

an **Aisling**

Contains ANNUAL REPORT
for 1988



The Aisling Society of Sydney

PRESIDENT : Mr Peter Gray

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY will be held on WEDNESDAY, 22nd FEBRUARY, 1989 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 became due from January 1st may be paid at this Meeting, - preferably by cheque.

Please note in your diaries that our 1989 ST PATRICK'S DAY DINNER will be held on SATURDAY, 18th MARCH at MENZIES HOTEL, Carrington 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 arrangements for the function can proceed more smoothly if replies are sent promptly.

IRISH WEEK in SYDNEY grows each year in interest and prestige.

The following is a rundown of the most important events of the week :

SUNDAY, 12th MARCH : ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE will leave Hyde Park at 1 p.m. and follow its usual route to Sydney Town Hall for a review ceremony. It will then proceed to Prince Albert Park for a concert at 3 p.m. For those unable to be present at the concert the items, interviews, etc are to be broadcast from 2SER FM 107.3 from 3 to 5 p.m. The decorated Aisling Society car will as usual take its place in the Parade.

MONDAY, 13th MARCH : An evening function at The Gaelic Club, 64 Devonshire Street, Sydney. There will be a Talk "The Spoken Words of Ireland" in the Irish language. This will be followed by a Ceili. Details may be had from the I.N.A. on 212/1587.

TUESDAY, 14th MARCH : An evening function at the Riverview Hotel, Balmain at which a number of well-known personalities will discuss the saying : "It must be the Irish in me !". Details from Mrs Nancy O'Donnell on 387/7713.

WEDNESDAY, 15th MARCH : The I.N.A. in association with the Irish Week Committee is to hold its annual IRISH-AUSTRALIAN AWARDS NIGHT. This prestigious function is to be held at Parliament House, Sydney. The highlight of the evening will be the announcement of the Irish-Australian of the year. Details from Margaret Scheller (790/4457) or Kath Stewart (546/6206).

THURSDAY, 16th MARCH : The opening at 10 a.m. at the Mitchell Gallery at the State Library, Macquarie, of an Exhibition direct from Ireland of 50 paintings by 10 artists. The Australian section of the "Green and Gold" Exhibition will have paintings by Les Graham. The Exhibition will be open daily, - Tuesday-Sat. 9 - 5, Sun & Mon: 11-5. This Exhibition is arranged by the George Styles Gallery, Hunter Street which is in the charge of our Aisling member, Mr John Aylmer.

FRIDAY, 17th MARCH : ST PATRICK'S DAY !

At 10 a.m. Mass at St Mary's Cathedral at which Cardinal Clancy has been invited to be the principal celebrant.

A Golf Tournament at St Michael's Golf Club, Little Bay.

This is being organised by Mr Patrick McCarville (371/4427), and is to be followed by a Dinner-Dance.

SATURDAY, 18th MARCH : THE AISLING SOCIETY ST PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Kindly note that all these functions with the exception of our Aisling Dinner have been organised by The Irish Week Committee. There will be many other happenings during the week, and these will be publicised in the papers and on radio.

During 1988 it was decided by the Council of the Society that an effort be made to establish just what material is in its possession, - Minute Books and other records in book form, e.g. Accounts, Attendance, etc; cassettes of Talks given at Meetings; Video Cassettes and books donated to the Society. In the compilation of this register it was discovered that Minute Books of the early years of the Society as well as some of the Tapes of Talks are not to be found. All members, but in particular, those who have been in the Society for several years, are earnestly requested to think carefully whether they may inadvertently be in possession of any of these missing items. Also, we would be grateful if any members have any kind of memorabilia of past years they might like to donate.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1988

The 1988 Annual General Meeting of The Aisling Society of Sydney was held at the N.S.W. Leagues' Club on Wednesday, 24th February. An Election of Office-bearers for 1988 resulted as follows :

PRESIDENT	:	MR PETER GRAY
VICE-PRESIDENTS	:	MRS MARY LEE MRS ANNE STEVENS MR PHILIP LEE
HON. SECRETARY	:	MRS JOAN WARD
HON. TREASURER	:	MISS MAUREEN McLoughlin
LIBRARIAN & HISTORIAN	:	REV. FR MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN
PUBLICITY OFFICER	:	MISS DOROTHY PAYTEN
COUNCILLORS	:	MR JOHN RYAN ; MR JOHN SHERIDAN ; MRS EILEEN KELLY ; MR DAVID VAUGHAN ; MR PADDY CURRAN ; MS EVE ROSS.

During 1988 Mr Paddy Curran moved from Sydney to Maitland and his place as Councillor was filled by Mrs Ethna McCauley.

The Aisling Society has 2 Life Vice-Presidents, - FR PATRICK O'ROURKE & MR VINCENT PIKE. The Hon. Auditor of the Aisling Society is Mr Brendan O'Connell.

