil Plains State School
- Minimbah State School
- Trinity Bay State High School
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Brisbane
- Gilhooly Homeschool, Brisbane

### Other prize winners included:

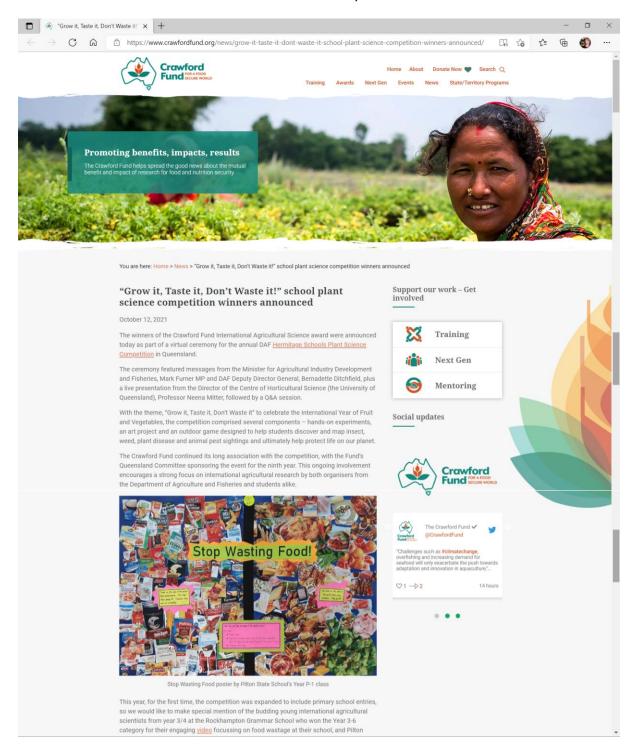
- St Gregory's College, New South Wales
- Coffs Harbour Christian Community School
- John Forrest Secondary College (Bush Ranger Cadets), Western Australia
- Frederick Irwin Anglican School (Halls Head), Western Australia
- Merri Creek Primary School, Victoria
- Forsyth County (Sharon Forks Library), Georgia, USA

For more information about the competition and the full list of winners, visit <a href="www.daf.qld.gov.au/hermitage-competition">www.daf.qld.gov.au/hermitage-competition</a> or call 13 25 23.

#### **ENDS**

Media contact: Ron Goodman 0427 781 920

### The Crawford Fund website, 12 October 2021



The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) reports that approximately 1.3 billion tonnes of food which represents an estimated 30 percent or 1/3 of global food production is lost or wasted annually.

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Winning report by Michelle Springolo at Groves Christian College of Distance Education

A special congratulations to both high school winners Michelle Springolo and Thomas Johnson, for winning their categories for the second year running. Michelle, a Year 11 student from Groves Christian College of Distance Education was the winner of the year 10-12 category for her focus on global food wastage via a detailed report. The runners-up were two teams of Year 10 students from Centenary Heights Senior High School in Toowoomba – firstly Liviru Wanniarachchi, Sattar Nazari and Yeran Dassanayake, who focused on anaerobic digesters as a method to breakdown food waste and reduce harmful gases and Mali Dawson, Cassandra Matic and Katherine Tam investigating vertical farming to reduce waste and provide food security



Mali Dawson, Cassandra Matic and Katherine Tam from Centenary Heights Senior High School in

