

an Aisling



1978
The Irish
Australian
Aisling Society

President :

Mr Vincent Pike,
38c Wentworth Road,
Vaucluse. 2030
Tel. : 337/2060

Hon. Secretary :

Mrs Joan Ward,
21 Canterbury Road,
Canterbury. 2193
Tel. : 78/2266

Hon. Treasurer :

Mrs Eileen Kelly,
106 Paine Street,
Maroubra. 2035
Tel. : 344/5680

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, 7th March, 1979. The usual date, - the 4th Wednesday of February, - this year falls on Ash Wednesday, so is not convenient for some of our members. The Meeting will be at 8 p.m. in the Clubrooms (Ground floor) of the Knights of the Southern Cross, 150-152 Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

Members are invited to be present at the Annual Meeting and to bring this Report. Elections for the Executive and Council will be held. Members will be told the names of those people who have already kindly expressed their willingness to give a Talk to the Society this year. Any other suggestions for the year's activities will be very welcome.

Please note in your diary : Our Silver Jubilee St Patrick's Day Dinner will be held on Sunday, 18th March, at Kei-Ron, Waverley. Invitations will be sent out in good time.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1978

The 1978 Annual General Meeting of the Irish-Australian Aisling Society was held in the rooms of the Knights of the Southern Cross, 150-152 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, on Wednesday, 22nd February at 8 p.m.

The Election of Officers for 1978 resulted as follows :

PRESIDENT : Mr Vincent Pike

VICE-PRESIDENTS : Rev. Fr Patrick O'Rourke
Rev. Fr Michael O'Sullivan
Mr Brendan O'Connell

HON. SECRETARY : Mrs Joan Ward

HON. TREASURER : Mrs Eileen Kelly

COUNCIL : Mrs Anne Stevens
Miss Maureen McLoughlin
Miss Dorothy Payten
Miss Rosemary Nugent
Mr Eugene Sullivan
Miss Gwen Gilligan

The 1977 Annual Report and the Hon. Treasurer's Statement were taken as read, - all members having received a copy, - and adopted.

Activities of the Irish-Australian Aisling Society :

The 24th Annual St Patrick's Day Dinner was held at Kei-Ron, Waverley, on Sunday, 19th March, 1978. It was a well-attended and most enjoyable function at which just over 100 members and friends joined with the President in honouring the Day. The Society's Guest of Honour was the popular and well-known speaker, Rev. Fr Frank Mecham, who proposed the toast 'The Day We Celebrate', skilfully linking this with Nationalism in the world today. Mr Brendan O'Connell replied on behalf of the Society, extending our sincere thanks for a most interesting and scholarly Address. The Hon. Secretary then read two Messages from Ireland, - one from the President of the Republic, and the other from the Taoiseach. After a pleasant period of conviviality, Rev. Fr T. Keogh, accompanied by Mrs Joan McCoy, delighted all present with a violin programme of Irish airs. Altogether a very happy evening.

In April the Society was privileged to hear a most interesting Address by one of our members, Mr Philip Lee, who spoke to us on the remarkable 19th century Irish writer, Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu, the first Irish master of the psychological novel. At this Meeting presentations were made to the outgoing Secretary, Mrs Anne Stevens, and Treasurer, Miss Maureen McLoughlin, for their years of devoted service to the Aisling Society.

In May members watched two very beautiful Irish Films kindly supplied by Miss Dorothy Payten of Aer Lingus. 'A Bird's Eye View of Ireland' followed with brilliant aerial photography the travels of a young man round the Emerald Isle. The second film, 'Reflections', was a beautiful picture with no spoken commentary, depending only on the natural sounds which accompanied the scenes of visual beauty.

Our June Speaker was Dr Barry O'Dwyer, a senior lecturer at Macquarie University. This was a most erudite Talk on St Bernard's 'Life of Malachy'. We felt we indeed got to know this saintly man, Archbishop of Armagh, and close friend of the great Cistercian, Bernard of Clairvoix.

Early in July 12 members and friends went to see Brian Friel's play, 'Lovers, Winners and Losers'. The evening proved most enjoyable, as also was our later visit to see 'Da' at the Parade Theatre. It seemed a pity that more members were not able to attend these Irish plays.

At the July monthly meeting the Irish Trade Representative, Mr Paul Sheridan, gave us a most comprehensive and up-to-date account of the wonderful expansion in Irish trade and commerce during the last four years. He extended this to tell us what he felt could reasonably be expected to happen in 'Ireland of the Eighties'. Since this Talk Mr Sheridan has ceased to head the Trade Delegation from Ireland in Australia and is remaining here in a private capacity. The new Irish Trade Representative is Mr Eamon O'Reilly.

Mrs Mary O'Connell from the Aisling Society was the Speaker at the August Meeting. Mary gave us a most engrossing Address on that great Irish poet and dramatist, John Millington Synge. She brought vividly to life for us two of Synge's best-known plays, - 'Riders to the Sea' and 'The Shadow on the Glen'.

In September, another of our members, Mrs Anne Stevens, gave us a truly memorable Talk on Oliver St John Gogarty, - poet, novelist, playwright and surgeon, - who lived life to the full in the Dublin of the first half of this century. Anne made this man's fascinating character very real to us.

