VAPAC Technical Managers Network Tradeshow & Conference

Sunday 15th - Tuesday 17th June 2025
9:00am – 5:00pm
Meat Market
3 Blackwood St, North, Naarm (Melbourne)

VAPAC Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres

About the Event

The TMN Tradeshow & Conference is a cornerstone event for technical professionals working in performing arts venues across the VAPAC network. Over three days, delegates will have the opportunity to explore innovative technologies, engage with leading suppliers, and participate in a targeted professional development program.

The event features a dedicated tradeshow showcasing cutting-edge products and services relevant to venue operations, as well as a conference program designed to foster skills development, critical discussion, and sector-wide collaboration. With guest speakers, sponsor presentations, and networking opportunities woven throughout, the TMN Tradeshow & Conference is tailored to the evolving needs of technical managers in the performing arts.

Open exclusively to VAPAC Technical Managers, their teams, and invited industry members, this event offers practical insights and lasting connections that contribute to the growth and resilience of our sector.

VAPAC

Victorian Association of Performing Arts Centres
www.vapac.org.au

Registered # A0005511W
ABN: 82 578 774 451

VAPAC acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live and work and upon which our member venues are situated across Victoria. We pay our respects to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Elders past and present. Always was, always will be.

STUDIO ENTERTECH

TONY GRYBOWSKI and Associates

Our Sponsors

Platinum Sponsorship

JANDS

FACTORY SOUND

Gold Sponsorship

NAS

Silver Sponsorship

DIGILIN

ASL SYSTEMS

madisonAV
Specialised AV Solutions

Trade Show Exhibitors

Cmi Music & Audio

EVENTEC

SHOWTOOLS INTERNATIONAL

LSC CONTROL SYSTEMS

The P.A. People

lightmoves illuminating ideas

resolutionX

RIEDEL

AIRSHO

TSA

SHOW TECHNOLOGY

ULA GROUP

INNOVATIVE music AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIS MUSIC GROUP

ALLEN&HEATH

light&sound solutions
www.lightandsound.com.au

Major Sponsor Presentation Bios

Connar Wooles
Technical Support Specialist
JANDS

Connar Wooles is a Technical Support Specialist at Jands, where he provides pre-sales and post-sales technical support, along with system design for wireless solutions. He specialises in brands such as Shure, AlphaTheta/Pioneer DJ and Clear-Com.

In addition to his role at Jands, Connar serves as an Umpire Communications Technician for professional sports. He is responsible for setting up and maintaining communication systems between on-field umpires and off-field officials during matches

Jeff MacKenzie
Industry Veteran
Factory Sound

An industry veteran of over 30 years, Jeff's audio and communications experience spans a wide range of technical roles in contracting, concert productions, live broadcast, and global events. Including a lengthy stint as technical lead for a major distributor of professional Audio-Visual products where he managed product life cycle and provided training and support for several leading brands.

More recently he has been running his own company providing specialised Audio-Visual system design, programming, commissioning, support and training services to consultants, integrators, and end users.
Jeff specializes in network-based DSP and control systems for a diverse range of applications such as schools, arts centres, conference rooms, corporate meetings, training facilities, and mass-transport terminals.

Major Sponsor Presentation Bios

Dave Jacques
Technical Engineering Manager
NAS

Soundscape will be presented by Dave Jacques, supported by the local NAS Technical Team. Dave has been with NAS for over 15 years, and is an international live sound engineer, and systems engineer, who is also a Grammy Award Winner!

Dave has been involved in the design and implementation of the majority of installed d&b audiotechnik loudspeaker systems in Australia, and runs our d&b certified training program.

Rod Mckinnon
Production Communications Specialist
ASL Systems

With over three decades of experience in all aspects of theatrical and live performance industries, Rod McKinnon is a trusted expert in advising on IP based production communications systems and the relevant infrastructure required to support it.

His approach prioritises on defining the specific need, and futureproofing, ensuring that theatre venues and live performance spaces integrate adaptable, scalable systems that meet evolving industry demands.

With a strong understanding of both the technical and financial needs, Rod specialises in holistic technical design, considering not just immediate functionality but long-term viability. His strategies help organisations invest in infrastructure that remains relevant, efficient, and adaptable to emerging innovations. His ability to anticipate industry shifts ensures technical managers are equipped with solutions that sustain high performance over time and makes him a valuable ally for those seeking resilient and high-impact technical solutions.

