



The Aisling Society of Sydney

PRESIDENT:

Mrs. Anne Stevens
27 Bay Road,
WAVERTON NSW 2060

TEL: 929-3584

HON. SECRETARY:

Mrs. Joan Ward
21 Canterbury Road,
CANTERBURY NSW 2193

TEL: 78-2266

HON. TREASURER:

Miss. Maureen McLoughlin
18 Robinson Street,
EASTLAKES NSW 2018

TEL: 667-4197

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THE 1984 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY will be held on WEDNESDAY, 22nd FEBRUARY, 1984 at 8 p.m. in THE N.S.W. LEAGUES' CLUB (3rd floor) 165 Phillip Street, Sydney. All members are asked to be present and to bring this Report. Election of Office-Bearers for 1984 will be held and members will be told the Programme so far arranged for the coming year.

Please note in your diaries that the 1984 ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER will be held on WEDNESDAY, 21st MARCH in THE RECEPTION HALL at THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE. Early in 1983 Council decided on a change of venue for this year's Dinner, while the high surcharge now applicable for week-end functions seemed an unnecessary expenses. Invitations to the Dinner will be sent out in good time.

The 1984 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE is to be held on SATURDAY, 17th MARCH, - on the feastday itself, - not as in previous years on the closest Sunday.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1983

THE 1983 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY was held at the N.S.W Leagues' Club on Wednesday, 23rd February, 1983. The Election of Office-Bearers resulted as follows:-

PRESIDENT: Mrs. Anne Stevens

LIFE VICE PRESIDENTS: Rev. Fr. Patrick O'Rourke
Mr. Vincent Pike

VICE PRESIDENTS: Rev. Fr. Michael O'Sullivan
Mr. Anthony Baine
Mr. Philip Lee

HON. SECRETARY: Mrs. Joan Ward

HON. TREASURER: Miss. Maureen McLoughlin

PUBLICITY OFFICER: Miss. Dorothy Payten

COUNCILORS: Miss. Carmel O'Connor
Mr. Brendan O'Connell
Mr. John Ryan
Mr. John Sheridan
Mrs. Kathleen Stewart
Mr. Joseph Connolly

HON. AUDITOR: Mr. Brendan O'Connell (appointed at the February Ordinary Meeting).

The 1983 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 President then declared the Annual General Meeting closed and proceeded to open the February Ordinary Meeting.

There was a very pleasing and marked increase in the attendance at Meetings of the Society in 1983. Beginning the year with only 35 present at the February Meeting, we reached an attendance of 52 in September and finally 80 in October. The membership of The Aisling Society now stands at 102 financial members, and it is very heartening especially for the older members to see the keen interest being shown by a younger generation. New members approved by Council after attendance at 2 Ordinary Meetings are :- Mr. Patrick Curran, Mr. Paul Dwyer, Mr. John Fawl, Miss. Dot Lynch, Mr. Anthony Morrisson, Mr. James Martin, Ms. Dympna Reavey, Mr. David Vaughan, Mr. Simon Moloney and Miss. Janette Davis. They are all warmly welcomed to the Society.

One of our members, Miss. Paula McGettrick of the Aer Lingus Office, was married to Mr. Desmond Nolan in June, and has begun married life in Melbourne. Best wishes from the Society were extended to Paula and Des.

In March, 1983 members were saddened by the sudden death of Mr. Tom Harte, a long-time member of The Aisling Society, while in June two of our Foundation Members, Mrs. Kathleen Harris and Mrs. Patricia Longstaff also died. Both these ladies had given great support for many years, - older members will remember fondly the fine singing provided so generously by Mrs. Pat Longstaff at many St. Patrick's Day Dinners and Social Functions. Sincere and heartfelt sympathy was extended by the Aisling Society to Mrs. Mary Harte, Mr. John Harris and Pat's sister, Miss. Sheila Hayes. Just as this Report is being compiled the tragic death of another member of our Society, Rev. Brother Maurice Shanahan C.F.C., has been announced. Brother Shanahan, Principal of the Christian Brothers' College at Sutherland was accidentally killed while holidaying at the Central Coast. Deep sympathy is extended to the Christian Brothers' Congregation.

It was decided by Council during 1983 to honour ^{with Hon. Life Membership} those Foundation Members who are no longer able to attend monthly meetings. Dr. Katherine Hyndes, Mrs. Catherine Ryan and Miss. Gwen Murphy have accepted this honour. Another member of The Aisling Society in its early years, Miss. Margaret McQuillan, in her Will this year generously bequeathed \$1,000 to The Aisling Society. This amount has been invested in the Society's name.

In 1983 an Appeal was made through The Aisling Society for donations to The Michael Collins Memorial Foundation Fund. The President, Mrs. Anne Stevens, was pleased to be able to forward £474 to the Chairman of this Fund in Dublin.

A study of the Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Payments will show how the overall increase in general costs keeps the Society operating on a very slim balance. Council has decided that the 1984 Subscription will have to be \$20. Sincere thanks are expressed to our Hon. Auditor, Mr. Brendan O'Connell, for his contribution to the Society.

In 1983 there were seven Ordinary Meetings of The Aisling Society of Sydney and three Social Functions. Except for the St. Patrick's Day Dinner (Kei-Ron Function Centre) and the Christmas Party (The Regent Hotel) all these Meetings and The Mid-Year Dinner were held at The N.S.W. Leagues' Club at no charge to the Society for the area provided. This generosity in providing such excellent free accommodation is gratefully acknowledged to the Executive of the N.S.W. Leagues' Club.

