

AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY
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President:

Mr. Brendan O'Connell
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CARINGBAH. 2229
'Phone: 524-3253

Hon. Secretary:

Miss Mary M. Hegarty
26 Spencer Street
SUMMER HILL. 2130
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Hon. Treasurer:

Miss Maureen McLoughlin
18 Robinson Street,
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'Phone: 67-4179

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ANNUAL REPORT

1970

The Annual General Meeting of the Aisling Society of Sydney was held in the Library of the Irish National Association Cultural Centre, on Wednesday 25th February, 1970 at 8.00 p.m. Election of Officers for 1970 resulted as follows:

PRESIDENT :	Mr. Brendan O'Connell
VICE-PRESIDENTS :	Mr. James A. Meagher (Life Vice-President) Rev. F.X. O'Brién, S.J. Mr. Vincent Pike Mr. Philip Lee Rev. Patrick O'Rourke, P.P.
HONORARY SECRETARY :	Miss Mary M. Hegarty
ASST. SECRETARY :	Mrs. Ann Feely
HONORARY TREASURER :	Miss Maureen McLoughlin
COUNCIL :	Rev. Michael J. O'Sullivan Miss Gwen Gilligan Mrs. B. Kinsella Mr. Wm. J.A. McSweeney Mr. Patrick Cullen Mr. Eric Drew

The Annual Report and Hon. Treasurer's Statement were taken as read, all present having copies, and adopted. Two films were shown, of Irish interest.

Mr. Paul Maher, President 1969, told us of his forthcoming return to Ireland. His resignation was accepted with regret.

Our sixteenth St. Patrick's Day Dinner, at the Carlton-Rex Hotel was most successful. Ninety members and friends were present, our host Mr. Brendan O'Connell, President of Aisling, Guests of Honour Mr. and Mrs. Paul Maher. Mr. O'Connell gave a short but fine speech stressing the role members of our Society and like-minded people could play in Australian life. Mrs. Ann Feely arranged a very enjoyable musical program.

Rev. Patrick O'Rourke, P.P., gave us an illuminating talk in April on "Sean O'Casey, Man and Playwright", and also played a tape of part of "Juno and the Paycock". Mr. Philip Lee spoke in May on "Irish Crosses", an outline of the history of Irish art forms and the influence thereon of other cultures. He showed an original and comprehensive collection of colour slides.

Mr. Sean Gilroy, President of the Australian Irish Dancing Teachers' Association, addressed us in June on the development of this body, and the success won by both teachers and pupils in awards of the parent Irish Association. Four girls, winners of recent championships, danced beautifully. Mr. Ken J. Guthrie, member of several philatelic societies, owner of a complete set of Irish stamps from the first over-printed "provisionals" of 1922, gave a very interesting talk on these in July.

Our August meeting took the form of a Musical Evening, featuring distinguished artists, tenor Tom McTaggart, mezzo-soprano Moira Briody, and violinist Sean Gilroy. This was a notable evening, enjoyed by a big gathering. In September we had a film evening - "Shamrocks in the Sky", and "Return to the Island", and two beautiful evocations of poems, Pearse's "The Wayfarer", and Plunkett's "Presence of God". The films were shown by Rev. Patrick O'Rourke. A harbour excursion in November was enjoyed by 60 members and friends.

Mr. Denis O'Leary, First Secretary, Embassy of Ireland, Canberra, and Mrs. O'Leary were guests of honour at our Christmas cocktail party at the Carlton-Rex Hotel. Sixty members and friends were happy to meet them and to enjoy the music which brought the party to a close.

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Welcome new members this year have been : Mrs. Clare Bain, Dr. Margaret Bermingham, Mr. Eamon Fitzgerald, Mr. Denis Kelliher and Mr. Michael Murphy. Financial membership for 1970 has been 70, a number we could reasonably hope to improve on, if members would try to interest suitable friends.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Mr. Paul Maher (to Dublin) and to Rev. Eunan Brown, O.C. (to Queensland).

We record with regret two deaths, Mrs. Alicia Baulman, a foundation member, had been until recently an enthusiastic member, a notable pianist, and a vivid personality. Rev. Thomas V. Dunlea, P.P., O.B.E., was a very remarkable man, outstanding for his love of his fellow-men and the energy with which he worked for them, as founder of Boys' Town and in other fields. May they rest in peace.

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, 1971.

<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	\$ 47.46	\$ 122.20			
Subscriptions received	415.00	351.00			
Interest Received	5.08	2.66	Postage & Stationery	\$ 70.00	\$ 73.00
			Printing	201.43	218.94
			Rent of Rooms	77.50	75.75
			Cakes for Tea	2.90	11.77
St. Patrick's Night Dinner	380.50	528.00	Cost of St. Patrick's Night Dinner	386.03	563.05
Northern Ireland Relief Appeal	52.00	-	Donation to Nthrn. Ireland Relief Appeal	52.00	-
Christmas Party & Reception	283.50	238.50	Cost of Christmas Party	262.96	243.00
Coach Picnic	83.00	-	Coach Hire	80.00	-
			Receipt Duty	.72¢	.39¢
			Secretarial Expenses	20.00	-
			Entertaining Guest Speakers	8.00	6.20
Harbour Picnic	-	117.30	Cost of Harbour Picnic	-	120.00
Theatre Party	17.20	-	Advertising	-	12.00
			Trophy I.D.T.A.	-	29.00
			Closing balance as at 31st January	122.20	6.56
	<u>\$ 1,283.74</u>	<u>\$ 1,359.66</u>		<u>\$ 1,283.74</u>	<u>\$ 1,359.66</u>

HON. TREASURER : MAUREEN McLOUGHLIN.

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.