Reminders
• Occupational Therapy – 4 Sept; Education Precinct, Austin Hospital, Heidelberg; Book: renee.bartlett2@austin.org.au.

1. YEAR 12 NEWS
• APPLICATIONS – Year 12 students who wish to apply for tertiary courses for 2015 are advised to visit the VTAC website (www.vtac.edu.au) now to get an application completed. Remember that you can change your application, even after obtaining your ATAR in December (up to 12 noon on 22 December). Application fees rise from $28.00 to $93.00 if you first apply after 30 September. You are advised to include in your VTAC application, courses in which you believe you are almost certain to be offered a place. I also encourage you to fill in all 12 available places in the application.
• DEFERRAL - Remember that if you want a break from study, you can defer taking up many course offers (see: www.vtac.edu.au/courses-inst/institutions/deferment.html for each institution’s policies). Some universities will allow one year of deferral, while some offer up to two years. However, be aware that deferral is not always automatic.
• SPECIAL ENTRY ACCESS SCHEME (SEAS) - If you wish to submit a SEAS application because of some disadvantage you have experienced, these applications can only be completed once you have a VTAC application done. SEAS applications close on 7 October. You are advised to at least apply for SEAS Category 1, because if any information regarding your Personal Information and Location are relevant to your application, it will only be applied if you have selected Category 1.
• SCHOLARSHIPS – All Year 12 students are advised to consider applying for Equity and Merit scholarships via VTAC. VTAC scholarship applications for domestic students close at 5pm on 17 October 2014. See: www.vtac.edu.au/applying/process.html - details are available there about Institutional Access and Equity Scholarships, Commonwealth Scholarships, and Merit Scholarships. For example, you can check out on this site what Merit scholarships are available at each institution (La Trobe University lists about 60 different types of scholarships, for example). Perhaps surprisingly, some scholarships are not awarded each year due to a lack of applicants. In addition you are wise to check individual institution websites for scholarships. There are also Student Start-Up and Relocation Scholarships available to students receiving income support; these are administered by Centrelink. Indigenous Commonwealth Scholarships are administered by institutions and will be allocated to students who meet the Commonwealth eligibility as described on the Centrelink website and have had their indigenous status confirmed.
• APPRENTICESHIPS/TRAINEESHIPS – Some Year 12’s will be considering gaining qualifications via an apprenticeship or traineeship. Apprenticeships generally take four years, while traineeships are usually 12 – 18 months long. Completing a pre-apprenticeship course with a VET provider (e.g. Box Hill institute, NMIT, Holmesglen) can often assist in obtaining an apprenticeship. These take around four or five months full-time to complete, and are offered in areas such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing, mechanics and many others. Sometimes Group Training Australia (ph 1800 819 747) will be able to assist in finding an employer with whom to complete the apprenticeship. A Group Training Organisation employs an apprentice or trainee and places them with a host employer. For names, locations and contact details: www.grouptraining.com.au.

2. LA TROBE UNIVERSITY NEWS
• PHARMACY AT LA TROBE – Clarification of Course Guide prerequisites: VCE Units 3 and 4: a study score of at least 30 in English (EAL) or at least 25 in English other than EAL; and a study score of at least 25 in Chemistry; and a study score of at least 25 in any Mathematics.
• ELITE ATHLETE BONUS ENTRY SCHEME – Elite athlete future students applying for admission into an undergraduate course through VTAC are offered access to a bonus aggregate points entry scheme at La Trobe, one of three Victorian universities offering bonus aggregate points for elite athletes. The scheme is available to domestic undergraduate applicants classified as an elite athlete, whose sporting commitments have impacted on their previous studies, and are applying for admission through VTAC.
Students are eligible to receive five bonus aggregate points towards their entry score for admission. NOTE: ACU and the University of Melbourne also offer similar programs. See: www.acu.edu.au/elite-athletes; Melbourne’s program is also for artistic performers. See: http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/high_achievers_programs/elite-athletes-and-artistic-performers

3. INTERESTED IN CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE? Then consider, these programs:

- Werribee Open Range Zoo Keeper for a Day – Want to work with animals? Then participate in experiences designed to provide you with insights into the role of a zoo keeper. Who: Years 7 - 12; Cost: $105; www.zoo.org.au/werribee/whats-on/keeper-for-a-day.

4. UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE - The Faculty of Science is holding a Burnley Information Day on Thurs, September 11, 2014 - 12:00pm to 7:00pm at the Burnley Campus, 500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond.

5. DEAKIN UNIVERSITY NEWS –

- ASSURED OFFER PROGRAM
  The Deakin Assured Offer Program (DAOP) provides eligible Year 12 students with the chance to receive a conditional offer of a place in one of the participating Deakin courses in November. It guarantees an offer even if the Clearly-In ATAR increases in 2015. The program acknowledges the work VCE students put into their final year and minimises the stress of waiting for an offer in January. Application process: register your details at www.deakin.edu.au/assured and list up to 12 DAOP courses. If you get the minimum ATAR for a course and meet prerequisites, you are guaranteed a Deakin VTAC offer in 2015.
- DISCOVER DEAKIN SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
  Deakin is offering Year 10, 11 and 12 students the chance to find out more about Deakin and its courses through workshops and seminars. Talk with staff/students about courses and ask questions. When/Where: 9am-12noon, Mon 22 Sept at Geelong Waurn Ponds; Tues 23 Sept at Burwood; Info/book: Click here.

- GUARANTEED ENTRY PATHWAYS FROM TAFE TO DEAKIN
  The Deakin Pathways Program seeks to encourage increased participation in higher education, and provide a supported student transition to higher education through VET programs. The Program will substantially expand career outcome-focused pathways into Deakin courses by offering mapped pathways with VET providers. Deakin’s long-standing partnerships with Box Hill, Chisholm, Riverina, South West and The Gordon Institutes now offer guaranteed entry pathways in a range of disciplines. These provide students with a seamless transition from Diplomas to Deakin degrees. Click here for further details.

6. SWINBURNE ADVICE NIGHTS – For Year 12 students and parents, these are designed to help you become informed about the application process and studying degrees and diplomas at Swinburne. Presentations will be made about courses, scholarships and pathways. Current/past students will share experiences. When/Where: 4.30-6.30pm, Wed 10 Sept (Wantirna) & Wed 17 Sept (Hawthorn); Info: www.swinburne.edu.au/advicenight.

7. HOW DO I TACKLE THE VCE PHYSICS EXAM? Clare Kenyon, recently a physics teacher, and now undertaking a PhD in physics, will provide very useful study tips for students preparing for the Year 12 physics exam. A great opportunity! When: 6pm, 4 September; Where: Hercus Theatre, School of Physics, University of Melbourne; Cost: Free; Info: maxwellt@unimelb.edu.au.

8. HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT ACU ‘MY CAREER MATCH’? Completing ACU’s My Career Match survey will help you find suitable careers based on your strengths and personality type. My Career Match produces a specific report for each individual which will help you link your strengths and talents with careers and course options. Give it a try! Compiled by: m.walker