



The Aisling Society of Sydney

PRESIDENT:

MRS MARY LEE

HON. SECRETARY:

MRS JOAN WARD

HON. TREASURER:

MISS MAUREEN McLoughlin

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY will be held on WEDNESDAY, 25th FEBRUARY, 1987 at 8 pm on the 3rd floor 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 1987 will be held. Annual Subscriptions (\$20) which became due on January 1st, may be paid at this Meeting, preferably by cheque.

Please note in your diaries that the 1987 ST PATRICK'S DAY DINNER will be held on TUESDAY, 17th MARCH at THE SEBEL TOWN HOUSE, Elizabeth Bay Road, Elizabeth Bay. 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. Members are earnestly requested not to leave their acceptance until the final date on the invitation form. Arrangements for the function can be made much more smoothly if replies are received in good time.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1986

The 1986 Annual General Meeting of The Aisling Society of Sydney was held at The N.S.W. Leagues' Club on Wednesday, 26th February. The Election of Office-bearers for 1986 resulted as follows:

PRESIDENT:

MRS MARY LEE

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

REV. FATHER MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN
MRS ANNE STEVENS
MR ANTHONY BAINE

HON. SECRETARY:

MRS JOAN WARD

HON. TREASURER:

MISS MAUREEN McLoughlin

PUBLICITY OFFICER:

MISS DOROTHY PAYTEN

COUNCILLORS:

MR JOHN SHERIDAN,	MR PHILIP LEE
MR PETER GRAY	MR JOHN RYAN
MRS KATH STEWART	MR DAVID VAUGHAN

The Aisling Society has 2 LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS: REV. FATHER PATRICK O'ROURKE
MR VINCENT PIKE

At the 1986 February Ordinary Meeting which followed the Annual General Meeting MR BRENDAN O'CONNELL agreed to continue as our HON. AUDITOR.

The 1987 ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE is to be held on Sunday, 15th March, commencing at 1 pm. It will follow the usual route from Hyde Park along Elizabeth Street to Park Street; then will come up George Street past the Town Hall back to Devonshire Street, and will conclude with an outdoor concert in Prince Albert Park. The Aisling decorated car will, hopefully, take its place in the Parade. One of our Councillors, Mrs Kath Stewart, our liaison officer with the Irish National Association, is again the hard-working Secretary of Irish Week, 8th to 15th March.

At the close of 1986 The Aisling Society had exactly 100 members including Honorary Life Members. New members welcomed to the Society were: Mr John Aylmer, Mrs Mary Harte, Mr Stan Arneil, Mr Malcolm Campbell, Father Patrick Codd, Miss May Clancy, Mr Paul Davis, Miss Clodagh Harrison, Miss Kate Martin, Mr Gerry Murphy, Miss Siobhan McHugh, Mrs Margaret McMahon, Mrs Trudi O'Neil, Mrs Sarah Prinable, Mr John and Mrs Maureen Sim.

In October 1986 the death occurred of our respected Foundation Member, Miss Veronica Pike. Veronica was our generous benefactor in 1985 when she made a donation of \$1,000 to The Aisling Society. Miss Nora Sullivan, a past member for several years also died during 1986. It was arranged for Mass to be offered for them and also for the close relatives of our members: Fr Michael O'Sullivan (mother), Miss Kate Martin (father) and Mrs Mary O'Brien and Miss Carmel O'Connor (mother).

On a happier note, The Aisling Society rejoiced with our Vice-President, Mr Tony Baine, on the occasion of his marriage in October to Dr Janice Wiley. A gift of Belleek china was presented to the happy couple from us all.

As can be seen from the Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, The Aisling Society now has \$3,500 in Interest-Bearing Deposits. It is from the accruing interest from these bonds that it is proposed to offer annual prizes to the three Sydney universities. Already an annual \$100 prize in Irish or Irish-Australian history has been established at The University of New South Wales, and the groundwork for providing similar prizes at both The University of Sydney and Macquarie University is almost complete.

