1. HOW DO I CHOOSE A CAREER?
Think about your interests, hobbies, abilities and preferences. What do you enjoy doing? How do you spend your spare time? What are you good at? What subjects do you enjoy at school? What is important to you? Thinking about and answering these questions will start giving you some clues. REMEMBER: You are likely to have several careers in your lifetime...so only think in terms of the next five years or so.

Think also about the type of study you would like to be involved in after completing school. For example, would you like to earn money while you qualify? Are you good with practical things? In that case, consider an apprenticeship or traineeship (eg to become a carpenter or hairdresser).

Would you like to study a subject(s) in depth and at a high level for 3 or 4 years? In that case, consider a university degree (eg to become an accountant or a nurse).

Would you like to study for a year or so? In that case consider a TAFE certificate or diploma (eg in childcare or hospitality). Remember, this is only a start. You can often move (articulate) from TAFE to university, gaining credits as you go. Conversely, some university degree holders later study at TAFE (NOTE: government won’t fund qualifications at the same or lower level than you already have; eg, if you have a university degree, the government will not assist with the cost of a TAFE diploma).

2. HOW DO I OBTAIN CAREERS INFORMATION?
There are many useful sources:
- General careers websites (see Item 3)
- University and TAFE websites
- University seminars (eg ‘At Monash’ seminar series - details later in the year)
- School career counsellor
- Pamphlets and booklets available at school

- This career newsletter; attend relevant events
- University and TAFE Open Days (generally in August – dates to be supplied soon)
- Career Expos – eg ‘The Age’ has one 3-5 May with education providers represented; local career expos, eg Eastland on 6 August
- Friends and relatives are often a useful source

3. SOME GREAT CAREERS WEBSITES TO EXPLORE –
There are many useful sites, however the following are a good start:
- for help with developing your own career plan go to www.myfuture.gov.au
- to find out about job opportunities, pay, job outlook for a particular job/career go to http://jobsearch.gov.au
- find out about a particular job, what it involves, the kind of person you need to be to suit it, and how you can get qualified by going to www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au.
- ‘Career Architect’ on the La Trobe university website considers your personality style along with your strengths and talents to recommend the right job and courses for you at: www.latrobe.edu.au/allways/find-your-career (there are many instruments available)
- For comparing degrees and universities see www.whatdegreewhichuniversity.com, a website with info direct from university students about universities throughout Australia.

4. FOLIO PREPARATION AND CAREER DISCOVERY COURSES – RMIT runs short courses which can improve your skills, help with career decisions and prepare you for future folio presentations. They cover areas like: architectural drawing, 3D product design, autoCAD, drawing, fashion, studio textiles, design jobs, visual/fine art, desktop publishing, graphic design, advertising, interior decoration, visual merchandising. Contact: ph 9925 8111 or see www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au. Some courses are on Saturdays, others in school holidays.

5. UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE NEWS –
First preference applications for the University’s Arts and Science degrees were the most popular courses in Victoria in the 2012 course applications. The courses received 2829 and 2365 first preferences respectively. Commerce was fourth with 1421 first preferences. The clearly-in ATAR for Arts was 91.4, for Science, 91.95, and for Commerce, 95.00.
NOTE: Clearly-In figures do not take account of the fact that some students are offered places in courses with less than that for reasons such as disability, non-English speaking background, personal circumstances and so on, or because they performed particularly well in a relevant subject. It means that anyone who gained the clearly-in ATAR, or more, was definitely offered a place.

- Melbourne has its’ annual Veterinary Science and Hospital Open Day at the Werribee campus on Sunday 17 March. If you would like to find out more about studying veterinary science, then attendance is a must (details later). NOTE: Melbourne is the only university in Victoria with a veterinary science degree (it’s post-graduate). Very competitive.

6. MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS –
- MUSIC SCHOOL - Monash is soon to have a new state-of-the-art building to house the Sir Zelman Cowen School of Music. In addition to teaching and practise spaces, it will include a concert hall, jazz club and a recording studio. The building will offer world-class facilities, and will be a fusion of elegant design and high technology infra-structure, reflecting the philosophy underlying the School of Music, which seeks to inspire its students with an experience of music’s power to transform lives. Other news is the addition of a subject: “Song writing: how to write a pop tune”, including weekly lectures focusing on popular composition and creative writing. For info. and to see a virtual image of the new building: http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/music.

If you plan to study actuarial studies you are advised to take specialist maths in Year 12.

- NURSING OFFERED AT CLAYTON IN 2013 Monash now teaches nursing at the Clayton campus. Prerequisites are: 3/4 English (any) and maths (Units 1 & 2 general or methods, or 3/4 maths (any)).

7. WANT TO STUDY MEDICINE OR PHYSIOTHERAPY AT MONASH UNIVERSITY IN 2013? If so, you will need to complete the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admissions Test (UMAT). Applications to complete the test open in April, and close on 5pm on 7 June. The test is on 31 July. (The UMAT is required for some interstate universities as well). NOTE: the other three medical schools at Victorian universities are all post-graduate (Melbourne, Monash (Gippsland) and Deakin (Geelong)).

8. INTERESTED IN SOUND, LIGHTING AND VIDEO OPERATION FOR LIVE EVENTS? Then RMIT’s Cert IV/Diploma in Audiovisual Technology may suit. Graduates are sought after for work in: AV operation for live events, broadcast TV and radio, education AV support, lighting operation, permanent AV design and installation and vision operation. Technically minded? Love jumping into active productions or school events? You will probably enjoy this course. Selection is based on interview. Completing VET Music Industry or Live production, theatre and events is good background. Info: simon.embury@rmit.edu.au, ph 9925 4345, www.rmit.edu.au/mediacommunication.

9. CONSIDERED COMPLETING A PRE-APPRENTICESHIP? Pre apprenticeship courses are offered in areas like plumbing, electrical, carpentry and automotive. Completed before attempting to gain an apprenticeship, they cover some modules normally covered in the apprenticeship. They usually take about four months and assist students gaining an apprenticeship, with many employers expecting applicants to have done one. They can be done at TAFE, or are sometimes offered (at least in part) in VET courses in school (eg VET Building and Construction).

Compiled by: m.walker