



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

Vaccinations and Masks for Schools

It is very encouraging to note high rates of vaccinations and the increased accessibility and uptake of booster shots. Congratulations to all those getting vaccinated to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Schools will become accessible to students with some restrictions as defined by the Covid protocols by the Department of Education and Independent Schools Queensland. Online schooling started on 31st January for senior classes and face to face for all year 10 students commences on Monday 7th February. As predicted Queensland cases have increased significantly with the opening of the borders. Students, staff, and parents/visitors are all required to follow the EQ and ISQ advice to minimise Covid-19 spread in the school community. Your support in protecting our families and friends is greatly appreciated.

ATAC Academic Plans

Staff will provide all learning resources and assessment tasks online from this week and students will be able to access work online. Students can work from home and/or at school so that the learning can continue without any disruptions. Our early "career, early income and early dreams" pathways will continue with flexibility through classroom learning and hands-on experiences. Certificate II training programs at ATAC and TAFE will continue as usual, and student will be individually supported. Students can obtain four certificates at the end of year 12 including their QCE via alternative pathways.

These can be provided online or face to face Training in Cert. II FSK, Cert. IV and Diploma in Leadership & Management and Diploma in Business are offered to anyone interested. New Cert. II in Workplace Skills would be offered upon approval along with some higher education courses via our RTO (#45556). Please visit our website for more information or visit the college.

Student projects

The sale of eggs and chooks derived a small income during the last two terms. Ducks are now laying, and we look forward to getting some ducklings for further growth of our flock. The fences will be extended for a greater run area for our free-range chooks and ducks. Native lizards are being fed and taken care of by Dylan. Aquaponics veggies have been affected by storm damage of the cover, and it will be taken care of by Nick when the school year starts. Native plants in the Bushfoods Park have grown rapidly in the rainy season. The nursery needs re-planting of vegetables, propagation of native plants, succulents, and flowers for some income generation. Students will continue collecting data and information for the management and maintenance of their projects to complement their agricultural curriculum. The outdoor and hands-on activities are very engaging for some students, and they are able to relate their work to the natural environment. New agricultural and trades programs are planned for this year with expected funding and infrastructure improvement.

Community engagement

Thanks to all parents/guardians who have taken keen interest to work with ATAC staff in providing support to their child. Parent and/or guardian engagement in student activities provide a lot of encouragement and support towards the success of the projects. Students show greater interest in their work when there is parental engagement with ATAC.

Feedback from many parents/guardians, Business owners, guests and members of the Board of Directors have been very encouraging to enhance the progress, engagement, and career pathways of our young people.

North Maclean Community Gardens (NMCG) members continue to plant and harvest their chilies to obtain some additional income. The site has been provided free of charge as a good will to a hard-working community. ATAC welcomes individuals or communities to join the community gardens. Please contact ATAC to discuss any projects at the college that could also be of educational benefit to our students.

Infrastructure Development Plans

The earthwork for our multipurpose shed will recommence after meeting the council requirements subject to weather permitting. The slabs will be laid after the completion of earthworks and plumbing approvals. ATAC board and staff have been working hard to get through the hurdles through the holidays. The shed will provide opportunities for hands-on trade activities giving more flexibility in students' career choices. The main hall of the shed will be used for general outdoor activities, functions, and the opportunity to hold the 8th Bushfoods Conference at ATAC this year.

Gary Suthers

English, Humanities and Agricultural Science Teacher

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

Welcome to term one of the New Year! Holidays are over and it's time to return to work, study and college. It will be an exciting year at ATAC, once our shed is constructed. Our native garden is blooming and our agricultural projects are

established. Some of our students are returning for year eleven and twelve and we welcome our new students to the college.

The senior students in year eleven and twelve will be working harder to fit in 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 will be focusing on building Math and English skills, before learning about mental maths, poetry, science and history.

We will continue Agricultural studies with all students as there are lots of new things to learn and to produce. Chicken and Duck anatomy to learn and how to increase egg output; improving our recycling stream and how we can include a worm farm into the process; producing plants from cuttings and growing them to a product for selling; and how to use the various native plants for food and natural medicine.

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 growing more confidently and happily 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. I look forward to seeing you all for a new college year.

Radhika Behal

Business Development Manager

Thank you to all parents who have confirmed the enrolment of their child for 2022. Please complete the forms and provide evidence of personal details required by the Department of Education. Enrolment pack is provided to prospective students upon payment of \$150.00 enrolment confirmation fee. The enrolment forms and agreements are to be completed with the principal. Some fee relief is available to assist new enrolments who have genuine financial difficulty. Fee can be paid online or at the college by EFTPOS.



Earthworks done on 3rd December 2021 by Bigboss Concreting contractor. A lot of mud was removed due to soft surface caused by heavy rains. Approved plans require the levels to meet the council flood level guidelines.



Our neighbor, Brian Howard volunteered to do the measurements for the recommended flood levels as per approved plan. Brian has provided a lot of voluntary support to ATAC for the past five years. Thank you, Brian.



Bigboss workers levelling the pad and preparing to dig trenches for the foundation on 6th December 2021. Fortunately, further works were prevented to meet the approved floor levels and work will continue once the issue is resolved. Engineers have been working with the council to meet the minimum requirements.



Augustine Lee (Gus) from Babinda Q4861, which is one hour drive south of Cairns drove to meet Dr Nand to learn about ATAC. Gus grows a unique pink colored Noni (with PBR) which has a lot of medicinal uses. He uses the pulp which has four distinct flavors for use as salads and he would be keen to meet with people who would like to use the pink noni as ingredients for recipes that could gain popularity of his fruits. RIRDC has a lot of information published for Noni product which could benefit potential producers. (His 89-year-old father joined him to visit our college).

Article from a grandmother and the guardian of challenging success story

"My grandson attended ATAC in 2021. He was having trouble settling into a normal year 10 class where he could not cope with the class sizes and rules and expectations he was expected to apply to.

I enrolled him at ATAC where he could work at his own pace and as classes are much smaller, he could get the assistance and help he needed to finish year 10.

He has now with their guidance been able to work towards an apprenticeship as a boilermaker or sheet metal worker.

I am sure without the guidance and patience of Narendra he would not have been able to achieve this.

I would like to thank all staff for their help and support to him and to myself. I would highly recommend ATAC College to any parent/ student who is looking for a more relaxing education program."

By: Lyla Barker (grandmother/guardian)



Lyla Barker (R-L) with Mr. Lal Fanai and Dr. Nand after receiving her certificate at the graduation ceremony last year for being the most supportive guardian of her grandchild who successfully completed year 10 and is on path to an apprenticeship.

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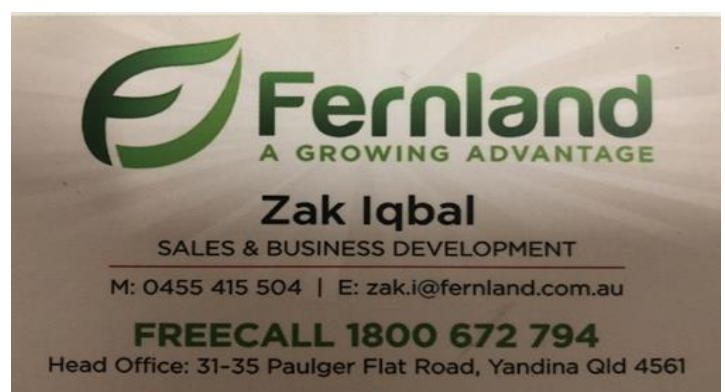
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ATAC RTO #45556

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For more information please contact:

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