



# AGTECH Connections

The newsletter of the Australian Technology  
& Agricultural College (RTO #45556)

*'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.

**Edition 65: February 2021**

## College Founder/CEO

*Dr Narendra Nand*

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



What a wonderful feeling that the border restrictions have been lifted, vaccines rolled out as the Covid-19 trauma seems to be waning and Covid-19 sanitization processes continue to be followed in all public places. We are all feeling safe and we want to make others feel safe as other infections are also collaterally controlled.

As we are now in the middle of the first term. Most students have started working on their projects and their academic plans. ATAC has upgraded the internet connectivity and computers to assist students in their learning. All parents/guardians have been contacted for meetings to discuss the progress of their child. We have had several discussions in the last two weeks so that we can get early feedback. We are very thankful to parents who feel happy that their child feels engaged and loves to come to ATAC. We are emphasizing on the "Code of Expectations of Behavior" and self-discipline for getting the students job ready.

The growing interest in the Accelerated Careers Excellence Program (ACEP) enables students to complete most of their academic subjects by the mid of year 12 is attractive to some students.

Students can start the apprenticeship program early if they have successfully completed the internal assessments. We are preparing them to

do apprenticeship for two to three days per week in the final year. Our simple and comprehensive

program is very suitable for those wanting to start a career early with the opportunity to pursue higher education and training in the future. Students will start their new Certificate II in FSK very soon. Certificate II Business will be started after the completion of FSK in term III. ATAC will continue to deliver Certificate II courses in Business and FSK and Diploma in Business and Diploma in Leadership Management to complement the education and training of our community.

North Maclean Community Garden (NMCG) members have made more harvests of chilies which had been hampered by rain. ATAC supports our local community members to join in some projects and build them for small incomes. We have bought some bushfoods trees to provide flowers to supply nectar for our native bees and students are planning to put them in the ground. Construction of our new shed is slightly delayed due to Certification processes; however, some hands-on activities are continuing to support practical training in agricultural and technological projects. The ATAC Board greatly appreciates the effort and support of all parents and business communities supporting our students.

## Gary Suthers

*English, Humanities and Agricultural Science Teacher*

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your child at ATAC.

We are halfway through term one and some subject assessments have been given out. For year Ten English, students have to choose and analyse lyrics of a song or poem and present their assignment in week nine. Year eleven students have been looking at the world of work and have to prepare a job folio consisting of a cover letter, a blanket letter and a resume. For year ten Maths, back to basics for term one with mental maths, money, fractions, and percentages. The year elevens have been looking at collecting data, constructing graphs and charts. For Agricultural science, the chickens are now producing a number of eggs per day, the greenhouse is being finished off to house our seedlings and some large plants have to be strategically planted to provide the bees with blossoms. Thank you to all students for assisting with the BBQ breakfast last Thursday, lots of buns buttered, onions chopped, mushrooms sliced, and bacon sizzled. Along with our very own ATAC eggs!

## 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 to 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.

## Aquaponics Project



Nick introduces his proud dad, Daniel Springall to inspect his new aquaponics project



Dr. Nand, Nick and Daniel Springall discussing the finer details for the plans to develop the project to next level. Mr Murray Hallum, principal of Practical Aquaponics, North Maclean provided some tips and materials to Nick to show his support to our students. He congratulated Nick for his efforts and hard work

## **Breakfast on 25.02.2021**



Kiara King, Cameron and Jayden following preparation instructions from Mr. Gary Suthers



The Breakfast Menu – Grilled sausages, hash brown, mushrooms, tomatoes and onions



Students with divided responsibilities are enjoying their roles in the preparations



(L-R) Lyla (Brock's grandma), looks on while Caleb and Nayte chopped onions and mushrooms.



Welcome Faith (far left), Nick, Nayte and Kiara helping on the BBQ grill.



Kiara and Faith preparing the sandwiches

**2021 School Terms Date**

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

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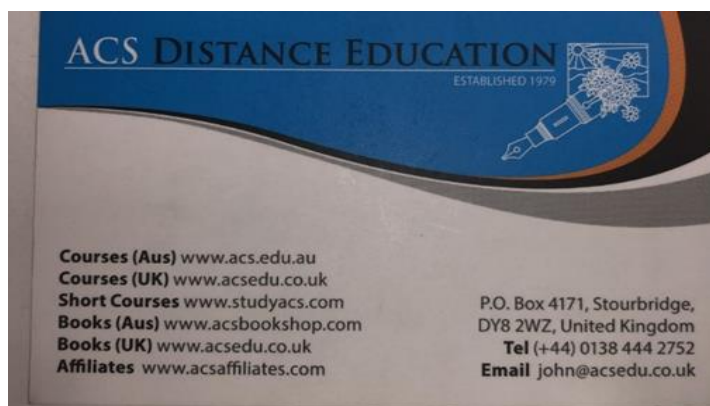
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**Welcome to the Australian Technology &  
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(FROM ATAC WEBSITE)**

All courses and resources are provided by ACS Distance Education (<https://www.acs.edu.au>) click on [howtheywork.aspx](#) to study short courses online.

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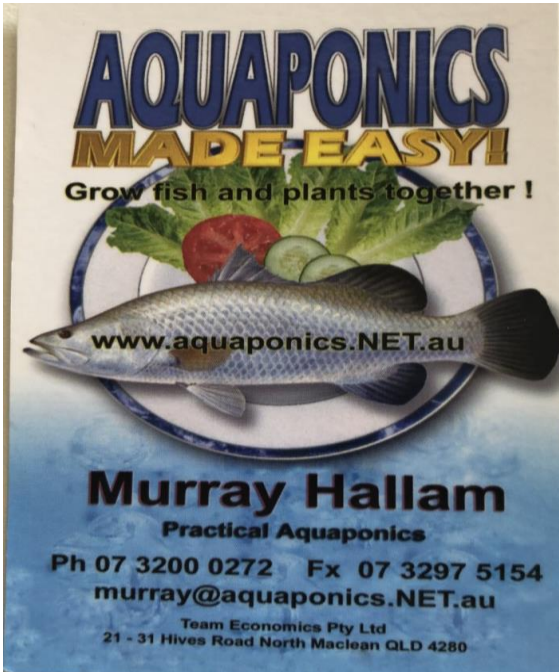


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**Success story of an ex- student of ATAC**



***Heath Duck had joined ATAC briefly in 2018 and gave a surprise visit on Friday 19 February 2021 and shared his experience with Dr. Nand and the class. "I was very lucky that this school provided me the opportunity when no other school took me at a time when I was completely lost in life, he said. "Boys just put your head down and get serious to do your work. I was still lost for a while found a job. This college has changed my life. Now I have a good job and I thank ATAC to have supported me when I needed it most."***

**ATAC Board Meeting 2021**



***Australian Technology & Agricultural College Board of Directors (2020-2021)  
Standing (L-R) Mr. Craig Butler,  
Prof. Sarojni Choy &  
Mr. Ganeshan Rao  
Seated: Dr. Narendra Nand &  
Ms. Irene Bayldon (Chair),  
(Absent Mr. Bhuwal Syna) at ATAC  
Board meeting on 6th February  
2021.***