

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 84: October 2022

College Founder/CEO

Dr Narendra Nand



Principal's Message

This has been a challenging term for students and staff alike. Some progress has been made by the students on their work while desperately trying to complete their final assessments to ensure that their QCE points will add up to meet their QCAA requirement. Year 12 completed their Certificate II FSK Units and will be awarded their certificates. Job-ready students have secured work experience and/or apprenticeship and TAFE places for 2023. Students will progress at their own pace without too much pressure. There is more responsibility for the students to grow independently and be accountable for their success. Congratulations and best wishes to those students who will graduate and continue their apprenticeships.

ATAC Academic Plans

"Early career, early income and early dreams" pathways for completion of education and training at ATAC is the pathway that assists and supports students who have found formal classrooms challenging. Students in Year 10 have successfully completed their trade taster program at TAFE. Some are doing work experience while others are completing their assessments to successfully complete Year 10. All students have obtained their White Card and completed their First Aid

course making them eligible to start their trade careers as apprentices or join the workforce. Emphasis is also placed on engaging trainees to prepare them to support our RTO courses and training on-site.

Community Engagement

Thank you to all parents/caregivers, who have supported the staff and students at ATAC. Your contribution is invaluable, and it enables us to work closely with your child to support him/her with our flexi model pathways. We greatly appreciate the support of our local businesses and the community members who provide opportunities to our students for work experience and jobs. The North Maclean Community Garden project members have started planting as the weather permits. The garden produce complements their income and improve their horticultural skills. Horticulture is a growing industry and ATAC supports formal training in basic horticultural and agricultural skills. Thank you to our new Board member Daniel Cole who has been preparing our nursery production and Bushfoods projects.

Infrastructure Development Plans

After final plumbing approvals from LCC, we are amending our architectural drawings and re-scheduling the preparation of the concrete pad for our new shed. Quotations are being reviewed and we look forward to starting the earthworks for the pads as soon as the weather permits.

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 for the event are available on AIH website 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. We will continue to follow the protocols for infection control as cases soar across the nation.

Parent/ Guardian Engagement

As times have become difficult to find the best people in the workforce, we support the engagement of parents/guardians to work closely with ATAC in empowering their child to become job ready. As partners in education and training the role of the parents/guardians has become more important to guide and support their children not only to get into workforce but also to maintain and build a long-term career. They are encouraged to help their children in building their personal skills to make them suitable to find work experience and or apprenticeships. Congratulations to those who have completed the TAFE trade taster program to obtain their white card and to those who have completed their First Aid Course. Great opportunity for an early employment.

Gary Suthers

English, Humanities, Science and Agricultural Science Teacher

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your child at ATAC. It is almost the end of term, with assessments (examinations) due in week 6 and workbooks to be finished in week 7.

The Year 10 students have looked at satire in comedy and have learnt how to analyse Memes, cartoons and satirical television. In Math, they have been learning how to use Bus/Train timetables and how to use metric measurements in everyday situations. The focus this term is on Popular Culture fads for history and Australia's contribution to pop culture. We have been playing Australian pop music and watching "Skippy" and "Countdown".

The Year 12 students will be looking at the Australian character and how it has changed over the recent decades. Using examples found in Australian television, situation comedy, advertising, and Australian reality television shows. They have all completed their short stories about a typical Australian stereotype or not being one! I look forward to reading them.

Changes at ATAC include the old shed being remodelled to accommodate the Aquaponics by Nick and his team of hard-working students. It has taken great shape in the last few weeks, and we hope to start moving the aquaponics equipment, the sump, grow beds and the tank. The poultry coop has been moved to a new location with the chooks and ducks now laying.

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.



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

Self-Reliance

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 dizzier 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

In that abode resides rest of my life

Bhagwanji Bhindi



(L-R) Tyler, Nick, and Bethany with the leader of the Community Garden, Mr. Lal Fanai re-visiting students’ duck project, their progress and potential support to the poultry and gardens.

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



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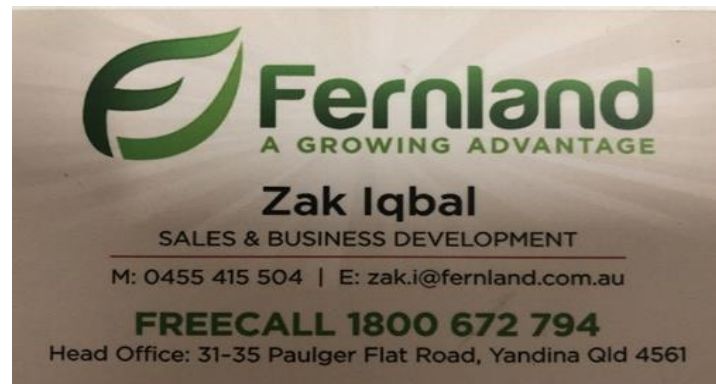
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Paul
Manager - Park Ridge News
www.parkridgenews.com.au
0410583291

www.parkridgenews.com.au



South Pacific Networks
www.southpacificnetworks.com

Henry Bart-Plange
Operations Director

Shop 5/74 Granard Road,
Archerfield, QLD
Australia 4108

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The Deputy Premier, Hon. Steven Miles (MP), with ISQ Chair, Karen Spiller, Hon. Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing, Ms. Grace Grace (MP), and ISQ CEO, Christopher Mountford with a member at the ISQ Annual Parliamentary Reception.
(Photo by Ms. Irene Bayldon - ATAC Chair)



Hon. Minister Ms. Grace Grace (MP) with members of Parliament and members of Independent Schools Queensland at the Annual Parliamentary Reception.
(Photo by Ms. Irene Bayldon - ATAC Chair)

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**BSB50420 Diploma in Leadership and
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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)

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

AUSTRALIAN TECHNOLOGY & AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Student Awards Night

**Wednesday
16th November
2022**

5.00 to 7.00 PM

**RSVP:
By Monday 14 November 2022
Ph: 07 5547 8598
rbehal@atac.qld.edu.au**