



# AGTECH Connections

The newsletter of the Australian Technology  
& Agricultural College

*'Connecting the College with the Community'*

W: [www.atac.qld.edu.au](http://www.atac.qld.edu.au) | E: [admin@atac.qld.edu.au](mailto:admin@atac.qld.edu.au) | P: +617 5547 8598

**Edition 76: February 2022**

**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

Welcome to all new students, parents & guardians to the 2022 academic year. We started the term with online learning and have almost completed half of term one. Six new students have embarked on their projects and assessment tasks.

### **Vaccinations and Masks for Schools**

Our school community is 100% vaccinated except one student who is waiting for the second dose. Thank you to all students and parents. High rates of vaccinations, accessibility and uptake of booster shots and the availability of RAT kits have made the college a safer place. Like all schools, we are waiting for the lifting of most restrictions by the Queensland government. Students, staff, and parents/visitors have followed the EQ and ISQ advice and prevented Covid-19 spread in our school community. Thank you for your great support in protecting our families and friends.

### **ATAC Academic Plans**

Our "early career, early income and early dreams" pathways will continue with flexibility to meet classroom learning and hands-on experiences. Blended with online and face to face learning resources and assessments, students have full access to their tasks. Students can work from home and/or at school without any disruptions.

Certificate II training programs at ATAC and TAFE will continue as usual, and students will be individually supported to obtain four certificates at the end of year 12 including their QCE via alternative pathways. 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. Please visit our website for more information or visit the college.

### **Student projects**

Chicken eggs and chooks were sold for a small income. We are still waiting for some ducklings for further growth of our flock. Students have been working to re-arrange the fences and security for the free-range chooks and ducks. New students are getting used to Native lizards and learning to care for them with help from Dylan. Nick is back on Aquaponics project, cleaning the tanks and grow beds despite the heavy rains. He was happy to see some Asian crops surviving heat, storm and heavy downpours. Native plants in the Bushfoods Park and the nursery are growing rapidly in the rainy season - at times struggling with the weeds. The nursery has been cleaned up for re-planting and propagation. Students have been assigned to their projects to complement their agricultural curriculum. Most students love the outdoor and hands-on activities.

### **Community engagement**

Engagement of all parents/guardians to support our students is a priority and we greatly appreciate that partnership. Parent/guardian engagement in student activities provide a lot of encouragement

for student success and you are always welcome to provide a hand.

Board of Directors have been very happy with the feedback given to them by the parents and guardians. This is very encouraging in enhancing the progress, engagement, and career development of our young people.

Congratulations to North Maclean Community Gardens (NMCG) members who have opened a big community garden at Berrinba. The members still visit ATAC to care for and harvest their chilies for some supplementary income. ATAC welcomes individuals or communities to join the community gardens and to establish any project at the college that could be of educational benefit to our students.

### **Infrastructure Development Plans**

The earthworks have been delayed due to exceptionally bad weather and we have rescheduled the constructions with tentative dates. We are working closely with the shed company, plumbers and the council to ensure that we can have our shed ready for the Bushfoods Conference at ATAC between 26-28 May 2022.

### **Parent Meetings**

All parents/guardians are requested to make an appointment to discuss their child's progress, assessments, and career pathways with us before 15 March 2022.

### **Gary Suthers**

*English, Humanities and Agricultural Science Teacher*

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

We are already halfway through term one! However, we've only had three weeks teaching and learning. We have had to pack in a lot in the last three weeks, looking at the major events in the 20th century, Australia, and World War 11, and how our D.N.A. influences our appearance and our growth. Also, how does poetry relate to song lyrics and exactly how long is a reoccurring decimal number?

The senior students in year twelve have been working to complete their subjects for their senior

certificate as well as their TAFE courses, their Future Skills and Business Certificate courses and work or work experience. The year ten students have been working on their Math and English skills, with time devoted to math practice, spelling, grammar and reading.

It will be an exciting year at ATAC, with our shed being finalised for construction, our native garden blooming and our agricultural projects established. Our drake and duck have produced some eggs, but we won't know for a while if there will be ducklings. The greenhouse has grown a jungle of tomato plants and bean vines over the break, so this will have to be tamed before new plants can be established.

Working with our students 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 successfully complete their studies.

Thank you to all parents and guardians, for your continued support of your child's learning here at ATAC.

### **Radhika Behal**

*Business Development Manager*

Thank you to all parents who have fully paid the Term 1 fee. Your receipts /invoices will be sent via MYOB. Completed consent forms for Immunization of year 10 students have been given to LCC. The date for immunization will be forwarded to you as soon as we receive it. TAFE responses will be sent directly to the parents so please respond to it as soon as possible. If you need any help with the applications, please contact me.

Kindly note that enrolment at ATAC is open at any time to support any student who is willing to successfully complete his/her senior education. ATAC programs will fill the gaps and allow students to progress their education and careers. For any further information please feel free to visit us.

**Message from Mr. Bhagwanji Bhindi  
a former Principal and a colleague of  
Dr. Nand from Labasa, Fiji.**



It's a profound joy to write a message for AGTECH Connections, the Newsletter of the Australian Technology & Agricultural College 'Connecting the College with the Community'. I wish to thank Dr. Narendra Nand for inviting me to write a message.

