



The Irish Australian Aisling Society

PRESIDENT

Rev. Fr. Michael O'Sullivan
Catholic Presbytery,
Sutherland Street,
Mascot 2018.

Tel: 667-3040

HON. SECRETARY

Mrs. Joan Ward
21 Canterbury Rd,
Canterbury,
N.S.W. 2193.

Tel: 78-2266

HON. TREASURER

Mrs. Eileen Kelly
34 Caratel Cres.,
Maryong,
N.S.W. 2148.

Tel: 671-3034

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society will be held on Wednesday, 25th February 1981 at 8.00 p.m. in the NSW LEAGUES' CLUB, 3rd Floor, 165 Phillip Street, Sydney. All members are asked to be present at this Meeting and to bring this Report. Elections for Office-bearers for 1981 will be held and members will be told the Programme so far arranged for 1981. Any suggestions from members for the Programme will be very welcome.

Please note in your diary - THE 1981 ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER will be held at Kei-Ron, Waverley, on Sunday 15th March. Invitations will be sent out in good time.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1980

The 1980 Annual General Meeting of the Irish-Australian Aisling Society was held in the Conference Room of the N.S.W. Leagues' Club, 165 Phillip St, Sydney, on Wednesday, 27th February 1980. The election of office-bearers for 1980 resulted as follows:-

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| President | - Rev. Fr. Michael O'Sullivan |
| Vice-Presidents | - Rev. Fr. Patrick O'Rourke (Life) |
| | - Mr. Vincent Pike (Life) |
| | - Mr. Brendan O'Connell |
| | - Mrs. Anne Stevens. |
| Hon. Secretary | - Mrs. Joan Ward |
| Hon. Treasurer | - Mrs. Eileen Kelly |
| Council | - Miss Maureen McLoughlin, Miss Carmel O'Connor |
| | Miss Alice Piert, Miss Dorothy Payten (who is |
| | also Hon. Publicity Officer). Mr. John Ryan |
| | and Mr. Tony Baine. |

The Annual Report and the Hon. Treasurer's Statement were taken as read (all present having been sent a copy) and were adopted. The Annual General Meeting was then closed and was followed immediately by the February Monthly Meeting.

1980 was a time of fine achievement for our Society and members are to be congratulated on their regular attendance at the Monthly Meetings and, in particular, for supporting the four social functions held during the year. The membership, which soared over the hundred mark in 1979, was increased by seventeen new members by the end of 1980. The names and addresses of these new members will be given at the end of this Report and this section should be attached to the Membership List issued in 1979. A most sincere welcome is extended to our new members. One of the Foundation Members, and a most regular attender at Meetings and Functions, Miss Elizabeth O'Connor, died in April and loving sympathy is extended to her relatives. Two of our members, Rev. Fr. Kevin Prunty and Mrs. Kath Harris, have not been well during 1980 and best wishes go to them and also to Mrs. Edith Falvey who has resigned from the Society through ill-health. One of our members, Miss Joan Gortley, received an M.B.E. Decoration in the Birthday Honours' List and was heartily congratulated by the Society.

1980, the Aisling Society held six monthly meetings - February, April, May, July, August and October - and four Dinners (St. Patrick's Day, Mid-Year, September and Christmas). The Mid-Year was introduced as an experiment to see if the members would enjoy an extra social function. It proved so successful that the September Dinner was also held, as well as a Dinner as a Christmas celebration.

At the February Monthly Meeting members were invited to contribute to the Fr. Neil Collins Sick Pilgrim's Memorial Fund and in May a cheque for \$150 was forwarded from the Society.

The St. Patrick's Day Dinner which was held at Kei-Ron, Waverley, on 16th March was the usual happy function we all associate with this event. Just over one hundred members and their friends gathered to celebrate "The Day". The speaker for the evening was Rev. Fr. Patrick Carr who was in Ireland during the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul and who shared with us his memories of that famous occasion. Mr. Frank O'Donaghoe, Second Secretary at the Irish Embassy, Canberra, read the yearly Message from the Taoiseach of Ireland (Mr. Charles Haughey, T.D.) and later, Mr. Tom Aherne delighted the gathering with his fine singing. To close the evening members enjoyed dancing to the music played by the Kei-Ron Band. Earlier on the 16th March, several members had been to watch the St. Patrick's Day Parade, organised by the Irish National Association. In the Parade Mr. Brendan O'Connell drove his car carrying the Aisling Banner. The I.N.A. is to be warmly congratulated on the great effort that was made for the Parade to be the success it was.

At the April Meeting, Rev. Fr. P. O'Rourke spoke to us of "John McCormack - the Man and his Music". This was a very pleasant evening with an entertaining talk followed by a selection of the early McCormack records.

The Monthly Meeting in May was a Film Evening. Our thanks went to Miss Dorothy Payten of Aer Lingus who obtained the very enjoyable films for us.

Dr. Clement Semmler was the Guest of Honour at the Mid-Year Dinner. He gave us a charming after-dinner address, reminiscing on the humour displayed in their writings by Ireland's literary giants.

At the July Meeting, our President, Rev. Fr. M. O'Sullivan, gave us the history of that remarkable anachronism of our time, "St. Patrick's Purgatory". Fr. O'Sullivan has been twice on this very strict pilgrimage and entertained us with both film and slides to supplement his vivid account of his days on Lough Derg.

