



CELEBRATING
OUR CENTENARY



ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

Hall of Fame Inductees

Engineering Heritage Queensland

John Frederick KEAYS MBE

Hon FIEAust

INDUCTED IN 2009

John was born at Tallangatta, Victoria and awarded a BCE from Melbourne University in 1932.

In 1937, Gutteridge Haskins and Davey (GHD), appointed Keays to design and supervise the construction of the sewerage scheme for Maryborough, the first in Queensland, and with engineering in the Burrum Shire in 1938. Subsequently Keays took over and managed the GHD office in Brisbane.

In 1942 he joined the RAAF and as Commanding Officer of a squadron was responsible for airstrip construction and maintenance in forward areas.

After the war, John returned to GHD in Brisbane where a staff of ten worked for a decade handling sewerage schemes in cities and towns throughout Queensland.

His war experience in heavy earth moving helped in construction of beef roads. He pioneered town planning in Queensland and plans were prepared for Southport, Surfers Paradise, Redcliffe, Biloela and Ipswich.

In 1948 GHD was appointed for the sewerage of Cairns, promoting the use of flat grade gravity sewers, with rubber ring joints for flexibility in poor foundations, and introduced multiple pumping stations.

GHD made detailed surveys for an expansion of the Brisbane sewer system and design of extensive areas of the city's system

On retirement in 1974, he developed a pre-eminent reputation as an engineering arbitrator. He was a foundation Fellow of the Institute of Arbitrators Australia, and later Honorary Fellow; Chair of the Queensland Division in 1973, a founding member of the ACEA and National President 1972-1974, and a member of the Board of Examiners for Engineers and Overseers to local authorities.

John made a significant contribution to the profession of engineering and this was recognized by the Queensland Division as an Honorary Fellow of the Institution and then by naming its Board Room in his honour.

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