Passionate about innovation and sustainability in live entertainment, Rod continues to lead the way in building infrastructure that stands the test of time, with GREEN-GO Digital Intercom and CUE Light systems at the heart of reliable and efficient technical operations.

Major Sponsor Presentation Bios

Tremaine Wrigley
Managing Director
Digilin Technologies

Tremaine Wrigley is the Managing Director of Digilin Technologies and brings over 30 years of experience in the lighting industry. His deep technical knowledge spans the full spectrum of lighting applications, from leading R&D initiatives to developing custom solutions for complex architectural projects.

Tremaine is an expert in lighting technologies, including specialist technologies such as DMX and fibre optic systems. His ability to bridge design ambition with technical practicality has earned him a reputation for delivering innovative, reliable outcomes even in the most demanding lighting applications.

Under his leadership, Digilin has become a trusted manufacturer of high-performance lighting and control systems, with a strong presence in theatres, public spaces, and custom-built installations. Tremaine's passion for lighting technology and commitment to design excellence continue to drive Digilin's mission to develop advanced lighting products and custom solutions for Australia's most performance-critical applications.

Rob Mayer
Product Line Manager
MadisonAV

Rob Mayer is a Product Line Manager at MadisonAV with over two decades of experience in the professional AV industry. Rob is responsible for a large portfolio of brands that covers everything from Philips display screens and Nureva conferencing bars, through to AUDIOropa and Bettear Assistive Listening solutions.

His comprehensive experience within the broader AV industry has positioned him as a trusted advisor with a pragmatic approach to helping clients design for clarity, reliability, and future-readiness.

Major Sponsor Presentation Bios

Rodney Houston
Director of Audio Solutions, APAC,
HARMAN Professional Solutions
MadisonAV

Rodney Houston is the Director of Audio Solutions, APAC, HARMAN Professional Solutions, overseeing the success of globally renowned HARMAN brands including JBL Professional, Crown Audio, BSS, Soundcraft, and AMX in key markets across the Asia-Pacific region.

Known for blending technical expertise with commercial insight, Rodney is a strong advocate for innovation and industry collaboration. His presentations offer real-world context, practical strategies, and global best practices drawn from HARMAN's work on world-class installations and touring events across theatres, stadiums, and public spaces.

Guest Speaker

Dr Ash King
Wellbeing Content & Programs Lead / Psychologist
Support Act

Dr Ash King is a registered psychologist and the mental health programs and content lead at Support Act. After a career-ending vocal injury shifted her from music to mental health, Ash now helps creatives and curious minds reconnect to meaning, manage their inner world, and tap into their creative potential. She's worked across industries — from music to screen to radio — and believes insight and growth don't have to be boring (or beige).

Day 1

Sunday 15th June

Technical Managers Network

"To share information, discuss current topics and formulate recommendations for the betterment of the theatre industry in Victoria and Tasmania"

15:00	Welcome To Country
15:10	Housekeeping TMN Committee
15:15	VAPAC Update Kate Kelly (Industry Development Manager)
15:30	Whats happening at your place? Brett Tippet (Chair, TMN Committee) A chance for everyone to share what's going on in their venues - recent highlights, challenges, wins and anything in between. This round the room session helps us stay connected and learn from each other
16:40 - 17:40	Wireless Multi-Channel Audio Systems (Platinum Sponsor) Presented by Connar Wooles (Technical Support Specialist, JANDS) Wireless Multi-Channel Audio Systems (WMAS) is revolutionising professional audio by enabling multiple audio channels to share a single wideband frequency. Inspired by technologies such as Wi-Fi, WMAS employs advanced techniques to efficiently utilise available spectrum. This approach allows for more audio channels to be transmitted than traditional narrowband systems within the same bandwidth. This innovation addresses the increasing demand for wireless audio solutions in large-scale events, theatres, and broadcast environments. With evolving regulatory frameworks and growing industry adoption, WMAS is set to play a pivotal role in the future of wireless audio, offering enhanced reliability, scalability, and spectrum efficiency.
18:00 - 21:00	Sunday Night Dinner - Sponsored by Jands The Castle Hotel (56 Courtney St, North Melbourne VIC 3051)

Day 2

Monday 16th June

Technical Managers Network

"To share information, discuss current topics and formulate recommendations for the betterment of the theatre industry in Victoria and Tasmania"

09:00 Welcome Back & Housekeeping

09:05 VAPAC Executive Welcome
Melenie Stevenson (Executive Director, VAPAC)

09:15 VAPAC Committee Updates

Hear the latest updates from VAPAC's working groups, including key developments and sector wide initiatives in Training, OHS and wellbeing.

