



Audio Visual Systems

CELEBRATING OUR 25th ISSUE!

# NEWSLETTER

9 Percy Street, Heidelberg West, Victoria, 3081 PH (03) 9457 4800 FAX (03) 9457 4801 E service@dibaustalia.com.au

## Overnewton's SPA Centre Officially Opens for Business

Following on from last issue's story on the installation works at Overnewton's Sports and Performing Arts Centre we are proud to announce that the building is now officially open and in use. Whilst the new building revelled in its official opening on Thursday 14th of February, it was the schools' first major assembly, with all 2,200 staff and students that the entire school had been anticipating. Blessed by the archbishop of Melbourne, the Most Reverend Philip Freier, all staff and students from both campuses were joined together in one room at the College for the very first time – creating what was to be a truly historical event in the college's proud history. The centre now fully operable has already changed

the way in which assemblies, chapels, performing arts, physical education and sporting events are held within the College. Featuring a multifunctional assembly and stage area with state-of-the-art acoustically treated, operable walls separating the assembly hall, stage and sports hall. This unique arrangement allows for a great variety of events, including whole campus assemblies, chapel services, PE and Drama classes, information evenings, class photos, private instrumental lessons, plus a whole host more. We wish staff and students at Overnewton well in the year ahead, and hope the centre brings the entire school much joy as it is a great space for both teaching and learning.



**ABOVE:** The school's first major assembly underway with the new rear projection system helping things along

## St Hilda's Chapel – Stylishly Easy to Use



Seating approximately 200 people, St Hilda's Chapel has always been a multi-purpose room fit for many an occasion. Late last year it was decided that in order to better make use of this great space an upgrade was needed. Used for conferences and student functions and often rented to outside parties, the upgrade needed to incorporate a system that was ultimately easy to use so that anyone could operate it, even those without a technical background. Audio visual installations company D.I.B Australia,

were able to achieve this through the use of a Joey Lite wall control panel. The panel, mounted onto the wall for easy access, controls the new Epson projector and 150" motorised screen at the simple touch of a button, doing away with the need for complicated and often easily lost remotes.

In order to maintain the aesthetically pleasing look of the room both the projector and screen were ceiling mounted into existing bulkheads so as to not be visible to much of the room's audience. Rounding out the install was

the inclusion of a lectern incorporating a dual microphone system. This minimises the varying volume intensity for listeners when presenters turn their head across the room when speaking. All in all, Maintenance manager at the college, Chris Tyson has found the upgrade to be a great asset to the room, "Everything is well concealed and the room can be set up in a number of different ways to accommodate the different types of users or conferences".

**ABOVE:** EPSON projector installed in front of existing bulkhead, so as to not be visible to room's audience

**MIDDLE:** New motorised screen operated by an easy to use Joey control panel, eliminating the need for complicated remotes

**LEFT:** "...the room can be set up in a number of different Ways to accommodate the different types of users or conferences" – Chris Tyson, Maintenance Manager

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# Melbourne Grammar School's Alfred Fenton Hall

## Wired For Sound, Controlled to Perfection

Set in 3.3 hectares of leafy grounds, Melbourne Grammar's coeducational primary school Grimwade House provides for some 680 students and a teaching staff of approximately 50. Located in the heart of this junior school campus is the grand performing arts centre known as Alfred Fenton Hall. Built in 2005 to house school assemblies, lectures and concerts it was decided late last year that the hall needed a permanent projector solution. As it was, they were required to setup for assemblies as needed. This meant they had to manually lower screens into position and carry a projector into the room. In addition, the audio system was also in need of improvement, with a number of the auditorium's seats struggling for quality sound. With all this in mind, D.I.B Australia, working closely with Melbourne Grammar's new Media Manager Shane Castricum, set about designing a solution that was to be fast and simple to use, ultimately benefiting the entire school, from staff to students.

The first item addressed was the audio system and with the help of Terry Magee, System Design Consultant at Audio Telex D.I.B were able to design and install a high quality theatre standard speaker and amplifier combination. This was to become the primary audio system, enabling the hall to do away with its existing centre speaker. The chosen speaker series (Turbosound NuQ) was selected due to its professional theatre quality and fully tuneable speakers which were to allow for high quality audio in a stereo format. Also added to the new sound structure, was an advanced audio routing control system known as Digitool. Providing for all audio switching and volume control, this device was to enable users to toggle volume for direct and simple control of Master volume, Fold back volume and even incoming microphone level independently and easily.

