

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 85: November 2022

College Founder/CEO

Dr Narendra Nand



Principal's Message

Following the completion of the Year 12 and Year 10 assessments, the graduation ceremony was held on 16 November 2022 at the college. Students have fulfilled their QCAA requirement for successful completion of Year 12 QCE along with Certificate II FSK and Certificate II in a trade. Graduating year 12 students have secured their traineeship/apprenticeship earlier than expected and are on the path to their planned careers. All our Year 10 students are enrolled at TAFE for 2023 into Trade Taster program so that they can choose a trade career that suits their interest. The students are responsible for their independent growth and are accountable for their success with the flexible opportunities provided to them. Congratulations and best wishes to those students who have graduated and will continue their career paths. ATAC is proud to have assisted you to find these pathways.

ATAC TRIPOD MODEL

The TRIPOD model of our partnerships with parents/guardians, students and ATAC promoted goodwill and understanding that enables us to nurture the friendly and less stressful education and training environment. It enables us to work closely with every child to support him/her with our flexi-model pathways. Dreams do come true

with "early careers and early incomes". ATAC provides with the semi-formal environments with less formal classroom challenges allowing all students with opportunities to utilize their talents in the way they feel comfortable and less stressful. Students also obtain their White Card and get opportunity to do their First Aid course making them eligible to start their trade careers as apprentices or to enter straight into the workforce. Our onsite trainees are also assisting in capacity building through our RTO courses. With the completion of our multi-purpose shed, we would be able to provide more hands-on skills and practical training in approved areas.

Community Engagement

Congratulations to all parents/caregivers, who have supported the staff and students at ATAC and attended the 2022 graduations ceremony. Their invaluable contribution was rewarded with tears of joy when their children received certificates of completion or special awards. The students and their parents felt that they achieved impossible missions and that the ATAC environment has transformed their lives into interesting pathways and journey towards success. We greatly appreciate the support of our local businesses and the community members who provide opportunities to our students for work experience and jobs.

Members of the North Maclean Community Gardens add some attraction to their horticultural activities as they grow their vegetables to complement their income. Hard working members defy the hot and wet conditions and persevere to improve their horticultural skills. Their presence and hard work demonstrate a good example to the students who are able to see for themselves how horticultural crops are grown. Improvements in

our nursery and aquaponics set ups will further support the growing horticultural studies by students. With the help of our Board member, Daniel Cole and trainees we are keen to expand this area to generate some income.

Infrastructure Development Plans

With major earthworks done prior to the rain, we anticipate preparing the pad and compacting it in the next few weeks. Due to heavy rain, the earthworks have been suspended so concreting is likely to be pushed into early 2023.

Bushfoods Conference 2023

The Australian Bushfoods Conference incorporating the 8th Queensland Bushfoods Conference is re-scheduled to be held at ATAC on 27th to 28th May 2023. ATAC will host the National Bushfoods Conference in partnership with Australian Institute of Horticulture (AIH) and Queensland Bushfoods Association (QBA). Regular meetings are being held with the ex- president of AIH, Mr. Michael Casey, QBA secretary, Ms. Sheryl Backhouse, Ms. Irene Bayldon (ATAC Board Chair, Emeritus Professor Rod Drew (Ex-Chair of ISHS & ATAC) and Dr Narendra Nand. Brochures are available on AIH website [insert the link here] and more details will become available on ATAC website as soon as the program is finalized.

Covid-19 – Safety & Precaution

Thanks to all parents/guardians for supporting the Covid-safe plans and to the government for the free kits in keeping ATAC free of Covid-19.

Parent/ Guardian Engagement

As education and training partners, the role of the parents/guardians has become increasingly important to guide and support their child. Parental engagement plays a vital role in supporting children not only to enter the workforce but also to maintain and build a long-term career. ATAC works closely with businesses, training organizations and parents/guardians in empowering students to become job ready. They are encouraged to develop personal skills to make them suitable to find work experience and/or

apprenticeships. Congratulations to those who have successfully gained early employment.

Gary Suthers

English, Humanities, Science and Agricultural Science Teacher

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

Congratulations to all the students who graduated from ATAC on the 16th of November. After three years with us at ATAC, Dylan and Nick have moved on to further work-based studies. Dylan will begin his apprenticeship in hairdressing at Pernickety Hair salon in Jimboomba and Nick will commence an agricultural traineeship here at the college. Riley has begun his diesel mechanic apprenticeship and Bethany will move into workplace learning.

The Year 10 students have finished their first stage of senior learning and will move onto more in-depth individual learning in Year 11. I look forward to the students returning as Year 11 students and continue their learning journey with us here at ATAC. Congratulations to those students who received awards this year, for both academic excellence and special recognition. All your hard work in achieving better results or for being outstanding in other areas has been recognised in the giving of these awards.

The academic year has ended for all students, and I wish everyone a restful break and a happy and peaceful Christmas.



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

Self-reliance –an attribute of immense value
Its value peaks when confronted with circumstances

They shape your experiences to tackle life
These experiences become your teacher

Giving you lifelong lessons
Guiding the direction of your life’s vision

Experience is your best teacher
That triggers your conscientiousness

Awakens your consciousness of the real world
Takes away the illusion of your perception of life

When reality hits head on
The inner energy gets charged

Awakening you to be more vigilant
Of people, circumstances and environment

You begin to realize your own hidden potential
Thoughts set in motion

Driving you to scale dizzy heights
Sharpening your self-reliance

Self-reliance combined with self-confidence
Makes you feel more balanced, stable and motivated

You become more human
Embracing wider horizon of humanity

Self-reliance is a noble virtue
That derives its strength from Divine faith

I have made self-reliance my humble abode



ATAC Graduation Evening 16th November 2022



Nick Springall flanked by his proud parents Lisa (L) and Daniel (R) receiving his certificate from Mr. Ross Jones. Nick received the student of the year award and is a trainee at ATAC.



Damian with Dr. Nand and Teacher Mr. Gary Suthers.



Kasey Anderson with her dad and another parent Allison Sutcliffe who has had her own two children graduating from ATAC



Dylan Sutcliffe with Dr Nand and ATAC Chair Ms. Irene Bayldon.



Bethany Kivela with her parents who received her QCE from ATAC. Congratulations Bethany. Your short stay with us has made a huge difference to your life.



Riley with his dad and mum Victoria Barrett. Riley obtained his year 12 QCE certificate, Cert II FSK, subject wards and an apprenticeship after joining ATAC at the beginning of this year. Congratulations Riley.

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



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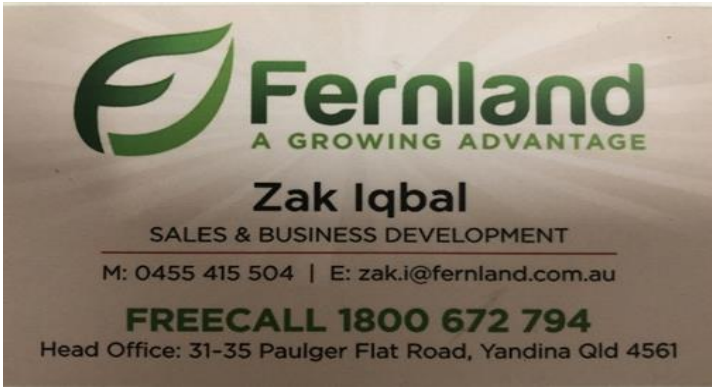
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Contact us:

07 5547 8598 or 0432 036 537

E: enrolment@atac.qld.edu.au

Australian Bushfoods Conference

(8th Qld. Bushfoods Conference)

May 28-29th 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 28-29th 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