

○ Principal    ○ VCE Co-ordinator    ○ Careers Teacher

## Welcome to 2003!

Is it 2003 already? No, I refuse to believe it. I haven't got though all the work I have from last year yet, so I will just ignore the New Year and pretend nothing has happened. . .

Well, that would be lovely, but unfortunately we can't. Another year is upon us and with it comes a new round of organisation and preparation.

Like 2002, in 2003 VTAC staff will endeavour to provide you with further improvements in the information we provide you and the manner in which we provide it. For applicants, we will continue to work to make the process of applying for tertiary courses easier.

When contacting VTAC staff, if you intend to 'ring around', there is no need to leave a message on all telephones. One message will suffice!

## Inside this edition...

### Stay up-to-date

To stay up-to-date this year, make sure that you check out the VTAC CourseLink timetable in the 'Teacher Access' section of the program, which will be confirmed on Monday 24 March, 2003 on CourseLink and also subscribe to the VTAC E-Newsletter via the VTAC website ([www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au)). See the VTAC website at [www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au) to subscribe.



### VTAC CourseLink

The promised 'user guide' will be available on the new CourseLink program in July 2003.

### Briefing Sessions

Also included in this Bulletin, and to assist in facilitating the booking of these sessions, is a provisional schedule for the July Briefing Sessions, both Metropolitan and Regional.

### VTAC Guide 2004

The VTAC Guide 2004 will be priced at \$9.90 (inc. GST). The on-sale date for this publication is July 21 and similar ordering and distribution arrangements will be in place this year. Again, you will have the option of ordering online and obtaining your copies of the VTAC Guide 2004 one week earlier than the on-sale date. All of the options are outlined under 'VTAC Guide 2004'.

February 2003 • Issue 1

ISSN 1445 – 8225

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Tasy Mouzakis is going on Maternity leave (yes it is twins). Neil Barrass will join Information and Publishing Services in her absence.

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## VTAC CourseLink

Following its release in July 2001, VTAC CourseLink has proven to be a useful and effective tool for schools. The following information outlines the CourseLink user log as at Wednesday 5 February 2003:

- CourseLink has been available since Mid July 2001;
- 60639 people have accessed VTAC CourseLink;
- 16922 of these visits have been teachers using the login and password-protected Teacher Access; and
- 503 Schools and LLENs have registered for access including one International school where VCE students are enrolled;
- 42145 students have accessed through the Victorian program ;and
- 1208 students have accessed from interstate to check prerequisites

Responses from teachers have focused on:

- the ease with which they can access data;
- the assistance that many of the CourseLink functions provide for counselling; and
- the wide range of information that can be accessed within the program.

Further modifications will be undertaken this year as a result of feedback from users and VTAC staff. However VTAC wishes to advise schools that all requests must be submitted in writing and that requests received after 28 February will not be considered until next year's review. As well as teacher access, students have also found the program extremely user-friendly, allowing them to access a wide range of information including their personal VCE programs or generic program.

The promised 'user guide' will be available on CourseLink program in July 2003.

## For those new to the VTAC system this year...

For those of you new to your role, here's some basic information about VTAC and the role that it plays in selection:

- The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) is responsible for the administration of a joint selection system for undergraduate courses on behalf of Victorian Universities, TAFE Institutes and other providers.
- VTAC also administers applications for the Graduate Diploma in Education courses.
- VTAC does not select applicants nor does it have any responsibility for the VCE curriculum or assessment (selection is the responsibility of institutional course selection authorities and the VCE is the responsibility of the VCAA).

### As part of its role, VTAC:

- Produces and distributes application materials to all groups of applicants including year 12 students and non-year 12 applicants.
- Receives applications and passes them on to course selection authorities.
- Receives selection decisions from these authorities, on the basis of which offers of tertiary places are sent to applicants.
- Distributes VTAC data to Victorian secondary schools.

### Other activities include:

- Information/briefing sessions for careers teachers, professionals.
- Tertiary information sessions for non-year 12 applicants and parents of VCE students.

## Course changes

### VICTER 2004, 2005

#### RMIT University

Course modification for Medical Laboratory Science/RMIT University – Middle-band

#### Old Statement:

Re-ranking based on results in chemistry, biology, physics and one of mathematical methods or specialist mathematics.

