



AGTECH Connections

The newsletter of the Australian
Technology & Agricultural
College 'Connecting the College with the
Community'

W: www.atac.qld.edu.au | E: admin@atac.qld.edu.au | P: +617 5547 8598

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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

The upgrade of Mount Lindesay Highway and the provision of lights at the Greenbank Road junction and two bus stops north and south bound in front of ATAC on the service road is of great advantage to the students and general public. Safety on this intersection is most important after noting many accidents that have happened at this junction. Service road from Olley's Orange shops to BP service Station is now open and our driveway has been completed by Main Roads. We are waiting for the lights at the junction to be operational by mid- November and it would provide a great relief for those taking risks to enter onto the highway, local businesses and ATAC. Thanks to TMR, local communities, MPs and the government for this development for safety and convenience of all road users.

The 7th Queensland Bushfoods Conference was held at ATAC venue for the first time organized by ATAC Board and staff. There were more than 80 participants with 13 speakers mainly those who are involved in the growing, processing and production sectors. Our Guest Speaker was Mr. Gerard Kath, the President of Papaya Australia and the biggest papaya grower in Queensland. He explained how a small business can grow into a highly successful business with challenges at every level from growing to the supply change. This was very applicable to the new growers of Bushfoods. The Conference was opened by Professor Rod Drew our college Patron and ex-chairman and the



ex-president of the International Society of Horticultural Science.

Queensland Bushfoods Association Sectary, Sheryl Backhouse was working closely with the presenters at the conference to support QBA. Also, greatly appreciate the support and passion of QBA members. We also thank Fernland for their sponsorship.

Agri-future Rural Women's Award- winner Natasha Roebig and her husband Jason are excited to start up Native Bee project at ATAC to support young and old local bee-keepers. They presented at conference and they discussed with many passionate growers of various bushfoods infusions with honey to diversify their product range with innovative and healthy options.

North Maclean Community Garden (NMCG) members have re-planted and are looking forward to a harvest in the next few weeks. ATAC partnership with ONESTOP Training (RTO) is ongoing to provide short term training programs for skilling young people to find employment more quickly. All students and community members of all ages are invited to contact ATAC, if they wish to upskill and train for improving their job opportunities.

Despite challenges all our year 12 students are on track for graduation. Most of them will complete their Cert II in Business next week, their VETiS trade along their English, Maths and Life Skills.

Gary Suthers

English, Humanities and Agricultural Science Teacher

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your child at ATAC. The last semester of the year is a short one but a busy one. The senior students are finishing their essential subjects (English and Maths) for their Senior Certificate. The other alternate courses for accruing point also have been completed, The BRAKE program and the First Aid Course. Finalising the Certificate 11 in business and The Life Skills Program will mean that all senior students will have enough QCA points to complete their senior schooling. It has been a privilege to see the progress in all students this semester as they grow in confidence and determination to complete the challenges that we set for them here at ATAC. I hope that you also can see the confidence and maturity in your child at home.

Thank you to you all, parents, stepparents, grandparents, extended family and siblings for providing the support and assistance that students need at home to keep learning and growing to be the mature young adults that we see in them all.

Radhika Behal

Business Development Manager

Thank you to all those who have paid up all their fee for this term and to those who have arranged with us to finalise your payments soon. Please note that all parents/guardians have been sent statements and /or invoices to finalise the account. If you have not received the information you require, please contact the college.

Enrolment for 2020 is still open and all those who had filled in the expressions of interest will be getting their confirmation letters by email. Please note that our 50% discount for fee has been extended to 30 November, 2019. You can confirm your enrolment by the payment of the enrolment fee. Please feel free to contact me.



The Minister for Education and Industrial Relationship Hon. Ms. Grace Grace (second from left), with Mr. David Robertson the Executive Director of Independent Schools Queensland flanked by Karen Spiller Chair of ISQ Board & Principal of John Paul College (right) and Ms. Sue Kloeden is the Executive Officer of the Parents' Network at the Ministerial reception on 17th October 2019 at the Parliament House.



Dr Narendra Nand with the Minister for Education at the reception.