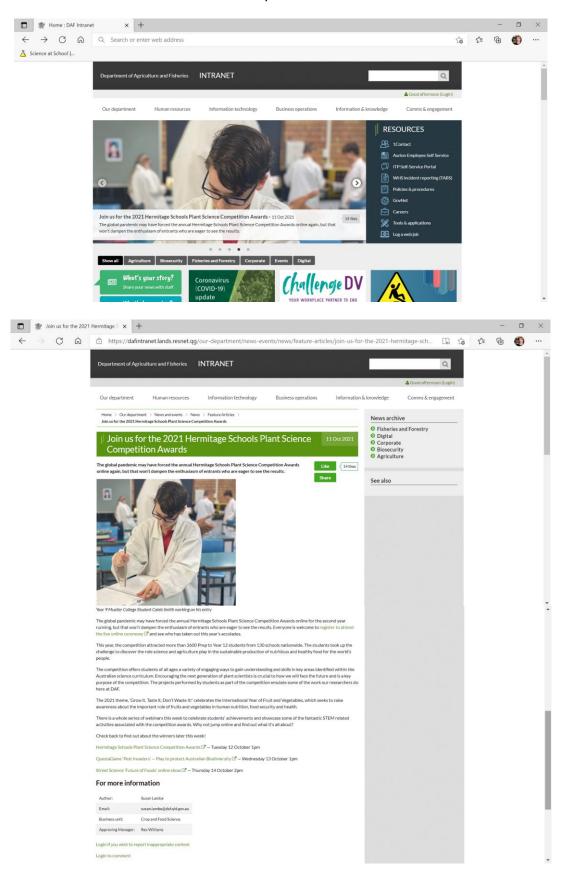
In the years 7-9 category, Thomas, in year 9 at Faith Christian School of Distance Education focused on cool storage transportation systems to combat post-harvest food losses in Africa and runner-up Ruby Linton, year 7 from Home Hill State High School highlighted food

Over 110,000 students throughout Australia have participated in this competition and have gained a better understanding of topics like soil health, the paddock to plate process, photosynthesis, weeds, pests, and plant genetics. Students have also developed further skills in scientific method and understanding, report writing, mathematics, English, ork, communication, art, and technology.

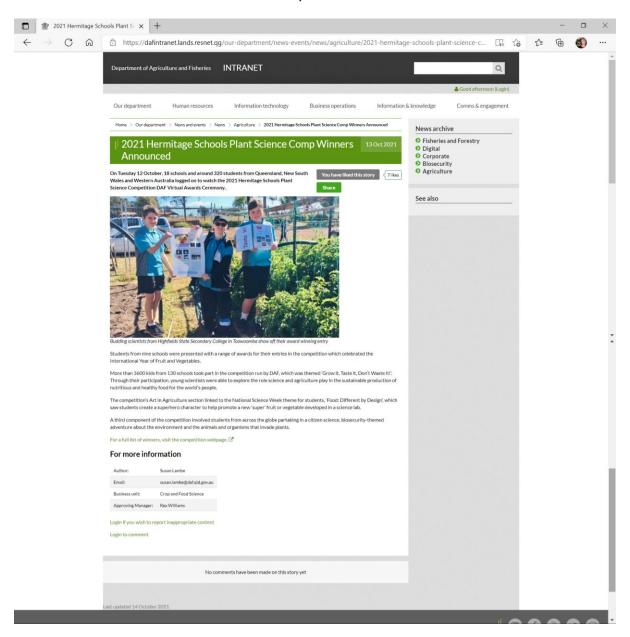
All schools involved have been made aware of the Fund's free project-based high school learning materials which aim to excite educators and students to the impact of work around global food and nutrition security and the broad range of career pathways to involvement.

Quick Links	Be involved	Connect with us
> Our Strategy	> As a mentor	Subscribe to our newsletter SIGN UP
> Resources	> As a sponsor	
> E-Newsletters	> As a student	Or find us on 🕟 in 🧗 🍏 🌀
	> As a volunteer	
	> As a donor	
	> As a trainer	