#### New Statement:

**Middle band:** A study score of at least 25 in any of chemistry, biology, physics or specialist maths = an ENTER 2 points higher per study, to a maximum of 6 points. Consideration will also be given to results in mathematical methods.

**VTAC Guide 2004**  
**RRP (inc. GST):**  
**\$9.90**

**Pre-order your**  
**Guides via VTAC**  
**CourseLink from**  
**March 24 2003**

**You receive them a**  
**week earlier than**  
**the on-sale date, &**  
**no application form.**

## VTAC publications available in 2003

All VTAC publications are available at [www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au) in the VTAC Library.

### VTAC Guide 2004

The VTAC Guide 2004 outlines application procedures, institutional and course information for over 3000 undergraduate and some postgraduate education courses offered by Victorian and some interstate universities. In addition, the VTAC Guide outlines the above information for many full-time post-Year 12 courses offered by TAFE providers and some other providers.

Referred to from July 2003 until January/February 2004 when selection concludes, the VTAC Guide is the definitive publication on application and information procedures for tertiary entry in Victoria.

The information contained in this Guide is also available on VTAC's website at [www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au). The VTAC Guide is available for purchase from major Victorian and selected interstate newsagencies. Free reference copies are also supplied to schools and public libraries.

### Back to the Books

Back to the Books is a first step in the process for those who wish to further their education and return to study. This publication aims to clearly describe what is required by addressing issues to consider explaining the education system and tertiary education (in brief), outlining student profiles, providing a suggested action plan with room to study to develop an action plan. Additionally Back to the Books details information sessions (outlined with times and dates), contacts for university or TAFE representatives, contacts for appropriate organisations or counsellors, and providing links with the VTAC Guide. The information contained in Back to the Books is also available on VTAC's website at [www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au), or pick up a hard copy through all institutions.

### VICTER 2006: Victorian Tertiary Entrance Requirements

This information is provided two years in advance of the date that a particular course is available so that students in Year 10 and other students contemplating tertiary studies can plan their VCE studies in light of the requirements of the institutions and courses for which they intend to apply. Available online, and your schools will have reference copies.

VICTER 2006 contains formal statements by the tertiary institutions regarding their 2006 entrance requirements. The book is intended for staff and counsellors who advise applicants and is essential reading for any school Principal, careers teacher VCE Co-ordinator or course and careers counsellor.

VICTER 2006 does not contain TAFE courses, but instead contains information about pathways into study, TAFE institutes, courses available at TAFE institutes and a range of other information that will benefit students.

Again this year, no additional copies of VICTER 2006 will be available for purchase. You can, however, download additional copies from the VTAC Library on the VTAC website or see the supplements in 'The Age' and the 'Herald Sun' on Wednesday 23 July 2003.

### ABC of Applying 2004:

This year the Parents booklet and 'Getting it Right' have been combined into one publication. Schools will be sent enough copies to cover Year 12 students and their parents. This is a companion to the VTAC Guide 2004 outlining the VTAC application process, and filled with hints and contacts for Year 12 Students

It also provides VCE parents with a simple and non-jargonistic approach to the application and selection process. Available through schools and online in May 2003.

### ABC of Scaling 2003: Scaling and the ENTER – A Simplified Explanation

This publication provides a layperson's explanation of the ENTER and scaling. It is distributed to all VCE students (who receive an ENTER statement in December of each year (bundled with their ENTER statement).

### A detailed explanation of the ENTER

As you will now be aware, VTAC produces a simplified explanation of the ENTER called 'The ABC of Scaling'. For the budding mathematicians out there, VTAC also produces a comprehensive explanation of scaling and the ENTER called 'ENTER into Tertiary Courses'. The aim of the book is to provide an overview of how the Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank (ENTER) is determined and to dispel popular urban myths that surround its calculation. This booklet is only available online in the VTAC Library.

### The VTAC Annual Statistics

The VTAC Annual Statistics cover the activities of VTAC for the financial year. It brings together statistical information made available to institutions and other agencies, as well as financial and other reports. The VTAC Annual Statistics are only available from the VTAC website from July. Annual Statistics from 1996/97 onwards are available online in the VTAC Library.

