



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 77: March 2022

College Founder/CEO

Dr Narendra Nand



Principal's Message

We had a successful Term I. Students have completed their Term I assessments and prepared for their projects which have been delayed due to bad weather. Our IT issues have been resolved and all students should be able continue their online and class lessons very smoothly. Term II starts on 19 April for much more serious studies and interesting projects.

Covid-19 - Masks off at Schools

Thank you to all students and parents who have supported ATAC during the Covid infection period. Schools are very prone to Covid and have become grounds for the spread. However, our 100% vaccinations and uptake of booster shots and RAT tests has minimized the risks at ATAC. While masks have become non-mandatory individuals are urged to use masks and follow all isolation and sanitization protocols if tested positive. RAT kits are still available at the College if you have symptoms, please take a test. Thank you to all students, staff, and parents/visitors who have followed the EQ and ISQ advice and are protecting our families and friends.

ATAC Academic Plans

Students now have full access to online and face to face learning resources and assessment tasks. They can work from home and/or at school without any disruptions.

Certificate II training programs at ATAC, TAFE courses, and Year 12 (QCE) qualifications are provided to students offering unique pathways and individual support. Students follow a flexible program for "early career, early income and early dreams".

Training in Cert. II FSK, Cert. IV and Diploma in Leadership & Management and Diploma in Business is available to anyone interested. New Cert. II in Workplace Skills would be offered upon approval soon. Please visit our website for more information or visit the College.

Student projects

New students are enjoying learning about Native lizards, ducks, aquaponics, and the nursery. Despite heavy rains and bad weather, Dylan and Nick have been engaging new students in aquaponics, lizard care, bushfoods, some mechanical tips and car care. Native plants in the Bushfoods Park and the nursery have been slightly neglected due to bad weather. Students will start re-planting and propagation after clearing the park and nursery to advance their projects to complement their agricultural curriculum and to show case for our upcoming Bushfoods conference in August.

Community engagement

Community engagement is an integral initiative of ATAC to enhance the progress, and development of career pathways of our young people. Thank you to all parents/guardians who support our students and staff at ATAC during the times we were affected by floods and Covid. Our understanding, resilience, hard work and partnership is greatly appreciated by the students and the Board of Directors. Parent/guardian engagement in student activities provide a lot of encouragement for student success and you are always welcome to give a hand.

North Maclean Community Gardens (NMCG) members have been seriously affected by heavy rains and floods and lost significant crop. The members still visit ATAC to care and harvest what is left of their produce. New members are most welcome to join in and establish projects that could be of educational benefit to our students.

Infrastructure Development Plans

The shed has been held up due to delays in earthworks, plumbing and hydrology reports and by bad weather. Rescheduling any work has been difficult. We look forward to re-schedule the development works as soon as we get all approvals. The delays will have no effect on the Bushfoods Conference which has been postponed. The conference will now be held on 18, 19 and 20th August at the college in partnership with the Australian Institute of Horticulture taking ATAC profile to a national level.

Parent Meetings

It has been very heartening to note that three students have been signed up for work experience and arrangements are being made to seek potential employers for others. Thanks to parents who have assisted in seeking employers who would provide an opportunity to their child. If you know someone who would be keen to provide work experience, some casual employment, or an apprenticeship, please let us know.

Gary Suthers

English, Humanities and Agricultural Science Teacher

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your child at ATAC. It has been rewarding to teach some new students this term. It was an exciting term I with closures, floods, Covid and changing assessment tasks and time frames. Our native garden is blooming however, our agricultural projects have been hampered by bad weather. Our new students are still in planning stages of their projects.

The senior students in Year 11 and 12 will be working harder to fit in their subjects for their senior certificate as well as their TAFE courses and work experience and/or apprenticeships. All Year 10 students will be focusing on building Math and

English skills, before learning about mental mathematics, poetry, science, and history.

Agricultural studies will continue. All students will learn new things about plants and animals and how to grow their own food. They learn the anatomy of chicken, ducks, and fish and how to increase the output for sustainable supply of products. Waste management and improving our recycling system and how we can include a worm farm into the process is what we had been looking at. Producing plants from cuttings and growing them to a product for selling and how to use the various native plants for food and medicinal use has been our focus to support the Bushfoods Conference at the college.

It is a very rewarding experience for me working with our students and seeing them all grow in confidence and in skills and knowledge over time. I hope that you will see your young person growing more confidently and happily as they gain new skills and learn in other ways to become an independent and responsible person at ATAC.

Thank you to all parents and guardians, for your feedback and continued support of your child's learning here at ATAC. I look forward to seeing you all during the early term II for discussing the career plan and progress of your child.

Radhika Behal

Business Development Manager

We greatly appreciate the prompt payment of fees by most parents. Your receipts /invoices were sent via MYOB.

Completed consent forms for Immunization of Year 10 students have been given to LCC and the immunization is scheduled for 26 April 2022.

ATAC programs provide pathways and support to fill the gaps and allow students to progress their education and careers.

ATAC enrolment is open all year round to support any student who is willing to put in some extra effort with a customized plan to successfully complete his/her senior education. For any further information please feel free to visit us.

“I have got my son back”

An article from a mother

Seeing the significant changes in our son, James since he started at ATAC has been magnificent, and I felt compelled to write and let you know.

When James started his journey at ATAC he was reluctant and questioned if he would belong, fit in or even be able to make new friendships. His initial start was rocky as he tried to find his place and gain confidence within himself and his new surroundings. As he settled in, we started noticing his willingness and better yet his eagerness to get up and get going to ATAC and then at the end of the day his excitement to explain his day and the things he had been doing or learnt.

