

# 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 89: April 2023**

## College Founder/CEO

*Dr Narendra Nand*



## Principal's Message

Welcome to the Term II academic work and a very busy period for a lot of development works and the upcoming Bushfoods Conference. Learning in a small and supported environment can be challenging for the teachers without their parental support. Success comes only to those who try and follow instructions to complete little tasks day by day. Most students have been fully engaged in class work and focused on their careers. Preparing for TAFE, work experience and new jobs can be overwhelming, however, at ATAC we work closely with our students to prepare them to refocus on pathways that are realistic and acceptable to them to think of their dream careers in the future. The completion of Year 12 QCE and starting an early career with additional Certificate II Work for Skills & Vocational Pathways (FSK20119), Certificate II in Workplace Skills (BSB20120) and a Certificate II or III in a trade from TAFE or another RTO, is unique to ATAC. All our year 10 students have registered for the Trade Taster program and all year 11 students are enrolled at TAFE for 2023. ATAC is aiding each student into work experience or apprenticeship to meet their expectations, a learning experience that suits their needs and abilities via flexible pathways. ATAC is proud to provide an opportunity and a unique journey with a firm outcome by the end of year 12.

## ATAC TRIPOD MODEL

The TRIPOD model at ATAC promotes goodwill, understanding, tolerance, resilience and acceptance via working in a small and friendly environment. By nurturing the learning skills and training students to learn and teach, builds self-confidence and esteem within each person. Without close partnerships between parents/guardians, students, and the staff it is challenging to achieve early careers and early dreams. Honesty, hard work, responsibility, resilience, and respect are a priority and ATAC provides an informal and relaxed acceptable environment conducive to individual growth and development. Congratulations to the active ATAC Board members who provide enormous amount of time, physical voluntary labor, and financial support in building the infrastructure and resources for future growth and development.

## Community Engagement

ATAC regularly provides information about ATAC activities by monthly newsletters, social media, ATAC website and the media to well-wishers, parents/guardians, and local businesses. Parents/guardians are contacted via emails, and we welcome individuals and organizations to join ATAC committee to support young people in achieving their life goals.

North Maclean Community Gardens (NMCG) had suffered losses in the heat and floods and have re-started to grow new crops. The gardens with irrigations systems are also available to members of the public to grow their own vegetable crops. You can contact the college for the easy terms and conditions to enable you to do some hobby gardening and learn some horticultural tips.

We look forward to our board director, Mr. Daniel Cole, starting up the nursery production of native species for revegetation and sustainability of our environment.

### **Infrastructure Development Plans**

Despite some delays we are getting close to the completion of our multi-purpose shed. It is expected to be fully ready by the end of May. Most earth earthworks are complete, and we are ready for the completion of electrical, plumbing and sewerage works in the next couple of weeks. The open learning spaces, amenities and the commercial kitchen will provide opportunities to increase the numbers to enroll more students for approved courses for senior schooling and higher education. The multipurpose building will also provide an opportunity to host some Council approved public functions onsite.

### **Bushfoods Conference May 26-28<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Board Chair, Ms. Irene Bayldon, Prof. Rod Drew, and Dr. Narendra Nand have been discussing the progress of the shed and the planning of the first "Australian Bushfoods Conference" incorporating (8<sup>th</sup> Queensland Bushfoods Conference) at ATAC. The conference is jointly hosted by ATAC, Queensland Bushfoods Association (QBA) and the Australian Institute of Horticulture (AIH). The two-day national conference to be held at ATAC on 27-28<sup>th</sup> May 2023 is the first National event on Bushfoods and ATAC is proud to be hosting it. Prof. Rod Drew and Dr. Nand have conducted past 6 Queensland Bushfood Conferences at Griffith University and the 7<sup>th</sup> conference at ATAC with the support of QBA and ATAC board members. The First conference was held at Nathan campus in 1998. Full information and registration information is now on ATAC and AIH websites.

### **Parent/ Guardian Engagement**

Hands-on and practical work has become increasingly important in building positive attitude and skills. Building personal skills while doing work experience enhances academic achievements due to a more serious attitude towards their careers. ATAC works closely with businesses, training organizations and parents/guardians in empowering students with job-ready skills and knowledge.

Opportunities provided by businesses or self-employed tradies help the parents/guardians and ATAC to facilitate skills training for our students. With relevant skills and white cards, the employability of our students increases.

We thank all the businesses who have engaged our students and provided them with a bit of income and direction in life. We greatly appreciate the effort of the parents who have assisted us in finding work experience and/or apprenticeships for our students. As students are guided towards QCE completion, they enter the workforce by year 11 or 12 and are out in their dream careers before leaving school or just after QCE completion. Thanks to all our supporters.

### **The Board of Directors**

We sincerely appreciate the contribution of our directors for the donations for shed construction, providing sponsorships to needy students, assisting in internal review processes, general cleaning, and maintenance at ATAC and attending the regular monthly meetings. With the shed nearing completion and the upcoming Australian Bushfoods Conference, the board members are relieved that ATAC is progressing slowly but confidently towards achieving some of our aims.

ATAC Board directors are highly qualified, experienced, and very passionate people who are active community workers, and each member brings in a diverse knowledge and skills from their

own professional backgrounds which is very beneficial to ATAC. Some members have contributed to the 5-year cyclic review and the report approval which has been submitted to NSSAB.

All Board members are elected at the AGM, inducted at the next board meeting, and provided with mandatory governance training resources and are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities.

