



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, 24th FEBRUARY, 1988 at 8 p.m. 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 will be held. Annual Subscriptions (\$20) which become due from January 1st may be paid at this Meeting, preferably by cheque.

Please note in your diaries that our 1988 ST PATRICK'S DAY DINNER will be held on SATURDAY, 19th MARCH at THE BOULEVARD HOTEL, William Street, Sydney. Invitations will be printed in time for distribution at the Annual General Meeting; members not present at the Meeting will receive their invitations by post. Members are again reminded that the arrangements for the function can proceed more smoothly if they send a prompt reply.

IRISH WEEK 1988 will commence on Thursday, 10th March with an Official Opening at the Parramatta Mall. On the evening of the same day there will be an Exhibition of paintings by the Irish artist, Mr Michael McCarthy, at the Geo. Styles Gallery, corner of Hunter & Bligh Streets. Our Aisling member, Mr John Aylmer, is the proprietor of the Gallery. The St Patrick's Day Parade which will follow its usual route through Sydney is to be held on Sunday 13th March and will conclude with an outdoor concert in Prince Albert Park. It is hoped that the decorated Aisling car will take its place in the Parade. A Race Meeting to feature Races with prominent Irish place names will be held at Canterbury Racecourse on Wednesday, 16th March, and in the evening of the same day The Irish National Association in conjunction with the Irish Week Committee is holding its annual prestigious Irish Australian Awards Night. The highlight of the evening is the announcement of the outstanding Irish-Australian of the year. In 1987 this honour was shared by a gentlemen from Darwin and our Aisling President, - congratulations, Mary! Details for those wishing to attend the Races or the Awards Night from Mrs Margaret Scheller at 70-4457.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1987

The 1987 Annual General Meeting of The Aisling Society of Sydney was held at The N.S.W. Leagues' Club on Wednesday, 28th February. The Election of Office-bearers resulted as follows:

<u>PRESIDENT</u>	:	MRS MARY LEE
<u>VICE-PRESIDENTS</u>	:	FATHER MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN MRS ANNE STEVENS MR ANTHONY BAINE
<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 PHILIP LEE, MR JOHN RYAN, MR PETER GRAY, MR JOHN SHERIDAN MR DAVID VAUGHAN, MR GREGORY BYRNES

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

The HON. AUDITOR of the Aisling Society is MR BRENDAN O'CONNELL.

At the close of 1987 The Aisling Society of Sydney had a membership of 102 financial members and 8 honorary members. New members welcomed to the Society in 1987 were : Mr Malcolm Broun, Q.C., Mr and Mrs John Brosnan, Mrs June Doyle, Mr John Flavin, Mr and Mrs John Furlong, Mrs Mary Kenny, Miss Eileen Mitchell, Mrs Shirley Mc Glynn, Mrs Nancy O'Donnell, Miss Eve Ross and Mrs Marguerite Schmid.

It is with sadness that the death is reported of our Foundation Member, Mrs Mary O'Brien of Killara. Sincere sympathy was expressed to her family. Members were shocked to learn in February of the sudden death in London of the elder son of Mrs Anne Stevens and her husband, Professor Leslie Stevens. Deepest sympathy was expressed, and the Aisling Society had a large representation at the Requiem Mass and funeral. A message of sympathy was also sent to Mr Gerard Windsor on the death of his father, Dr Harry Windsor. On a happy note we rejoiced with Janice and Tony Baine on the recent birth of their son, Anthony.

The aim of The Aisling Society to present annual prizes of \$100 each to the three Sydney Universities has now been achieved. In the case of The University of N.S.W. and of Macquarie University a prizewinner was selected for 1987, - Mr Tom Nolan for N.S.W. and Mr Philip McGuire for Macquarie. The first prizewinner for Sydney University will be announced in 1988.

