



AGTECH Connections

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

Independent Senior Secondary College for Years 10 to 12

4808 Mt Lindesay Highway, North Maclean Q 4280.

Edition 82: August 2022

College Founder/CEO

Dr Narendra Nand



Principal's Message

Greetings everyone.

Parents and guardians have been invited to discuss the progress, performance, and report for semester 1. Parents who have come in and collected the reports are very happy with the achievements of their child despite bad weather and hinderances to our out-door activities. Our sincere thanks to those parents who have taken active interest in the academic work and have supported us in ensuring the partnership in supporting their child's success. Most students enjoy working independently and progressing at their own pace without too much pressure. It is great to see several of our students graduate and build a career path which they intended to pursue. ATAC supports every student into work experience and apprenticeships who develop job-ready skills.

ATAC Academic Plans

Some students have already completed their Trade Taster program at TAFE and have received their White Card for work experience. They have completed their First Aid Course at ATAC and are prepared for work experience and apprenticeship. These training are necessary for **"Early career, early income and early dreams"** pathways for completion of education and training at ATAC. With engagement of new trainees, we are now building our human resources to extend our support for students' learning and grow our RTO gradually. Two of our trainee staff will complete

their FSK Cert II soon and start teaching in other RTO programs we wish to offer. Two trainee staff will be completing Cert. III Horticulture and one Cert. IV in Business and Leadership & Management to provide additional support to our team.

The new Cert. II in Workplace Skills would be offered upon approval. Students can achieve Certificate II level training programs at ATAC, TAFE courses, and Year 12 (QCE) qualifications. Training in Cert. II FSK, Cert. IV and Diploma in Leadership & Management, and Diploma in Business is available to all ages for enrolment at any time.

Student projects

With completed projects such as Native lizards, ducks, chicken, and the nursery we are now working on the relocation of the aquaponics set up into the old shed. Students are very excited to do some hands-on activities in construction and mechanical and work in the nursery with machinery and tools provided by GCBF grants. Hopefully building of our shed will commence soon so we can use the space to provide more hands-on experiences for current and new students.

Community engagement

The favorable weather is allowing the North Maclean Community Garden (NMCG) members to start working on their vegetable gardens. Additional source of income and food supply in the Logan area by hard working members of our community is greatly appreciated. ATAC has provided free land area to support some families to complement their income. Some members require formal training in basic Horticultural skills. Our new Board member Daniel Cole is happy to support our local community and the nursery production and Bushfoods projects. We greatly appreciate the contributions made by some local

Businesses providing work experience and apprenticeships to our students.

Infrastructure Development Plans

We have received the final plumbing approvals from LCC, and we are now trying to re-schedule the preparation of the concrete pad for our new shed. Quotations are being reviewed due to price changes in building materials and we hope to start planning the earthworks and concreting as soon as possible.

Bushfoods Conference has now been postponed to 27th & 28th May 2023. ATAC will host the National Bushfoods Conference in partnership with Australian Institute of Horticulture and Queensland Bushfoods Association. Regular meetings are being held with the president of AIH, Mr. Michael Casey, QBA secretary, Sheryl Backhouse, Irene Bayldon (ATAC Board Chair, Emeritus Professor Rod Drew (Ex-Chair of ISHS & ATAC) and Dr Narendra Nand. Brochures are planned to be sent out soon.



Professor Rod Drew – Organizing Committee Chair Australian Bushfoods Conference 2023

Covid-19 – Safety & Precaution

Thank you and congratulations to all for maintaining the routine protocols to keep ATAC free of Covid-19. Students have taken RAT tests and isolated if known to be positive. Thanks to all parents/guardians for supporting the Covid-safe plans and the government for the kits.

Parent Meetings

A few parents who have not discussed the Semester I report, performance, engagement, and career pathways for their child are invited to meet with us at a time convenient to you. Students are constantly reminded about building their personal and work skills and making choices so that they could be recommended and supported for job experiences. Congratulations to those who have completed TAFE trade taster program and to those

who have completed their First Aid Course last week. ATAC Board greatly appreciates the initiative by some parents in assisting us to support their child.