Our last Talk for the year was in October, when Dr Keith Suter of St John's College in Sydney University spoke to us on 'Northern Ireland, - Coping with Conflict.' This was a most interesting and topical Address, a summary of which will be read at the Monthly Meeting to follow the Annual General Meeting.

To all these speakers during 1978 go our most sincere thanks for making the Monthly Meetings the very pleasant occasions they all have been.

On Friday, 22nd September, an Irish Day Seminar was held as part of 'Carnivale, '78', - a cultural festival sponsored by the N.S.W. Government. Several members of the Aisling Society attended the day's activities which were highlighted by an Address from Mr Tim Pat Coogan, Editor-in-Chief of The Irish Press, Dublin. One of our members, Bishop David Cremin, gave a fine Address on 'The Irish Contribution to the Church in Australia'. A previous Guest Speaker of ours, and one who has promised to talk to us again this year, Professor Patrick O'Farrell, gave a most scholarly Speech on 'The Irish in Australian History.'

The Annual Christmas Party was held at the Hilton Hotel in the evening of Thursday, 14th December. It certainly fulfilled its aim of bringing the members together for a couple of hours to celebrate the Christmas season. It was a festive gathering thoroughly enjoyed by the 82 people present. The Guest of Honour was Mr Justin Carroll, First Secretary at the Irish Embassy, Canberra, who delighted his listeners with a fine speech during which he praised the Aisling Society for the part it had played for many years in presenting the many facets of Irish culture to its members.

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The Irish-Australian Aisling Society now has 69 financial members. We were happy to welcome Miss Carmel Wall, Mrs Margaret Flynn, Mr Joseph O'Shea, Mr John Knight and Mr Frank Deery as new members for 1978. Unfortunately 3 members who had been in the Society for many years have now resigned. Miss Elizabeth O'Connor who attended our Meetings and social functions so regularly over the years is no longer able to be with us. Our loving wishes go to her. Mr Peter Abotomey is now living in Queensland, and - keen commuter as he was - can no longer come to meetings. To Peter go our very best wishes for his new life, and sincere thanks for his active participation during his membership of the Society. Due to other pressures our long time member, Mr Peter Daly, has also tendered his resignation which is accepted with real regret.

We record with great sadness and a deep sense of loss the death in December of our much-loved member, Rev. Fr Neil Collins. St Mary's Cathedral was filled by more than 2,000 people for his Solemn Requiem Mass. Bishop David Cremin, Rev. Fr O'Rourke, Rev. Fr O'Sullivan and many other members of the Aisling Society were at the Mass.

The Society also expresses its sincere sympathy to one of our Foundation Members, Mrs Pat Longstaff, on the recent death of her dear mother, Mrs Elvira Hayes.

The father of Bishop Cremin died recently in Ireland at the fine old age of ninety. Many members of the Aisling Society were at a concelebrated Requiem Mass, and a message of sympathy has been sent to Bishop David.

Sincere sympathy is also extended to our President, Mr Vincent Pike, and Foundation Member, Miss Veronica Pike, in the recent loss of their dear sister, Mrs Dorothy Eagles.

May God grant eternal happiness to them all.

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Would members kindly note that the Annual Subscription is now \$10, payable from January 1st. It would be most helpful if subscriptions were paid direct to the Hon. Treasurer by post. Subscriptions may also be paid in person at the Annual General Meeting or included in the cheque for the St Patrick's Day Dinner. Please do not leave payment of your subscription until the night of the Dinner itself.

The thanks of the Irish-Australian Aisling Society are sincerely offered to the Knights of the Southern Cross for the courtesy and helpfulness they have shown us during the year.

Once again our very sincere thanks to Mr Senan Ryan who has been the Hon. Auditor for the Society for many years.

Signed on behalf of the Executive and Council,

Joan Ward

Hon. Secretary.

THE IRISH AUSTRALIAN AISLING SOCIETY.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1978.

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>
Opening Balance	63.58	211.66	Postage & Telephone	148.00	152.29
Subscriptions Received	436.50	651.00	Subscriptions O/Paid Refunded	4.00	-
Subscriptions in Advance	63.00	30.00	Rent of Rooms	80.00	115.00
Interest Received	3.26	13.51	Flowers for sick members	42.00	43.20
Suppers	32.28	14.25	Suppers	63.00	19.00
Donations	14.00		Secretarial Fees	30.00	30.00
Proceeds of raffles	135.65		Cost of raffles	8.20	-
St. Patrick's Night Dinner	1,162.50	1,414.00	Cost of St. Patrick's Night Dinner	1,143.50	1,328.00
Christmas Party	715.00	738.00	Cost of Christmas Party	687.50	839.50
Theatre Party		236.50	Gifts for Guest Speakers	109.28	53.80
			Stationery	24.68	25.68
			Printing	70.95	154.67
			Cartage	3.00	-
			Theatre Party	-	225.20
			Donations		20.00
			Advert		56.00
			Bank Charges		70
			Closing Balance	211.66	245.88
	<u>2,625.77</u>	<u>3,308.92</u>		<u>2,625.77</u>	<u>3,308.92</u>

HON, TREASURER: EILEEN KELLY

AUDITOR'S REPORT: The above Statement of Receipts and Payments is in my opinion a correct statement according to the books.

10TH JANUARY, 1979.

SENAN J. RYAN, F.C.A.

Registered under the Public Accountants'
Registration Act, 1945, as amended.