

# AGTECH Connections

## The newsletter of the Australian Technology & Agricultural College

*'Connecting the College with the Community'*

W: [www.atac.qld.edu.au](http://www.atac.qld.edu.au) | E: [admin@atac.qld.edu.au](mailto:admin@atac.qld.edu.au) | P: +617 5547 8598



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**College Founder/CEO**

*Dr Narendra Nand (PhD)*

### Principal's Message

Our monthly newsletter, AGTECH Connections January issue, has been delayed with lots happening during new enrolments and updating compliance issues of our RTO. The new year began with some enrolments and a few student departures who joined other career pathways. We are very grateful for the support of some new parents and our board members. We wish the very best for the three students who have signed up for an apprenticeship in their career of choice. We also acknowledge the help provided by Mul & Rose Chand of Queensland Compressor Technology who have accepted another new student who has signed up for work experience.

A very warm welcome to our new community of students and parents who have new hopes and great confidence in ATAC. As the college consolidated its academic and career pathways, it embarked on electronic pathways to deliver

higher education courses. Staff are undergoing training to deliver the courses and increasing accessibility to all our programs. ATAC provides a unique opportunity for many students who find our flexible alternative pathway more conducive to their schooling and success.

ATAC courses are tailored to students' needs so that they enjoy being at ATC and achieving their goals in a more relaxed environment. Year 10 is compulsory as per QCAA requirements, however, years 11 and 12 are more flexible and students have made their choices to start their new careers. The introduction of certificate II in hospitality, health and fitness activity, and agricultural studies enhanced the engagement of our students. Multiskilling with life-skills, along with Certificate II courses delivered by fully qualified trainers has increased the interest and enthusiasm of our students to equip themselves with skills and experiences for holiday and weekend jobs, especially in the service industry.

While year 11 & 12 students complete their Certificate II in Work for Skills (BSB20120), and Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways (FSK 20119) at ATAC, they also complete a Trade course from TAFE or a course of their choice from another RTO to accumulate their QCE points. Year 10 students complete their QCAA curriculum in a small and friendly environment. They also complete their Trade Taster form TAFE and obtain a white card which enables them to secure work experience or a casual job. TAFE courses are selected for their individual career path towards achieving individual goals. Students build their personal and transferable skills, positive attitudes, self-confidence and their career pathways.

### **New Facilities and resources**

Students received new computer tables and chairs and upgraded computers for use from the start of this year. Many students find the computers to be much faster and efficient. Thanks Nandani and Ramesh for volunteering at the weekend. The hospitality kitchen is almost fully ready with functioning equipment and a hot water system. They also get time out for the gym and fitness for their physical and mental health support.

### Outdoor Activities

Our gym and fitness center suffered some setbacks after the trainer withdrew his services in the first week of the term. We are currently negotiating with some trainers who could restore our training sessions. Poultry care, gardening, nursery, and hospitality are additional training to assist most students with mental health support and teaching of lifelong skills. Our professional Gym equipment and the community gardens are also available to the public as a community engagement strategy.

Thanks to Ms. Mary Irene Bayldon (ATAC Chair) and Ms. Nandani Chandra for supporting the embeded mental health strategy and Marnie Parker for the building of life skills.

### *From the Teacher's Desk:* **Ms. Nandani Chandra** **Senior Teacher/Deputy Principal**

We are thrilled to welcome all students and parents to an exciting new school year. Our students have hit the ground running, showcasing their creativity and teamwork by building tables for our classrooms in the first week of the term. Additionally, they have been busy preparing the planter boxes for our autumn crops for our agricultural practices course. In doing so, they demonstrated their commitment to hands-on learning and sustainability.



*Students assembling their new furniture in the classroom. Greatly appreciated, boys.*

As we embark on this new academic journey, students are also beginning their assessments for the term. We hope to set up parent/teacher student interviews at the end of term 1/ beginning of term 2 so that we can touch base about the progress of your child. Recognising the importance of goal setting in achieving success, our focus for personal development this term is centred around setting meaningful goals and envisioning a bright future. Each student is encouraged to think about their aspirations and the steps needed to reach them.

We are also delighted to introduce to our teaching team, Jackie, who has joined our team to provide one-on-one support to our students. Her dedication and assistance have already made a positive impact, and we are grateful for her contributions.

Together, we look forward to a year filled with growth, learning, and achievement. Let's make 2025 a memorable and successful year for everyone!

**Ms. Nandani Chandra**  
**MEd Leadership & Management, BEd. Secondary Sciences,**  
**BSc Applied Science, Grad. Dip. Psychology**





*Ms. Marnie Parker provides Certificate II in Hospitality training and re-engaging students to build life-long skills and for short-term employment. Great effort in building teamwork, social and personal skills, and long-term friendships. Marnie's passion for bushfoods is driving her to be attached with ATAC. Greatly appreciated. Marnie.*



*Miss Jacquie Strong on her attachment as trainee education support staff. Jacquie is of great help to the students and the staff.*

Hi, my name is Jacquelin, and I am grateful to have the privilege to be able to complete my certificate 3 in School Based Education support with ATAC. I have completed my first week here with the lovely staff and students and cannot wait to see what the future holds.

