

In Memoriam



Michael J. Falk,
1939-1998

Michael Falk, long-standing member of the AES Melbourne Section committee, died in Melbourne's Alfred Hospital in the early morning of Saturday October 24th after a brief but dignified battle with cancer. He was 59 years old.

Mike's AES service also included the role of treasurer for three of our Regional Conventions, and chairman for the 1995 convention. The latter was a particularly challenging task, as it was to be held in Sydney rather than the familiar environment of Melbourne. Nevertheless, he led by example, devoting countless hours of personal time to ensure the greatest possible success for this undertaking, and for which he received the Board of Governors' Award.

Mike was born in Melbourne on November 4, 1939, and entered the world of electronics through Melbourne Tech. (now RMIT University). His interest in audio was also developed during time he spent with the late Max Hull, who was responsible for the sound system at the Melbourne Stadium (now Festival Hall), then a venue for major touring artists. He knew exactly where the "long-lost" recording for the recent Frank Sinatra-Red Norvo CD originated, and it definitely wasn't stereo.

He began his first job (TV service) during a two week holiday in Adelaide, which became a year and a half's work. On returning to Melbourne, he worked in several companies that emerged to serve the burgeoning demands of commercial television production, including

the installation and initial operation of TV studios for new commercial channel ATV0. In 1964 he travelled to the UK where he found his experience in Australian commercial TV was in demand in the emerging independent television industry.

He returned to Australia in 1968, and soon after joined Brian Horman's company Court Recording Services. He later ran his own company

(Altair) in audio and video contracting for several years. He then rejoined Brian Horman in Klarion Enterprises, where one of his roles was installation and support of MCI recorders and consoles all around Australia (and its territories). In recent years, he again returned to his own audio visual company (Bel Audio Vision).

Mike is remembered for his commitment, dedication, and persistence, whether it was trying to track down that last lingering problem in a new installation or, with pipe in hand, trying to steer a Committee meeting towards what he believed was a desirable objective. I particularly recall Mike's dedication to duty in the second convention—his first time as treasurer—when at the end of a long day, instead of bedding down in the comfort of the convention hotel, he would head home to enter up the day's figures in his computer, to return with a progress report early the next morning. He was always interested in new things and ready to learn. In turn, he was also able to explain new ideas to others. If it also involved a glass or two of good red wine, so much the better.

Among those in the industry who knew him, his colleagues in the AES, and particularly those who worked with him on the committee, he was recognized as a dedicated worker and a good personal friend, whose company will now be very much missed.

John D. Smyth
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