

# AGTECH Connections

The newsletter of the Australian Technology & Agricultural College

*'Connecting the College with the Community'*

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## Edition 108: May/June 2025



### College Founder/CEO

**Dr Narendra Nand (PhD)**

### Principal's Message

The bimonthly issue of AGTECH Connections for May/June 2025 took a bit of time due to some staffing changes and the challenges for the final assessments of semester one. While students continued to do their academic and outdoor activities they were very much interested in the bonfires and the new basketball court. We lost a couple of students who found jobs and as they developed their job-readiness skills and some work experience.

We acknowledge and thank each of the businesses who partner with us and support our students interested in specific careers. Thanks to Mul & Rose Chand of Queensland Compressor Technology for ongoing support to our students.

It was pleasing to meet with the parents and/or guardians of some students in Term 1, and at the

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

4808 Mt Lindesay Highway, North Maclean Q 4280.

beginning of Term III. Some parents have made extra effort to meet with the staff to discuss their child's progress. With small class sizes and student-paced academic activities, students work without too much academic pressure. Students complete their assessments with one-to-one support and build up their academic points for QCE. ATAC has blended outdoor activities, physical fitness, gardening, poultry, basketball and some hospitality. We have consolidated its academic and career pathways. Our flexible pathway provides a unique opportunity for many students who like to succeed with minimum stress. ATAC is building its higher education courses with strategies to deliver the approved courses more efficiently. Investment in technology will assist staff to deliver the courses and increase accessibility to all our programs.

Since year 10 is compulsory, all students must complete the QCAA program in a more relaxed and supportive environment while seeking opportunities for work experience. The introduction of Certificate II in Hospitality for building life-skills was progressing well, however, our trainer had to leave due to illness. Health and Fitness activity as part of HPE, supports our mental health program and assists in providing a long-term solution for success and happiness. Multiskilling with life-skills, along with successful completion of Certificate II courses, equips our students with skills and experience for holiday and weekend jobs. Students who are hardworking, responsible and interested are considered for any opportunity available in their field of choice and referred to potential employers.

Year 10 and 11 students are completing their Certificate II in Work for Skills (BSB20120), and Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways (FSK 20119), and Trade course from TAFE. Year 10 will complete their Trade Taster from TAFE and obtain a white card which would

enable them to secure work experience. Students will be applying for TAFE courses in July for 2026 enrolments

## New Facilities and Resources

Students have been happy with the new and upgraded computers, tables and chairs from the start of this year. Many students find the computers to be much faster and efficient. Plumbing issues with our kitchen for hospitality have almost been resolved and we are awaiting final approval.

The outdoor Basketball court is always readily accessible to students, and the physical and social activity in-between class times is highly appreciated.

Ms. Kamini Pillay provides professional training for our young students every Wednesday and/or Monday as per the availability of the trainer. The professional gym and fitness equipment provide opportunities for physical and mental health support.

## Outdoor Activities

ATAC's ongoing projects such as poultry care, gardening and nursery continue to provide additional training to assist students with mental health support and teaching of life-long skills. Our professional Gym equipment and the community gardens are also available to the public as a community engagement strategy.

Thanks to Ms. Mary Irene Bayldon (ATAC Chair) and Ms. Nandani Chandra for supporting the embedded mental health strategy and Marnie Parker

or building of life skills. Students love the cooking sessions and enjoy their lunch.

### **From the Teacher's Desk:**

**Ms. Nandani Chandra**  
**Senior Teacher/Deputy**  
**Principal**

### **Welcome Back! A Term Full of Highlights**

*After nearly eight weeks away for health reasons, I've recently returned to ATAC—and what a busy and rewarding few weeks it's been! We've hit the ground running, finalising assessments and wrapping up the term with some fantastic student-led initiatives and excursions.*



### **Plum Pickings Café – A Delicious Debut**

*One of the standout moments this term was the launch of our very first **Plum Pickings Café**, proudly run by our students under the warm and watchful guidance of **Marnie Parker**. For those who attended, you'll know just how impressive the students were! The service was professional and timely, and the food and beverages were absolutely delicious. A huge thank you to Marnie for her support in preparing the students for such a successful day.*

### **Careers Expo – Exploring Future Pathways**

*On Friday, 13th July, we took a trip to the **Careers Expo** at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Students had the chance to connect with trade organisations and explore the many skills and opportunities available through vocational pathways. A highlight of the day was the **Australian Defence Force (ADF)** exhibit and presentation. Hearing directly from ADF personnel about the exciting career options available was both informative and inspiring.*

### **Outdoor Skills & Garden Prep**

*To finish off the term, students got hands-on with some practical outdoor learning. They mastered the art of safe wood chopping, learned how to start a campfire, and prepared bamboo for use in our upcoming **student garden project**, where they'll be building trellis structures. It's been a*

great way to blend teamwork, sustainability, and practical skills.

### **Looking Ahead**

*It's been a fantastic return, and we're excited for what's to come. Here's to a productive and enjoyable term ahead!*

**Nandani Chandra**

**MEd Leadership & Management, BEd Secondary Sciences, BSc Applied Science, Grad Dip Psychology**

**Deputy Principal/ Senior Teacher**

**From Ms. Radhika**

**MBA & MSc + TAE 40116**

**Business Development Manager/Admin Officer**

 What an Incredible term at ATAC!

