Reminders: OPEN DAYS
- 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)

1. YEAR 12 NEWS -
- VTAC APPLICATIONS – Applications for university, VET and private provider courses for 2016 open on Monday 3 August through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre website. Any Year 12 student wishing to apply for courses needs to visit www.vtac.edu.au. Timely applications close on 30 Sept. After that the application fee rises from $29 to $95. You can apply for up to 12 courses, placing them in the order you most want them. You will receive an offer early in 2016 for the highest course in your list for which you meet the requirements (eg ATAR). You will be able to change your application at various times from 3 August 2015 through to February 2016. Check out prerequisites and selection criteria for courses you are applying to if you want to change your application.
- SPECIAL ENTRY ACCESS SCHEME (SEAS) – The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) 2016 Guide has a section about SEAS (p. 43-54), www.vtac.edu.au/who/seas.html. Are you eligible for special consideration for your course application? There are four categories of disadvantage. NOTE: SEAS applications are made on the VTAC website, but can only be done after applying for courses (SEAS applications close: 6 October).

2. MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS
- ‘AT MONASH’ SEMINAR SERIES CONTINUES – These continue with: Theatre, Performance and Music on 18 Aug, Science on 27 Aug, Teaching on 1, 3 & 8 Sept, and Engineering on 17 September; all seminars are 6.30-8.00pm; Information/Registration at: www.destination.monash.edu/at-monash
- MEDICINE, NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES FACULTY UPDATE – To be considered for Medicine, Physiotherapy and Radiography & Medical Imaging, VTAC applications must be made by the close of VTAC’s timely application period, 30 September 2015. These courses cannot be added to an applicant’s preference list after this date, due to the interview requirements. However, as long as an applicant has at least one of the MBBS codes on their preference list by the close of timely applications, they can add other MBBS codes after this time. Applicants for Medicine will be required to undertake an 8 station MMI (Multiple Mini Interview) while applicants for Physiotherapy and Radiography & Medical Imaging will undertake a 4 station MMI.
- Interview dates for 2016 entry: for onshore international applicants – Fri 20 and Mon 23 November 2015; for VCE, IB and National Dean’s Rural List and Dean’s Indigenous List applicants (DRL and DIL relevant to MBBS applicants only) – Tues 5 - Fri 8 January 2016.
- BUSINESS OPEN HOUSE – Monash has a new city location; find out about the Bachelor of International Business at the Open House. Learn about new degrees, meet students and take a tour. When: 11am-3pm, Sun 9 August; Where: 271 Collins St; Melb. Info/Register: http://destination.monash/business-open-house.
- PHARMACY OPEN HOUSE – Check out the Parkville campus - take a tour, attend a course info session, talk to staff and students, meet researchers, test your knowledge of chemistry at Atomic Bingo and visit the food vans. When: 10am-3pm, Sunday 16 August; Information: http://destination.monash/pharm-open-house.
- NEW FACULTY OF SCIENCE WEBSITE – The new Future Students section of the website is a great way to find out about the new Faculty of Science at Monash special and distinctive. See: http://monash.edu/science/future-students.

3. RMIT NEWS
- SEPTEMBER HOLIDAY SHORT COURSES – Those on offer are: Ableton Live Music (Music software program), Audio Production – Studio Recording, Production, Lighting for Live Events, Food Photography and Folio Preparation in Photography. Information: 9925 8111, enquiries@rmit.edu.au and www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au – get in early!
- RMIT FLIGHT TRAINING DAY – Students interested in a career as a pilot are invited to the RMIT Flight Training Open Day at Point Cook. Meet experienced flight instructors and learn about careers. When: 10am-4pm, Sun 23 Aug; Where: RAAF Williams Base Point Cook.
4. INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERING SUMMER SCHOOL 2016 – A program giving 20 Indigenous students from across Australia, entering Year 11 or 12 in 2016, the chance to go to Sydney and explore possibilities of studying engineering. The program is fully sponsored with activities/accommodation/flights/meals covered by Engineering Aid Australia and the Uni. of Sydney. Site visits, curriculum exercises and participation in cultural activities. Students with ability in science and maths are encouraged to apply by 16 October. Dates: 10 – 16 January 2016; For info/application form: http://sydney.edu.au/engineering/laess/

5. PATHWAYS TO UNIVERSITY – Some students who would like to study at university do not obtain a high enough ATAR to access their preferred course. What happens then? Many universities offer pathways into university. For example, Deakin has Deakin College, Monash has Monash College, La Trobe has La Trobe UniLink and Swinburne has Swinburne University. Courses at these institutions can be accessed with lower ATARs and often provide pathways into university. Other pathways exist. For example, Monash has a number of diploma programs (in science, business, education & nursing), the University of Melbourne offers a Diploma of General Studies as a possible pathway, ACU offers courses through ACUCom, while Swinburne, RMIT and Victoria Universities offer certificate and diploma courses through their VET divisions, often offering pathways to university. Furthermore, some VET providers (eg Box Hill Institute) have formal pathways in place to access particular university degrees.

Keep in mind as well, as noted in previous issues, that some universities allow students to access their courses on a lower ATAR as a result of the students’ involvement in their communities (eg Aspire at La Trobe and the Early Achievers Program at ACU).

6. WHERE DO GRADUATES GO? Decisions about higher education are some of the biggest you will make. ‘Where Grads Go’ provides the latest information on what graduates do and how much they earn (figures from the 2014 Australian Graduate Survey - Graduate Careers Australia). In 2014, the average bachelor graduate earned $52,500. Median salaries of some bachelor degrees were: mathematics $60,000, IT $55,000, architecture and building $53,000, engineering $62,000, medicine $62,000, nursing $54,000, education $59,000, accounting $52,000, psychology and behavioural sciences $52,000, law and justice studies $58,800 and visual and performing arts $42,000.

Finding a full-time job after graduation isn’t always easy. The following shows how graduates fared finding full-time work four months after graduating: mathematics 64.94%, IT 67.16%, engineering 72.2%, architecture and building 68.59%, medicine 97.52%, nursing 80.07%, education 70.01%, accounting 73.90%, psychology and behavioural sciences 52.14%, law and justice studies 72.71%, visual and performing arts 44.73% (substantial numbers were also in part-time work, and many go on to further study). In some fields, like engineering and nursing, most graduates find work in the fields they trained for. Graduates of other fields find work in a wide variety of fields. Interestingly, 93.9% of Australian bachelor graduates said they were broadly satisfied with their higher education experience. See: www.graduatecareers.com.au/wheregradsgo.


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