



# AGTECH Connections

The newsletter of the Australian Technology  
& Agricultural College (RTO #45556)  
'Connecting the College with the Community'  
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**Edition 60: August 2020**

**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.



Covid-19 is still a major concern due to increasing risk of community transmission, with new cases in Logan area. This has led to increasing testing and more concerns of border closures. As advised by the Department of Health, we must all follow the sanitisation protocols, social distancing rules and get tested if we have any signs or symptoms that could be like that of Covid-19. The collateral effects have been significant on the lives of many people and we need to prepare to get healthy food, do regular exercise and be active, follow the daily news to checkout hotspots, wear masks and seek medical assistance if needed. We are thankful to all visitors, parents and students who have assisted us in maintaining ATAC a safe environment.

There have been great progress on student projects, and on the academic front as we followed our curriculum plans and assessments. With the progress in academic requirements, potential work experience placements, casual jobs, and student engagement in constructive activities, it is becoming more fruitful as most students progress towards their chosen careers. Gardening is also a priority as spring starts. Students will be working in the nursery and planting vegetables. North Maclean Community Gardens (NMCG) people

have already started preparing the plot for planting with the help from our neighbor, Mr. Brian Howard who has kindly tilled the land and extended the water pipes to the gardens for irrigation system to allow regular watering and to save time for the members.

The ATAC Board acknowledges parental and local business support for the engagement of students and their work experience and jobs. Any little help from you means a lot to our students and we would encourage everyone to support our young people to build their careers. We would be purchasing some tools and machinery from Gambling Community Benefit Fund to support student projects and develop trade skills. Mental health grant from the Federal Member for Forde Hon. Bert Van Manen (MP) has provided professional support to the ATAC community. We value the ongoing support from Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ) in providing regular information and training.

## Gary Suthers

*English, Humanities and Agricultural Science Teacher*

It's almost end of term time and that means assessment time for everyone. For English year 10, we have been studying Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet, both the play and film. For History we have been looking at the Civil Rights movement in India, America, and the Aboriginal Rights movement in Australia. Maths has been all about earning money, pay sheets, commission, overtime and holiday pay. In Science, we have started to learn about the elements in the periodic table and their chemistry. For Health and Physical Education, building respectful relationships with others as

well as teenage sexuality and sessions on male health have been the focus. Agricultural Science projects are taking shape very quickly leading up to spring. The students have all been assigned to different projects and are researching and preparing to set up each one. The new chicken coop has fluffy yellow occupants already for the project on chickens. In the lizard tank the bearded dragon, Hazel and the Blue Tongue lizard, Marco are growing rapidly as the lizard group learn about native animals. Refurbishing pumps, finding pipes and fittings means that the large tank near the greenhouse will soon be full of water and fish to feed the aquaponics project. Very soon, Bee Hives will appear in the grounds to teach the students the value of these wonderful insects and their product. The garden beds are producing some harvest of lettuce, herbs, cucumbers, silver beet and the tomato plants will be fruiting soon, so do not forget to ask your young gardener to bring home some of their produce.

Reviewing the work that we have done and writing assignments will be the focus over the next few weeks leading up to the end of term assessments. Thank you to all parents and care givers who are providing continuing support for the students' learning journey.

### **Radhika Behal**

*Business Development Manager*

We have started our preparation for next year. For students who have not yet chosen an industry area, it is important that you arrange a meeting with me to ensure that you are enrolled in the correct course at TAFE. If you have not decided, we are here to help in an area that may interest you.

Thank you to all the parents/guardians supporting us to make a difference in their son/daughters' lives. Most of this term we have been monitoring student success at their work placement. Reviews from employers will be provided later this term. If anyone has any queries regarding fees, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **ALL ABOUT ATAC**

ATAC is a new not-for-profit senior college which provides individual support in small, air-conditioned classrooms allowing students to work at their own pace. Regular parental discussion & 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. Mental health support and behavior management training is provided to ATAC staff and students through a grant from the Federal Government via Hon Bert Van Manen, Local member for Forde. Gambling Community Benefit Grant has been approved to provide some tools and machinery to complement our diverse training and engagement at ATAC.

**Education is the  
passport to the Future,  
for tomorrow belong to  
those who prepare for it  
today.**

**Welcome to the Australian Technology &  
Agricultural College E- LEARNING store.  
(FROM ATAC WEBSITE)**

**All courses and resources are provided by ACS  
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**Well-Wishers supporting ATAC and our students.  
They can be contacted on their websites.**



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Chicken Coop, an exciting project which keeps most students busy during breaks. Project started on -26 August 2020. Students are waiting for licenses to increase the numbers including egg-laying birds.



North Maclean Community Leader Mr. Lal Fanai with Ca, who is leading the garden cultivation at our Campus. Thanks to Mr. Brian Howard for the tilling and the water supply to the gardens.



Jayden (L) and Jai (R) with three-day old chooks and learning their care and feeding. It is hard for them to keep away other students.



Jai Smith, Dylan Sutcliffe and Jayden Waller with their bearded dragon named Hazel and blue-tongue lizard called Marco. They are working towards finding their partners and separating them to two different tanks. Great way to learn about the welfare and conservation of Native animal species.



Riley (L), Nick, Lachlan with Jai (kneeling) setting up the chicken coop. Thankyou Gary for all your support.



Dylan Sutcliffe showing-off his bearded dragon, Hazel.

## **BOARD DIRECTOR**



### **Mr Bhuwal Syna**

Mr Bhuwal Syna (B. Ag. Sc in Horticulture), University of Queensland (1974) and Diploma in Tropical Agriculture, Fiji (1966) is a retired Agriculturist and Horticulturist from Fiji, who has been a board of director since 2015. He worked in Research and Management of Agriculture in Fiji and as a Horticulturist and Nursery Manager with Endeavour Foundation in Homehill, Cairns for ten years, and then in Brisbane for 8 years in Flower Industry with Highsun Express Plugs at Ormiston. He has volunteered to support various Not-for-Profit organisations for past 30 years as a Horticulturist and social worker. He retired in 2008. Bhuwal is married, has 3 children and 3 grandchildren. He loves to join local religious and social organizations and supports his local community.

### **Few more spaces to go!**

**Grab this opportunity for an early entry to the workforce today!**

**Enrolling Now for Term III 2020 and for 2021! Enjoy small classes, flexible learning, individual support, and hands on activities**

**Please share with Family & Friends! Contact us on 07 5547 8598 or visit: [www.atac.qld.edu.au](http://www.atac.qld.edu.au)**

**Enroll anytime and continue your Education and Training at ATAC for quick job opportunities**

# OPEN DAY

## DATE | TIME

16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 (WEDNESDAY)  
10.00AM UNTIL 4.00PM



## AUSTRALIAN TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

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- Visit College, meet the Principal and Staff
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- Expression of interest form completed
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*For further information please contact the College  
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