

James N Kirby Award

To mark the contribution of Sir James Kirby, CBE to manufacturing in Australia and to the Institution of Production Engineers (latterly the Institution of Manufacturing Engineers), its Australian Council in 1954 decided that a James N Kirby Award should be presented each year. The first was presented in 1956 in Sydney. Following the merger of the Institution of Manufacturing Engineers with the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1991, now the Institution of Engineering and Technology, responsibility for the Award now rests with the IET Australian Forum.

Born in 1899 in Sydney, Sir James Norman Kirby CBE was one of Australia's leading industrialists. He became Chairman of the James N Kirby group of companies in 1924 and set up a \$2,000,000 foundation in 1967. He was also Chairman or a Director of several companies and Government Boards including Qantas Airways, Wales Superannuation Funds Ltd., British Motor Corporation (Australia) and Australia General Electric to name but a few. His interest in Education and Research is also noteworthy as he was sometime Governor of the Science Foundation for Physics within the University of Sydney and also Director of the National Heart Foundation of Australia.

He received the CBE in 1956 and was knighted in 1962.

The James N Kirby Award is one of the highest honours that the IET bestows in its Australian Region.

Award

The Award consists of a silver medal bearing the Coat of Arms of the IET together with a framed certificate citing the achievements of the recipient. The recipient is required to present a paper, which is subsequently published, relating to their sphere of activity.

Selection Criteria

The James N Kirby Award is presented to someone who has achieved:

- outstanding eminence
- distinction, and
- public recognition in his or her sphere of activity.