



# AGTECH Connections

The newsletter of the Australian Technology  
& Agricultural College

*'Connecting the College with the Community'*

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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

### **Masks off**

With the high rates of vaccinations Queensland is getting closer to opening the borders. Students and staff have taken Queensland Government advice and followed protocols to minimise Covid-19 outbreaks and lockdowns. Congratulations to all those getting vaccinated to protect themselves and their loved ones. After a long period of limited mobility, and travel and social restrictions we are all looking forward to meet our families and friends over the Christmas holidays.

### **Academic progress**

As the term IV ends, students have been making holiday plans and finding jobs. Every student is individually supported to complete their QCE, Cert. II in FSK Cert. II in Business and a trade of their choice from TAFE. Our unique pathway provides students to obtain four certificates at the end of year 12 including their QCE.

### **Student projects**

The chicken project has continued to produce eggs and the ducks are now ready to lay. The duck and chook fences with greater run area are complete and laying beds are being prepared for the free range hatchlings. Native lizards are being fed and taken care of by Dylan. Aquaponics veggies are taken care off by Nick and he is getting ready to introduce fish. Native plants have been planted and growing well with the recent rain. The nursery needs re-planting of vegetables, and the potted succulents are ready for transfer in the ground.

Students have been collecting data and information for the management and maintenance of their projects which compliments their agricultural curriculum. The hands-on activities are very engaging and rewarding to most of the students who love outdoor work. Additional new projects in trades and agriculture are planned for next year with the expected infrastructure improvement and funding.

### **Community engagement**

Regular discussions with parents/guardians have shown that students complete their projects and academic work with greater interest and commitment. Positive feedback from parents/guardians during discussions and graduation function on 17 November 2021, was very encouraging. Many parents/guardians, Business owners, members of the Board of Directors and guests from media greatly appreciated our efforts in the progress, engagement, and career pathways for our young people. Thanks to all parents/guardians who have taken keen interest to work with ATAC staff and to provide support to their child. Good performance and commitment are clearly a result of active involvement of parents/guardians.

We look forward to providing online or face to face training in Cert. II FSK, Cert. IV and Diploma in Leadership & Management and Diploma in Business to anyone interested. We are awaiting approvals for the new Cert. II in Workplace Skills and some higher education courses via our RTO (#45556). Please visit our website for more information or visit our college.

North Maclean Community Gardens (NMCG) project is well in progress and the members continue to plant, harvest and re-plant for gaining additional income to support their families. The site has been provided free of charge as a good will to a hard-working community. Individuals or communities are most welcome to discuss establishing any projects at the college that could be of educational benefit to our students.

### **Infrastructure Development Plans**

The earthwork for our multipurpose shed is scheduled to begin next week subject to weather permitting. The slabs will be grounded a week later and the construction expected to begin in early January. The shed will provide opportunities for hands-on trade activities. The main hall of the shed will also be used for general outdoor activities, functions, and the opportunity to hold the 8th Bushfoods Conference in April 2022.

### **Gary Suthers**

*English, Humanities and Agricultural Science Teacher*

Term four, Semester two and 2021 is almost complete! Assessments are completed and report cards are now being prepared. 2021 has been a year of change and challenges here at the college. We had a number of new faces in our year ten class. Josh Mclachan, our senior student, is taking on more individual study and an apprenticeship! Our year eleven students are stepping up to the challenge of senior studies.

We started Agricultural studies with year ten and eleven in term one. The fruits of all their hard work has paid off! Eggs from our chickens tomatoes, bak choy, herbs, tomatoes and beans from the green house have been harvested. Also, from the Aquaponics a feast of strawberries, mint, herbs and lots of cabbages were harvested Working with our senior student Josh has been very rewarding. Seeing him grow in confidence and in skills and knowledge has been a privilege. Josh has improved in both Mathematics and English but, for me his greatest success is in his English, going from strength to strength producing an interesting, versatile, emotional and well written folio of work!

As a teacher I've learnt lots of new things from these inspiring young people. I learnt that car engine blocks are heavy, that scorched pine can be art, graffiti can be art, that strawberries are best straight off the plant, that chickens and ducks need warmth and cuddles, lizards like blueberries and I learnt about sumps, pumps, IBC's and pipes and electric fences have a sting!

I wish everyone well for the future as some students continue their learning with us here at ATAC, some are leaving for new opportunities and one student is leaving us as he finishes school and goes on a journey of learning for life.

Thank you to all parents and guardians, for your continued support of your child's learning here at ATAC. Merry Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous New Year to you all.