Gary Suthers

English, Humanities and Agricultural Science Teacher

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

We have almost reached the end of term again, with assignment drafts due in week eight and examinations and final assignments due in week nine. The Year 10 students have to make a book trailer to entice readers to read their novel “Two Wolves” by Tristan Banks. In physical education they are completing a case study about respectful relationships. Maths is about percentages, fractions and decimals, and also how to calculate wages, holiday pay and shift allowances. The history of immigrants and refugees coming into Australia is the focus of History this term and how the war in Vietnam changed our immigration policy and our culture.

The Year 12 students are looking at Australian popular culture and how it has changed over the recent decades. Examples found in Australian television, situation comedy and Australian reality television shows are being studied. If you remember “Sylvania Waters” and “All Together Now” maybe you can help Dylan, Nick and Riley. In Maths they are finding out about the economics of leaving home, running a vehicle, budgeting and how to research the right bank loan for buying a property.

All students have been working through the theory part of First Aid online and completed practical assessments on 1st September.

Changes at ATAC include the old shed being remodelled and the Aquaponics moving in. All students have been very active with moving the aquaponics equipment, digging the new hole for the large sump containers for the Aquaponics and cleaning out the shed. The poultry coop has been moved and a new enclosure will be built to house our growing poultry stock of new ducks and chickens.

Working with our students is a very rewarding experience for me and seeing them all grow in confidence and in skills and knowledge is a great privilege. Over their time here at ATAC, I hope that you will see your young person grow more

confident and happier as they gain new skills and learn in other ways.

Thank you, all parents and guardians, for your continued support of your child's learning here at ATAC.

Poem by Mr. Bhagwanji Bhindi
Retired Linguistics Lecturer (Sydney)



THE DILEMMA OF CHOICES

Choices need to be made always
But tough are the choices
How to choose and on what basis
What to ignore and what to notice
What to keep and what to dismiss
Mind in great crisis
So many events in the series
Hearing many voices
But so much are just noises
Need to make choices with cautious analysis
Weighing the pros and cons of each choice
But many having their own preferences
With some choices everything flourishes
Providing joy and happiness
Bestowing so many rewards

But some choices leaving one helpless
Resulting in failures and losses
These are moments that really teach
Even after making choices mind is edgy
Sometimes driven to the extent of madness
Wondering all along if better choices could
have been made
Some choices pushing the boundaries
Going against the rules and regulations
Later regretting this craziness
Bad choices leading to poor outcomes
But still making those same bad choices
regardless
That causes more and more concerns and
fears
So difficult to make choices
But trying to sort them out with rationale
and theories
Yet, sometimes influenced by situations and
circumstances
Some choices spring unexpected surprises
And some drive to new journeys and
directions
Basing on hope and optimism
But endless are the searches
For the right choices
The choice to choose is endless
Bhagwanji Bhind

ATAC Projects & Activities



Arakan Martial Arts with Corey Davies every Wednesday



Students digging the sump pit for Aquaponics

“Growing food for the future”



(L-R) Stacey Martin of LCC, Dr. Nand, Mr. Jake Whittle, Mr. James Lye and Mrs. Kiri Griffiths of LLSHS at “Give to Grow” event at 7/3375 Pacific Highway Slacks Creek. A shed has been converted to a prestigious restaurant supporting food production by Mini Farm Projects founded by Mr. Nick Steiner. ATAC supports the project.

FIRST AID TRAINING



Students completed first aid training with trainer Paolee (second from right) from CSTC. They gained life-long life-saving skills and credits for QCE. It was fun practising CPR on babies for the would-be future parents.



Well done Nick for your bandaging skills on Mr. Gary Suther’s arm. You passed the practical test. A great skill that you will need for your working career and as a trainer.



