



Michael Lithgow – Colourhead

Michael has worked in the imaging industry for 40 years. The first half was exclusively in the photographic sector. As a technically minded person he was immediately drawn to the laboratory side of photography rather than the more glamorous role as a photographer. However, through the 80s he also worked as a photo/journalist and technical writer for specialty magazines and for several years even had his own magazine column. Over the years he worked in numerous labs from the small to the very large, processing thousands of rolls of film a day. After working in and managing several successful laboratories he started his own pro-lab in 1990, just as Australia went into the, "recession we had to have." At a time when many businesses failed to survive, his specialty hand enlargement printing lab thrived, supplying high end custom printing to the professional market.

Digital had been something on the horizon for some years but arrived with a bang in 2000. Advancements in digital markets came at a much faster rate for photographers than laboratories. He made the decision to reinvent himself by assisting others in the industry make the transition from analogue to digital at a time when colour management was in its infancy. Michael spent two years training himself with the help of overseas manufacturers of colour management equipment, keen to get an early foothold in the Australian market. He formed a new business called Colourhead Digital Colour Management Services and has never looked back.

In 2005 he started work in a technical role with Kayell Australia, a major imaging industry supplier with a 50 year history. He provided support for all their products including Epson printers, GMG, Megarip and Blackmagic rips, Eizo monitors, X-Rite and Datacolor colour management hardware and software, GTI lighting and Barbieri spectrophotometers, among others. He quickly progressed from supplying colour management services to the photographic sector to the much broader printing industry, including large format and press houses.

In 2015 he left Kayell to restart Colourhead and to concentrate purely on colour management in specialty areas such as providing ISO compliance on presses and even developed his own software to improve his versatility and efficiency, to reduce downtime for his clients. He has for many years worked as a beta tester for colour management software developers internationally and continues to do this. He was a pioneer in Australia in terms of providing the American G7 calibration method in 2015 and this is still a large part of his work.

Michael has international certifications with Fogra (Germany) and is a Printing United Alliance Qualified Digital Colour Professional (USA).