As part of the new permanent projector solution, an EPSON EMP-8300 projector was installed, due to its robust design which was to cater for long periods of operation. Ideal in a large hall environment such as that at Alfred Fenton Hall (with its high brightness of 5,200 ANSI Lumens), this projector was chosen in confidence that it could be used as part of the school's desired dual screen operation, which would allow them to have both a smaller presentation screen in front of the stage curtain, as well as a larger backdrop screen behind it. Initially other suppliers were looking at a



two-projector solution, however D.I.B were able to design a unique system using only a single projector. Utilising a special Interfit screen lowering device from Screen Technics, they were able to design a system whereby the front 150" motorised screen would automatically lower into the correct viewing position from high up on the hall's ceiling. In turn, the projector was programmed via the Extron control system to automatically adjust its zoom settings to match this motorised screen when down. Alternatively, when the screen fully retracts and is out of sight the projector zoom adjusts to again fit nicely on the rear wall of the stage, acting as a larger backdrop screen.

Controlling all the aforementioned devices (projector, dual motorised screens, audio functions plus a whole host more) was the Extron Master Control panel. Located on the hall's stage, it was chosen for its ease of use. The Extron does not make use of a colour touch screen, instead it incorporates physical buttons

which are clearly labelled and provide user-friendly feedback via tactile button response followed by illumination to indicate that the control input has been registered and is occurring. Not only is the Extron user-friendly, but it also allows the school wireless access to control via any school laptop due to the control's in built web server. Meaning that any laptop with a web browser and access to the school network can navigate to the built in web engine which has been set up to provide control of all AV system functions.

Complimenting the master control panel was the addition of an Extron presentation switcher and scaler which will give users the ability to switch between an array of inputs to their Epson projector. As well as switching inputs (to which this device does so seamlessly) it also provides for image scaling to match the display device. This means that the school no longer need worry about what resolution the presenter is using on their laptop. For example if they are using

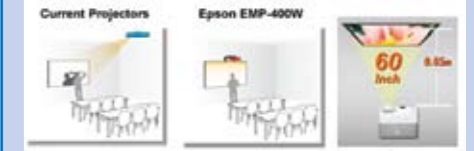
widescreen or a very high resolution laptop this device will automatically adjust to ensure the image fits onto the display screen and is not cut off. A handy addition when involved in hectic presentations, when time is often of the essence.

The upgrade to Melbourne Grammar's Alfred Fenton Hall was unique and incorporates a great number of highly advanced devices however it is still able to maintain simplicity and ease of use for school presenters. Meaning that anyone, from the highly capable IT minded to the less inclined can use the system at ease and with little training required. The school which has grown rapidly over the past 80 years now has an outstanding Performing Arts facility that accommodates large student numbers for functions of any kind. With its great flexibility and ease of use, it isn't hard to see why the newly upgraded hall is fast becoming the centre piece of Grimwade House! For more information on how you can integrate such systems into a large common area please contact a D.I.B Solutions consultant today on (03) 9457 4800.



**TOP LEFT:** MGS' Alfred Fenton Hall  
**TOP RIGHT:** One half of the dual screen operating, the 150" motorised screen  
**ABOVE LEFT:** With the motorised screen retracted, the rear wall of the stage acts as a larger backdrop screen  
**BELOW LEFT:** The Extron control panel incorporating physical buttons which are clearly labelled & illuminate to indicate control input has been registered  
**MIDDLE:** The Interfit screen lowering device that was used to conceal the motorised screen when not in use  
**RIGHT:** Turbosound NuQ series was installed thanks to their professional theatre quality & fully tuneable speakers

## EPSON EMP-400W The World's First Widescreen Short Throw Projector



The recently launched EPSON EMP-400W is set to take the projector market by storm as it is the world's first widescreen ultra-short throw projector. Comprised of an abundance of stand out features, the 400W is ideal for a Interactive Whiteboards and widescreen laptops. Equipped with LAN connectivity, dual PC inputs, AV out and an amazing 10W sound (meaning you can virtually do away with powered speakers), it's not hard to understand why the EMP-400W is being billed as the ideal solution for education.