Education, including Technical, Agricultural and Trade, need to be recognized as a process so that human beings and societies can reach their fullest potential. Education is critical for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of the people to address environmental and development issues. The process of education is the nurturing of the head, the heart, and the hands. All three need to work in harmony to achieve the set goal(s).

I am impressed by the institution's mission and vision for they are appropriate and relevant to the contemporary society. The vision so explicitly states "to provide high standard nationally recognized education in Technical, Agricultural and Trade sectors with an alternative pathway for young people to support Industrial and Agricultural sector." An alternative pathway is the way to go. It's a new direction where young people can carve and shape their destiny.

The mission is more specific which aims to achieve the vision. That is developing life skills and career goals with workplace opportunities through senior education. This institution offers tremendous opportunities to young people in fulfilling their dreams. "Diversity for Sustainability" is a sustaining energy for ATAC.

Education for sustainable development (ESD) is about the learning needed to maintain and improve the quality of life of generations to come and education is the main tool for this.

I commend the leadership of Dr. Narendra Nand, his committed and dedicated team and students, and all stakeholders for providing a conducive and congenial ethos and environment for learning.

It is heartening to learn from previous Newsletters that so many students have graduated from ATAC and have made a niche in the world of work. I am certain that students, staff, parents, and all stakeholders feel humbly proud of their success.

Narendra and I have been colleagues and friends in teaching at Labasa College, a Fiji Government managed college and from there we were promoted by the Fiji Ministry of Education to be principals of Secondary Schools. When he contacted me in Sydney over a telephone conversation, requesting me to write a message for the Newsletter, I accepted his invitation with utmost gratitude. As a colleague, I found Narendra to be a very dedicated and passionate educationist.

Education is an essential tool for achieving sustainability. This is the crux of education. Let the winds blow freely and waves crash resoundingly on the shores of ATAC moving it forward.

My best wishes to ATAC for 2022.

Bhagwanji Bhindi B.A. (Hons), M.A., PGCT, PGCE,  
Dip Ed Admin, Dip Ed Eval  
Former Head of Department of Languages,  
Secondary School in Fiji  
Former Principal, Secondary Schools in Fiji  
Retired Lecturer, School of Communication,  
Language & Literature  
Fiji National University  
Author of 4 books of Poetry

**ENROLMENT OPEN FOR 2022**

# Limited Spaces

Unique Adjustable programs to get Jobs and/or Apprenticeships. Build skills and earn & learn.

Complete QCE (Yr. 12),  
Cert. II in a Trade (TAFE)  
Cert. II in FSK20119  
Cert. II Business (awaiting Approval)

BSB40520 Cert IV in Leadership and Management  
BSB50420 Diploma in Leadership and  
Management

**BSB50120 Diploma in Business**

Contact us:

07 5547 8598 or 0432 036 537

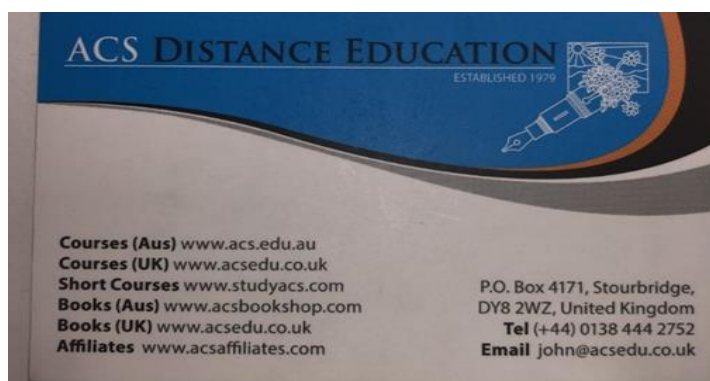
E: [enrolment@atac.qld.edu.au](mailto:enrolment@atac.qld.edu.au)

**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:**

Business  
Hospitality  
Horticulture  
Medicinal Herbs  
Plant Taxonomy  
Farming & Gardening  
Project management  
Indoor & Outdoor Plantings  
Backyard Nursery  
**Animal Courses**  
**Beekeeping**  
**Aquaponics**



**ACS DISTANCE EDUCATION**  
ESTABLISHED 1979

**Courses (Aus)** [www.acs.edu.au](http://www.acs.edu.au)  
**Courses (UK)** [www.acsedu.co.uk](http://www.acsedu.co.uk)  
**Short Courses** [www.studyacs.com](http://www.studyacs.com)  
**Books (Aus)** [www.acsbookshop.com](http://www.acsbookshop.com)  
**Books (UK)** [www.acsedu.co.uk](http://www.acsedu.co.uk)  
**Affiliates** [www.acsaffiliates.com](http://www.acsaffiliates.com)

P.O. Box 4171, Stourbridge,  
DY8 2WZ, United Kingdom  
**Tel** (+44) 0138 444 2752  
**Email** [john@acsedu.co.uk](mailto:john@acsedu.co.uk)

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



**AQUAPONICS  
MADE EASY!**  
Grow fish and plants together!



[www.aquaponics.NET.au](http://www.aquaponics.NET.au)