- Training: Strafford Floate, Arts Centre Melbourne (TMN Training Coordinator)
- OH&S: Stuart Sinclair, Cardina Cultural Centre (TMN OH&S Coordinator)
- Wellbeing: Tamara Boag, Bunjil Place (TMN Wellbeing Representative)

09:45 Enterprise Bargaining Agreements
Presented by Shane Podolski (Team Leader HTH Operations, Horsham Rural City Council) & Kate Kelly (Industry Development Manager, VAPAC)

An Enterprise Bargaining Agreement or EBA is a document used to define the pay and conditions of employees. In this session we will present the findings of a benchmarking research project of Victorian venues, highlighting key areas that have a significant influence on the health and wellbeing of our staff. We'll discuss how this is impacting the Network and what to keep in mind if you are part of the next EBA negotiation at your venue.

11:00 Morning Tea

11:15 Emergency Tabletop Scenarios
Presented by Stuart Sinclair, Senior Venue Technical & Operations Officer, Cardinia Cultural Centre

Together we'll walk through real world emergency scenarios, exploring how our teams respond, decision making under pressure and lessons learned to strengthen preparedness across all venues.

12:00 Creative Workplaces Update: Patrick McCarthy (Creative Australia)

12:30 Lunch & Tradeshow Begins

Day 2

Monday 16th June

Technical Managers Network

"To share information, discuss current topics and formulate recommendations for the betterment of the theatre industry in Victoria and Tasmania"

13:15 - 14:15 D&B Soundscape (Gold Sponsor)
Presented by Dave Jacques (Technical Engineering Manager, NAS)

Immersive Audio is being seriously considered by most new Performing Arts venues, and considered for venue upgrades in Australia and around the world.

NAS are extremely excited to be able to present d&b soundscape to the VAPAC technical managers. During this session, we will cover why sound localisation matters, the system design concepts, how it integrates with other technologies, and listening demos.

What is Soundscape? d&b Soundscape is sound as you feel it, sound as you see it, sound as it is meant to be heard.

Soundscape combines d&b loudspeaker systems with state-of-the-art processing power, object-based mixing and sophisticated room emulation. d&b Soundscape is a toolkit to enable the creation of an unparalleled listening experience - natural, harmonious, enveloping, and emotionally engaging.

14:15 Tradeshow Walk Through

14:45 - 15:15 Next-generation Audio Technology and Accessibility in Large Venues (Silver Sponsor)
Presented by Rodney Houston (Director of Audio Solutions, APAC, HARMAN Professional Solutions) & Rob Mayer (Product Line Manager, MadisonAV)

Join MadisonAV at the VAPAC TMN Tradeshow for a forward-focused session exploring next-generation audio technology and accessibility in large venues. As Australia's exclusive distributor of global AV leaders such as JBL Professional, Crown Audio, BSS, and AMX, MadisonAV brings deep expertise in delivering high-performance solutions for theatres, stadiums, and public venues.

In this 30-minute session, we'll unpack global best practices in large venue audio system design, including strategies for achieving consistent coverage, superior intelligibility, and simplified control—even in complex acoustic environments. Case studies from major international venues will demonstrate how innovative approaches can elevate both audience experience and operational efficiency.

We'll also introduce Auracast, the Bluetooth-based assistive listening technology poised to reshape accessibility standards.

Attendees will gain insight into how this breakthrough supports inclusivity, upcoming regulatory considerations, and practical implementation paths for performing arts venues. Don't miss this opportunity to gain early insights and speak directly with our technical specialists about future-ready AV strategies.

15:15 Afternoon Tea & Tradeshow Walk Through

15:45 - 16:15 **Multichannel Production Communications with Scalable, Digital Intercom & Integrated CUE Light Systems (Silver Sponsor) Presented by Rod McKinnon (Production Communications Specialist, ASL Systems)**

Effective communication is the foundation of any successful theatrical production or live event. As the complexity of shows continues to grow, so too does the need for advanced coordination across technical teams. Traditional analogue party line and standalone cuelight systems have served their purpose, but today's productions require scalable, multichannel solutions that empower teams to operate seamlessly without interference.

