



# AGTECH Connections

The newsletter of the Australian Technology  
& Agricultural College (RTO #45556)  
'Connecting the College with the Community'  
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**Edition 58: June 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



Queenslanders are feeling relieved with the removal of some restrictions due to Covid-19 and we hope to enjoy more freedom in a few weeks. We must congratulate all those who have ensured strict protocols at all levels and protected each other. At ATAC we have closely monitored and followed the instructions provided to us by the Departments of Education and Health, and Independent Schools Queensland. Some basic hygiene and social distancing protocols are becoming a new norm and may remain to prevent other infectious diseases and to protect our community. Regularly washing hands with soap and warm water and using tissues when coughing and sneezing and disposing into closed bins asap is vital as a primary precaution.

Semester I Curriculum and assessment for all our students were completed without any adjustments since students have been completing tasks for their assessments as prescribed despite Covid-19 restrictions. Most students have been working in the class time to complete the necessary work as assigned. I am glad that Year 10 students are now enrolled in

TAFE at Acacia Ridge for their trade taster program to start in term III. All communication from TAFE will be sent directly to the parents and I have invited TAFE staff to visit ATAC in July to talk to our students and answer any questions they may have.

The key to success is for parents/guardians and teachers to work closely together for the child's progress and full engagement to complete academic work. Every student must follow the "code of behavior" at all times and use appropriate language and respect so that they can develop the personal qualities required in the workplace. Students have been working on their resumes for potential work experience and training opportunities. We are working with students and explaining to them about the personal qualities, attitudes and qualifications needed to secure interviews and work experience. We place particular emphasis on developing personal qualities and well-presented resumes.

Good nutrition helps students concentrate in class work. ATAC has supplied simple meals and also taught students to prepare meals either at home or at ATAC. They can store their supplies in the fridge and freezer at the College.

Students have undertaken garden projects as part of *Agricultural Science*. This engages them more actively outdoors. ATAC supports students who take initiative in projects of their own interest. Parents/guardians with knowledge and skills are most welcome to join us to support our students. Several parents have agreed to establish a "Parents' Shed" to work with the students,

community garden members and ATAC staff to assist in building skill-based learning such as use of personal protective equipment and use of basic tools and small machinery. We welcome volunteer trainers with skills who could assist our young people.

Term III begins on Monday 13 July 2020 and we look forward to some new enrolments. ATAC is now enrolling for Semester II 2020 and for 2021. The office will be open in the holidays.

### **Gary Suthers**

*English, Humanities and Agricultural Science Teacher*

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

It's time to celebrate the end of term, lots of learning has been completed over the last four weeks. English poetry for the year ten students has continued from poems to song lyrics and their assessment has focused on analysing a song. History, Science and Mathematics examinations have been completed and the Health and Physical Education assignments have been completed. All students have been encouraged to finish their assessments on time for the end of semester one so that report cards can be written and sent out at the start of term three. Thank you to all students for working very hard and putting extra efforts into their assessments. If you were able to come to the Wednesday afternoon BBQ lunch or the Saturday agricultural workshop, you would have been able to see for yourself the progress in the students' garden beds as the plants mature almost to harvest time. Soon the fresh produce will be coming home or to be used at school in some cooking sessions. We are also using plants as natural insect repellents, Marigold, Mint and Chilli as companion plants growing along with the vegetables. With each student tending to their own growing beds it has been a welcome addition to the usual school sessions. I wish you all a safe and restful break, ready for returning to "normal" school next term! Thank you to all parents and care givers who are providing continuing support for the students' learning journey.

### **Radhika Behal**

*Business Development Manager*

Thank you to all the parents/guardians supporting us to make a difference in their child's lives. Throughout this term we have been monitoring student progress in the classroom. If anyone has any queries regarding fees, please do not hesitate to contact me or Wanshika Rai.

#### ***Top five skills you can master, to prepare you for a career.***

- Adaptability/Flexibility.
- Market Yourself (to the hidden job market).
- Experience and industry knowledge.
- Communication (written and oral).
- Teamwork and collaboration to solve problems.

