



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.

College Founder/CEO

Dr Narendra Nand

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



With the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions and borders opening to most suburbs and states. Congratulations to all those who took every precaution to protect each other and other Queenslanders thus enabling us to enjoy slightly more freedom. ATAC will continue to follow all the sanitization and contact tracing protocols as advised by Queensland Health and Independent Schools Queensland.

Welcome to Term IV 2020 starting on 6th October. Students enjoyed a BBQ lunch in the last week of term III with Mr Gary Suthers while he continued to do the marking for term III assessments. Student garden, lizard and chicken projects are well in progress. The aquaponics project was delayed due to bigger second planning and moving the tank positions. Thanks to our neighbor, Mr. Brian Howard who has dug the pit and prepared the new tank site. Now the students will be able to complete their plumbing and research on species most suitable for their projects.

In term IV, all students will be completing tasks as soon as possible to reduce the year end pressure and find time to attend TAFE, do work experience and find casual employment. Emphasis is placed on student commitment to maintain focus and

achieve timely completion. Employers select the best candidate, and they would like to see good resumes and recommendations. Our plans for next year will increase student numbers in agricultural trades and Certificate level courses to enable them to complete Year 12 (QCE) with the minimum of three certificates, including a TAFE trade. This increases their chances for apprenticeships and jobs. Our QCAA subjects will continue to be offered as per their study plan to ensure that every student graduates on time and achieves an apprenticeship.

The North Maclean Community Garden members have been active and done a lot of work in trying to set up their gardens which is highly productive and profitable. Their hard work is admirable and worth acknowledging. Thanks to the Leader, Mr Lal Fanai and Ca who have been working tirelessly on the gardens and irrigation system to combat the dry weather.

Gary Suthers

English, Humanities and Agricultural Science Teacher

Welcome back to the new term. Spring has arrived with our garden beds ready to be weeded, dug over and some new plants for a summer crop. The student projects are growing and taking shape. The chickens and lizards are thriving and will soon be ready for relocation to bigger living quarters. The equipment for the aquaponics is coming together with the tank, containers, pumps and pipes being laid out near the greenhouse. For English year 10, we will be studying comedy and satire and why we laugh at cartoons. For History we will look at entertainment and popular culture

over the last sixty years and for Maths, it will be getting around and getting there on time, as we study timetabling, travel fares and different time zones. And for Science, we will be finishing off Chemistry, with chemical reactions and chemical experiments, with not too many bangs!

Thank you to all parents and care givers who are providing continuing support for their students' learning journey.

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.



ATAC student gardens have been growing for some time despite the draught. Each student spends some time nurturing their plants and applying their scientific knowledge for growth and development of plants.

[Emeritus Prof. Rod Drew (Patron of ATAC)]



Prof. Rod Drew was the founding chairman of ATAC in 2015. He worked closely with Dr Nand, Wanshika Rai and Dr Ian Cock to establish the College and continues to provide his knowledge and expertise to ATAC. Prof Drew graduated from Deakin University and joined DPI at Redlands, before joining Griffith University. He holds a Doctor of Science in Horticulture from University of Queensland He met Dr Nand in 1998 and was his PhD supervisor. They have since worked together as colleagues and organised 7 Bushfoods conferences. He has served as the Chairman of the Australian Society for Horticulture and the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). He has also served as chair for many International Horticultural Conferences including the Horticultural Conferences held in Cairns (2002), Brisbane (2014) and in Turkey (2018). He has also been the editor of several publications, has numerous Biotechnology and Horticultural publications, and is the most well-known international scientist on papaya research. He is a very strong advocate of alleviation of "hidden" hunger (malnutrition) and increasing food security using protected high-tech facilities with low cost and efficient technologies for food production. His support for the Australian papaya industry and to ATAC is invaluable.

