

Giving back to the community

When the multipurpose Wayside Chapel required an equally versatile A/V system, The PA People swiftly applied its expertise, supplying the perfect solution



The Wayside Chapel provides services that help the local community

THE Wayside Chapel in King's Cross, Australia is no ordinary house of worship. Its main focus being to enhance the local community, the HOW offers a number of programmes covering physical and mental health, indigenous issues and youths at risk. In the past year alone it has provided – amongst other services – 8,089 community meals, 7,572 changes of

clothing, 8,475 one-on-one support sessions, 2,453 referrals to services and agencies and 653 activities for young people and visitors with long term mental health issues.

The chapel's efforts have not gone unnoticed; reverend Graham Long, pastor and CEO of Wayside, has just been nominated in the Australian of the Year Awards as a national finalist

in the category of Australia's Local Hero 2014.

The reverend is particularly passionate about the use of the arts to create a sense of connection and belonging. Using theatre techniques and workshops form a central part of the chapel's activities, so having a fully functioning space is important. The PA People was recently contacted to provide a state of the art lighting, sound and projection solution that would enable multiple uses of the space by everyone from volunteers to skilled technicians.

A solution was created in which lighting, sound and video equipment was installed that could service both front and side areas – all controllable by either the press of a screen, or by theatre technicians from fully featured consoles.

'We designed the system to have a "simple" and "presentation" mode,' explains Brett Steele, manager,

installed systems at The PA People.

'In simple mode, a volunteer can press a button on a touch screen, the system turns on, and they can use a radio microphone or play a DVD. Presentation mode puts the system into a professional state controlled from the lighting and audio desks.'

Two Sony VPL-FH36 projectors focus to two screens, connected through a Kramer VP731 vision switcher, from a variety of inputs including a DVD player. JBL CBT70 column speakers powered by Crown XLS amps provide audio, run from either a Yamaha IMX644 matrix mixer or a Soundcraft Expression1 digital mixing desk connected to a Soundcraft MSB stagebox. A simple LED lighting rig can be run from a Jands Stage CL Lighting console or the touch-screen. The core of the user interface is an AMX NI700 integrated controller.

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