Another of our members, Mr. John Ryan, was a very capable speaker for the August Meeting. He had chosen as his topic "The Wild Geese" and gave us a remarkably well-researched and interesting account of the history of Ireland during the 17th Century, concentrating his main story round the close of the century and the Irish hopes for the restoration of the Stuart monarchy.

The September Dinner attracted fifty five members and friends and the Society honoured two distinguished guests - Mr. Eamonn O'Reilly, Trade Representative for Ireland and Mrs. Dorothy Tubridy a charming visitor from Dublin. After dinner, Mrs. Tubridy spoke of her years as Public Relations Officer for the Waterford Glass Company and also outlined the present political situation in Ireland. She was very helpful in answering many questions from her audience on this topic.

On 22nd October, Mr. Eamonn O'Reilly spoke to the Society on "The Irish Economy and its Relationship with Australia". Mr. O'Reilly is the Irish Trade Representative and Director for the Industrial Development Authority of Ireland and gave us an extremely interesting address. Members showed their gratitude to him for coming to talk to us on this important topic by bombarding him with questions in what Fr. O'Sullivan described as the most interesting and longest question time he could remember in the Society's history.

To all the speakers who made our 1980 Meetings so informative and so enjoyable, go our most sincere thanks. Members may like to bear in mind that if they are unable to be present at a particular Meeting, they may borrow the tape recording which is always made of the address at Monthly Meetings.

The Christmas Dinner held at the N.S.W. Leagues' Club's Private Dining Room brought the year to a very happy conclusion. Ninety three members and friends had a most pleasant evening highlighted by the Presentation of a Golf Buggy and Golf Bag to His Lordship, Bishop David Cremin to honour his Silver Anniversary of Ordination. The entertainer for the evening was the very talented Irish harpist Marcia Capelle who delighted us all with her two brackets of fine singing and playing. A thoroughly enjoyable evening.

I do not like to end this account of the year's activities with a complaint. However, the secretarial work was made unnecessarily heavy by quite a few members replying to their Dinner invitations on (or after) the specified final date for acceptance in spite of a plea for an early

reply. Your co-operation in sending a written (not 'phoned please) reply in good time is earnestly requested.

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 during 1980 in allowing us to have the free use of their fine Conference Room for our Meetings.

Our sincere thanks, too, to our Vice-President, Mr. Brendan O'Connell, our Hon. Auditor, for the attached Statement of Accounts.

The Annual Subscription is \$10.00 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. A form is included for your convenience. Subscriptions not paid by 31st May render a member un-financial.

At the February Monthly Meeting, which will follow the Annual General Meeting, members will be told of alterations to the 1956 Constitution decided upon by Council to bring it in line with present practice in the Society. Clauses 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 17, 23 and 24 are to be amended or deleted. Clause 1 was altered in 1976 so that the original name of the Society "The Aisling Society of Sydney" became "The Irish-Australian Aisling Society". There will be a motion moved at the February Monthly Meeting that the name of the Society revert to its original form. Kindly note that for any alteration to the Constitution only members of the Society are entitled to vote. There will be a copy of the proposed redrafted Constitution available for members' perusal at the Annual General Meeting and the February Monthly Meeting. Later in the year, a copy of the Constitution will be forwarded to each member. Clause 24 of the original Constitution, which governs any proposed alteration, is as follows:-

"No alteration to these Rules shall be made unless carried at the Ordinary Meeting and confirmed at the next Ordinary Meeting by the vote of at least a two-thirds majority of the members present. Fourteen days' notice shall be given to the Honorary Secretary of an intention to propose such alteration and such notice shall set out the details of the proposed alteration and the Secretary shall give seven days' notice of same to Members."

Signed on behalf of the Executive and Council

Joan Ward

Hon. Secretary.

THE IRISH - AUSTRALIAN AISLING SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1980.

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Last year</u>	<u>This year</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Last year</u>	<u>This year</u>
Opening balance	246	551	Printing and Stationery	249	313
Subscriptions received	980	1,012	Postage and Telephone	256	315
Subscriptions in advance	10	120	Rent	30	-
Interest received	19	16	Bank charges	2	3
Donations received	5	65	Donations paid	-	172
St. Patrick's Night Dinner	2,339	1,732	Cost of St. Patrick's Dinner	2,226	1,785
Mid-year Dinner	740	660	Cost of Mid-year Dinner	861	857
Third Quarter Dinner (Sept.)	-	560	Cost of Third Quarter Dinner	-	738
Christmas Dinner	478	1,358	Cost of Christmas Dinner	506	1,235
			Entertaining distinguished guests	-	53
			Miscellaneous expenses	15	19
			In Memoriam and Flowers	36	108
			Gifts for Guest Speakers	85	65
			Other Gifts	-	104
			Closing Balance	551	307
	<u>\$4,817</u>	<u>\$6,074</u>		<u>\$4,817</u>	<u>\$6,074</u>
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HONORARY TREASURER: Eileen Kelly *E. Kelly*

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, F.C.A.,
Chartered Accountant.

B. P. O'Connell

20th January, 1981.