Adopting a newly developed ultra large calibre, high precision lens, the EMP400W can deliver 60" diagonal 16:10 images from a distance of ONLY 65cm! This means that it virtually eliminates the shadow effect often caused by people or objects lurking in front of screens. Instead it projects clear, sharp images regardless of whether you are using a 4:3, 16:9 or 16:10 aspect ratio, perfect for use with DVDs and laptops (projecting a widescreen WXGA image), projector screens and interactive whiteboards.

Displaying an original widescreen picture, the EMP-400W can automatically detect and resize any aspect ratio. The greater horizontal space also allows presenters to make use of a larger surface to project wide spreadsheets, presentations and interactive whiteboard space.

Accompanied by a 3-year warranty, perfect for widescreen laptops and ideal for Interactive Whiteboards the EPSON EMP400W enables users to make an impact with wide and powerful images. It allows you to see the big picture in a small room, with less shadow and glare making it the way of the future in ultimate classroom projection.





# HINTS 'N TIPS

## Using Microsoft Powerpoint® With Interactive Whiteboards



There are often many challenges associated with the introduction of Interactive Whiteboards into the classroom. When talking to teachers working in schools with IWB, one issue that keeps cropping up is that teachers are hesitant to use the new technology because they haven't had the 'in-service'. Part of this hesitancy lies in the belief that they must use the prescribed (read proprietary) software package. However with the new generation of IWB this need not be the case.

In fact with the recently released 2Touch IWB teachers are encouraged to use their existing software in order to minimise the technological learning curve. Although there are a vast number of excellent classroom software packages on the market, many of which come bundled with the IWB boards themselves making use of what is already at your disposal may actually be the problem solver. Using MS PowerPoint® with your new IWB for example, is a strategy that is greatly encouraged to allow teachers to become comfortable with the new physicality of IWB without the additional headache of dealing with yet another software package.

### **Familiarity of using MS PowerPoint®**

With a large number of teachers likely to have already created an arsenal of PowerPoint® presentations the use of Microsoft PowerPoint® in conjunction with IWB could bring some familiarity to the training process. IWB such as the new 2Touch can breathe new life into old software such as PowerPoint®; making what was once a difficult task (i.e. drawing with a mouse)



a great deal simpler (having the freedom to draw an image on a touch surface is largely easier). Aside from the obvious cost benefits as well (most teachers are likely to have it on their computer), using PowerPoint® means that even teachers with relatively low ICT skills and reservations about using new software can move through the training process at a more comfortable rate.

### **Using IWB in conjunction with MS PowerPoint®**

When using PowerPoint® software in conjunction with an IWB, presentations can become more collaborative and relevant to the audience. Teachers can record class feedback, make notes, add diagrams and save their work directly into the PowerPoint® File. In slideshow mode, the user has the ability to annotate a slide. A simple use of this is, if the teacher wanted to draw student's attention to the dot points listed on a particular slide they could place a tick beside each point as they are covered.

### **Creating dynamic lessons with MS PowerPoint®**

What a lot of people don't realise is that PowerPoint® can be used quite effectively to create dynamic and interactive lessons. A quick Google search on "PowerPoint® lessons" and they will quickly uncover a plethora of resources, ranging from spelling lessons to geography and science tutorials that are all at their immediate disposal. You can add hyperlinks to websites or other documents or other pages inside the same document. Teachers can even set up a resources page within each document that has hyperlinks to relevant websites, or specific web pages. It takes practice, reflection and teamwork for emerging technologies to be accepted; therefore encouraging teachers to begin at the very basics can be a key factor in overcoming any initial hesitancy in the uptake of IWB.

For more information on the new generation 2Touch® Interactive Whiteboard please contact D.I.B Australia.

## 2008 Edition of D.I.B Classroom AV Installations Catalogue

The 2008 edition of the D.I.B Installations Catalogue is now available and jam packed with great installation ideas for your classroom multipurpose room, hall or staffroom.

- Projector Mountings
- Projector Setup
- Screen installations
- IWB installation
- Plus a whole lot more!



Call us today on (03) 9457 4800 or email [jleopoldo@dibaustalia.com.au](mailto:jleopoldo@dibaustalia.com.au) for your copy!