1. OPEN DAY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Open Days are a great opportunity to check out tertiary institutions. Most Open Days occur on Sundays in August. The dates for many of them are listed here so that you can get them in your diary for later on. Year 10-12 students (and their families) are encouraged to visit institutions of interest on Open Days so that you can see their facilities, attend information sessions, collect information, get your questions answered, talk to staff, and so on.

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

Holmesglen has a number of Open Days during the year, usually the last Thursday of the month.

2. DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MONASH UNIVERSITY? If so, a great way to do so is to attend an ‘At Monash’ seminar. The series commences in March, and you will be able to learn from students, graduates and staff about university experiences.

Seminars available commence with:
- Tues 10 Mar - Nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy and occupational therapy (Peninsula)
- Wed 11 Mar – Business and economics (Clayton campus)
- Thurs 12 Mar – Science (Clayton)
- Tues 17 Mar – Arts (Humanities and social sciences) (Clayton)
- Wed 18 Mar – Information Technology (Clayton)
- Thurs 19 Mar – Pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences (Parkville campus).

Many other seminars follow in terms 2 and 3 with design and fine art, architecture, psychology, medicine, law and so on. All seminars run 6.30pm to 8pm. To check out the full list of seminars and to register, go to www.destination.monash.edu/at-monash.

3. SWINBURNE NEWS – Swinburne is a smaller institution than some, offering VET courses through to PhDs. Its main campus is in Hawthorn, with smaller campuses at Croydon and Wantirna. The Hawthorn campus has several new buildings with state-of-the-art facilities. What’s happening at Swinburne?

- LAW – Swinburne introduced a law degree this year. Its focus is on commercialisation, intellectual property and technology transfer. The Clearly-In ATAR was 91, with 71 students commencing this year. A number of double degrees are also on offer – with arts, business, engineering and science.
- ENGINEERING – In engineering, Swinburne has a high employment rate, particularly in civil engineering. A new degree commencing at Swinburne is in construction engineering.
- PSYCHOLOGY – At Swinburne, many psychology students look or work after completing their three-year degree, without pursuing post-graduate study. Graduates have many skills; they can source, sort and evaluate information, apply psychological theory, communicate information in a logical way, can formulate research questions, collect, analyse and interpret data. These skills are often used to get a job, in community services, (counselling, welfare, child protection, corrections, disability, youth), in business (market research, public relations, human resource management), in education support, health services and in graduate programs (eg Bureau of Statistics, Customs, ATO Defence, Immigration).
- NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CIRCUS ARTS – A very specialised area of study at Swinburne, located in Prahran; many graduates are currently working for Cirque du Soleil.
• PHYSICS RESEARCH – Swinburne is very highly regarded in world research in physics (in the top 75 universities in the world, in fact).

• HIGH ACHIEVER PROGRAM – High achievers have different expectations of university. Students with an ATAR of 95 or more are invited to join this Swinburne program. It is currently offered to science (physics), communication design (honours), and IT students, later to be offered to students of business and engineering. Students are guaranteed access to a research group from first year, mentoring with senior academic staff, guaranteed accommodation, and a $5,000 pa scholarship. Places are offered automatically to students meeting the entry criteria in the participating degrees.

• INDUSTRY BASED LEARNING (IBL) – Swinburne has long been a proponent of this style of learning. Students involved in this program generally work for six or twelve months in an area linked to their study program. New skills are obtained, the work is paid for, and the placement can lead on to full time employment with the organisation.

• AUTISM – In April, Swinburne is launching a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) about autism. It is designed for parents, families and carers living and working with individuals with autism. The MOOC is a free online course using scenario-based learning to support, guide and share experiences from parents and experts in the field. Email autism@swinburne.edu.au for information. Register »

4. INTERESTED IN VETERINARY SCIENCE?
In Victoria, veterinary science can only be studied at the University of Melbourne. The Faculty is holding a Course Advice Day on Saturday 21 March (10am-3pm) at the Werribee Campus, 250 Princes Highway, Werribee. For further information please visit http://fvas.unimelb.edu.au/news-and-events/events#course-information-day. This will be different from previous years. There will be a tour of the hospital for which you must register.

5. VICTORIA UNIVERSITY (VU) NEWS –
• NEW STUDENT ACCOMMODATION – is being built at the Footscray campus. The 500-bed complex is in collaboration with Maribyrnong City Council, opening in 2016.
• WHAT IS BIOMEDICINE? VU offers Biomedicine and Biomedical sciences at the St Albans campus. Biomedicine is a broad field of study to gain an in-depth understanding of human physiological and anatomical function, disease and medical applications. These degrees prepare graduates for a career preventing and treating disease. Gain hands-on training and knowledge of human physiology, combined with skills in critical analysis and communication. Possible careers are in research, pathology, injury rehabilitation, crime scene investigation, and so on. NOTE: Biomedical science is also offered at Monash university (a possible pathway into Monash post-graduate medicine), ACU, Deakin, La Trobe, Federation, La Trobe while Biomedicine is offered at Melbourne university (a possible pathway into Melbourne post-graduate medicine, dentistry and physiotherapy degrees).

6. CAREERS IN THE DEFENCE FORCES –
entry is usually through general or officer entry.

• General entry requires applicants to have at least Year 10, be at least 17 years, and to pass a number of physical, mental and character tests.

• Officer entry requires applicants to have a high ATAR in their VCE, and also to pass various tests. Officer entry applicants study in Canberra at the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA), a campus of the University of NSW. Degrees on offer at ADFA are: Arts, Business, Engineering, Information Technology, Science and Technology. Successful applicants complete their military training during university holiday breaks.

• Defence Force recruiting hold information sessions throughout the year. Call 13 19 01 for details, or see: www.defencejobs.gov.au.

• Defence Forces offer the ADFA Education Award, presented to Year 12 students in recognition of leadership potential, and academic and sporting achievements exhibited during Year 11. The award is a laptop computer, with up to 100 awards on offer annually.

• ADF Gap Year program still operates – it provides an opportunity for young people who have completed Year 12 to gain military training and new skills.

Compiled by: m.walker