Reminders:
- University prerequisites for 2016 (Current Year 10 students) – in the daily papers, Monday 22 July (also available on the VTAC website - www.vtac.edu.au/publications.html)
- Open Days - coming up in August

1. OPEN DAYS – Annual University and TAFE
Open Days are coming up soon. These are a great opportunity for you to check out facilities, courses, locations, attend presentations about courses and careers, and to talk to staff and students. Year 10 is good time to start attending these, and Year 11 is a good time to attend too.

Starting visits in Year 12 is leaving it a bit late, although still worthwhile. Applying for courses happens in Term 3 of the Year 12 year, the same time as Open Days are scheduled.

OPEN DAY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (generally 10am to 4pm – check websites):
- Sat 3 Aug – Monash University (Berwick, Gippsland, Peninsula campuses)
- Sun 4 Aug – Deakin University (Warrnambool); Monash University (Caulfield, Clayton, Parkville); Swinburne (University & TAFE) (Hawthorn)
- Sun 11 Aug – Australian Catholic University (Melbourne); Deakin (Geelong); Gordon (Geelong); RMIT (University and TAFE)
- Sun 18 Aug – La Trobe University (Bendigo); Melbourne Uni (Parkville & Southbank - VCA)
- Sun 25 Aug – ACU (Ballarat); Ballarat University; Box Hill Institute: Deakin (Burwood); La Trobe (Bundoora); Victoria University and TAFE; William Angliss Institute
- Sun 1 Sept – La Trobe University (Albury/Wodonga)

Note: Holmesglen has an Open Day every third Wednesday of the month; visit on your way home from school or during the day; see www.holmesglen.edu.au/showcase/events/open_wednesdays

2. HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF OPEN DAYS –
Don’t wander aimlessly….try the following:
- Obtain an Open Day Guide and plan beforehand (eg from websites like www.deakin.edu.au/openday, or www.openday.unimelb.edu.au) - some hard copies of thea Guides are in the careers room
- Plan to be at Open Day when relevant information sessions are conducted
- Allow sufficient time for your visit; two hours or so would be advisable
- Speak to staff about courses that interest you - note your questions beforehand
- Get a student perspective - speak to students studying courses that interest you
- Collect information/brochures
- Ask about industry based-learning (IBL) opportunities; these can assist with gaining employment
- Ask about international study opportunities – a very 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 often lower and they often offer more personal assistance, accommodation, and a lifestyle which will suit some students.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Planning to apply for a course involving an interview/folio presentation/audition? As part of the selection process you may be asked what you learnt/found of interest about the course at Open Day. Attendance is A MUST!

2. EXPLORING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AS A CAREER – Interested in a career as an O.T.? If so, go to an information and demonstration evening and hear from Occupational Therapists experienced in spinal rehabilitation, hand therapy, mental health and neurology.
When: 5.30-8pm, Thurs 12 Sept; Where: Education Precinct, Level 4, Austin Tower, Austin Hospital, Studley Rd, Heidelberg; Register: email Monica.williams@austin.org.au – all guests must be registered and places are limited to a maximum of 2 attendees per reservation – you will receive a confirming email.
3. HERALD SUN MELBOURNE CAREERS EXPO – a large and comprehensive expo encompassing career opportunities from employment and training in the trades, corporate and professional sectors. There will be a vast array of career advice, employment opportunities, a large university and training representation, and a ‘hands on’ Skills Industry Hub. When: Fri 16 – Sun 18 August; Where: Melbourne Exhibition Centre, Clarendon St, Southbank; Info: www.careerexpo.com.au. An opportunity to collect information, talk to people and find out more about careers in one location.

4. DESIGN COURSES AT SWINBURNE IN 2014 – Swinburne will be making some changes and additions to a range of Bachelor of Design courses in 2014.
   - The Bachelor of Design (Industrial Design) will become a four-year program
   - The Bachelor of Design (Interior Design) will be replaced with a four-year Bachelor of Design (Interior Architecture)
   - A new course, the Bachelor of Film and Television (Animation) will commence in 2014.

5. SCIENCE AT SWINBURNE – Swinburne will be offering some new majors in the Bachelor of Science in 2014:
   - Applied mathematics
   - Biomedical physiology
   - Biomolecular science
   - Chemistry
   - Computer science and mathematics
   - Environmental science
   - Physics
   - Psychology
   - Psychology and Psychophysiology.

6. AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY ARTS DEGREES – ACU is committed to developing graduates with strong communication and analytical skills, flexible and innovative thinking, who will seek exciting career options in the global workforce. Arts Advantage is a new subject which will stimulate students to think from the very beginning of the degree about work readiness and the attributes sought by employers. The compulsory unit will focus on work readiness, and building relevant skills and knowledge in essential areas. It will be undertaken in the B. Arts, B. Creative Arts and the B. Arts/B. Global Studies from Semester 1, 2014.

7. PARENTS AND DEAKIN UNIVERSITY – Would you like to be better informed about further study options for your child, how to prepare for this important transition, and key dates and processes? You will be able to meet staff and students, find out about the range of courses, the costs associated with further study, the VTAC application process and more about campus life. When/Where: 6-8pm, Wed 24 July, Deakin University, 221 Burwood Highway; 6-8pm, Wed 11 Sept, Geelong Waterfront Campus, 1 Gheringhap St, Geelong; Register: www.deakin.edu.au/parents. Refreshments will be served, and you can enter a draw to win a $1,000 travel voucher.

8. STUDENT AND PARENT EVENING AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY – The transition from school to further education can be daunting for parents and students. Find out about courses, facilities, the VTAC system, how parents can assist with transition, and talk to VU representatives. When: 7-9pm, Tues 13 Aug; Where: Footscray Park Campus; Register: www.vu.edu.au/vce-information-evening.

9. WHY STUDY SPORT AT VICTORIA UNIVERSITY? – If you are passionate about staying fit and healthy, and want to help others do the same, you can join a motivated group of like-minded people in VU’s College of Sport and Exercise Science. Be spurred on by internationally recognised teaching staff who are highly sought after in the sports and exercise science industries, as coaches, advisers and more. You’ll also benefit from the close links with sporting institutions such as the Victorian and Australian Institutes of Sport, Western Bulldogs, AFL and Netball Australia. With a range of courses spanning TAFE, bachelor and postgraduate qualifications, you will find an entry point that suits your level of education.

10. MONASH UNIVERSITY’S NEW BACHELOR OF COUNSELLING – The Berwick campus of Monash is offering a new degree in counselling in 2014. Recognised by the Australian Counselling Association (ACA), the degree will provide students with a solid background in psychology, as well as in-field placement opportunities and will focus on delivering counselling to diverse communities. At completion of the degree, graduates will be job ready as this course does not require further postgraduate qualifications to find accredited employment (unlike a psychologist).

Compiled by: m.walker