The Aisling Society has also made a \$100 donation in 1986 to The Celtic Council of Australia Appeal towards the establishment of a Chair of Celtic Studies at The University of Sydney. Functions arranged by The Celtic Council including a Celtic Ceilidhe in February and a series of lectures in June-July were publicised by our Society and well-attended. Aisling members on The Celtic Council, Mary and Philip Lee and Father O'Sullivan do a very fine job as our representatives of the Irish community. Aisling members are invited to join The Celtic Council of Australia whose meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at The Gaelic Club. The annual subscription is \$10 and more information can be obtained by writing to G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney, 2001.

The Aisling Society now has a supply of AISLING CARDS suitable for festive occasions, short letters, etc. These are for sale from the Treasurer at 10 for \$5.

The Aisling Society has continued to enjoy a very pleasant and fruitful relationship with The Embassy of Ireland in Canberra. For this, sincere thanks are extended to His Excellency, Mr Joseph Small, Irish Ambassador to Australia, Mr Dermot Brangan (First Secretary) and Miss Siobhan Ni Fhaolain (Second Secretary). Members will be sad to learn that His Excellency, Mr Small is leaving Australia early in February to take up an ambassadorial post in Vienna. During his five years in Australia, Mr Small has been untiring in his efforts to forge strong and lasting links between Ireland and Australia. Mr Small has been a true friend of The Aisling Society and while we feel sad at his going, we heartily congratulate him on his new appointment and wish him and his family every blessing in the years ahead.

In the latter half of 1986 the Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Sir Peter Lawler, retired and returned to Australia. He has been replaced by Mr Frank W.S. Milne. Councillors of The Aisling Society met briefly with Mr Milne before his departure for Dublin. A Christmas card was received from him from Dublin, and also one from Mr Peter Barry Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Dail. His Excellency, Mr Joseph Small, also sent us a Christmas card with seasonal good wishes to all members.

Our fellow-society in Canberra, The Friends of Ireland Society, has had a most successful year. Hearty congratulations to Mr Frank Murphy, President, and the members.

The Irish Voice journal is also doing well. The latest issue, Vol 3 No 1, 1987 has just been published and is fine value at \$2. Members wishing to subscribe to The Irish Voice should send \$10 for this and the next 4 issues to The Irish Voice, PO Box K535, Haymarket, N.S.W., 2000.

Our Vice-President, Mrs Anne Stevens, was quite ill for some time during 1986 and was not able to conduct her usual annual appeal on behalf of The Michael Collins Memorial Foundation Fund. Members will again be asked to support this worthy appeal in 1987. I am very happy to report that Anne is well on the road to complete recovery.

A proposal to hold a one-day Seminar in 1987 has been made by Mr Vincent Pike, a Life Vice-President. A small committee has met to draw up a programme, and further information will be given to members as more details are available.

Our Honorary Life Member, Professor Patrick O'Farrell, who holds a personal Chair in History at The University of New South Wales, and whose books on The Catholic Church in Australia and Anglo-Irish relationships are standard reading on these topics, has now had published a new book, "The Irish in Australia". This book was launched by the Prime Minister of Australia on 15th October, 1986, and the first edition is already sold out. Over 100 copies were sold through The Aisling Society to our members. Most sincere congratulations to Professor O'Farrell on the production of such a monumental work - compulsory reading for every person interested in Irish-Australian history.

In 1986 there were 6 Ordinary Meetings of The Aisling Society of Sydney (the February Ordinary Meeting follows the Annual General Meeting at which the election of office-bearers is held), and three social functions. Speakers at the Ordinary Meetings were:-

- APRIL: An Address by His Excellency, Mr Joseph Small, on The Anglo-Irish Agreement. This Meeting had an attendance of 118 - the highest number we have ever had at an Ordinary Meeting.
- MAY: Mr Richard Reid, Education Officer at The War Memorial, Canberra, who spoke on "Nice Girls from Tipperary: some aspects of Irish female immigration to N.S.W. during the 19th Century".
- JUNE: Members were invited to The University of Sydney where an address was given by Dr Aileen Cronin. Her fine talk on "The Book of Kells" was illustrated with excellent colour slides.
- AUGUST: Miss Dorothy Payten, our Publicity Officer and the Area Manager for Aer Lingus in Australasia, spoke on "A Golden Jubilee for Aer Lingus" - a fascinating account of the first 50 years of the Irish Airline.
- SEPTEMBER: Mr Brian Donovan, LL.M., one of our members, gave a very interesting talk on "Two Pioneer Brothers" - his own great-uncles who had made fine contributions in both cash and personal service to the Catholic Church and the Government of N.S.W. in early days.
- OCTOBER: Another of our members, Mr Philip Lee, Past President and Councillor, gave a most inspiring address on "The Celts and their Origin".

