Weekly Careers News for Victoria

October 12, 2026

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Events

This Week's Events

Feeding Australia’s Future: Food-focused Career Pathways Webinar

Organisation: myfuture
Location: Online
Date: October 12, 2026
Have you ever wondered how food gets from the farm, ocean or garden to your plate? Or what career opportunities exist across Australia's diverse food and agriculture industries?
Join myfuture for an engaging panel discussion exploring the wide range of careers within horticulture and the broader food system. From vegetable production and sustainable agriculture to seafood industries and Indigenous food enterprises, this webinar will showcase meaningful career pathways that contribute to Australia's future food security, sustainability and innovation.
Hear from industry experts as they share insights into their career journeys, emerging workforce opportunities, the skills and attributes employers value, and the training and education pathways available to young people.
Whether you're a student exploring future career options, an educator supporting career development, or a career practitioner seeking current industry insights, this session will provide valuable perspectives on careers that are helping shape a more sustainable future.
Find out more

Geelong Hospitality and Tourism Jobs Expo 2026

Organisation: Workforce Australia
Location: The Gordon TAFE, Geelong City Campus
Date: October 12, 2026
This isn’t your average careers expo! Meet leading employers, training organisations and support services across the Geelong region and explore fantastic opportunities in the dynamic Hospitality and Tourism industry. Whether you’re seeking a summer job or aiming for a rewarding career, this free event is for you!
What's on:

- **Employer Stands:** Engage in short interviews with employers actively hiring.
- **Training Organisations:** Learn about career opportunities and pathways in the industry.
- **Cooking Demonstrations:** Watch renowned local chefs in action and pick up culinary tips.
- **Culinary School Tours:** Explore The Gordon’s state-of-the-art training facilities.
- **Skills and Jobs Centre:** Get expert advice on resume writing and interview techniques.
- **Live Music:** Enjoy tunes from local musicians while you mingle.
- **Free Food:** Savour delicious bites from The Gordon’s Culinary Collective.

Find out more

Discover Melbourne Webinar Series – October Sessions

Organisation: University of Melbourne
Location: Online
Date: October 13 to October 16, 2026
Discover Melbourne online webinars are for high school students thinking about undergraduate study with us. Across the sessions, you'll explore the Melbourne curriculum, our discipline areas, course structures, faculties, career pathways and more.

Our October sessions will take a deeper dive into specific discipline areas, with staff and current students available to answer your questions during each webinar.
Find out more

Federation Come and See Day, SMB Campus

Organisation: Federation University
Location: Federation University, SMB Campus
Date: October 13, 2026
Keen for a lifestyle change? Our courses are open and will help you reskill, upskill and stand out in 2027.
Come and find out more, meet your future classmates and explore your hands-on training facilities at our SMB Come and See Day on Tuesday 13 October 2026 between 4pm and 7pm.
Come and find out everything you need to know about vocational studies in:

- Hairdressing
- Beauty
- Cookery
- Hospitality
- Bakery
- Building design
- Carpentry
- Building and Construction
- Bricklaying
- Automotive
- Barbering
- Engineering

What's on:

- Explore our training facilities
- Meet our industry experts
- Observe real students engaging in their study
- Explore student support options
- Receive information about the courses you're interested in

Find out more

Orange College Trade Expo & Open Day 2026

Organisation: Orange College
Location: Orange College, Port Melbourne Campus
Date: October 14, 2026
Orange College, in partnership with Mars Institute, invites you to the Trade Expo & Open Day 2026 — a free, hands-on event celebrating skills, careers, and community.
Whether you're exploring a trade career, considering study options, supporting students as an agent, or representing an industry partner, this is your chance to connect directly with our trainers, current students, and industry guests, and to see our workshops and facilities in action.
Find out more

Get Fit with Victoria Police – Online Webinar

Organisation: Victoria Police
Location: Online
Date: October 14, 2026

Victoria Police is hosting an online information session for members of the community who are interested in finding out more about fitness with Victoria Police.
During the session, we will give tips and tricks to nail the fitness test, and discuss how fitness feeds into life on the job.
We are thrilled to showcase our our newly redeveloped POLICEFIT app during the session! We will walk you through all the exciting new features and upgrades designed to enhance your fitness journey, making it easier, more engaging, and more personalised than ever before.
Find out more

Skills and Jobs Centre Pop-up, Preston

Organisation: Darebin Libraries
Location: Preston Library
Date: October 15, 2026
Looking for work? Changing your career path? Upskilling? Drop in to the Skills and Jobs Centre Pop-up for advice and support at any stage of your career.
Come in and chat with a career counsellor for free advice and expert tips on everything from studying to interview techniques. Learn about the free courses, training, and programs available to you in the local area.
Find out more

Fashion Careers – Your Future in Fashion Online Info Session

Organisation: La Mode College
Location: Online
Date: October 15, 2026
La Mode College is offering a free online Fashion Careers Information Session for Australian students in Years 10–12 and their parents.
The session is designed to help students interested in fashion understand the career and study pathways available within the industry. It will explore careers in fashion design, buying, product development, merchandising, e-commerce and entrepreneurship, including what different roles involve and current salary ranges.
Students will also learn about university, TAFE and alternative study pathways, portfolio preparation, skills they can begin developing while still at school, and pathways to starting a fashion business.
The session aims to give students and parents practical information to help them explore whether a future in fashion is right for them and make more informed study and career decisions. A live Q&A will be included.
Find out more

Discover Engineering at Monash

Organisation: Monash University
Location: Online
Date: October 15, 2026
Discover everything you need to know about studying Engineering at Monash.
You'll have the opportunity to meet current students and alumni, hear about their experiences, and ask questions.
Our engineering degrees offer an outstanding study experience, along with excellent opportunities to engage with industry and gain hands-on experience through our teams and clubs.
Find out more

Le Cordon Bleu Melbourne Open Day 2026

Organisation: Le Cordon Bleu Australia
Location: Le Cordon Bleu Australia, Melbourne Campus
Date: October 17, 2026
Now is your chance to discover how Le Cordon Bleu Australia can help kickstart your career in cuisine, pâtisserie, hotel management, restaurant management or business.
Our Melbourne campus will host an Open Day in October so you can explore our courses on offer and find out how we can help you succeed in the fast-paced food and hospitality world. Marvel at our professional chef lecturers who will host cooking demonstrations in cuisine and pâtisserie and see first-hand why our culinary courses are elite. There will also be sensory experiences, information booths, plus those who apply on the day will have their $250 application fee waived!
Find out more

Next Week's Events

University of Melbourne Extension Program Information Session

Organisation: University of Melbourne
Location: Online
Date: October 20, 2026
Are you looking to further your academic potential in Year 12? Join us for an online information session to learn more about the University of Melbourne Extension Program.
At this session, you'll discover how this academic enrichment program will provide you with a chance to not only experience university life while still in high school, but also how to build up your academic capabilities.
This interactive session will cover:

- Benefits of studying an Extension Program subject
- Subject offerings and their delivery modes for 2027
- Eligibility and entry requirements

You will also hear from an Extension Program alum, who will share their experience and how the program helped them gain a valuable head start at university.
There'll also be an opportunity to ask the panel questions.
Find out more

Victoria Police Careers & Career Starters Pathway Information Session

Organisation: Victoria Police
Location: Victoria Police Centre
Date: October 20, 2026
Exclusive Victoria Police Careers and Careers Starters Pathway information session. Tuesday 20th October 2026. Tickets available now!
Feeling stuck in your current job? Craving something more? or are you intrested in a dedicated policing pathway for school leavers and younger adults?
Your future with Victoria Police is calling!
We’re inviting you to an exclusive **Victoria Police Careers and Careers Starters Pathway Information Session** – a rare chance to get an inside look into the fast-paced, challenging, and rewarding world of policing.
What to Expect:

- Unlock the secrets to our recruitment process
- Discover the intensive, hands-on training at the Victoria Police Academy
- Explore career pathways beyond general duties policing

- Learn about specialist units tackling everything from major crime to community engagement
- Hear firsthand stories from those who serve and protect every day
- What is the Career Starters Pathway?
- Why Victoria Police has introduced this initiative?
- Benefits for students and school leavers and more

Get up close with our team:

- Police Officers
- Protective Services Officers (PSO)
- Police Custody Officers (PCO)
- Victorian Public Servants (VPS)

This is your exclusive invitation to gain behind-the-scenes access to the Victoria Police Centre – a location typically closed to the public. Don't miss your chance to experience the energy and excitement of policing like never before!
Find out more

Deakin University Accelerate Uni at School Program – Webinar for High School Students

Organisation: Deakin University
Location: Online
Date: October 21, 2026
Are you a high-achieving student ready to kick-start your university journey? Register for our webinar on Wednesday 21 October to learn how the Deakin Accelerate program can fast-track your path to university.
You'll learn how the program works, what subjects you can choose from and how completing Deakin Accelerate can give you a valuable head start towards your future degree. You'll also hear from current and past students who have taken part in the program and gained confidence, new skills and a clearer idea of where they want to go next.
Whether you already have a dream career in mind or you're still exploring your options, Deakin Accelerate is a chance to challenge yourself, try something new and take your first step into university life.
Parent, guardians and career practitioners are also welcome to join and learn how Deakin Accelerate can support students as they prepare for life after school.
Find out more

VU Certificate IV in School Based Education Support Information Session

Organisation: Victoria University
Location: Online
Date: October 22, 2026
Come to an online info session to find out about studying the Certificate IV in School Based Education Support (CHC40221) at Victoria University.
School Based Education Support courses are currently listed under the Victorian Government Free TAFE initiative, which means eligible students won't pay tuition fees for the duration of their course. Material and amenities fees apply.
The sessions will cover:

- the course structure and information
- industry connections
- placement opportunities
- pathways to further study.

