Urban Futures: Win up to $500 by coming up with the best idea to help tackle the challenges our cities face today and in the future. Your task is to provide a photo or image to communicate an urban problem you have identified, and explain the problem and your ideas for a solution in 200–300 words. You must be in Years 10 – 12 and all entries must be in by Sunday 24 August. For information on the competition and how you can enter, go to www.rmit.edu.au/environmentplanning

Time to Write short story competition: You have the opportunity to enter this short story competition, run by NMIT’s Bachelor of Writing and Publishing. Stories must be between 600 – 1000 words and you can write about what inspires you. The winning and shortlisted works will appear in both a print and eBook version of Time to Write. Entries close Friday 13 June. For more information, go to www.nmit.edu.au/bwap

Keep in touch with La Trobe University: Sign up to receive updates from La Trobe about their courses and initiatives, and you could win a $4500 travel voucher. Go here to sign up: http://latrobe.custhelp.com/ci/documents/detail/2/keep/?path=feature-tile

The Heywire competition is open to people aged 16 – 22, to submit a story about life in regional Australia. Your story can be created in any form of media: text, video, photography, or audio. If you are selected as one of the winners, your story will be featured on ABC Local Radio, ABC Radio National, ABC TV and abc.net, www.abc.net.au/heywire

Work Experience in ICT: You have the opportunity to undertake work experience at the Monash University Computer Games Boot Camp between Monday 6 – Friday 11 July. You can be involved in areas such as broadcast production, project management, activity coordinator, tech support, media crew, industry support and tournament support. To apply, go to https://cgbc.infotech.monash.edu/

Nuclear Medicine Scholarships at RMIT: The Department of Health (Victoria) is offering five scholarships of $10,000 for nuclear medicine students studying the Bachelor of Applied Science (Medical Radiations) in 2015 and 2016 intakes. For information, go to http://www.rmit.edu.au/scholarships/nuclear

Interested in plumbing? If you are completing school at the end of the year and are interested in pursuing a career in plumbing, you may be interested in undertaking a pre apprenticeship in plumbing at the Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre (PICAC) at Brunswick. This is a world-class training facility and tuition fee concessions may be available for eligible students. For more information, go to http://www.picac.com.au/

Do you need a White Card? If you would like to undertake work experience or work in the construction industry, you will need to complete occupational health and safety induction training. To prepare for this, you can undertake the ‘White Card Game’. Through an online first person perspective, the goal of the game is to identify, control and report workplace hazards on a construction site without getting injured or causing the death of workmates. Go to www.whitecardgame.com.au/
The University of Melbourne 2015 entry scores for Access Melbourne: The University has just released the guaranteed ATARs for students eligible for the Access Melbourne program. This includes students from rural and regional areas and those from financially disadvantaged backgrounds. ATARs are as follows

- 78: Arts, Environments and Science
- 88: Commerce
- 96: Biomedicine

You must still meet subject prerequisite study scores. For more information, go to https://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/access_melbourne_and_equity_programs

Parents Talking Career Choices: The Australian Government has developed a brochure for parents and guardians to assist them with giving career guidance to teenagers. You can download the brochure from the Job Guide webpage - http://www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au/

Pre-apprenticeship programs: If you are considering leaving school mid year, you may be interested in applying for a pre-apprenticeship. These short courses are like VET subjects at school: you get a taste of the industry you are interested in and also state or nationally recognised qualification. Contact the TAFE Institute near you to find out what’s on offer - www.education.vic.gov.au/victorianskillsgateway/

Honours at university: What is an honours program and what does it means to consider a course that can lead onto honours? In short, honours is a specialist year of study that occurs either as part of a degree or following an undergraduate degree; offers the opportunity to pursue further study in a chosen field; gives access to leading researchers and experts in the field; offers great personal satisfaction; and enhances employment prospects.

The Deakin honours program seeks: high-achieving and motivated students; those wishing to enhance their bachelor’s degree; and students with a passion and desire to make a difference. For more information about honours at Deakin, visit www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/honours

Bond University News: Bond is a private university in Queensland. Trimesters are run for most of their degrees, which enables students to complete courses in shorter time (e.g., 2 years for an undergraduate degree instead of 3).

- All students who complete the 2 year Bachelor of Exercise and Sports Science at Bond with a minimum credit average will be guaranteed an interview for the Doctor of Physiotherapy

- Students who graduate from Bond’s Bachelor of Biomedical Science in the pre-health professional major and who meet the minimum grade point average requirement may be eligible to enter the second year of the Bond Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery program.

- From 2015, The Bachelor of Actuarial Studies will be offered at Bond. Students will start their studies in January and will complete the degree within two years. You should have a predicted ATAR of at least 95

- Fees at Bond are higher than at Government institutions. Scholarships for the 2015 intake are now open.

