

Annual Report of the Aisling Society of Sydney

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The annual General Meeting of the Aisling Society of Sydney was held in the Library of the Irish National Association Cultural Centre, 64 Devonshire Street, Sydney, on Wednesday 26th February 1969 at 8 p.m. Election of officers for 1969 resulted as follows:

President	Mr. Paul Maher
Vice-Presidents	Rev. F.X. O'Brien S.J., Mr. James A. Meagher Mr. Vincent Pike Mr. Philip Lee
Honorary Secretary	Miss Mary M. Hegarty
Assistant Secretary	Mrs. Moya Lichtenbergers
Honorary Treasurer	Mr. Brendan O'Connell
Council	Rev. Patrick O'Rourke Rev. Michael J. O'Sullivan Miss Gwen Gilligan Mrs. B. Kinsella Mr. Wm. J.A. McSweeney Mr. Patrick Cullen Miss Maureen McLoughlin Mrs. Ann Feely

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. Two very good films "Meet me at The Pillar", and "Celtic Gold" were shown.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner (our fifteenth) at the "Alexis", Kingsford, was most successful, with 85 members and friends present. Guest of honour was Mr. James Deegan, President of the Irish-Australian Association of Dublin. His good-humoured and energetic speech proposing "The Day We Celebrate" dwelt hopefully on Ireland's economic progress, and signs of rapprochement between North & South. Mrs. Pat Longstaff arranged the musical programme, enjoyed by all.

Mr. Paul Maher, President of the Society and Australian manager for Irish International Airlines, gave us a forward-looking talk in April on "Ireland's Economic and Social Development 1969-72". Our May meeting took the form of a musical evening, featuring soprano Joan O'Sullivan (Mrs. David Litster), she sang delightfully Irish, light opera, and classical songs,

Mr. Denis O'Leary, First Secretary of the Embassy of Ireland, spoke to us in June on "The Role of Tourism in the Irish Economy" - now a very important role. In July a theatre party of 50 was arranged to see Brian Friel's unusual and moving play "Philadelphia Here I Come!"

There was no August meeting, but two in September. Mr. Tom Farrelly, chief adjudicator in the Australian Championships in Irish dancing gave us a vivid talk on "Irish Dancing". Later in the month Mr. Senan Ryan and Mrs. Brendan O'Connell joined in presenting "Ladies View", talks arising from their recent visits to Ireland. Mrs. Ryan's "Grafton Street", and Mrs. O'Connell's "Ballintubber Abbey" were both most enjoyable.

Rev. J.S. Moran, O.S.A. spoke in October of "Contemporary Concern in Irish Poetry" presenting poets new to most of us and reading their poems with effect. In November we abandoned this year our usual harbour picnic and went instead on a coach trip through the Liverpool-Camden countryside to Burraborang Lookout over the drowned Burraborang Valley. This proved an interesting change.

His Excellency Mr. Frank A. Coffey, Ambassador of Ireland, was guest of honour at our Christmas Cocktail party at the Carlton-Rex Hotel. 70 members and friends were present who enjoyed the party and were pleased by Mr. Coffey's gracious readiness to meet and converse with all.

Members of this Society were prominent on the committee and the list of Sponsors of the Northern Ireland Inter-Denominational Distress Organisation (N.S.W. branch) formed in Sydney at the end of August 1969 to raise money to help those distressed and homeless in Northern Ireland after recent rioting. The committee made a direct appeal and also put on a concert in Sydney Town Hall (2nd October 1969). By the end of October when the Appeal closed a sum of just under \$5,000 was raised, which was sent to the parent body in Dublin for distribution.

A second group 6 weeks air trip to Ireland was arranged through Eblana Travel (Mrs. Mary Lee) in July - September. The 17 members who went report happily on their travel and holiday in Ireland. Enquiries from members are invited about a similar group tour this year. (Ring 798-6475 or 28-4199).

Felicitations on their recent marriage to Peter Cahill and Mrs. Peter Cahill (Sioban Harte).

New members are very welcome:

Rev. James Brennan, Rev. Patrick Carr, Miss M. Clancy, Rev. Neil Collins, Mr. Vince Costello, Rev. Thomas Crotty, Mr. J.P. Crowley, Mr. P.J. Doyle, Rev. Finnian Egan, Rev. Thomas Everard, Mr. T.J. Kearney, Rev. T. Kennedy, Mrs. Mai McIntyre, Rev. George Nugent, Rev. J.O'Herlihy, Mr. George Richard, Rev. Denis Ryan, Mrs. Rosaleen Travers, Mrs. Angela Young.

We were sorry to say goodbye in 1969 to David Litster (BOAC London) and his charming wife Joan O'Sullivan.

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 11th FEBRUARY, 1970

RECEIPTS:

	<u>Last year</u>	<u>This year</u>
Opening Balance at 1st February	114.52	47.46
Subscriptions received	387.90	415.00
Interest Received	4.43	5.08
St. Patrick's Night Dinner	405.00	380.50
Donation received	5.00	-
Northern Ireland Relief Appeal	-	52.00
Christmas Party & Reception	225.79	283.50
Harbour Picnic	81.50	-
Bus Picnic	-	83.00
Historical Tour	90.00	-
Theatre Party	10.00	17.20
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	<u>\$1,324.14</u>	<u>\$1,283.74</u>

PAYMENTS:

	<u>Last year</u>	<u>This year</u>
Postage & Stationery	87.87	70.00
Printing	165.80	201.43
Rent of Rooms	73.50	77.50
Cakes for Tea	5.30	2.90
Cost of St. Patrick's Night Dinner	379.96	306.03
Donation - Reception Rose of Tralee	10.00	-
Donation to Northern Ireland Relief Appeal	-	52.00
Cost of Christmas Party	270.10	262.96
Cost of Harbour Picnic	90.00	-
Coach Hire	-	80.00
Photo late Mr.P.Campbell	5.05	-
Cost of farewelling Air Group	25.70	-
Historical Tour costs	63.40	-
Repayment of Loans	100.00	-
Receipts duty	-	.72
Secretarial Expenses	-	20.00
Entertaining Guest Speakers	-	8.00
Closing balance as at 31st January	<u>47.46</u>	<u>122.20</u>
	<u>\$1,324.14</u>	<u>\$1,283.74</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.