

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 90: May 2023

College Founder/CEO

Dr Narendra Nand



[Principal's Message](#)

Term II academic work is almost to be completed with assessments being followed up for completion soon. It has been a very busy term with students' tasks, development work and the bushfoods conference held at ATAC between 27-28 May 2023.

Students have been fully engaged in class work and focused on their careers. Some have started going to TAFE, work experience and to jobs. At ATAC we work closely with our students to prepare them to refocus on academic work and to choose realistic pathways toward their dream career. Supported in small classes with individual attention, they complete their assessments and tasks to meet the requirements. Despite challenges, most students become successful by completing small tasks day by day.

Our unique pathway enables students to their complete Year 12 QCE, 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. Students gain four certificates and get into the workforce as soon as they complete year 12. ATAC assists students with work experience or apprenticeship that meets their abilities via flexible pathways. ATAC is proud to provide such a great opportunity.

Infrastructure Development Plans

After all the hard work and the generosity of our directors, we have almost completed our multi-purpose shed. As expected, it was fully ready to host the first Australian Bushfoods Conference and/or the 8th Queensland Bushfoods Conference at the end of May. Despite setback from rain, earth earthworks, electrical, sewerage and plumbing works were completed, in the last few days to the conference. The shed will provide open learning spaces, amenities, and a commercial kitchen. The multipurpose building will also provide an opportunity to host some Council approved public functions and the future training needs of our community.

Bushfoods Conference May 27-28th 2023

After planning for last three years, the first "Australian Bushfoods Conference" incorporating (8th Queensland Bushfoods Conference) was successfully held at ATAC at the end of last month. The two-day national conference was held between 27th and 28th May 2023 after the last conference in September 2019. The conference was jointly hosted by Queensland Bushfoods Association (QBA), the Australian Institute of Horticulture (AIH) and ATAC. It was sponsored by a grant from Logan City Council, by Fernand Nurseries, Elders Realty Shailer Park and Mark Tucek from "Tucker Bush" in Western Australia. The new outdoor chairs and tables were donated to ATAC by Mr. Ravin & Mrs. Radhika Singh from Sydney. Thank you very much for the much-needed support. Thank you to all sponsors and participants who travelled from across the nation. The Board Chair, Ms. Irene Bayldon, Prof. Rod Drew, and Dr. Narendra Nand worked tirelessly for the completion of the shed and the organization of the conference. ATAC is working closely with

AIH president Mr. Alan Burnell and past president Mr. Michael Casey, QBA and several Indigenous partners to provide further information and networking to support the rapidly growing industry. We acknowledge the participation and major contribution provided by various Indigenous communities supporting this conference. Thank you all.

ATAC TRIPOD MODEL

The TRIPOD model at ATAC promotes goodwill, understanding, tolerance, resilience, and acceptance via working in a small and friendly environment. Close partnerships between parents/ guardians, students, and the staff assist us in achieving early careers. By nurturing little successes in learning skills and training, students engage in supporting each other to build self-confidence and self-esteem. ATAC provides an informal and relaxed acceptable environment conducive to individual growth and development. Honesty, hard work, responsibility, resilience, and respect are a priority and ATAC.

Community Engagement

ATAC contacts parents/ guardians via emails, phone calls and messages. Our well-wishers, parents/guardians, and local businesses are regularly provided with information about ATAC activities by monthly newsletters, social media, ATAC website and the media. We welcome individuals and organizations to join the ATAC committee to support young people in achieving their life goals.

North Maclean Community Gardens (NMCG) had members are working slowly around the weather to keep their vegetables growing. The gardens with irrigation 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.

Parent/ Guardian Engagement

ATAC works closely with businesses, training organizations and parents or guardians in empowering students with job-ready skills and knowledge. We try to provide hands-on and practical work for engagement. Work skills has become increasingly important in building positive attitude and perseverance. Work experience helps in building personal skills and enhances academic achievements. ATAC assists to facilitate skills training for our students with opportunities provided by businesses or self-employed tardies and parents/guardians. With relevant skills and white cards, the employability of our students increases.

We greatly appreciate the effort of the parents who have assisted us in finding work experience and/or apprenticeships for our students. We thank all businesses who provide any opportunity to our students. All students are supported towards completion of QCE, entry into the workforce by year 11 or 12 and into workforce before or just after leaving school. Thanks to all our supporters.

Gary Suthers

English, Humanities, Science and Agricultural Science Teacher

Week 8 in term two is upon us as students are well into assessment pieces. The year ten students are writing about which film conveys Shakespeare's tragedy of Romeo and Juliet the best, either Gnomeo and Juliet or Baz Lurhman's Romeo +Juliet. Students in year eleven are advising a travel client by creating a holiday itinerary on a holiday in Southeast Asia.