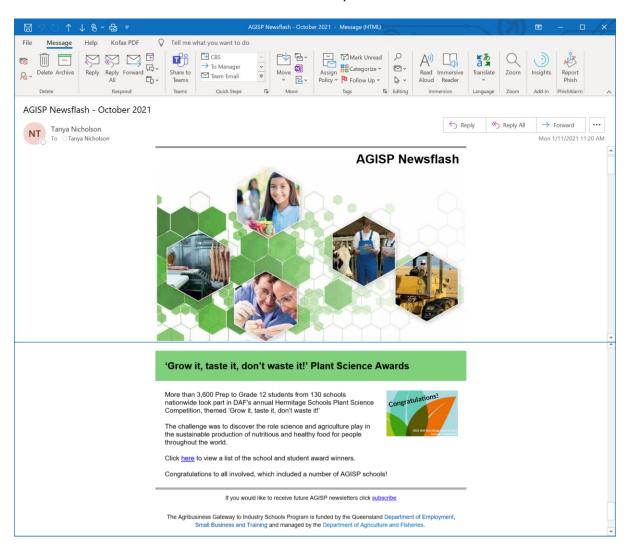
### DAF Intranet, 11 October 2021



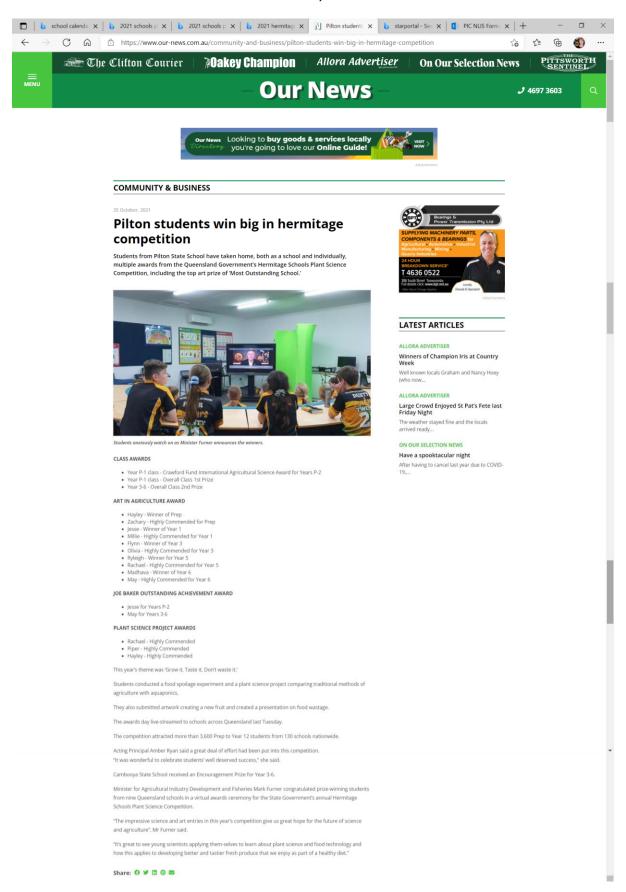
### **DAF Intranet, 13 October 2021**



### **DAF AGISP Newsflash, October 2021**



### The Clifton Courier, 25 October 2021





## **Home Hill State High School**

LEARNING - PERFORMANCE - CITIZENSHIP

First Street Home Hill Qld 4806 Phone: (07) 4790 5666 Fax: (07) 4790 5600 www.homehillshs.eq.edu.au

# **Newsletter October 2021**

Welcome back to Term 4. This term Junior Ag students will be learning about Agricultural Production Systems and the Senior students will continue to learn about the 'Sweet Industries'. This term we will celebrate our achievements in the Hermitage Research Centre Plant Science Competition and we will all come together to recognise National Ag Day in November.



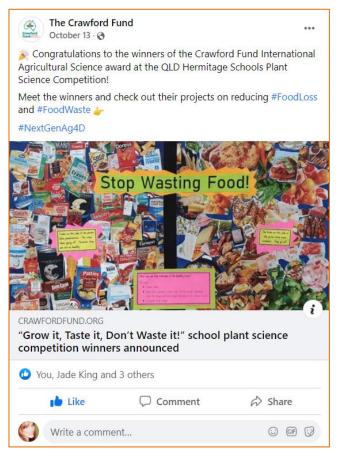




Year 12 Ag students Field Trip to Mr Swindley's property to learn about cane, pumpkin and melon production.

### **Social Media posts**



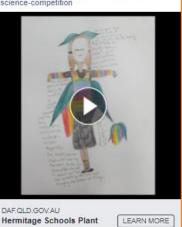




LEARN MORE

Hermitage Schools Plant

Science Competition



Science Competition













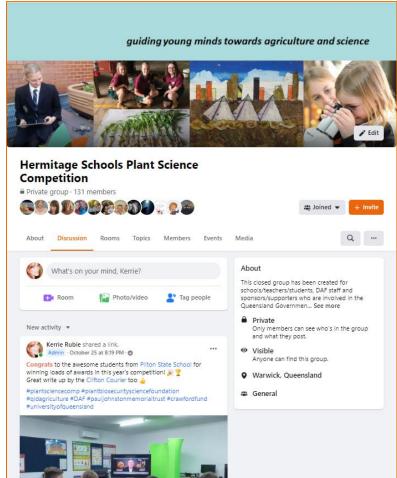












(link to SPSC FB group)