

Dates for

Your Diary

6 April: Forensic
Medicine Careers

7 April: Talk & Tour , La
Trobe University

17 April: Access All
Areas , Melbourne
University

24-26 April: The Age
Careers Expo

29 April: Engineering
Careers Expo

30 April: "What's it like
to be an architect?"
Career Talk

5 May: Futures
Evening—Explore
Design Careers

8 May: Design Career
Discovery Day

11 May: Careers in
Film & Advertising

12 May: Careers in the
Police Force

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

20 May: Women in
Science

26 May: Careers in
Biotechnology &
Biomedicine

9—19 June: Year 10
Work Experience

29 July: UMAT

3 August: VTAC
applications open

Swinburne University Issue

As yet, none of our students have gone to Swinburne University of Technology after Year 12. After attending the second Career Advisors' Seminar for the year, this time at Swinburne on 25 March, Sandra expects this will change with our current crop of Year 12 students.

Ian Young, the Vice Chancellor, provided an overview and drew attention to the 5-star rating for Student Experience in the Good University Guide and the \$250M capital investment, including the \$140M ten level Advanced Technology Centre, with a 500 seat lecture theatre, state of the art technology facilities and 5-star sustainability rating.

The Vice Chancellor discussed the Bradley Review, which recommends that for Australia to become a knowledge nation, graduates with a minimum education of a bachelors degree needs to move from 32% to 40% by 2020. In hand with this target, the recommendation calls for an increase from 13% to 20% of students to come from low socio-economic backgrounds. This is the single largest expansion of tertiary education in Australia's history.

ENTER scores have typically not dropped below 70 for university courses at Swinburne, and this is not expected to change with the forthcoming funding shake-up of the Higher Education and TAFE system.

Swinburne has the highest articulation from TAFE to higher education. Research indicates that students who enter the TAFE system with ENTER scores of 50 or not recorded, do as well as, and sometimes better, when they articulate to higher education from TAFE, compared to their peers who go straight into higher ed.

Margaret Mazzolini, Pro Vice Chancellor, discussed the curriculum renewal program in its final stages of a 5 year review at Swinburne. The mission of the university is to have a distinct vocational focus. Undergraduates experience real-world learning activities, receive feedback on their employability skills and encompasses:

- Industry, community & research work
- Industry based learning & placement
- Industry & research visits
- Case studies
- Study tours

Margaret highlighted the focus for Swinburne's graduates to be work ready. In second year all students undertake a compulsory Career Development unit, at no cost. It includes career planning and career management skills as well as the production of an employability skills portfolio which can be presented to prospective employers. Students are provided with continuing support in final year as well as for the two years following graduation.

Professional Placement options include:

- Industry based learning
- Design industry placements
- Internships
- Professional Year

International Study options include:

- Study abroad
 - Wide range of study tours
 - Study at Kuching campus in Malaysia
- Swinburne was rated in the top 10 universities for Student Mobility.

The academic calendar at Swinburne provides flexibility for students to pace their study with the addition of winter and

summer semesters to the regular two 12-week semesters.

Linda Brown, Deputy Vice Chancellor TAFE, talked about the redefinition of vocational education. She explained that **Swinburne is the 2nd largest provider of TAFE in Victoria**, and is a national leader in study pathways. This year, of the 776 TAFE students who articulated to higher ed., 46% were from Swinburne TAFE—inferring that the remainder articulated to other higher education providers.

Sandra attended the following workshops: **Solving Problems—Designing the future** The Dean of the Faculty of Design, Professor Ken Friedman, with a curriculum vitae a mile long, and his work represented in the Guggenheim and MoMA, provided an invigorating presentation on design and how Swinburne differentiates itself from other design schools.

He explained that designers solve problems, act on the physical world, address human needs and generate the built and social environment. Despite the current economic situation, he claims there are many career opportunities in today's global economy.

The mission of the design faculty is to bring traditional design skills together with critical enquiry. Ken believes there is more to design than creativity. At Swinburne creative work is

evaluated to see what works and what doesn't.

Stephen Huxley, Acting Dean Design & Head Film, Television & Multimedia, talked about the real world industry experiences available to students. Design students can undertake an industry placement for 48 weeks, 4 days a week. Alternatively, in fourth year, students can work at the Swinburne Design Centre, an internal consultancy, engaging in pro-bono and commissioned projects.

