



AGTECH Connections

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

'Connecting the College with the Community'

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Edition 62: October 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.](#)



Following the re-election of the previous government with strong border policies, and with gradual relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions for Queenslanders ATAC will continue to follow all the sanitization and contact tracing protocols which has become a norm for all public venues. Thank you for taking the necessary precautions to keeping everyone safe.

As we progress into the midterm IV, there is enormous pressure on the students and staff to ensure that all assessments are successfully completed on time. Students enjoyed a cooking session with ISQ Vet Officer, Ms. Marnie Parker on 26 October 2020 at ATAC. The session was very interesting with all groups completing their activities in pairs and then enjoying the meals with Australian Native flavors, such as kangaroo mince for burgers, wattle seed, macadamia nuts and warrigal greens. The Aussie flavors are catching up with the young people and ATAC has embedded the use of highly nutritious Native species flavors in our student projects. Native species of plants are grown in the gardens and the nursery. Animal species are included for agricultural lessons which are now underway. The native lizard and aquaponics projects to introduce native fish species keep some students busy most of the time. Aquaponics students will be able to complete their plumbing and research on most suitable species before they apply for the license to introduce the native fish later in the year.

All students have been doing their best in completing tasks as soon as possible to reduce the year-end pressure. Some students attend TAFE, and /or do work experience including some casual employment as they continue to progress with their academic work. Students are at the college 3-5 days per week and build their QCE points with Certificate II courses at ATAC or at TAFE. This unique pathway reduces the academic pressure and helps students to build their personal qualities, attitudes, social competence and commitment for work to maintain focus in growing a lifelong career. Our plan for next year is to involve students in agricultural trades and Certificate level courses to enable them to complete Year 12 (QCE) with minimum of three certificates, including a TAFE trade. They can join apprenticeship or workforce while they complete any remaining academic tasks. This way they will enter workforce earlier than through normal schooling pathway to grow their skills and careers. Our QCAA subjects will continue to be offered as per their study plan to ensure that every student graduate on time and secures an apprenticeship. Our simple but comprehensive program is very suitable for those who find formal schooling difficult and would like to start a career early with opportunity to pursue higher education in the future if they wish to do so.

Good rain has provided great relief to the North Maclean Community Garden members who have now planted their crops. The Board and staff greatly appreciate the effort of the growers, Ms. Ca and Mr. Lal Fanai for their perseverance and working tirelessly to combat the dry weather and the storms. As usual Mr. Brian Howard, our neighbor helped with his machinery to set up the aquaponics tank for the second time. Thank you,

Brian. All your efforts will enable us to set up projects that will allow engagement of students in hands-on activities and make schooling more interesting for them.

Gary Suthers

English, Humanities and Agricultural Science Teacher

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

Four weeks into the last term and all ATAC students are progressing well. Starting off with Maths - Year 10 students are learning about time, how to read travel timetables and are revisiting metric measurements. For English, we are looking at political satire, political cartoons and the elements of comedy that make films and T.V. shows such as The Simpsons, The Ex-Presidents, Kath and Kim, Spitting Image and The Windsors so enjoyable and interesting to watch. The rise and awareness of Popular Culture in Australia since WW11, is the topic that we are learning about in history. Your child may very well ask you about, the Walkman, Ghetto Blasters, Space Invaders, The Berlin Wall, The Death of Princess Dianna or about your Perm or Mullet hairstyle, so be ready!

We have many ripening tomatoes on our vines, so encourage your young gardener to bring some home. The aquaponics project has surged ahead, mainly due to the drive and enthusiasm of Nick Springall and his project group, the support of Dr. Nand and Mr. Brian Howard. The infrastructure is almost complete, and the grow beds and the large water tank are ready for testing and filling with water. After testing, the next step is the introduction of the fish into the large tank and plants in the grow beds. School life is almost over for Caleb Sutcliffe, as he finishes his assessments to gain his Senior Certificate, his trade qualification and his Certificate in Business and Work Skills. Congratulations Caleb, on working so hard to achieve your awards. Thank you to all parents and care givers who are providing continuing support for their child's 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.

Aquaponics Project at ATC



Nick Springall the leader of the Aquaponics project setting up the piping system



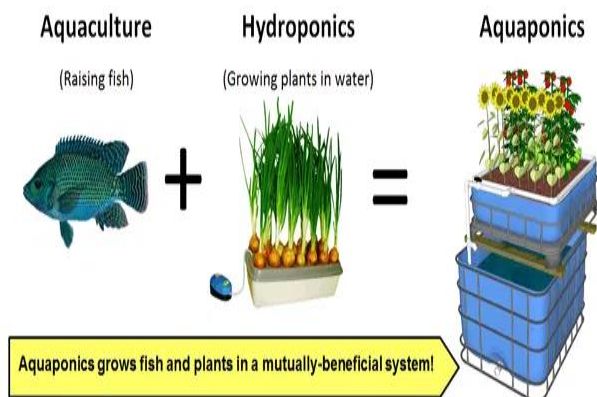
Caleb Sutcliffe (Cert II qualified plumber) assisting Nick with Plumbing



