

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 91: June 2023

College Founder/CEO

Dr Narendra Nand



Principal's Message

First semester reports have been completed after the Term II assessments. Term II holidays started on Monday 26th July 2023. After two weeks break, Term III started on 10th July 2023. Reports have been completed and students have been receiving their reports. Parents/guardians are most welcome to discuss their child's progress and appointments can be made at your convenience.

Year 10 students are encouraged to attend TAFE classes and their work experience and be seriously focused on their careers. Year 11 students have been provided with information to enroll at TAFE for 2024 round as soon as the enrollment opens. ATAC staff will provide full support for the applications and students and parents are encouraged to discuss their career options before filling the application forms.

Students gain a Certificate II or III in a trade from TAFE or another RTO and receive four certificates including Certificate II Work for Skills & Vocational Pathways (FSK20119), Certificate II in Workplace Skills (BSB20120) as they complete year 12 and get into the workforce. Our unique pathway enables students to complete their Year 12 QCE and enter the workforce whilst at school.

ATAC assists students with work experience or apprenticeship via flexible pathways so that students can begin their careers earlier than most people of their age. ATAC is proud to provide such a great opportunity.

Infrastructure Development Plans

The multi-purpose shed is almost fully complete pending final fixtures, fittings, compliance, and completion certificates. Because of the hard work and the generosity of our directors, the shed has become a landmark facility for ongoing seminars, workshops, conferences, and events that could also generate some income for the college. The urgency to complete the venue to host the conference was greatly affected by the bad weather causing soaring costs for the earth earthworks, electrical, sewerage and plumbing works which had to be completed only days before the conference. The shed also provides amenities, open learning spaces, and a commercial kitchen with the opportunity for future growth and development of our college.

Despite setbacks, ATAC proudly hosted the first Australian Bushfoods Conference and the 8th Queensland Bushfoods Conference from 26-28th May 2023. We greatly appreciate the contribution made by our chair Irene Bayldon, patron Prof. Rod Drew, AIH president, Alan Burnell, past president Mr. Michael Casey, QBA and several Indigenous presenters at the conference. We greatly acknowledge the financial support of the Logan City Council that sponsored the conference to be held in Logan.

Community Engagement

Close partnerships between parents/ guardians, students, and the staff form our TRIPOD model. It promotes goodwill, understanding, tolerance, resilience, and diversity. We nurture little successes by working in a small and friendly environment. ATAC provides an informal and relaxed acceptable environment conducive to individual growth and development. Honesty, hard work, responsibility, resilience, and respect are a priority. Students engage in supporting each other to build self-confidence and self-esteem.

Bee All Natural conducted its third Logan City Council KRANK School holiday Bee program at ATAC on 2nd July 2023. The education and training of very young children with their parents in bee keeping is to encourage young people in bee keeping industry and the conservation of our environment. Apart from honey, bees play a major role in biodiversity of our flora and fauna species. Natasha and Jason Roebing were very excited to use the new shed facility and uploaded some pictures on their Facebook page to support ATAC.

We welcome anyone to join the ATAC committee in supporting young people in achieving their life goals. Our information is made available to all parents/ guardians and our supporters via emails, phone calls or messages and monthly newsletters. ATAC also publicizes on our website and Facebook page. We also welcome local communities or individuals to join North Maclean Community Gardens (NMCG) members to grow your own vegetables. The gardens have irrigation systems with free tank water available to all hobby gardeners.

Student Engagement

Work skills have become increasingly important in building positive attitude, tolerance, and perseverance in young people. With work experience, project-based learning and independent learning experience students tend to build personal skills and improve academic

achievements. ATAC works closely with businesses, training organizations and parents or guardians in empowering students with job-ready skills and knowledge. ATAC facilitates skills training with any opportunity provided by businesses or self-employed trade companies to give hands-on experiences and training. Students build relevant skills, obtain their White Cards from TAFE and become more positive to work. This increases their opportunity for apprenticeship and jobs.

Annual General Meeting 2023

ATAC's AGM was held on Sunday 9th July 2023 and new Board members were elected. Invitations for the meeting were sent to all parents/ guardians and our supporters. I would like to personally thank Craig Butler who has decided to step down and we welcome Kaushik Nand to the Board. A big thanks to our Chair, Irene Bayldon, Dharendra, Brahma, Daniel and Wanshika for their support. We also thank Prof. Sarojni Choy for her role as a board member for past four years and her voluntary work in painting the admin building with volunteers during her weekend time. The Board greatly appreciates the support of all businesses and parents who have assisted in providing any opportunity to our students towards completion of QCE and early entry into the workforce.



Ms. Mary Irene Bayldon (Chair) and Dr. Narendra Nand (Founder/CEO) delivering their reports at the Annual General Meeting on 9 July 2023 at ATAC.

Gary Suthers

English, Humanities, Science and Agricultural Science Teacher

Term 3 has begun and all students have finished all assessment pieces for Semester 1 and all reports written.