Find out more

Box Hill Institute Careers Expo

Organisation: Box Hill Institute
Location: Box Hill Town Hall
Date: October 22, 2026
Having career goals is the easy part. Knowing how to achieve them? That's where people often get stuck – which is why you can't miss Careers Expo.
Come and meet training experts, career advisors and employers, all in one place.
You'll be able to explore career paths or study options, gain real-world insights and walk away with a clearer understanding of what your next steps should be.
Find out more

It Takes a Spark STEM Conference for Year 4-10 Students and Teachers, Melbourne

Organisation: Intuyu Consulting Pty Ltd
Location: The Knox School
Date: October 22, 2026
Most conferences currently being offered on STEM, STEAM and Entrepreneurship tend to be targeted towards teachers and involve a series of speakers and the occasional mini-workshops. This conference is designed to be different. This conference is designed by students and teachers for students and teachers.
The intent of the It Takes a Spark STEM Conference is to bring together Students (Year 4 to 10) and Teachers to connect with inspiring industry role models, share their current school based activities and projects using an authentic sharing and experiential model, create networks of teachers and student teams, and solve social justice design challenges.
The participation of the students is as important as teachers as our intent is to ignite, empower and nurture both to be leaders of STEM and Entrepreneurship within their schools. This is a conference designed and led by students and teachers for students and teachers.
Teachers will have both formal and informal opportunities to speak to other teachers who have enacted programs and activities in their schools and get their questions answered.
The Problem Solver design challenges are all hands-on so students and teachers will experience first-hand what it is like to be part of great STEM and entrepreneurial learning. This will spark new ideas about curriculum and pedagogy.
Find out more

Victoria Police Career Starters Pathway Information Session Online

Organisation: Victoria Police
Location: Online
Date: October 22, 2026
An online information session for Parents/Carers and Students.
Find out more

Discover Monash: Bachelor of Music

Organisation: Monash University
Location: Room G11, David Derham Law Building, Monash Clayton Campus
Date: October 22, 2026
Experience where creativity, performance and professional practice come together at Discover Monash: Bachelor of Music. Explore our state-of-the-art music facilities, including performance, rehearsal and teaching spaces, and gain insight into studying music at Monash.
Meet current students and academics, learn about our study options, and discover how a music degree can lead to diverse creative and professional careers.

The experience concludes with a student-led lunchtime concert, showcasing the talent, passion and vibrant community that make Monash Music unique. Imagine your future in music with us.
Find out more

VU TAFE Open Night 2026, Sunshine Campus

Organisation: Victoria University
Location: Victoria University, Sunshine Campus
Date: October 22, 2026
Future TAFE student? We've got an event just for you.
Join us at Sunshine for an action-packed evening to explore TAFE options in trades, health, English language and cyber security.
Meet students and teachers, explore campus and facilities, and discover courses designed to get you job-ready from day one.
Find out more

Monash University Webinar – What Does My First Year in Science Look Like?

Organisation: Monash University
Location: Online
Date: October 22, 2026
Hear from our current students as they share their stories and experiences from their first year of study.
We'll also take you through some handy resources to help you design your degree, from unit enrolments and majors to learning beyond the classroom, such as field trips and international experiences.
Find out more

NAS Bachelor of Fine Arts Online Information Session

Organisation: National Art School
Location: Online
Date: October 22, 2026
Interested in applying for the Bachelor of Fine Art (BFA) at the National Art School?
Join us for an online information session to find out more.
The session will provide an overview of the BFA, eligibility requirements, application process and key dates, with an opportunity to ask questions.
Find out more

ATELIER COLLARTS: COLLCEPT – Healing Stitch Mending Workshop

Organisation: Australian College of the Arts
Location: Fractal Studios, Docklands
Date: October 24, 2026
Presented as part of Melbourne Fashion Week 2026's Independent Program, COLLCEPT is a curated sustainable fashion concept store, exhibition and live atelier program. Showcasing work by Collarts Fashion students, alumni and staff, it combines retail, workshops, gallery exhibition and circular fashion services across two days at Fractal Gallery, Docklands.
Join Callum Amor, Collarts 2026 graduate and founder of Amend Amor for a hands on visible mending workshop. Learn how small repairs can become a form of storytelling, giving damaged garments a new life rather than the bin. Participants can bring a garment from home or work from a rack of ELK and Thread Together's donated and deadstock clothing.
Find out more

ATELIER COLLARTS: COLLCEPT – Creative Wearable Workshop

Organisation: Australian College of the Arts
Location: Fractal Studios, Docklands
Date: October 24, 2026
Presented as part of Melbourne Fashion Week 2026's Independent Program, COLLCEPT is a curated sustainable fashion concept store, exhibition and live atelier program. Showcasing work by Collarts Fashion students, alumni and staff, it combines retail, workshops, gallery exhibition and circular fashion services across two days at Fractal Gallery, Docklands.
One thrifted men's shirt. One sewing machine. Zero sewing experience required. Transform it into a unique, wearable top you'll actually want to wear. Led by Collarts Fashion & Sustainability faculty, all machines, sewing supplies, and Thread Together donated shirts are provided. Just bring an open mind, and walk away with a one of a kind piece for your fashion week festivities.
Find out more

Le Cordon Bleu Melbourne Signature Tarts Workshop

Organisation: Le Cordon Bleu Australia
Location: Le Cordon Bleu Australia, Melbourne Campus
Date: October 24, 2026
The Signature Tarts Workshop is a three-hour hands-on experience designed for passionate home bakers and aspiring pâtissiers who want to master the art of creating stunning, professional-quality tarts. Under the guidance of our expert chef instructors, you will learn the techniques behind two distinct and impressive tart creations: a vibrant Strawberry and Marshmallow Tart and a decadent Dark Chocolate Tart with Caramelised Hazelnut Paste.
This workshop focuses on the fundamental skills required to create exceptional tarts from scratch. You will learn to prepare perfect sweet pastry, silky almond cream, luscious mousses and delicate fruit jellies. Our chefs will guide you through each step, from mixing and baking to assembling and decorating, ensuring you leave with the confidence to recreate these signature tarts at home.
Whether you are looking to impress at your next dinner party or simply wish to treat yourself to a creative and delicious experience, this workshop offers a unique opportunity to develop your patisserie skills in a fun, supportive and professional environment.
Find out more

Future Events

Victoria Police: Life at the Academy – Online Webinar

Organisation: Victoria Police
Location: Online
Date: October 28, 2026
Explore life at the Victoria Police Academy—join our online info session on 28th October 2026 for insider tips and training insights!
Curious about joining Victoria Police or already in the recruitment process? Wondering what life is really like at the Academy?
Don’t miss this exclusive online information session—your ultimate insider guide to the Victoria Police Academy experience!
Join us for a deep dive into Academy life for Police Officers, whilst touching on training for Protective Services Officers, and Police Custody Officers. Get the real scoop on what your training journey will look like, week by week. We’ll break down everything from exams to fitness training, on-site accommodation to support systems—and even salary details.

This is your chance to hear firsthand from those who've been there, done that. Plus, you'll get the opportunity to ask your burning questions!
Find out more

Yr 12 & Beyond with ADHD – Webinar for Year 12 Students and Parents

Organisation: ADHD Webinars
Location: Online
Date: October 29, 2026
Designed to help Year 12 students and parents navigate the transition to tertiary study or employment with practical ADHD management strategies. It offers actionable guidance on post-school options, strengths and interests, accommodations, and setting up tailored support systems.
Find out more

Pasifika Career Expo 2026

Organisation: Opendoor
Location: Town Hall Broadmeadows
Date: October 30, 2026
Get ready to explore career paths and connect with the community at the Pasifika Career Expo 2026!
Whether you're starting out, ready to take the next step, or exploring something new, this is your chance to connect directly with employers, discover career pathways, and celebrate Pasifika culture through vibrant performances.
What to expect:

- Employer booths and face-to-face networking with organisations and training providers.
- Career opportunities across a wide range of industries.
- Raffle prizes to be won! Every person who registers for the event, goes into the draw to win a prize.

