



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,
34 Caratel Crescent,
Marayong. 2148
Tel. 671/3034

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society will be held on Wednesday, 27th February, 1980, at 8 p.m. in the N.S.W. LEAGUES' CLUB (5th floor), 165 Phillip Street, — Between King Street and Martin Place. All members are asked to be present at this Meeting and to bring this Report. Elections for the Executive and Council will be held, and members will be told the Programme so far arranged for 1980. Suggestions from members for additional Speakers or other forms of entertainment will be very welcome.

Please note in your diary: The 1980 ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER will be held on Sunday, 16th March, at Kei-Ron, Waverley. Invitations will be sent out in good time.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1979

The 1979 Annual General Meeting of the Irish-Australian Aisling Society was held in the rooms of the Knights of the Southern Cross, 151-152 Elizabeth Street., Sydney, on Wednesday, 7th March, 1979. The Election of Officers for 1979 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 CARMEL O'CONNOR, MISS DOROTHY PAYTEN,
MISS ALICE PIERT, MISS NORA SULLIVAN.

After the Election of Officers it was unanimously agreed that Rev. Father Patrick O'Rourke, a Foundation member and Past President, be declared a Life Vice-President of the Irish-Australian Society. Rev. Father O'Sullivan was also nominated as Hon. Librarian, and Miss Dorothy Payten as Hon. Publicity Officer.

1979 was the Silver Anniversary Jubilee Year of the foundation of our Society. The Aisling Society of Sydney was formed in 1954 with a membership of 84, and at the beginning of 1979 the number of members was 69. However, by the end of the year our membership stood at 104, — a very gratifying increase which augurs well for the years ahead. A sincere welcome is extended to all our new members. During 1979 a leaflet was printed setting out the aims of the Aisling Society, and giving a sampling of the Talks we have listened to over the last 13 years. A similar leaflet printed in 1966 covered the initial 12 years of Aisling history.

Early in 1979 The Society had to seek a new venue for its Meetings as the Knights of the Southern Cross Building ceased to remain open regularly after 6.30 p.m. Many Possibilities were explored, and finally the Society accepted the generous hospitality offered by the N.S.W. LEAGUES' CLUB. This offer of the free use of the Conference Room was made to the Hon. Secretary as her husband, the late Mr. Laurie Ward, had represented Australia in Rugby League, and so had an honoured place in the Club's history. This meeting place has proved very popular with members who are free to enjoy the amenities of the Club on the Meeting nights.

Three deaths saddened us during the year. Rev. Father Tom Keogh who had been a long time friend of the Aisling Society, and who had entertained us so well at the 1977 St. Patrick's Day Dinner, died in July. Many members attended the Pontifical Concelebrated Requiem Mass. Later in the year Rev. Father Michael Baulman, the dear brother of our member, Mrs. Mary Angel, also died, and our deep sympathy was extended to Mary and her family. One of the members of our Society, Mr. Frank Deery, died after a brief illness in August, and the Requiem Mass was also attended by members. May God grant eternal rest to them all.

The Silver Anniversary St. Patrick's Day Dinner was held at Kei-Ron, Waverley, on Sunday, 18th March, 1979. This was a very enjoyable function attended by 150 members and their friends. The dining room had been beautifully decorated for our special night, and after dinner, Messages were read from the President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillery, and the Taoiseach, Mr. Jack Lynch, T.D. The main Address of the evening was given by Mrs. Anne Stevens who proposed the Toast of "The Aisling Society". Anne gave us a fine account of the history of the Society, and spoke of the high ideals and the outstanding qualities of those who ~~has~~ shaped its destiny for over a quarter of a century. Dancing and general conviviality followed the formal part of the evening, and a very happy St. Patrick's Day celebration was enjoyed by all present.

Several members were also present at the St. Patrick's Day Parade organised by the I.N.A. for Saturday, 17th March. It is hoped to make this a much more imposing event in 1980, and our Society has been asked to help achieve this goal. On March 16th our President, Mr. Pike, addressed an Irish Night Meeting of the W.E.A. Association.

The April Monthly Meeting was addressed by Mr. Saemus Grimes, a Research Student in Geography at the University of N.S.W. His topic was "A Study of Friendship Patterns among Irish Immigrants to Sydney". Mr. Grimes gave an absorbing account of the way he thought successive waves of immigrants had settled into their new life here. Mr. Grimes has since returned to Ireland.

In May, members were honoured by the presence of Professor Patrick O'Farrell, Professor of History at the University of N.S.W. The topic of his Address was "Some Aspects of Irish Peasant Culture". This was a very scholarly and thought-provoking Talk, and Professor O'Farrell was kind enough to send the Secretary a copy of his printed paper, "Millennialism, Messianism and Utopianism" of which the Address to the Aisling Society was a synopsis. This Article is available on loan to members.