### **Radhika Behal**

*Business Development Manager*

Thank you to all parents who have confirmed the enrolment of their child for 2022. Please complete the relevant forms on the first day of school in 2022. May this Christmas end the present year on a cheerful note and make way for a fresh and bright New Year. Here's wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! STAY SAFE AND STAY HAPPY

A decorative graphic with the words "Merry Christmas" written in a red, cursive script font. The text is arranged in two lines, with "Merry" on top and "Christmas" below it.

# ATAC GRADUATION NIGHT 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021



Lewis is all smiles after getting his Agricultural Science award from Ms Irene Bayldon (Chair) for his effort in building the Greenhouse and the gardens for our vegetables.



Harrison Sibley and Brock Puce worked very hard to successfully complete year 10 and receive their certificate from Ms. Irene Bayldon.



Taylah Smith receives her encouragement award from Mr. Paul Jackson (Park Ridge News). She re-started schooling after working for a while. ATAC provided her with a pathway and opportunity to complete her year 10. Congratulations.



(R-L) Year10 students Taylah Jane Smith, Lewis Conrad Schulte, Brock Puce and Harrison Edward Sibley with ATAC chair, Ms. Irene Bayldon and Dr Nand.

YEAR 10 students completed English, Maths, Science, Agricultural Science, HPE and History. Zara Gregory-Ryan and Ruby Wells who completed year 10 were unable to attend the graduation ceremony.



Ms. Stacey Martin (City Studio Projects Coordinator) of Logan City Council presented progressive award certificate to Dylan Sutcliffe. Dylan also received a special Principal's award for his role in supporting college duties all year round in keeping the college clean.



Nickolas Springall received his Essential Mathematics and Agricultural Practices awards from Stacey Martin. His outstanding outdoor work with Aquaponics and tree planting won him a prestigious ATAC jersey donated by Dr. Nand.



Jayden Waller received Essential English, and Agricultural Practices award. Jayden has been a great academic student who also helped his peers with IT support and subject content.



Dr Nand with Ms. Stacey Martin, Nick Springall, Jayden Waller, and Dylan Sutcliffe. Congratulations for providing continuous support to Gary, Radhika and Dr Nand.

**YEAR 11 Students studied Essential Mathematics, Essential English, Agricultural Practices, Certificate II FSK, and a Trade Certificate at TAFE. They also completed Life Skills for an additional credit for QCE.**



Congratulations Joshua McLachlan for receiving his subject awards and Year 12 Completion Certificate (QCE). Joshua has a fulltime apprenticeship with Mondo Engineering.



Paul Jackson sharing his experiences with ATAC since his son joined ATAC in 2017 and he moved on to build his career. Paul publishes Park Ridge News and conducts monthly Breakfast Connect meetings for Logan West businesses. Great support to our community.



Lal Fanai (Centre), the Leader of the National Burmese Community (Jehovah Jireh Baptist Church Logan) and the North Maclean Community Gardens at ATAC presented Parent's award certificate to Lyla Barker for her very ardent role in supporting Brock Puce to complete his year 10. We greatly appreciate Lyla's perseverance and commitment in getting Brock across the line to complete his assessments.



Ms. Stacey Martin of City studio projects Coordinator explaining her role to support youths in Logan City Council.



Board of Directors (L-R) Professor Sarojni Choy, Ms. Irene Bayldon (Chair), Mr. Craig Butler and Dr Nand.



Parents and Guardians at the 2021 Graduation Function held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021.



2021 ATAC GRADUATES WITH THE PRINCIPAL/CEO Dr Nand (L-R) Nickolas Springall, Dylan Sutcliffe, Joshua McLachlan, Harrison Sibley, Brock Puce, Taylah Smith, Lewis Schulte and Jayden Waller, (Absent- Zara Gregory Ryan, Ruby Wells, Joshua Behan, and Caleb Smith).

**ENROLMENT OPEN FOR 2022**

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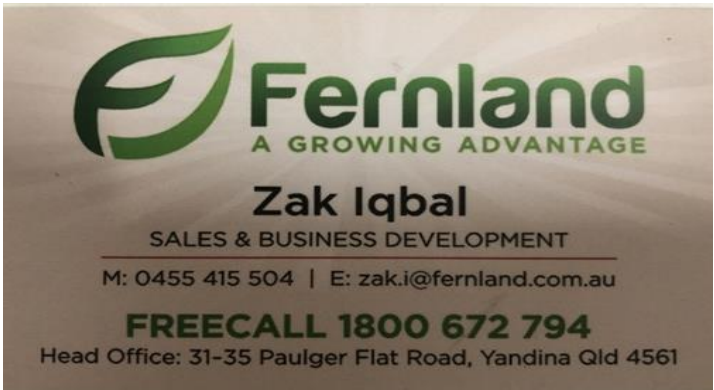
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