

Future Looking Bright for Coober Pedy Drive-In!

Lights, Camera, Action! The first screening on the new projector will take place at sunset on Saturday 21st February!

The new, top-of-the-line Barco Alchemy DP2K-32B projector is now installed and fully operational.

Mr Christopher Sturgeon, from Edge Digital Technology (Edge), installed the new projector in November. Edge is the technical division of Event and Greater Union Cinemas.

Originally from Leeds, England, Christopher started his motion picture career with the BBC and immigrated to Australia in the 1980s.

"At the time, things were pretty tough in England job wise and I had family in Australia," explained Mr Sturgeon.

After spending time working in Sydney and then Melbourne, Christopher moved to Adelaide in 2011 and has been employed by Edge ever since.

"We maintain around 400 screens and associated technology throughout Australia," he said.

When asked how the Coober Pedy Drive-In audio and visual experience now compares to other drive-ins and outdoor cinemas Mr Sturgeon said: "It's certainly one of the best looking outdoor cinemas I've seen! The reason being is that what you have purchased is the biggest, brightest and best digital projector on the market today. It is actually the brightest digital cinema projector commercially available on the planet! The resolution is 2,048 by 1,080 pixels so the image is also very sharp."

Mr Sturgeon has been amazed with the community support and spirit behind the project.

"Things that would normally take weeks to get done in the city took just hours here due to support of the community, especially the Council. Coober Pedy has such a great skillet, some very ingenious people, and a real can do attitude."

With regards to improvements in sound compared to the old projector, the quality is simply incomparable. There is no more buzz through your car stereo speakers; the sound output is loud and clear. However if you want to re-experience the dull tones and muffled voices of yesteryear then the old speakers on posts are still operational!

"We couldn't do much about the old post speakers," explained Mr Sturgeon. "It doesn't matter how good the input is, the quality of the device receiving the signal is equally as important. Putting full digital sound through ancient, weather damaged, analogue speakers won't improve the sound."

Movie media will now be transported and loaded onto the inbuilt servervia External Hard Disk Drives (HDD).

So what's stopping someone from pirating the HDD and watching it at home or uploading it to the internet?

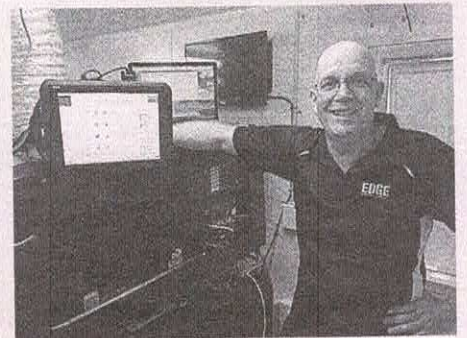
The files are quantum encrypted and can only be accessed via a specific Key Delivery Message (KDM). The KDM for each movie is delivered in a unique KDM via email. The KDM must match the projector, the movie and the scheduled play time.

The new projector can also play free-to-air TV (subject to authorisation) as well as any other audio-visual file on the condition that the file is Digitally Controlled Impedance (DCI) compliant material. Files can be converted to DCI via freeware downloaded from the internet.

Page 10



Committee members and volunteers at the Driveln when the new digital equipment arrived



Mr Christopher Sturgeon, from Edge Digital Technology (Edge), installed the new projector in November.



Driveln committee members and potential operators receive some on the spot training from Christopher Sturgeon

Mr Stephen Staines has been Chairperson for the drive-in for around 5 years and a committee member for 15 years. He was present during a recent training session where 18 volunteers nominated themselves to be trained. The community continues to throw its support behind the project.

"I was surprisingly affected to see the first images projected onto the screen," explained Mr Staines.

"The installation of a new projector has been a dream of many for over 10 years. To see the projector operating for the first time made it all real. Our community, with the financial support of the State Government, has put a lot of time and money into making this happen and a lot of people have put an incredible amount of volunteer hours into this project. For me, and all the other volunteers I'm sure, it was the apex of all that hard work," explained

Mr Staines. "We could never have achieved it without the support of the entire Coober Pedy community though and we should all be very proud of this achievement."

Stages 2 (kitchen renovations) and Stage 3 (historical display) of the project are still in their infancy but with Stage 1 now complete the committee is expecting swift progress on stages 2 and 3 in the months ahead.

"We will continue to do our best to have regular movie screenings," Mr Staines explained. "No doubt we'll have a few teething issues but, on behalf of our volunteer projectionists and committee, have some patience as we do our best to deliver a first-class movie experience to our community!" Mr Staines concluded.