1. OPEN DAY REMINDER – Make sure you attend Open Days this year. They are your opportunity to ‘try before you buy’ your university or TAFE course. They commence this weekend at Swinburne (Hawthorn), 10am – 4pm. Remember to use Open Day planners before attending. For example, La Trobe University has a handy tool for browsing the Open Day activities and lets you build a personalised schedule to follow on the day. You can download the La Trobe Open Day app which you can use to access your timetable as well as maps to help you get around.

Some Open Day Dates for 2016:
- Sun 31 July – Swinburne University
- Sat 6 Aug – Monash (Peninsula)
- Sun 7 Aug – Deakin University (Warrnambool); La Trobe University (Bundoora); Monash University (Caifield & Clayton)
- Sun 14 Aug – Australian Catholic University (Melbourne), La Trobe University (Bendigo); RMIT University; William Angliss Institute
- Sun 21 Aug – Box Hill (Lilydale campus); Deakin University (Waterfront & Waurn Ponds); University of Melbourne; Monash (Parkville)
- Sun 28 Aug – ACU (Ballarat): Box Hill Institute (Box Hill); Deakin University (Burwood); Federation University; Victoria University (Footscray campus)

2. YEAR 12 NEWS –
- VTAC APPLICATIONS - Applications for TAFE and university courses open on the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) website on Monday 1 August, 2016 at www.vtac.edu.au. Use Course Searches as it is the primary source of course information. You will also find very useful VTAC videos about applying for courses, SEAS, scholarships, offers and changing preferences at www.youtube.com/vtacmedia.
You can apply for up to eight courses, placing them in the order you most want them. You will be offered a place in the highest course in your list for which you meet the requirements.
Don’t forget to check out the Selection Requirements for each course for which you apply. Many use only the ATAR for selection, however, a lot have other requirements such as an audition, folio presentation, interview or an extra form or documents that must completed as well. You will NOT be offered a place in any of these courses if you do not meet the selection requirements, regardless of your ATAR.

You have until 29 September for a ‘timely’ application. After that, the normal application fee of $32.00 rises to $100.00.
- When applying for courses you will be asked for a contact email address. You are advised NOT to use a school email address.
- SPECIAL ENTRY ACCESS SCHEME (SEAS) – This Scheme allows selection officers at universities and TAFE’s to grant special consideration for course entry to applicants, but doesn’t exempt you from meeting course requirements. SEAS doesn’t change your educational results or qualifications but enables course selection officers to consider circumstances that may have affected your results or educational progress. There are four categories of special consideration:
  - Personal Information and Location
  - Difficult Circumstances
  - Disadvantaged Financial Background
  - Disability or Medical Condition
For information about SEAS participating institutions, how to apply (demonstration provided), supporting evidence required (with suggested tips) and other details, see: www.vtac.edu.au and search for SEAS.

3. WHAT IF I DON’T GET THE ATAR REQUIRED FOR MY DESIRED COURSE? Firstly, remember that even if you think the ATAR will be too high for you, still put your most desired course first in your VTAC application. ATAR’s sometimes come down on previous years, and some applicants get in on lower ATAR’s because of bonus points achieved, or with a successful SEAS application, so you might be surprised.
However, what can you do if you do not obtain a high enough ATAR to access your course(s)? Many universities offer pathways into university. For example, Deakin has Deakin College, Monash has Monash College, La Trobe has La Trobe Melbourne and Swinburne has UniLink. These institutions can be accessed with lower ATARs and usually provide pathways into university.
Many other pathways exist. For example, Monash offers some diploma programs (in business, science, education & nursing), the University of Melbourne offers a Diploma of General Studies as a pathway, ACU offers courses through ACUCom, and Swinburne, RMIT and Victoria Universities offer certificate and diploma courses in their VET divisions, often offering pathways to university. Some VET providers (eg Box Hill Institute) have formal pathways to university. 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 their involvement in their communities (eg Aspire program at La Trobe and the Early Achievers Program at ACU).

4. NEW MAJORS IN HEALTH SCIENCE AT SWINBURNE – In 2017 Swinburne’s B. Health Science will include four new majors. The degree is
designed to equip students for careers promoting health and wellbeing. New majors in biomedical and clinical technologies, exercise science and nutrition will be offered alongside a revised major in biomedical science. Student who enrol in the B. Health Science (Professional) will also complete a guaranteed 12-month paid professional work placement. Find a course at: http://www.swinburne.edu.au/study/find-a-course/health/

5. DEAKIN UNIVERSITY NEWS –

- Find out more about your professional personality, about life after finishing Year 12, and about how to improve your study habits. Check out some of these latest articles featured in the Deakin digital content hub at: http://this.deakin.edu.au/careers/whats-your-professional-personality-the-careers-quiz; http://this.deakin.edu.au/careers/what-life-was-like-after-i-finished-year-12

- Also remember to check out the Deakin EXPLORE facility at: http://explore.deakin.edu.au. Find out which course suit your interests, major studies available to you, and how to qualify for a career that interests you, plus a lot more.

6. SPOTJOBS CAREER EXPO COMING – This Expo will showcase career opportunities from large employers and trades through to higher education. There will be free career advice, industry panels, interactive training demonstrations and exhibits, seminars, and a wealth of information and opportunities for further study. When: Fri 26 – Sun 28 August; Where: Melbourne Exhibition Centre, Southbank; For details and a free ticket see: www.careerexpo.com.au