International opportunities abound, currently there are design students in Germany, Sweden, Finland, Korea, Denmark, Malaysia, Mexico, UK & the US.

However, most interesting was discussion around the selection process. **At Swinburne selection for design courses is by ENTER score alone**, rather than interview/folio like other design schools. ENTER scores last year:

Communication Design - 82.95
Industrial Design - 72.25
Interior Design - 70.35
Multimedia Design - 72.60
Film & Television - 84.20
Bachelor Design/Bachelor Business - 77.25
Vice Chancellor's Scholarship - 97.65

It was claimed that research, based on student tracking, determined that ENTER is a better predictor of student success. Students presenting with strong folios and low ENTERS tended to struggle more with the rigours of the design courses.

Social Sciences uncovered

Martin de Graaf, Manager Health, Recreation & Human Services TAFE, covered the courses under his department.

Health: Aged care, disability and allied health.

Recreation: Fitness, outdoor recreation and sport development

Human Services: Alcohol & other drugs, community development and childcare.

91% of graduates from Social Sciences at Swinburne TAFE are employed. 56% of their graduates undertaking further study are enrolled in undergraduate courses.

Martin described the courses in his department as central to the health, wellbeing and development of the population from pre-birth through to death.

The Community Services & Health Industry is the 4th largest employer and accounts for 10% of the workforce. Over the past 5 years it has been the 2nd fastest growing industry.

Currently there are widespread shortages in aged care, nursing and childcare. The shortage in childcare is so chronic that the federal government is fully funding childcare courses, which means these courses are free.

Selection Officers are looking to measure applicants' passion and interest. Volunteer work is a good way to for applicants to demonstrate interest in a particular field.

The mission of the design faculty at Swinburne University is to bring traditional design skills together with critical enquiry. Their motto: "thinking that creates the future"

Opportunities in Hospitality and Performing Arts

Anne Durham, Manager Hospitality, Tourism & Event Management, highlighted the new courses in her department, which focus on hands-on, experiential learning with employability skills. They include:

- Pre-apprenticeship in Hospitality (with a practical placement),
- Cert II in Hospitality (patisserie),
- Cert IV in Hospitality (Commercial Cookery)
- Advanced Dip Hospitality & Event Management—this can link to the Diploma of Sustainability for a triple qualification.

The Swinburne **Events Management** courses focus on the staging & production stream and is delivered through a hands-on approach through the Practice Firm & Swinburne Events, working with external clients. All Swinburne events for 2009 will be carbon neutral.

Events Management graduates work from wedding planning to events on an international scale and in between from corporate, sporting conference and catering events. A recent graduate volunteered at the Melbourne Marathon and now has a paid position.

John Butler, Manager **Performing Arts**, explained that the Diploma of Theatre Arts is about exploring & creating a career path in the Arts & Entertainment Industry and include:

- Multi-skilling & extending horizons
- Devising original works and traditional art forms
- Engaging with Arts Industry professionals
- Enhancing employability skills

The course is more than just acting and provides a comprehensive overview of Theatre Arts. It enables students/emerging artists to explore:

- The creative process—mask, puppet, circus, theatre & events
- Technical—design & operation of lighting, sound and sound
- Theatre crafts—set making, prop making & costume making
- Management—stage management & production management
- Industry knowledge—sessional teachers, guest speakers & placements

Graduates go on to NIDA, National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA), WAAPA and VCA. Three graduates are currently working in high level positions at Bell Shakespeare in Sydney. Another graduate, who auditioned 5 times for NIDA and was accepted, is now working for the famous Globe Theatre in London. John also claimed that the two best acrobats Circus Oz have ever had, came from Swinburne.

Applications are through VTAC and selection is by a whole day workshop/audition. Applicants are encouraged to take folios, a resume with references. There are usually 50 applicants each year.

Year 10 Work Experience

Our Year 10 students are going far and wide for Work Experience. Remy will help train the Hawthorn Football Club at **Murphy's Boxing Gym**. Nancy is going to **Westgarth Kindergarten**. Kristy is will put her maths to the test at **Keith Dyman & Co. Accounting**, and Tamas is going to **Steven Akehurst Design**. Kristian will spend time with the PE teacher at **North Fitzroy Primary School** and another week with a road construction company, **Zecon Pty. Ltd.**

It is encouraging to see students utilising their networks of family and friends to find a placement. Success in securing a placement is much more likely if you have someone who can vouch for you and provide a foot in the door. This is important when you consider that advertised vacancies only account for 20% of available positions—the rest are filled by word of mouth.

