

AGTECH Connections

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

'Connecting the College with the Community'

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Edition 59: July 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.](#)



Thank you to the parents, students and the ATAC community for following the codes for safety from COVID. Our strong border controls and alertness enabled us to enjoy more freedom than people in NSW and Victoria. However, a reported case at our neighboring Parklands Christian College on 28 July has raised serious concerns for the whole Logan Community. Our hearts go to all staff and students at Parklands Christian College or to any individual who may have been in contact. We have closely monitored the development and advised ATAC students and parents to take all necessary steps to prevent any community transmission. Parents have been contacted and emailed so that we can protect ourselves and others. Please follow the news and the advice of the Departments of Education and Health. It is highly recommended that all parents/guardians or students of ATAC who have been in contact with people from Parklands Christian College be tested at their Sports Complex or at any other testing facility and wait for results.

Health Department advises to self-isolate for 14 days if you have been at Parklands College in the week. Social distancing and sanitization protocols at ATAC have been increased. We have improved seating arrangements and ventilation for further protection at ATAC. We follow the Covid-19 updated Operating Guidelines for Queensland State Schools (Effective 19 June 2020 version) supplied to us by ISQ. For extra precaution, you can wear masks.

Semester I Reports are ready, however, parent meetings for 30 July have been cancelled and reports will be sent to parents for discussions at a later date. We are glad all our students from semester 1 have completed their assessments without adjustments.

Year 10 students are now attending TAFE for their trade taster programs. Four students are likely to start work experience very soon. TAFE staff, Aileen Martyn and Melisa Eastaughffe visited ATAC and spoke to all students to explain the TAFE pathway process. Upon successful completion all students will receive Cert II in the trade they are studying. They will also complete their QCE and Certificate II in Business and FSK.

I am very thankful to the parents who are working closely with us to assist in the engagement and the development of workplace ethics such as punctuality, positive attitude, following instructions and respecting others. Students have been updating their resumes as they develop new skillsets through projects and work experience. ATAC is very thankful to Gavin and Bev of North Maclean Produce for offering Dylan a job

experience and potentially some weekend work. Congratulations Dylan.

Term III began on 13 July 2020 with two new enrollments. We are now enrolling for 2021. Our enrolment is open at any time and we can provide Cert II Business to anyone of any age. ATAC is now a Registered Training Organisation (RTO #45556).

Gary Suthers

English, Humanities and Agricultural Science Teacher

Term three began with a couple of new students who will need to do some extra assessment tasks. English poetry for the Year 10 students had continued from poems to song lyrics. This term we have started with Shakespeare's Tragic Hero. In History, Science, Mathematics and HPE assessments and reporting have been completed. Thank you to all students who have followed my instructions and worked hard. Progress in the students' garden beds is evident, with pictures in this edition. We have started harvesting from some mature plants. Cooking for our Life Skills lessons using our organic fresh produce will soon begin. Along with fresh vegies we have natural insect repellents such as marigold, mint, herbs and chilli. Some Asian and Pacific Island root crops have also been planted to increase the diversity in the production in each garden. Weeding and watering is ongoing when weather permits. The focus this term will be on some student projects such as Blue tongue lizard, chicken coop, micro irrigation, propagation, and nursery work. Thank you to all parents and care givers who are providing continuing support for their students' learning journey and participating in agricultural and social functions with them.

Radhika Behal

Business Development Manager

Protect yourself and others around you by knowing the facts and taking appropriate precautions. Follow the advice provided by your local health authority.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Clean your hands often. Use soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Maintain a safe distance from anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Wear a mask when physical distancing is not possible.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Stay home if you feel unwell.
- If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention.
- Calling in advance allows your healthcare provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This protects you and prevents the spread of viruses and other infections.

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 training at ATAC.

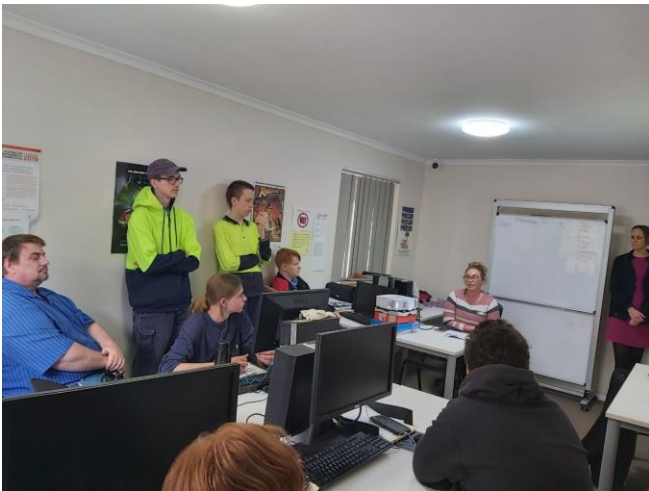
Experiences in VET Training at ATAC



TAFE AT SCHOOL



Jayden, Jai and Kirk wondering what Nick is doing on an old car



Students listening to trade pathways presented by Aileen Marty and Melissa Eastaughffe from Acacia Ridge TAFE



Nick Springall trying to work on the engine of a Holden Commodore. He is very keen to build it back and make some money if he can sell it.



Keen students thinking of their future enrolment At TAFE



Organically grown vegetables by students is nearly ready for harvest to be used in Life Skills lessons.

Marnie Parker (ISQ), Educational Services Officer, Vocational Education and Training Visits ATAC and Practical Aquaponics



Marnie Paker (L), VET Officer at ISQ with Gail Hallum of Practical Aquaponics



Marnie Parker is shown some native fish in the tanks



Aquaponic rewards ready for harvest by Gail



Lettuce grown in vertical set up as a space saver



Different varieties of Tomatoes available all year around



Three different varieties of lettuce provide a colorful look

**Welcome to the Australian Technology &
Agricultural College E- LEARNING store.
(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.**

The short courses include:

**Business
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Medicinal Herbs
Plant Taxonomy
Farming & Gardening
Project management
Indoor & Outdoor Plantings
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**Well-Wishers supporting ATAC and our students.
They can be contacted on their websites.**



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Welcome to the new BOARD DIRECTOR



Mr Craig Butler

Craig has owned and operated a Brisbane based high risk Registered Training Organisation since 2008. His RTO delivers a variety of programs and course for all. He has also owned and operated a successful logistics labour hire company from 2004 to 2008. Craig has held positions such as Operations Manager, Team Leader on the Waterfront, Insurance Investigator, and a very rewarding and exciting role as an investigator and surveillance operations in Drug and Crime units of NSW Police.

Craig has two grown up daughters, plays golf and lives on the Gold Coast. He loves to serve charity organisations. We welcome Craig to the ATAC community and look forward to working with him.



Congratulation Dylan Sutcliffe. You have secured a work experience with Gavin and Bev at North Maclean Produce. Thanks to Gavin and Bev for offering Dylan some future weekend jobs. Great partnership and support to young people and to your business.



Dr. Nand receiving some Bunya Nut Wood (Native species) for lizard tank