

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 98: February 2024

**College
Founder/CEO**

Dr Narendra Nand



Principal's Message

After a great start for the 2024 academic year, with new staffing and a few Year 10 students, we have finished six good weeks. Assessments are in progress along with adjustments of new students working in composite classes. Building life skills and job-readiness knowledge, we managed to find work experience for a few students. Our new students have now adjusted to the norms of our small college and are progressing on assessment tasks. While Year 12s are progressing with their TAFE courses and potential apprenticeships soon, year 11s are gearing up for work experience or TAFE. Completion of TAFE career course, Certificate II in Work for Skills & Vocational Pathways (FSK20119) and Certificate II in Workplace Skills (BSB20120) will give our students the opportunity to complete their QCE.

Following the success stories of former students fulfilling the expectations of parents, we will continue to build on the vocational pathways and support our students, parents, and the community. What a pleasant feeling for parents when their child becomes engaged in an early career and trade pathway before completion of Year 12? ATAC fully supports and facilitates all the paperwork to meet the legal obligations of all parties.

Infrastructure Development

Our multipurpose shed's completion is underway after long delays due to weather and lack of trades personnel. The Gym and Fitness Centre is ready for use by students and staff. We will provide equipment for indoor sports and physical fitness for use by students, staff, and community members.

As soon as the amenities and the kitchen are completed it will be available for use by students and the public. Most of the vacant space will provide an opportunity for its use for seminars, workshops, conferences, and events.

We would like to explore the possibility of providing hospitality and beekeeping training opportunities. The engagement of Bee All Natural with ATAC setting up bee-hives at ATAC. The Logan City Council sponsored program is done by Natasha and Jason Roebig of Bee All Natural. Bees play a major role in fruit, crop and honey production and in the sustainability of our biodiversity of flora and fauna species. ATAC is ready to provide the facilities for the education and training to beekeeping enthusiasts especially children and the younger generation.

Community Engagement

Harvesting vegetable crops by the North Maclean Community Garden members are encouraging despite the bad weather. ATAC had been in the forefront and started the community garden project in the last few years supporting its community. It provides free tank water supply via an irrigation system to water the vegetable

gardens. With nationwide Community Garden programs, there is greater interest and enthusiasm for “Grow Your Own Vegetables” (GYOV). The members of the parent community and the North Maclean Community Garden (NMCG) are encouraged to work with ATAC to grow fresh vegetables to supplement their income. The proposed tunnel greenhouse will support the NMCG members and our students in vegetable growing, horticultural activities and for native plant production training.

Our parents/ guardians and supporters are regularly informed about our progress and development via monthly newsletters, emails or on our website. ATAC welcomes new members and well-wishers to join at any time.

Student Engagement

Our “TRIPOD” model provides an opportunity for close partnerships between parents/ guardians, students, and the staff. During the enrolment process the student and parent/guardians are informed about the importance of our partnership in achieving success for our students. Students are provided with a lot of personal attention to their progress, and support to career pathways. Honesty, hard work, responsibility, resilience, and respect are a priority to build self-confidence, self-esteem, and independence among our students as they become responsible for their own success.

Despite the influence of social media challenges, our students become engaged as they realise the need to be focused and self-directed in attaining personal skills to secure job experience or apprenticeship. Personal skills such as positive attitude, respect and tolerance are being emphasized to enable young people to become responsible for their future goals. We are working closely with the students to build their job ready skills.

ATAC facilitates work experience, obtaining their White Cards, joining TAFE for trade courses, and finding jobs while still at school. This pathway provides project-based and hands-on learning

experiences making students responsible for their own learning and success. We maintain close relationships with businesses, training organisations and parents/ guardians, to assist and empower ATAC students.

Acknowledgement

The grants from RSL Greenbank, Logan City Council and the government to support our local community are greatly appreciated. RSL funded gym equipment is now ready for use. The Bee-Keeping project sponsored by LCC is about to start and the hospitality infrastructure funded by the federal government is about to start. Parents and guardians have always played a significant role in the success of their child, and we greatly appreciate their support. Special thanks to all volunteers and ATAC board members who have tirelessly supported the mission and vision of ATAC.

Staffing

We warmly welcome highly qualified and experienced teachers, Ms. Marnie Parker, and Mrs. Nandani Chandra to our team. While Ms. Parker continued to assist ATAC from her engagement with ATAC from last year, Mrs. Chandra filled the position after her response to the advertisement on the “Indeed” jobs platform and our website. As the most meritorious and experienced candidate, she was appointed to the part-time position in consultation with the Board. We have been fortunate to have two teachers who are familiar with our college and share our mission and vision. With the knowledge, experience and interest in our model both teachers are working very hard to support our young students. We are confident that the new teachers will assist ATAC in providing the best academic and vet qualifications with two certificate courses, a trade certificate, and their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) in year 12. ATAC has this unique pathway in preparing them for job-readiness training and an early career.