**Murray Hallam**  
Practical Aquaponics  
Ph 07 3200 0272 Fx 07 3297 5154  
[murray@aquaponics.NET.au](mailto:murray@aquaponics.NET.au)  
Team Economics Pty Ltd  
21 - 31 Hives Road North Maclean QLD 4280



**COMPRESSOR TECHNOLOGY  
QUEENSLAND**

P: + 61 7 3133 3527  
M: + 61 4 2846 6698  
[www.ctqgroup.com.au](http://www.ctqgroup.com.au)



**Paul**  
Manager - Park Ridge News  
[www.parkridgenews.com.au](http://www.parkridgenews.com.au)  
0410583291



[www.parkridgenews.com.au](http://www.parkridgenews.com.au)



**1 AUTO ONE**

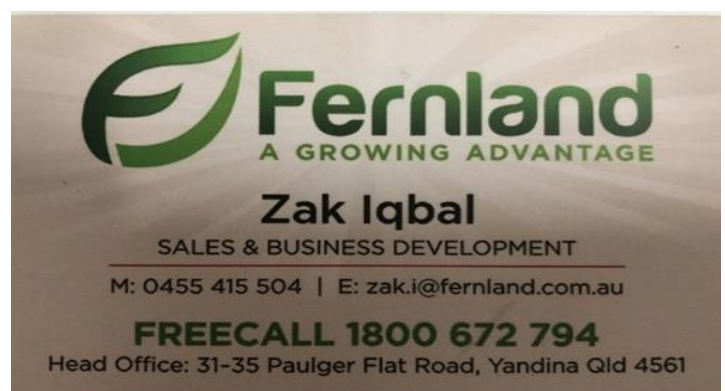
**AUTO ONE BROWNS PLAINS**  
Browns Plains Home Centre, 18 Commerce Drive  
Browns Plains QLD 4118  
Ph (07) 3802 8911 E [sales@autoonebrownsplains.com.au](mailto:sales@autoonebrownsplains.com.au)  
f /autoonebrownsplains [www.autoone.com.au](http://www.autoone.com.au)



**one stop training**



1300 556 387 [training@onestopgroup.com.au](mailto:training@onestopgroup.com.au)  
[www.onestoptraining.com.au](http://www.onestoptraining.com.au)



**Fernland**  
A GROWING ADVANTAGE

**Zak Iqbal**  
SALES & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT  
M: 0455 415 504 | E: [zak.i@fernland.com.au](mailto:zak.i@fernland.com.au)  
**FREECALL 1800 672 794**  
Head Office: 31-35 Paulger Flat Road, Yandina Qld 4561

## **ATAC RTO #45556**

**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:**

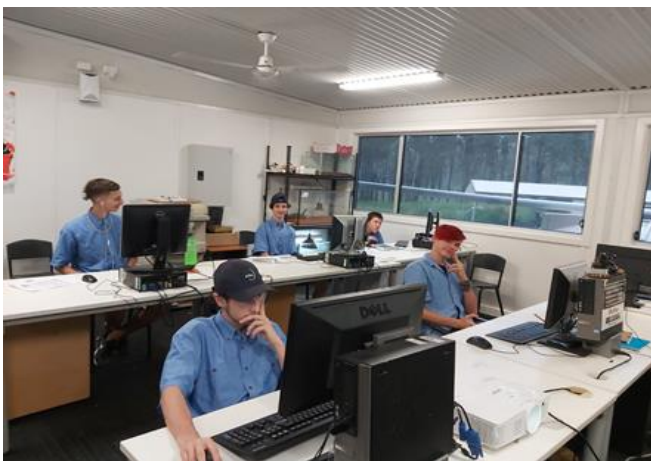
**Email: [enrolment@atac.qld.edu.au](mailto:enrolment@atac.qld.edu.au)**

**[rbehal@atac.qld.edu.au](mailto:rbehal@atac.qld.edu.au)**

**Ph: 07 5547 8598**



(L-R) Nick, Sean, Bayden, Tyler and Aiden with their instructor Corey Davies of Arakan Martial Arts after learning tricks for self-defense and building muscles as part of HPE practical sessions. Physical activity and fun are part of our mental health program to support ATAC students. Emphasis has been on the techniques and proper use of fitness equipment to avoid injuries while using them.



Dylan (far right) with Riley beside him in the front row and new year 10 students in the back row enjoying a relaxed class session.

**Australian Institute of Horticulture,**  
**Australian Technology and Agricultural College**  
**&**  
**Queensland Bushfoods Association**

**jointly host the**

**Australian Bushfoods Conference**  
**(8<sup>th</sup> Qld Bushfood Conference)**  
**at**

**Australian Technology & Agricultural College**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Topic: “Design & Development of Urban Landscapes for Bushfoods Production”**

**Invitations for speakers and presenters are open for the following themes:**  
**Plant selection, design, development and management of Bushfoods in urban environment and the traditional and culinary uses of bushfoods.**

**Contact:**  
**[bushfoods@atac.qld.edu.au](mailto:bushfoods@atac.qld.edu.au)**