



The Aisling Society of Sydney

PRESIDENT:

MR ANTHONY BAINÉ

HON. SECRETARY:

MRS JOAN WARD

HON. TREASURER:

MISS MAUREEN McLOUGHLIN

THE 1985 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1985 AT 8 P.M. AT THE N.S.W. LEAGUES' CLUB (3rd floor) 165 PHILLIP STREET, SYDNEY. All members are invited to be present at this meeting at which an election of Office-bearers for 1985 will be held, and members informed of the Programme so far arranged for the coming year.

Please note in your diaries that THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, 18TH MARCH, IN THE RECEPTION HALL AT THE SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE. Invitations will be printed in time for distribution at The Annual General Meeting, and members wishing to attend should return the form as soon as possible after that date. The Irish Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr. Joseph Small, has been invited to the Dinner, and it is hoped that the prestigious Australian poet and writer, Vincent Buckley, will be our Guest Speaker. The Reception Hall can seat only 130 people, so a late booking may mean disappointment. As was the case last year, car stickers for parking in the forecourt will be available for drivers of cars with four or more occupants.

The 1985 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE is to be held on SUNDAY, 18⁷TH MARCH and The Aisling Society will have its usual decorated car in the Parade.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1984

THE 1984 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY was held at the N.S.W. LEAGUES' CLUB on Wednesday, 22nd February, 1984.
The Election of Office-bearers resulted as follows:

<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	MR ANTHONY BAINÉ
<u>VICE PRESIDENT:</u>	REV. FATHER MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN MRS ANNE STEVENS MR PHILIP LEE
<u>HON. SECRETARY:</u>	MRS JOAN WARD
<u>HON. TREASURER:</u>	MISS MAUREEN McLOUGHLIN
<u>PUBLICITY OFFICER:</u>	MISS DOROTHY PAYTEN
<u>COUNCILLORS:</u>	MISS CARMEL O'CONNOR MR JOHN RYAN MR BRENDAN O'CONNELL MR JOHN SHERIDAN MRS KATH STEWART MR PETER GRAY

The Aisling Society has two LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS: REV. FATHER PATRICK O'ROURKE
MR VINCENT PIKE

At the February Ordinary Meeting which followed the Annual General Meeting
MR BRENDAN O'CONNELL agreed to act as our HON. AUDITOR.

At the close of 1984 the Aisling Society had ninety-seven members. This included two Hon. Life Members, Dr. Katherine Hyndes and Miss Gwen Murphy, both Foundation Members. New members enrolled in 1984 were Mrs. Beryl Breen, Miss Roma Drew, Mr. Ed Dunne, Mrs. Renee Guy, Mrs. Betty Gillies and Mrs. Ailsa Hoban.

Professor Patrick O'Farrell has graciously accepted Hon. Life Membership in The Aisling Society. Council decided to offer this membership to Professor O'Farrell as a mark of our appreciation for all he has done for the Society for many years.

During 1984 congratulations were extended to our members Mrs. Marie Leech (Rooney) and Mrs. Paula Nolan (McGettrick) who both were blessed with daughters. Paula has named her babygirl Aisling.

In late September members were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Associate Professor Reg. O'Brien, one of our well-known and popular members. The Aisling Society extended heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Mary, and many who were free to do so attended the Requiem Mass. Reg had been a brilliant scientist in the Department of Biochemistry at Sydney University.

In October one of our Foundation Members, Mrs. Katherine Ryan, also died. Kay was the widow of Mr. Senan Ryan who had been the Hon. Auditor of The Aisling Society for over twenty years. Sincere sympathy was extended to Kay's brother and sisters. In late 1984 our Vice-President, Mrs. Anne Stevens, suffered the sad loss of her dear father, Dr. Erin Griffin. Many members had had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Griffin when he came to Sydney visiting from New Zealand. Most sincere sympathy was extended to Anne, and Mass offered for her father's eternal happiness.

A perusal of the Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Payments (attached to this Report) will show that the \$1,000 legacy from the late Miss. Margaret McQuillan, and a further generous bequest of \$500 from the late Mrs. Kath Harris, were invested in Interest-Bearing Deposits. It is the interest accruing from this money that the Aisling Society's Annual Prize to the University of N.S.W. will be paid. Council decided in August, 1984, - and this decision was ratified by the September, Ordinary Meeting, - that for the next five years an Annual Prize be offered to the University of N.S.W. for an outstanding thesis on some aspect of Irish or Irish-Australian history. The first award has been made to Mr. Malcolm Campbell, an Honours Graduate for 1984, whose thesis is entitled "St. Patrick's Day in Sydney in the 1890's: an exploration of the influences upon, and the dimensions of the celebration." As well as the \$100, the prize carries with it an honorary membership of The Aisling Society for a year, and an invitation for the recipient to address the members on the topic of the thesis at one of the Society's Meetings. It is hoped that as time goes by more funds will become available for the Society to be able to offer a similar prize to both Sydney and Macquarie Universities. It is interesting to note that following our example a similar type of prize is being offered to Melbourne University by The Celtic Club of that city.

In 1984 Mrs. Anne Stevens conducted her usual appeal through The Aisling Society for support for The Michael Collins Memorial Foundation Fund. Anne was delighted to be able to forward £ 368 to the Chairman of the Fund in Dublin.