We've had a fantastic time of progress and achievements! Our students have been actively working on their FSK20119 projects, and we're thrilled to announce that they have successfully completed Units 1 and 2.

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### **\$ School Fees Reminder**

A big thank you to families who have paid their school fees on time. Your support is truly appreciated. For those with outstanding payments, receipts and invoices have been sent via. MYOB.

If you have any queries or need assistance, don't hesitate to get in touch.

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### **🎓 Courses at ATAC – Pathways for Success**

at ATAC, we are dedicated to helping students bridge gaps and progress in their education and careers. We are currently offering courses for online students in:

**Certificate II in Vocational Pathways (FSK20119)**

**Certificate II in Workplace Skills (BSB20120)**

**Diploma of Business**

**Diploma of Leadership and Management**

**Certificate IV in Leadership and Management**

Enrolment is open all year round for both online and/or face-to-face training.

We offer customised learning plans to support students in successfully completing their senior education.



**The Prime Minister of FIJI, Rt. Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka and his ministers hosted a function in Brisbane for the former Fiji citizens during his formal visit to Australia for building bilateral ties in the Pacific. Dr. Nand attended the function upon the invitation of the Fijian Counsel in Canberra.**



**Mr. Petero Civoniceva, the former Australian Rugby League footballer and Queensland State of Origin representative gave a very warm welcome and reception to Dr. Nand at the function. He is currently the representative ambassador of "Deadly Choices" and work closely supporting many communities in Australia and in FIJI. It was pleasing to note that Petero accepted an invitation to visit ATAC.**

## HORTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES



Cleaveland, Rhyse and Jack on a tour to Horticultural Touch Nursery at Wearing Road



A wide range of Australian Native plants for sale at the nursery.



Vegetable garden thriving with the cold weather. Thanks, Locklyn, for nurturing the plants and engaging other students with you.

## CAREERS IN PERSPECTIVE



Careers Expo in Brisbane was attended by students. They caught an exciting bus ride from Browns Plains with Ms. Chandra and Ms. Jacquie Strong.



Jaxon (L-R) Locklyn and Jack having a relaxed time off the Careers Expo. An interesting tour out of school.



Congratulations Rhyse for continuing your work experience at Queensland Compressor Technology joining our ex-student Tyler Barrett-Collins who is an apprentice with Mul Chand at QCT. Thank you Mul for your support with ATAC students.

## CARRERS IN HOSPITALITY



**Ms. Marnie Parker with her final lessons for assessment in the Hospitality class. Rhyse is doing his final adjustments to his task.**



**Cleaveland presenting his finished plate to Ms. Parker. Congratulations Cleaveland for participating well in the cooking sessions.**



**Matthew is doing his final preparations for presentation to Ms. Parker. I greatly appreciate your contribution and service to ATAC. We wish you a great, healthy and prosperous future. Thank you.**

## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



**Ms. Strong and Ms. Chandra enjoying a relaxing atmosphere at the ATAC fireplace. What's cooking??**



**Locklyn, Jacquie and Jack are learning about the fire risks In an outdoor activity.**



**An outdoor Basketball court has been completed for additional recreation and sports activity to support the physical and mental health of ATAC students.**

## TECHNOLOGY AND CONNECTION

In silent rooms, with screens aglow  
 We reach out farther than winds can blow  
     From island shores to city lights  
     We speak in seconds, day or night  
     No mountain tall, no ocean wide  
     Can keep our kindred hearts aside  
     A grandma's smile on video call  
     A message shared, both big and small  
     Ideas bloom online streams  
     Together building future dreams

A message sent, a voice we hear Though miles apart, we still feel near  
 Through video calls and instant chat We bridge the gaps—imagine that!  
     For in this vast, connected sphere Technology draws loved ones near  
     Technology brings humanity closer Like bridges spanning oceans over  
     Technology helps to trace our ancestry Revealing roots and family  
         history

The lost connection revived through technology Bridging the gaps with  
     smart methodology  
 From DNA tests to old family trees It maps our past across lands and  
     seas  
 Technology removes boundaries, opens locked gates, It links distant  
     lands and unites diverse fates.  
 It weaves a web of global embrace, Bringing all closer, no matter the  
     place

We celebrate in digital light Birthdays, wins, and dreams in flight  
     From family calls to classroom ties Tech helps our spirits truly rise  
 A soldier speaks from distant land And feels his loved one's gentle hand  
     Through apps and chats, emotions flow As friendships bloom and stories  
         grow

But still we yearn for touch and gaze For warmth that tech cannot always  
     raise

Let's use these tools to bring us near Yet hold real voices close and clear  
     For when tech connects with love and care Its magic grows beyond  
         hardware.

Let tech be bridge, not final end A means to meet, to heal, to mend  
     So, let us use this gift with grace To build a kinder, wiser place

**BHAGWANJI BHINDI**  
 Retired Lecturer, Fiji National University

## **ENROL FOR 2026**

### **Limited Spaces**

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)**

**Cert. II in a Trade of your choice (Via TAFE and  
other RTOs)**

[ATAC RTO #45556](#)

**BSB40520 Cert IV in Leadership and Management**

**BSB50420 Diploma in Leadership and  
Management**

**BSB50120 Diploma in Business**

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