The 1986 St Patrick's Day Dinner was held at Kei-Ron on Monday, 17th March. There was an excellent attendance of 160 members and their friends. A most scholarly address by Professor Oliver MacDonagh from the A.N.U., Canberra, highlighted the evening, while later on we were charmed by the generous entertainment in both music and song provided by members of The Aer Lingus Musical Society, in Sydney for Irish Week.

In July The Aisling Society held a Mid Year Dinner at Curzon Hall, Marsfield. This very pleasant function was attended by 80 members and friends. The after-dinner talk was given by our good friend, Dr Clement Semmler: "Brian O'Nolan alias Flann O'Brien alias Myles Na Gopaleen". This was surely one of the very best talks we have been privileged to hear.

The 1986 Christmas Party was held at the Sydney Hilton Hotel and was most enjoyable for the 68 guests who attended. It was a fitting end to what had been a successful year for The Aisling Society.

My personal thanks to those who have helped me during 1986, and very best wishes to all members for a happy New Year.

Signed on behalf of the Executive and Council



Hon. Secretary

THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1986

<u>1985</u>		<u>1986</u>
	<u>INCOME</u>	
1,890	Subscriptions Received	1,850
319	Interest Received	535
3,660	St. Patricks Night Dinner	5,320
3,000	Mid Year Dinner	2,730
1,060	Christmas Party	1,380
182	Suppers	252
1,000	Legacies & Donations	-
420	Sale of Books	1,623
195	Sale Aisling Cards	5
-	Irish Week Dinner	110
-	Theatre Party	770
<u>11,726</u>	TOTAL INCOME:	<u>14,575</u>
	<u>LESS: EXPENDITURE</u>	
-	Aisling Prize U.N.S.W.	100
3,720	Cost of St. Patricks Night Dinner	5,054
2,866	Cost of Mid Year Dinner	2,505
926	Cost of Christmas Party	1,413
-	Cost of Theatre Party	767
-	Cost of Irish Week Dinner	110
11	Bank Charges	13
310	Cost of Books	1,631
253	Cost of Aisling Cards	-
100	Donations	200
-	Entertainment Distinguished Guests	25
58	Flowers	75
246	Gifts for Guest Speakers	401
100	Honoraria	100
32	In Memoriam	50
76	Miscellaneous Expenses	28
499	Postage & Telephone	505
316	Printing & Stationery	373
350	Suppers	395
<u>9,863</u>		<u>13,745</u>
1,863	Surplus	830
3,065	Add Surplus from Previous Year	4,928
<u>4,928</u>	<u>UNDISTRIBUTED AMOUNT C/FORWARD</u>	<u>\$5,758</u>

THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT THE 31 DECEMBER 1986

1985

ACCUMULATED FUND

4,928	Balance of Fund End of Year	5,758
-------	-----------------------------	-------

CURRENT LIABILITIES

<u>20</u>	Subscriptions in advance	<u>60</u>
-----------	--------------------------	-----------

<u>4,948</u>	<u>TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED</u>	<u>\$5,818</u>
--------------	-----------------------------	----------------

THESE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY:-

FIXED ASSETS

207	Filing Cabinet - At Cost	207
-----	--------------------------	-----

CURRENT ASSETS

1,241	Bank Account	2,011	
3,500	Deposits - Interest Bearing	3,500	
<u>-</u>	Prepayments	<u>100</u>	<u>5,611</u>
<u>\$4,948</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		<u>\$5,818</u>

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, 1986, are in my opinion correct statements according to the books.



WILLIAM P. BERMAN, A.C.A.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT