



The Aisling Society of Sydney

PRESIDENT :

HON. SECRETARY :

HON. TREASURER :

MR ANTHONY BAINE

MRS JOAN WARD

MISS MAUREEN McLOUGHLIN

THE 1986 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 26th FEBRUARY AT 8 p.m. IN THE BALLROOM AT THE N.S.W. LEAGUES' CLUB, 165 PHILLIP STREET, SYDNEY. All members are invited to be present at this Meeting, at which an Election of Office-bearers for 1986 will be held. Kindly note the location for the Meeting as our usual 3rd floor Meeting Area will not be available this year.

PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR DIARIES THAT THE ST PATRICK'S DAY DINNER WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, 7th MARCH AT KEI-RON, 60 CARRINGTON ROAD, WAVERLEY. This Reception Centre has been extensively redecorated and improved generally since our last function there in 1983. Invitations will be printed in time for distribution at the Annual General Meeting, and members wishing to attend should return their acceptance immediately after that date which is quite close to the function itself.

THE 1986 ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE is to be held on Sunday, 16th March commencing at 1 p.m. from Hyde Park. After proceeding along Elizabeth Street to Park Street, the Parade will come up George Street past the Town Hall to Devonshire Street, and will conclude with an outdoor concert in Prince Alfred Park. The Aisling Society hopes to have its usual decorated car in the Parade. One of our Councillors, Mrs Kath Stewart, our liaison officer with the I.N.A. worked very hard in 1985 as Secretary of Irish Week which concluded with the Parade. This year's Irish Week (9th - 16th March) will each day feature Irish programmes at lunchtime in the Martin Place Entertainment Area. A highlight of these will be the performance by members of the Aer Lingus Musical Society who are coming to Sydney especially for this event.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1985

The Annual General Meeting of The Aisling Society was held at The N.S.W. Leagues' Club on Wednesday, 27th February, 1985. The Election of Office-bearers for 1985 resulted as follows :

<u>PRESIDENT</u>	:	MR ANTHONY BAINE
<u>VICE-PRESIDENTS</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>	:	MR JOHN RYAN, MR BRENDAN O'CONNELL, MR JOHN SHERIDAN, MRS KATH STEWART, MR PETER GRAY, MR DAVID VAUGHAN.

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.

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The year 1985 marked the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Aisling Society of Sydney. Later this year it is proposed to include with a Meeting Notice a copy of the 1955 Annual Report which shows that our Society had an initial membership of ninety-two. At the close of 1985 our membership was ninety-five. Members may be surprised at this lack of increase of numbers considering how the population of Sydney has grown in the last 30 years. Perhaps a drive to augment our numbers may not be out of place. Membership for 1985 included 3 Hon. Life Members and 1 Hon. Member for the year, - Mr Malcolm Campbell, winner of The Aisling Prize in 1984. At the Jubilee Mid-Day Dinner in July, Hon. Life Membership was conferred on those Foundation Members still active in the Society, - Mr Eric Drew, Mrs Ann Vaughan, Miss Ena Sullivan, Miss Veronica Pike and Mrs Joan Ward. New members welcomed to the Society in 1985 were Mr Greg Byrnes, Miss Phil Little, Dr Alfredo and Signora Carmel Ferlisi, Mr Shay O'Hara, Mr Terry Tobin, Q.C., Miss Noreen White. One of our members, Dr Michael Lyden, died in October, and during the year other members lost close relatives, - Mrs Lilian Pike (sister) Mrs Eileen Kelly (mother), Mr Paddy Curran (father), Mrs Joan Ward (stepson). Sincere sympathy was expressed from the Aisling Society and Mass offered for their intentions.

The Aisling Society of Sydney was again this year the recipient of a most generous donation. Miss Veronica Pike, well-known Sydney lawyer and the sister of our Life Vice-President, Mr Vincent Pike, presented the Aisling Society with a cheque for \$1,000. This very generous donation has been put in an Interest-Bearing Deposit where the Society now has invested \$2,500 from gifts and \$500 from our funds. So far the only roll on the interest from this money has been for the \$100 Prize awarded to Mr Malcolm Campbell from The University of N.S.W. at the end of 1984. As Professor Patrick O'Farrell has been on leave for 1985 no award has been made this year. Early in 1986 Council will be considering how best to use more of this money so generously donated.

