

# 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.

**Edition 95: October 2023**

**College Founder/CEO**

*Dr Narendra Nand*



[Principal's Message](#)

Students in year 11 are almost completing their assessments and FSK Cert. II while year 10 have finished the trade taster program at TAFE and are completing their final assessments for 2023. Two year 10 students have enrolled in Certificate I construction for 2024 and one is doing Certificate III in Engineering at TAFE. Every 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 supports School Based Apprenticeships for senior students with any company wishing to engage our young people. Students must meet their Job-ready skills assessment, recommended by staff and supported by parents/guardians. 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. It is an extremely pleasant feeling to parents and students on early engagement and with a career focus.

**Infrastructure Development Plans**

ATAC has partially completed the front fences and plans to build the gate and entry for a facelift. After completion of major works of our multipurpose shed, we are in the process of doing

the multi-purpose shed a landmark facility, to provide opportunities for seminars, workshops, conferences, and events. Completion of the amenities and the kitchen is expected soon so that the facilities could be available for use by students and the public. With a grant from Greenbank RSL, we will be able to equip the shed with indoor sports and physical fitness equipment for use by students, staff, and community members. The shed has open learning spaces, a commercial kitchen, and amenities to allow the opportunity for future growth and development.

After several ongoing meetings with the Bee All Natural directors, Natasha and Jason Roebig and with the support of Logan City Council grants, ATAC is working towards providing beekeeping workshops and training. Bee All Natural has engaged with ATAC to provide opportunities to locals and young people in the beekeeping industry. The last three Logan City Council's KRANK School holiday Beekeeping programs have been held at ATAC and there is a lot of interest in young people for education and training in beekeeping. Bees play a major role in the biodiversity of our flora and fauna species, and fruit crop and honey production. There is an ever-increasing need for more people to be involved in the fledgling industry.

Our tunnel greenhouse has arrived, and we are waiting for LCC approval to the amendments for the multi-use of the shed. As requested by several growers, we intend to provide some horticultural training to our local growers especially the North Maclean Community Garden members who are growing some vegetables on our site for a supplementary income.

## Community Engagement

An opportunity for close partnerships between parents/ guardians, students, and the staff is provided by our TRIPOD model. Understanding, tolerance, resilience, and goodwill between parents/guardians and ATAC is the key to the progress and success of our students. With a lot of personal attention to their progress, and career pathways, our TRIPOD model is the key to re-engagement and success of our students. 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.

ATAC has been working with Natasha and Jason Roebig, for the past five years and there is a tremendous opportunity for us to develop a long-term beekeeping training program. A meeting held this week has given us an opportunity to iron out some issues and start our project as soon as possible.

“Grow Your Own Vegetables” (GYOV) is now a theme we are working with the members of the North Maclean Community Garden (NMCG) who have started their planting. ATAC has filled the tanks to supply free water via an irrigation system to water the plantation. New volunteer members are always welcome to join the group or the ATAC committee. 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

ATAC is working with some businesses and self-employed trade companies to provide hands-on experiences and training. Maintaining close relationship with businesses, training organizations and parents/ guardians, we are assisting and empowering students with job-ready skills and knowledge. At the college, we focus on project-based learning so that young people become responsible for their own learning and success. Social media is a challenge, but as

students become engaged, they realize the need to be focused and self-directed in attaining personal skills for their success. Personal skills such as a positive attitude, tolerance, perseverance and understanding enable young people to become responsible for their future goals. ATAC facilitates training with hands-on experiences, work experience, obtaining their White Cards, joining TAFE for their trade careers and to find jobs while still at school.

## Acknowledgement

We sincerely acknowledge and greatly appreciate the contribution made by parents, guardians, businesses, and the current and past ATAC board members. Special thanks to all volunteer support, RSL Greenbank, Logan City Council and the government for the grants to support our local community. Thanks to 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*

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

Summer is here and Christmas holidays are looming, term four is almost over!

Political satire, newspaper cartoons and the Spitting Image television program have all been viewed, discussed, and laughed at, as the Year 10 English class finishes off with topical political satire and the importance of free speech and political commentary. The Year 11 students have investigated their own experiences to write a letter to their future children about a personal experience that was important in learning a life lesson.

