

## **Syllabus Plus Users Information Update – Mar/Apr 2007 Edition 19**

### **Introduction**

Welcome to a (very late) edition of the Syllabus Plus Users update – we apologise! We have been very busy over the last couple of months investigating how the Melbourne model and new student system are going to impact upon our office, and coming up with plans of how best to produce a timetable that incorporates the new undergraduate degrees.

We are still very busy with this (and expect to be for a while) so this edition of the update is a little shorter than others. What we can say however is that we are looking to take this newsletter in some fresh directions in future editions, which is something that I am sure you will be all excited to hear.

### **Current Syllabus Plus Issues**

#### ***Upgrade Process – Where is it at now again?***

For those of you who are new to the program we have been attempting to upgrade our current version of the program for some time. We have run into various problems, mostly relating to hardware and/or operating system upgrades on the server that houses Syllabus Plus. It would now appear that we have found a suitable new home for the program to live. We will therefore hopefully be upgrading to the new version of the program in the coming months. If it all pans out, our office will be in touch to advise you all of the steps you will need to take to update – watch this space!

### **Other News**

#### ***Chris is running away.***

Chris Thornton, the manager of Timetabling and Venue management, will shortly be taking a year's maternity leave. With the introduction of the Melbourne Model in 2008 as well as a lot of work to be done in relation to the new student system, Chris has picked an excellent time to stay at home with a new bub.

Our office wishes Chris all the very best for this special time. If you would like to send Chris any good wishes yourself, you can contact her using the details at the end of this newsletter.

#### ***Job Opportunity***

With Chris leaving, Matt Wright will be Acting Manager of the Timetable and Venue Management office. As such, the position of Timetabling Systems Support is currently vacant. If you have a bit of experience with databases and enjoy working in an area where there are plenty of things going on all the time, you may be interested in applying. You can find out more about the position by going to

<http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/>

and typing in 'Timetabling' under the search function.

Please feel free to give Chris a call if you have any queries about the role – her contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

## **Syllabus Plus Tip – Making Syllabus Plus Run Faster**

Syllabus Plus can sometimes run a bit more slowly than we might like it to. There are a number of reasons why this can occur, some of which you can fix up yourself

1. **Old Computer System:**  
Syllabus Plus is a greedy program. By nature it tends to chew up your computer's resources. If you don't have that many resources on your computer to begin with, the program can run very slowly. If you have an older computer, you may wish to approach your IT people to see if they might be able to find you a newer one to run Syllabus Plus on. Most people notice a significant improvement in the speed of Syllabus Plus on newer computers.
2. **Bad Network Connections:**  
Some buildings and campuses have poorer network connections than other areas of the University. If you think that a bad network connection may be causing you problems when using Syllabus Plus, you should contact your local IT people to discuss whether or not any improvements might be able to be made here or not.
3. **Booking or Location Booking Screen Left Open:**  
Having the 'Booking' or 'Location Booking Screen' open whilst you are using other screens in Syllabus Plus slows down Syllabus Plus. If you are not using either of these screens, shut them down before using other aspects of Syllabus Plus.
4. **Filtered Lists and Browse Mode:**  
Although they are useful, using Filters and Browse mode slows down Syllabus Plus. As above, if you are not using the screen on which information has been filtered, shut it down to improve the performance of Syllabus Plus.

## **Contact Us**

Please feel free to get in touch with us if you have any feedback  
[sa-timetable@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:sa-timetable@unimelb.edu.au) , or give us a call.

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Check out the Syllabus Plus web pages at

<http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/timetabling/syllabus/index.html>