

AGTECH Connections

The newsletter of the Australian Technology
& Agricultural College

Independent Senior Secondary College for Years 10 to 12

4808 Mt Lindesay Highway, North Maclean Q 4280.



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January 2023**

College Founder/CEO

Dr Narendra Nand



[Principal's Message](#)

A very warm welcome to all new and returning students and to all parents. After the graduation ceremony on 16th November 2022 at the college, we continued to receive great feedback from happy parents and guardians. Students had successfully fulfilled their QCAA requirement and received certificates for the completion of Year 12 QCE along with Certificate II FSK, Certificate II in Workplace Skills and Certificate II or III in a trade. Congratulations to Year 12 students for securing a traineeship or an apprenticeship. All our year 11 students are enrolled at TAFE for 2023 and the new year 10 students will be applying for trade taster program soon. New students have found ATAC to meet their expectations and needs to re-engage and focus on pathways to build a career. ATAC is proud to provide a learning experience that suits the needs and abilities of students who chose flexible pathways that enables them to become more interested in following the journeys that suit them in order to fulfill their dreams.

ATAC TRIPOD MODEL

Our partnerships model with parents/guardians, students and ATAC promotes a goodwill and understanding that enables us to nurture the friendly and less stressful education and training system. The TRIPOD model enables every child to

understand his /her role and responsibility by engaging closely with the parents/guardians, and teachers supporting our model to enable them to achieve their dreams of “early careers and early incomes”.

The informal and reasonably calm and acceptable environments provided at ATAC reduces stress and trauma faced with challenges in a formal schooling. Students feel more comfortable and less overwhelmed, and they become more responsible for their independent learning and outcomes. ATAC Board has engaged trainees for capacity building and support to our RTO courses for future onsite training. More hands-on skills and practical training in approved areas will become available upon the completion of our multi-purpose shed which is now undergoing construction.

Community Engagement

All parents/caregivers, who have supported ATAC staff and students – a big thank you. The students feel very special, when they find that their loved ones are happy with their progress and achievements. It is our shared responsibility to support our young people in making their dreams come true. Parents and businesses are always welcome to ATAC to support these young people in achieving little ongoing successes accumulated towards a big success.

The Members of the North Maclean Community Gardens (NMCG) have been also becoming active despite difficult weather. Great effort and courage to persevere the floods and heat. Their horticultural activities in growing vegetables added some attraction and complemented their income. ATAC provides water and land access for their project in supporting a migrant community in need. One of our Board Members, Mr. Daniel Cole is now assisting in nursery production to engage our Horticultural trainees. ATAC deeply appreciates the initiative and effort of Daniel.

Infrastructure Development Plans

Major earthworks to raise the pad to the required level has been completed just after Christmas. Profiling has been completed by Teejay Concreting and the plumbing works have now begun by Trigar Plumbing. The concrete pad is expected to be done very soon and we hope the weather holds.

Bushfoods Conference 2023

ATAC will host the National Bushfoods Conference (NBC) in partnership with Australian Institute of Horticulture (AIH) and Queensland Bushfoods Association (QBA) on 27-28th May 2023. Now called "The Australian Bushfoods Conference" incorporating (8th Queensland Bushfoods Conference has been in planning for the past two years. Regular meetings with the president of AIH, QBA secretary, ATAC Board Chair, the chair of the organizing committee, Emeritus Professor Rod Drew and Dr Narendra Nand are being held for the preparations. Guest speakers and organizations have been invited to participate and brochures for more information is available on AIH and ATAC websites. More details will become available as soon as the program is finalized.

Covid-19 – Safety & Precaution

Some free government provided Covid-Test kits are still available at ATAC for Covid-19 testing for staff and students. Thanks to all students and parents protecting themselves and others.

Parent/ Guardian Engagement

With the changing times and challenges, it has become difficult to find the best people in the workforce. ATAC works closely with businesses, training organizations and parents/guardians in empowering students with job-ready skills and knowledge. Our students are continuously encouraged in building their personal skills to make them suitable to find work experience and or apprenticeships. The role of the parents/guardians has become increasingly

important to guide and support their child as we guide them to achieve their qualifications and skills. Parental engagement with us enables us to work towards finding work experience and building personal skills required by most employers for recruitment and maintaining long-term career goals. Thanks to the businesses who have engaged our students in their company.

