

The Honourable John Joseph Cahill

The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon the Honourable John Joseph Cahill by the Chancellor Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn at the ceremony of conferring of honorary degrees held on 29 August 1952 as part of the University of Sydney's Centenary celebrations.

The Honourable John Joseph Cahill was Premier of New South Wales and Minister for Public Works and Local Government.



photo from the Sydney Morning Herald, copies held by the University of Sydney Archives.

Citation

Presented by the Deputy Chancellor, the Honourable Mr Justice E D Roper:

Mr Chancellor, John Joseph Cahill represents a lifetime of service in the State sphere within the Australian federal framework. Born a native son of Australia in 1891, in Redfern, adjacent to our University, he became an engineer and was actively associated with the Amalgamated Engineering Union. A member of the State Legislature since 1925, he has held a variety of offices, including the Deputy Premiership of New South Wales from 1949 to 1952 and subsequently the Premiership in this the senior State of the Commonwealth. Amongst his manifold achievements I quote his re-establishment of ship-building and brickworks as State enterprises, the first comprehensive town planning legislation, and the establishment of the State Electricity Authority to co-ordinate and develop electricity throughout the State. He has always, both as Minister and Premier, manifested an intense interest 'in the cause of education and in making available opportunities for any talented young Australian, however difficult the financial condition may have been in the family from which he or she came. As Premier of this State, in the crucial financial years which confront us, he has shown a breadth of vision and a desire for helping students to come to the senior University of Australia which well merit the conferring of an Honorary Degree upon him during this Centenary Year of our great institution.

Mr Chancellor, I have great pleasure in presenting to you The Honourable John Joseph Cahill, Premier of New South Wales and Minister for Public Works and Local Government.

From "The University of Sydney Centenary Celebrations August 26 - August 31, 1952" compiled by the Office of Information and Public Relations. Allan Gamble, Information and Public Relations Officer.