DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 17TH March, University of Melbourne Veterinary Science and Veterinary Hospital Open Day, Werribee campus
- 2nd – 5th May, The Age VCE Expo, Caulfield Racecourse, Caulfield

More information in future newsletters.

ABOUT CAREER NEWS

A very warm welcome to students and parents for the 2013 school year. Ms Gibbs and I are looking forward to working with the Brookhill students to assist them with their subject, course and career choices. We are hoping 2013 will be happy, healthy and productive, with students working to their potential and being pleased with their achievements.

This careers newsletter is written for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 to help keep them informed of events and activities which may assist with planning a direction for the future. Our aim is to encourage students to think beyond secondary school and to assist with course and career research. Although Year 12 is a very busy year academically and socially, time does need to be found for thinking about life after Aitken. Career News is one way of helping to keep students up to date with events, information and activities which may support and enhance career research.

It is also an important year for students in Years 10 and 11. In term 3 you will be making decisions about subjects you wish to choose for the following year. This, in turn, keeps open or closes particular course and career pathways. It is important that decisions about subjects are made thoughtfully and after undertaking some career research. It is hoped that items in this newsletter may be helpful in this regard.

The Careers Centre is located in B21. Ms Gibbs and Mrs Borg are available to help students with their career research and to talk about future possibilities. Please visit us in B21 or telephone us on 9333 1866 or email your concerns or queries to careers@aitkencollege.edu.au.

Best wishes to our Brookhill students for an interesting and rewarding 2013.

CHANGES TO HECS FOR MATHS, STATISTICS AND SCIENCE SUBJECTS IN 2013

The Australian Government has introduced changes to the classification of mathematics, statistics and science subjects. From 1st January all Commonwealth supported students enrolled in mathematics, statistics and science subjects will be charged at the Band 2 rate. These units were previously classified under the National Priorities Band and attracted a lower student contribution rate. In 2013 a standard 12.5 point mathematics, statistics or science subject will have a student contribution of $1,045. Please note that student contributions are calculated on a per subject basis. For example, a Commerce (Band 3) student studying a mathematics subject will be charged at the Band 2 rate for that unit. This change will apply to continuing students as well as new students.

TAFE AND UNIVERSITY

This year, Year 12 students make important decisions about what they would like to do when they leave secondary school. Most of our students will choose to continue with more study and attend either a university or TAFE in 2014.

In general, University courses tend to be theoretical in their content and will take a minimum of 3 years to complete – sometimes 4 or 5 years, depending on the course. TAFE courses tend to be vocational in nature. That is, they are practical and hands on and are designed...
so that students are work ready at the conclusion of the programme. Many TAFE courses have close links with industry and employers. Course fees are lower at TAFE than university. The length of courses is also shorter than at university – varying from 6 months to 2 ½ years depending on the qualification. ATARs for university courses are higher than those for TAFE.

It is possible to articulate from a TAFE course into a university degree. Some careers, however, are only accessible via a university pathway such as doctor, solicitor, veterinarian, optometrist, physiotherapist, kindergarten, primary or secondary teacher, dentist, professional engineer or town planner. The attainment of a very high ATAR is required for selection into some courses such as Medicine, Commerce, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy or Law, for example, so it is important to think carefully about your interests and abilities before deciding your study pathway. It is also imperative to have a safety net (or Plan B) in place, in case the course you are aiming for is initially not within your reach.

USEFUL WEBSITES

In Year 10 students received a handout with a list of useful websites. Don’t forget to refer to this to help you with your career research. If you have misplaced this list come to the Careers Centre for a new one. A very handy website where you may like to start your career research is the myfuture site: www.myfuture.edu.au. The Careers Centre also has handouts to help you access the information on this site and to navigate your way around it. (Current Year 10 students will receive this information in their Careers classes as part of the Term 2 Lifeskills programme.) Other useful sites are:

- www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au;
- www.goingtouni.gov.au;
- www.jobguide.dest.gov.au
and

ARE YOU PLANNING TO SIT THE UMAT IN 2013?

The UMAT is the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test. It is a 3 hour multiple choice test developed and used specifically to assist with the selection of students into medicine, dentistry and health science degree programmes at undergraduate level at the participating universities. For a course where the UMAT is required as part of the selection process, students will not have access to a place in that course if they have not sat the UMAT.