Ms. Marnie Parker



Ms. Marnie Parker is a qualified Secondary teacher, Chef, and Justice of the Peace. Marnie has a master’s degree in training and development (Vocational Education), Bachelor of Education (Secondary), Graduate Certificate in Career Development Practice, and a range of other VET qualifications. She has been a Principal, Head of Department, VET Coordinator, classroom teacher, and most recently, the VET Education Services Advisor for the Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ). Her interest as a teacher is bringing the world of work to the classroom and ‘learning through doing’ and foraging for bush foods while walking along the foreshore. She has a long association with ATAC, Dr Nand, and Radhika, and considers it a privilege to work with ATAC students. Marnie is a very approachable person, and would be willing to address any concerns about your child in their career development.

Mrs. Nandani Chandra



Mrs. Nandani Chandra has a Master of Education, Bachelor of Applied Science, Certificate II in Horticulture, and is currently studying for a postgraduate Diploma in Psychology. She has more than 20 years of teaching experience in sciences at various schools in Queensland. She has enthusiastically taken up challenges to learn and teach new subject areas at ATAC. Apart from being a very passionate teacher, she has a keen interest in mental health issues amongst the youth and in providing a holistic educational experience through inner health and wellbeing. She is an advocate for the implementation of positive education in schools. She will be leading the new Gym & Fitness Centre open for students, staff, board members and parents of ATAC.



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

*EXPECTATIONS AND REALITY
Expectations are limitless
Reality is defined by limitations*

*The unmet expectation is like a storm’s cold sting
But it can painfully slice through
Hope’s soft wings*

*The pendulum of expectations
Is often different from the reality*

*To have expectations is natural
But being aware of reality is vital*

*When expectation is crushed, there is frustration
When reality is accepted, there is exhilaration*

*Not accepting failure of expectations
Drives us to negativity and depression*

*Expectations inspire us to work harder
Reality helps us to act smarter*

*Not accepting failure of expectations
Drives us to pessimism and depression*

*Positive expectations promote happiness
For all who come in touch with cheerfulness*

*The dreams that once touched the frost of reality
Now shrinks under the carpet of unmet actuality*

*Tread your path with care
As it’s only you who you will have to dare*

*Let your heart echo both
Accept the reality’s cloth*

*Despite what may befall
Always learn to stand tall*

Life Skills - Cooking Session with Marnie Parker



Students engaged in an interesting bushfoods dish with Ms. Marnie Parker. It is all about hygiene preparation skills and presentation.



Time to enjoy the preparation. (R-L) Ms. Parker with Lachlan, Thomas, and Mark with his plate ready for final judgement. Jaxon and Mathew in the background.



Life Skills session with Ms. Parker every Monday. Some students enjoyed participating in the sessions and utilizing the final products. Other students are still wondering if they need to learn the basic skills to make their own lunches.



Ms. Marnie Parker teaches the basic skills of food presentation and the reasons for the micro-skills needed in the hospitality sector. Lachlan Joice won the best presentation on the day.

Fitness Equipment's AT ATAC



Mathew trying out the home gym set to build his muscles, heart, and mind. It is here that you will build your self-esteem and self-confidence over a period.



Mark, Jai and Jaxon on multi-gym for the first time. The equipment has been bought from a grant provided by RSL Greenbank.

New Gym Equipment with the courtesy of RSL Greenbank for student engagement.



Arakan Martial Arts Trainer, Phil (in Black shirt) with year 12 students Damian, Tyler and Zeke trying to protect his face. These students had been 100% engaged for this session. Congratulations, Damian for your 100% participation today.

Work Experience for Lachlan Joice



Mr. Gary Hall, an electrician, has kindly agreed to give an opportunity for work experience to Lachlan Joice who has been very excited to start the experience as soon as possible.

Community Engagement



A board director, Mr. Bramaha Deo (second from left) with his friends who volunteered on a weekend to tidy up the storage shed. Mr. Deo has been very supportive of the progress and development of ATAC projects.



Dr. Nand with Mrs. Jamie Joice who is all smiles with her son Lachlan Joice (middle) of year 11 after completing his work experience formalities and paperwork. Congratulations Lachlan. It will be a great journey for you into your future career.



North Maclean community Garden member, Ms. Ca has been harvesting chilies, rosella, pumpkin, and eggplants for her gardens. The land has been provided by ATAC to support Ms. Ca to have a supplementary income. Congratulations on your great effort despite the harsh weather.

2024 Education Queensland Term Dates

Term	Start Date	End date	Length
Term 1	Monday 22 January	Thursday 28 March	10 weeks
Term 2	Monday 15 April	Friday 21 June	10 weeks

Term 3	Monday 8 July	Friday 13 September	10 weeks
Term 4	Monday 30 September	Friday 13 December	11 weeks

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



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