REMINDER:
- YEAR 12 VICTORIAN TERTIARY ADMISSIONS CENTRE (VTAC) - timely applications closed on 29 September; applications can still be made, but now cost $100.

This is the last newsletter for 2016. Best wishes to those of you who move into other forms of education in 2017, be it university, VET, an apprenticeship or traineeship, or into employment.

1. YEAR 12 AND VTAC –
- Late course applications can still be made, but now cost $100 (till 4 Nov). After that, applications will cost $130 (till 2 Dec). The payment deadline for most applicants is 19 December.
- Course preference changes can be made till 12 noon 20 December, except for the period 8 – 21 November; they can also be made between Offer Rounds in January and February
- The first Offer Round of courses will be on 18 January, the second on 7 February. There will be three later rounds of offers as well
- You are advised to accept your first offer of a tertiary place. Most applicants will only receive one offer. Accepting an offer does not stop you from receiving a later offer for a course higher in your preference list.

2. WHERE CAN I GET ASSISTANCE DURING ‘CHANGE OF PREFERENCE’ WEEK? The week after you receive your ATAR is generally known as Change of Preference (COP) week (Mon 12 – noon on Tues 20 December). During this time tertiary institutions run information sessions, COP Expos, offer phone assistance, and will help you in any way they can. You can also obtain assistance at school. These institutions are offering the following (check online for more details)
- Australian Catholic University – Hotline: 1300 ASK ACU (1300 275 228); COP event on Tuesday 13th December.
- Box Hill Institute – Hotline: 1300 BOX HILL (1300 269 445); 5-7pm, COP Night 14 December (all campuses) (cont.)
- Charles Sturt (NSW) – Hotline: 1800 334 733
- Federation – Hotline: 1800 333 864
- Holmesglen – Hotline: 1300 693 888
- Kangan – Hotline: 13 8233
- La Trobe – Hotline: 1300 135 045; Advisory Day: Tues 13 December (Bundoora 10am-2pm), (Bendigo 11am-2pm).
- Melbourne Polytechnic – Hotline: 9269 1200
- Monash – COP Expo: 3-7pm, Wed 14 December, Building H, Caulfield campus, 900 Dandenong Rd, Caulfield East; COP Hotline: 1800 MONASH (1800 666 274); see www.study.monash
- RMIT – Hotline: 9925 2260; Visit Info Corner, 330 Swanston St, Melbourne (Cnr. La Trobe St); COP Expos: Arts, Design, Communication, Justice, International and Community Services courses 11am-1pm, 14 Dec; Business courses 3-5pm, 14 Dec; Science, Engineering and Health courses 11am-1pm, 15 December; http://inspired.rmit.edu.au
- Swinburne – Hotline: 1300 275 794; COP Expo: 11am-4pm, 14 Dec (Hawthorn campus); See: www.swinburne.edu.au/choose
- University of Melbourne – Hotline: 13 MELB (13 6352), email 13MELB@unimelb.edu.au
- Victoria – Hotline: 1300 VIC UNI (1300 842 864); Book an appointment: www.vu.edu.au/change; COP Expo: 3.30-6.30pm, 14 December (Footscray Park)
- William Angliss – Hotline: 1300 ANGLISS (1300 264 547)

3. UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE NEWS –
- TRANSPARENCY OF OFFERS AND ATARS’s Students wishing to learn more about the distribution of ATAR’s in the previous January offer round can check out details. See: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/entry-requirements/summary-of-graduate-offers.
- NEW SCIENCE MAJORS IN 2017 – 41 areas of specialisation are now available in the B. Science with the addition of Data Science and
**Environmental Engineering Systems.** A Data Science major gives graduates a deep understanding of how to apply statistical and computing principles to working with big data. The other new major focuses on the interactions between physical materials and processes, and human and non-human organisms. See: www.bsc.unimelb.edu.au.

- **RESOURCES FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS** Those applying for Melbourne are eligible for entry and scholarship consideration under the Access Melbourne scheme. Also offered are the four-year Bachelor of Arts (Extended) and Bachelor of Science (Extended) for Indigenous students. In addition, support is available through Murrup Barak, the Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development.

4. **INDIGENOUS STUDENTS: THINK YOUR WAY** – Get inspired and build aspirations by checking out this portal, providing information, links and resources and videos of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders ‘thinking their way’ to achieving educational ambitions. See: www.thinkyourway.edu.au.

5. **WHAT IF I DO NOT GET A HIGH ENOUGH ATAR TO GET INTO MY DESIRED COURSE?** Many pathways and programs exist to assist you in getting to where you want to go. Suggestions:

- Complete a Diploma of Tertiary Studies at Monash University in either Education, Business or Nursing (ATAR 50+) OR a Diploma of Higher Education (ATAR 65+); Indigenous pathways - See: www.study.monash/how-to-apply/indigenous-student-applications
- Complete a course at Monash College in Art & Design, Arts (Human Behaviour or Psychology streams), Business or Commerce, Engineering or Science; search Courses on VTAC website
- Complete a course at Deakin College in Commerce, Computing, Engineering, Health Sciences, Management, Media and Communication or Science
- Complete a UniLink Diploma at Swinburne (Arts and Communications, Business, Design, Engineering, Health Science, IT, Science)

- Complete a Diploma at La Trobe Melbourne in Biosciences, Business, Engineering, Health Sciences, IT or Mass Media Communications
- Complete a Tertiary Preparation Course at RMIT in engineering or science
  - Consider studying a related university course with a lower ATAR; if you do well you MAY be able to transfer to your desired course later on

- Start with a VET (TAFE) course in a related field; two years of VET often equals one at university
- Complete a Tertiary Studies Diploma at Melbourne Polytechnic (Preston)
- Complete a Certificate IV in Liberal Arts – a pathway into a range of degrees. Swinburne and Victoria Uni have this Certificate
- Consider a country/rural campus. ATAR’s are often lower, usually due to lower demand; most have accommodation (apply ASAP)

- For nursing consider first completing Division 2 at TAFE (or a private provider) - eg. Box Hill, Chisholm, Federation, Goulburn Ovens, Holmesglen, RMIT or Swinburne
- ACU has certificate/diploma courses that can lead to degrees (through ACUcom) See: http://www.acu.edu.au/courses/2014/other_courses/vocational_education_training_vet/

- Complete a Victoria University Foundations@VU alternative entry to higher education and diploma studies course - a 13 week course designed to build academic skills needed for tertiary study. See: www.vu.edu.au/courses-foundations-at-vu-jyac

- Complete a 2-year Associate Degree – Do you want to study at university but are not sure if you will meet the entry requirements for a bachelor’s degree? Several universities offer Associate Degrees (eg Deakin, RMIT).