



The Aisling Society of Sydney

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Aisling Society of Sydney will be held on Wednesday, 28th February, 1990 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. At the Meeting Subscriptions may be paid to the Treasurer preferably by cheque. At the December Council Meeting it was decided that the Annual Subscription should be increased to \$25. It was fixed at \$20 in January, 1984, and members will appreciate how the cost of postage, printing, stationery, etc. has increased since then. While regretting the increase Council felt it was unavoidable.

Please note in your diaries that our ST PATRICK' DAY DINNER will be held this year on THURSDAY, 17TH 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.

IRISH WEEK will open with the ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE on Sunday, 11th March, 1990. It will follow its usual route from Hyde Park to Prince Albert Park for a concert at 3 p.m. It is hoped that we will have our decorated car in the Parade. During Irish Week there will be daily events with an Irish flavour, including the prestigious AWARDS' NIGHT at which the Irish-Australian of the year will be announced. The St Patrick's Day Mass at St Mary's Cathedral will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Saturday 17th March.

As members were informed in the 1988 Annual Report a real effort is being made by Council to gather together as much of the Society's historical material as possible. In 1989 some early Annual Reports and Treasurer's Account Books were given to the Secretary, but much is still outstanding. We are not able to locate two of the early Minute Books, and Annual Reports for the years from 1956 to 1972 are not on file. If any of the older members of The Aisling Society did keep their copies of these Reports and are willing to donate them to our archives we would be very grateful indeed.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1989

The 1989 Annual General Meeting of The Aisling Society of Sydney was held on Wednesday, 22nd February. An Election of Office-bearers resulted as follows:

PRESIDENT	MR PETER GRAY
VICE PRESIDENTS	MR PHILIP LEE, MRS ANNE STEVENS, MRS MARY LEE
HON. SECRETARY	MRS JOAN WARD
HON. TREASURER	MISS MAUREEN McLoughlin
PUBLICITY OFFICER	MISS DOROTHY PAYTEN
COUNCILLORS	MR JOHN RYAN, MR JOHN SHERIDAN, MRS EILEEN KELLY MISS EVE ROSS, MRS ETHNA McCAULEY, MRS MARGARET SCHELLER

At a Council Meeting early in 1989 Miss Eve Ross kindly agreed to act as Minute Secretary.

The Hon. Auditor of the Aisling Society's books is our Member Mr Brendan O'Connell.

Our 1990 Meeting will again be held on the 3rd floor of The N.S.W. Leagues' Club. The Aisling Society is most grateful to the Club's Executive for their generosity in giving us the use of this very fine City venue at no charge to the Society.

At the close of 1989 the Aisling Society had one hundred and eleven financial members, six honorary Life Members (Foundation Members), and four Honorary Members. New members welcomed to the Society in 1989 were Mrs. Mary Dynan, Mr Richard Darlington, Mr Pat Daly, Mrs Maria Farrell, Miss Avis Jeffares, Professor Colm and Mrs Joan Kiernan, Mr Norman and Mrs Rhoda Lewis, Mr Donald Minehan, Mr Saemus Maher, Mr Donald McLeod, Mr Greg Sheridan and Ms Sarah Tansay. It is with sadness that the death is reported of our Foundation Member, Mr Eric Drew, who for over thirty years contributed much to the wellbeing of The Aisling Society. Deepest sympathy was expressed to Eric's sisters and his family. On a happy note, two of our members were married in 1989, Mr David Vaughan in March, and our President, Mr Peter Gray, in October. To David and Roleen, and Peter and Jan, the Society sent very good wishes for much happiness in the years ahead.

In 1989 The Aisling Society presented \$100 to each of the three metropolitan universities for an Annual Aisling Prize for the writer of the best essay on an Irish or Irish/Australian topic. The prize-winners announced in 1989 were Mr G. Long (Sydney), Miss M.L. O'Brien (N.S.W.), Mr A.H. O'Connor and Miss E.M. Kennedy (Macquarie). These prize-winners were Honorary Members of the Society in 1989.

The Aisling Society has strong links with the proposed Chair of Celtic Studies in the History Department at The University of Sydney. The Celtic Studies Foundation has been established at the University to promote teaching and research into Celtic Studies with the ultimate aim of creating a Chair and a Department of Celtic Studies. At present there are some sixty students in various stages of the Celtic Studies courses. Our Vice-President, Mrs Mary Lee, is President of the Foundation, Dr Aideen Cremin, its Chairman, while 5 Aisling Members are on the Council. The annual subscription is \$50 for full membership of the Foundation. Enquiries to Mr C. Keenan at 692.3306.