Who should attend:

- Jobseekers from all backgrounds and career stages
- Pasifika young people, families, and community members
- Recent graduates exploring their options
- Experienced professionals seeking a change
- Parents, carers, and support networks

Why attend:

- Connect directly with employers who are actively recruiting
- Discover jobs, traineeships, and study pathways
- Network with professionals, services, and community organisations
- Celebrate culture in a welcoming and supportive environment

Find out more

CSU Online Parent Information Session

Organisation: Charles Sturt University
Location: Online
Date: November 4, 2026
As your teen starts thinking about their future, this online session is here to help you support them through one of the biggest decisions they'll make – choosing a university.
Hear from experts as we guide you through key topics on processes, share tips for navigating Year 12 and the transition to university and highlight the unique opportunities available at Charles Sturt.

Whether you're looking for general information about university or specific advice to assist your teen, this is your chance to ask questions and get the answers you need.
Find out more

STEM + X: Technology – Webinar for Students, Teachers & Parents

Organisation: Careers with STEM
Location: Online
Date: November 4, 2026
Join Careers with STEM for a free STEM + X career webinar, supported by QUT, to explore careers in coding, cybersecurity, design, digital products and more.
In this webinar, we'll lift the lid on where a technology degree can take you, exploring the kinds of careers today's high school students could be heading into, from cybersecurity and software development to digital design, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.
Find out more

Procrastination & ADHD – Webinar for Year 10, 11, 12 Students and Parents

Organisation: ADHD Webinars
Location: Online
Date: November 5, 2026
A practical session focusing on why ADHD brains procrastinate and how students in Years 10–12 can overcome executive dysfunction. Attendees will learn evidence-based study tools, time-management hacks, and task-initiation techniques.
Find out more

CSU Making It In Media Workshop for Year 9-12 Students, Bathurst

Organisation: Charles Sturt University
Location: Charles Sturt University, Bathurst Campus
Date: November 6, 2026
Are you passionate about content creation, journalism, advertising or public relations?
If you're a student in Year 9, 10, 11 or 12, join us for our free Making it in Media workshop!
Ever wondered what it's really like to host a podcast, write newsworthy articles or work in TV? In this exciting full-day workshop, you'll dive deep into the dynamic worlds of design and content creation, journalism and strategic communication.
This interactive, hands-on experience invites you to collaborate with other students and explore the diverse majors on offer when you study with Charles Sturt.
What to expect:

- Hear from our course director, leading academics and alumni and get your questions answered.
- Step into our brand-new TV studio and creative hub.
- Get a taste of what it's really like to work in media.
- Take part in practical and fun workshop sessions.

Find out more

Holmesglen Institute Open Day, November 2026

Organisation: Holmesglen Institute
Location: Holmesglen Campuses
Date: November 12, 2026
Open Day is a great opportunity for you to meet with teachers, explore our campuses and study facilities, and get a feel for Holmesglen life. Our sessions include presentations, tours and Q&As

– perfect for helping you map out your future study and career plans. Plus, our friendly team is also available to help you apply on the day.
Find out more

Victoria Police: Inside the Recruitment Process – Online Webinar

Organisation: Victoria Police
Location: Online
Date: November 12, 2026
Victoria Police are hosting an online information session for members of the community who are:

- thinking of starting an application to join Victoria Police
- currently going through the recruitment process and need more information
- currently in the process of completing an application

This session has been created to guide you through the steps of completing a strong application, with helpful tips and tricks that apply to each stage of the recruitment process.
Find out more

Le Cordon Bleu Melbourne Mediterranean Cuisine Workshop

Organisation: Le Cordon Bleu Australia
Location: Le Cordon Bleu Australia, Melbourne Campus
Date: November 14, 2026
Guided by a Le Cordon Bleu chef, you will unlock the secrets behind Mediterranean cooking, from the perfect balance of herbs and spices to the generous use of premium olive oil, fresh seafood, wholesome grains and seasonal vegetables. Discover why this way of eating is not only delicious but also one of the world's most celebrated nutritional models.
Journey across the Mediterranean, from Portugal to Lebanon, North Africa to the Middle East, as you learn to create balanced, flavour packed dishes that are as beautiful as they are wholesome.
This class is designed for everyone, whether you are a complete beginner or a keen home cook looking to expand your repertoire. And the best part? Every dish you create is yours to take home and enjoy. Spots are limited. Secure your place today and savour the taste of the Mediterranean!
Find out more

University of Melbourne Extension Program Application Support Session

Organisation: University of Melbourne
Location: Online
Date: November 17, 2026
In Year 11 and thinking about applying for the University of Melbourne Extension Program? Get practical support from our team to help with your application, before applications close 27 November 2026.
We'll walk you through everything you need to know to submit your application, including:

- Navigating the application portal
- Required documentation
- Important deadlines and timelines for offers.

Find out more

Victoria Police Careers Information Session – Victoria Police Centre (VPC)

Organisation: Victoria Police
Location: Victoria Police Centre

Date: November 17, 2026
Exclusive Victoria Police Careers information session. Tuesday 17th November 2026. Tickets available now!
Feeling stuck in your current job? Craving something more? Ready to turn that daily grind into a rewarding career that makes a real difference?
Your future with Victoria Police is calling!
We're inviting you to an exclusive **Victoria Police Careers Information Session** – a rare chance to get an inside look into the fast-paced, challenging, and rewarding world of policing.
What to Expect:

- Unlock the secrets to our recruitment process
- Discover the intensive, hands-on training at the Victoria Police Academy
- Explore career pathways beyond general duties policing
- Learn about specialist units tackling everything from major crime to community engagement
- Hear firsthand stories from those who serve and protect every day

Get up close with our team:

- Police Officers
- Protective Services Officers (PSO)
- Police Custody Officers (PCO)
- Victorian Public Servants (VPS)

This is your exclusive invitation to gain behind-the-scenes access to the Victoria Police Centre – a location typically closed to the public. Don't miss your chance to experience the energy and excitement of policing like never before!
Find out more

Federation Open Day 2026, Gillies Street

Organisation: Federation University
Location: Federation University, Gillies Street Campus
Date: November 18, 2026
Keen for a lifestyle change and a career working outdoors?
Our Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation Science courses are open and will help you reskill, upskill and stand out in 2026.
Dig deep into hands-on courses in Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation, Ecosystem Management, and free TAFE options.
Come and find out more, meet your future classmates and explore your hands-on training facilities at our Gillies Street Open Day on 18 November from 10 am to 2 pm.
What's on:

- Student-led campus tours
- Observe real classes at our hands-on learning facilities, classrooms and science labs
- Explore student support options
- Find out if you're eligible for free TAFE course funding
- Get application assistance
- Find out course info, including contact hours, assessment overview, outside class study and pre-application advice

Find out more

La Trobe Engineering and IT Showcase 2026

Organisation: La Trobe University
Location: La Trobe University, Union Hall
Date: November 18, 2026

Sponsored by industry partners, student projects will focus on innovations within the areas of engineering, computer science, IT and physics.
Our keynote speaker, Arnie Bhattacharya, is the Chief Product Officer at Nuix, a technology company specialising in investigative analytics, digital forensics, and eDiscovery software. An accomplished alumnus of the School, Arnie holds a Bachelor of Computer Systems Engineering (Honours) with a specialisation in Software and Network Engineering.
The evening will be hosted by Professor Wenny Rahayu, Dean of the School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematical Sciences.
The showcase is open to staff, students, employers, alumni, industry and schools.
Find out more

Meet an Enviro Scientist Panel from La Trobe – for Year 7-12 Students

Organisation: La Trobe University
Location: Online
Date: November 19, 2026
Students will hear from La Trobe University environmental scientists and industry professionals from a diverse range of areas including ecology, freshwater and wetland management, restoration climate change adaptation, resource management, and conservation genetics. They will share their expertise, research and pathway to their STEM career.
Panellists for this event will be:

- Jessarne Palmer: Ecologist
- Sam Lewis: Fish ecologist
- Mads Dwyer: Botanist and Fire Ecologist
- Willow Cuthbert: Archaeologist

After an interactive Q&A panel discussion, participants will have the option to network with our panelists to build valuable connections with both student researchers and established academics.
This event is part of the Victorian Challenge and Enrichment Series, providing free extension opportunities for high-ability students in Victorian Government Schools. Funded by the Department of Education's Student Excellence Program.
Find out more

Victoria Police: Life at the Academy – Online Webinar

Organisation: Victoria Police
Location: Online
Date: November 19, 2026
Explore life at the Victoria Police Academy—join our online info session for insider tips and training insights!
Curious about joining Victoria Police or already in the recruitment process? Wondering what life is really like at the Academy?
Don’t miss this exclusive online information session—your ultimate insider guide to the Victoria Police Academy experience!
Join us for a deep dive into Academy life for Police Officers, whilst touching on training for Protective Services Officers, and Police Custody Officers. Get the real scoop on what your training journey will look like, week by week. We’ll break down everything from exams to fitness training, on-site accommodation to support systems—and even salary details.
This is your chance to hear firsthand from those who’ve been there, done that. Plus, you'll get the opportunity to ask your burning questions!
Find out more

AIE November Open Day, Melbourne

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment
Location: Academy of Interactive Entertainment, Melbourne Campus
Date: November 21, 2026
Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Open Day.
AIE Open Day is a great opportunity to meet our teachers, staff and students. The day will cover everything you need to know about the:

- Careers in games and VFX that we train students for;
- Studios and industries that we work with;
- Courses we offer – from beginners to professional mastery, and;
- The software, skills and knowledge we teach.

