1. UNDERGRADUATE MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES ADMISSION TEST (UMAT) – Copies of the Quick Reference Guide can be downloaded from the UMAT website at http://umat.acer.edu.au. Before registering for the UMAT students are required to read the UMAT2013 Information Booklet available only online from the same website. Registrations are now open, and close on 7 June. Test date: 31 July, 2013.

2. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP - Are you an international student intending to apply for a business degree at an Australian university, starting in 2014? If you would like a scholarship of AUD $50,000 towards tuition fees, go to www.acer.edu.au/aiss for details.

3. INDIGENOUS STUDENT EXPERIENCE MONASH DAY – This day is an opportunity for Years 9 – 12’s to get a hands on experience of what Monash offers. Select areas of study you are interested in, meet current indigenous students, and find out about supports available for indigenous students. **When:** 10am-1.30pm, Wed 5 June (includes lunch); **RSVP:** by 20 May to kristel.keleher@monash.edu (ph 9905 8699); **Info:** www.monash.edu.au/study/life/indigenous.

4. CHECK OUT MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY COURSES AT A ‘FOCUS’ SESSION – (all 6.30-8pm). Prospective students and their families are invited.

5. BIOTECHNOLOGY AT HOLMESGLEN – Interested in health? Certificate IV and the Diploma in Laboratory Techniques give graduates qualifications to work in roles in laboratories from technicians to research assistants. Classes have around 20 students, so teachers are able to give more one-on-one time. The fully equipped laboratories give hands on experience, making graduates work ready. Certificate IV students complete a two week placement, while diploma students can do month long internships. Some graduates are working at Melbourne Pathology and Peter McCallum Cancer Centre, while others have gone on to university study. **Info:** ph 9209 5606. **NOTE:** courses are on offer at Box Hill, Chisholm, Gordon and Swinburne TAFE as well.

6. HEALTH COURSES AT AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (ACU) – The Faculty of Health Sciences is growing, adding to the courses offered for some time, like nursing and paramedics.

- **New degrees** were introduced in 2013: Bachelor of Applied Public Health, Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Speech Pathology. ACU enrolled 76 students into the later course. The Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (commenced in 2012) enrolled 117 students this year.
The Bachelor of Applied Public Health/Global Studies offers the chance to pursue a career in international public health. Starting in 2014, the degree will combine training in public health and global development with access to national and international community development programs. A full semester placement in a community development setting is in 3rd year.

ACU’s Bachelor of Exercise and Health Science has an Outdoor Recreation Leadership stream. If a student chooses to undertake all eight units in Outdoor Recreation they can obtain Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) accreditation for Outdoor Recreation as a teaching method. Graduates of the Outdoor Recreation Leadership stream work in areas like: expedition guide, nature tourism, camp directors, program directors for wilderness and adventure therapy, risk assessment, government department management including marine safety, land care and national parks, and for outdoor companies.

7. **LA TROBE UNIVERSITY – NUMBER 1 IN SPORT** – La Trobe has a specialised unit called La Trobe Sport that will drive the vision for the university to be first choice for the study of, participation in, and partnering in sport in Australia. The aim is to be the leading university in teaching and research related to sport, to support student sport and sport related clubs to increase student participation in sport, to engage the local community and schools through the use of sporting facilities and sport services at La Trobe, to leverage sports facilities to encourage all members of the university to improve sport and fitness, to secure long-term, meaningful institutional influence within the sport industry, and to develop links between high performance sport and the teaching and research capacity of the university.

The Sport Unit will work to enhance the sport offerings and research outcomes that already exist, as well as build new courses to suit the changing sporting market. La Trobe will work to secure funding to improve sporting facilities. There will be partnerships with organisations like Melbourne Heart FC, Football Federation Victoria and the MCG.

In connection with this, La Trobe has announced a new three year partnership with the AFL Players Association. It is committed to the Association and will become the ‘Higher Education Partner’. La Trobe works on research across a number of sport related disciplines like coaching, physiotherapy, psychology, exercise physiology and human nutrition, highlighting sport as one of the university’s important components, and affirms La Trobe’s Elite Athlete Friendly status.

8. **SWINBURNE NEWS UPDATE** – Swinburne is both a university and a TAFE. It has a university/TAFE campus in Hawthorn, and TAFE in Croydon and Wantirna (Lilydale and Prahran are closing). Career practitioners were told at a recent conference that Swinburne’s goal is to be Australia’s leader in science, innovation, business and design by 2020. Swinburne is judged to be in the top 400 universities in the world (of 15,000), and is the third in Victoria. It has leading achievement in design and engineering and in games design (eg Orpheus). Animation is being added as a stream to the Swinburne Film and Television degree.

Swinburne also offers strong programs in entrepreneurship. Industry-based learning (IBL) is a feature at Swinburne, and has been for 50 years. IBL gives students work experience, helps improve academic performance and helps clarify career goals. The university introduced Swinburne Connect in 2012. Students are contacted in the first few weeks of their degree, and are offered learning support if it is considered necessary. The aim is reduce the first-year drop-out rate from the university.

With regard to employment outcomes, we were told that in 2012 the unemployment rate was 4.8% overall in Australia, but for those with a Certificate III or IV it was 4.4%, while for those with a university degree it was 2.7%.

9. **PILOT TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP** – The Royal Victorian Aero Club is offering a pilot training scholarship to encourage young Australians to take up a career or long term recreational participation in aviation. Information and a data pack are available at www.rvac.com.au, with applications closing on 31 July. Info: Kerin, kgreenwood@tpg.com.au (scholarship coordinator).

Compiled by: m.walker