

# AGTECH Connections

The newsletter of the Australian Technology & Agricultural College

*'Connecting the College with the Community'*

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## Edition 100: April 2024

### College

### Founder/CEO

*Dr Narendra Nand*

### Principal's Message



As our young teenagers prepare for the rapidly changing dynamics of the current labor market, ATAC maintains its focus on building personal skills and positive attitudes and workplace knowledge such as safety and use of information technology as the demands of a workplace increases. With the proposed government support, our students will have better opportunities to join the workforce. Congratulations to most of our students who have succeeded in securing work experience and/or apprenticeships. Year 10 will be doing the Trade Taster program for white cards and entry into TAFE next year. Two students have progressed to traineeships after their work experience. Year 12's are doing their Certificate II in Workplace Skills (BSB20120) and year 11's are doing Work for Skills & Vocational Pathways (FSK20119). Term I & II assessments are in progress. These will be used to prepare the Semester I reports.

We have been contacting parents and working collaboratively with them to achieve better outcomes for some students. Parents and/or guardians are most welcome to discuss their child's performance at any time. We greatly appreciate the local businesses who support our vocational pathways to support our students. Students are continually being prepared to meet an early career trade pathways for an early start to

### Independent Senior Secondary College for Years 10 to 12

4808 Mt Lindesay Highway, North Maclean Q 4280.

their career. ATAC fully supports all the paperwork to meet the legal obligations of all parties in the process of work or apprenticeship arrangements.

### Infrastructure Development

The indoor sports and physical fitness center are complete and is being used by the students and staff. Fortunately, we have secured a professional trainer Kyle Daya from BeActive Allied Health and Performance for HPE and Fitness to use our gym to support our students, staff and parents for their physical and mental health support. ATAC invites our community members to utilize the facilities and help in building a healthy community.

Ms. Natasha and Mr. Jason Roebig of Bee All Natural have engaged with ATAC to provide training to local young people via KRANK program sponsored by Logan City Council and plan to provide beekeeping training in our multipurpose shed. Our Bee hives have now been located onsite and we anticipate adding to provide workshops and potentially a Cert. III in Beekeeping by early 2025. The Bee school grant from LCC enabled us to purchase the hives and equipment. Beekeeping training has become a major focus across many Australian schools for engagement and benefits for the role bees play in crops, honey production and in the improvement of the biodiversity of our flora and fauna species.

### Community Engagement

ATAC supports the North Maclean Community Garden (NMCG) members who have been harvesting chilies, pumpkins, rosella, and eggplants for a side income. "Grow Your Own Vegetables" (GYOV) via community gardens programs as social capital projects are becoming popular worldwide in assisting retired people to live active and healthy lives. Our greenhouse is

under construction, and it will be ready to support these members, and our students to do some nursery and horticultural activities with more emphasis on native species.

Please visit our website for more information in our monthly newsletters. New members, and volunteers are always welcome to join the ATAC committee at any time.



**Happy NMCG members reaping the benefits of hard work with their harvest of chilies, pumpkins, rosella leaves and cucumbers.**

## Student Engagement

Our “TRIPOD” model provides an opportunity for close partnerships between parents/ guardians, students, and the staff who play a significant role in student engagement and success. Positive behavior is gradually developed by the positive relationships to ensure students become more resilient, honest, hardworking, respectful, responsible and independent learners as they build their self-confidence and self-esteem.

Our unique academic program enables students to follow various pathways to successful completion of QCE and trades for an earlier job. We remain focused with project-based and hands-on learning experiences for better engagement, responsibility and success. They work harder to attend trade courses and to find jobs facilitated by ATAC.

## Acknowledgement

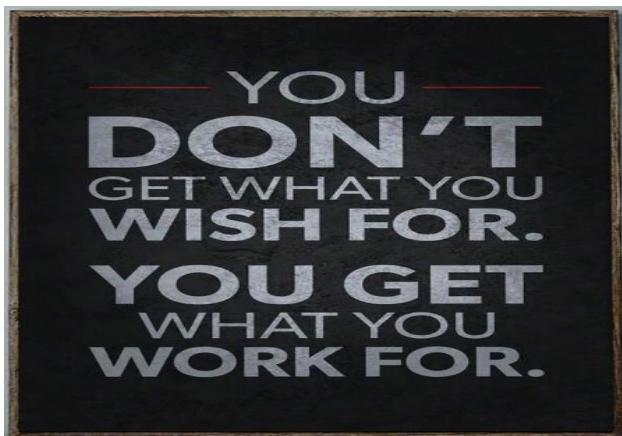
ATAC board members who have tirelessly volunteered and supported the mission and vision of ATAC. Thank you to all parents and guardians who have always played a significant role in the success of their child. Special thanks to RSL Greenbank, Logan City Council and the government for small grants to support ATAC projects and its local community.

