

## Childhood and Education

William Patrick Deane was born on the 4th of January 1931 in Sunbury, Victoria as the youngest of three children to his parents Mr. C.A. Deane, and Mrs. Lillian Deane (both deceased). William was influenced heavily from a young age by his parents' strong views and beliefs, largely reliant on Mr. C.A. Deane's fighting in World War I and catholic background. Deane was educated at multiple catholic schools throughout his childhood including St. Christopher's Convent in Canberra and St. Joseph's College in Sydney. This experience founded his beliefs which carried throughout his career, which were deeply influenced by Catholic philosophy of Social Justice. Deane attended Sydney University and graduated in arts and law. He then returned to the ACT to work in the Attorney-General's Department before undertaking post graduate study in international law in The Hague, the Netherlands.



*"THE ULTIMATE TEST OF OUR WORTH AS A NATION WILL BE HOW WE TREAT OUR MOST VULNERABLE"*

*"RACISM IS CRUEL AND UNJUST. IT CUTS DEEP AND LINGERS LONG IN INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY MEMORIES. AND IT IS NOT A THING OF THE PAST"*

## Key Accomplishments

Sir William Deane has accomplished many great things throughout his lifetime. Firstly, on the 16th of February 1996 Deane was appointed the 22nd Governor-General of Australia. This may be considered one of his greatest achievements by some, although it is only one of many. In 1982 Deane was appointed Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire, prior to being appointed as a Companion the Order of Australia in 1988. Furthermore, Deane was appointed Knight of the Order of St. John and Knight Commander con Placca of the Papal Order of St. Gregory the Great. In 2001, Deane was awarded the Sydney Peace Prize for his support of vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians and his strong commitment to the cause of reconciliation. Finally, Deane was honoured by numerous schools and universities, such as the Queensland University of Technology, the University of New South Wales and many others. Deane has worked through all his hardships to achieve all that he has, making him a unique and significant figure.

## Summary of Figure



Born on the 4th of January 1931 in Victoria, Australia, Sir William Deane is an Australia barrister and jurist who served as the 22nd Governor-General of Australia from 1996 to 2001. Additionally, Deane was on the receiving end of multiple awards and honours, the major of which being the Sydney Peace Prize. Deane has played a large role in society, stimulating positive change within the country, Deane has become a role model for people of all ages, and a prominent figure in society.