This event will also include presentations on entry requirements and how to apply. Find out how AIE can get you into a creative career.
Find out more

La Trobe Worner Lecture 2026 – From Atoms to Antidotes

Organisation: La Trobe University
Location: The Capital, Bendigo
Date: November 24, 2026
Join three leading Australian biophysicists for a journey into the hidden world of cells, viruses, and parasites. Discover how biophysics reveals the molecular workings of life — and how cutting-edge imaging and other powerful tools are helping scientists develop new ways to prevent and treat some of the world's biggest health challenges. The talks will be followed by a Q&A, giving you the chance to put your questions directly to the scientists.
No science background required — just bring your curiosity!
Find out more

Year 11 & Beyond with ADHD – Starting Strong in the Senior Years

Organisation: ADHD Webinars
Location: Online
Date: November 26, 2026
Focuses on setting senior students up for success as they enter their final school year and look ahead to future pathways. This webinar for parents, senior high school students and career practitioners covers strategies for managing workload stress, building independence, and planning post-school transitions.
Find out more

La Trobe Health Careers Camp for Year 12 Students, Bendigo

Organisation: La Trobe University
Location: La Trobe University, Bendigo Campus
Date: November 26 to November 27, 2026
La Trobe Health Careers Camp is designed to give students a realistic and relevant insight into studying and working in health and science fields, particularly within regional Victoria.
Held over two days at La Trobe University Bendigo, the event will include a dynamic mix of information sessions, hands-on lab experiences, group-based problem-solving activities, and opportunities to engage with LTU academics, current students, and local health professionals.
Students will explore the wide range of courses and pathways available at LTU Bendigo—including degrees in Science, Biomedical Science, Pharmacy, Exercise Science, Nursing,

Social Work, Dentistry, and more. Sessions will cover VTAC applications, course entry requirements, and tips for interviews and applications.
Practical lab sessions will introduce participants to university-level learning and research, offering a taste of what to expect in health and science degrees. Students will also receive advice on preparing for Year 12 and building foundational knowledge in key subject areas.
Throughout the camp, students will connect with peers who share similar interests and hear firsthand from those working and studying in rural health. The experience aims to inspire, inform, and equip students with a clearer vision for their future in health and science.
Find out more

CSU Online Law and Criminology Information Night

Organisation: Charles Sturt University
Location: Online
Date: November 26, 2026
Join us for our information night and hear from our course directors, current students and graduates about what its like to study law and criminology at Charles Sturt. You'll get details on how to apply, industry professionals sharing their experiences about working in the sector, and info about where a career in the justice system could take you.
Find out more

National Fashion College Styling Workshop for Ages 16+ in Melbourne

Organisation: National Fashion College
Location: National Fashion College, Melbourne Campus
Date: November 28, 2026
You're officially invited to our exclusive Styling Workshop, taking place at our vibrant Melbourne campus - home to creativity, innovation, and the next generation of fashion talent.
In just one day, gain hands-on experience as you learn the foundations of professional styling from an industry-recognised expert. You'll assist on not one, but two photo shoots with a renowned fashion photographer - offering you a rare, behind-the-scenes glimpse into the fast-paced world of fashion. This is your first step towards a career in styling.
Meg Durham is a leading Melbourne-based fashion and television stylist with almost a decade of industry experience spanning celebrity, television, commercial and fashion styling. For the past six years, Meg has worked with Network 10 and Paramount across some of Australia's biggest television productions, including The Project, Have You Been Paying Attention?, MasterChef Australia, Deal or No Deal and I'm a Celebrity… Get Me Out of Here! Australia. Her work has taken her from Australian television studios to sets in South Africa, styling high-profile talent including Robert Irwin. Combining an expert eye for fashion with extensive experience styling for the camera, Meg brings National Fashion College students a rare behind-the-scenes perspective on celebrity styling, television wardrobes and the fast-paced world of fashion and entertainment.
This experience is recommended for guests aged 16 and older.
Find out more

SAE Online Info Session: IT & Computer Science

Organisation: SAE University College
Location: Online
Date: December 1, 2026
From software development and cyber security to cloud computing and AI, technology careers are evolving fast. At SAE's Online Info Session: IT & Computer Science, you'll explore our complete range of technology courses, including our new Information Technology qualifications

launching in February 2027, alongside our established Computer Science and Cyber Security pathways.
Find out more

AIE Online Campus Day

Organisation: Academy of Interactive Entertainment
Location: Online
Date: December 5, 2026
Discover the courses designed to get you started in game development, 3D animation, film and visual effects at the AIE Online Campus Day. AIE will be running this event for students interested in studying online. You will be able to meet our teachers, explore how classes will run, course options, career pathways and see our amazing student work.
We will be covering everything you need to know about the:

- careers in games and VFX that we train students for;
- studios and industries that we work with;
- courses we offer – from beginners to professional mastery, and;
- the software, skills and knowledge we teach.

Find out more

Camp America Melbourne Job Fair

Organisation: American Institute for Foreign Study Australia
Location: TBC Melbourne
Date: December 5, 2026
U.S. camps are coming to town and they're ready to meet, interview and hire. Come face-to-face with Camp Directors, explore the roles available and take a huge step towards locking in your Summer 2027 placement.
Meet the camps hiring you. Connect face-to-face with Camp Directors flying in from the USA specifically to meet and hire Australian applicants. Ask questions about camp life, available roles, what they're looking for and interview directly with the people making the hiring decisions. Explore a range of camps and roles all in one place, from waterfront and sports to performing arts, creative roles and more. Chat with different Camp Directors, compare your options and find the camp that feels like the best fit for your skills, personality and summer goals.
This isn't just an info session. You'll have the chance to interview for roles on the day and could leave with your Summer 2027 placement sorted. Meet other Camp America applicants, get support from our team and take a huge step closer to camp.
Find out more

Le Cordon Bleu Melbourne Cook Like a Chef Workshop

Organisation: Le Cordon Bleu Australia
Location: Le Cordon Bleu Australia, Melbourne Campus
Date: December 5, 2026
This hands-on experience teaches you the essential techniques used in professional kitchens, helping you elevate flavour, texture and presentation in every dish you create.
In this immersive full-day workshop, you'll step inside a commercial kitchen and craft restaurant-quality dishes using expert methods. From mastering knife skills to working with luxury ingredients, you'll build confidence, finesse and a deeper understanding of how chefs think, taste, and plate.
Throughout the day, expert instructors guide you step-by-step as you prepare four refined dishes, each designed to teach precision, balance and presentation.
Core skills covered include:

- Knife skills for preparing and garnishing vegetables, fruits and seafood
- How to prepare delicate elements including asparagus broth, emulsions and potato-based doughs
- Preparing stocks and broths to build deep, layered flavours
- Gnocchi shaping and cooking for perfect texture
- Confit, deep frying, pan-searing and steam cooking methods
- Emulsification, foams and other modern finishing techniques
- Macerating, frying and flavour-intensifying methods
- Professional plating techniques and garnishing skills

Find out more

Le Cordon Bleu Melbourne Mastering Macarons (Christmas Edition) Workshop

Organisation: Le Cordon Bleu Australia
Location: Le Cordon Bleu Australia, Melbourne Campus
Date: December 12, 2026
Join us for a festive one-day experience dedicated to the art, precision and creativity of macarons. This hands-on workshop is designed for passionate home bakers and aspiring pâtissiers who want to master the techniques behind these delicate and iconic sweets.
Guided by our experienced chef instructors, you will learn the fundamentals of both French and Italian meringue methods, understanding the differences between each technique and how they influence texture, structure and flavour. As the day unfolds, you will create a range of festive macaron flavours and fillings inspired by the Christmas season, learning how to balance flavours and combine textures to create beautiful creations.
From mastering smooth shells to piping, baking and assembling your finished macarons, this workshop will provide valuable skills you can continue to use long after the class concludes .
We encourage you to ask questions and embrace the festive spirit as you develop your skills in a fun and supportive environment.
Find out more

