



The Aisling Society of Sydney

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Aisling Society of Sydney will be held on Wednesday, 23rd February, 1994 at 8.00 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the N.S.W. Leagues' Club, 165 Phillip Street, Sydney. All members are invited to be present at this Meeting when an Election of Office-Bearers will be held. Annual Subscriptions (\$25) may be paid at this Meeting preferably by cheque. The Aisling Society again expresses its deep gratitude to the N.S.W. Leagues' Club for giving us the free use of its Conference Floor for our Meetings.

Please note in your diaries that the 1994 ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER will be held on Friday, 18th March. This year the venue will be the Renaissance Hotel, 30 Pitt Street, Sydney. The 1994 MID-YEAR LUNCHEON will be held on Sunday, 24th July at St. John's College within the University of Sydney.

The 1994 ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE is to be held on Sunday, 13th March commencing at noon and following the same route as in previous years. In 1993 Mr. Pat Costello, President of The Kerry Association, very kindly lent his utility to be the 'Aisling Car' in the Parade. It was driven by his daughter Maureen who with her friends and our Treasurer, Maureen McLoughlin, had it beautifully decorated for the occasion. In 1993 the Aisling Society donated \$150 to the Parade Committee.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1993

The 1993 Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, 28th February. An Election of Office-Bearers resulted as follows:

PRESIDENT	MR. JOHN RYAN
VICE PRESIDENTS	MR. PHILIP LEE, MRS. ANNE STEVENS, MRS. MARY LEE
HON. SECRETARY	MRS. JOAN WARD
HON. TREASURER	MISS MAUREEN McLOUGHLIN
LIBRARIAN	MR. PETER GRAY
PUBLICITY OFFICER	PROFESSOR COLM KIERNAN
COUNCILLORS	MR. JOHN SHERIDAN, MRS. EVE ROSS, MRS. MARY DYNAN, MR. DAVID VAUGHAN AND MRS. TRUDI O'NEIL.
	One Council vacancy was not filled until the April Meeting when MR. RAY GOODWIN was elected.
HON. AUDITOR	MR. BRENDAN O'CONNELL

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

I would again like to express my sincere thanks to Mrs. Eve Ross who acts in an unofficial capacity as Minutes Secretary, and to Father Michael O'Sullivan who each year provides me with the envelope address labels.

At the close of 1993 the Aisling Society had 102 financial members, 4 Hon. Life members - Bishop David Cremin, Professor Patrick O'Farrell, Miss Roma Drew and Father Patrick O'Rourke - the latter two being Foundation Members. University Aisling Prizewinners were Hon. Members for 1993 - Dr. Andrew Korda (Sydney), Mr. Michael Ticher (N.S.W) and Miss Danielle Voss (Wollongong). There was no 1992 Prizewinner at Macquarie University. New members welcomed to the Society in 1993 were Ms. Georgina Finn, Ms. Maureen Bassett, Mr. Michael Kelly, Ms. Doreen Crawley, Dr. Tony and Mrs. Collen Cronin, Mrs. Kathleen Marson and Mr. Laurie Roberts.

In November, 1993 the death occurred of Miss Ena Sullivan. Ena was a Foundation member of the Aisling Society and Treasurer for the first eleven years. Ena endeared herself to all with her quiet, kind and helpful manner. She was a tower of strength in the early years of the Society and is remembered with loving gratitude. President, Secretary and other members attended Ena's Requiem Mass at which Father O'Sullivan was one of the celebrants. May her gentle soul rest in peace.

In 1993 Prizes of \$150 each were offered to students from the University of N.S.W., the University of Sydney, the University of Wollongong, Macquarie University, the University of Western Sydney and the Australian Catholic University. Names of the Prize-winners will be given to members when available.

EVENTS DURING THE YEAR in which Aisling Society members participated were:

- a) Several functions arranged by the Centre of Celtic Studies within the University of Sydney including the Celtic Banquet in November which was a truly magnificent occasion at Parliament House, Sydney.
- b) The Floral Festival at St. Mary's Cathedral in October. In 1993 the Irish National Association raised the necessary funds while our Vice-President, Anne Stevens, did the actual floral arrangements which made the Altar of the Irish Saints so outstandingly beautiful. The Aisling society donated \$200 towards the expenses.
- c) The Bloomsday celebrations on 16th June. Many of our members were at the all-day Readings at the State Library where for the first time musical items were included in the Programme. The Aisling Society donated \$200 to this celebration.
- d) The 7th Irish-Australian Conference was held from 12th to 15th July at the University of Queensland and Griffith University. Several Aisling members attended and papers were presented by Professor Colm Kiernan and Dr. Malcolm Campbell. Members will be informed when the publication of all papers is available.

