

John was born in Glebe on 30th May 1895, the son of John Clancy and Mary Clancy, nee Bradshaw. He was educated by the Marist Brothers at Parramatta and Darlinghurst and joined the Department of Public Instruction on 12th February 1913 as a clerk.

On 11th August 1914 he joined the AN&MEF stating that he was single and gave his mother at 183 New South Head Rd, Paddington. He returned from Rabaul and was discharged, term expired, on 18th Jan 1915 having completed 161 days service.

On 11th Jan 1916 he joined the 14th Reinforcement, 20th Battalion, regimental number 5791, and at the time of sailing on the CERAMIC on 7th October 1916 he was an Acting Sergeant. He landed at Plymouth on 21st November 1916 and on 26th Dec he was charged with allowing a prisoner to escape and reverted to private. On 9th Feb 1917 he was taken on strength by the 20th battalion and on 3rd May was wounded at Bullecourt, receiving a gunshot wound to the left elbow. He was evacuated to the UK and subsequently returned to Australia aboard the THEMISOCLES, leaving UK on 5th November 1917 and arriving home on 3rd Jan 1918. He was discharged, medically unfit, 2nd July 1918.

On 22nd August 1922 he married Christobel Florence Ethel Buckland at St Mary's Cathedral and completed his Law degree at Sydney University and was admitted to the bar in 1925. In 1931 he was appointed to the District Court and raised to the Supreme Court in 1947 and was acting Chief Justice in 1964/65 until his retirement later in 1965. He was made a Knight Commander of the British Empire (KBE) in 1967.

Sir John Clancy died on 15th October 1970 at the PRINCE of Wales Hospital and is buried in the Northern Suburbs Cemetery.