[Acknowledgement for Furniture Donation]



Mr. Stacey Kennedy (Director/Manager) of AI-Express Plan Approval Services Pty Ltd, Ashmore, Qld 4214 donated second-hand office furniture to the college, of an estimated value of more than \$10,000, and delivered it at his own cost. The ATAC Board, staff, students, and parents are very pleased with his generous and kind gesture. The furniture is being proudly used by the staff and students. Thank you and great blessings and best wishes from ATAC well-wishers.



Doug Mackenzie, Paul Kah-Nutt, Dr Nand, Daniela Smith and Renee Blote from Youth Trust Enterprise at ATAC



Garnet Radford, Economic Development Officer, Balonne Shire Council, St. George. (L), and Lal Fanai (NMCG Leader) discussing future projects and opportunities with Dr Nand



Daniela Smith from Youth Enterprise Trust and Dr Nand discussing marketing strategies and synergies to build good partnerships



Stewart Alexander and Michelle Whyte from Occupational Training Solutions (RTOs#41250) and Dr Nand discussing potential collaboration with ATAC

PHOTOS FROM QUEENS GARDEN AT TOOWOOMBA FLOWER FESTIVAL ON 19/09/2020
A Lot of Native Species were visible that decorate many parks and gardens. It provides opportunities for young students to grow these at ATAC nursery



Flower show in Toowoomba visit by Dr Nand in the school holidays



Doug and Tracey Goebel of **Native Oz Bushfoods** with their high-quality Bushfoods for sale at the Flower show in Toowoomba on 19/09/2020 (photo by Dr Nand)



Mr. Gary Suthers with Cameron, Nick and Coen enjoying Term III end BBQ on Wednesday 16/09/2020



Jayden and Kirk preparing potato chips during the term III end BBQ. It is good fun cooking together



Jai and Nick digging a pit for their aquaponics project. Hard labor and good courage. Congratulations boys



Lal Fanai and Ca of NMCG setting up pipes for irrigation of their gardens



Tony Waller, a proud granddad of one of our students is sharing his electronics knowledge and experience with our students



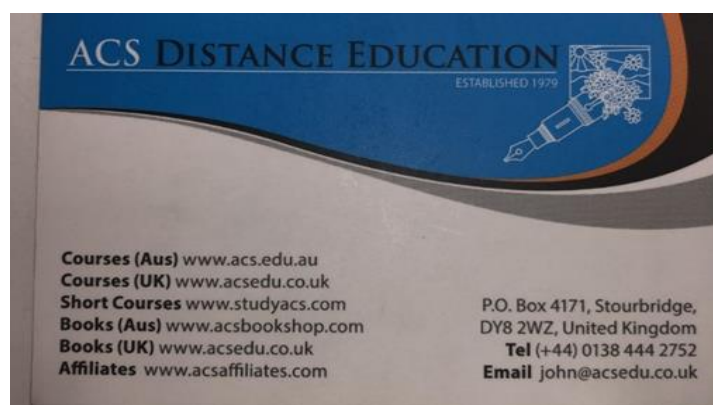
Staff of Youth enterprise Trust and Lal Fanai of NMCG being briefed about ATAC journey & future plans on ATAC **OPEN DAY ON (16/09/2020)**

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



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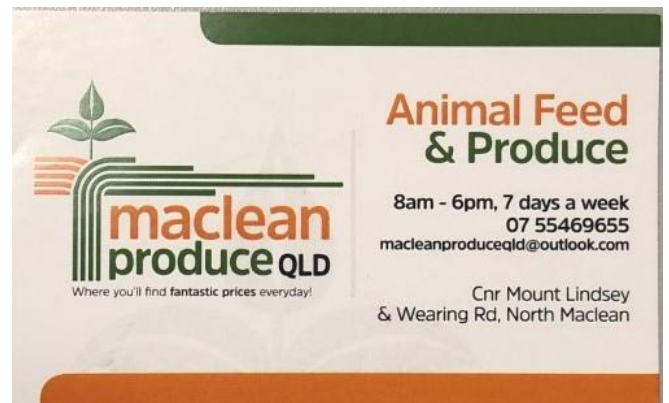


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