

“The previous Docks Hotel was all hard finished and surfaces, so they really wanted to change the whole feel of the hotel.”

Troy Simpson from (the brilliantly-named) Beers-R-Us was given the task of creating a sophisticated and challenging personalised system for the hotel. In some places the beer travels close to 100 meters from its point of origin in the temperature controlled cool room.

The hotel's restaurant has also evolved, with the space broken into tables and booth areas, as well as spilling out on to the outdoor deck of the venue, giving the patrons the option of alfresco dining.

“The client was lucky in that he already had an extensive outdoor area and didn't have to do too much to comply with the new smoking regulations.” commented Antoinette. “We've been inundated with venue owners wanting outdoor areas designed and completed by July 1st.”

### Switching Personalities

While the existing Electrovoice audio system was retained, a great deal was invested in new lighting which plays an integral part in the refurbishment of Docks, helping the venue to switch personalities at night.

The lighting system was designed by Mish Bosnjak of Nitezone, and includes LED lighting capable of 16,500,000 colours and variations (but, hey, who's counting) spread throughout the entire venue and its fittings.

Eight Martin MX-10 Extreme scanners (mounted sideways upon the internal beams to keep them discreet), transform the main bar at night with colour and gobo projection. Over 50 Pulsar MR16 LED colour-changing downlights are used throughout the venue while over 100m of both red and blue LED Listel Light is used in coves along the kick board of bars and highlighting bottle and glass displays behind bars. The ceiling cove lighting in the pokies room also features LED Listel Light while the ceiling is decorated by fibre optics creating a star ceiling controlled by a Martin QFX Fibre Source.

All of the DMX lighting products, including the moving lights, Pulsar LEDs and LED cans are controlled and scheduled from a Martin Light Jockey 2 – the fixtures automatically fire up and strike at about 7pm, depending on the night of the week. The show also grows in intensity over the course of the night as the venue begins to pick up; from ambient decorative effects on Monday night at 8pm to dynamic looks as the venue turn into more of a nightclub after midnight on Friday and Saturday nights.

A stage area allows the venue to host entertainment ranging from DJs to live music performances; from fashion parades to stylised private functions. Lit by four Pro Sop LED PAR 56 cans, the stage features a DJ box with all the latest toys.

A Nightlife Video Jukebox system controls the in-house music and visuals with advertising messages split to run throughout the venue. A rotation of 2500 clip choices is refreshed every month, ensuring the hottest and latest tracks are on hand. A total of twelve 42-inch plasma screens run the length of the main bar and directly opposite the cocktail bar, and these can be individually set to play DVD, Foxtel or free-to-air channels. A large multidirectional 56-inch plasma rounds out the tech wizardry in the southern end of the venue to ensure that a quality pictures can be viewed by all. <<

