

Sir Lionel Hooke Award

The Sir Lionel Hooke Award was first awarded in March 1997 to commemorate services to the electrical engineering profession in Australia. It is one of three prestigious awards offered within the Region, coordinated by the IET Australia Forum.

Sir Lionel Hooke was a true pioneer in radio in Australia. He was born in Brighton, Victoria in 1895 and educated at Brighton Grammar School. He joined Shackleton's Imperial Antarctic Expedition, serving as wireless operator in the Aurora 1913-1914, during which period he invented an automatic morse transmitter mainly for SOS transmissions. He returned to serve in World War I on Royal Navy submarine chasers and later joined the RN Air Service. In 1920 he organised the first demonstration of broadcasting in Australia when a programme was transmitted 20 km from his Brighton home to Federal Parliament then sitting in Melbourne. Between the wars Sir Lionel was associated with nearly every major wireless and telephone development in the country.

He became Melbourne manager of AWA Ltd in 1919, was deputy general manager by 1939 and organised production of instruments, fuses, radio and navigational equipment worth \$26 million for the war effort. As general manager he organised the company's post war program which before the end of 1945 included production of home wireless sets. As chairman from 1961 until his death in 1974, he saw the company maintain and operate tracking stations, design Australia's first colour television transmitter and develop sophisticated electronics equipment. Quick to exploit the television era which commenced in 1956, the company engineered high quality monochrome television sets. In 1965 Sir Lionel led the board of AWA in its decision to enter the silicon chip era and set up AWA Microelectronics, which pioneered valuable work in analogue and digital integrated circuit development. Also, in 1973 the company provided the electroacoustics for the Sydney Opera House.

AWA under Sir Lionel Hooke was a force for education in this country. Many young engineers gained valuable industrial experience at AWA during their tertiary technical training. A generation ago, it was hardly possible to find an eminent engineer in electronics or telecommunications; be they in universities, CSIRO or other industry, who had not had some association with AWA.

Sir Lionel was chairman or director of various associated companies, chairman of the Electronics and Telecommunications Industry Advisory Committee, and a member of the Sydney University Senate from 1961 to 1969. He was knighted in 1957 and died on 17 February 1974.

The Sir Lionel Hooke Award commemorating his services to the electronics and telecommunications industry is one of the highest honours that the IET bestows in its Australian Region.

Award

The Sir Lionel Hooke Award consists of a bronze medal bearing the Coat of Arms of the Institution together with a framed certificate citing the achievements of the recipient.

Selection Criteria

The Sir Lionel Hooke Award is presented to an engineer who, by virtue of his or her degree of dedication, character and professional achievements has made a significant contribution to the wide profession of electrical engineering. The award criteria are:

- eminence and distinction in the fields of electrical, electronic, communications, computer systems engineering, or in related fields which may develop in the future
- service to the community, and
- assistance to educational and public institutions.

Nominees do not have to be members of the IET.