Robertson Scholars Leadership Program: Each year, two Australian students are selected to complete an undergraduate degree at either Duke University or the University of Northern Carolina, both in the USA. The program seeks to assist students who have demonstrated passion and potential to become great leaders in college and beyond. The scholarship is worth $200 000 and is organised through UNSW. For more information and to apply, go to www.unsw.edu.au/scholarships

Amazing new resource - careers in primary industries: The Primary Industry Centre for Science Education has just released a brochure outlining an A – Z of careers in agricultural science, primary industries, food, and natural resources. You can download the resource here - www.picse.net/resources/PICSE_booklet2014.pdf
Potential changes to higher education course fees: The Liberal Government has recently announced proposed changes to higher education fees for government funded universities. The following are the proposed changes, which if passed by the senate, will take effect from January 2016:

• Universities will be able to set their own course fees independent from the government.
• The government will reduce the contribution they make to the cost of university courses by an average of 20%.
• Private providers will be able to access course funding from the government and introduce ‘Commonwealth Supported Places’.
• Places for higher education diplomas and associate degrees will be ‘uncapped’ for both government institutions and private providers. This means that the government will contribute funds towards as many places as the institution would like to make.
• There will be a higher indexation rate added to the HELP loan of about 6%. The repayment income threshold will be lowered to encourage students to repay their debt quicker.
• Universities who increase course fees will be required to introduce more scholarships for disadvantaged students.

For updates on the proposed changes, bookmark the Australian Government website- http://australia.gov.au/

If you are interested in pursuing a trade or further technical study to develop and master a skill, you probably have a passion for hands on work, are interested in how things work, take pride in the end result of a project and have excellent communication skills.

Trades and skilled work cover occupations in industries such as building and construction, transport and logistics, hospitality, community services, automotive, metals and engineering, rural and farming and mining and manufacturing etc.

You can study at TAFE and/ or university and in many areas you can complete your qualifications through a traineeship, apprenticeship or cadetship.

Careers to explore

Skillsone: Has hundreds of videos about getting a trade or a skill, www.skillsone.com.au


Myfuture: Information about occupations, industries, videos, scholarships, courses etc.- www.myfuture.edu.au/

Victoria Youth Central: This site has heaps of information on careers and apprenticeships. www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/

Discover Hospitality: www.discoverhospitality.com/
Careers in Building: www.virtualcareersexpo.com/buildingcommission
Careers in Mining: www.miningcareers.com/
Defence Jobs: www.defencejobs.gov.au

Student Careers Conference at Melbourne Zoo: Students in Years 9 – 11 who are passionate about wildlife and the environment are invited to attend this conference and learn about the diverse range of careers within the zoo. Students will meet zoo professionals who will outline the breadth of opportunities within Melbourne Zoo and discuss their career journeys. Students will also be able to tour the zoo and meet the educational animals. The conference will be held 1 August. To register, go to http://www.zoo.org.au/education/school-programs/melbourne/
Focus on Melbourne University: Students and parents will be able to attend these evening events to gain information about these study areas at the University of Melbourne. Dates are as follows in June:

- 3: Science
- 4: Agriculture
- 10: Law
- 11: Information Technology, Engineering
- 18: Melbourne Conservatorium of Music
- 25: Victorian College of the Arts

To book your place, go to http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events

Discover Deakin University: Students will be able to find out about Deakin University and the courses on offer. Participants will be able to attend:

- A range a faculty workshops
- Course information sessions
- Classes and seminars of their choice

The events will be run Friday 4 July at the Geelong campus and Friday 11 July at the Melbourne campus. To register, go to http://www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/why-choose-deakin/prospective-student-events

Monash Computer Games Boot Camp: This is a week long event run by the Faculty of Information Technology at Monash University for Year 9 to Year 12 students. If you are interested in becoming a professional gamer, building and designing games or simply playing games this event is for you! The program runs between Saturday 5 July – Friday 11 July at the Clayton Campus. For more information and to register, go to https://cgbc.infotech.monash.edu/

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UPCOMING EVENTS - MAY

- 28, 29: Meet Melbourne University, Hamilton (28), Warrnambool (29), http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events
- 28: Focus on Melbourne University, Bachelor of Environments, http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events

UPCOMING EVENTS - JUNE

- 2: Aviation Careers Expo, Swinburne University, Hawthorn Campus, register by 30 May, www.swinburne.edu.au
- 4, 20: La Trobe Experience Day, Shepparton (4) and Albury-Wodonga (20), http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience
- 17, 26: At Monash Seminar Series, Student Experience (17), and Teaching (26), www.monash.edu.au/study/life/student/seminars/