The Aisling Society maintains its pleasant relationship with the Embassy of Ireland, Canberra. In August, 1989 Ambassador James Sharkey was transferred to Tokyo. The Aisling Society farewelled the Ambassador at our Mid-Year Luncheon in July, where a presentation was made to Jim and Sattie and our very best wishes extended to them both for a happy period of duty in Japan. We hope to welcome the new Ambassador, Mr Martin Burke, at the St Patrick's Day Dinner.

Two Exhibitions of great Irish interest were held during 1989. The first of these was of Irish Gold and Silver. It was presented by the Government of Ireland and the Australian Bicentennial Authority, and organised by the National Museum of Ireland. This magnificent Exhibition, in N.S.W. under the auspices of the Celtic Studies Foundation, was housed in the Hyde Park Barracks from 22nd February to the 9th April, and attracted tremendous interest. It was the first time many of these priceless treasures were allowed to be taken out of Ireland. The second Exhibition was held in October in the State Library to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of William Butler Yeats. This was a splendid tribute to the great Irish poet and playwright and contained many writings and memorabilia not hitherto seen in Australia. Another very interesting event during the year was the first Australian "full bottle" commemoration of Bloomsday, that famous 16th June when James Joyce's Leopold Bloom went on his 24-hour odyssey. Bloomsday in Sydney, organised to a large extent by our member, Mr Gerard Windsor, was very successful, the continuous Marathon Reading of excerpts from Ulysses from 9 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. at the State Library was the highlight of the day.

The Appeal made each year by our Vice-President, Mrs Anne Stevens, in aid of the Michael Collins Memorial Foundation was very generously supported by Aisling members. The sum of \$1,197 was forwarded to Dublin in November, 1989. Anne has asked me to express again her very sincere thanks to all who contributed to the Appeal.

In 1989 6 Ordinary Meetings and 3 Social Functions were held. Speakers. at the Ordinary Meetings were:

APRIL: Dr Keith Amos, Lecturer at The Kurring-gai College of Advanced Education, whose topic was "The Sydney Fenian Scare, 1868". This was a very interesting and informative Address.

MAY: Mr Tony Cahill, Senior Lecturer at The University of Sydney, whose topic was "Cardinal Moran". We had listened with great interest in 1988 to a Talk by Mr Cahill on the first half of Cardinal Moran's great career in the Church, and now in 1989 a fine attendance much appreciated Part 2.

- JUNE : Mr. William Scott, teacher of Celtic Art and Lecturer in Celtic History, whose topic was "The Celtic Race, Celtic Art and the Celtic Church". This Talk, beautifully illustrated with slides, attracted a very large attendance of members and their friends who were fascinated by Mr. Scott's breadth of knowledge and very fine presentation of his topic.
- AUGUST : Mr. John Sheridan, Aisling Councillor and music scholar, whose topic was "John Field, 1782 - 1837, the Man and his Music". This very fine Talk, punctuated with beautiful examples of the composer's music, was much appreciated, - in the words of one of those present it would not have been out of place on national radio.
- SEPTEMBER : Rev. Father Patrick O'Rourke who spoke to us on the great Irish Archbishop T.W. Croke whose name lives on at Dublin's sports' arena. Father O'Rourke traced Archbishop Croke's life as a patriot churchman first in Ireland and then in Auckland.
- OCTOBER : Mr. Gregory N. Long, the Aisling prizewinner at the University of Sydney who read for us the essay which won him the prize. This was entitled "The Adventures of Cernunnos", - a Celtic god's wanderings through Gaul, Britain and Ireland. This most imaginative and well-presented story was listened to with real appreciation.

SPECIAL FUNCTIONS IN 1989 :

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER : This function was held on Saturday, 19th March at Menzies Hotel and was an outstanding success. There was a fine attendance of 108 guests, including Miss. Cindy O'Hagan, Second Secretary at the Irish Embassy, who read the Message from Dr. Patrick Hillery, President of Ireland, and also proposed the Toast "The Day We Celebrate". The Guest Speaker was Sir Gerard Brennan, Justice of the High Court of Australia, whose very fine Address outlined the common bonds linking the legal systems of Ireland and Australia.