**Jacquie Strong**



*Kangaroo Nachos and Lemon Myrtle-flavored carrot-pineapple-apple smoothie prepared for morning tea during the hospitality session with Marnie.*



*Students lined up to explain the details of their recipes for the preparation of their Kangaroo Nachos for assessment.*



**Ms. Radhika**  
**MBA & MSc + TAE 40116**  
**Business Development Manager/Admin**  
**Officer**

Thank you to those who have paid the school fees on time, we truly appreciate your promptness. We are still awaiting payments from a few more families. Receipts and invoices have been sent via MYOB. If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

At ATAC, we are committed to providing pathways and support to help students bridge gaps and progress in their education and careers. We are currently delivering courses for online students in Certificate II in Vocational Pathways (FSK20119), Certificate II in Workplace Skills (BSB 20120), Diploma in Business, Diploma in Leadership and Management and Certificate IV in Leadership & Management.

Enrolment is open all year round for both online and face-to-face training. We offer customized learning plans to help students successfully complete their senior education. For further information, please feel free to visit us, email [rbehal@atac.qld.edu.au](mailto:rbehal@atac.qld.edu.au), or call 5547 8598.



*The new sign Board at the front gate is now visible from the Mount Lindesay Highway and Greenbank Road intersection.,*



*Ms. Robin Rae from Logan City Council (LOED) with Dr Narendra Nand to discuss the possibility of holding the 9<sup>th</sup> Bushfoods Conference at ATAC. Bushfoods conference started in 1998 at Griffith University as part of Dr Nand's research with the help of his supervisor, Prof. Rod Drew. This will be the third conference to be held this year at ATAC in late August.*



*The huge flowers of dragon fruit that become an attractive feature when they open up early morning and close around midday. The flowers attract multiple visits from bees during the mornings to give almost 100% fruiting. Dragon fruit has significant nutritional health benefits due to their high antioxidant content.*



*ATAC students getting involved in the preparation of their garden beds for the Autumn plantation. Each student will be working on their garden beds to grow the vegetable of their interest as part of Agricultural activities.*





**Grand mother Kerrin (middle) with new student Cleaveland, Ms Lisa Gaven (L) from the Department of Education and support workers with Dr Nand to finalise enrolment and support for Cleaveland. He loves outdoor activities and looking forward to a job that can earn him some income. .**



**Dr Nand addressing the Hospitality students about early job opportunities in the service industry and in event management at ATAC upon acquiring hospitality skills. Students prepared the food and were setting up the tables and cutlery.**



**New students Rhyse and Locklyn (front) enjoy attending ATAC which provides a more relaxed and open learning opportunities and meets their expectations. They enjoy coming to school every day and are hopeful for an early career path**



**Ms. Nandani Chandra and Miss Jacqui Strong spread fire ants' bait in garden beds close to the classroom as part of the National Fire Ants Eradication program.**

### **POEM-SACRIFICE**

**Sacrifice, a profound and priceless virtue  
Fills human hearts with zest to pursue**

**Where there is love, sacrifice finds a  
shadow  
Beckoning one to the meadow**

**Genuine sacrifice, quiet and profound  
In their selflessness, true courage is found**

**In the shadows of sacrifice, silent prayers  
rise  
For those who gave everything, the ultimate  
price**

**Beneath the stars, where silence sings  
Lie untold tales of selfless things**

**A heart that gives, a soul that bleeds  
For others' hopes and others' needs**

**A flame that burns, though none may see  
Its warmth a gift, silently free**

**The soldier stands, the mother weeps  
The healer wakes, while the world sleeps**

A quiet strength, a steady hand  
Building bridges where none could stand

What is the worth of what they lose?  
A life of ease they cannot choose

Yet in their eyes, a light will shine  
For giving all, they feel divine

For each act of giving, a ripple it creates  
In the fabric of fate, participates

Teachers spend their career and time  
To build a knowledgeable work chime

Sacrifice is the wheel that runs our cosmos  
Maintaining balance in universe

Everyone's success is the sacrifice of  
another  
Such a wondrous gift by the other

So, pause and think, when time seems dire  
Of those who walk through pain and fire

For sacrifice, though harsh it seems  
Is where humanity redeems

Let's breathe sacrifice into the new year  
Filling human hearts with resounding cheer

**BHAGWANJI Bhindi**  
*Retired lecturer, Fiji*



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 **(07) 5547 8598**  
 **[www.atac.qld.edu.au](http://www.atac.qld.edu.au)**  
 **[info@atac.qld.edu.au](mailto:info@atac.qld.edu.au)**



P: + 61 7 3133 3527  
M: + 61 4 2846 6698  
[www.ctqgroup.com.au](http://www.ctqgroup.com.au)



**Paul**  
Manager - Park Ridge News  
[www.parkridgenews.com.au](http://www.parkridgenews.com.au)  
0410583291



[www.parkridgenews.com.au](http://www.parkridgenews.com.au)



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ATAC RTO #45556

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(via TAFE and other RTOs)

BSB40520 Cert IV in Leadership and Management  
BSB50420 Diploma in Leadership and Management  
**BSB50120 Diploma in Business**

ATAC RTO #45556

Contact us:  
07 5547 8598 or  
E: [admin@atac.qld.edu.au](mailto:admin@atac.qld.edu.au)