

### Dates for

### Your Diary

22 March: Veterinary  
Science Open Day,  
Melbourne University

25 March: Parents  
Help with their  
Children's Career  
Choices, Box Hill  
TAFE

27-28 March: The  
National Careers &  
Employment Expo

24-26 April: The Age  
Careers Expo

6 April: Forensic  
Medicine Careers

7 April: Talk & Tour,  
La Trobe University

17 April: Access All  
Areas, Melbourne  
University

May week of 4-7  
TBC: Design Career  
Discovery Day

5 May: Futures  
Evening—Explore  
Design Careers

12 May: Careers in  
the Police Force

21 May: Tertiary  
Information Service  
(TIS) for Year 12s

9—19 June: Year 10  
Work Experience

29 July: UMAT

3 August: VTAC  
applications open

## What's Happening @ RMIT

It is the time of year when tertiary institutions are showing their wares- new courses, and information on specific courses and services- to career advisors from schools around Victoria, with a view to us passing on that information to our students.

Whilst this means Sandra will be out of school more over the next couple of months, it is an important to meet and hear from individual course directors, current students and a range of personnel from the institutions.

On Friday 13 March Sandra spent the day at RMIT's Career Advisors' Seminar. The Vice Chancellor was our MC and Jenny Beckman-Wong, Director of Marketing, told us that in the 2008-2009 intake, RMIT Higher Education is 2nd and RMIT TAFE is 1st in Victoria for Year 12 VTAC first preferences.

Kellie Mortimer, a current **Logistics**, student, explained how her course was instrumental in her gaining a position as HR co-ordinator at Nike Pacific and how she is combining paid work with her studies.

Halley Gunn, graduate **Medical Sciences** 2008, shared her experiences of studying in the new \$32M laboratory facility in Bundoora, practical assessments, her choice of histology—the study of tissue specimen, and her work placements at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Royal infirmary of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Patrick Snelling, Program Director of **Textile Design**, explained that RMIT offers the only degree course in textiles in Victoria. There are students currently in Sweden, Hong Kong and the UK as part of the exchange program which occurs in

2nd year. The course prepares students for a working life. The ANZ corporate wardrobe is a result of work integrated learning. The course takes up to 36 students each year and selection includes a VTAC application folio interview – with all applicants interviewed.

Emma Mits is studying **Food Technology & Nutrition** which looks at the science behind food. She discussed her experience of transition from secondary school to university and was challenged by non-compulsory class attendance. However, Emma has gained scholarships as a result of her academic success. She has been offered a position with General Mills Australia, producer of Latina pasta as a result of her work placement there. Her final research report was sent to the US, New Zealand, Venezuela and Argentina.

Melanie Dodd, Program Director **Architecture**, discussed the selection process for one of the most popular courses at RMIT with 30 applicants to each place. 50-70% applicants want to live out the “starchitect” model of big buildings, big name, big ego, when in fact the following skills are being sought in the selection process:

- Problem solving through the process of drawing, doodling, sketching
- Working collaboratively
- Observing, measuring, analysing
- Making, modelling, creating
- Presenting, discussing, critiquing
- Social citizenship
- Thinking, problem solving, persistence
- Exhibiting

Applicants complete a pre-selection kit and are shortlisted for interview. **Building Design & Drafting** is a recognised pathway to Architecture, providing 5-10% Architecture. students.

Merryn Jackson, Academic Registrar's Group, enlightened us on the **Skills Reform**, a Victorian Government initiative to address shifting demand in training.

In a nutshell, this is about the changes in terminology and funding of TAFE courses. More information will be provided in a later issue, where full details can be provided.

Frank Hemmings and Michael McCann, **College of Science Engineering & Technology**, talked us through their Associate degrees as an alternative to Advanced diplomas.

At the completion of 2 years study for an Associate degree, students can pathway to 3rd year of a Bachelor degree. To bring students up to speed for 3rd year semesters are 18 weeks instead of 12.

Courses are accredited by Higher Education and run by TAFE. Associate degrees leading to Bachelor degrees at RMIT include:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Aerospace
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical & Electronics
- Mechanical & Automotive
- Civil Engineering
- Network Engineering
- Information Technology
- Design (Furniture)

Intakes are in February & July. Minimum entrance requirements are ENTER 60+, with English & Maths Methods.

Maree Curtis, Program Director, **Journalism**, stepped us through the career differences between four communication courses.

With an ENTER of 95-97 **Journalism** trains graduates for entry level to a multiplatform converged newsroom—print, radio, online & television.

**Public Relations** is not the best choice for those wishing to pursue Events Management. It is touched on but is not the main focus. Graduates go into media relations, issuing media releases and working with journalists, strategic planning and consultancy. Applicants must sit a PR test in September.

