



The Aisling Society of Sydney

PRESIDENT:

Mrs. Anne Stevens,
27 Bay Rd, Waverton,
NSW 2060.

Tel: 929-3584.

HON. SECRETARY:

Mrs. Joan Ward,
21 Canterbury Rd,
Canterbury, NSW 2193.

Tel: 78-2266.

HON. TREASURER:

Miss Maureen McLoughlin,
18 Robinson St,
Eastlakes, NSW 2018.

Tel: 667-4179.

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The 1983 Annual General Meeting of The Aisling Society of Sydney will be held on Wednesday, 23rd February at 8.00 p.m. in the NSW Leagues' Club (3rd Floor), 165 Phillip St, Sydney. All members are asked to be present and bring this Report. Elections for the Office-bearers will be held and members will be told details of the 1983 Programme so far arranged.

Please note in your diaries that the St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be held at Kei-Ron, Waverley on Sunday, 20th March. Invitations will be sent out in good time. The St. Patrick's Day Parade, organised by the Irish National Association, is to be held on Sunday, 13th March, and members are urged to attend the Parade either as participants behind our Aisling Banner or as spectators along the route. A more elaborate programme than in previous years is being planned so as much support as possible is desired.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1982:

The 1982 Annual General Meeting of The Aisling Society of Sydney was held at The NSW Leagues' Club on Wednesday, 3rd March 1982. The Election of Office-bearers resulted as follows:-

PRESIDENT:

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

HON. SECRETARY:

HON. TREASURER:

PUBLICITY OFFICER:

COUNCIL:

HON. AUDITOR:

MRS. ANNE STEVENS

REV. FATHER PATRICK O'ROURKE (LIFE)

MR. VINCENT PIKE (LIFE)

REV. FATHER MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN

MR. ANTHONY BAINE

MR. PHILIP LEE

MRS. JOAN WARD

MISS MAUREEN McLOUGHLIN

MISS DOROTHY PAYTEN.

MISS CARMEL O'CONNOR

MR. BRENDAN O'CONNELL.

MR. JOHN RYAN.

MRS. KATHLEEN STEWART.

MRS. EILEEN KELLY.

MR. JOHN SHERIDAN.

MR. BRENDAN O'CONNELL (Appointed at the
February Ordinary Meeting).

The 1982 Annual Report and the audited Statement of Receipts and Payments received a unanimous vote after being moved for adoption by the Secretary and Treasurer. The incoming President then declared the Annual General Meeting closed and proceeded to open the February Ordinary Meeting. The election of Mrs. Stevens marks a milestone in Aisling History as, although the Society was formed in 1954, there has only been one previous woman President - Miss Mary Hegarty - and that was over ten years ago. Mrs Stevens was warmly welcomed as our new President.

At the close of 1982, the membership of the Aisling Society stood at 113. In spite of the increase in membership, there has not been a corresponding increase in the attendance at monthly meetings and social functions. It would be pleasing to see more members at the Meetings as it is disappointing for all concerned when there is only a small attendance especially if the speaker has been invited from outside the Society. A sincere welcome is extended to all those who joined The Aisling Society in 1982 - may they enjoy their membership in the Society. In November, one of our members - Rev. Father Kenneth Prunty, passed to his eternal reward, the Aisling Society was well represented at his Requiem Mass.

In 1982 there were six Ordinary Meetings and four Social Functions. Although the attendance at both the mid-year Dinner and the September Dinner was disappointing, Council has decided to persevere with these functions in 1983. It is felt that the generosity of the NSW Leagues' Club in providing free excellent accommodation for the Monthly Meetings should be acknowledged by the Society giving the Club the benefit of catering for the two Dinners.

Those who contributed to our knowledge and enjoyment during 1982 included:-

At Ordinary Meetings:

Miss Clare Dunne: "The Irish in Multicultural Australia".
Rev. Father Patrick O'Rourke: "Tinkers & Travellers - Ireland's Nomads".
Pupils from Mrs. Jan Berne's: "The Walton School of Irish Dancing".
Mr. Errol Lea-Scarlett: "The Irish Presence in Australian Family & Social History".
Mr. John Ryan: "The Modern Irish Artist, Louis de Brocquy".