Two events highlighted 1985 for an Irish-Australian Society such as ours. Firstly, the visit of the President of Ireland, Dr Patrick J. Hillery, to each State and Territory of Australia, and, secondly, the "Ireland : Irish-Australian Conference" at the A.N.U., Canberra. Highlights of Dr Hillery's Visit to N.S.W. were a Civic Reception, a John McNally Concert at the Sydney Town Hall, a visit to the Irish Memorial in Waverley Cemetery, and a State Dinner at the Sheraton-Wentworth Hotel. At all of these eminently successful functions the Aisling Society had good representation. The Canberra Conference brought together leading academics from Australian and Irish Universities who presented outstanding papers on various aspects of Irish-Australian history and continuing relationship. Several Aisling members went to Canberra to take part in the discussions.

In May 1985 a Society with similar objectives to our own was begun in Canberra. Thanks to a most energetic Committee, this Society, "The Friends of Ireland", has gone ahead with remarkable success. Very best wishes to its President, Mr Frank Murphy, and his associates. Also this year an attempt is being made to establish an Irish Association along the lines of The Aisling Society in Toowoomba, Queensland. We wish this fledgling Society every success.

In the Commonwealth Literary Awards announced in December, one of our members, Mr Gerard Windsor, received one of the major awards. Sincere congratulations to Gerard and very best wishes for his future writing.

In 1985 Mrs Anne Stevens again appealed to members to support the Michael Collins Foundation Fund. This Foundation strives to assist young people from all over Ireland in educational endeavours. Anne was delighted to forward £376 to the Chairman in Dublin.

In October a presentation of a Waterford decanter was made to Mr John O'Connell, Chief Executive of The N.S.W. Leagues' Club. This was a tribute from the Aisling Society to The Leagues' Club for giving us the use of their Conference Floor for our Meetings for the past seven years without any charge to the Society.

The Celtic Council of Australia has been active in 1985. From the efforts of this organisation it is hoped in time to establish a Chair of Celtic Studies at Sydney University. This will cost a lot of money, and so far the Scottish group has been most active in fund-raising. The Irish contingent is making its first Appeal on Tuesday, 4th February, at a Celtic Ceilidhe at the Gaelic Club in Devonshire Street. Aisling members are urged to attend this function at which the cover charge will be \$5 for "supper, song and dance". The Ceilidhe will begin at 7.30p.m. for 8 p.m.

The journal, "The Irish Voice", which began publication in 1983, is now well-established, with the seventh issue published in January this year. Copies (\$1) will be available at the A.G.M. Congratulations and best wishes to the editors. Enquiries to P.O. Box K535, Haymarket, 2000.

In 1985 there were seven Ordinary Meetings of The Aisling Society of Sydney and three Social Functions.

Speakers at the Ordinary Meetings were :

- APRIL : MR MICHAEL McCLOSKEY, - First Secretary at The Irish Embassy, Canberra. Mr McCloskey's Talk was entitled "THE IRISH IMAGE IN AUSTRALIA : REFLECTIONS OF AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL." Later in 1985 Mr McCloskey returned to Dublin to further his diplomatic career. His place has been filled by Mr Dermot Brangan, the nephew of one of our members, Miss Rosemary Nugent.
- MAY : MISS CLARE DUNNE whose lovely Talk "THE HISTORY OF IRISH POETRY" was a privilege to hear.
- JUNE : MR ANTHONY BAINE, President of The Aisling Society, whose Talk, "DANIEL O'CONNELL : THE GREAT DAN" was a fine tribute from a well-known Sydney lawyer to a man who was surely the leading Dublin lawman of his age.
- AUGUST : MR MALCOLM CAMPBELL, winner of the first Aisling Society Prize to The University of N.S.W.. Malcolm read his winning thesis to us : HOW ST PATRICK'S DAY WAS CELEBRATED IN SYDNEY IN THE 1890'S".
- SEPTEMBER : SISTER MARY ROSA MacGINLEY, a Presentation Sister, author and scholar. Sister's Talk was entitled "IRISH RELIGIOUS WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA". It paid a fine tribute to the pioneer nuns of our country.
- OCTOBER : MISS ANNE O'CONNOR from the Australian National University, who specialises in folklore, and who is gathering together the Irish folklore still remembered in Australia. Miss O'Connor's fascinating Talk was entitled "IRISH FOLKLORE IN AUSTRALIA".

