

# 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 93: August 2023

### College Founder/CEO

*Dr Narendra Nand*



### Principal's Message

Year 10 students have started doing the trade taster program at TAFE and one of Year 11 students is doing his TAFE Certificate III in Engineering while two are waiting to start doing Certificate I in Construction early next year. School Based Apprenticeships can be arranged at a senior level with any company wishing to engage our young people. ATAC staff provides full support to employers and parents for the signing of agreements. Parents are encouraged to contact us if they find any potential employer for their child. It is always very heartwarming to parents and staff when students become engaged and re-focused in their career paths. Each student completes a Certificate II or III in a trade from TAFE or another RTO, Certificate II in Work for Skills & Vocational Pathways (FSK20119), Certificate II in Workplace Skills (BSB20120) and their QCAA approved QCE or year 12 completion certificate. ATAC students begin their careers earlier than most people of their age and at times sign up apprenticeships by mid-11 or early year 12. This is a great opportunity for an early start to their life careers.

### Infrastructure Development Plans

A gradual progress has been made towards the completion of the ATAC multi-purpose shed which is now a prominent landmark facility available for

seminars, workshops, conferences, and events that could be hired to public. Students also have the privilege of doing some indoor sports and training. The shed has open learning spaces, and a commercial kitchen and amenities to allow the opportunity for future growth and development.

After proudly hosting the first Australian Bushfoods Conference and the 8<sup>th</sup> Queensland Bushfoods Conference in May, ATAC has been working closely with the Bee All Natural directors to provide beekeeping training and workshops at ATAC. We also intend to provide some horticultural training to our local growers. Our Nursery grant has been approved and we are looking forward to conducting some activities in the nursery as soon as it is constructed over the coming months.

### Community Engagement

Honesty, hard work, responsibility, resilience, and respect are a priority and students engage to build self-confidence and self-esteem as they learn how to become good learners. Our TRIPOD model provides an opportunity for close partnerships between parents/ guardians, students, and the staff. Understanding, tolerance, resilience, and goodwill between parents/guardians and ATAC is the key to progress and success of our students provided with a lot of personal attention to their progress, and career pathways.

Bee All Natural has engaged with ATAC to provide opportunities to locals and young people in beekeeping to support the rapidly growing industry. Logan City Council's KRANK School holiday Beekeeping programs have been held at ATAC and more young people are now becoming interested in its education and training. Apart

from honey, bees play a major role in the biodiversity of our flora and fauna species.

There is an ever-increasing need for more people to be involved in the fledgling industry. ATAC has been working with Natasha, and Jason Roebig, for the past five years and there is a great (Use tremendous instead of great) opportunity for us to develop a long-term training program based at ATAC.

With the improvements in the weather, the members of the North Maclean Community Garden (NMCG) are planning to start their vegetable gardening. Free water is provided via an irrigation system and ATAC supports the members and any hobby farmers. More members are welcome to join the group: "Grow Your Own vegetables". Volunteers are most welcome to join at any time. Our progress and achievements are published in our monthly newsletter and is made available to all parents/ guardians and our supporters via emails or on our website.

### **Student Engagement**

Project-based learning and work experience provide opportunities to young people to become responsible for their own learning and success. As they become engaged, they realize the need to become focused, self-directed and in building their personal skills and to improve their academic achievements. Working with some businesses and self-employed trade companies provide hands-on experiences and training. ATAC works closely with businesses, training organizations and parents/ guardians in empowering students with job-ready skills and knowledge. Most important in this social media climate, is to build a positive attitude, tolerance, and perseverance to enable young people to engage and become responsible for their future goals. ATAC facilitates training, with the support of some businesses and self-employed trade companies for providing hands-on experiences, obtaining their White Cards, finding work experience, and joining TAFE for their trade careers.

### **Acknowledgement**

A huge thanks to ATAC board members, parents and guardians who have been so supportive in assisting us with the infrastructure development, ATAC events and projects. A profound thanks to our Chair, Irene Bayldon, Dharendra, Brahama, Daniel, Wanshika, Kaushik and past members for volunteering and providing their support. The Board immensely 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.

### **Gary Suthers**

*English, Humanities, Science and Agricultural Science Teacher*

Term three is almost over and students are finalizing their assessments for English, Mathematics and Health and P.E.

This term Year 10 students are making a media presentation (a book trailer) for the novel "Two Wolves" by Tristan Banks.

Just like a movie trailer, the book trailer will show the reader what the book is about, entice the reader to pick up the book and encourage the reader to read the book. The Year 11 students are introducing a film that inspires them. Pretending that they have planned a film festival about real life stories and how real people have overcome real adversity. Included in the festival are the films of: Apollo 13, Catch Me if you Can, Jungle, Unstoppable and Be Water, and The Bruce Lee story.