I’ve Got My Results, What Now? Webinar for Year 12 Students & Parents

Organisation: myfuture
Location: Online
Date: December 15, 2026
As Year 12 results are released, many students and their carers are asking the same question: What's next? Join Tracy Ryan, Career Education Manager at myfuture, for a practical and reassuring webinar designed to help families navigate the next steps with confidence.
You'll gain insights into the range of opportunities available after Year 12, learn how to make informed decisions, and discover resources that can support a successful transition from school to further study, training, or work.
Find out more

Scholarships

ACU All Points to Teaching (APTT) Scholarship

Organisation: Australian Catholic University
Location: Australia
Value: 100% course fee waiver
Open Date: September 4, 2026

Close Date: February 21, 2027
Find out more

SAE Kickstarter Scholarship
Organisation: SAE University College
Location: Australia
Value: Up to AU$12,000
Open Date: July 1, 2026
Close Date: January 8, 2027
Find out more

Competitions

The Best of Times Short Story Competition #42
Organisation: Wild Thoughts
Location: Australia
Value: Up to 60% of total entry fees received
Close Date: October 31, 2026
Find out more

The 2026 Ernestine Hill Memorial Award
Organisation: Fellowship of Australian Writers NSW Inc.
Location: Australia
Value: AU$1,000
Close Date: October 31, 2026
Find out more

STEM Birds 2027 Australian Coding Competition for ages 5-15
Location: Australia
Value: See details
Close Date: January 15, 2027
Find out more

FLiCKERFEST 2027 FlickerUp Competition
Organisation: Flickerfest
Location: Australia
Value: See details
Close Date: November 23, 2026
Find out more

The Conrad Challenge
Organisation: Space Center Houston
Location: All
Value: Multiple prizes up for grabs
Close Date: October 30, 2026
Find out more

Write the World: Creative Writing on Justice Competition 2026 for writers aged 13-19

Organisation: Write the World
Location: All
Value: $100
Close Date: October 26, 2026
Find out more

Experiences

Work Experience with the Parliament of Victoria
Organisation: Parliament of Victoria
Location: Parliament House, Melbourne
Registrations close: January 29, 2027
Find out more

Volunteering for a Code Club
Organisation: Code Club Australia
Location: Australia
Find out more

London International Youth Science Forum
Organisation: London International Youth Science Forum
Location: Imperial College London
Registrations close: May 31, 2027
Date: July 18, 2027
Find out more

Virtual Work Experience from VR Games Specialists nDreams.
Organisation: U-Explore Ltd
Location: All
Find out more

Theatre & Art Gallery Work Experience at Frankston Arts Centre
Organisation: Frankston Arts Centre
Location: Frankston Arts Centre
Find out more

Weekly Posts

Study Tips

How to use referencing tools to build your reference list
Referencing can feel like the fiddliest part of an assignment. Every source you've used needs to be credited in a set format, and the details matter, from where the year goes to which words are in italics.
That's where referencing tools come in. There are several kinds, and they work in quite different ways, so knowing what each one does makes it easier to choose one that suits you.

What does a referencing tool do?

A referencing tool stores the details of your sources and formats them in the style your school asks for. If you need to change styles, most tools can reformat your whole list at once, which is much quicker than retyping every entry.
The best part is you can start using one as soon as you begin reading for an assignment. If you add each source as you go, most of your list is already built by the time you finish writing.

What does a tool need from you?
A tool can only format the details it's given, so the quality of your list still depends on what you collect. For each source, make a note of:

- Author or organisation
- Title
- Date it was published or last updated
- Publisher or website name
- Web address, plus the date you viewed it if your style asks for one
- Page numbers, if you're quoting or citing a specific part

From those details, a tool builds two things. An **in-text citation** is the short credit in your writing, and the **reference list** is the full list at the end. Some tools call the reference list a **bibliography**. Our article on what counts as plagiarism explains how the two work together.

Which referencing style do you need?
A **style** is the set of rules for how those details are arranged. To find out which one you need, check your assessment instructions, subject outline or school referencing guide, or ask your teacher.
Here's one book written up in four common styles:

- **Harvard:** Sample A (2024) *Sample book title: a subtitle*, Sample Publisher.
- **APA:** Sample, A. (2024). *Sample book title: A subtitle*. Sample Publisher.
- **MLA:** Sample, Alex. *Sample Book Title: A Subtitle*. Sample Publisher, 2024.
- **Footnote (Chicago):** 1. Alex Sample, *Sample Book Title: A Subtitle* (Sample Publisher, 2024), 45.

In-text citations change with the style too. You might see a name and year in brackets, a name and page number, or a small number that points to a footnote. Some styles also come in more than one version, and some schools have their own, so it's important to match the version in your tool to your school's guide. For a plain-language overview of each style, see our article on understanding referencing styles before you get to university.

What are generators?
Generators are online tools where you paste in a web address or search for a title, and the tool fills in the details and formats the reference. You then copy it into your own document. MyBib is a free example that runs in your browser, offers a long list of styles and lets you download your list as a Word or Google Docs file.
Generators are quick, and you don't need to install anything or create an account. MyBib stores your work on your own device by default, with a paid option if you want it saved online and available on other devices. You almost certainly won't need to pay for it, because pasting your finished list into your assignment document works just as well.

What are reference managers?
Reference managers are programs that store your sources in a library you can use again and again. Zotero is a free example. You install it on your computer, and a small browser add-on called the Zotero Connector saves a source's details with one click while you browse. Zotero

then adds citations and your reference list directly into Word, Google Docs or LibreOffice, and it supports thousands of styles.
Because everything lives in one library, you can reuse sources across assignments. The trade-off is a bit more setup. Using Zotero in Google Docs needs the add-on and the Zotero app open on your computer. You don't need a Zotero account to use it, as accounts are only for syncing your library online.

What are the built-in tools in Word and Google Docs?
Both programs have a citation tool built in, so there's nothing extra to install.
In Word, you'll find it on the References tab of the desktop app. You type in each source's details yourself, and Word builds a bibliography from them. It also keeps a master list of the sources you've used, so you can cite them again in other documents. Its list of styles is shorter than a reference manager's, and Word for the web can't insert a bibliography, so you'd need the desktop app for that step.
In Google Docs, the citations sidebar sits under the Tools menu. It can look up websites and online newspapers by web address, and books by ISBN. It offers three styles, MLA, APA and Chicago author-date, which won't suit every school, and you need to add page numbers to your citations yourself.

What tools might you meet at university?
Mendeley, **EndNote** and **Paperpile** are reference managers built for researchers and universities. They work in a similar way to Zotero, and some universities may provide access to them, so you could come across one after school.

How to choose between them
The right choice depends on the job. Remember:

- Generators suit a single assignment or a quick list
- Reference managers suit longer projects & sources you want to reuse
- Built-in tools suit work you're already writing in, as long as your style is on the list

What to check before you sign up
Most of these tools are free, but it pays to check a few things before you create an account or install anything. Ask your teacher or school IT team whether you can use a tool on your school account, especially if it means installing software. Zotero's terms set an age minimum of 13 for its online storage accounts and ask for a parent or guardian's consent for under 18s. Its Google Docs feature also asks for permission to view and change your Google documents, which a school-managed account may not allow.

Checking what a tool gives you
Tools can copy a mistake from the website they pulled from, so check each reference before you hand in. Compare these against the source itself or your school's guide:

- **Details:** author, title, date & web address
- **Missing parts:** nothing is blank, such as a date or an author
- **Style & version:** it matches what your school asks for
- **Capitalisation & italics:** titles follow the pattern in your school's examples
- **Matching:** every in-text citation has an entry in the list, & every entry is cited

If you use an AI tool to find sources, check that each one exists before you cite it. Citing publications that don't exist can count as fabrication, including sources suggested by an AI tool.

It gets easier with practice

Pick one tool and try it on a small task first, such as three sources. Once you've used it a few times, it should feel familiar, and the same tool may stay useful in later years of study.
Note: information is accurate as of October 2026, but tools regularly change their features, styles, costs and terms, so check each tool's own website for the latest details.
If you want more help with assignments and study habits, we have plenty of other articles and resources in our Study Tips hub.

Money, Superannuation

Superannuation Tips for Teens

Retirement probably feels a lifetime away, especially if you haven't even earned your first payslip yet. But understanding how super works now, and making a few smart choices early, could shape what your life looks like decades from now. The money that lands in your super account during your teens and early twenties has more time to grow than any dollar you'll earn later in life. Here's some superannuation basics to get you thinking.

What is super and who pays it?