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 families, to secure a placement.** For those who have not yet managed to secure a placement, use the term break to concentrate on gaining Work Experience.

Graduates of Swinburne's Diploma of Theatre Arts go on to NIDA, NICA, WAAPA & VCA.

Thank You

There was terrific and immediate response to the call for families to offer their work places for Work Experience. Work places offered to our students range from community radio stations to environmental organisations. The offers are greatly appreciated.

Sandra is always on the lookout for more employers who are willing to take our students for a week or two. Please email her if you are able to accommodate one of our Year 10 students in June.

Free Career & Transition Support Programs

These programs are offered to all schools belonging to the Inner Melbourne VET Cluster, which includes Fitzroy High School. There is a fantastic range of events available to students to broaden career awareness and learn about different industries and further study options.

Jack (Year 9) attended the 1st session of Down on the Farm at Collingwood Children's Farm last week and really enjoyed contact with the farm animals. He will revisit the farm one day each term to learn about how the impact the seasons have on farm life.

We have been offered confirmed places for programs which were advertised in Issue 3 of FHS Career News. Please refer to Issue 3 for details on these programs.

We have **5 places** for **Futures Evening—Explore Design Careers with AGIdeas** Tuesday 5 May, 4:30—8:00, Hamer Hall, Arts Centre

2 places for **Design Career Discovery Day**, Commercial Art College on 8th May

2 places for the **Careers in the Police Force**, Victorian Police Centre, Tuesday 12 May

If you haven't already emailed Sandra to indicate your interest in attending these events, please do so immediately. See also below previously unadvertised programs with confirmed places. Email Sandra ASAP to secure your place on these programs.

Forensic Accounting & Cyber Crime Careers

This program aims to look at careers in forensic accounting, internet fraud and cyber crime.

Victoria Police will provide an overview of the E-Crime Squad, Crime Department roles.

There will be a visit to a private accounting firm that deals with forensic accounting, along with a visit to Monash University looking at related courses.

Who: Year 10 & 11

Where: Victoria Police, Monash University & Forensic Accounting Firm

When: All day, Tuesday 19 May

3 confirmed places available

Careers in Film & Advertising Industry Insight

This one day program would suit young people interested in the technical and behind the camera jobs in film, television and advertising.

Participants will receive an overview of the industry, information on skill shortages and training opportunities available in the industry.

Students will meet industry professionals and training providers, and tour a television and/or film studio.

Who: Year 10

Where: Open Channel, Labsonics, Music & Effects, Clemenger BBDO Swinburne University of Technology - Prahran Campus

When: All day, Monday 11 May

5 confirmed places available

Grow a Sustainable Career

This program is suitable for students interested in a career in Horticulture or Gardening. Students will have the opportunity to explore the Royal Botanical Gardens, meet the employees, listen to their career stories and learn more about their current roles.

Students will participate in the Sustainable Gardening workshop and explore water conservation, organic gardening methods, composting and worm farming.

Free Career & Transition Support programs offered by the IMVC are a terrific opportunity for students to find out, first-hand, about different careers, industries & further study options

Students will consider ideas for designing or developing their own gardens by exploring the landscapes of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Who: Years 10, 11 & 12

Where: Royal Botanical Gardens

When: All day, Wednesday 6 May

2 confirmed places available

We do not have confirmed places for the following programs, to register your interest please email Sandra by the due date

Careers in Performing Arts Industry Insight

Excellent opportunity for students interested in working in drama, theatre, performing arts. It includes tours of Box Hill TAFE and the MTC.

Box Hill TAFE Tour – students will be provided with a tour of the performing arts facility including sound and lighting hire company, learn about available courses and various career outcomes and employment prospects.

MTC Tour – this tour begins with an introduction to the Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC) and how the artistic program is decided. The roles of various departments at MTC are explored, followed by the process by which each area of stage craft is approached.

Who: Years 10 & 11

Where: Box Hill TAFE & MTC

When: All day, Term 2 TBC

Bookings: ASAP

Women in Science— Discovering Careers in Biotechnology & Nanotechnology

The program will provide a series of inspiring presentations from women in science.

Speakers from a range of disciplines working in areas of Biotechnology and Nanotechnology will share their insight into their careers, their fields of research and the opportunities for young people interested in a career in science.