We are very thankful to Prof. Sarojni Choy to have organized a working bee last week for painting the office building. Thanks to her nephew Brain and friend Ozzie to join her for a full day job. More work is planned for her team for this weekend.

## Gary Suthers

*English, Humanities, Science and Agricultural Science Teacher*

Term two has started already and we have already started on the work needed for this term. The Year 10 students are learning about Elizabethan England and the plays of Shakespeare. The tragedy of Romeo and Juliet will be studied this term and how it compares to Gnomeo and Juliet as a Shakespearian story. Those students in Year 11ven are looking at workplace language and this term it is language used in the tourist and travel industry. For mathematics the Year 10 students are revisiting algebra, and they are trying to remember why there is a mix of numbers and letters in math questions. The senior students in Year 11 have been learning the odds of probability when rolling dice and playing card games. Agricultural Studies is all about fish this term, from fish anatomy to caring for and raising fish for food. For history, it is all about change as we study the early change-makers for rights and freedoms in Australia for aboriginal people from the 1930's peaceful protests to the Marbo decision on land rights in the 1990's.

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.



Ms. Katrina Swanston (L-R) and Liz Irvine of The Social Policy Group with ATAC Chair Ms. Mary Irene Bayldon visited the College to see how ATAC could assist more students in need. The ATAC model was unique, and they were very impressed with it. Thank you, Katrina and Liz.



The multipurpose shed is getting closer to completion to hold the first event at the end of the month. The first Australian Bushfoods Conference and the 8<sup>th</sup> Bushfoods Conference is to be held from 26-28<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The conference will host very well know speakers from across Australia and the participants with different interest in Native species are registering from different states.



**Mr. Bhagwanji Bhindi**  
**Retired Linguistics Lecturer (Sydney)**

**WOMEN - A TREASURED GIFT**

*A woman is an embodiment of sacrifice, compassion, energy, and love.*

*A great asset to family, community, society, nation, and the world.*

*Women and men are like two wheels of a chariot.*

*Its smooth movement squarely depends,*

*On how the two wheels move in harmony.*

*Women and men are not on a rat-race,*

*They are expected to work hand-in hand.*

*To achieve shared goals in all spheres of activities*

*Therein lies the peace and tranquility of humanity.*

*Women play multiple roles in family, community, society, nation, and the world.*

*The complexity of these roles and responsibilities are seldom understood by men.*

*This leads to frustration, depression, negativity, and anguish.*

*The competitive spirit of women,*

*With the sole purpose to surpass men as a sign of victory in the name of equality*

*May not augur well in the long run.*

*Women have the intelligence and grit to survive in male dominated fields*

*Proving that women have the determination.*

*To excel in numerous domains of human endeavors,*

*Let's join hands to give our full support to women.*

*To attain their full potential in all spheres of their lives*

*Women play pivotal role in the progress of humanity.*

*They should be encouraged and empowered to access what they aspire for,*

*And be given opportunities to use their knowledge, skills, experiences, and talents.*

*In this changing world driven by digital technology,*

*Women have made innumerable contributions to the digital world.*

*To make the world a better, peaceful, and meaningful place to live in,*

*It's vital to admire, recognize, appreciate, respect, and celebrate the feminine energy.*

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



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## **ENROL FOR 2023-2024**

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Complete your:

QCE (Yr. 12),

Cert. II in Skills for Work & Vocational Pathways  
(FSK20119)

Cert. II in Workplace Skills (BSB20120)

[ATAC RTO #45556](#)

Cert. II in a Trade of your choice  
(TAFE and other RTOs)

BSB40520 Cert IV in Leadership and Management

BSB50420 Diploma in Leadership and  
Management

BSB50120 Diploma in Business

[ATAC RTO #45556](#)

Contact us:

07 5547 8598 or 0432 036 537

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

## **Australian Bushfood Conference May 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 2023**

### **Topic: Design and Development of Urban Landscapes for Bush Food Production**

We invite you to attend the Australian Bushfoods Conference to honour the First Australians who had a wide range of uses for these plants including sustenance and medicine.

#### **Conference Venue:**

AUSTRALIAN TECHNOLOGY & AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE  
4808-4822 Mount Lindesay Highway, North Maclean, QLD 4280

**Registration Fees:** Check out all the details and buy your tickets online

<https://atac.qld.edu.au/australian-bushfoods-conference-2023/>

Registration OPEN \$225

Dinner 6pm Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May at ATAC \$ 35

Pre-Conference Tour Friday 26<sup>th</sup> (Optional) \$ 50

**Payment Method: Bank: Commonwealth Bank Australia**

**Name: ATAC Bushfoods BSB 064-203 Account number 1071 3488**

Conference Registration 8.30am Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Close: Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 3.00pm

Display your bushfood products “Expo of Products” during the conference. Book your table:

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

**Speakers: Brenden Moore - First Nations Community Greening Officer, The Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney**

**Sophie Ader - Centre for Nutrition and Food Sciences, QAAFI, Uni of Qld**

**Gerry Turpin - Manager, Tropical Indigenous Ethnobotany Centre, James Cook University.**

**Jude Mayall - President of Qld Bushfood Association and owner of Wild Food Farm, Victoria**

**Dr Ian Cock - Centre for Planetary Health and Food Security Griffith University**

**Dr Andrew Pengelly - Indigenous Plants for Health**

**& many more prominent Bushfoodies.** Follow updates on [www.atac.qld.edu.au](http://www.atac.qld.edu.au)

**Hosted by Australian Technology & Agricultural College, Queensland Bushfoods Association, Australian Institute of Horticulture and Logan City Council.**

