

## **Steps in Time 1986-2016**

### *Taken from 20th Anniversary Booklet and past Newsletters*

The Society of Mountain Artists owes its beginning to a chance remark from Sheila Todd to Kath Kelly whilst discussing art at an exhibition

The two friends wondered why there existed no local Art society within the area, An exploratory meeting was held at Sheila Todd's home to discuss the feeling of local artists towards establishing an art society within the region..

The inaugural meeting was held at Kath Kelly's home at 2pm on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 1986**.

28 people attended the meeting. It was unanimously voted to establish such a Society, and the name "Society of Mountain Artists" was chosen.

Office bearers and committee members were elected by the meeting as follows:-

President:-	Audrey McCartney
Vice President:-	Sheila Todd
Secretary:-	Joyce Humphreys
Treasurer:-	Roma Stirling
Publicity Officers:-	Keith Sherlock and Paul Nielsen
Committee:-	Beth Burgess. Barbara Scott. Kath Kelly Patrick Livens
Auditor:-	Harvey Scott

The Meeting agreed to an annual fee of \$10.00 and \$5.00 for social members.

The meetings were then held at the Holy Trinity Church Hall, Wentworth Falls. At this time, Mr. Harvey Scott put before the meeting the prospects of the Society becoming incorporated as a Co-Op Ltd under the Co-operative Act.

#### **The First Few Years 1986**

**The second meeting**, Keith Sherlock was elected the first President as Audrey McCartney had regarded her occupancy of the chair as temporary.

#### **The first art demonstration**

During the first year, Beth Burgess became the first of a long line of well appreciated demonstrators

**The first field day** was held at Wentworth Falls Lake.

**Several bus outings** were arranged by Paul Nielson.

**The first three workshops** were held by:-

Watercolour by Sheila Todd. Drawing by Beth Burgess. Oils by John Wilson.

**The first bi-monthly newsletter** was published thanks to Beth Burgess and Sheila Todd.

A competition to design a **logo** for a Society badge was announced, with Patrick Livens being the winner.

Faulconbridge Artist Les Graham, accepted **Patronage** of the Society.

- 1987 The next meeting was held at the C.W.A. Hall in Leura. Joe Shanahan was elected as president but his term was tragically cut short by his untimely death due to a heart attack. At the June meeting two minutes silence was held as a mark of respect. Ron Middleton was then elected as president. Demonstrations were done by Jack McDonogh, John Wilson, Harold Scott, John Barber, Helen Goldsmith, Sheila Todd, Patrick Livens, Keith Sherlock and Kath Kelly
- 1988 At the AGM the Society became the **Society of Mountain Artists Co-Op Ltd.**
- First Spring Exhibition** held 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October. 13 paintings were sold from the 227 hung.
- 1989 John Wilson became **Patron** of the Society.  
The Spring Exhibition was opened by Shane Porteous.
- 1990-91 A wall mural was painted at the Queen Victoria Hospital, Wentworth Falls by Lloyd Jones, Pat Godfrey, Val Beck and Margaret Rathore.  
**Art in the Garden** was held in the Page's historic home "Kubba Kundi". Demonstrations and exhibitions by members were well received with many sales.
- 1992-93 Started with 60 members attending a bar-b-cue at Bill Douglass' "Mole Hole" which became a favorite venue for many years. The Society received a grant of \$250 from Blue Mountains City Council for the purchase of necessary assets. The **Jamison Award** was instituted. This gave the Society a quality painting to raffle at the **Sixth Spring Exhibition** which was held at the Wentworth Falls School of Arts. Opened by Deputy Mayor Terri Hamilton 31 paintings sold. **Art in the Garden** was again held in "Kubba Kundi" with the additional hire of a marquee. Society was invited to **exhibit at the "Echoes" guesthouse**. 40 paintings were submitted with 20 being hung. Shirley Williams instituted a most successful **Beginners Classes in Oils**.
- 1994 **Tuition Classes** were begun before the monthly meetings.  
In March a three day holiday trip to "**Yerranderie**".  
In September a three day **Holiday to Hill End staying at Royal Hotel**.  
Geoff Lane designed the **screens** for the **Society's exhibitions**.
- 2000-2010 **Everglades Garden Gallery** run by Society
- 2003 Society became **Society of Mountain Artists Incorporated**
- 2007 Three Exhibitions held. Invited to paint Plein-air with **Leura Garden Festival**
- 2008 Newsletter available by Email
- 2011 **Twenty-fifth Anniversary and Official Launch of Website** Lunch at Victoria & Albert Guest House Mount Victoria.
- 2012 **Video Projection Equipment** purchased for Meeting Demonstrations
- 2013 Initial purchase of **Exhibition Screen Lighting**. Completed in 2015
- 2014 Monthly Meetings returned to Wentworth Falls School of Arts
- 2015 **Face Book Page** created
- 2016 **Thirtieth Anniversary**