



2016 DISTINGUISHED PAST STUDENT AWARD

Professor Desley Deacon (Straker)

Graduation: 1959

Desley Deacon boarded at St Margaret's and graduated from the University of Queensland with a BA (Hons) in English.

In 1986, she was awarded a PhD from the ANU for her thesis *The Naturalization of Dependence: The State, The New Middle Class and Women Workers 1830-1930*. From 1985, Desley worked at the University of Texas, Austin, USA, and was appointed Assistant Professor in the American Studies Department in 1987. In 1988, she and her husband John Higley established the Clark Centre for Australian Studies.

In 2001, she returned to the ANU as Professor of Gender History and heading the Department of History and presiding over the establishment of the Australian Centre for Indigenous Studies and the National Centre of Biography. She retired at the end of 2009 and was appointed an Emeritus Professor of the University.

Desley has published many books and articles in her field and continues her work to this day.

The St Margaret's Past Students Awards