Limited **FREE** copies of the VTAC Guide 2003 and interstate guides are now available for schools in bulk from VTAC.

To obtain your copies, you must fax **9686 6054** stating the number required, your name and your school name.

**YOU MUST COLLECT ALL REQUESTED COPIES FROM VTAC IN SOUTH MELBOURNE.**

## All about the VTAC Guide 2004

### Ordering the VTAC Guide 2004 for your students

Schools often order in copies of the VTAC Guide for their students. There are two ways of obtaining the VTAC Guide 2004: use the website OR call your newsagent – you are not required to do both!

#### Pre-order on the VTAC website (no application forms).

Schools can pre-order copies of the VTAC Guide 2004 for students via VTAC CourseLink from 24 March 2003. If you pre-order your Guides, you will have access to them at your nominated newsagent from 14 July 2003.

#### Order copies from your local newsagent (with application form).

If ordering in bulk, schools are advised to place an order with newsagents one week prior to 21 July. Guides ordered from your newsagent will cost \$9.90 each (inc. GST) and are available from 21 July 2003.

### Delivery and collection ordering of the VTAC Guide 2004 for your students

Student copies ordered on the web will be available from Monday 14 July. Your order will be distributed by Gordon and Gotch to your nominated newsagent for collection by you, and will not be delivered to your school. All bundles of pre-ordered copies will be marked 'STUDENT COPY'. Your nominated newsagent, NOT VTAC, will invoice your school for your order.

**Please note:** The distributor (Gordon and Gotch) will treat all orders as final, and no credit refunds or returns will be available. Orders cannot be cancelled once placed with Gordon and Gotch via the electronic order system on the VTAC CourseLink.

Student copies ordered from your local newsagent will be available from Monday 21 July. Your order will be distributed by Gordon and Gotch to your nominated newsagent for collection by you, and will not be delivered to your school by VTAC's distributor. Your nominated newsagent, NOT VTAC, will invoice your school for your order.

### Using the online form

To place an order for **STUDENT COPIES** of the VTAC Guide 2004 (\$9.90 each, inc. GST) go to VTAC CourseLink, teacher access and follow the link. You **MUST** complete sections A, B and C of the online form.

### When will the online order-form be available?

- GOES UP: 9am 24 March
- COMES DOWN: 5pm 31 March

After 31 March no more orders will be taken online, and you will have to order copies of the VTAC Guide 2004 directly with your local newsagent.

### Checking your online order

A function will be available via VTAC CourseLink to check your Guide order. Remember, before checking to see if VTAC has received your order, make sure that you have submitted your order.

#### Border schools

Border schools will be able to order copies of the VTAC Guide 2004 online also. If you are a school near the border of Victoria, check the schools section of the VTAC website from 24 March 2003 for instructions.

## Obtaining free reference copies of VTAC publications

Each year VTAC delivers to schools a number of free reference copies of its publications, including the VTAC Guide, VICTER and the ABC of Scaling. In order for VTAC to deliver the correct numbers of reference copies for your school library and careers teachers, you must indicate to VTAC the numbers of students enrolled at your school in years 10, 11 and 12. VTAC then checks this number against your enrolments with the VCAA.

### Telling VTAC how many students are enrolled at your school

In order to tell VTAC how many students are enrolled in years 10, 11 and 12, you must use the online form on VTAC CourseLink. Only one form is to be submitted by each school. Check VTAC CourseLink from 24 March 2003 for details.

### Delivery of your reference copies

Delivery date (in schools) will be no later than Monday July 14, 2002. Your free reference copies will be delivered to your school (always prior to 3pm) by VTAC's distributor, and all schools (both country and metro) will have their reference copies by no later than this date. All bundles of reference copies will be clearly marked 'REFERENCE COPIES'.

Each year VTAC delivers to schools a number of free reference copies of its publications, including the VTAC Guide and VICTER.

## Careers Teacher Briefings

VTAC Briefing Sessions provide teachers with the opportunity to meet with VTAC staff and discuss issues and ideas pertaining to the application and selection process. VTAC staff provide details of important changes to the upcoming application and selection process. The sessions also provide a forum for questions from teachers on any aspect of the application and selection process. Initial sessions take place in Metropolitan Melbourne in late July, with regional sessions following the next week (generally the first week of August).