## From the Teacher's Desk

**Mrs. Nandani Chandra**

Quite often students ask me what the point of school is. To those students I say, even if you get nothing out of geometry and poetry, school is an opportunity to practice perseverance and grit. As we draw closer to assessment, it is timely that I address the importance of grit and perseverance. **Perseverance** is having the quality of continuing to make an effort to do or achieve something, and **grit** is courage and determination despite difficulty. Having these qualities will ensure that once you get out into the 'real world,' it is perseverance and grit that will mean the difference between success and failure. If you have perseverance and grit, you will keep going despite the many times you fail. And you will fail; but through perseverance and grit, you will get back up. So, when assessment time comes around, practice perseverance and grit. Don't give up. Hand in drafts, get feedback, get help from your teacher, and never never ever give up. (Picture from freepik.com).





*Students have been tending to the chickens and the gardens and reaping the benefits. Students used the eggs and vegetables from the garden and assisted in making (and eating) fried rice.*



*A sumptuous fried rice meal for lunch and takeaway for students after the lifeskills fun. Thank you boys and Mrs. Chandre for the initiative and effort.*



*In agricultural science, students have been zooming into the various structures and functions of plants. We used our brand-new microscope to view stomata, which are microscopic structures that help moisture retention in the leaf.*



*Lachlan Shorten and Jaxon Freckleton (in cap) using the microscope to observe stomata on a leaf surface.*



*Kyle Daya from BeActive (Allied Health and Performance) for the fitness classes working with the Year 10s for a great introductory HPE session..*



**Kyle Daya from BeActive (Allied Health and Performance) instructing students about the benefit of physical and mental health for the success in their careers. Training is integrated with the HPE sessions.**

**(Equipment provided by a grant from RSL Greenbank)**



**Lachlan Shorten (middle) with Shane and Dr. Nand (right) and his Mum Christa Shorten and senior teacher Mrs. N. Chandra (far left) after discussions to sign up work experience for Lachlan. He was extremely excited and we congratulate him for showing so much interest in Autiomotive industry. Thanks to Shane.**



**Kyle Daya, Director of BeActive conducting a theoretical session of HPE. Students need to understand their body and functions to build their muscles without injury.**



**The Tunnel House under construction which has been delayed due to bad weather and amendments to DA. The nursery will be used for Horticultural activities.**



**Jaxon Hodges with mum Aleisha Beams (left) and Mrs. Chandra signed the work experience form for carpentry. Jaxon is happy and excited to give it a go. Congratulations Jaxon.**



**The BEE School project is on the go. The bees have settled in the hives which were supplied by BeeAll Natural. Thanks to Logan City Council for the grant and Mr. Warren Black for his assistance to our projects. ATAC will continue to work with Bee All Natural and LCC for the KRANK program and Bee keeping workshops and training.**



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

### Unlimited Potential

Loads of potential available  
Showing what one is capable

In the vast expanse of endless skies  
Dreams take flight and hopes arise

Unfettered by the chains of doubt  
Unlimited potential free to sprout

Achieving things desirable  
Even if beyond reasonable

Qualities extremely formidable  
Special abilities unthinkable

Potential is one unmeasurable  
As everything can be attainable

All potential pathways possible  
Potential inside one remarkable

Unravelling potential entails tapping our  
asset  
To realize our full potential exudes our  
mindset.

Need we passion, grit, courage and boom.  
To treadle our potential to bloom

Sometimes we apply self-imposed  
limitations.

That stops us from unlocking our full  
imagination.

Through trials faced and paths untrod  
We fight the strength to rise and nod

Human beings are created with unlimited  
potential  
To achieve just about anything substantial

So, let us dare to dream and soar  
To reach for heights never seen before

The English idiom "**where there's a will there's a way**". This 400 year old proverb implies that if someone is determined enough, they can find a way to achieve their goal, despite all obstacles. This common motivational mantra inspires every one to persevere to achieve success. Remember, you cannot change the wind direction, but you can change the sails to reach your destination.

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**Cert. II in Workplace Skills (BSB20120)**  
[ATAC RTO #45556](#)

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**BSB50420 Diploma in Leadership and  
Management**

**BSB50120 Diploma in Business**

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