Dr Nand (right-left) with Mr Lal Fanai the Leader of Jehovah Jireh Baptist Church (Logan) Chin Community, San Thawan-Thang from Myanmar and Sui-Lan Thawng of Logan discuss plans for the community gardens and projects to support the Chin Community in Logan.



The Keynote speaker, Mr. Gerard Kath Chair of Australian Papaya Industry and owner of the largest high tech papaya plantation in Mareeba, Queensland. He briefed the challenges to growing a small industry into a national icon. A great journey. Congratulations to you, your family and staff.



Members of the Chin Community above with Dr Nand are happy with the ATAC model of education and training and are very keen to take up programs to suit their community needs.



Mr. Doug Brownlow on Growing Bushfoods for Profit.



Mr. John Wrench a founding member of QBA and is very knowledgeable about Bushfood plants and products.



Professor Rod Drew ATAC patron did the welcome and presented on Diversification with Bushfoods.



Dr. Boyd Wright all the way from WA with his family doing his second presentation on Aboriginal Seed Food & Narcotic at the conference. He loves the witchy grub from Gibson Desert (Australian Desert).



Attendees were enjoying at Bushfoods Conference.



Mr. Ben Sipple (right) spoke on Saltbush-Bushfood for Animal Feed.



Mr. Ralph Bailey speaking on Favorite Bushfood Plants for Urban & Suburban Landscape Designs.



Natasha Roebig of bee All-Natural presenting on Bee Keeping and her innovative infusions.



Dr Shivani Gandhi speaking for the second time on Australian Native Flowers in Natural Healing.



Dr Satish Choy presenting on Native Fish & Crayfish Species for Commercial Aquaculture & River Products.



Dr Andrew Pengelly spoke on Indigenous Plants for Health.



Ms. Jude Mayall from Melbourne speaking on Value-adding of Bushfood Products.



Mr. & Mrs. Doug & Tracey Goebel from Laidley Presenting about their new and fast growing Bushfoods product range. Many items were on display and for sale at the conference table.



Prof. Rod Drew with Dr Nand signing certificates for the presenters and participants.



Mrs. Natasha Roebig winner of Agrifutures Rural Women's Award presenting on Bee Keeping.



Dr Boyed Wright from western Australia receiving his certificate from Ms. Irene Bayldon the Acting Chair and a Director of ATAC Board.



Mr. Ganeshan Rao one of the Directors of the Board Volunteered to be the Master of Ceremonies.



Jude Mayall sharing a light moment with Prof. Rod Drew.



Mr. Gary Suthers, Prof. Sarojani Choy and Dr Choy relaxing after volunteering on the day.



Doug Browlow receiving his certificate with Ben Sipple.



Andrew Pengelly receives his certificate from Prof. Rod Drew.



Mr. Ralph Bailey with big smiles while firmly clutching on to his certificate for decades of service to Bushfoods. He was the first author of a book on Australian Native Plants.



Sheryl Backhouse a very hard working QBA secretary received her certificate for decades of contribution to QBA.



Jason Roebig with Prof. Rod Drew.



Doug Goebel receives his certificate from Prof. Rod Drew for presenting Commercialization of Bushfoods in the Lockyer Valley.



Dr Satish Choy receives his certificate from Prof. Rod Drew.



Panel Discussion before the close of the Conference.



Dr Shivani Gandhi from Springwood Wellness Centre receives her certificate. She has been passionate about natural healing and native plant products.



Bushfoods Conference participants enjoying the shade provided by the Brisvegas Event.

INFORMATION SESSION

Enrolment for 2020

8th Nov 2019 (9.00-4.00 pm)

Courses- (Essential English & Maths are compulsory for all levels)

Yr 10 Agricultural Practices, Science, History and HPE

Yr 11 & 12 Business Certificate II, FSK Certificate II and Agricultural Practices

+ VETiS- Trade Courses at approved RTO.

Other Courses offered subject to an RTO approval



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



Room For Hire

Minimum 2hours

Timing: 8.00 am to 8.00 pm
(for meetings, small functions)

Price: \$20/hr.

For further information, please call on
07 5547 8598