

PRESIDENT

Rev. Fr. Michael O'Sullivan
Catholic Presbytery,
Sutherland Street,
MASCOT, N.S.W. 2018

Tel: 667/3040

HON. SECRETARY

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

Tel: 78/2266

HON. TREASURER

Miss Maureen McLoughlin
18 Robinson Street,
EASTLAKES.
N.S.W. 2018

Tel: 667/4179

The 1982 Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Wednesday, 3rd March at 8 p.m. in the N.S.W. LEAGUES' CLUB, 3rd Floor, 165 Phillip St, Sydney. This Meeting has had to be postponed for a week as the previous Wednesday, our usual Meeting date, is Ash Wednesday. All members are asked to be present at this Meeting and to bring this Report. Elections for the Office-bearers for 1982 will be held, and members will be told the Programme so far arranged for 1982. Any suggestions from members for the Programme will be very welcome.

Please note in your diaries that the St Patrick's Day Dinner will be held as usual at Kei-Ron, Waverley this year. The date is Sunday, 21st March and invitations will be sent out in good time. The Aisling Society is being honoured by the presence of Miss Ruth Dobson as our Guest Speaker. Miss Dobson has recently returned from Ireland where she has been the Australian Ambassador for some years.

The St Patrick's Day Parade organised by the Irish National Association will be held on Sunday 14th March. One of our Councillors, Mrs. Kath Stewart, has given considerable time to attending the planning meetings on our behalf. As was done last year the Aisling Society has donated \$50 towards helping defray the expenses of the Parade. Members are urged to attend the Parade either as participants behind our Aisling Banner or as spectators along the route from Haymarket to the Opera House.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1981

The 1981 Annual General Meeting of the Irish-Australian Aisling Society was held at the N.S.W. LEAGUES' CLUB, 165 Phillip Street, Sydney on Wednesday, 25th February, 1981. The Election of Office-bearers for 1981 resulted as follows:

PRESIDENT

VICE-PRESIDENTS

HON. SECRETARY

HON. TREASURER

HON. PUBLICITY OFFICER

COUNCIL

Rev. Father Michael O'Sullivan
Rev. Father Patrick O'Rourke (Life)
Mr. Vincent Pike (Life)
Mrs. Anne Stevens
Mr. Brendan O'Connell
Mr. Tony Baine
Mrs. Joan Ward
Miss. Maureen McLoughlin
Miss Dorothy Payten
Miss Carmel O'Connor
Miss Alice Piert
Mrs. Eileen Kelly
Mr. John Ryan
Mrs. Kath Stewart
Mr. John Sheridan

The Annual Report for 1981 and the Treasurer's audited Statement of Receipts and Payments were taken as read (all members present having been sent a copy) and were adopted. The Annual General Meeting was then closed and was followed immediately by the February Ordinary Meeting.

During 1981 the membership of the Aisling Society was increased by seven, and we finished the year with a financial membership of 109. A sincere welcome is extended to the new members whose names are given at the end of this Report. During 1981 the deaths occurred of two of our members, - Miss Gwen Gilligan and Mr. Senan Ryan. Gwen was a Foundation Member and had served the Society well both as member and Councillor. Senan, whose wife, Kay, is also a Foundation Member, gave stirring service to the Society whose Hon. Auditor he was for several years. The Aisling Society was well represented at both Requiem Masses and sincere sympathy extended to both families. Our deep sympathy went also to another member, Mrs. Monica Dellow, at the time of her husband's death. In September loving sympathy was extended from the Aisling Society to its Hon. Treasurer, Miss Maureen McLoughlin, on the death of her beloved father, and again the President and members gathered to pay tribute to the passing of a fine old gentleman.

Three of our members are on extended leave abroad, - Professor Colm Kiernan at the National University, Dublin, Mr. Ray Goodwin at Oxford University for two years, and Mr. Peter Gray at London University for twelve months. Best wishes from all of us to them, and also to Rev. Father Kevin Prunty and Mrs. Kath Harris who have not been in good health during 1981.

In 1981 the Irish-Australian Aisling Society held six Ordinary Meetings and four Social Functions. For many years after its Foundation in 1954 there was only one yearly social gathering, - the St Patrick's Day Dinner, a gala occasion and highlight of the year. Some years later a Christmas Party usually a Musical Evening, - was introduced, then in 1980 we held a Mid-Year Dinner and a September Dinner. These 4 Social Functions were held again in 1981. Council will be recommending to members that both the June and September Dinners cease being purely social gatherings and revert to being Ordinary Meetings of the Society, - the formal Meetings on these nights to follow a simple-style Dinner.

Speakers who contributed to our knowledge and enjoyment during 1981 were:

At Ordinary Monthly Meetings:

Mr. Peter Herlinger: "The Battle of Clontarf, - 1014"
Mr. Gerard Windsor: "Grafting Ireland on to Australia, - some literary attempts"
Mr. Philip Lee: "Dublin, - Fishing Village to Modern City"
Professor Edith Johnston: "Some Aspects of the Background of early Irish Migrants to Australia"

At Social Functions:

Mrs. Anne Stevens: "A Walk around the Dublin of some Rebels, Writers and Wits"
Mr. Michael McCloskey: "The Development of Ireland's Foreign Policy"
(Irish Embassy, Charge d'Affaires, a.i.)
Courtesy of Aer Lingus and its Australasian Representative, Miss Dorothy Payten, we also enjoyed a pleasant and informative Film Evening.