This term year 10 students reading a novel "Two Wolves" by Tristan Banks. Awards: Winner, KOALA & YABBA Children's Choice Awards; Children's Book Council of Australia Honour Book; Shortlisted, Prime Minister's Literature Awards. Review: It is clear that Tristan has so carefully considered each and every word in this novel – seemingly simple writing is often the hardest to get just right and 'Two Wolves' took him four years to write. 'Two Wolves' will challenge, extend and take readers right out of their comfort zone, asking them to consider some big questions.

Are we destined to become like our parents/grandparents? Is it okay to lie to protect your family? Does adversity really breed strength? Does money buy happiness?

As we read this novel the students are looking at plot structure, characters, and themes within the novel. The year 11 students are also looking at texts that are about human experiences such as biographies and biographical films i.e. Lion, 127 Hours and The Great Escape.

For Mathematics the year 10 students are learning about percentages, money and wages and the year eleven students are learning about travel, distance, timetables, and speed. Agricultural Studies is all about poultry as we look to improving our poultry runs and raising chickens for eggs or for eating.

For Science we will be looking at Physics, speed, friction, and energy and for History, it is about our part in the Vietnam War and the subsequent change in Australian immigration policy in the 1970's as a result of the war.

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 learn in other ways.

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

Radhika Behal

Business Development Manager/Admin Officer

Our flexible arrangements allow new enrollments at any time for years 10 & 11. We can assess the knowledge and skills and provide an individualized program for adjustment to meet the academic requirements. Young people who have left school or need to complete year 10 or 12 (QCE) while still at work can contact us for a customized flexible learning program. With the endless possibilities for their futures, flexible learning and work experience provides opportunities for building employability skills and jobs. Please view our website for further information and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at rbehal@atac.qld.edu.au.





Mr. Bhagwanji Bhindi
Retired Linguistics Lecturer (Suva, Fiji)

WORDS HAVE VOICES

Words can destroy, hurt, humiliate and harm
Slaying livelihoods and life
Words take, make, shake and break relationships
Words are not forgiven or forgotten in any
circumstance

Thoughts spill over the heart-filled emotions as
words
Words can inspire, heal and stimulate the mind
and heart
Words invoke passion, compassion and
thoughtfulness
Soft and loving words echo endlessly changing
moods

Wounds heal faster through loving words
Words can boost morale in transforming
Losing battles to winning ones
Words can sow seeds of everlasting fragrance
Creating a lasting memory to last a lifetime

Thoughts corrupt words, likewise words corrupt
thoughts

Meaning of words gets distorted when taken out
of context

Words are critical in upholding the truth or
nurturing lies

Words use the tongue to execute desirables and
undesirables

Taming and training of thoughts is so crucial
Not easy at times to find words appropriate to
express our thoughts

But words of wisdom and knowledge are the gifts
we can give

Words are powerful voices that can change
everything

Words have voices which make us dance in
ecstasy

Words have voices which make us dance in
melancholy

Words have energy which can move us forward
Words have depressing energy which can drown
us

Words can exude positive and negative vibes
Let's choose our words discretely and
thoughtfully

So that the voices they create are profound,
thought-moving

And above all loving
Words bring back memories

There is so much power in our words
Because it goes straight into our hearts
Words are like spent-arrows
Once released cannot be retrieved

A humble reminder, raise our words, not our
voice

Bhagwanji Bhindi

BEE ALL NATURAL's Jason and Natasha Roebig engaging with young kids in the Logan City Council sponsored KRANK program at ATAC on 2nd June 2023. (Young children and their parents have also enjoyed two previous sessions training in Bee-Keeping skills)



ATAC Annual general meeting on 9th July 2023



Members and Board of Directors at the annual general meeting at ATAC on 9th July 2023.

(L-R) Ganeshan Rao, Dharendra Singh, Brahma Deo, Kaushik Nand, Mary Irene Bayldon, Narendra Nand, Beverly Cassidy, Daniel Cole, Craig Butler & Ramesh Rai.

(Photo by Wanshika Rai)

ATAC was founded in 2015, started operation in October 2016 with first new students in February 2017 at a rented premises in Parkinson. ATAC moved to the current location in January 2018 upon hiring a demountable classroom building and refurbishing an existing building for administration. After a series of hurdles and delays, ATAC managed to complete a multipurpose hall in May 2023 which was used for a very successful first Austraklian Bushfoods Conference (8th Queensland Bushfoods Conference) from 27-28th May 2023 with presenters and participants from across the nation. The Multipurpose Hall will be used for open learning areas, HPE, workshops, short training courses in Agriculture/Horticulture and Hospitality. The hall has a commercial kitchen which will be used for training and community events and amenities to cater for future growth and development.

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



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BSB50120 Diploma in Business
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Contact us:
07 5547 8598 or 0432 036 537
E: enrolment@atac.qld.edu.au