

Jack Finlay Award

The Jack Finlay Award was founded in 1961 by the late Sir James Kirby and commemorates Jack Finlay's services to production engineering in Australia. The award was formerly made by the Australian Council of the Institution of Manufacturing Engineers and, following the merger of that body with The Institution of Electrical Engineers, and subsequently The Institution of Engineering and Technology, is now made by the IET Australian Forum.

Jack Finlay MBE, Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institution of Production Engineers (latterly the Institution of Manufacturing Engineers) was such a man. He was born in 1885 and died in 1973 at the age of 88. His industrial career spanned almost the half century during which Australia emerged from an agricultural society to an industrialised nation. He contributed very significantly to this change, being one of a small team of engineers who were sent to the UK and the USA in 1909 to study production processes and techniques, prior to the setting up of a small arms factory at Lithgow, NSW. The SAF, as it was called, commenced production in 1912.

Jack Finlay was associated with SAF from then until his retirement in 1950 as General Manager. He fostered the need to maintain the skills of individual craftsmen whilst at the same time encouraging the development of modern machine tools and production methods thereby obtaining the advantages of mass production. His very practical, functional approach to machine tool design, heat treatment procedures, production and inspection methods was of invaluable assistance to as many outside firms as it was to people in the defence field. Such was his influence on the development of the manufacturing industry that he became a legend in his own lifetime, as the 'father of production engineering in Australia'.

Jack Finlay became a member of the Institution of Production Engineers in 1932 in the UK and was a foundation member of its Sydney section when it was formed in 1937. He was elected Chairman in 1941-1942 and served as President of its Australian Council in 1945-1946.

The Jack Finlay Award commemorating his services to manufacturing engineering is one of the highest honours that the IET bestows in its Australian Region.

Award

The Jack Finlay 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 Jack Finlay 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 manufacturing.

Nominees do not have to be members of the IET.