At Social Functions:

Miss Ruth Dobson - recently returned Australian Ambassador to Ireland.
Mr. James Symes: "Vinegar Hill - Ireland 1798 - Castle Hill 1804".
Dr. Keith Suter: "Northern Ireland in World Context".

Most sincere thanks are again extended to these speakers and dancers who entertained us so very well. A reminder is given that each Talk is taped and the cassettes are available on loan from the Secretary.

At the April Ordinary Meeting four amended clauses of the Constitution of the Society were passed by the members present by the required 2/3 majority. This completed the review and redrafting of the original Constitution in which several of the clauses were out-of-date. A new Constitution will be printed in 1983.

Council has decided that the Annual Subscription Membership Fee will have to be increased to \$15 as from 1st January 1983. The last increase was in February 1978 and since then, there has been a big rise in the cost of paper printing, telephoning etc. A study of the attached Statement of Receipts and Payments will show how expenses have risen. Sincere thanks too, to Mr. Brendan O'Connell, our Chartered Accountant Councillor who has audited the books for the Society again this year.

A continuing fine relationship exists between the Aisling Society and The Embassy of Ireland, Canberra. In June 1982 the President, Mrs. Anne Stevens, the Secretary, Mrs. Joan Ward, our two Life Vice-Presidents, Father O'Rourke and Mr. Vincent Pike, and Mrs. Lilian Pike were invited to meet His Excellency, Mr. Joseph Small and Mrs. Small at luncheon at the Embassy. On this very pleasant occasion a gift - Geoffrey Blainey's historical study "The Tyranny of Distance" was presented to the Irish Ambassador from the Aisling Society. Again, in August 82, the Society had good representation at the State Reception given by the Premier of NSW, The Hon. Mr. N.K. Wran, Q.C., M.P., in honour of the first official visit by the new Ambassador to the State of New South Wales.

At the 1983 February Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 23rd February (immediately following the Annual General Meeting), the Guest Speaker will be Mr. Frank O'Donoghue, Second Secretary at the Irish Embassy, Canberra. Mr. O'Donoghue will be speaking to us on "Bilingualism in Ireland, past and present - a historical survey of the fortunes of the Irish Language".

In conclusion, may I sincerely thank all those, especially the Executive and Council, who have helped so much with my job in 1982. My very best wishes to all members, especially those who through ill health have not been able to attend the Society Meetings - may we all have a happy 1983.

Signed on behalf of the
Executive and Council:

HON. SECRETARY.

THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1982.

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>	<u>THIS YEAR.</u>
Opening Balance	307	181	Printing & Stationery	390	403
Subscriptions Received	985	1,055	Postage & Telephone	309	347
Subscriptions in Advance	20	-	Refunds re 1980 Xmas Party	70	-
Interest Received	14	11	Donations Paid	50	50
St. Patrick's Night Dinner	2,100	2,860	Cost of St. Patrick's Dinner	2,008	2,782
Mid-year Dinner	768	420	Cost of Mid-year Dinner	794	458
Third Quarter Dinner (Sept).	700	465	Cost of Third Quarter Dinner	710	471
Christmas Dinner	1,095	1,056	Cost of Christmas Dinner	1,033	956
Miscellaneous	20	-	Entertaining Distinguished Guests	-	17
Suppers	-	81	Suppers	-	150
			Miscellaneous Expenses	56	4
			In Memoriam & Flowers	252	40
			Gifts for Guest Speakers	47	125
			Other Gifts	9	-
			Honoraria	100	100
			Closing Balance	181	226
	<u>\$6,009</u>	<u>\$6,129</u>		<u>\$6,009</u>	<u>\$6,129</u>

HON TREASURER:

Maureen McLoughlin, M.I.A.A.

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, FCA,
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT.

27th January 1983.