Green-GO Digital Intercom systems deliver this next-level communication by integrating CUE light control directly within the same infrastructure as the intercom. This streamlined approach enhances stage management efficiency and ensures simultaneous signaling at the most crucial moments. With a scalable and digital system, production teams can optimize collaboration, maintain precision, and elevate the overall execution of live performances.

Because Green-GO utilises a category cable infrastructure, implementation is both efficient and cost-effective. Venues can leverage existing wiring, reducing installation time and eliminating the need for extensive modifications. This ensures a smooth transition to advanced intercom and CUE light technology without logistical hurdles.

Day 2

Monday 16th June

Technical Managers Network

"To share information, discuss current topics and formulate recommendations for the betterment of the theatre industry in Victoria and Tasmania"

16:30 - 17:00

Illuminating Theatres: Architectural Lighting in Performance Spaces (Silver Sponsor)

Presented by Tremaine Wrigley (Managing Director, DIGILIN)

Across Australia and internationally, many performing arts centres are settling for poor lighting outcomes either via the poor application of sub-par architectural lighting, or the adaptation of unsuitable entertainment lighting for architectural applications. The result? Compromised performance, wasted resources, and negative impacts on technicians, performers, and audiences.

In this session, Digilin's Managing Director, Tremaine Wrigley, draws on decades of experience designing and delivering advanced lighting and control solutions for complex architectural applications including many of Australia's performing arts centres. The presentation focuses on the practical realities of architectural lighting in theatres through real world case studies and technical examples – exploring topics such as LED houselighting, smooth dimming, DMX/DALI control and backstage worklights.

Designed for venue technicians and managers, this session aims to improve understanding of modern LED capabilities and demonstrate how thoughtful lighting choices can enhance technical performance, user experience, and long-term value in performing arts spaces. Whether upgrading a space or troubleshooting persistent lighting issues, this session is designed to inform, inspire, and provide practical value.

17:30 — Tradeshow Ends

18:00 - 21:00

Monday Night Dinner - Sponsored by Factory Sound

The Leveson (46 Leveson St, North Melbourne VIC 3051)

Day 3

Tuesday 17th June

Technical Managers Network

"To share information, discuss current topics and formulate recommendations for the betterment of the theatre industry in Victoria and Tasmania"

09:00 Welcome Back

09:15 Smarter Systems, Healthier Teams: Using DSP to Improve work-life balance in Theatres (Platinum Sponsor)
Presented by Jeff MacKenzie (Industry Veteran, Factory Sound)

The demands on theatre technical staff are constant — and often extend well beyond show hours. While 24/7 availability has long been the norm, it doesn't have to stay that way. This session explores how smart system design, particularly through the use of modern DSP (Digital Signal Processing), can help reduce the strain on technical managers and support teams.

From remote monitoring and automated fault notifications to intuitive control interfaces for non-technical users, DSP platforms can be configured to solve small problems before they become big disruptions. While technology can't eliminate every after-hours callout, it can help create more sustainable, reliable systems that empower staff and protect work-life balance.

If you're looking for ways to make your venue run smarter—not harder—this session will offer real-world insights and a starting point to implement practical, future-ready solutions.

10:15 Morning Tea

10:45 Realistic Expectations
Presented by Ben Van Dillen (Technical Operations Manager, Geelong Arts Centre)

A follow up to October's session, we'll revisit the topic of managing expectations from venue users, share strategies and support each other in finding practical, sustainable approaches.

Day 3

Tuesday 17th June

Technical Managers Network

"To share information, discuss current topics and formulate recommendations for the betterment of the theatre industry in Victoria and Tasmania"

12:00

REWIRE: Supporting A New Culture of Crew
Presented by Dr Ash King (Wellbeing Content & Programs Lead / Psychologist, Support Act)

The next wave of crew and tech talent isn't just bringing fresh skills — they're arriving with different expectations around work, life, and wellbeing. In this thought-provoking session, psychologist and creative industries specialist Ash King explores how we can better support and retain young workers by rethinking the way we lead, manage, and collaborate. Expect honest reflections on outdated norms, insights into what younger generations actually want from workplace culture, and practical strategies for creating healthier, more sustainable environments — without compromising the quality or pace of production.