For mathematics the year ten students are revisiting algebra and applying it to the workplace. The senior students in year eleven have looking at data and displaying data in graphs. Their task is to compare fast food menu items with healthier options and display information about fat, salt, sugar and calories. Agricultural Studies is all about fish this term, from fish anatomy to caring and raising fish for food.

For Science we have been learning the table of elements, chemical reactions and why the atom is the basic building block of all matter. 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 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 persons grow more confident and happier as they gain new skills and learn in other ways.

Radhika Behal

Business Development Manager/Admin Officer

Enrollments- Our flexible arrangements allow new enrollments at any time for years 10 & 11 and our teachers will be able to assess the skills and provide an individualised program. Young people in the workforce who wish to complete QCE while still at work can contact us for any flexible learning program. Please view our website for further information.

This is fantastic to see the potential for the future of ATAC students here. With the endless possibilities for their futures, flexible learning opportunities that would encourage building employability skills through work placements. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at rbehal@atac.qld.edu.au.



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

A Step Closer

Every step forward, Is a step closer to the destination

Every small thought, Is a step closer

Every small decision, Is a step closer

Every small effort, Is a step closer

Every small victory, Is a step closer

Every lesson learnt, Is a step closer

Every distraction avoided, Is a step closer

Every obstacle overcome, Is a step closer

Every failure encountered, Is a step closer

Every suffering endured, Is a step closer

Every moment of reflection, Is a step closer

Every fault rectified, Is a step closer

Every adjustment made, Is a step closer

Every fear conquered, Is a step closer

Every completed work, Is a step closer

Every goal accomplished, Is a step closer

Every positive thought, Is a step closer

Every compassion and humility.

Is a step to closer to humanity,

A step forward, Is a step closer to destination

Every step forward, Is a step closer to destination.

BUSHFOOD CONFERENCE 27th and 28th MAY 2023



First National Bushfood Conference at ATAC (8th Queensland Bushfoods Conference at ATAC)



The Deputy Mayor, Cr. Laurie Koranski (R) with Clare Fraser from Logan City Council who sponsored the Conference. Thank you Clare and Cr. Koranski for accepting our invitation.



The Deputy Mayor of Logan, Cr Laurie Koranski welcomed all speakers, participants, and supporters. She was pleased to have been invited to ATAC to open the First Australian Bushfoods Conference. ATAC had been honored to have the first Councilor to attend a function in the new Multipurpose Hall. LCC provided \$5000.00 grant towards the Conference. ATAC thanks Clare Fraser and Robyn Rae, the Manager of LOED for working closely with ATAC for the grant.



Ms. Paula Nihot did the First Nations "Acknowledgement to Country." And presented on "Indigenous Plants, Ecological knowledge, story, and language. Paula supports Bushtucker education and Yugembah Youth Aboriginal Corporation activities. Paula has also presented in past Queensland Bushfoods Conferences.



(L-R) Mr. Alan Burnell (president of AIH), Dr. Narendra Nand CEO/Founder of ATAC, and Sheryl Backhouse (Secretary of QBA). The three organisations jointly hosted the conference 2023.



Brenden Moore, the First Nations Community Greening Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney doing his presentation at the conference at ATAC.



An Aboriginal Art made from Indigenous plants was gifted to ATAC and received by the chairperson, Ms. Irene Bayldon.



Brenden and Clarence explaining the message in the artwork to the participants at the dinner night. Everyone enjoyed the didgeridoo and the great dinner.



Brenden Moore teaching the art of arrangement. Brenden from Sydney Botanic Gardens teaming up to support the best Bushfoods Conference.



Members of the panel discussion after day one proceedings at the conference.



Allan Burnell the president of AIH, Michael Casey immediate past president of AIH, Dr Narendra Nand (ATAC), Clarence Slokee and Brenden Moore (with didgeridoo) from Sydney Botanic Gardens.

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



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ATAC Bushfood Program Part -1

Mark Tucek – Mark is a sponsor of this conference and has come all the way from W.A. Mark will tell us about his business Tucker Bush, how it started and where it is now.

<https://tuckerbush.com.au/>



Dr Andrew Pengelly - Indigenous Plants for Health

“Eat your Native Greens” Andrew has had a 40-year career as an herbal practitioner, naturopath, lecturer, aromatherapist, researcher, field botanist and program director for several universities and colleges. He has a strong research and clinical interest in the use of Australian plants. Andrew will talk on native greens for health. Co-founder and vice-President, Indigenous Plants for Health Assn.