Graduates of **Media** learn the skills of production for a variety of television and radio programs, with a focus on screen. ENTER 93.

**Professional Communication** suits students who are not clear on which communication course they wish to pursue and specialise as the course progresses. ENTER 95-96.

Clarifying the difference between these courses may address the high attrition rate in Journalism, which currently takes 40-45 students and loses 12-13.

Halley Coldicott, **Information & Knowledge Management** graduate, works at the Australian Bureau of Statistics and manages the monthly release of statistics including the dropping

employment figures. A misconception is this course is only for aspiring librarians. Managing information and intelligence is a growing field and graduates are in demand.

Milly Fels, **Equity & Diversity** Manager informed us that the target of 20% equity admissions has been met for the last 6 years, and that this is highest across universities in Victoria.

Feedback from students suggest that group work with diverse students prepares them for work globally.

Caroline Neville took us through the options in **Health Sciences. Chinese Medicine** is the only course in Victoria to offer students both Chinese Herbal Medicine and Acupuncture.

**Chiropractic** and **Osteopathy** both offer public clinics on campus.

**Disability Studies** offers a 3 year and a double degree which extends work opportunities into school settings.

**Nursing** (Div 1) is 50% practical in various settings. Aged Care, Pathology & Disability are all pathways to Nursing, as well as Cert IV (Div 2).

**Psychology** is available in Bundoora and the City. Initially it is a 3 year course followed by masters or 2 years work with supervision and additional study taking 6-7 years all up for full registration.

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Associate Professor John Jackson, Program Director **Planning & Environment** provided great insight.

Commencing graduates can begin on \$50,000. The labour market is strong as a result of a shortage of planners.

The course has a social science base with contextual, client-based coursework and research with paid work placements. This year students are going to Canada, the Philippines and the Netherlands.

John talked specifically of wanting to recruit students from **government schools** in the northern and western suburbs to ensure planning is more broadly representative than present. Course selectors are looking for students with a broad interest in the world, including the politics of power.

We watched a DVD presentation on **Business** programs offered at TAFE. These courses are directly related to industry and have strong employment outcomes for graduates.

Sandra attended the **Access all areas: indigenous access at RMIT** workshop. We met Eric Clarke and John Harding from the Ngarara Willim Indigenous Centre and learnt about access and support for Indigenous students. The proportion of Indigenous students in tertiary education in Victoria needs to **triple** to achieve population parity. See Sandra for more details.

## Work Experience

Congratulations to Year 10 students who are securing Work Experience placements. Milly is going to the **Foundation for Young Australians (FYA)**, hosts of Worlds of Work 2008 & City Centre Experience. Dimitre is off to **Target**. Phoebe will spend a week at law firm **Mallesons Stephen Jaques**.

Josh has arranged a week with community radio broadcaster **Triple R**. Alister will learn about set building at **Show Works** and Alex will test his sparks with **Ampower**, an electrician business. Jack will be exploring his creative talents at local graphic design firm **Salt Creative** while Tom will hopefully “dig” his experience with local landscaping business **Metro Landscaping**.

Dates for **Work Experience are Tuesday 9—Friday 19 June**. Students may opt to do both weeks with the one employer, or undertake two different placements. **It is the responsibility of the students, with their family, to secure a placement.**

Once an offer of a placement has been made, the student needs to meet with the employer and get them to fill out the “Offer of Work Experience Placement Form” and return it to Sandra. To allow for legal administration to occur, **placements must be confirmed by the end of Term One.**

## What’s It Like to Be...?”

Mike Chavez local artist and guest speaker last year for “What’s it like to be an artist?” was recently shortlisted for the Archibald Prize. Mike was one of 39 artists who were shortlisted from over 700 entries.



Mike Chavez, local Fitzroy artist

This year’s series of career talks is awaiting the completion of our new building before the launch for 2009.

The line up of guest speakers is growing. You can look forward to hearing from the following next term:

- “What’s it like to be a journalist?” - Jane Willson, deputy editor of Epicure, The Age
- “What’s it like to be an architect?” - Lisa Brennan, current projects include the cafe at bookshop Hares & Hyenas
- “What’s it like to surf the waves of change?” Tess Kelly, former hairdresser and current media director for Global Surfing Industries—a job that takes her all over the world to surfing destinations.

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## Free Career & Transition Programs

### *Creative & Artistic*

#### Design Career Discovery Day

This program gives students a tour of the Commercial Arts Training College (CACT) and information on design courses available including:

- Graphic Design
- Multimedia
- Interior Decoration & Design
- Visual Merchandising

This Discovery ay also includes Design Activities and Guest Speakers

**Who:** Years 10, 11 & 12

**Where:** CATC

**When:** TBC—one day in week of 4-7 May

**Bookings:** email Sandra ASAP

#### Futures Evening—Explore Design Careers with AGIdeas

This annual event presents inspirational insights from international design and creative leaders and hosts tertiary colleges with design course information. The event offers insights into design career pathways, assisting in the transition from secondary to the tertiary design education sector. Explore the possibilities of a career in:

- design
- film and television
- graphic design
- industrial and product design
- animation
- illustration
- fashion and textiles
- interactive media
- advertising.