In 2013 the UMAT will be held on 31st July. Although the producers of the test believe it is not something which can be studied for, there are a number of companies who specialise in running UMAT preparation workshops for interested students. Note that the Careers Department does not endorse or recommend these tests to students, we are merely drawing your attention to their existence. Interested students can google “UMAT Preparation tests” for further information. Two companies which send information to us every year are MedEntry and NIE, for example.

VU COURSES AT BROADMEADOWS

There is an exciting collaboration by VU with the Hume City Council to deliver the Diploma of Business (Enterprise) at two new sites in 2013, the Sunbury Community Centre and the Hume Global Learning Centre. An information session will be held at the Hume Global Learning Centre, Broadmeadows on Friday 15th February, 11:00am – 12:00noon. To register, or for further information, please contact Emina Mesinovic on 9919 8854 or email: emina.mesinovic@vu.edu.au.

EMPLOYMENT EXPO AT HIGHPOINT SHOPPING CENTRE

This will be held on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th February, 10:00am – 12:00noon. There are 80 new stores due to open at Highpoint early in 2013 so there are plenty of opportunities for employment. On the day of the Expo you
will be able to meet and greet potential employers, submit a job application for a position at Highpoint, talk to Careers Counsellors and speak to VU Learning Centre Staff about resumes and interview techniques. (www.highpoint.com.au)

**STUDY AT THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE ACADEMY (ADFA) IN 2013**

ADFA provides the training and education for future leaders in the Army, Navy and Airforce. The programme provides military training combined with studies towards an undergraduate degree from the University of New South Wales (UNSW). There is a guaranteed career in the Defence Force upon successful graduation from ADFA. The UNSW offers degree studies in Arts, Business, Engineering, Information Technology, Science or Technology. You receive free health care and subsidised accommodation, there is no HECS to pay and junior officers at ADFA receive a salary. Telephone 13 19 10 for further information or visit: www.defencejobs.gov.au/adfa.

**PLUMBING CAREERS EXPO**

The Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre (PICAC) is holding a plumbing careers expo as part of the global activities to mark World Plumbing Day 2013. The aim of the day is to provide students with an understanding of the training, entry and employment options available in the industry. It will be held on Friday 8th March, 1:00pm – 5:00pm at PICAC, Unit 6 / 306 Albert Street, Brunswick. The event is seen as a way of highlighting the important role plumbing plays in the health, safety and sustainability of our community. Students will be able to meet with representatives from Registered Training Organisations, TAFEs, Group Schemes, employers and others involved in vocational education and training. They will gain an insight to what is involved with a career in plumbing and the various career paths available. Email info@picac.com.au for further information or visit: www.picac.com.au.

**CULINARY AND TOURISM COURSES AT KANGAN INSTITUTE**

In 2013 Kangan will run the following courses in Tourism and Hospitality:
- Cert II Kitchen Operations (a pre-apprenticeship course)
- Cert III Commercial Cookery
- Cert III Patisserie
- Cert III Tourism (which combines Hospitality and Events)
- Cert IV Tourism

Applications are now open. For further information call 13 62 33 or visit: www.kangan.edu.au.

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**

In the 2012 / 2013 VTAC selection cycle, the B Arts and the B Science degrees offered by the University of Melbourne were the most sought after courses in Victoria. This resulted in an increase in the Clearly in Ranks with the B Arts increasing to 91.4 and the B Science increasing to 91.95. In 2013, Melbourne made 6501 first round offers to students, 318 more than last year. After receiving such a large number of first preferences, the B Science provided the highest number of offers to students (1941) of any course in the state. The B Environments had the largest number of increased places, offering a place to 108 more students in 2013 than in 2012. Commerce also had a large increase in the number of offers made, with 91 more places offered this year than in 2012. Agriculture experienced a surge in popularity, with the number of offers up 87 per cent to 90. Offers to students through the Access Melbourne programme increased from 2155 in 2012 to 2278 in 2013, offering more students from disadvantaged backgrounds a place at the University of Melbourne.

Compiled by: c. borg