Rev. Patrick O'Rourke spoke at the June Monthly Meeting on "Fifty Years of Irish National Theatre". This was a most enjoyable Talk, containing as it did a host of personal anecdotes ~~was~~ as well as historical detail. A Tape of this Talk is also available on loan to members.

The July Monthly Meeting was incorporated with a special Silver Anniversary Dinner held in the Private Dining Room at the Leagues' Club. This was a most enjoyable function at which 82 members and friends gathered to hear an Address by Professor Colm Kiernan, Associate Professor of History at Wollongong University. The Topic of the Address was "Archbishop Daniel Mannix, - the Irish Question and Conscription". Guest of honour at the Dinner was the Irish Ambassador to Australia, Mr. Florence O'Riordan, who was accompanied by Mrs. O'Riordan and their daughter, Lygia. Mr. Michael Maher, M.P. represented the Premier of N.S.W., and Mr. Terry Long represented the Irish Tourist Board. Professor Kiernan's brilliant Address is also available to members on loan. With his family Professor Kiernan left Sydney in December to take up a two-year appointment as Endowed Professor of Australian History at the National University, Dublin. Good wishes from the Aisling Society were extended to Professor Kiernan and he has promised to keep in touch with us.

A Film Evening was arranged for the August Meeting, and in September one of our members, Mr. Peter Herlinger, gave us a memorable Talk on "The West Australian Fenian Rescue". This most fascinating story of plot and counter-plot with highlights worthy of any million dollar movie is also on tape, and may be borrowed by members. Mr. Pike commented that this Talk was indeed worthy of publication, and so was also the final Talk of the year given by another of our members, Mr. Peter Gray. Peter took as his topic "Remember Emmett!", and this was a splendid and most moving account of the life of that doomed young Irish patriot. A lovely recording of Thomas Moore's "She is far from the land" sung by Paul Robeson was included in the Talk which is also available on Tape.

To all these speakers who made our Meetings in 1979 so instructive and enjoyable go our most sincere thanks.

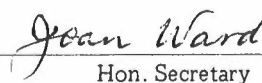
The Christmas Party was held at the N.S.W. Leagues' Club on Thursday, 13th December. Although attended by fewer members than last year, the 52 who came enjoyed a most pleasant evening. We found it a happy way of extending to each other every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

The Annual Subscription is \$10, payable from the 1st January each year. Subscriptions should be paid direct to the Hon. Treasurer by post, or in person at the Annual General Meeting. Subscriptions not paid by 31st May render a member unfinancial.

The sincere thanks of the Irish-Australian Aisling Society are offered to the Chief Executive and Directors of the N.S.W. LEAGUES' CLUB for their generous hospitality to our Society this past year.

Finally our thanks as ever, and best wishes for good health, to Mr. Senan Ryan, our Hon. Auditor for so many years.

Signed on behalf of the Executive and Council,


Hon. Secretary

THE IRISH – AUSTRALIAN AISLING SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1979

<u>RECEIPTS:</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>PAYMENTS:</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>
	\$	\$		\$	\$
Opening balance	211.66	245.88	Printing and Stationery	180.35	249.17
Subscriptions received	651.00	980.00	Postage and Telephone	152.29	256.06
Subscriptions in advance	30.00	10.00	Rent	115.00	30.00
Interest received	13.51	18.98	Flowers for sick and deceased members	43.20	35.50
Suppers and Donations	14.25	5.00	Cost of suppers	19.00	—
St. Patrick's Night Dinner	1,414.00	2,339.00	Cost of St. Patrick's Night Dinner	1,328.00	2,226.00
Jubilee Dinner	—	740.00	Cost of Jubilee Dinner	—	861.40
Christmas Party	738.00	478.00	Cost of Christmas Party	839.50	506.00
Theatre Party	236.50	—	Cost of Theatre Party	225.20	—
			Miscellaneous expenses	—	15.00
			Gifts for Guest Speakers	53.80	85.18
			Bank Charges	.70	2.00
			Secretarial fees	30.00	—
			Donations	20.00	—
			Advertising	56.00	—
			Closing balances	245.88	550.55
	<u>\$ 3,308.92</u>	<u>\$ 4,816.86</u>		<u>\$ 3,308.92</u>	<u>\$ 4,816.86</u>

HON TREASURER: EILEEN KEELLY

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

BRENDAN P. O'CONNELL, A.C.A.,
Chartered Accountant.

21st JANUARY, 1980.