On 9th December, 1987 the Chair of Celtic Studies Foundation was successfully launched at Sydney University at an inaugural Dinner at which there was a fine representation of Aisling members. Our President, Mrs Mary Lee, presented the newly-established Foundation with a cheque for \$1,000 from the Society. Mary also played a large part in the raising of \$20,000 at and preceding the Dinner, and has done a truly magnificent job in presenting our Society as playing a vital role in Irish cultural circles. Members who would like to interest themselves in The Celtic Council should write to G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney. The annual subscription is \$10.

Early in 1987 Mr Joseph Small, Irish Ambassador to Australia, left Canberra to take up an ambassadorial post in Vienna. The Aisling Society was sad to farewell Mr Small who has been our good friend. The new Ambassador, Mr James Sharkey, was welcomed to Australia by our Society at the Mid-Year Luncheon at Curzon Hall in July. At this function His Excellency was presented with a framed miniature oil painting of an Australian scene.

In preparation for our Bicentennial Year the Irish Government offered a scholarship of \$10,000 tenable at University College, Dublin to an Australian postgraduate student. This was won by Mr Philip Butterss of Sydney University who came to our October Meeting and addressed it briefly. The Society made Mr Butterss a gift of \$100. The Aisling Society also supported by individual donations an Australian appeal to enable the Irish sail-training Tall Ship, Asgard II, to remain for three months in Australian waters.

In late September a Floral Festival was organised by The Friends of St Mary's Cathedral. The Aisling Society was asked to be responsible for the decoration of the Altar of the Irish Saints, and an appeal by our Secretary to the other Irish societies and generous individuals raised \$1,500. Our Vice-President, Mrs Anne Stevens, with a small committee, undertook the actual decoration which was extremely beautiful and one of the highlights of the Festival. Anne also made her usual annual Appeal for the Michael Collins Foundation with a generous response of \$500 from members.

In November a Branch of The Gaelic League, Ireland's premier Gaelic cultural organisation, was formed in Sydney. It will be known as The Albert Dryer Branch, and details can be obtained from Father O'Sullivan.

Congratulations to two of our members who received literary awards in 1987 : Professor Patrick O'Farrell was the recipient of the prestigious N.S.W. Premier's Literary Award for non-fiction for his classic book "The Irish in Australia", and Mr Gerard Windsor received a one-year Fellowship from The Literary Arts Board of The Australia Council for his contribution in the field of fiction. Another of our members, Mr Stan Arneil, has had a new book, "One Man's Family" published recently. Sincere congratulations, Stan.

The Aisling Seminar which was to have been held in 1987 had to be abandoned through an unfortunate series of circumstances. Members interested in the Irish-Australian Conferences held each year in Canberra are informed that the 1988 Conference will be held from 30th August to 2nd September. Details from the Secretary.

In 1987 there were 6 Ordinary Meetings of The Aisling Society and 3 social functions. Speakers at the Ordinary Meetings were :

- APRIL : Rev. Father Patrick O'Rourke: "The Poetry of Patrick Kavanagh, 1905-66, his Life and Place in Irish Literature." This very fine Talk was beautifully complemented with a poetry reading by Clare Dunne. 1987 was Father O'Rourke's Golden Jubilee. He was warmly congratulated by the Society, on whose behalf Mr Tony Baine made a presentation of a wallet containing \$150.
- MAY : Mr Kingsley Aikins - Irish Trade Representative in Australia. Kingsley's most interesting Talk on Irish Sport was encyclopaedic in its breadth of knowledge. It was most enthusiastically received.
- JUNE : Rev. Father Michael O'Sullivan: "The '98 Memorial At Waverley Cemetery." This fascinating Talk, beautifully illustrated with slides presented by Sister Moira O'Sullivan, was most engrossing. Father O'Sullivan is to be sincerely congratulated on the brochure which will be made from this Talk.
- AUGUST : Dr Patrick Fahey, O.S.A.: "The Church of Ireland in the 19th Century." This interesting and scholarly Talk was much appreciated by members.
- SEPTEMBER : Mr Damian Gleeson: "Perceptions of Irish Convicts in Australia, - an historical analysis." This was the thesis which won for Mr Gleeson the 1986 Aisling Prize at The University of N.S.W. Members congratulated Damian on this fine, well-researched piece of work.
- OCTOBER : Mr Patrick Curran: "Irish Australian Poets - the tradition continues." This was a heart-warming and most sincerely presented plea for a greater interest among the rising generation in the early poets and balladeers of our land.

