1. OPEN DAYS COMING SOON.....make sure you attend!

- Sat 1 Aug – Monash (Peninsula campus)
- Sun 2 Aug – Deakin (Warrambool); Monash (Caulfield & Clayton); Swinburne (Hawthorn)
- Sun 9 Aug – Australian Catholic University (ACU) (Fitzroy); Deakin (Geelong campuses); La Trobe (Bundoora); RMIT; William Angliss
- Sun 16 Aug – Melbourne; Monash (Parkville – Pharmacy); La Trobe (Bendigo)
- Sun 23 Aug – Box Hill Institute; Deakin (Burwood); Victoria (Footscray)
- Sun 30 Aug – ACU (Ballarat); Federation (Ballarat & Gippsland)

2. HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF OPEN DAYS – Don’t just wander, try these:

- Allow sufficient time for your visit; two hours or so would be advisable
- Speak to staff about courses which interest you - note your questions beforehand
- Get a student perspective - speak to students studying courses which interest you
- Collect information/brochures
- Ask about industry based-learning (IBL) opportunities; ask about international study opportunities – a popular option
- Consider transport issues; is the campus accessible from where you live?
- Check the environment where you will study; will you be happy there for three/four years?
- Consider the facilities/clubs offered at your preferred institution
- Consider visiting a rural campus, especially if you think you won’t obtain a high enough ATAR for a metropolitan campus. ATAR’s are lower and they often offer more personal assistance, accommodation, and a lifestyle which will suit some students.

NOTE: If you are applying for a course involving an interview/folio presentation/audition as part of the selection process, attendance is A MUST! You might be asked what you learned at Open Day.

3. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YEAR 12 STUDENTS IN 2016 – All Year 12 students planning tertiary education in 2016 need to be aware of scholarship opportunities. A good starting point to find out about them is go to the VTAC website (www.vtac.edu.au) and then Scholarships at the top of the screen. You can apply for many of the available scholarships on the VTAC site, often awarded on the basis of your ATAR. However, some scholarships require an actual application. To find these, go the individual institution websites (eg www.rmit.edu.au/scholarships). Many scholarships are offered on the basis of equity issues, not just academic performance.

4. YEAR 10 STUDENTS – information regarding tertiary entry for 2018 is available on the VTAC website (look for VICTER 2018 in Publications); some information will also be in the Herald Sun on Tues 21 July.

5. NURSING AND MIDWIFERY AT DEAKIN – Find out about nursing degrees. When/Where: Burwood - 6-8pm, Wed 22 July, Building BC, Burwood Corporate Centre, Level 2 or 2.30-4.30pm, Sat 25 July, The Point, Level 1; OR Geelong Waterfront – 6-8pm, Wed 22 July or 2.30-4.30pm, Sat 25 July, Building AD, Western Beach Room 6.104; Register: ph 9244 6032 or nursinfo@deakin.edu.au (say which session you wish to attend); Information: www.deakin.edu.au/nursing.

6. MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS – STATISTICS – In the 2014-15 period, first preference applications for Monash went up by 3.5% (in a time of less VTAC applications). Monash ‘Guarantee’ and Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) places went up by 26.3%.

WHAT IS THE MONASH GUARANTEE?
Ability to succeed at university is about more than your ATAR. The Monash Guarantee can provide you with a course offer even if your ATAR is below the 2015 Clearly-In. If you have experienced financial disadvantage, are an Indigenous Australian or, attend a Monash University under-represented school (from 2015 it will depend on your home postcode rather than school). To find out more go to: www.monash.edu/guaranteedentry.

BERWICK CAMPUS – Is having a Careers and Education Festival, 4-8pm, Wed 29 July. Monash is examining how it can offer higher education in the south-east of Melbourne. It is expected that this will involve the Monash
Berwick Campus, but for 2016 it will be ‘business as usual’ there. It’s hoped that extra courses will be offered at the campus soon. The only immediate change is that Nursing will be consolidated at Clayton and Peninsula and as a result, first year nursing will not be offered at Berwick in 2016.

SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS – Elite athletes are able to apply for scholarships at Monash. You need to apply for your course through VTAC, and then to TeamMONASH for your scholarship (not applied for through the VTAC scholarship application process). See: www.monash.edu/teammonash.

NEW DOUBLE DEGREES IN DESIGN AT CAULFIELD – From 2016 Monash will offer double degrees in Design and Business, Design and Information Technology, and Engineering and Industrial Design. Double degrees allow you to study broader areas than a single degree, in less time than it takes to do them separately. They can improve career options as well. Many students study overseas for part of their degree. The Monash campus at Prato in Italy, is a popular option for design. Applicants for design courses apply through VTAC (www.vtac.edu.au) as usual (from 3 August), but must contact MADA (Monash Art Design and Architecture) via their website for an interview as well (www.monash.edu/mada). Most Monash staff work in industry – a big plus for students.

NUTRITION AND DIETETICS – From 2016, Dietetics will be a Masters qualification at Monash. The most direct pathway into the Masters degree will be after completing the B. Nutrition Science at Monash. It will not be possible to study dietetics as an undergraduate degree – the same as at Deakin. The B. Nutrition Science Scholars program is offered for VCE high achievers. These students are guaranteed a place in the Masters program so long as they maintain at least a credit average. If you complete the B. Nutrition Science at Monash, the Masters will take 18 months. For those coming from another degree it will take two years. See: www.daa.asn.au for information about dietetics.

7. RMIT ADVICE TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS - CHANGING VISAS – International students going from a school visa (571) to a higher education visa (573) are advised to apply onshore. This can avoid delays and ensure applicants are able to commence classes on the expected date. The requirements are simpler too – see: www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/checklists/Stuent-573-Assessment-Level-1-checklist.aspx . Get advice from John Crowder (Registered MARA Migration Agent) at International Recruitment, john.crowder@rmit.edu.au.

8. ‘ASPIRE’ AT LA TROBE UNIVERSITY – In 2014, Aspire saw over 1,100 students receive early offers of places for 2015. Most courses have a minimum ATAR of 50.00, however, some programs have a higher requirement. La Trobe is working with the Country Fire Authority and the Duke of Edinburgh program, and hoping other organisations will join. These partnerships reflect La Trobe’s desire to work with organisations that have the vision of making a positive difference, and will further help recognise the valuable impact students make in their communities. Applications are open and close on 31 August. See: www.latrobe.edu.au/aspire.

9. EXPERIENCE THE OUTDOORS – Experience being an Outdoor and Environmental Education student at La Trobe. The 5-day program, for Year 10-12s, offers either climbing and bushwalking or paddling and bushwalking. When: 28 Sept- 2 Oct; Where: Begins at Bendigo campus; Cost: $100; Info: www.latrobe.edu.au; Search: Experience the Outdoors.

10. WHAT ARE APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS? An apprenticeship or traineeship is a pathway to skilled employment and further training opportunities. They can be undertaken on a full or part-time basis and can be used as a stepping stone to a career in one of 500 occupations across a wide range of industries. To do an apprenticeship/ traineeship you must have a job. Apprentices/trainees learn industry skills by combining paid work with training through a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). The training leads to a vocational qualification, ranging from a Certificate I to an Advanced Diploma level, and is recognised throughout Australia. Info: www.education.vic.gov.au/training/employers/apprentices/Pages/default.aspx. Also see: www.grouptraining.com.au.

Compiled by m.walker