



# AGTECH Connections

The newsletter of the Australian Technology  
& Agricultural College

*'Connecting the College with the Community'*

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**Independent Senior Secondary College for Years 10 to 12**

4808 Mt Lindesay Highway, North Maclean Q 4280.

## College Founder/CEO

*Dr Narendra Nand*

### [Principal's Message](#) [Greetings to the ATAC](#) [community.](#)



It was a wonderful to start the term with the relaxing of Covid-19 restrictions in Queensland. However, we still have to follow the sanitization protocols which is a great long-term strategy to reduce general infections. Keep safe.

The Minister for Communities and Housing, Digital Economy and the Arts, Hon. Ms. Leeanne Enoch visited our College on 07 April 2021 and performed the ground-breaking ceremony for our first building project. She also planted bushfood trees to set up the "Leeanne Enoch Bushfoods Park". Her visit was witnessed by all the Board of Directors, Ms. Marnie Parker, VET Services Officer from ISQ, a parent (Ms Peta Souwer) and a student.

Some students have now received feedback on their performance from TAFE. Congratulations to three students completing their Cert. II Trade courses at TAFE and all those accepted into the trade taster program. Year 11 students have started Cert. II FSK and are expected to complete most units by the end of Term III. Places for high demand courses in 2022 have been confirmed while we wait for confirmation of the dates for the Trade Taster course. Arrangements for a visit by TAFE staff to our college on 10 May 2021 have

been made. Students will be provided with further information and intake details. Term I

assessments have been completed. Parents have been invited to discuss their child's performance, projects and pathways to their careers. Parents and/or guardians form an integral part of our TRIPOD model to work as partners and support our students through regular meetings and feedback. Parents are always welcome to arrange meetings or come in for brief sessions in the mornings or afternoons at their convenience.

The first harvest from the Aquaponics project supplied vegetables to Nick's family. Nick has been working on the Aquaponics project with the full support of the college. He put in a lot of time to fix sump holes with sleepers to stabilize tanks and completed the operation system. We are now looking forward to obtaining the licenses and introduce fish into the system. Several species of Bush foods plants have been planted and students are making nests for the native bee-hives using demonstration kits. We are glad that most students find their project work engaging and rewarding. Big thanks to all involved in the projects.

As students actively engage in their projects as alternative pathways to complete year 12 qualifications, they raise the profile of ATAC environment for future learning.

## Gary Suthers

*English, Humanities, Science and Agricultural Science  
Teacher*

Welcome back to term two. A new season and a time for refocusing on learning at the college. The year 10 class has been looking at the writings of Shakespeare and just how much he has contributed to our everyday language. The tragedy "Romeo and Juliet" will be the play that will be studied and how this story has been remade into forms such as the film "Gnomeo and Juliet" The importance of freedom fighters in our world has been looked at in History, as the class learns about Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King. Then we move on to Australian history and learn about our freedom fighter such as Vincent Lingiari and the Gurindji Strike, Charles Perkins and the Freedom Ride and Eddie Mabo and the Mabo land rights decision. Also, in Health and Physical Education, we are learning about responsible partying and how to avoid antisocial behaviour. Year 11 have started their Future Skills certificate course and also have been looking at workplace language in English. They have been analysing the information that goes into a staff induction and what you should expect as a new employee on the first few days of work. Some of our students have been working enthusiastically on their Agricultural Science projects, with the renovation of the greenhouse, the addition of two new water tanks for the Aquaponics, making bee hives and placing them around the campus and planting of the flowering tree and shrubs. Mushrooms will soon be an addition to our growing vegetable harvest as we set up fungi growing beds. The aquaponics grow beds are overflowing with plants that now ready for harvest. I have already sampled the Cucumbers, Lettuce and Bok Choy, they are all tasty and fresh! So when you come to the college come and have a look at the progress and sample some produce. Thank you to all parents and guardians, for your continued support of your child learning here at ATAC

### **ALL ABOUT ATAC**

ATAC is a new not-for-profit senior trade college which provides individual support in small, air-conditioned classrooms allowing students to learn at their own pace. Regular parental discussion and feedback provides ongoing support to develop academic success, opportunity for work experience and potential apprenticeship in Year 12. Students learn to become more independent,

responsible, and respectful as they would be expected to display such behavior at a workplace. Gambling Community Benefit Grant has been approved to provide some tools and machinery complement our training and ATAC is about to build a multipurpose shed with facilities for training in construction and automotive as soon as possible. Our electrical, plumbing and communications network is being upgraded to meet the infrastructure requirements by the Council. ATAC's unique pathway and complementary VET courses provided by our RTO (#45556) adds value to education and training of our community. ATAC wishes to extend its training to mature age and /or adults for further training.



Nick Springall shows off his first harvest of bok choy from his aquaponics set up to his proud mum, Lisa Springall. She is very proud and happy that Nick is so committed to the success of this project which he wants to develop into a small business enterprise. Congratulations Nick. We loved the fresh cucumbers and leafy vegies.



Brock Puce and Caleb Smith planting native Bushfoods plants to support the Native Bees. Big fun with just a few blisters. Thankyou boys.



# Minister's Visit at ATAC



The Hon. Ms. Leeanne, The Minister for Communities and Housing, Digital Economy and the Arts visited ATAC and met the Board members and our community. The Minister being introduced and briefed about the ATAC journey by Emeritus Professor Rod Drew (Patron)



The Minister does the ground-breaking ceremony for our new multi-purpose shed to be constructed soon witnessed by all Board Directors and well-wishers. ATAC chair, Ms. Irene Bayldon provides the instructions from the middle of the socially distanced clan.



Po. Suresh Chandra and a director, Mr. Bhuwal Syna assisting in preparing the potted plant to be lowered for the Minister on a very wet ground



The Minister planting the first Bushfood plant (Finger lime) which is highly sought for its unique flavors



Hon. Ms. Leeanne Enoch plants a Davidsons plum in a park named after her on the day by the owners. Professor Rod Drew founding chair and patron looks on



Professor Sarojni Choy, a director of ATAC board watches the minister finishing the planting while a parent, Peta Souwer looks on from a distance

## 2021 School Terms

Term1	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January- Thursday 1 April	10 weeks
Term 2	Monday 19 April- Friday 25 June	10 Weeks
Term 3	Monday 12 July- Friday 17 September	10 Weeks
Term 4	Tuesday 5 October- Friday 10 December	10 Weeks

**ENROLMENT OPEN FOR 2021/2022**

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**ENROLMENTS START from 01/06/2021**