



Work History Overview

Chris began his professional career in 1969 with Allen & Clark Ltd, having patented a 500 watt household lighting dimmer, the first dimmer in NZ, and these were produced in vast quantities up to the early 80s. He also patented an industrial 3kW fluorescent dimmer and produced a series of commercial dimmers for uses ranging from chicken barns to Art Galleries, restaurants to the Chch Town Hall which opened in 1972. He also created the first range of Theatrical lighting control boards available in New Zealand, from small 12 channel community controllers up to 80 channels for mid-sized Theatres and further developed dimmers up to 12kW capacity (e.g. the '74 Commonwealth Games for TVNZ). He also developed "microprocessor" controlled air conditioning controllers before microprocessors were commercially available, and also a range of battery UPS systems.

In 1976 he formed Callen Controls Ltd with the main purpose of designing Australasia's first Lighting Memory Board ("Deltalight") to compete with Strand's "magnetic core" boards, again at the bleeding edge of technology and initially using 16k eproms! Other microprocessor based products were developed (Scoreboards, Computer room air-con, Onion Kiln Driers). In 1984 he formed another company to develop an on-the-road Psion PDA system to enable Sales people to take orders and download to the mainframe at the end of the day.

In 1989 he stopped manufacturing and joined the not-yet-opened Aotea Centre as Head AV Department, technically responsible until 1998 for over 4000 shows, product launches, seminars, conferences, and along the way developing a Surtile system at John McKay's request for use in NZ Opera productions, initially to solve the problem of using slides in the ASB theatre, and using instead laptops and video projectors. It has since been used in other venues. He also arranged the first live satellite link to NZ's first 36 screen Electrosonic videowall for a conference in 1990.

In 1998 he became "Head Graphics/Video Production" using an Avid non-linear on-line editing system producing material for many conferences, awards evening, TV clips, seminars, & training videos. When APEC came to NZ in 1999 he devised a remote camera system to minimise the possibility of camera crews distracting ministers during their trade talks, and took it around all the APEC venues (Chch, Rotorua, Wellington, Auckland).

In July 2003 Chris formed **spikevideo productions** to specialise in Production, and having purchased an Avid Suite can now supply or arrange many services including camera calling and recording/editing, training videos, material creation, Stage Management, voiceover artists plus the supply of AV, Lighting, Sound, and Mechanical equipment and personnel via his close links with major well-known hire companies. He is expanding the editing equipment, as business builds, into DV, Web, and 3D animation.

It is also his pleasure to be involved with **LDPS NZ** consultancy to expand in other directions as well as continuing with **spikevideo productions**.