In 1984 there were seven Ordinary Monthly Meetings of The Aisling Society and three Social Functions. Except for the St. Patrick's Day Dinner (Opera House), and the Christmas Party (Regent Hotel), all these meetings and the Mid-Year Dinner were held at the N.S.W. Leagues' Club, 165 Philip Street, Sydney, at no cost to the Society. This generosity in providing us with such excellent free accommodation is most gratefully acknowledged to the Executive of The N.S.W. Leagues' Club.

Speakers at the 1984 Meetings - to whom again sincere thanks are offered, - were

<u>FEBRUARY:</u>	<u>MR. PHILIP LEE:</u>	"A report on the Australian/Irish Bicentennial Conference, Kilkenny, Ireland, October, 1983."
<u>APRIL:</u>	<u>PROFESSOR PATRICK O'FARRELL:</u>	"The Irish Republican Brotherhood and the 1918 Internments"
<u>MAY:</u>	<u>MISS. SIOBHÁN NI FHAOLÁIN:</u>	"A report on the New Ireland Forum."
<u>JULY:</u>	<u>MR. GERRY MURPHY:</u>	"Ireland's Export Story."
<u>AUGUST:</u>	<u>MR. PHILIP LEE:</u>	"Dublin Wits and Literary Characters."

SEPTEMBER: DR. PORTIA ROBINSON: "From Colleen to Matilda."

OCTOBER: REV. FATHER PATRICK O'ROURKE: "Kathleen, Mother of all
the Behans."

At the ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER The Aisling Society was again honoured with the presence of the Irish Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr. Joseph Small. This function was also made more attractive by the fine singing of Miss Christine Hore, a member of the Australian Opera Company.

The guest speaker at the well-attended MID-YEAR DINNER was DR. TREVOR McCLAUGHLIN whose pleasant Talk had the engaging title "Digging Up Your Irish Ancestors."

The CHRISTMAS PARTY held at The Regent Hotel was attended by fifty-eight members and friends. It was a most enjoyable function, and a very happy way to finish off what had been a very successful year for The Aisling Society.

In October The Aisling Society was pleased to welcome to Sydney, and to entertain to luncheon, the Keeper of the State Papers at Dublin Castle. Mr. Breandán Mac Giolla Choille was in Australia at the invitation of Macquarie University to spend some time there as a Visiting Fellow.

Although the three founders of The Aisling Society of Sydney, - Rev. Father Nicholas McNally, Miss Mary Hegarty and Mr. Brian McGrath, - made a firm decision in November, 1954 to establish the Society, it was not until the St. Patrick's Day Dinner in March 1955 that the first Meeting for the Foundation Members took place. This year then marks the thirtieth anniversary of the foundation of our Society. Council has decided to celebrate this Jubilee Year by holding a MID-YEAR LUNCHEON on SUNDAY, 21ST JULY, 1985 at CURZON HALL, a Reception Centre at Marsfield, North Ryde. We hope to make this Jubilee Luncheon an outstanding event, with a musical programme to highlight the afternoon, and the eminent author, Thomas Keneally, to speak to us after the Luncheon.

The journal, THE IRISH VOICE, which began publication in 1983 has had a most successful debut. The fifth issue has now been published, and the circulation is Australia wide. Congratulations and best wishes to Patrick O'Gorman, Editor, and Liam Farrell, Managing Editor. Enquiries to P.O. Box K535, HAYMARKET, 2000.

The CELTIC COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA is also pressing on with its objectives. In 1984 The Aisling Society donated \$100 to the Council on which are three representatives from our Society. Membership, which is open to anyone who is interested in Celtic affairs, costs \$10 per annum, and information can be obtained from G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney, 2001.

My sincere thanks are expressed to everyone who helped during 1984 to achieve the smooth functioning of The Aisling Society of Sydney, and who made my part in this so much easier. Good wishes are extended to all members, especially those who through age or ill-health were unable to attend the meetings during the year. A reminder that the Monthly Talks are recorded on tape, and the cassettes may be borrowed on application to the Secretary. May 1985, our Jubilee Year, be a happy and successful year for all of us.

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, 1984

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>	<u>THIS YEAR</u>
Opening Balance	226	414	Advertising	-	23
Subscriptions Received	1,500	1,885	Printing & Stationery	369	274
Subscriptions in Advance	-	40	Postage & Telephone	394	431
Interest Received	71	194	Bank Charges	7	13
St. Patricks Night Dinner	2,236	3,784	Cost of St. Patricks Dinner	2,182	3,277
Mid Year Dinner	830	1,268	Cost of Mid Year Dinner	847	1,177
Christmas Party	1,285	1,300	Cost of Christmas Party	971	1,215
Suppers	248	102	Suppers	400	200
Theatre Party	516	-	Cost of Theatre Party	494	-
Legacy	1,000	500	Interest Bearing Deposit	1,000	1,500
Donations	10	6	Donations - Celtic Council	100	100
			- St. Patricks Day Parade	100	100
			Deposit paid re: 1985 St. Patricks		
			Dinner	200	200
			In Memoriam Mass Stipends	35	58
			Gifts for Guest Speakers	145	224
			Entertaining Distinguished Guests	131	65
			Honoraria	100	100
			Miscellaneous Expenses	33	31
			Aisling Prize for Univ. N.S.W.	-	100
			Filing Cabinet	-	207
			Closing Balance	414	198
	<u>\$7,922</u>	<u>\$9,493</u>		<u>\$7,922</u>	<u>\$9,493</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.

16th January, 1985

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