2. FOLIO PREPARATION COURSES – RMIT’s portfolio preparation courses are intensive practical courses in the holidays, designed to help those seeking entry to art, design and architecture courses to produce their best portfolio, as well as an overview of the industry and selection procedures. Up-coming courses: adobe illustrator and photoshop for fashion, Adobe inDesign for fashion, design jobs, portfolio preparation in 3D product design, graphic design, interior decoration, photography and in visual merchandising. Info: 9925 8111 or www.shortcourses.rmit.edu.au/page/high_school_students.

3. VICTORIA UNIVERSITY (VU) – BE YOU AT VU – VU offers certificates, diplomas and degrees, mainly at the Footscray Park Campus. Year 10 and 11 students can find out about VU by attending Be You at VU. Take part in course and career specific workshops with current students and staff, and explore your passions, interests and options. Meet representatives from each discipline area. When: 10am – 3pm, 8 July; Register and obtain more information: www.vu.edu.au/be-you-at-vu.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL AND MARINE CAREERS EXPO – Find out about career options in conservation and research and education, consider what school subjects could be helpful, and examine tertiary options. Also find out the latest information about career diversity, training and volunteer opportunities in the environmental and marine industry. When: Exhibitor times - 9.30am-5pm, Wed 24 June; Presentation times: 11am – 7pm (every 20 minutes); Where: Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium, Cnr King and Flinders St; Cost: $20 before 4pm on 15 May, $25 after that; Bookings: 9923 5911, bookings@melbourneaquarium.com.au; Info: www.melbourneaquarium.com.au/schools.

5. DEFENCE FORCE RECRUITING (DFR) – If you’re interested in an Australian Defence Force career and not sure where to start, DFR has a new Job Finder Tool on the website – www.defencejobs.gov.au. This is a fully
responsive and interactive tool that suggests roles to you based on your personality.

The Defence Force also has a list of priority jobs in all three forces. They include pilot, artillery combat systems operator, communication and information systems sailor and many more. Go to the website and look for ‘Featured Jobs’.

The University of New South Wales and the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) (Canberra) will host the annual road show in July and August. Senior staff from UNSW and ADFA will showcase current opportunities, the recruitment process, information for current applicants and their parents/guardians. Presentations will take place in a number of locations including Melbourne. See the website for details, or call Defence Force Recruiting on 131901.

DFR holds regular information sessions. Coming up: Women in Defence on Wed 13 May, ADF careers on Thurs 14 May, Royal Military College on Tues 19 May, Wed 20 May on ADFA. To book your seat email CPTV1C@dfr.com.au with your name, phone number, and chosen session. Most sessions at 6pm, Level 14, 501 Swanston St, Melbourne.

6. SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY INFO NIGHTS – Are you looking for clarity in finding the next step forward in your career investigation? If so you could attend an Information Night at a Swinburne campus.

   When/Where: Croydon, 3-5pm, Tues 19 May; Wantirna 3-5pm, Wed 26 May; Hawthorn: 4.30-6.30pm, Tues 2 June. Register here.

7. KEEPER/VET FOR A DAY – This program is running in the June/July holidays. Are you an aspiring zookeeper? Find out what it takes to care for an array of animals at Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Open Range Zoo. Who: Years 7-12. When: Healesville – 30 June, 1, 7 and 8 July; Werribee – 30 June, 2, 6 and 8 July. Do you want to be a vet? Meet veterinary staff at Healesville – 1, 2, 8 & 9 July; Info: www.zoo.org.au/education/careers-programs; Bookings: 1300 966 784.

8. LA TROBE UNIVERSITY UPDATE – La Trobe now has two Colleges – the College of Science, Health and Engineering, and the College of Arts, Social Science and Commerce.

Among other things, this model allows collaboration across disciplines.

La Trobe is commencing to teach law in the JD in 2016.

Work integrated learning is being used more often in the Arts, Social Science & Commerce College, with 22 subjects having this as part of the program. It is expected that this will continue expand.

Under the world QS Rankings for universities, La Trobe ranks sixth in Australia for history teaching, seventh for sociology and ninth for communications and media studies. La Trobe is also in the top 100 universities in the world in these areas. It is also in the top 200 in linguistics, agriculture, psychology, accounting and finance, education, law and politics. In the Times Higher Education rankings La Trobe is 75th in the world, up 25 on last year. The Aspire program is running again this year applications open on 1 June and close on 31 August. More details later.

9. SO YOU WANT TO STUDY ARCHITECTURE? If you want to become a qualified architect, you need to study at university for five years. Architecture degrees are offered at Deakin (Geelong), University of Melbourne, Monash (Caulfield) and RMIT. You will usually commence with a three-year Bachelor of Architectural Design and then complete a two-year Master of Architecture.

   Deakin uses the ATAR at select students (currently around 70.00), Melbourne requires students to first complete the three-year B. Environments (selected on ATAR, currently around 85.00), Monash selects students on the basis of their ATAR, a supplementary form and interview, and RMIT selects on ATAR, an information kit and interview. Although the required ATAR for Monash and RMIT are not specified as they also use other selection criteria, the ATAR required is high.

   An alternative qualification which you are encouraged to consider is the two-year Advanced Diploma of Building Design (Architectural) offered at several TAFE’s (eg Box Hill, Chisholm, Swinburne, RMIT). This qualification, while not qualifying you as an architect, gives graduates skills to work on designing quite major projects, up to three-stories high. Employment prospects are quite good. See: www.joboutlook.gov.au.

Complied by: m.walker