The program will also include a tour of the Bio21 Institute – a multidisciplinary research centre of excellence focused on health and environment related Biotechnology and Nanotechnology.

Who: Years 11 & 12

Science students

Where: Bio21 Institute—
University of Melbourne

When: 1/2 day, 20 May

Bookings: 20 April

Careers in Biotechnology & Biomedicine

This 4-day program will give students an excellent understanding of careers in Medical Research with industry tours, University information and practical hands-on activities.

Each day students will be allocated a Research Scientist to participate in Science activities based on a mentoring model.

Who: Years 10 & 11

Where: Peter Mac Institute
& various industry locations

When: 26 May, 23 June, 21 July, 18 August

Bookings: 2 April

Mentors for Our Students—Pilot Program

The Mentors for our Students Pilot Program aims to:

Engage young people with recently retired tradespeople, professionals and paraprofessionals as mentors to encourage young people to seek out careers in areas experiencing skills shortages and to enhance their industry knowledge

Utilise the knowledge and experience of older Australians to pass on their skills and knowledge to young Australians

Improve school retention rates and transitions of young people.

This program will be run in term 3 for 1 hour a week. Contact Sandra for more information.

VCE & Careers Expo

Most universities and TAFEs plan the release of their new course publications around this well known event. This is a chance to collect information **at one location** from a range of sources - Universities, TAFE's, student exchange, defence forces, independent colleges, professional bodies, VCE resource providers.

What: 'Age' VCE & Careers Expo

When: 10am-5pm, 24-26 April;

Where: Caulfield Racecourse;

Cost: \$10 (incl. 'Age').

*The Age VCE & Careers Expo is a chance to collect information at one location from a range of sources—
unis,
TAFEs.....*

UMAT News

The UMAT 2009 **Information booklet** is **NOW** available at <http://umatweb.acer.edu.au> for Year 12 students applying for medical courses at participating universities for 2010. The Faculty of Health Sciences at La Trobe University has confirmed that the UMAT will **only be a requirement for NON Year 12 applicants**

applying for **Dentistry** and **Oral Health Science** in 2010 and NOT current Year 12 applicants (see page 3 of the 2009 Information Booklet). NOTE: Selection for Monash Uni physiotherapy requires an **interview** in addition to the UMAT and ENTER.

Key Dates:
Registrations close - 5 June
UMAT test - 29 July
Results released - late September

Interested In Engineering?

Engineers Australia invites you to attend their Careers Expo. Find out about making a choice regarding the education and career opportunities available in engineering.

When: 1-7pm, Wed 29 April;
Where: Melbourne Town Hall (cnr Swanston & Collins St).
Cost: Free

Considering a Defence Force GAP Year after Year 12?

Applications for this program open on 1 May, 2009. Gaining a position is very competitive, so apply early. **Info:** www.defencejobs.com.au OR call 13 19 01.

What's It Like To Be...?

The second series of career talks will be launched in term two, to coincide with the opening of the new senior wing. Among many state of the art educational facilities, the wing will house the new Student Resource Centre, incorporating careers and other student support.

In recognition of the importance of architecture to many aspect of our lives, including school, it is only fitting that our first event will be **"What's it like to be an architect?"** On Thursday **30 April**, during tutorial, Lisa Brennan will discuss her experience working as an architect.

Lisa is a registered architect and operates a local architectural practise. Since completing her degree in 1998, she has been involved with the design and construction of a range of building types including domestic houses and renovations, restaurants, cafes, shops, shopping centres, child care centres, primary and secondary school, multi-residential apartments and high-rise buildings.

Forthcoming speakers include:

"What's it like to be a journalist?" Jane Willson, Deputy Editor of Epicure, the Age.

"What's it like to surf the waves of change?" Tess Kelly, former hairdresser and current Media Director Global Surf industries is off to New York and will speak in to us in late May.

"What's it like to boss the bosses around?" Ann Clark, former naughtiest girl in school and now advisor to Chris Evans, Federal Minister for Immigration, will talk about working her way into politics without a university degree.

Student & Community Voice

Sandra is conscious this newsletter is a form of one-way communication and is keen to include more of a student voice, as well as that of our broader community including families. She is seeking submissions - articles, interviews and photos on career related matters - to be submitted for publication. Please email Sandra with your contributions.

UMAT is a 2 1/2 hr multiple-choice test developed and used specifically to assist with the selection of students into medicine and health science degree programs at undergraduate level