Paolee demonstrating an arm sling around Po. Suresh Chandra. With his first aid skills he would be a great help to ATAC, his family and the community. As a driving instructor, his skills in an emergency on the roads would be very useful.



Riley trying his bandaging skills on Kasey's arm in the event of a bleeding wound. As an automotive mechanic, these skills will be required for your workplace.



Damien trying his bandaging skills on Dylan's arm. Dylan pretended to be really stressed and in pain for the demonstration. Both passed their practical skills test.

Radhika Behal

MBA & MSc + TAE 40116

Business Development Manager

A big thank you to all students who help us with cleaning the bins, feeding chooks and ducks and for providing the needy information promptly. Our alternative pathways with customized plan for each student is assisting every student to successfully complete their QCE and Certificate II in FSK and their Trade.



Mr. Daniel Cole - New Board Director

A very warm welcome Daniel on the ATAC Board. Dan Cole is currently the Ecological Restoration Manager at The Water and Carbon Group (WCG). Dan is presently engaged in designing and delivering climate change adaptation, biodiverse reforestation, riparian connectivity, and vegetation offset projects mostly within agricultural landscapes. Projects have included working with a range of clients and stakeholders from private landholders, farmers, not-for-profit & community groups, government agencies, universities, and research institutes. Similarly, Dan has worked with Indigenous Groups on native foods initiatives and conservation projects such as the Bjarne K Dahl grant to raise awareness on Culturally Modified (Aboriginal Scarred) Trees. Dan's specific interests are the social and cultural dimensions of environmental projects particularly the relationships with people and forests.

Dan and the team at WCG have worked locally for Logan City Council for the last decade and have a strong understanding of the region, its landscapes, and communities. In 2018, Dan was also instrumental in establishing the Slacks Creek Catchment Restoration Group (SCCRG), a not-for-profit environmental community group in Logan. Dan is contributing as an ATAC board member and assisting Narendra and the team with developing the plant production nursery initiative that will provide training for students on the fundamentals of growing plant material for environmental restoration projects.

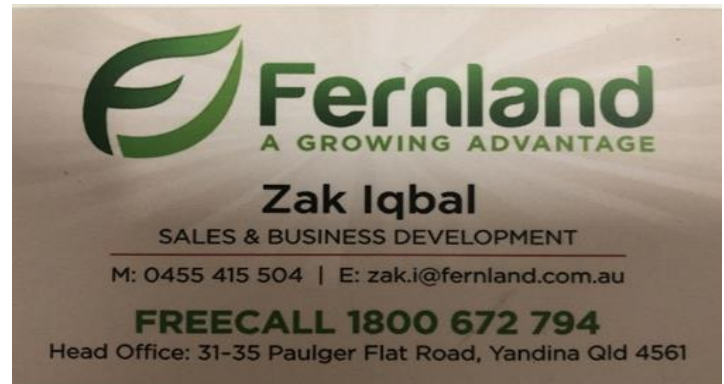
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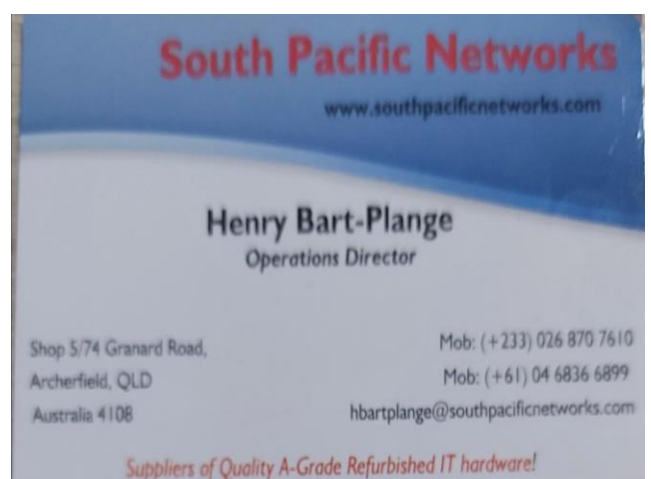
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