<https://indigenousplantsforhealth.com/>

Madhukar Padma Kalvva – Galeru Bushfoods Property and Sovereign Foods

Michael Casey – Immediate Past President, Australian Institute of Horticulture: Green Infrastructure Consultant, Designer & Educator/Horticulturist Director Evergreen Infrastructure & MJC Horticulture.



Clarence Slockee - Proud Bundjalung Man & Horticulturist.

Growing up in the lush Tweed Valley with a long family history of bushmen, farmers and fishermen, Clarence has combined his love of teaching, culture, music, dance, and the bush with his roles at the Sydney Botanic Gardens and on Gardening Australia.

Russell Stanford – Correctional Officer, Palen Creek Correctional Centre.
“Grafting Kakadu Plums onto a Sea Almond rootstock”

Alan Knight – Comes from from Mungungo and will speak on Plant ID.

Australian Bushfood Conference Program - 27th – 28th May 2023
Design and Development of Urban Landscapes for Bush Food
AUSTRALIAN TECHNOLOGY & AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
4808-4822 Mount Lindesay Highway, North Maclean QLD 4280



Paula Nihot will talk on Indigenous Plants, ecological knowledges, story and language. Paula is a descendant of Susan of the Namoi in the Gamilaraay language region. Paula has extensive project management experience and utilises her visual art skills to communicate with audiences. Paula is a trusted community member who supports a range of cultural activities including bush tucker education sessions and Yugambah Youth Aboriginal Corporation activities. Passionate about community participatory processes,

Paula has facilitated and evaluated evidence based preventative health projects including the Gold Coast Fever Clinic survey, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Focus Group discussions and *Galagir ngaurai* (youth speak) health and wellbeing.

Brenden Moore - First Nations Community Greening Officer, The Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney.

Brenden has qualifications in Horticulture, Aboriginal Studies, and Community and Social Development. He uses his skills and experience to inspire Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and schools to reconnect with nature and the environment and learn about native plants, bush regeneration, gardening, health and wellbeing.



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

Gerry is a Mbabaram man from North Qld and a renowned Ethnobotanist. He has worked with many Traditional Owner groups on Cape York and other parts of Queensland. He has a strong cultural commitment to facilitating effective partnerships that support Indigenous communities to protect, manage and maintain their cultural knowledge on the use of plants.



ATAC Bushfood Program Part- 2

Jade King has a passion for soil chemistry, plant physiology, entomology and all things agricultural and will answer all your questions on Finger Limes.



Attila Kapittany Australian Edible Succulent Plants

Attila specialises in arid, semi-arid (dry climate) succulent plants that cover 70% of the continent. These are primary food and water sources for indigenous people in arid regions. He will be showing an extraordinary range of edible succulent plants, some of which have never been considered in the bushfood industry. Also, some of the latest University research findings about a few of these plants that are certain to excite. A new and very different perspective about these plants will be explored for their potential as food.



Vinesh Prasad – Manager of Banyula
<https://www.banyula.com.au/>

Angela Seng-Williams
 Head of Engagement and Advocacy,
 Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers



Development and management of bush foods in the urban environment. Application and use of bush foods including traditional uses and management. Northey Street City Farm has had an evolving series of relationships and partnerships with First Nations people and groups, including around bush foods. This presentation will outline what we have learnt from this history and describe our current efforts to develop a lasting partnership that will potentially include sharing of knowledge and skills, co-management of the 'urban commons' and development of social enterprises around bush foods.



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

Sophie has worked in partnership with Indigenous communities to collaboratively design and co-deliver projects which meet communities' self-identified aspirations and needs, forming long term relationships which span more than a decade. Sophie will talk on case studies of successful indigenous owned & led native botanical supply chains.

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

Ian is a regular speaker at previous Bush Foods conferences. He has done extensive research on Phytochemistry, Medicinal Properties, Bioactive Compounds, and Therapeutic Potential of many Australian indigenous species. Ian will talk about the medicinal use of Kakadu Plum.



Jude Mayall - President of Qld Bushfood Association and owner of Wild Food Farm, Victoria.
<https://www.wildfoodfarm.com.au/> Chef Jude Mayall is passionate about native foods and flavours. In her work with indigenous artists over many years, she has gained precious knowledge about the harvesting and gathering of native bush foods and the importance of looking after the land. She will talk about the culinary uses of bushfoods.

ENROL FOR 2023

Unique adjustable & supported programs
Build Skills for Jobs and/or Apprenticeships.

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](#)

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