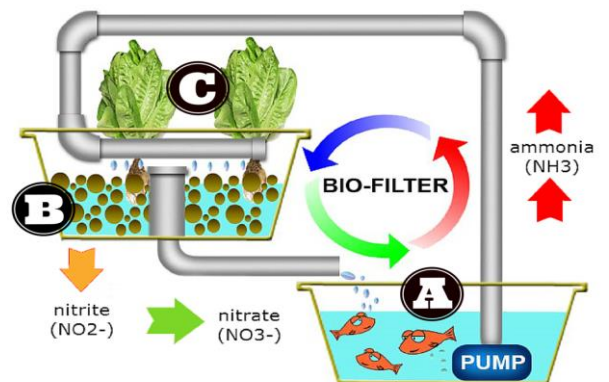
Nick planning to fill up grow beds



Commercial aquaponics – an efficient cropping system



Principles of Aquaponics



Aquaponics water recycling system

Cooking Session with Marnie Parker (ISQ)



Cameron Slater (R), Marnie Parker and Joshua Behan (L) received prizes for engagement



Riley and Lachlan had taken keen interest in the session.



Marnie Parker explaining the procedure to Coen and to Cameron who won a prize for his effort.



Joshua Behan fills the tray with salads he prepared. He won a prize for his engagement on his first day in year 10 at ATAC.



Marnie Parker demonstrating the Cooking session while Cameron prepares the roo patties for frying



Kangaroo cuisine fried for burgers



Riley and Coen seriously busy with the final preparations as time is running out



Lachlan fully engaged in cooking session



Riley Jones busy with Lachlan



Nick and Diesel preparing kangaroo patties & fritters



Yummy Lunch "Roo Burgers" ready for good takeaway lunch




Mr. Gary Suthers and Ms. Marnie Parker enjoy the lunch with Coen and Cameron

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
Hospitality
Horticulture
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Indoor & Outdoor Plantings
Backyard Nursery
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**Well-Wishers supporting ATAC and our students.
They can be contacted on their websites.**

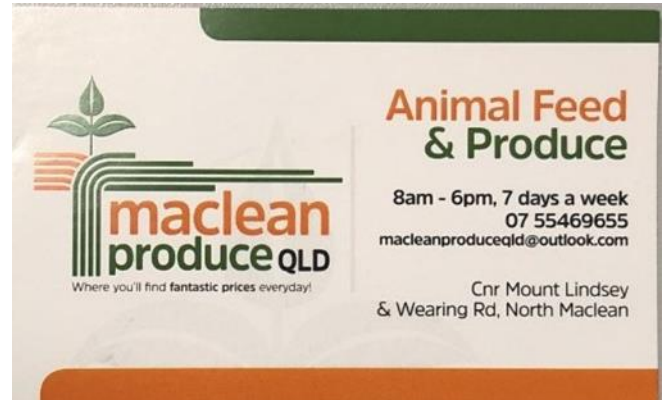


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Parent Message:

My husband & I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of ATAC for the unwavering support they have given my eldest son, Caleb Sutcliffe since the day he started there as a student.

Caleb came from a local high school where he was bullied, and was not helped enough in his academic journey. When he started at ATAC, Caleb was suffering from anxiety and anger issues and hated school. Because of his previous experience, the idea of Caleb going to school was not an enjoyable task and his anxiety would peak every time he set foot on school grounds.

After talking to Dr Nand and deciding that ATAC would be a good fit for Caleb, we changed school's mid-way through 2018. To say the first couple of months was stressful for all is an understatement, but Dr Nand and the staff at ATAC never faulted in their care not only for Caleb's academic future but also for his mental wellbeing. Caleb was given a space outside to escape to if being in the classroom became too much, where he could take his studies with him and learn outside. There were boundaries and rules, but he was given the choice and the responsibility to learn the best way for him.

ATAC caters to the child, their parents and to the students' individual needs. This is what makes this school so great for the kids out there that are not meant for mainstream learning. Do not get me wrong, they will still push your child to do the best that they are capable of, but their approach is purely unique.

Learning at ATAC is not just reading from a book. Getting outside and learning about your environment, where what you learn in the classroom can be used to help build a sustainable future for the next generation. That is why if you visit ATAC you will see vegetable patches, a chicken run, aquaponics and other projects, where everything that has been learnt is put into practice. ATAC also believes in getting your child ready for what happens after school finishes, this

includes TAFE and life skill lessons. With this approach to learning we did not hesitate to send our youngest son, Dylan, to ATAC once he was ready for year 10.

Caleb is finishing year 12 this year with a Certificate II in Plumbing as well as his Senior high school certificate (QCE). He no longer hates school; his confidence and self-worth are telling of the support he got at ATAC. Caleb is not just another year 12 student, he has grown into a young man who knows that he has found another support network in the staff at ATAC who are willing to listen and help him succeed in what he may choose for his future.

Thank you

Allison & Barry Sutcliffe



Caleb Sutcliffe with his lovely mum (Allison Sutcliffe) and a frequent visitor to ATAC