Mr. Frank O'Donoghue from the Embassy of Ireland, Canberra, was Guest of Honour at our St Patrick's Day Dinner in March, 1981. He read to us the Messages sent to Irish Embassies round the world by the President and Taoiseach of the Republic of Ireland to mark St Patrick's Day. Over a hundred members and their friends gathered to celebrate The Day at Kei-Ron, where, as usual, everything was done in fine style.

Mr. A.J. Grassby, Commissioner for Community Relations, was Guest of Honour at the Society's Christmas Party. This function attended by 75 members and their friends was a very happy and informal occasion, both Mr. and Mrs. Grassby mixing freely with all the guests who enjoyed an excellent Buffet Dinner in the spacious 3rd floor area of the N.S.W. Leagues' Club. Once again our most sincere thanks to all these people who helped make 1981 a more interesting year for members of the Aisling Society. Members should note that a tape recording is made of each Address, and these are on loan from the Hon. Secretary.

Special and sincere thanks are offered to the Chief Executive, Mr. R.J. O'Connell, and Directors of the N.S.W. LEAGUES' CLUB for their continued generous hospitality to the Aisling Society during 1981 when we have enjoyed the free use of the entire 3rd floor area for our Meetings. Finally, sincere thanks, too, to our Hon. Auditor, Mr. Brendan O'Connell, for his Audit of the attached Statement of Receipts and Payments.

During 1981 the Council of the Irish-Australian Aisling Society began the first ever review of its Constitution drawn up in 1955. The following Clauses of the Original Constitution were amended or deleted early in 1981:- Clauses 5,6,7,8,9,13,15,16,17,23 and 24. The motion to amend Clause 1 was not carried but nevertheless amendment to this Clause is again proposed as outlined below.

Suggested Constitutional Amendments for 1982:

(a) Clause 1,

At a meeting of the Council of the Society in May, 1981 following upon the unsuccessful motion to amend Clause 1 of the Constitution, the following motion was unanimously carried:

"The Society shall be styled 'The Aisling Society of Sydney'. The words 'Irish-Australian Cultural Society' may be used in conjunction with the title where explanation of the Society's activities would appear necessary or desirable."

Council recommends that this motion be put to the general body of the Society at the February Ordinary Meeting. Such a Clause 1 would amply illustrate the activities of the Society while retaining the original name which served the Society from its Foundation in 1954 to 1976.

(b) Clause 6,

Council unanimously reaffirms the decision reached at the May Council Meeting that this Clause should be amended to read:

"Intending members shall be nominated by a financial member and proposed for election at the next meeting of the Council provided they have attended two Ordinary Meetings of the Society. The Council shall have power to accept or reject any candidate for membership, and to refuse to renew the membership of any person without assigning any reason therefore."

This clause has always stood in the Constitution, and what Council is recommending is that intending members should attend at least two Ordinary Meetings of the Society before their application for membership is approved. Council feels this is a worthwhile amendment, and is in line with the usual requirements for membership of most organisations.

(c) Clause 9,

Council unanimously proposes that this clause be amended by adding a concluding sentence in the following terms:

"No person shall nominate or be nominated for Council unless he or she has been a member of the Society for at least one year."

(d) Clause 16,

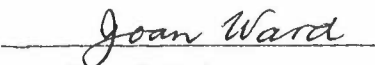
It is proposed to widen this clause to read as follows:

"An Honorary Auditor shall be appointed after each Annual General Meeting to act in the capacity for the ensuing financial year. At each Annual General Meeting the Honorary Secretary shall present a Report on the previous year's activities, and the Honorary Treasurer shall prepare and submit an audited Statement of Receipts and Payments for the previous financial year."

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Clause 24 the above four clauses will be presented for adoption at the February Ordinary Meeting and for confirmation by a 2/3 majority at the next Ordinary Meeting, that is at the April Ordinary Meeting.

The Annual Subscription is \$10 payable from the 1st January each year. Subscriptions should be paid direct to the Hon. Treasurer by post and a Subscription Form is enclosed for your convenience. Subscriptions not paid by the 31st May render a member unfinancial.

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 1981

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Last year</u>	<u>This year</u>	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Last year</u>	<u>This year</u>
Opening balance	551	307	Printing and Stationery	313	390
Subscriptions received	1,012	985	Postage and Telephone	315	309
Subscriptions in advance	120	20	Refunds re 1980 Xmas Party	-	70
Interest received	16	14	Bank charges	3	-
Donations received	65	-	Donations paid	172	50
St. Patrick's Night Dinner	1,732	2,100	Cost of St. Patrick's Dinner	1,785	2,008
Mid-year Dinner	660	768	Cost of Mid-year Dinner	857	794
Third Quarter Dinner (Sept.)	560	700	Cost of Third Quarter Dinner	738	710
Christmas Dinner	1,358	1,095	Cost of Christmas Dinner	1,235	1,033
Miscellaneous	-	20	Entertaining distinguished guests	53	-
			Miscellaneous expenses	19	56
			In Memoriam and Flowers	108	252
			Gifts for Guest Speakers	65	47
			Other Gifts	104	9
			Honorarium	-	100
			Closing Balance	307	181
	<u>\$ 6,074</u>	<u>\$ 6,009</u>		<u>\$ 6,074</u>	<u>\$ 6,009</u>
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HONORARY TREASURER: Maureen McLoughlin

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

21st January, 1982.