James has never felt comfortable in wanting myself or my husband to be within the school grounds as that seemed just "uncool" for lack of better wording yet on a number of separate occasions he has met myself at the car and has asked if i'd come and see what he had been working on or to look at the new addition to the Duck family or the alternator they had been dismantling to help out a friend. There is an eagerness in his voice to talk about his day of which we have not seen nor heard in quite some time, there is determination in his attitude and his willingness to try new things, something we also have not seen in some time all of which we can only say stems from the warmth and inviting nature and those within ATAC be it the Teachers or his friends he has met since he started.

*Since his start at ATAC we feel as though **'we are getting our son back'**, our fun loving, eager and adventurous son whom we have not had in some time and that to which we attribute to the Staff and the nurturing environment at ATAC. We look forward to the ongoing journey between ourselves as a family and the school, and mostly watching our son grow and develop in a place he feels like he belongs and is made to feel welcome every day.*

Thank you for all your time and support not just for James but for our family also.

Kindest Regards

Tabatha and Simon De Lange. (Parents)

The Promise



DID you make a promise?
I made a promise
And I promise to do it
I promise I will try and try
And I always keep my
promise
Promising to deliver on
the promise
And that sounds
promising
But the future is full of
promises
I promise never to stop
trying
Promising to try harder
next time
And all the time
I hope I never forget this
promise
I promise I'll keep trying
and trying
And this promise. I
promise to fulfil
To the best of my ability

by Bhagwanji Bhindi
(Retired linguistics lecturer) Sydney

ANGER-DESTROYING POWER

Anger, an integral part of human nature
It is well within human control

Anger swells when human desire is unfulfilled
Anger is like fire burning within a person

It has the potential to destroy a person/an
individual
It slowly and steadily grows and grows

Every little word wrapped in fuel
Gradually increasing the intensity of fire/heat

Reaching its peak, leads to volcanic eruption
Crushing the person and its surroundings

In the grip of anger you lose your
rationality/reason
Emotions overpower reasoning faculty

Dulling thinking powers
Anger is short-lived –in a flick of a moment

Shatters the balance of the mind
Leaving one completely devastated

Anger is like a storm/cyclone
Ravaging what comes in the way

Alas! You can manage anger
By staying calm and silent

Let the moment of anger pass
You will experience peace and tranquility

Do not get provoked by someone's words
Words are like spent arrows

Once it leaves the bow, you cannot retrieve it
Wisdom lies in not losing your anger

Life is precious, so keep it precious
Let not anger ruin you and your family

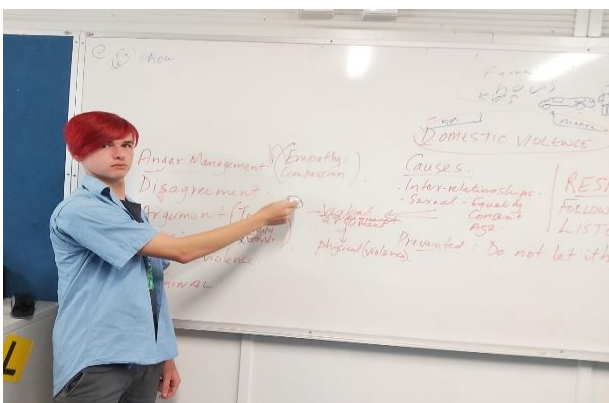
by Bhagwanji Bhindi
(Retired linguistics lecturer) Sydney



Tyler Barrett Collins with happy mum Victoria signing the work experience form in Dr Nand's office. Tyler started work experience two weeks ago with Compressor Technology Queensland. Thanks, Mul & Rose for your support to ATAC students



Members of AIH with Dr Nand discussing challenges and opportunities in the Bushfood Industry at the AIH Conference in Sydney.



Dylan Sutcliffe taking class session with an interesting typical a case study on Domestic Violence to re-enforce the various issues related to one of the major police reports in Queensland. "As young people we should be aware and become active participants to become responsible citizens in supporting our happy families," said Dylan.



Members of AIH Board who have expressed interest to be at our upcoming Bushfoods Conference. Working in the Landscape designs is a great pleasure for them.



Dr Nand with Peter Dawe from Royal Botanic Gardens and Costa Georgiadis, Landscape Architect and ABC presenter at the Australian Institute of Horticulture (AIH) Conference in Sydney on 11.03.22. Dr Nand did a brief presentation about Bushfoods Conferences held at Griffith University and ATAC since 1998. He invited AIH members and other enthusiasts to the upcoming Bushfoods Conference in August 2022 at the College organized in partnership with AIH.



Experience shared at the conference travelling across Australia meeting with many Indigenous communities and Bushfoods people providing a lot of inspiration and knowledge about the benefits and opportunities of using bush foods for various cuisines.

Message from a Parent



Hi Dr. Nand,

When you asked me to write a blurb on our experiences with ATAC, I must admit I struggled to find the right words. How do you put in to words the tremendous change in our children? How can I express what a difference a school makes?

School is such an important part of a child's life and as hard as it is to admit sometimes, we get it wrong, and I did get it wrong. Until I looked in to ATAC.

The flexible learning style suits both my boys, they are learning practical things like how to fix a car and how to care for animals, how to become self-sufficient whilst being able to get their high school certificate. So far, all our experiences at ATAC have been positive and we as a family couldn't be happier.

Kind regards


Victoria (Parent)

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:

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Enrolment is now open for Online courses:

- 1. BSB40520 Cert. IV in Leadership & Management**
- 2. BSB50420 Diploma in Leadership & Management**
- 3. BSB50120 Diploma in Business**

For more information please contact:

Email: enrolment@atac.qld.edu.au

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