In 1988 the Aisling Society presented \$100 to each of the 3 Sydney Universities for an Annual Aisling Prize for the writer of the best essay on an Irish or Irish-Australian topic. The winners of the 1988 Awards have not yet been announced. The 1987 winners, - Miss T. Newlands (Sydney), Mr T. Nolan (N.S.W.), Mr P. McGuire (Macquarie).

The Aisling Society has a strong link with The Chair of Celtic Studies Foundation in the History Dept at the University of Sydney. Our V/President, Mrs Mary Lee is its Chairman, Dr Aileen Cremin its Director, and our President, Mr Peter Gray, is a Councillor. The Foundation has planned a most interesting and comprehensive programme for 1989, and members may receive a brochure setting out these events by phoning Ms Margaret Sagar on 692/3305 or writing to her at the University. The Annual membership of The Celtic Studies Foundation is \$50.

An important part of the 1988 Bicentennial Celebrations from an Irish-Australian point of view was the visit in July of Mr Charles Haughey, T.D., the Taoiseach of Ireland. Mr Haughey brought with him the Irish Government's Bicentennial Gift to Australia, - microfilms of the records relating to transportation from Ireland to Australia covering the period 1788-1868. This most generous gift has been duplicated for presentation to each of the States. The N.S.W. copy was presented to the N.S.W. Government by the Irish Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr James Sharkey at a function at the State Library at which several Aisling members were present. Mrs Charles Haughey who had visited N.S.W. earlier in the year was entertained to lunch at Menzies Hotel by the Aisling Society.

The Aisling Society maintains its pleasant relationship with the Embassy of Ireland, Canberra. Ambassador James Sharkey was guest of Honour at St Patrick's Day Dinner where we also welcomed Mr Michael Noonan, T.D., Minister for Defence in the Dail. The First Secretary, Mr Dermot Brangan, and his wife Helen who were our guests at the Curzon Hall Mid-Year Luncheon have now returned to Dublin. Our best wishes go with Mr Brangan who has been a good friend to our Society. The new First Secretary is Mr Ray Bassett.

Several members of The Aisling Society attended the 1988 Irish-Australian Conference at Canberra in August. We hope to invite some of the speakers at the Conference to address the Aisling Society later this year at monthly meetings.

Sincere congratulations to our distinguished member, Dr Portia Robinson, for the successful launching of her magnificent book "The Women of Botany Bay". This book was the fruit of Portia's untiring research both here and in Ireland which was made possible by a generous literary grant from the N.S.W. Government.

Congratulations, too, to Mr W. P. Cantwell, Editor, and Mr S. Maher, Publisher, of the new publication, "The Irish Exile". The first number is a very fine effort indeed, and it is to be hoped that the paper is well supported. Enquiries should be made to The Irish Exile, P.O.Box 415, Burwood, N.S.W. 2134, or phone 799/2179

Congratulations of a different nature to our Councillor, Mr David Vaughan, whose engagement to Irish-born Róiseal Moloney has recently been announced. Affectionate good wishes from us all, David.

In 1988 The Aisling Society of Sydney had a membership of 106 financial members and 6 Hon. Life Members. New members welcomed to the Society in 1988 were Dr Aileen Cremin, Mrs Rita Hogan, Ms Maureen Linskey, Mrs Noreen Pye. In July the Society said farewell to Anne and Tom Feely who had been splendid members for many years always arranging at least one table from among their friends for all our social events. Anne and Tom have returned to spend their retirement in their home county in Ireland.

In 1988 there were 6 Ordinary Meetings and 3 social functions. Speakers at the Ordinary Meetings were :

APRIL : Mrs Mary O'Connell : "The Life of Lady Gregory"

This was a brilliant exposition of this extraordinary woman's life, and Mary told the story with a vividness and depth of feeling only equalled by her vast knowledge of the subject,- it was a most memorable evening.

MAY : Mr Tony Cahill : "Cardinal Moran,- Irishman and Irish Australian"

This was another outstanding Address by a man totally engrossed in his subject. All who heard this Talk expressed the hope that Tony can be persuaded to return and tell us the second half of the life of this illustrious churchman.

JUNE : Dr Aileen Cremin : "One Hundred Years of Irish Archeology"

The Aisling Society is indeed fortunate to count Dr Cremin among its members. This fascinating Talk, beautifully illustrated with slides shown by Dr Ian Jack, brought home to those lucky enough to hear it the extent and unique nature of the treasures unearthed in Ireland in the relatively brief period of one hundred years.

AUGUST : Mr Philip Butters : "Convicted by the Laws of England's Hostile Crown- Popular poetry of the convict period."

This was a very interesting Talk by the winner of the \$10,000 scholarship to University College Dublin given by the Irish Government as part of their Bicentennial gift. It was highlighted by Mr Michael McMahon singing a couple of the songs and accompanying them on his guitar.

