



Alister Austen Deans

**Julius House
1930–1933**

**College No.
4067**

Alister Austen Deans OBE

An eminent New Zealand landscape painter and war artist, Austen Deans was born in Christchurch in 1915, part of the notable Deans family.

After Medbury School and Christ's College, he studied fine arts at the Canterbury College School of Art, and then served in the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force in the Middle East, Greece and Crete during World War II.

He drew or painted everything he saw and was appointed NZ assistant war artist. Badly wounded in 1941, he became a Prisoner of War, continuing to sketch and paint life in camps throughout Europe. He also did portraits of other POWs and by early 1945 had a portfolio of nearly 300 works. After the war, he studied art in London, returning to Canterbury to settle in Peel Forest where he and his wife Liz had seven sons.

Austen won the Kelliher Art Award in 1962 and 1963, wrote an autobiography, painted in Antarctica, and derived much of his income from commissioned works. He became an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1995.

He died in Christchurch on 18 October 2011. A sculpture of Austen was unveiled at Peel Forest in 2018.



CHRIST'S COLLEGE
OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION