



Keira Tuxford, 8, and Arlo Thompson, 8, with Get Kids Cooking owners Joanne Bowskill and Holly Boal at Mimosa Public school. The two mums from Forestville have had success on TV's Shark Tank thanks to their cooking program for kids. Picture: Adam Yip

Manly

Mums whose business gets kids cooking in school is set to go global after interest from US

Ali Lowe, Manly Daily
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TWO mums with a business that brings cooking classes into schools have an eye on international expansion.

Joanne Bowskill, 45, of Killarney Heights, and Holly Boal, 39, of Forestville, run *Get Kids Cooking*, which provides hands-on cooking programs for teachers to run in schools.

The company's Cook In A Box program allows children to create low-cost meals using healthy ingredients. They have also designed and produced a mobile kitchen, The Kitchen Cart, which provides facilities for schools which may not have a dedicated cooking area.



Joanne Bowskill and Holly Boal with some of the students benefiting from their program. Picture: Jeremy Piper

The Cook In A Box program is funded through various means, including parents & citizens association contributions, government grants, Schools Plus programs or via parents, depending on the individual circumstances of the school.

Since its launch locally in 2013, Get Kids Cooking has expanded across Australia and been featured on TV's *Shark Tank*, where Mrs Bowskill and Mrs Boal were offered \$150,000 by Greencross and Pet Barn entrepreneur Glen Richards for a 20 per cent stake in their business.



"This expertise has meant we can go nationally and now there is international interest from the US, the UK and Europe," Mrs Boal said.

Get Kids Cooking came about after Mrs Bowskill – whose children Jessica, 11, Joshua, 9, and Jenna, 7, attend Killarney Heights school – offered to start cooking classes there.

"The school registered for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden but pulled out after a year," Mrs Boal said.

"So I offered to start a cooking program myself."



Joanne Bowskill and Holly Boal were offered a deal by Pet Barn entrepreneur Dr Glen Richards. Picture: Supplied

Mrs Bowskill decided to make it a business and Mrs Boal, whose daughter Daisy, 9, is a student at Forestville Public School, came on board as the company's co-owner.

The women are now in the process of starting up a charity to help take the program to disadvantaged schools.

"Expansion internationally is great but our passion is about helping children in Australia," Mrs Boal said.