

# Oxford Hotel

"Why should people in the country get a B-grade product?" was the question. "Dunno," is the answer. But the thirsty burghers of Bathurst needn't concern themselves, as they have the new Oxford Hotel.

When Sydney hotelier Ash Lyons opted for a free-change and moved his family to country New South Wales, he decided to bring a little bit of Sydney with him by recreating a trendy city hotel in the heart of Bathurst.

"I wanted to give the people of Bathurst the same experience people get in the best venues in Sydney," he explained. "Why should people in the country get a B-grade product?"

Ash purchased the 150-year-old Oxford Hotel in the heart of Bathurst and set about turning it into a fashionable venue with the aid of architect and interior design firm Hosking Munro. The design team consisted of Michael Munro, Natasha Marshall and Mukund Viswanath.

The intention was to celebrate the fabric of the original corner pub — retaining as much of the original features and detail as possible — while creating a series of multi-functional interior and exterior entertainment spaces, catering to the different needs and markets of Bathurst.

"The client hoped to bring a little bit of Sydney/Melbourne design to Bathurst and requested a classic timeless approach," said Natasha Marshall. "We specified a palette of natural materials and neutral colours. Warmer tones were also introduced, inspired by the cooler climate of Bathurst and the desire to create warm inviting interiors."

## Original Pub & New Public Lounge

The original pub and new public lounge on the ground floor is spacious and utilises those neutral colours Natasha mentioned. Wherever possible the original finishes were conserved, while the furniture was designed to have a sturdy feel with barstools and dry bars never from solid blackbutt. The double-sided trellace occupies the position of the original trellace, serving to connect the old space with the new. Timber screens to the gaming lounge are glazed with narrow-reefed glass, reminiscent of pubs of yore.

Pendant lights (Romeo Soft by Euraluce) in the old pub are classic and low impact, while large red drum lights (Pony by ECC Lighting) were selected for the new public lounge area, so as to be seen from the street. Large windows open out onto the main drag. Apparently Bathurst locals love their cars as much as they love their beer, and enjoy nothing more than to park them outside the pub and gaze lovingly into their headlights while sipping on a brew. The large windows also serve as an "open house" advertisement, removing any mystery or elitism. "The greatest form of promotion and marketing is the business itself. You invest your money in the way the venue looks not on billboards and such," explained Ash. "The building then sells itself; it looks appealing from the street and pulls a lot of ladies in. Then the boys tend to follow."

"I also make sure that all of the 11 NEC plasmas throughout the hotel face the street, which also helps sell the venue. We have a massive plasma screen on the wall of the beer garden, which really pulls people in. It's not just all about selling the venue to the people inside but also to those outside." The beer garden features a raised deck designed to help break up the large outdoor area and create a different zone for dining. The deck is dotted with white Kortan & Rauber Bongo stools. Planters were incorporated to soften the area and to provide shade trees down the track. Plans are underway for giant sails and heaters to be installed.



## Product Focus

### Moon Chair

Moon chair is Italian made. Constructed from an internal steel frame with polypropylene seat back and legs. It's stackable and available in eight colours. Price: \$149. Café Culture: (02) 9787 1222 or [www.cafeculture.com.au](http://www.cafeculture.com.au)



### Nelson Bubble Lamp: Criss Cross

Designed by George Nelson in 1952 and manufactured by Modemica, the Bubble Lamp is made from a self-webbing vinyl skin over an aluminium frame. All Bubble Lamps are rated for up to a 150W incandescent bulb. A medium-sized Bubble (LM116) measures 276mm (H) x 610mm (Diameter). Price: \$386. Spence & Lyds: (02) 9212 8247 or [www.spenceandlyds.com.au](http://www.spenceandlyds.com.au)



• **VIP Lounge:** An outstanding feature of the nightclub is the caged VIP zone, a snug area separated by a curved stainless steel rod screen wall, designed to create a barrier without obstructing views. Inside there's curved red banquette seating, which, together with an uplit curved rear wall in dark pink, creates a sumptuous feel. Gold velvet ottomans circle stainless steel drum coffee tables, while Nelson Bubble lamps suspended over the rear tables define the seating areas.

## LaserPro X5 Laser system

Many of us when we think of lasers think of "cheese"... but lasers have come a long way in recent years — they're brighter, not so delicate and now ultra precise. LaserPro's X5 range is a great example of how lasers have progressed. It's a superior range of modular high-end professional solid-state lasers that are affordable to purchase and inexpensive to run. The entire X5 range is user friendly, long lasting, easy to maintain, and safe. The X5 150W Pricing (ex GST): Green: \$3000. Red: \$12,200. Blue: \$16,500. LaserPro: (02) 8399 0127 or [www.laserpointinternational.com](http://www.laserpointinternational.com)



## Club Medusa

While many venues are turning their backs on full-blown nightclubs, Ash believed Bathurst needed such a venue and it's proved to be very popular. Club Medusa has been designed over a series of levels to break up the space and to allow sightlines to the dancefloor. Different floor finishes were employed to further break up the space.

Lighting and audio were designed and installed by DMC of Sydney with a fan of five trusses forming a focal point over the dancefloor. Supplied by Design Quintessence, the trussing is highlighted by Pro Shop colour-changing LED pinspots while housing 12 Spots and 20 Move moving heads.

Completing the unapologetically full-on disco look is a laser light show courtesy of LaserPro International, which installed one X5 150W and two P2 150W laser systems to the dancefloor area. Further, to the owner's specification, an extra element was added to the installation; LaserPro found this the perfect opportunity to implement their recent 4D animation technology. For this they took the venue's "Club Medusa" logo and generated a 3D animation, which is projected on the outside wall of the venue during club opening hours. Some 60 Pulsar Chromaheart MR16 LED fixtures illuminate the back bar in a variety of colours. The club is subject to some fairly stringent noise restrictions and the audio system needed reining in, despite the use of heavy acoustic curtains and thick glass. Twelve Patriot RCF-loaded 12-inch speakers and four double 18-inch subs have been installed, driven by QSC PLX series amplifiers with a dbx 260 Drive Rack taking care of the system fine-tuning. <<<

- The Oxford Hotel: cnr William & Piper Streets, Bathurst (02) 6331 5500
- Hosking Munro: (02) 9560 1055 or [www.hoskingmunro.com.au](http://www.hoskingmunro.com.au)
- DMC Lighting & Sound: (02) 9319 7177 or [www.dmcjci.com](http://www.dmcjci.com)
- Dymallyte: 1300 854 178 or [www.dymallyte-online.com/arch1](http://www.dymallyte-online.com/arch1)
- Nightlife Music Video: 1800 679 748 or [info@nightlife.com.au](mailto:info@nightlife.com.au)