Bookings for the sessions (both Metropolitan and Regional) will be taken via the Internet. Access to the booking sheet will be through VTAC CourseLink in late May, early June. A notice will appear on the main CourseLink Teacher Access login page when bookings are open, so please check CourseLink regularly for notices.

A provisional timetable is outlined below, but please be aware that this may change and you should wait for the definitive dates on CourseLink before making any definite plans.

Date	Time	Location	To be Confirmed in the May 2003 Bulletin
<b>METROPOLITAN</b>			
<b>JULY</b>			
Monday 21 (New Teachers Only)	9.30am–1pm	VTAC Conference Centre	
Tuesday 22	9.30am–11.30am 1pm–3pm	VTAC Conference Centre VTAC Conference Centre	
Wednesday 23	9.30am–11.30am 1pm–3pm	VTAC Conference Centre VTAC Conference Centre	
Thursday 24	9.30am–11.30am 1pm–3pm	VTAC Conference Centre VTAC Conference Centre	
<b>REGIONAL</b>			
<b>JULY</b>			
Tuesday 22	1pm–3pm	Morwell	
Wednesday 23	10am–12noon	* Bairnsdale	* Denotes possibility for a parent seminar evening session
Monday 28	1pm–3pm 1pm–3pm	* Ballarat * Geelong	
Tuesday 29	1pm–3pm 1pm–3pm	* Bendigo * Warrnambool	
Wednesday 30	1pm–3pm 1pm–3pm	* Shepparton * Horsham	
Thursday 31	1pm–3pm 1pm–3pm	* Albury/Wodonga * Mildura	
<b>AUGUST</b>			
Friday 1	12noon–2pm	Swan Hill	

## Parent (VCE) information seminars

### 2002

Working in conjunction with career groups and school clusters, an expanded parent seminar program was conducted across the state in 2002, including a major expansion into regional areas. In all, 3475 parents attended these sessions, compared to 2000+ in 2001. The increase predominantly came from regional areas, and with this in mind VTAC plans to further expand the regional parent information sessions. The following table provides an overview of attendance at these sessions in 2002.

Date	Location	Approximate Attendees
Tuesday 23 July	Maffra	110
Wednesday 24 July	Cranbourne	120
Wednesday 24 July	Keilor	200
Monday 29 July	Geelong	150
Tuesday 30 July	Hamilton	170
Wednesday 31 July	Albury/Wodonga	65
Friday 2 August	Distance Education Centre	80
Monday 5 August	Colac	200
Tuesday 6 August	Mentone	400
Tuesday 6 August	Warragul	35
Thursday 8 August	Shepparton	90
Tuesday 13 August	Ballarat	150
Tuesday 13 August	Geelong (NSL)	35
Wednesday 14 August	Horsham	130
Monday 19 August	Benalla	110
Monday 19 August	Lilydale	150
Thursday 22 August	Mt Waverley	190
Monday 26 August	Carlton	90
Thursday 29 August	Mildura	60
Thursday 29 August	Mt Eliza	70
Tuesday 3 September	RMIT (NSL)	500
Wednesday 4 September	RMIT	170
Wednesday 4 September	Bendigo	200

Approximate Total 3475

### 2003 registrations

As a result of this continued increase in interest in 2002, school clusters are again invited to register their interest in conducting a session in 2003. If regional schools would like to hold an information session in their region we would appreciate your considering the Regional Briefing schedule and organising your suggested times in conjunction with VTAC staff already in the area.

To participate in the Parent (VCE) Information seminars **your school cluster must** complete the attached form listing three preferential dates and return it to Neil Barrass by no later than Friday 28 February 2003. No telephone or Email requests will be considered without completion of the form. As you will appreciate VTAC staff resources are limited, so these sessions are limited and are on a first come, first served basis.

## The VTAC Bulletin and E-Newsletter

The VTAC Bulletin is the medium by which VTAC updates the current VTAC Guide and announces any future changes to courses, their entrance requirements and VTAC procedures. It is also used from time to time to clarify misunderstandings regarding procedures and to announce coming events of interest.