We greatly appreciate the contribution of Board Directors for volunteering their time, providing sponsorships, supporting our shed constructions, assisting in internal review processes and general cleaning and maintenance at ATAC.

Gary Suthers

English, Humanities, Science and Agricultural Science Teacher

Welcome to term one of the New Year! Holidays are over and it's time to return to work, study, and college. Students are returning for year eleven and we welcome our new students to year ten and year eleven. The senior students in year eleven will be working harder to fit in their subjects for English and Maths as well as their TAFE courses, their Future Skills and Business Certificate courses and work or work experience. The year ten students will be focusing on building Math and English skills, before learning about Mental Maths, Poetry, Science and History.

We will continue Agricultural studies with all students as there are lots of new things to learn and to produce. Chicken and Duck anatomy to learn and how to increase egg output. Improving our recycling stream and how we can include a worm farm into the process. Producing plants from cuttings and growing them to a product for selling and how use the various native plants for food and medicinal use. Working with our student 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 to all parents and guardians, for your continued support of your child's learning

here at ATAC. I look forward to seeing you all for a new college year. Volunteers with and always.

Parents and guardians are welcome to discuss their child's progress at a convenient time.



Mr. Bhagwanji Bhindi

Retired Linguistics Lecturer (Sydney)

LONGING FOR FREEDOM

The bird in the cage writhing in agony

Feeling suffocated and choked

With the eerie aura of the cage

Captive is the bird in the beautiful cage

Thinks her life compulsive and confined

Habitual behavior is self-inflicted

The bird gets the best of everything

However, the comfort of the cage

Does not take away the cageness of the cage

The bird's behavior is controlled by the cage

The bird is restrained in its freedom of movement

The only freedom is the space in the cage

Every movement is decided by this space in the cage

Making the bird feel claustrophobic and fearful

Every effort is measured within the space of the cage

The bird seeks freedom from the constricted cage

The bird's true abode is not in the cage

It longs to fly away from the cage into the open space

The bird suffocates in the cage

Longing to fly out for freedom and better life

This is the true nature of the bird

When released from the cage

The bird dances so blissfully in its natural space

Its ecstasy sees no boundaries

The bird knows that its life is a misery in the cage

The bird understands its life of freedom

Because its purpose in life is to fly in the open space

In the cage the bird feels throttled

Longing for freedom from this agonizing suffocation

When set free, its ecstasy sees no bounds.



ATAC Board Director Daniel Cole and his staff Mathew Linahan helping to set up ATAC nursery for Water & Carbon projects in the local community.



Our new student in year 11 Zeke McGurk has taken up responsibility to work with Native plants and the nursery set up. Thank you, Zeke for accepting the new ongoing role that relates to your future career.



The raised pad level to meet the Logan City Council flood levels. The shed project was delayed for two years due previous contractor error. What a great relief.



The excavator of new contractor digging trenches for plumbing works. Weather is holding and we expect concrete pads to be completed by next week.



Natasha Roebig and her daughter setting up display while Jason Roebig is busy setting up tent for Junior Bee-Keeping Training on Sunday 22nd January 2023 as part of KRANK program sponsored by Logan City Council. This is the third workshop held at ATAC to support the interest of young children in bee-keeping industry. Social media – Bee All Natural or info@beeallnatural.com.au.



The lonely chooks and ducks after the sale of most of the flock to generate a small income. The chooks and ducks were raised as part of year 10 Agricultural Science projects. The knowledge and skills will help young people to care for and grow poultry as a hobby or as small business enterprises at any time in the future.

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



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BSB50120 Diploma in Business

Contact us:

07 5547 8598 or 0432 036 537

E: enrolment@atac.qld.edu.au

Australian Bushfoods Conference

(8th Qld. Bushfoods Conference)

27-28th May 2023

Hosted by: Queensland Bushfoods Association

Australian Technology and Agricultural College

The Australian Institute of Horticulture

“Design and Development of Urban Landscapes for Bush Food Production”

We invite you to attend the Australian Bushfoods Conference on 27-28th May 2023 to honour the First Australians who had a wide range of uses for these plants including sustenance and medicine; AND ALSO, to support the growers and producers of Bush Foods who suffered devastating damage to their crops and financial security due to the floods in the past 24 months.

Call for speakers and enquiries:

bushfoods@atac.qld.edu.au