1. ACU BREAKS DOWN THE BUDGET – The recent Federal Budget included changes to higher education funding which will have significant implications for Australian universities. The Australian Catholic University summarised the proposed changes that will affect students:

- **Universities will set their own fees** – from 1 Jan 2016, universities will set their own fees for Australian undergraduate courses.
- **The government will contribute less** – from 1 Jan 2016, students will pay more towards the cost of their degree, and the government will pay less. The Commonwealth contribution will reduce by 20% overall.
- **Extending the demand driven system** – this system has been expanded to provide Commonwealth Supported Places for any undergraduate qualification offered by a university – diplomas, associate degrees. Government funding has also been extended to students studying at registered higher education providers (incl TAFE).
- **Repaying the debt sooner** – The HELP loan will still be available, so students will not have to pay their fees upfront. However, the government has reduced the income threshold so graduates will start making their repayments sooner – when they are earning approx. $50,638. For ACU students (if the changes pass in parliament), this means: Current ACU students or those who have accepted a place at ACU and elected to defer that offer on or before 13 May, 2014, will not be affected as long as they complete their degree by the end of 2020. Students who accept an offer of enrolment from 14 May 2014 until 1 Jan 2016 will be charged under the existing arrangements till 31 Dec 2015. After that, they will be charged under the new arrangements. ACU will be consulting with stakeholders over the coming months to determine the appropriate fees for ACU’s courses. Other universities will, no doubt, make statements in due course.

2. NEW WEBSITE FOR MONASH UNIVERSITY – CHECK IT OUT! Monash has created a new website to help you succeed in the final years of secondary school, and to access vital information in one place. For example, it includes important dates, deadlines, registration for Monash events, VCE tips, study options and information about career paths. See: www.destination.monash.

3. ARTS AT MONASH – The Faculty of Arts has interviewed some new Arts students to ask them about their aspirations, why they chose Arts at Monash, and their hopes for after graduation. See videos at YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxWbq_J0vyk. For more information about Arts degrees, see www.arts.monash.edu.

4. BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS – What is problem-based learning (PBL)? PBL is offered as part of the Bachelor of Business at the Monash Peninsula campus. PBL uses a small group approach, and focusses on problems similar to those in the workforce. Working in a small team with a mentor, students create solutions to real-life problems, learning the principles of each subject. Site visits/industry placement form an integral part of this approach. Three ‘majors’ are offered at the campus: business strategy, sports management, and marketing and communication. Students may also undertake a different major, including accounting, at another Monash campus. Information on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5_b5UuA4Ds.

5. COMPUTER GAMES BOOT CAMP – This seven-day event is for students in Years 9-12, giving an opportunity to experience everything connected to computer games and information technology. Learn from experienced industry professionals, talk to like-minded individuals and expand your networks by participating in workshops, tournaments, presentations, and activities. If you are interested in multimedia, designing or playing games, or looking to a career in IT, this is for you. **When:** Sat 5 – Fri 11 July; **Where:** Monash Clayton; **Info/register:** https://cgbc.infotech.monash.edu/
6. ART, DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE (MADA) – MADA is hosting a range of three-day workshops for Year 11/12 students interested in studying creative disciplines. Students can build folios and attend foundation workshops in architecture, interior architecture, communication design, industrial design and fine art, and experience life at MADA. Industry professionals and academics will run the workshops and guide students through the lessons and activities. When: 1-3 July & 24-26 Sept; Where: MADA, 900 Dandenong RD, Caulfield East; Enquiries: 9903 1517, mada@monash.edu, Information: monash.edu/mada/workshops.

7. NURSING AND MIDWIFERY - Deakin University invites you to information evenings to learn about courses. Where/When: Burwood – 6-8pm, Wed 23 July & 2.30-4.30pm, Sat 26 July, Building Y, room 1.11 A and B; Geelong: 6-8 pm, Wed 23 July & 2.30-4.30pm, Sat 26 July, Building AD, room 2.217; Warrnambool: 7.30pm, Fri 25 July, Timor St. Info: health-enquire@deakin.edu.au or ph 9251 7777.

8. INTERESTED IN A CAREER WITH ANIMALS? Holiday programs are on offer: ‘Winter Wonderland’ is the theme this year.
   • Healesville Sanctuary - a chance to get close to some of our most endangered alpine animals. The Keeper for a Day program allows you to help keepers and learn about their job.
   • Vet for a Day, Healesville Sanctuary - see the vets working with real life cases
   • Keeper for a Day at Werribee Open Range Zoo - find out what a keeper’s day is really like. Who? Year 7-12; Booking: 9285 9406; Info: www.zoo.org.au/whats-on/school-holidays-at-zoos-victoria.

9. LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE – The annual Melbourne JD Showcase is coming up. At this workshop, master classes will be held on legal issues like So Sue Me! (what a negligence action is all about); dispute resolution interactive session, refugee law, and the environment – who is responsible for contamination? The Showcase will give school students an interactive experience, combining sample law classes with information about Melbourne Law School and the JD degree. When: Wed 2 July; Cost: $66 (incl morning tea and lunch); Registration and payment: by 25 June at www.jd.law.unimelb.edu.au/schools; Info: Yvonne Au, 8344 8879, y.au@unimelb.edu.au.

10. A CAREER WITH BOATS? The 2014 Boating Industry Association Boat Show will have a stand offering a range of information about careers associated with the boating industry including boat and engine manufacturing and retailing, marine accessories manufacturing and retailing, boat and marine engine repairs, marine distributing and wholesale, and tourism. Visit stand A36 from 11am-6pm, Thurs- Sun for career advice. Where: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Clarendon St, Southbank; When: 11am-6pm, Thurs 12 – Mon 16 June. (Some free tickets are available for students from kaz@oellen.org.au). NOTE: Are you aware that the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania offers courses from certificates through to degrees in areas like boating, fishing, engineering and maritime architecture? Check out courses at: www.amc.edu.au.

11. WANT TO STUDY ACCOUNTING? Many accounting firms offer cadetships to Year 12 students planning to study business/accounting at university. For example, Deloitte, EY, PwC, KPMG, and many others offer cadetships. The usual arrangement is that cadetship holders study part-time and work with the company offering the cadetship part-time. This means that recipients gain real-world work experience, are likely to be offered employment on completion of their degree, and are financially rewarded. A good starting point to find out what is available is at: http://www.charteredaccountants.com.au/Students/Whats-on/Event-listing/National-event-info/Cadetships.aspx.

12. EXPERIENCE RMIT – If you are considering studying at RMIT, and in Years 10-12, don’t forget the RMIT ‘Experience Days’ and Tours on offer in the coming holiday break. They cover marketing, advertising, public relations, journalism, engineering, information systems, science laboratory visits, a science day, a trades’ day, and many more. See details at www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays and www.rmit.edu.au/appliedsciences/discover.