



# 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 83: September 2022

### College Founder/CEO

*Dr Narendra Nand*



### Principal's Message

Welcome back to the fourth and final term of 2022. Despite bad weather, for most of the term, students have managed to successfully do some project work and complete their assessments. Students completed their First Aid course and Life Skills as part of their core subjects toward their QCE points. Year 12 students completed most of their Certificate II FSK by the end of last term. ATAC supports every student into work experience and apprenticeships as they develop job-ready skills independently and progressing at their own pace, without too much pressure. Congratulations to those students doing work experience and apprenticeships

### ATAC Academic Plans

"Early career, early income and early dreams" pathways for completion of education and training at ATAC assists and supports students who have found formal classrooms challenging. Students in year 10 have successfully completed their trade taster program at TAFE and 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.

### Community Engagement

Thank you to all local businesses and the community members who are providing opportunities to our students for work experience and jobs. The North Maclean Community Garden project members have started preparing the gardens for planting in the land provided to them for free so that they can complement their income from the vegetables. Horticulture is a growing industry and ATAC supports formal training in basic Horticultural and agricultural skills to our students and general public. Thank you to our new Board member Daniel Cole who has been preparing our nursery and production and Bushfoods projects.

### Infrastructure Development Plans

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

### Bushfoods Conference 2023

The Australian Bushfoods Conference incorporating the 8<sup>th</sup> Queensland Bushfoods Conference is re-scheduled to be held at ATAC on 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

## 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 the workforce but also in maintaining and building a long-term career plan. 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 and Agricultural Science Teacher*

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your child at ATAC. With the new term starting we have a lot of work to be done in a short term.

The Year 10 students have started looking at satire in comedy and how to analyze Television shows like “Summer Heights High”, “Little Britain” and political cartoons. In Math, we will be learning how to read Bus/Train timetables and how to use metric measurements in everyday situations. The focus this term is on Popular Culture fads for history, so don't be surprised if your child asks about, Rubik Cubes, Skipping Ropes, Frisbees and Cassette Tapes.

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. Changes at ATAC include the old shed being remodeled 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 ready for laying. Students will be

writing their agricultural science projects on growing and budgeting for a small poultry business

Working with our students at ATAC is a very rewarding experience for me and seeing them all grow in confidence and in skills and knowledge is a great privilege. 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, all parents and guardians, for your continued support of your child's learning here at ATAC.



Luke (Plumber) and Teejay (Concreter) measuring the pad height to meet the Council requirements. They have been working together to re-schedule the earthworks and concreting as soon the weather permits.



Agricultural Science Poultry project enabled students to grow day old chooks to egg laying hens. We get about 8-10 eggs per day. There are now 9 adult ducks from last year's hatchlings of a pair we had bred. Students learn the SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures), RSPCA laws and poultry husbandry for potential hobby or a small business enterprise.



*Poem by Mr. Bhagwanji Bhindi*

*Retired Linguistics Lecturer (Sydney)*

*Journey of life is like the weather*

*Sometimes sunny, sometimes chilly, rainy,  
cloudy*

*Each stage evoking radiant rainbow*

*Colours of the rainbow reflecting journey  
of life*

*Journey symbolizes passage of time*

*Time and journey-twin forces controlling  
destiny*

*Its beauty tied with time*

*Its destiny entwined in the journey of life*

*We are travellers in this journey of life*

*Our thoughts and sentiments*

*Immersed in cloudy and azure sky*

*Like sails of the ship on a journey*

*Our path(s) we choose in the journey*

*Take we responsibility in the voyage*

*Trajectory of journey rests on an  
individual*

*How he/she manoeuvres the sails is  
crucial*

*In the journey we meet people of diverse  
nature*

*Some left behind, some eternally bonded*

*In every weather giving sustenance*

*Keeps the journey buoyant and alive*

*Journey of life is like the sea*

*Swelling with hope, optimism, success*

*Ebbing with despair, pessimism,  
devastation*

*The beauty lies in balancing with reason  
and emotion*

*Every journey has a reason*

*Its reason may not manifest instantly*

*In retrospect and after a lapse of time*

*One may realize why the journey  
happened*

*Bhagwanji Bhindi*

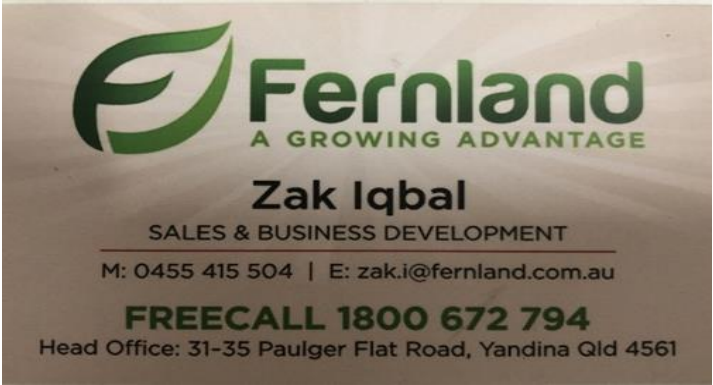
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