For mathematics the Year 10 students are learning about how to work out wage payment for normal hours and overtime, commission, and holiday pay. The Year 11 students are learning about travel, distance, timetables, and speed.

Health and P.E we are looking at a case study to determine the aspects of respectful relationships and what we should be aware of, when we enter into any form of relationship.

Agricultural Studies will be all about poultry for all students, as we look to improving our poultry runs by building a larger fence and mobile coops. Also, our chicks are growing fast, and we will be soon putting them into their chicken run to lay eggs as we look at an agricultural business model to market and sell the eggs.

For Science we are looking at Physics, speed, friction and energy and in History, it is about our part in the Vietnam War and the subsequent change in Australian immigration policy in the 1970'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 person grow more confident and happier as they gain new skills and learn in other ways.

## Radhika Behal

*Business Development Manager/Admin Officer*

Getting very close to end of term III, some new students who joined ATAC this term have found rewarding and adaptable learning opportunities. With flexibility and individual support these students re-engaged into schooling to build their careers. Two of the three students were lucky to be able to secure work experience within a very short time and they are looking forward to any apprenticeship and TAFE next year as they continue to do year 11. With individualized adjustment these students have been able to catch up to meet the academic requirements and are completing their semester II assessments. They are on the path of successfully completing year 10 and to see if they continue to do year 12 (QCE). 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 (Fiji)**

### *Lull before a storm*

*Lull before a storm a deception  
It is perceived as plain calm  
Calmness taken at face value  
Alas! This stillness is transitory  
Embedded in this quietness is potential devastation*

*A storm is generally preceded by a lull  
People usually dismiss it lightly  
They think and feel it is normal  
Because they cannot sink deep  
To visualize it as potentially risky*

*Lull seems so normal  
People unwisely think nothing will happen  
The gap between lull and storm  
So fine that people fail to decipher  
The impending onslaught*

*People who bask in the delusion of lull  
Are rudely caught in the throes of devastation  
The storm strikes with heavy incessant downpour  
And forceful and intense winds  
Blowing roof tops  
Uprooting trees  
Damaging houses and properties*

*In a short spell unimaginable devastations strike and damage  
Leaving parts of the country desolate, destroyed and shattered*

*Aftermath parts of the country  
So bleak, grim and grotesquely wounded  
The country lay wounded like a wounded bird  
Struggling to rise to fly like an eagle*

*Let us not be misled by a lull  
Treat lull as a premonition to the swelling scene  
Take heed of the deceptive stillness  
So that we can take refuge in the realities to come  
To face the brunt with courage and grit*

## **Cooking Session by Marnie Parker**



*Ms. Marnie Parker showing the tips of preparation and presentation of food.*



*Muffin Décor – preparation of toppings and presentation of mini muffins with a touch of bushfoods delights.*



*Mr. Gary Suthers and students actively involved in cooking and food presentation.*



*(L-R) Muffin Décor with Ellie, Jayden, Tom and Damian making comments on the presentation. Tom won the presentation on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023.*



*Mouth-watering delights during the break. Finer tips for all it takes to present a food as most delicately as possible.*



*Congratulations Heath for the best presentation. Heath received a chocolate block from Ms, Marnie Parker. Thanks Gary and Radhika for making the judgement for the winner on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023.*



**INDIA DAY Fair on 19<sup>th</sup> August sponsored by Ms Mary Irene Bayldon on behalf of ATAC. Great publicity and networking for ATAC.**



**Dr Nand with Deputy Commissioner of Police Superintendent Adam Gould and Multicultural Affairs rep at Roma Street Parklands to celebrate India Independence Day**



**Ms Mary Irene Bayldon, (ATAC Chair) with Ms. Rina Prasad at India day fair information desk. Irene has been volunteering with GOPIO to organise the event. Thank you, Rina for volunteering to support our Chair at the function attended by Ministers, MPs, many councillors, and dignitaries from various organisations. The event was opened by the Hon. Treasurer MP Jim Charmers and the Lord Mayor Cr. Adrian Shriner.**



**Tom and Zeke getting their instructions from Phil (Arakan Martial Arts Trainer) in the new shed**



**Zeke and Tom one-on-one skills training during Arakan Martial Arts. Pairing up for defending**



**“Where there is a will there is a way” - (George Herbert)**

**When my son struggled at school and started truanting I brought him to join ATAC. Now he keeps reminding himself: “where there’s a will, there’s a way”. This enabled him to learn, cope, succeed and work hard towards a career. I am so proud of him now that he feels like coming to school every day, attends TAFE once a week and continues doing his year 11 for his QCE (a proud mum).**

## **ENROL FOR 2023/2024**

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**ATAC RTO #45556**

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



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