# SIR WILLIAM DEANE

BY ABBY DEWING



## Experiences and Career

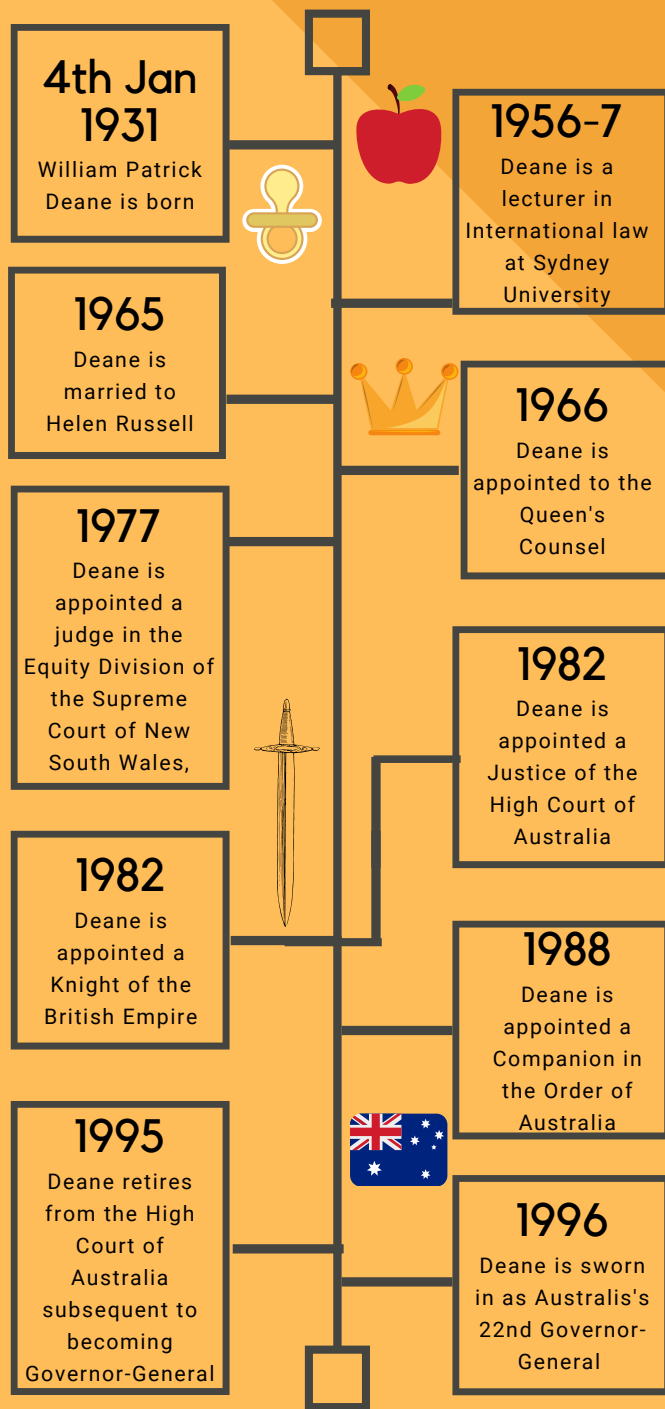
Following his range of education, Deane was called to the bar (became a barrister) in 1957. At this time he was 26 years of age. He then lectured in International law and equality for five years at Sydney University. In 1966, Deane was appointed to the Queen's counsel. He held this position for eleven years before he was appointed Judge in the Equity Division of the Supreme Court of NSW.

Additionally, he was appointed judge of the Federal Court of Australia and President of the Australian Trade Practices Tribunal. In July of 1982, Deane was appointed a Justice of the High Court of Australia. He served on this court until his retirement in 1995, allowing for his new position as Governor-General. He was sworn in by Paul Keating and held the position as Governor-General until 2001.

## Challenges Faced

William Deane, like any person who has achieved great things, has faced many challenges throughout his life. Firstly, working in courts holds great challenges in itself. For example, Deane played a role in the Mabo case of 1992, for which he was praised for his work despite the challenges of the case. Moreover, during his time as Governor-General of Australia, many national disasters occurred. Deane had to be the voice of Australia throughout the aftermath of the Port Arthur massacre, the Thredbo landslide disaster, the fire on board the HMAS Westralia, the Interlaken disaster and the Childers' Backpackers Hostel fire. Throughout all these crises, Deane showed compassion and strength on behalf of the country, giving hope to many. Finally, Deane faced the criticism of many whilst fighting for what he believed in. Deane showed resilience in the face of adversity, demonstrating great perseverance to achieve great things.

## Timeline of Life Events



## Reason for Selection

I chose to research this Australian figure because he played a large role in Australia's politics and yet is not commonly known or recognised. Sir William Deane is an advocate for equality for all people and has a strong commitment towards reconciliation. Deane is a compassionate person and stands strong in his views. This to me is very inspiring, thus giving reason to my choosing of this individual. Furthermore, Deane strives to achieve his goals and to see change in areas that he believes need his support. This for Deane is the Aboriginal community and minority groups. Overall, Sir William Deane is a very inspiring individual that has had an impact on our country due to his courage, goals and perseverance, all things I value and find inspiring.

## Why is he a Significant Figure?

Sir William Deane is a Significant Australian figure, but what are the reasons for that? Deane is an advocate for equal rights, and treatment for all people. He strives to improve the quality of life for everyone and for justice to be done. Deane has achieved great things: winning awards and being appointed to many prominent positions. He has shown great courage and perseverance through everything he has done, and become a role model that all people can look up to. Deane has demonstrated his values through his career as a barrister and jurist as well as his short-lived time in politics, standing strong in his views and aiming to see positive change in his country.