Superannuation, or 'super', is Australia's system for saving money for retirement. If you live somewhere else, your country may have a similar pension scheme with different rules. Think of super as a savings account you can't touch until much later in life. Your employer pays into it, you can choose to add to it, and your fund invests the money so it grows over time.
The amount your employer must pay is called the super guarantee. Since 1 July 2025, it has been 12% of your earnings. So if you earn $300 in a week, your employer should pay at least $36 into your super on top of your wages.
There's one catch for younger workers. If you're under 18, you only get super for weeks when you work more than 30 hours. Once you turn 18, you get it no matter how many hours you work or how much you earn. That applies whether you're full-time, part-time or casual.

What's new in 2026?

The biggest change this year is Payday Super. From 1 July 2026, employers must pay your super each time they pay your wages, rather than once every three months. That means your money starts being invested sooner. It also makes it much easier to spot if a payment is missing.
A really simple but great habit to build is when you check your payslip, check your super account too. The two should line up. If they don't, ask your employer about it, or contact the ATO if it isn't sorted.

Voluntary contributions: topping up your own super

Your employer's 12% is the minimum. You can also add your own money, and these extra payments are called voluntary contributions. There are two main types.
After-tax contributions come from money you've already been paid, such as a transfer from your bank account. **Pre-tax contributions**, often called salary sacrifice, are where you ask your employer to send part of your pay to super before tax is taken out. These are generally taxed at 15%, which may be less than the tax on your wages.
If you're on a lower income, the government may also chip in. In 2026–27, if you earn $49,293 or less and put in $1,000 of your after-tax money, you could get up to $500 extra. This is called a super co-contribution. You don't need to apply, it's paid automatically after you lodge your tax return, as long as your fund has your tax file number, and you meet all of the eligibility requirements.

How this could help you retire earlier or live better
Money added into your super during your teens and early twenties has 40 or more years to grow. Each year, your fund earns returns on your balance. The next year, it earns returns on those returns too. This is called compound growth, and time is what makes it powerful.
If you added just $20 per week to your super fund between the ages of 19 and 67, it could make a big difference:
A bigger balance gives you more choices later. Having more saved could mean you're able to stop working at 60 rather than working longer. Or you might retire at the usual time with more money to live comfortably, for travel, hobbies, or helping family.
One thing to weigh up before you commit to voluntary contributions, is that your money in super is locked away for decades. So if you're saving for a car, studies, or your first home, those goals may need to come first. Even so, a small top-up now and then will still make a difference.

Simple ways to look after your super
You don't need to be a money expert to take care of your super. A few small habits go a long way.

- **Give your fund your tax file number.** Without it, you may pay extra tax and miss out on government top-ups.
- **Keep one account.** Your super fund now generally follows you from job to job. If you do end up with more than one account, combining them means you only pay one set of fees and gain more in interest.
- **Look at fees and performance.** Small differences in fees add up over 40 years. Moneysmart's guide to choosing a fund walks you through what to compare or you can
- **Check your investment option.** Most funds let you choose how your money is invested, including options that match your values.
- **Watch out for scams.** If someone you don't know calls about your super, hang up. Never feel rushed into switching funds, take your time and do the research.

Start small, start now
You don't need to have everything figured out. Start by finding out which fund your super goes into, then log in and check your balance. From there, think about whether a small top-up fits your budget. Your future self will thank you for every step you take today.
Want to build more money confidence? Explore our managing money articles for tips on budgeting, tax and saving.

Job Spotlights

How to become an Agronomist
Agronomists study soil, crops, and growing conditions to help farmers improve yield, plant health, and land productivity. They combine scientific testing with on-the-ground observation, working with growers across a growing season to solve problems before they affect a harvest. If you're curious about science, enjoy working outdoors, and like turning data into practical advice, this career could be a strong fit.

What skills do I need as an Agronomist?

- Curious & analytical
- Confident communicator
- Practical problem-solver
- Comfortable working outdoors
- Detail-oriented mindset

- Skilled relationship builder
- Adaptable to change
- Strong scientific knowledge

What do Agronomists do?
Before you head out to a property, you're reviewing previous seasons' data, weather forecasts, and soil test results to plan what you'll look at and who you need to see. You might also research the latest advice on pest and disease management for crops in your region, check in on any ongoing trials, or prepare recommendations based on earlier results before heading out for the day.
Walking paddocks is a huge part of the job. You're inspecting crops for signs of nutrient deficiency, pest damage, or disease, taking soil and plant tissue samples for testing, and using the results to advise growers on fertiliser, irrigation, and planting decisions. You'll spend time talking with farmers, explaining what you've found in plain terms and helping them weigh up the cost and benefit of different options for their property.
At certain points in the season, you might run or monitor field trials, comparing different varieties, treatments, or techniques to see what performs best in local conditions. Many Agronomists build expertise in a particular crop type, growing region, or farming system over time, becoming a trusted adviser that growers turn to within that niche.

What kind of lifestyle could I expect?
Agronomists work across the agriculture sector, employed by agribusiness companies, seed and fertiliser suppliers, farm consultancies, grower cooperatives, and government agriculture departments. Some work independently as private consultants, building a client base of growers who rely on their advice season after season. Much of your time is spent out in the field, though you'll also work from an office or vehicle to write reports, analyse results, and plan your next round of visits.
Your hours generally follow standard business patterns, though the growing season shapes when you're busiest. During planting, spraying, or harvest windows, you might work longer days or start early to catch growers before they head to the paddock, while quieter periods allow more flexibility. Many Agronomists build their own schedule around client visits, giving you a reasonable degree of control over your week once you're established in the role.
The work is physically active rather than strenuous. You'll spend plenty of time on your feet, walking paddocks in all kinds of weather, and driving between properties, sometimes covering large distances in rural and regional areas over the course of a week. A driver's licence is generally essential. Salaries in this field tend to be above average, reflecting the technical expertise involved, and the industry outlook is strong as growers increasingly rely on data and specialist advice to lift productivity sustainably.

How to become an Agronomist
- **Study science subjects in school**: Focus on subjects like biology, chemistry, and maths, which build the foundation you'll need for a science-based agriculture degree, and consider agriculture-specific subjects if your school offers them.
- **Complete a relevant degree**: Study a bachelor's degree in agronomy, agricultural science, or a related field. Many degrees include practical placements or research projects that connect you with growers and industry professionals early on, which can be valuable for building your networks.
- **Gain field experience**: Look for vacation work, cadetships, or graduate programs with agribusiness companies, research organisations, or government agriculture

departments. Hands-on experience with soil testing, crop monitoring, and grower communication is highly valued by employers.
- **Build your specialisation**: Once qualified, develop expertise in a particular crop type, growing region, or farming system. This specialist knowledge makes you more valuable to growers and helps you stand out as you build your career and reputation over time.

From here, you could move into senior consulting roles, specialise further in a particular crop or growing system, take on responsibility for leading a team of agronomists, or move into agribusiness roles in research, sales, or product development.

What can I do right now?
If you're in high school and interested in working as an Agronomist, here are some practical steps:

- Study science subjects like biology, chemistry, and earth or environmental science to build a strong foundation for further study.
- Look for work experience or volunteering opportunities with local farms, agribusiness companies, or research stations to see the work firsthand.
- Attend agricultural field days or shows in your area to learn about current farming practices and meet people working in the industry.

Find out more about alternative careers on our Job Spotlights page.

Study Tips

What actually counts as plagiarism beyond copying text directly

Almost every research assignment asks you to use other people's work. You read a source, work out what it says, then use it to answer a question of your own.
How you handle that step affects whether the finished piece is fully your own, and whether the original author gets credit for what they contributed.

What is plagiarism?
Plagiarism is submitting work that isn't your own without acknowledging, citing or referencing the original source. The higher education regulator makes it clear that intent isn't a factor, and that rewording a source doesn't change the result. Whenever you use another person's ideas, they need to be referenced.
Students can face a range of consequences for plagiarism, including having to repeat an assessment or failing it.

What counts as plagiarism beyond copying and pasting?
Plagiarism takes several forms. Examples include:

- **Direct copying:** using a source's exact words without credit
- **Close paraphrasing:** keeping a source's structure and most of its wording, with only a few words changed
- **Idea plagiarism:** using someone's argument, finding or explanation without credit, even when every word is your own
- **Unacknowledged AI content:** handing in text produced by an AI tool as if you wrote it

The question is the same each time. Did the words or ideas come from somewhere else, and was that source acknowledged?

Learning from a source without copying it

The aim is to understand a source well enough to explain it yourself. To show how this works, here's a short passage from a government geoscience page on how hotspot volcanoes form, which allows reuse with credit:
Here's a process you can follow:

- Read the passage until you understand each step, and look up any unfamiliar terms
- Close the source or look away from it
- Explain the idea out loud or in rough notes, in your own words and your own order
- Write the paragraph from those notes, shaped around the question your assignment asks
- Check the paragraph against the source for accuracy
- Add the credit for the source

Closing the source matters because the original wording stays in front of you otherwise, and it shapes the sentences you write.

