

Annual Report of the Aisling Society of Sydney.

1968.

The annual General meeting of Aisling Society of Sydney was held in the Library of the Irish National Association Cultural Centre, 64 Devonshire Street, Sydney, on Wednesday 28th February 1968, at 8 p.m. Election of officers for 1968 resulted as follows:

President	Mr. Philip Lee
Vice-Presidents	Rev. F.X. O'Brien S.J. Mr. James A. Meagher Mr. Vincent Pike
Honorary Secretary	Miss Mary M. Hegarty
Assistant Secretary	Miss Moya Bishop (Mrs. Herbert Lichtenbergers)
Honorary Treasurer	Mr. Brendan O'Connell
Council	Rev. Michael J. O'Sullivan Mrs. Pat Longstaff Miss Gwen Gilligan Rev. Patrick O'Rourke Mr. Wm. J.A. McSweeney Mr. Patrick Cullen Mrs. B. Kinsella Dr. Plunkett Sweeney

The Annual Report and Hon. Treasurer's Statement were taken as read, all present having copies, and adopted. Satisfaction was expressed at the healthy financial position revealed by Mr. Brendan O'Connell, Hon. Treasurer. Rev. Michael J. O'Sullivan showed some films of his recent visit to Ireland.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner (our fourteenth) at the "Alexis", Kingsford, was most successful, with 90 members and friends present to honour the day. Mr. Philip Lee, President of Aisling, welcomed as guest of honour Monsignor C.J. Duffy who proposed "The Day we Celebrate", drawing on St. Mary's archives for a revealing letter from an Irish pioneer of a century ago. Mr. James A. Meagher, Vice-President, thanked the speaker in a delightful after-dinner speech. Mrs. Pat Longstaff arranged the musical programme, enjoyed by all.

In April our meeting took the form of a concert from the Montgomery Folk Singers. In May a paper written by Miss Mary M. Hegarty on "The Irish in N.S.W. 1788-1818" was read by Mrs. Patricia Vasey.

Mr. Paul Maher, Australian manager for Irish International Airlines, gave us a talk in June, "No More Yesterdays" stressing the forward look in the Irish economy. In the same month an historical excursion by bus to the Rocks area and to Vacluse House proved very

successful. In July there was no Aisling meeting but a number of members accepted the invitation of the Celtic Society to attend theirs, featuring a talk by Rev. Michael J. O'Sullivan, "Irish Miles" and songs by Mrs. Pat Longstaff.

Rev. Patrick O'Rourke P.P. gave us a talk in August "Discovering Yeats", a lucid and scholarly address, illustrated by slides of the Yeats country of County Sligo. In September Miss Patricia Robinson, an artist in stained glass, gave a talk on "Stained Glass in Ireland" and showed the actual processes used in this ancient art.

Mr. Miceal Mac Ragnaill (anglice Michael Reynolds) spoke at the October meeting, asking "Has Heraldry any Meaning To-day?", and making it clear that indeed it has. The Annual Harbour Picnic, on Sunday 17th November, was not well-attended but those who came enjoyed the day.

Mr. Patrick Campbell, First Secretary of the Embassy of Ireland, was guest of honour at our Christmas Party held on 18th December at the Hotel Australia. The party was a happy one, and Mr. Campbell's courteous friendly manner won the liking of all. It was with grief and shock we learned of his death a week later in a car accident. A letter and a photograph taken at the party were sent to his parents in County Donegal.

This year for the first time the Aisling Society arranged, through Eblana Travel (Mrs. Mary Lee), a group 6-weeks' air trip to Ireland in July-September. The 22 members who went all report happily on their travel and holiday in Ireland. 5 other members also went, not with the group, so travellers' tales and colour slides are plentiful. Enquiries from members are invited about a similar group tour this year. (Ring 798-6475 or 28-4119).

Felicitations on their recent marriage to Moya Bishop (Mrs. Herbert Lichtenbergers) and Mary O'Brien (Mrs. Tony Beekman).

His Hon. Judge G.B. Thomas, a foundation member and for several years Vice-President of the Aisling, has retired from the Bench. We wish him good health and active pursuit of his historical researches during his retirement.

Congratulations to Rev. T. Dunlea, P.P. on his O.B.E., a recognition of his grand work for Boys' Town and other good causes.

20 new members have joined the Aisling in 1968, all very welcome. They are: Mr. J.P. Barrett, Miss Kathleen Bruce, Mr. Robert Bruce, Mr. Brendan Birthistle, Rev. Eunan Brown, O.C.

Mrs. V. Casserley, Mrs. B.J. Discher, Mr. John Donovan,
Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, Mrs. R. Gardiner, Mrs. M. Hiscox,
Rev. A.W. Maher, Mr. Paul Maher, Miss Joan Mullins, Mr. Patrick
O'Beirne, Mrs. Claire Owens, Miss Kathleen Reavey, Mr. John Seale,
Mrs. H. Seymour, Miss Ann Williams.

We were sorry to say goodbye in 1968 to John O'Toole (to
London), Dermot McKeever (Aer Lingus Dublin), Eddie Cotter (to
Melbourne) and Padraig Kehoe (University of New Brunswick, Canada),
and wish them every success.

We end by thanking all speakers and artists who have made
our meetings instructive and enjoyable.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

Mary M. Hegarty
Hon. Secretary.

THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY.STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st JANUARY, 1969.

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	<u>Last year</u>	<u>This year</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>Last year</u>	<u>This year</u>
Opening Balance at 1st February	37.76	114.52			
Subscriptions received	378.40	387.90	Postage & Stationery	54.41	87.87
Interest received	6.96	4.43	Printing	129.40	165.80
			Rent of rooms	94.00	73.50
			Cakes for tea	-	5.30
St. Patrick's Night Dinner	402.00	405.00	Cost of St. Patrick's Night Dinner	332.05	379.96
Donations received	10.00	5.00	Donation - Reception Rose of Tralee	-	10.00
Ambassador's Farewell Party	128.00	-	Cost of Ambassador's Farewell Party	132.74	-
Christmas Party & Reception	-	225.79	Cost of Christmas Party	-	270.10
Harbour Picnic	114.00	81.50	Cost of Harbour Picnic	120.00	90.00
			Photo late Mr. P. Campbell	-	5.05
			Cost of farewelling Air Group	-	25.70
Historical Tour	-	90.00	Historical Tour Costs	-	63.40
Theatre Party G.B.S.	-	10.00	Repayment of Loans	100.00	100.00
			Closing balance as at 31st January	114.52	47.46
	<u>\$1,077.12</u>	<u>1,324.14</u>		<u>\$1,077.12</u>	<u>1,324.14</u>

Hon. Treasurer: Brendan P. O'Connell, A.A.S.A.

Auditor's Report: The above statement of receipts and payments is in my opinion a correct statement according to the books.

Senan J. Ryan, F.C.A.
Registered under the Public Accountants'
Registration Act, 1943, as amended.