THE MID-YEAR LUNCHEON : This function was held on Sunday, 16th July in the lovely rooms at St. John's College within the University of Sydney, where over 80 guests enjoyed a very fine luncheon. The Guest of Honour was the Irish Ambassador to Australia, Mr. James Sharkey, who was soon to leave this country to take up his new posting in Tokyo. On behalf of the members of The Aisling Society Mr. Sharkey was presented with a book of magnificent photographs of Australian Landscapes by Max Dupain and a compact disc of The Bushwackers.

THE MUSICAL EVENING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY : This function held on 27th November in the Ballroom at the N.S.W. Leagues' Club was very capably and generously arranged by our member, Mrs. Margaret McMahon. It was very well-attended and much enjoyed by all. The musical items were led by Mr. Philip Butterss and Miss Jane Coleman with their lovely folk music helped along by other members of their Group, while the McMahon sons, Michael and Matthew, contributed some fine vocal and instrumental items. Our President, Mr. Peter Gray, was also warmly applauded for his contribution, - a fine rendition of Yeats's lovely "Down by the Salley Gardens". After a fine supper we all joined in singing the old familiar carols. This was a delightful finale to 1989.

My personal thanks to all who helped me in my work as Secretary during 1989. especially Miss. Eve Ross who early in 1989 volunteered to act as Minute Secretary. Eve's most competent help is most sincerely appreciated. Very best wishes for 1990 to all members, particularly those who through age or ill-health cannot now come to the Meetings. May 1990 be a very fine year for The Aisling Society.

Joan Ward

 Honorary Secretary

THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1989

<u>1988</u>		<u>1989</u>
	<u>ACCUMULATED FUND</u>	
5,337.62	Balance of Fund - End of Year	6,164.04
	<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>	
<u>120.00</u>	Subscriptions in Advance	<u>60.00</u>
<u>\$5,457.62</u>	Total Funds Employed	<u>\$6,224.04</u>
	These funds are represented by:-	
	<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>	
207.00	Filing Cabinet at Cost	207.00
-	Library at Cost	<u>100.00</u>
<u>207.00</u>		307.00
	<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	
421.79	Bank Account	1,007.34
4,538.83	Deposits - Interest Bearing	4,609.70
<u>300.00</u>	Prepayments	<u>300.00</u>
<u>5,250.62</u>		<u>5,917.04</u>
<u>\$5,457.62</u>	Total Assets	<u>\$6,224.04</u>

Hon. Treasurer: Maureen McLoughlin F.N.I.A.

Auditors Report:

The above Balance Sheet and the accompanying Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended December 31, 1989 are in my opinion correct statements according to the books.

Brendan P. O'Connell F.C.A., C.P.A.
Chartered Accountant

THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1989

<u>1988</u>		<u>1989</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
2,060.00	Subscriptions Received	2,360.00
571.18	Interest Received	656.24
6,480.00	St Patrick's Night Dinner	5,050.00
3,480.00	Mid Year Dinner	3,080.00
-	Christmas Party	882.50
222.00	Suppers	183.10
110.00	Donations Received	-
350.00	Sale of Videos	-
-	Sale of Aisling Cards	40.00
<u>13,273.18</u>	Total Income	<u>12,251.84</u>
<u>LESS: EXPENDITURE</u>		
-	Aisling Prize U.N.S.W.	100.00
100.00	Aisling Prize - Macquarie Univ.	100.00
100.00	Aisling Prize University Sydney	100.00
350.00	Cost of Videos	-
6,126.20	Cost - St Patrick's Night Dinner	4,701.50
3,861.20	Cost of Mid Year Dinner	3,067.00
-	Cost of Christmas Party	1,047.04
22.82	Bank Charges	12.65
309.50	Entertainment Distinguished Guests	-
57.00	Flowers	-
305.75	Gifts for Guest Speakers	287.89
100.00	Honoraria	250.00
-	In Memoriam	41.75
39.27	Miscellaneous Expenses	56.35
563.55	Postage and Telephone	679.06
491.73	Printing & Stationery	457.18
462.95	Suppers	525.00
<u>12,889.97</u>		<u>11,425.42</u>
383.21	<u>Surplus for the Year</u>	826.42
<u>4,954.41</u>	Add Surplus from Previous Year	<u>5,337.62</u>
<u>\$5,337.62</u>	<u>Balance c/f to next year</u>	<u>\$6,164.04</u>