

Sir John Butters Memorial Oration

The ***Sir John Butters Oration*** was instituted in 1985 as an annual event primarily for the purpose of providing a forum to publicise engineering and the work of engineers within or associated with Canberra and the Australian Capital Territory.

Sir John Butters was Chief Commissioner of the Federal Capital Commission from 1924 to 1929 and played a very significant role in the development of the National Capital, including responsibility for the completion of "Parliament House" and associated buildings in time for the transfer of the Commonwealth Parliament from Melbourne to Canberra.

The Oration is named in honour of the significant role Sir John Butters played in:

- ◆ the development of Canberra as the National Capital; and
- ◆ the establishment of the Canberra Division of The Institution of Engineers, Australia (including focussing the attention of the Institution as a national body on the National Capital).

The inaugural Butters Oration was held in October 1985, and the guest speaker was Mr John Butters FIEAust, son of Sir John.

Other Orations have also been given by:

- ◆ Mr Tony Powell (Commissioner of the National Capital Development Commission);
- ◆ James Kirk (Chairman of the Australian Bicentennial Authority);
- ◆ Sir Eric Neal AC CVO FIEAust (Chairman, Westpac Banking Corporation); and
- ◆ 2002: Mr Paul Perkins (Chairman, Australian Science Festival and Chief Executive ACTEW Corporation).
- ◆ 2004: Dr Stephen Gumley (Chief Executive, Defence Materiel Organisation)
- ◆ 2006 – Mr Barry Cohen (former Federal Minister for the Bicentennial and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Bicentennial)
- ◆ 2008 – Mr Greg Woods (Chief Executive GSRW Consulting)
- ◆ 2010 - Mr Roger and Mrs Annabel Pegrum AM - (Canberra Architects)

- ◆ 2012 – Dr David Headon (Cultural Consultant & Historian; Adviser to the ACT Centenary of Canberra Project Office)