SEPTEMBER : Miss Tracy Newlands : "The Learned Class in Celtic Ireland"

This young winner of the first Aisling Prize at the University of Sydney gave us a most scholarly but still intensely interesting Talk about these very long ago ancestors of many of us.

OCTOBER : Professor Colm Kiernan : "Charles Gavan Duffy and 'The Art of Living'"

It was very pleasing to have Professor Kiernan back with us after his years in Dublin as Professor of Australian History at University College Dublin. This was a splendid Talk which brought to life the extraordinary career of this great 19th century Irishman,- patriot, member of the Victorian legislature, and an author of fine repute.

The 1988 St Patrick's Day Dinner was held at the Boulevard Hotel, William Street, Sydney with a magnificent attendance of 150 guests including His Excellency, the Irish Ambassador to Australia, Mr James Sharkey, Mr Michael Noonan, Minister for Defence in the Dail. Drama preceded this function when the Guest Speaker, Professor Manning Clark became suddenly quite ill and was unable to attend. Our Vice-President, Mr Philip Lee, nobly stepped into the breach, and at very short notice prepared and delivered a magnificent Address on The Dublin Millennium.

The Mid-Year Luncheon at Curzon Hall on Sunday, 24th July was an outstanding success. There were 86 guests who enjoyed a fine luncheon in the lovely setting of this beautiful Reception Centre. Professor Manning Clark, happily recovered from his illness, was our distinguished Guest Speaker. His Address, a fascinating pot-pourri of reminiscences with an Irish flavour, was all too brief. It left us hoping that we will again one day listen to this outstanding historian.

On 26th November twenty-seven Aisling members spent a very enjoyable Saturday afternoon. Mrs Anne Stevens, one of the official Guides at St Mary's Cathedral, very kindly agreed to take Aisling members on a Tour of this historic building. We thoroughly enjoyed Anne's meticulously researched information on this Mother Church,- particularly the beautiful stained glass windows with their wealth of historic detail. Our sincere thanks to Anne for this lovely afternoon, and congratulations to her, also, for the great response of \$500 to her Appeal on behalf of The Michael Collins Foundation.

There is just space for me to express my deep thanks to all who have helped me at Meetings and in other ways in 1988. Very best wishes to all members.

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, 1988

1987		1988
	INCOME	
2080.00	SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED	2060.00
566.72	INTEREST RECEIVED	571.18
4795.00	ST PATRICK'S NIGHT DINNER	6480.00
2205.00	MID YEAR DINNER	3480.00
289.10	SUPPERS	222.00
--	DONATIONS RECEIVED	110.00
--	SALE OF VIDEOS	350.00
1460.00	FLORAL FESTIVAL CONTRIBUTIONS	--
25.00	SALE AISLING CARDS	--
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11420.82	TOTAL INCOME	13273.18
	LESS EXPENDITURE:	
100.00	AISLING PRIZE U.N.S.W.	--
100.00	AISLING PRIZE - MACQUARIE UNIV.	100.00
--	AISLING PRIZE UNIVERSITY SYDNEY	100.00
--	COST OF VIDEOS	350.00
4703.00	COST - ST.PATRICK'S NIGHT DINNER	6126.20
2280.40	COST OF MID YEAR DINNER	3861.20
22.47	BANK CHARGES	22.82
1000.00	DONATION TO CELTIC COUNCIL	--
100.00	DONATIONS - IRISH WEEK	--
--	ENTERTAINMENT DISTINGUISHED GUESTS	309.50
71.00	FLOWERS	57.00
1539.20	FLORAL FESTIVAL COSTS	--
614.85	GIFTS FOR GUEST SPEAKERS	305.75
100.00	HONORARIA	100.00
80.00	IN MEMORIAM	--
83.08	MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	39.27
615.31	POSTAGE AND TELEPHONE	563.55
464.77	PRINTING & STATIONERY	491.73
350.00	SUPPERS	462.95
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12224.08		12889.97
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(803.26)	SURPLUS	\$383.21
5757.67	ADD SURPLUS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	4954.41
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4954.41	UNDISTRIBUTED AMOUNT C/FORWARD	\$5337.62
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THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31st. DECEMBER, 1988

1987		1988
	ACCUMULATED FUND	
4954.41	BALANCE OF FUND - END OF YEAR	5337.62
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
--	SUBSCRIPTIONS IN ADVANCE	120.00
4954.41	TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED	\$5457.62
	THESE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY:-	
	FIXED ASSETS	
207.00	FILING CABINET at cost	207.00
	CURRENT ASSETS	
147.41	BANK ACCOUNT	421.79
4500.00	DEPOSITS - INTEREST BEARING	4528.83
100.00	PREPAYMENTS	300.00
4747.41		5250.62
4954.41	TOTAL ASSETS	\$5457.62

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, 1988 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