The 1985 ST PATRICK'S DAY DINNER was held at the Sydney Opera House on 18th March when we had a fine attendance of 127 members and their friends. The Guest Speaker on this prestigious occasion was the well-known author, poet and academic, VINCENT BUCKLEY. Guests were also entertained with a bracket of Irish Songs beautifully rendered by Carmel Ferlisi, Aisling member and international opera singer.

In July The Aisling Society held a JUBILEE MID-DAY DINNER at Curzon Hall, Marsfield. This function, which had as Guest of Honour His Excellency, Mr Joseph Small, Irish Ambassador to Australia, was an outstanding success, with 114 people gathering to celebrate the 30th Birthday of The Aisling Society. The Guest Speaker was THOMAS KENEALLY, distinguished author and critic. Very pleasant entertainment was provided by an Irish Folk Group led by Michael McMahon.

The 1985 CHRISTMAS PARTY was held at The Sebel Town House, Elizabeth Bay, in December. Fifty-two members and their friends attended this late afternoon function which was voted by many there as the best Cocktail Party we have had. It was a happy way for our Society to bring 1985 to its conclusion.

My own most sincere thanks to all those who have helped me in my job during 1985, especially the President, Mr Tony Baine, and the Treasurer, Miss Maureen McLoughlin, and also Mr John Ryan and Mrs Anne Stevens who acted as Secretary for the 3 Meetings from which I was unavoidably absent. After our first 30 years, 1986 begins a new era for The Aisling Society of Sydney, - may it be a happy and prosperous year for all of us.

Signed on behalf of the Executive and Council,

Joan Ward
HON. SECRETARY

THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY
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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1985

1984		1985
	INCOME	
1885	SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED	1890
194	INTEREST RECEIVED	319
3784	ST PATRICK'S NIGHT DINNER	3660
1268	MID YEAR DINNER	3000
1300	CHRISTMAS PARTY	1060
102	SUPPERS	182
506	LEGACIES AND DONATIONS	1000
--	SALE OF BOOKS	420
--	SALE AISLING CARDS	195
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9039	TOTAL INCOME	11726
	LESS EXPENDITURE:	
23	ADVERTISING	--
100	AISLING PRIZE U.N.S.W.	--
3277	COST - ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT DINNER	3720
1177	COST OF MID YEAR DINNER	2866
1215	COST OF CHRISTMAS PARTY	926
13	BANK CHARGES	11
--	COST OF BOOKS	310
--	COST OF AISLING CARDS	253
200	DONATIONS	100
65	ENTERTAINMENT DISTINGUISHED	--
	GUESTS	
--	FLOWERS	58
224	GIFTS FOR GUEST SPEAKERS	246
100	HONORARIA	100
58	IN MEMORIAM	32
31	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	76
431	POSTAGE AND TELEPHONE	499
274	PRINTING & STATIONERY	316
200	SUPPERS	350
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7388		9863
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1651	SURPLUS	\$1863
1414	ADD SURPLUS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	3065
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3065	UNDISTRIBUTED AMOUNT C/FORWARD	\$4928
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THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31st. DECEMBER, 1985

1984		1985
	ACCUMULATED FUND	
3065	BALANCE OF FUND - END OF YEAR	4928
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
40	SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ADVANCE	20
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3105	TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED	\$4948
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THESE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY:-		
	FIXED ASSETS	
207	FILING CABINET at cost	207
	CURRENT ASSETS	
198	BANK ACCOUNT	1241
2500	DEPOSITS - INTEREST BEARING	3500
200	PREPAYMENTS	--
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2898		4741
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3105	TOTAL ASSETS	\$4948
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HON. TREASURER: MAUREEN MCLOUGHLIN M.I.A.A.

AUDITORS REPORT:

THE ABOVE BALANCE SHEET AND THE ACCOMPANYING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1985 ARE IN MY OPINION CORRECT STATEMENTS ACCORDING TO THE BOOKS.

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