For more information:

Go to [agideas.net](http://agideas.net)

Email: [contact@agideas.net](mailto:contact@agideas.net)

Or call 9396m1798

**Who:** Years 10, 11 & 12

**Where:** Hamer Hall, The Arts Centre

**When:** Tuesday 5 May, 4:00-8:30

**Bookings:** email Sandra by 23 March

### *Service Industries*

#### Careers in Fire Fighting

This program is ideal for those students considering Fire Fighting as a career. This is a great opportunity for those students to meet and talk to Fire Fighters and hear about “a day in life” of a Fire Fighter. Studetns will also be provided with an overview of the recruitment procedures, varying career pathways and initial training of a new recruit.

**Who:** Years 10 & 11

**Where:** Eastern Hill Fire Station

**When:** TBC term 2, 1/2 day

**Bookings :** email Sandra by 23 March

#### Careers in the Police Force

A one day program for students considering a career in the Police Force. Students will be provided with an overview of the recruitment requirements, procedures, initial training and variety of different branches and careers pathways available to recruits. The day will include a tour of the mounted branch stables and horse training facilities and the Police Academy. Students will receive career information on suitable subject selection and

possible further study and training options.

**Who:** Year 10, 11 & 12

**Where:** Victorian Police Centre, Melbourne, Mounted Police, Mount Waverley

**When:** Tuesday 12 May

**Booking:** email Sandra by 23 March

### *Housekeeping*

This is an opportunity for students with special needs to participate in an Adopt a School program with AHS Hospitality—Australia’s largest outsourcing provider of housekeeping and room attendants in the Hospitality Accommodation sector. The program promotes pathways within the Hospitality Industry.

Students will be allocated to different AHS properties across inner Melbourne, where they will be inducted and complete four days of work placement alongside AHS staff. Students will be exposed to all aspects of housekeeping within the hospitality industry.

This is an excellent opportunity for students who are transitioning from senior school to the workplace or further training to experience what a “day on the job” involves while being mentored by AHS Hospitality staff.

**Who:** Students with Special Needs who are transitioning from school

**Where:** various AHS Hospitality premises across Melbourne

**When:** Term 2, dates TBC

**Bookings:** email Sandra ASAP

**Free Career & Transition programs offered by the IMVC are a terrific opportunity for students to find out, first-hand, about different careers, industries & tertiary institutions**

## Parents Help With their Children's Career Choice – Box Hill Institute

is holding a Parent Information Evening where you can talk with staff about your child's future and get help in making choices with them. The TAFE system will be explained, find out about the range of options and the more personalised teaching environment.

**When:** 6-9pm, Wed 25 March (info. sessions at 6.30 and 7.45pm with time to talk to staff);

**Where:** Box Hill Institute, Elgar Auditorium;

**Bookings:** Catrin Harris, 9286 9987, email [parents@phtafe.edu.au](mailto:parents@phtafe.edu.au);

**Info:** [www.boxhillinstitute.edu.au](http://www.boxhillinstitute.edu.au); Supper, and parking available.

## University & TAFE Open Days

Held mainly in August, are one of the best opportunities. It is **important** that you visit institutions where you may wish to study. Some courses like **art, design, music, drama and related courses** can involve an **audition, interview and/or folio presentation** as part of the selection process, so attendance at Open Days is **VITAL**.

During an **interview** you may be asked what you learned about the course at Open Day – a difficult question to answer if you didn't attend. The dates are provided **now**; put them **in your diary and treat them as a priority**.

## Careers Expos

Held annually, Careers Expos provide opportunities for students/parents to collect information/advice at one location. Coming up soon:

**National Careers and Employment Expo** is a chance for Year 10 – 12 students to gain career pathway advice and to meet representatives from educational, government and corporate organisations.

**When:** 9am-4pm, Fri 27 & Sat 28 March;

**Where:** Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre;

**Cost:** Free;

**Info:** [www.eocexpo.com.au](http://www.eocexpo.com.au).

The Age 'VCE and Careers Expo' will have over 150 exhibitors and 120 seminars on VCE subjects, study skills, tertiary courses and career advice.