The Speakers at the 1983 Meetings, - to whom again sincere thanks are offered, were:-

<u>FEBRUARY:</u>	<u>MR. F.X.O'DONAGHOE</u> - "Bilingualism in Ireland, past and present, and historical survey of the fortunes of the Irish language."
<u>APRIL:</u>	<u>PROFESSOR PATRICK O'FARRELL</u> - "Dreaming of Distant Revolution : Albert Dryer and the foundation of the Irish National Association 1915-1916"
<u>MAY:</u>	<u>DR. HAZEL KING</u> - "Richard Bourke - "Irishman"
<u>JULY:</u>	<u>DR. MARK FINNANE</u> - "In Prison for Ireland : prison journals of the 19th century."
<u>AUGUST:</u>	<u>DR. HELEN FULTON</u> - "Irish Heroic Literature"
<u>SEPTEMBER:</u>	<u>REV. FR. MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN</u> - "The Round Towers of Ireland"
<u>OCTOBER:</u>	<u>REV. FR. EDMUND CAMPION</u> - "The Meaning of Dr. Mannix"

At the 1983 St. Patrick's Day Dinner the Aisling Society was honoured by the presence of the Irish Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency, Mr. Joseph Small. We were also happy to welcome as our guest His Lordship Bishop John Heaps who was celebrating his Silver Anniversary of Ordination. The Guest Speaker at the Mid-Year Dinner was Dr. Clement Semmler, always most generous in his willingness to address our members. Dr. Semmler's topic was "Irish Literary Influences". A reminder is given to members that all of the Talks are taped, and the cassettes are available on loan from the Secretary.

The Christmas Party held on 15th December at The Regent Hotel, was a very enjoyable function for the 65 members and friends who attended. Christmas cards were received from The Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin and from The Embassy of Ireland at Canberra. The Aisling Society was pleased in September to welcome the Second Secretary at the Embassy, Miss. Siobhan Ni Fhaolain, recently arrived from Dublin to replace Mr. Frank O'Donaghoe. Another guest of the Aisling Society during 1983 was Professor F.X. Martin, Professor of Medieval History, University College, Dublin, who spent six months in 1983 as a Visiting Fellow at the A.N.U. Canberra

The Treasurer of The Aisling Society, Miss. Maureen McLoughlin organised a Theatre Party in July and 43 members thoroughly enjoyed Brian Friel's latest play "Translations" at the Theatre Hall at the Sydney Opera House.

A new quarterly journal "The Irish Voice" began publication in 1983. Describing itself as "The only National Publication serving the Irish in Australia" the first two copies have been of good content and interest. Generous free coverage was given in both issues to material supplied by the Secretary of The Aisling Society. Members wishing to be put on the mailing list should send \$5 subscription to cover 4 issues to "The Irish Voice", P.O. Box K535, Haymarket, N.S.W. 2000.

During 1983 The Celtic Council of Australia was established. This group is comprised of members of the Scottish, Irish, Welsh, Breton and Manx communities, and its aim is to establish a Chair of Celtic Studies at an Australian University. This is, of course, a long-term project with much preliminary work to be done, it has been most courageously begun. Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month and information can be obtained from Mr. Pdraig Alasdair, G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney 2001. Aisling members who regularly attend the Celtic Council Meetings are:- Fr. M. O'Sullivan, Mr. P. Lee and Ms. D. Reavey.

At the 1984 February Ordinary Meeting, immediately following the Annual General Meeting, one of our Vice-Presidents, Mr. Philip Lee, will give a Report on the Bicentennial Conference held in October, 1983 at Kilkenny Castle in Ireland, and hosted by our Honorary member, Dr. Colm Kiernan, Professor of Australian History at University College, Dublin.

Gratitude is expressed to everyone who helped during 1983 to achieve the smooth running of The Aisling Society and who made my part in this so much easier. Good wishes are extended to all members and especially to those who for various reasons were unable to attend the Society Meetings during the year. May 1984 be a pleasant and peaceful year for us all.

Signed on behalf of the Executive and Council,

.....*Joan Ward*.....
HON. SECRETARY.

THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1983

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>
Opening Balance	181	226	Printing & Stationery	403	369
Subscriptions Received	1,055	1,500	Postage & Telephone	347	394
Interest Received	11	71	Bank Charges	-	7
St. Patricks Night Dinner	2,860	2,236	Cost of St. Patricks Dinner	2,782	2,182
Mid-Year Dinner	420	830	Cost of Mid-Year Dinner	458	847
Third Quarter Dinner	465	-	Cost of Third Quarter Dinner	471	-
Christmas Party	1,056	1,285	Cost of Christmas Party	956	971
Theatre Party	-	516	Cost of Theatre Party	-	494
Suppers	81	248	Suppers	150	400
Legacy	-	1,000	Interest Bearing Deposit	-	1,000
Donations	-	10	Donations Paid	50	200
			Deposit paid re: 1984 St. Patricks Dinner	-	200
			In Memoriam Mass Stipends	40	35
			Gifts for Guest Speakers	125	145
			Entertaining Distinguished Guests	17	131
			Honoraria	100	100
			Miscellaneous Expenses	4	33
			Closing Balance	226	414
	<u>\$6,129</u>	<u>\$7,922</u>		<u>\$6,129</u>	<u>\$7,922</u>

HON. TREASURER: Maureen Mc Loughlin 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.

19th January, 1984

BRENDAN P. O'CONNELL F.C.A.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT.