



# AGTECH Connections

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

*'Connecting the College with the Community'*

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**Edition 55: March 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 all our readers. We trust you all are keeping safe and well in the current circumstances.

We are giving high priority to the welfare of our students and staff at ATAC. We are doing our best in keeping safe from COVID-19. As the news unfolded, we held thorough discussions with all students and staff and immediately put in plans to protect ourselves as well as others. Parents and the Board members have been regularly updated on the circulars from the Department and Independent Schools Queensland. Now that most of our assessments are complete and the schools become pupil free days in the last week of the term, we hope self-isolation for students will become more practical. We are passing through a serious situation. Let us all be mindful and do the right thing to stop the spread of the virus. Keep safe and keep well. Please do not hesitate to contact the College staff for an update on study related matters.

ATAC is now a Registered Training Organisation (RTO No. 45556) and offers its own Certificate II Business and Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways (FSK). We plan to introduce a few more new courses to provide additional onsite training soon.

Career pathways to complete QCE, Certificate II in Business and Certificate II in FSK and a trade certificate are offered to year 10, 11 & 12 students so that they can follow their dreams into TAFE or University. As a not-for-profit senior college, the learning environment is made friendly for young people to engage in academic pathways to meet QCAA requirements. We have great parental support, and this enables students to participate in learning experiences and training and achieve their personal goals.

Students at ATAC work at their own pace in a relaxed atmosphere and learn to become more independent, responsible and respectful. We nurture and support the development of personal attributes as students prepare to join the workforce. The College gives attention to students' mental health wellbeing. A cheque for \$15000 for mental health support and behavior management was recently received from Hon. Bert Van Manen MP, Chief Government Whip and Federal Member for Forde.

### ***North Maclean Community Garden (NMCG)***

North Maclean Community Garden members have been working in the vegetable gardens. Mr Lal Fanai and his team had their first harvest of mini eggplants this week. Students are also working on their garden projects. The plots are ready for transplanting and it will be done as soon as the seedlings are ready. ATAC welcomes parents and volunteers to join the community programs at the college to grow healthy, eat healthy and live healthy

## Gary Suthers

*English, Humanities and Agricultural Science Teacher*

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your child at ATAC. The end of the term has come early and assessments for most subjects have been completed. Caleb in year 12 has sat his QCAA assessments for Maths and English a week early. Thank you to Caleb and to all the students who worked hard and completed their assignments and examinations a week early! The Year 11 and 12 students are working their way through the two certificate courses online. More subjects will be released to them by the business subject coordinator Rahdika Behal. The last week of term will be a pupil free week. Students need to study at home for which they need access to a computer, their Microsoft office account for email, and a web browser. If students need assistance in accessing their Microsoft office account, please call the College. There is still some student work that needs to be completed and new subject content to cover over the next week. I will be contacting students by email and sending them curriculum content to work online. If the college continues to work this way due to restrictions next term, students will have had experience learning in this mode.

Thank you for supporting your child throughout this change and into the future, whatever that may bring. Dr. Nand and I have shown students some simple activities to keep them active and busy over the holidays. We have also suggested several hobbies or projects to keep them occupied. I will be looking after the seedlings and young plants that the students have potted and will update the keen horticulturists with pictures. Yes, I promise to water them.

## Radhika Behal

*Business Development Manager*

Small businesses are undergoing close downs and severe challenges due to Covid 19. I wish all the staff are supported by the government and we do

all our best to protect each one from any risk of infection.



## [An ex-student's experience at ATAC:](#)



***Chantalle Krause joined ATAC in 2017 and graduated in year 2018 with Cert II Business and in Childcare. She is currently working in childcare industry and is doing Cert III. She spoke at the graduation ceremony last year and acknowledged the great support provided at this college to other students. She feels that she had matured well and treated with empathy and dignity that made her to succeed. She is extremely proud of ATAC.***



**ATAC students Nick, Riley and Jayden digging the gardens.**



**Gary Suthers with Riley and Jayden.**



**Caleb and Josh prepare their compost bin donated by Logan City Council to support organic farming and sustainability.**



**North Maclean Community Gardens and leader Mr Lal Fanai with his first harvest of mini eggplants. Mr Fanai generously shares his first harvest with Gary Suthers and Dr Nand as a cultural appreciation for the free use of land and water provided by ATAC.**



(L-R) Craig Buttler (One Stop), Gary Suthers (ATAC), Craig Reid (AIA), Sonya Jones (Parent) and Scott Bannan (LCC Candidate, now councilor for North Maclean).