What does close paraphrasing look like?
Close paraphrasing keeps a source's structure and swaps out individual words. Here's the same passage reworded that way:
Put it next to the original and the pattern shows. The sentences follow the same order and make the same points, and most changes are synonyms, such as "formed" becoming "created" and "previous" becoming "earlier".
Changing words doesn't change whose work it is. Without a reference, this is plagiarism. With one, it's credited, but it shows little of your own understanding, which is usually what an assignment is designed to assess.
A quick check is to compare your paragraph with the source, sentence by sentence. If each of your sentences matches one in the source, rewrite the paragraph from your notes.

Using AI in your work
AI tools can produce an explanation of a topic in seconds. A pasted answer might look like this:
Handed in with no credit, this is plagiarism. Neither the wording nor the explanation is yours, and neither is acknowledged. The regulator states that copying and pasting AI-generated text without acknowledgment meets the traditional definition of plagiarism and is academic misconduct.
The regulator's advice for students is to discuss AI expectations with your institution. It also notes that use which doesn't follow those rules can lead to a finding of academic misconduct. A few points apply in general:

- Look for the rules specific to your institution where possible
- If AI use is allowed, you acknowledge it like any other source
- Some tasks may require no AI at all

AI prompts that keep the work your own
The way you ask matters. These prompts ask the tool to explain, quiz or give feedback, and the writing stays with you. AI tools can produce inaccurate content, so check anything you learn against a reliable source.

Understanding a concept differently

- "Explain [topic] in a different way than my textbook does."
- "Explain [topic] as if I'm in Year 9."
- "What's a simple analogy for [concept]?"

Testing your understanding

- "Quiz me on [topic] without giving me the answers first."
- "Ask me follow-up questions about the explanation I just gave you."

Checking your own writing

- "I've written this paragraph explaining [concept] in my own words. Does it show real understanding, or does it just restate the source?"
- "Point out anywhere this explanation is unclear or doesn't logically follow, without rewriting it for me."

Finding more to think about

- "What's a related idea or counterpoint I should think about for this topic?"
- "What questions might a teacher ask me about this to test whether I understand it?"

In the checking prompts, the paragraph comes from you first and the tool responds to it. If the tool writes first and you edit afterwards, the writing has moved out of your hands, which is the situation in the pasted example above.

Acknowledging your sources

Acknowledging a source shows your reader which parts of your work came from elsewhere and which parts are yours. It also lets them find the original. Things that need acknowledging include:

- Direct quotes
- Paraphrased passages
- Ideas, arguments & explanations from a source
- Facts, data & statistics
- Images, diagrams & charts
- AI-generated content, where its use is allowed

If you're not sure whether something needs a credit, ask your teacher before you submit.

In-text credits and reference lists

An **in-text credit** is a short note next to the quote, idea or fact you've used. Depending on the referencing style, it might be the author and year or a number.

A **reference list** sits at the end of your work and gives the full details of every source you've credited. The two work as a pair. Each in-text credit points to an entry in the list, and each entry should have at least one credit in the text.

A reference usually includes the author or organisation, the title, the date it was published or last updated, and where to find it, such as a publisher or web address. The order and layout depend on the referencing style your school uses, and your teacher can tell you which one that is. Noting these details when you first read a source saves time later.

Note: information is accurate as of October 2026, but schools and institutions regularly change their academic integrity and AI policies, so check directly if you want the specifics.

If you want more ways to approach your assignments and study routine, our Study Tips hub has more guides like this one.

Jobs & Careers

Working with fish and exotic animals as a vet

Not all vets work with the same animals, while it's common for many vets to care for people's pets and tend to livestock; some spend their days treating wildlife, goldfish, snakes, parrots, and even sharks. These vets are called aquatic and exotic animal vets, and their job could look quite

different from a standard veterinary clinic. If you love animals but want something a bit unusual, this could be a career worth looking into.

What does an aquatic or exotic vet actually do?

An aquatic vet works with animals that live in water. This might mean pet fish in someone's home tank, but it can also mean animals in public aquariums, fish farms, or even the ocean itself. They check water quality, treat infections, and sometimes perform surgery on creatures as small as a seahorse or as large as a dolphin.

Exotic vets work with a wider range of unusual pets. Think reptiles, birds, rabbits, and small mammals like hedgehogs. Some exotic vets also work with wildlife (both in their native country and overseas) and zoo inhabitants, treating sick or injured animals before they're released back into the wild or to continue with conservation programs in captivity.

Like any vet, they all need a strong understanding of biology, but these vets could need extra knowledge to do their job properly. A snake's body works nothing like a rabbit's, and a rabbit's body works nothing like a fish's.

How do you become one?

Becoming an aquatic or exotic vet starts the same way as becoming any other vet. You need to complete a veterinary science degree through an accredited course, which usually takes around five years. After that, you have to get your licence, which lets you practise as a qualified vet.

This is where the pathway splits. Once you're licensed, you can start working with general pets, but if you want to specialise in aquatic or exotic animals, you'll usually need extra training. This might involve:

- Working alongside an experienced aquatic or exotic vet to learn on the job
- Completing a postgraduate course or certificate in the area you're interested in
- Doing an internship or residency at a zoo, aquarium, or wildlife centre

This extra step could take a few more years, but it means you'll have all the knowledge and skills you'll need to treat the animals you'll be working with.

The benefits of a specialised role

One of the biggest perks of this career is variety. No two days look the same. One morning you might be checking on a tank of tropical fish, and by the afternoon you're treating a parrot with a broken wing. If you love a challenge, this kind of role could suit you well.

There's also something satisfying about being one of the few people who can do this job. Not many vets choose to specialise in aquatic or exotic animals, so the ones who do could be higly sought after. Zoos, aquariums, and wildlife rescue centres often rely on a small number of specialists, and your skills would be in demand.

For animal lovers who care about conservation, this path also opens doors to important work on projects around the world. Aquatic vets sometimes get involved in protecting endangered fish species or helping coral reefs recover. It's a way of using veterinary skills for something bigger than treating one animal at a time. As an exotic vet you could be working with other endangered species on breeding programs or treating them out in the wild.

The challenges that come with it

Specialising takes time and money. On top of your original veterinary degree, you'll likely need years of extra training, which might mean delaying full-time work and paying for further study.

The animals themselves could also be harder to treat than dogs or cats. Many exotic animals hide signs of illness until they're already very unwell, which is a survival instinct in the wild but makes diagnosis tricky for vets. Fish and reptiles might not spend as much time with owners or careers, so these vets have to rely heavily on careful observation and testing, they don't always have the advantage of input from concerned family members that dogs or cats might get.

Jobs in this field can also be harder to find than general vet roles. There are far more pet cats and dogs in the world than pet snakes or aquarium fish, so the number of specialist positions is smaller. You might need to be flexible about where you live and work, especially early in your career.

Ready to explore a career with animals?
Working as an aquatic or exotic vet isn't the easiest path into veterinary work, but could be one of the most rewarding if you're passionate about the creatures you'd be helping. If you're fascinated by unusual animals and don't mind putting in extra years of study, this profession could be worth exploring further.
If you'd like to explore more careers like this one, check out our Jobs & Careers page for more ideas on turning your interests into a future job.

Health & Wellbeing, Schoolies

Partying safely at Schoolies without spoiling the fun

The exams are over. The uniform is retired. Schoolies is finally here, and it's your chance to celebrate years of hard work with the people who got you through it.
It's all about having fun with your friends and making memories that last a lifetime. But to ensure your Schoolies experience is memorable for all the right reasons, staying safe and making smart decisions is essential. A little preparation now means enjoying your trip without compromising your safety or fun.

Plan ahead for a great time
Prep isn't the exciting part. But a bit of groundwork before you leave can save you a lot of stress once you're there and mean all your time is free for just having fun.

Choose your accommodation carefully
Look for places registered with official Schoolies programs. These venues are usually safer, and many have security and support staff on hand if you need them. Or if you're planning alternative schoolies take time to check out reviews of the accommodation, do Google street views and see what's nearby.

Share your plans
Let your family know where you're staying and how you're getting there. If anything changes, send them a quick update. It's easy, takes 2 minutes and ensures that someone always knows where to find you if they need to (or if you need them).

Pack the essentials
As well as your clothes and other basics, sunscreen, a reusable water bottle, your ID and your phone charger should all make the cut. Add a small first-aid kit and any medications you need, and you're probably mostly sorted.

Heading overseas?
Your checklist gets a little longer. You'll need your passport, any visas, your tickets and travel insurance. Leave copies of important documents with family at home. Sort out how you'll use your phone abroad, and check whether your destination needs any vaccinations.

Do Schoolies your way

Not everyone wants the big party scene – and that's completely fine. If you'd rather celebrate differently, here are a few alternative Schoolies ideas to explore.