**When:** 24-26 April;

**Where:** Caulfield Racecourse;

**Cost:** \$10 (incl seminars and copy of 'Age');

**Info:** [www.education.theage.com.au](http://www.education.theage.com.au)

## Marine Science Career Days

The very popular Marine Science Career days are on the following dates: 22/7, 17/9, 30/11

**Cost:** \$35.00

**Booking:**

<http://www.melbourneaquarium.com.au/education/content.app?itemid=105>

Places are strictly limited and fill fast.

## Careers at the Zoo

Programs available: 'Careers at the Zoo' will provide opportunities for students to meet Zoo employees in a range of departments, explore the educational and career paths in the zoo industry and give you skills to help land the job of your dreams.

**When:** 9.30am-2.45pm, Wed 8, Thurs 9, Thurs 16, Fri 17, Thurs 23 and Fri 24 April;

**Where:** Werribee Open Range Zoo;

**Cost:** \$39.50 incl admission, safari tour, morning tea;

**Info:** [www.zoo.org.au/learning](http://www.zoo.org.au/learning).

'Keeper for a Day' - spend a day in the holidays working with zookeepers.

**When:** 7, 8, 15, 16 April; 30 June, 1, 7, 8 July; 22, 23, 29, 30 Sept;

**Where:** Healesville Sanctuary;

**Bookings:** 5957 2818;

**See:** [www.zoo.org.au/Learning/Programs/Student\\_Conferences/Careers](http://www.zoo.org.au/Learning/Programs/Student_Conferences/Careers);

**Cost:** \$99

'Vet for a Day' Program (in term time); See above website.

**Places fill fast for the Melbourne Aquarium's Marine Science Career Days**

## Want to Study a Medical Related Course in 2010?

If so, you **may** need to sit the **Undergraduate Medicine & Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT)**. This is used in the selection of students for certain Australian degrees; eg Selection of students to study **medicine at Monash Uni.** involves a combination of ENTER, UMAT and interview; **pharmacy and physiotherapy at Monash** use the ENTER and UMAT.

The UMAT test date for 2009 is **29 July**; **registrations open in April.**

The UMAT **Information Booklet** will be available **ONLY** on line in **late March**. In the meantime, the UMAT 2008 Information Booklet and other information is at <http://umatweb.acer.edu.au>.

NOTE: Some **University of Melbourne** courses which required the UMAT no longer do so as they are post-graduate entry under the 'Melbourne Model' (dentistry, medicine optometry, physiotherapy). The Bachelor of Oral Health still uses the UMAT.

Consider applying **interstate** to increase your chances of securing a place in these competitive courses.

Sandra recently attended a UMAT briefing as part of the Yarra Careers Group and will run a briefing for all interested students in the coming weeks.

## La Trobe University

If you want to see La Trobe University then try 'Talk and Tour'. For Yr 10-12's/ families wanting to see the campus/facilities, explore courses, meet faculty rep's.

**When:** 9.30am-12noon, 7 April (optional afternoon activities);

**Where:** Glenn College, Plenty Rd, Bundoora;

**Info:** 1300 135 045;

**Bookings (essential):** [www.latrobe.edu.au/study/events/talk-and-tour-2009](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/study/events/talk-and-tour-2009).

## University of Melbourne

Melbourne university is holding the 'Access All Areas' program, offering a personal look at the university. The day-long program includes the **Melbourne Model**, sessions covering how to get **into Melbourne**, **transition**, and campus **tours**.

**When:** Fri 17 April;

**Who:** Year 10-12 students/ parents;

**Cost:** Free;

**Registration (essential)** from 16 March at

[www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events/vic/](http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events/vic/).

## Passion for Art/ Design, Film & TV

Want to know how to combine imagination, innovation and a creative mind with smart business sense as a career? Then go to **Swinburne** in the holidays and meet with teachers from their Art and Design/Film & TV courses.

**When:** 9.30am-3.30pm, Thurs 7 April;

**Where:** Swinburne (Pahran), 144 High St;

**Cost:** Free, incl. lunch;

**Register:** [www.future.swinburne.edu.au/artanddesign](http://www.future.swinburne.edu.au/artanddesign);

**Contact:** Stephanie Yeoh for details, 9214 8298, [spyeh@swinburne.edu.au](mailto:spyeh@swinburne.edu.au). Places limited.

## Wanted: Parent Involvement

If you are wondering just how you might be able to be more involved as a parent at Fitzroy High School, offering your services to the Career Development Program might be for you.

Sandra is looking for parents who are willing to take on Year 10 Work Experience students in a range of industries and sectors.

You may also work in an industry to which our students aspire. Maybe you have an interesting and varied career story you are willing to share as part of the "What's it like to be...?" series of career talks.

If you would like to offer your services please email Sandra.

*Selection of students to study medicine at Monash Uni. involves a combination of ENTER, UMAT and interview; pharmacy and physiotherapy at Monash use the ENTER and UMAT.*