All Victorian secondary schools are automatically mailed a single free copy addressed to the Careers Teacher. Additional copies are available online in the VTAC Online Library.

Schools are advised to keep a reference file of Bulletins since changes are sometimes announced more than a year in advance. By observing the Bulletin number (e.g. "1/01" meaning "Issue 1 of 2001"), schools can detect whether an issue has been missed.

The VTAC E-Newsletter is an electronic version of the VTAC Bulletin, which is sent via email to an email address nominated by you when you subscribe. The E-Newsletter will reach you before your hardcopy Bulletin. Again, the E-Newsletter is free, and may be subscribed to from the link on the VTAC website annually.

## The VTAC website ([www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au))

The VTAC website is secure, user friendly, interactive and informative. It contains an on-line system that offers advice and assistance. The site is updated frequently to include the VTAC Bulletin, Clearly-in data and cancelled courses. In addition to these facilities, the site also contains copies of all of VTAC's publications.

## International students

**For VTAC purposes, what is an international student?**

For VTAC purposes an 'international student' is:

1. one who does not have Australian Citizenship or New Zealand Citizenship and
2. has not been granted Permanent Residence status in Australia at the time they are attempting Year 12 studies in Victoria.

All temporary visa holders are to be registered with VTAC as International students by the time that VTAC specifies (tbc).

**Note:** A \$33.00 per student fee applies for all international students not registered with VTAC by the deadline.

## VCAL

RMIT will accept VCAL senior level as equivalent to the VCE for entrance purposes. Victoria University have indicated that students undertaking VCAL will be considered on an individual basis.

All other universities have indicated that VCAL at senior level will not be accepted for entrance purposes.

TAFE institutes and other providers will, in general, accept VCAL for entrance purposes but some of these institutions will base their decisions on individual assessment.

## Repeat penalty

The repeat penalty for VCE and IB students has been removed for entry into courses in 2004 and beyond. This means that any student repeating a VCE or IB study in 2003 will not incur a repeat penalty of 10%.

Monash University wishes to advise that the Monash Faculty of Business and Economics will continue to reserve the right to apply the repeat penalty for all the courses that it owns.

Finally other institutions may take into account the length of time taken to complete studies. This information is currently outlined in VICTER 2004 and 2005.

## Legitimate one year

VTAC wishes to reiterate its policy pertaining to legitimate one-year students and note that this definition has not changed.

As of 2000 entry, legitimate one-year VCE students who undertake five VCE studies may receive a double increment for their fifth study.

A legitimate one-year student is defined as a student who moves to Victoria to complete Year 12 and who receives credit from the VCAA for Unit 1 and 2 requirements on the basis of **work completed outside of Victoria**.

## Post-round 2 vacancies

A complete list of course vacancies is available online from Monday 10 February at 4pm.

## 2003 International Baccalaureate

Based on the 2002 scaling and aggregation process and the 2002 IB Notional ENTER analysis for Victorian IB students, the Base-Line Aggregate Table for 2003 International Baccalaureate students is as follows:

Passing IB Score	Minimal Scaled Aggregate 2003	2002 equivalent Notional ENTER
45	213.9	99.95
44	210.3	99.85
43	206.7	99.80
42	203.1	99.60
41	199.5	99.40
40	195.9	99.05
39	192.3	98.65
38	188.7	98.15
37	185.1	97.45
36	181.5	96.60
35	177.9	95.65
34	174.4	94.55
33	170.8	93.25
32	167.2	91.90
31	163.6	90.45
30	160.0	88.80
29	156.4	86.95
28	152.8	84.90
27	149.2	82.80
26	145.6	80.50
25	142.0	78.05
24	138.5	75.60

### Notes:

1. This is not the 2003 Notional ENTER table.
2. IB students are guaranteed a minimal scaled aggregate as shown above, but except in the case of a perfect score not a minimal Notional ENTER.
3. The 2002 equivalent ENTER is provided for information only. There is no guarantee of the Notional ENTER that will correspond to the respective aggregates in 2003.

Remember that the actual scaled aggregate 2003 may be higher. Refer to the published methodology.

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