Party safely
You can absolutely let your hair down and stay safe at the same time. The two go together better than you might think.

Pace yourself
If you're of legal drinking age and choose to drink, know your limits and stick to them. Alternate alcoholic drinks with water, and always eat something before you head out. And remember, you never have to drink at all, saying no is always an option and means you'll be feeling fantastic to enjoy the next day too.

Stick with your crew
Stay with your friends and look out for each other. Make a pact before you go out, you arrive together and you leave together - nobody gets left behind.

Guard your drink
Never accept a drink from someone you don't know, and never leave yours unattended. Sadly drink spiking does happen. If your drink tastes odd, or you suddenly feel much worse than you should, tell a friend and get help straight away.

Save important numbers
Add your local emergency number, your accommodation contacts, and those of at least one or two trusted friends or family members to your phone. It's also worth writing a couple of numbers on paper and leaving them in your purse, wallet, or pocket since phone batteries can die at the worst possible moments.

Stay safe in your surroundings
Depending on where you're going and the activities you have planned, there might be some other extra things to keep in mind during your trip:

Respect the water
Always swim between the flags and listen to the lifeguards. Avoid swimming at night or after drinking. The ocean is very different to your local pool, and conditions can change quickly.

Plan your ride home
Work out how you'll get home before you go out, not at 2am. Use official taxis, registered rideshare services or a designated sober driver. Never get into a car with a driver who has been drinking.

Post later, not live
Be social media savvy and think twice before sharing your location in real time. Posting where you are right now tells everyone – including strangers – exactly where to find you. Save your photos and share the memories once you've moved on. If you'd like to share live locations with friends and family members, of course that's fine and could be a great idea to help keep you connected and safe.

What to do if things go wrong
The chances are that your trip will go off without a hitch. Still, knowing what to do in a tricky moment means you can act fast instead of freezing if you ever have to.

Trust your gut
If something doesn't feel right, listen to that feeling. Leave the situation, find help, and don't hesitate to call emergency services if you need to. A false alarm is always better than wishing you'd made the call.

Know your support services
Many Schoolies destinations have support tents and volunteers who can help with things like lost belongings, injuries or feeling unsafe. Find out where they are on your first day, like knowing where your nearest exit is on a plane or at the movies, you probably won't need them, but you'll be happy you knew should you need them to help with anything.

Be honest with friends
Feeling unwell, anxious, or overwhelmed? Say so. Your friends can't help with a problem they don't know about, and most people would much rather be told.

Look after yourself along the way
Remembering the basics when you're running on excitement and very little sleep could help you keep up with all your plans

- **Stay hydrated:** Drink plenty of water, especially in the heat.
- **Fuel up:** Don't skip meals. Proper food keeps your energy steady for the whole week so while junk food is quick and easy, aim for one meal a day that your parents would be happy with and keep a few healthier snacks on hand too.
- **Take breaks:** It's okay to have a quiet night in or a slow morning, recharging is also part of the fun.
- **Respect others:** Be kind and courteous to the people around you, including locals and other school leavers.

Most importantly, have fun!
Schoolies is what you make it. Plan ahead, look out for your friends and listen to your instincts, and you'll be free to focus on the good stuff – the laughs, the sunsets and the stories you'll still be telling years from now. You've earned this celebration, so enjoy every bit of it.
Want more ideas for looking after yourself as you head into life after school? Check out our Health & Wellbeing articles for practical tips on everything from managing stress to recharging after a big year
Stay safe and have a blast!

Study Tips

10 tips for starting a term off well

A new term is a good time to pause and set yourself up for the weeks ahead. Whether you're starting the first term of the year or heading into the last one, a few small choices early on could make your whole term feel more manageable. If you live in Australia or New Zealand, this term is also the final stretch of the school year. That might mean final exams, graduation, or getting ready to move up a year.
The first eight tips below work for anyone, at any time of year. The last two are for students facing the big end-of-year push.

1. Look back before you look ahead

Spend ten minutes thinking about last term. What went well? What felt harder than it needed to be?
Maybe you noticed you always left assignments until the night before. Or maybe you found that maths made more sense when you did a few questions every day instead of a big batch on Sunday. Write down one thing you want to keep doing and one thing you want to change. This isn't about being hard on yourself or putting more pressure on you, it's about using what you already know works for you (or doesn't) to make this term easier.

2. Get all your dates in one place
Put everything in one calendar: assessment due dates, exams, sport, part-time work shifts and family events. This could be a paper planner, a whiteboard on your wall, or an app on your phone. Pick whatever you'll actually look at and if possible set reminders for everything too - that way you won't forget important things and they won't sneak up on you last minute. When you can see a busy week coming, you can plan for it. For example, if two assignments are due on the same Friday, you'll know to start one of them a week early. Just a few minutes of preparation in week 1 could save you time and lots of stress throughout the rest of the term.

3. Choose one or two clear goals
It might be tempting to write a long list of everything you want to improve. The problem is that long lists can be hard to stick to and create more headaches in the long run. Pick one or two goals that really matter to you and make them specific. For example saying "Do better in English" is hard to measure and not very motivating. If you set yourself a goal like "Hand in every English draft on time" it's something that prompts you to take action and that you can check off.

4. Set up a space that works for you
You don't need a fancy desk. You need somewhere you can focus, with the things you use most close by, such as pens, your charger, your notes and a water bottle. If home is busy or noisy, your school library or local library can be a great option. You could also have a clear out of last term's loose sheets and old worksheets so your workspace is less cluttered and you can find what you need quickly.

5. Build a simple weekly routine
Routines take the guesswork and procrastination out of your week and could help you achieve more. Instead of deciding every night whether you'll study, you'll already know that Tuesday and Thursday after dinner are set aside for it.
Start small. Even 30 minutes on a few set days is a solid start, and you can build from there. Leave some room for flexibility too, because plans don't always go the way you expect. And remember to work around other commitments like sports, part-time work, or family time.

6. Ask for help early
If something didn't make sense last term, try to sort it out now. New topics often build on old ones, so small gaps can grow over time. Most teachers would much rather answer a question in week two than receive a worried email the night before an exam. You can also ask a classmate, a tutor, or use any homework help your school offers. Knowing when to ask for help is a skill you'll use for the rest of your life.

7. Look after your body and mind
Sleep, food, and movement all affect how well you concentrate and how you cope with stress. A few simple habits could help:

- Try to go to bed at roughly the same time each night, and keep your phone away from your bed if you can.
- Eat regular nutritious meals, especially breakfast on exam and assessment days.
- Move your body in a way you enjoy, whether that's a walk, a game of basketball, or dancing in your room.

If you're feeling stressed, overwhelmed ,or low, talk to someone you trust. That might be a family member, a teacher or your school counsellor, and let them know as soon as you can.

8. Keep time for the things you enjoy

Yes school is important, but so are your friends, family, hobbies, and interests. So make sure your weekly plan includes time for them and remember to factor in some downtime, it gives your brain a chance to rest, and it reminds you that you're more than your marks. Mastering work life balance is also a skill that will serve you well throughout your life.

9. Final term? Make a plan for exams and big assessments

If you've got final exams or major assessments coming up, work backwards from the dates. List each subject and the topics you need to cover, then spread them across the weeks you have left.

Short, regular study sessions tend to work better than cramming everything in at the last minute. Mix up how you study, too. Past papers, practice questions and explaining a topic out loud to someone else all show you what you actually know. Re-reading your notes can feel productive, but it's easy to mistake "this looks familiar" for "I understand this." Ask your teachers which practice materials are available for your subjects, and let them know if you're struggling with anything as quickly as possible.

10. Get ready for what comes next

The end of the year brings change, whatever year you're in. If you're moving up a year, find out what's ahead. Ask about subject choices, new expectations or anything you're unsure of. Knowing what's coming will make the first weeks back much less daunting and mean you can enjoy your school break without worrying.

If you're finishing school, now is a good time to look at your next steps. That might be university, vocational training, an apprenticeship, work, or a gap year. Check any application deadlines that apply to you and pop them into your calendar. It's completely fine if you don't have it all figured out yet, most people change direction more than once.

And don't forget to enjoy the end of the year. Thank the teachers (and careers) who've helped you, celebrate with your friends, and take a moment to reflect on how far you've come.

Make this term work for you

We don't recommend that you try all ten tips at once. You could pick two or three that feel most useful right now and start there. Small, steady changes are much easier to keep up than a complete overhaul, and they add up over the term. And if none none of these tips resonate with you, that's OK too; put aside some time to think about what changes you'd like to make and plan how you could achieve them this term.

Want more ideas to help you study smarter and stay on track? Check out our study tips for practical advice you can use today. And if you're finishing school and weighing up your options, our study pathways section is a great place to explore what's next.

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Web: studyworkgrow.com

Email: schools@studyworkgrow.com
Phone: +61 7 4039 3862

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