Do we still crank a gramophone record, sit around, and listen to the radio for news, music or wait for

your favorite radio serial? No, but we do still entertain ourselves in much the same way but on different technology. The Year 10 students are discovering not much has changed over the last hundred years or so, when it comes to entertainment, except technology!

For mathematics the Year 10 students are learning to read travel timetables, the metric system of volume, area, perimeter, and circumference. For Year 11, money and interest, travel and timetables and data collection will be the area of study this term.

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 discovering just how big the solar system is, what exactly is our sun made of and the different ways in which we study the universe.

Soon students will be showing me how much that they have learnt this term with subject examinations, writing assignments and completed workbooks. Last term of the year and I know you will all do well!

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.



*Mr. Bhagwanji Bhindi*  
*Retired Linguistics Lecturer Fiji*

## *Power of Education*

Education is the nurturing of the mind, heart and hands.

Education has the power to transform life into an enlightened human being. True education enables one to traverse the choppy seas of life by using rationale, with a sprinkling of some emotions.

Parents invest education on their children believing one day they would be assets to their families. Governments invest education on their citizens trusting one day they would be assets to the society and nation.

When one gets holistic and values-based education, one would be driven by moral, ethical and spiritual inclinations.

Education is such a powerful weapon that transforms one to think rationally, humanely and independently.

Education is not only knowledge driven it is wisdom driven, when knowledge, wisdom and humanity blend in harmony, it carves a path to meaningful progress and success.

Education has the power to sharpen one’s imagination, creativity, free thinking and the sense of curiosity.

Education is not only attaining certificates and degrees, it is how one relates to people, community, nation and the world.

Education enables one to become a complete human being and contributing to the creation and innovation of society and nation

Additionally, education transforms one from ignorance to knowledge. It takes one from darkness to light. True education should be a blessing.

The power of education lies on its relevance to the current needs of the multidimensional society.

Education needs to emphasize on cultural competency skills beyond an appreciation for other cultures. Due to globalization, westernization, and machine learning, its application has been minimized.

What is needed is the cultural inclusiveness to be embedded in educational curriculum making it powerful. Let us pause and reflect whether do we need something more, perhaps wisdom to give one an additional insight to tackle the choppy seas of life.

Aristotle so aptly epitomizes the power of education *“Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity.”*

Bhagwanji Bhindi



*(L-R) Mary Irene Bayldon (Chair), Paul Jackson of Logan West News and Dr. Narendra Nand with the cheque presented to ATAC by Greenbank RSL for the purchase of our sports equipment to support physical and mental health of our students, staff and local community.*



*Dr. N Nand with ATAC chair Ms. Mary Irene Bayldon proudly displaying the cheque presented to ATAC by Greenbank RSL on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023. ATAC board, students and parents are thankful to RSL for their community support of about half a million dollars in the last few years.*



*(L-R) Jason and Natasha Roebig, directors of BeeAll Natural and Dr. N Nand have been discussing about the “Bee School” at ATAC on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023.*



*The poultry project is continuing with students and staff effort. The ducks are brooding, and the hens are ready for laying in a few weeks. Thank you to all students for their assistance and to Radhika for looking after them.*



*Vegetables grown the nursery with students’ involvement in the planting and nurturing as part of science projects ready for harvest. Julie Stanners of Kingston East Neighbourhood Group (KENG) visited ATAC on 24<sup>th</sup> October and was very pleased with the range of student’s activities for engagement of our young people.*

## **ENROL NOW FOR** **2024**

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

**Business**

[ATAC RTO #45556](#)

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***Australian Technology &  
Agricultural College***

**Student**

***Awards***  
**Night**



**Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 Time 5.00-7:00 PM**

**At 4808-4822 Mount Lindesay Highway, North Maclean Q4280**

Please RSVP by 16th November 2023  
to [rbehal@atac.qld.edu.au](mailto:rbehal@atac.qld.edu.au) or [nnand@atac.qld.edu.au](mailto:nnand@atac.qld.edu.au)

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



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