The 1987 St Patrick's Day Dinner was held at The Sebel Town House, Elizabeth Bay with an attendance of 140 guests. Dr Portia Robinson, Aisling member and Senior Lecturer at Macquarie University spoke to us about the early days in Sydney town. In a series of lively vignettes she recalled the many horrors of the everyday living which were however seasoned with flashes of humour frequently of Celtic origin ! In May, 1987 Portia was the resident lecturer at the Irish-Australian Conference in Kilkenny and gave the keynote Address. Later in 1987 Dr Robinson was the recipient of a special grant from Professor Di Yerbury, Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie University, for the continuation of her Irish documentary studies.

In July The Aisling Society held its customary Mid-Year Dinner at Curzon Hall. This was attended by 64 guests who welcomed the Irish Ambassador to Australia, Mr James Sharkey. His Excellency spoke of his pleasure in being in Australia, and outlined what he hoped to achieve during his term of office.

In place of the usual Christmas Party a large number of members and their friends attended the Dinner at Sydney University on 9th December to launch the Chair of Celtic Studies Foundation.

Finally, my very sincere thanks to those who helped me at Meetings and in many other ways in 1987. Best wishes to all members for a Happy New Year:

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, 1987

1986		1987
	INCOME	
1850	SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED	2080
535	INTEREST RECEIVED	567
5320	ST PATRICK'S NIGHT DINNER	4795
2730	MID YEAR DINNER	2205
1380	CHRISTMAS PARTY	--
252	SUPPERS	289
1623	SALE OF BOOKS	--
--	FLORAL FESTIVAL CONTRIBUTIONS	1460
5	SALE AISLING CARDS	25
3	THEATRE PARTY PROFIT	--
13698	TOTAL INCOME	11421
	LESS EXPENDITURE:	
100	AISLING PRIZE U.N.S.W.	100
--	AISLING PRIZE - MACQUARIE UNIV.	100
5054	COST - ST.PATRICK'S NIGHT DINNER	4703
2505	COST OF MID YEAR DINNER	2281
1413	COST OF CHRISTMAS PARTY	--
13	BANK CHARGES	23
1631	COST OF BOOKS	--
200	DONATION TO CELTIC COUNCIL	1000
--	DONATIONS - IRISH WEEK	100
25	ENTERTAINMENT DISTINGUISHED GUESTS	--
75	FLOWERS	71
--	FLORAL FESTIVAL COSTS	1539
401	GIFTS FOR GUEST SPEAKERS	615
100	HONORARIA	100
50	IN MEMORIAM	80
28	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	83
505	POSTAGE AND TELEPHONE	615
373	PRINTING & STATIONERY	465
395	SUPPERS	350
12868		12225
330	DEFICIT (this year)	(\$804)
4928	ADD SURPLUS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	5758
5758	UNDISTRIBUTED AMOUNT C/FORWARD	\$4954
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THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31st. DECEMBER, 1987

1986

1987

ACCUMULATED FUND

5758 BALANCE OF FUND - END OF YEAR

4954

CURRENT LIABILITIES

60 SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ADVANCE

5818 TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED

\$4954

THESE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY:-

FIXED ASSETS

207 FILING CABINET at cost

207

CURRENT ASSETS

2011 BANK ACCOUNT

147

3500 DEPOSITS - INTEREST BEARING

4500

100 PREPAYMENTS

100

5611

4747

5818 TOTAL ASSETS

\$4954

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 DECEMBER 31, 1987 ARE IN MY OPINION CORRECT STATEMENTS ACCORDING TO THE BOOKS.

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

B P O'Connell