Hon. Bert Van Manen hands over \$15000.00 Local Community Grant cheque to Dr Narendra Nand.



Paul Jackson, Lal Fanai and Suresh Chandra with Huong from LNP Beenleigh office share a light moment.



Guests seated with ATAC students.



Prof. Rod Drew, MP Bert Van Manen, Tamsyn Rose, Nick, Gary Suthers, Irene Bayldon and Dr Nand (L-R).



Hon. Bert Van Manen supports the LCC approved development plans for VET, Agricultural and Trade training at ATAC.



**Dr Nand welcomes Hon Bert Van Manen (MP) and Emeritus Professor Rod Drew (ATAC patron) at the presentation of Local Community Grant \$15000.00 cheque by Federal government to support mental health program.**



**Emeritus Professor Rod Drew ATAC Patron and founding chairman briefs on the history of ATAC since its inception in 2015.**



**Hon Bert Van Manen (MP-LNP) Chief Government Whip and Federal Member for Forde addresses students, parents and guests.**



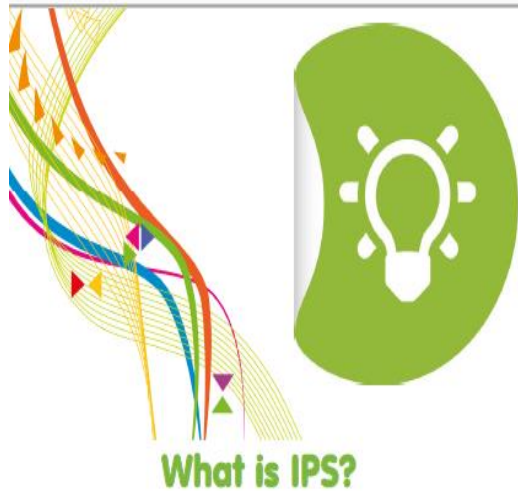
**A casual chat after the presentation.**



**Hon Bert Van Manen (MP-LNP) with Tamsyn Rosenberg (Get Real- ALIVE Program).**



**Parents, business partners and news reporters with ATAC students listening to the presentation.**



### What is IPS?

A community mental health program that:

- Provides early intervention through community based initiatives
- Assists young people with or recovering from mental illnesses & their families
- Develops individual capabilities and increases wellbeing
- Encourages and links young people into participation in community and economic life
- Assists individuals in identifying educational & employment goals
- Assists young people to achieve their goals
- Develops individualised career pathways

### Who we work with?

- Young people accessing services at headspace Meadowbrook
- Young people aged 12- 25 managing or recovering from a mental illness
- Young people with employment & education or training goals
- Enthusiastic participants interested in the IPS program
- Young people can be connected with employment services provider and still receive IPS support



### What we offer?

- Individualised placement support
- Vocational services to young people with a mental illness
- Networking & employer engagement opportunities
- Training & education pathways & support
- Social Inclusion activities
- Work preparation activities

### What young people can expect

Respect, Integrity & Professionalism

Culturally Appropriate Services

Collaboration & decision making

Services tailored to individual needs

Flexible & informed practice

Open communication



### Contact headspace

**There is no wrong way to contact us!**

**headspace Meadowbrook**

**260 Loganlea Road, Meadowbrook QLD 4131**

**(There is plenty of parking just off Logandowns Drive)**

**Phone 07 3804 4200 Email [headspace.meadowbrook@aftercare.com.au](mailto:headspace.meadowbrook@aftercare.com.au)**



**Fersus Reid (L) and Sineaa Kemp (R) from Logan City Council doing a presentation on REDUCING WASTE via a CIRCULAR ECONOMY at ATAC.**



### **Director of ATAC Board**



**Prof. Sarojni Choy (PhD)  
Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA)  
School of Education and Professional Studies  
Program Director: Singapore Off-Shore Master of Training and Development Program; Master of Learning and Professional Development  
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(FROM ATAC  
WEBSITE)**

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



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