#### **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.

Garden Project



Left-Seedlings for the gardens.



Dylan watering the North Maclean Community gardens.

Students BBQ



Left- Diesel and Nick helping Gary. Students learning some life-skills in cooking session.

### Parents BBQ lunch



(L) Parents: Kerry, Anthony and Daniel patiently waiting for their sausages. (R) Lachlan with dad Mark Hollenberg making decisions to pick their lunch while Riley looks on.

### Horticultural Breakfast with ZAK IQBAL



Horticultural Breakfast on a Saturday morning with the courtesy of Zak Iqbal (Horticulturist) from Fernlands Nusery. Members from Woodstock in Mount Tamborine, Board members, North Maclean Community Garden members, parents and students interacted before the horticultural activity. Gary was busy, as usual, preparing the breakfast. Thanks everybody for the hive of activity and your time. Thanks, Gary, for all the hard work.

### Students Lunch



Dylan, Nick and Jayden helping themselves on BBQ lunch day.

### Woodstock Visit



Paul Kah-Nutt, Daniela Smith and Douglas Mackenzie (bottom left) at the riverbank at Youth Plus, Woodstock with friendly goats at the property. Dr Nand visited the property and explored opportunities after seeing some synergy between ATAC and Woodstock in supporting youth the engagement, education and training in agricultural and technological sectors. (Top left: Dr. Nand with Daniella and Doug).

**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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on [howtheywork.aspx](#) to study short courses  
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**The short courses include:**

**Business  
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**Well-Wishers supporting ATAC and our students.  
They can be contacted on their websites.**

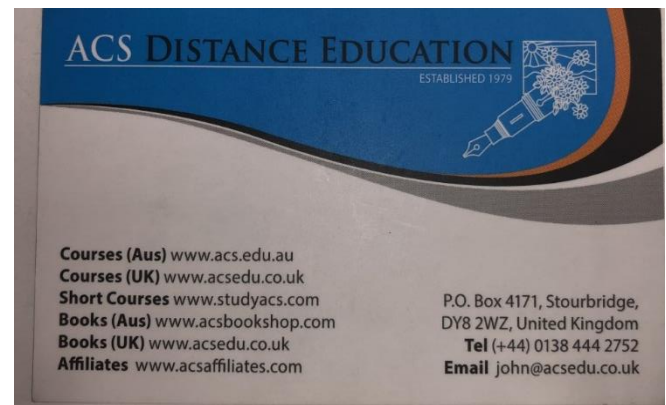


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## Agricultural & Technology Pictures- Grow your own, eat your own and live healthy.



Student gardens prepared. Soon the vegies will be ready for use or sale.



Dragon fruit and succulents showing new growth. Have patience boys. They will grow slowly



Students and staff enjoying BBQ lunch



No BBQ without Gary. Thankyou all for your effort.



### Quick meals for students

Vegetable Pizza in 8 minutes - Recipe: Pizza bases from supermarket and chopped local fresh vegetables. Spread your favorite sauce and fresh vegetables and mushrooms with salt and pepper to taste. Heat in Microwave for 7-8 minutes. (Try with pieces of cooked meat of your choice).



Dylan and Nick love working on cars



## **BOARD OF DIRECTOR**



### **Mr Ganeshan Rao**

*Senior Fellow Higher Education Academy*

*Manager, Learning and Teaching Design, Griffith Health. Logan Campus. Griffith University.*

Email: [g.rao@griffith.edu.au](mailto:g.rao@griffith.edu.au)

### **Board of Directors elected at AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**Chairman: Dr Ian Cock**

**Deputy Chairperson: Ms Irene Bayldon**

**Directors:**

**Prof. Sarojni Choy**

**Mr Craig Butler**

**Mr Bhuwal Syna**

**Mr Ganeshan Rao**

**Dr Narendra Nand**

**Board Patron: Professor**

**Roderick Drew**

**Board Secretary: Mrs Wanshika Rai**

**Few more spaces to go!**

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Enrolling Now for Term III 2020 and for 2021!

Enjoy small classes, flexible learning, individual support and hands on activities

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