We'll dive into:

- Why "toughing it out" no longer cuts it
- How to future-proof your crew culture
- What adaptable leadership looks like in 2025 and beyond

Join us for this timely conversation — with a live Q&A to follow.

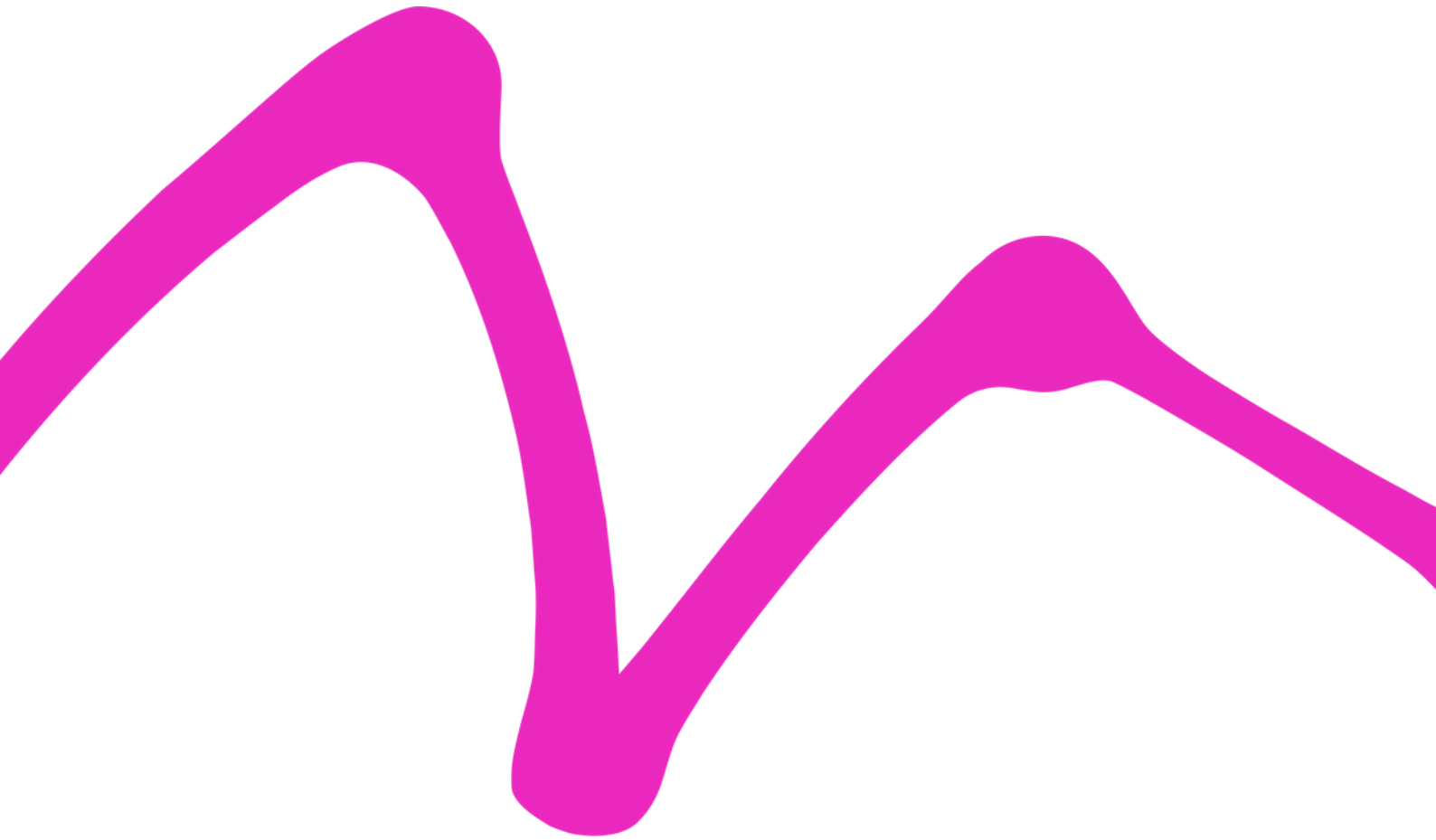
13:15

Wrap Up

We'll finish with space to reflect on the conference, and extend thanks to everyone who made it happen.

13:30

Conference Ends



VAPAC
Victorian
Association
of Performing
Arts Centres