The Annual Appeal made by our Vice-President, Mrs. Anne Stevens, in support of The Michael Collins foundation was again well received by members. Anne has forwarded a Cheque for \$506 to the Dublin headquarters of the Appeal, and has asked me to give her sincere thanks to those who contributed.

In 1993 six ORDINARY MEETINGS and three SOCIAL FUNCTIONS were held. Speakers at the Meetings were:

- APRIL PROFESSOR MUREDACH DYNAN: "The Effect of the British Welfare System in Northern Ireland" - a Personal Viewpoint.
This was an outstanding Talk. The tremendous problems of N. Ireland were presented calmly and well-analysed in a most unbiased fashion. Muredach's sharp personal observations gave deeper meaning to the many complex issues involved. It was a most learned, witty and humane speech.
- MAY PROFESSOR OLIVER MacDONAGH: "Parnell and the Art of Politics".
This was another most erudite and fascinating Talk. Professor MacDonagh highlighted the unusual characteristics of this most notable Irishman - character traits which were the source of both his greatness and his downfall. With his untimely death in 1891 the possibility of Home Rule becoming the quick final settlement of the Anglo-Irish problem perished.
- JUNE MR. PHILIP LEE: "Peregrini Christi" - Pilgrims of Christ.
This lovely Talk took us back initially to the time of St. Patrick and then to the large number of Irish Missionaries who left Ireland and travelled in all directions to spread the Christian Faith - to Iona, Brittany, France, Germany, Belgium and as far south as Taranto in Italy. These great Pilgrims of Christ left a legacy not only of faith and inspiration but many significant manuscripts still admired today.

AUGUST CLARA MASON: "Irish Writers and Drama". This was a most interesting and professional Talk by someone well-versed in the presentation of drama in the modern Theatre. Clara's Talk was based on her belief that the Irish are not so much a visual arts people, rather a race infinitely more interested in the flexibility of language - this so brilliantly illustrated by James Joyce and later by Brian Friel. Clara gave us some very fine readings to prove her point.

SEPTEMBER CLARE DUNNE: "IRISH HARPS - Lost and Found". In this Talk we were privileged to hear in advance the first of three Talks on aspects of Irish Music which Clare was to give on ABS FM Radio later in the year. Clare who is herself a harpist, gave us a most knowledgeable history of the Irish harp - the very symbol of Ireland. We were delighted also to listen to the lovely examples of harp music with which Clare illustrated her Talk.

OCTOBER MR. TONY BAINE: "Niall St. John McCarthy - a True Renaissance Man". This fine Address by our popular Past President was a moving tribute to an Irish Judge who with his wife was tragically killed in a car accident in 1992. For several years Judge McCarthy was a shining light in the Irish judiciary. He was a sportsman, music lover, patron of the arts and above all, a compassionate man with a deep interest in the deaf and underprivileged. President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, described him as "a true Renaissance man" in her Address at the dedication of a Bust in the National Archives of Dublin.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS IN 1993

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER: Eighty-eight members and friends attended this function at Menzies Hotel on 19th March. President John Ryan welcomed the guests and after the singing of both the Irish and Australian Anthems, Sister M. O'Sullivan said Grace. At the conclusion of the fine meal that followed, the Second Secretary from the Irish Embassy, Mr. Michael O'Cathain, read the Message from President Robinson and then proposed the Toast "The Day We Celebrate". Guest Speaker for the evening was Dr. John McQuilton from the University of Wollongong. He gave us a very interesting and lively Talk entitled "Ned Kelly - Hero or Villain?". At its conclusion Judge John O'Meally moved a very well-deserved Vote of Thanks.

THE MID-YEAR LUNCHEON: This happy gathering was in the beautiful Brennan Hall at St. John's College and attracted 56 guests. Guest of Honour was the new First Secretary at the Irish Embassy, Mr. James O'Carroll and his wife Anne. After a fine luncheon we were well-entertained by Mr. Brendan Walsh the popular music presenter on 2MBS FM. We thoroughly enjoyed his witty and amusing discourse full of anecdotes about people, places and music. A perfect winter afternoon's entertainment.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY This was a very happy occasion which attracted 57 members and their friends. The 3rd Floor of the N.S.W. Leagues' Club had been specially decorated for the Party and the food and drinks served during the evening were much appreciated. Councillor Mrs. Mary Dynan had very kindly volunteered to arrange a little Programme of Music, Song and Recitations for our entertainment. This was very much enjoyed. The Party ended with community Carol Singing after which our President wished all present the Compliments of the Season and made a presentation to the Leagues' Club Dining Room Executive, Mr. Paul Yu, who has been most helpful to the Society during the year. It was a very pleasant function to round off 1993.

I would like to conclude this Report on what has been happening in The Aisling Society during 1993 by wishing all members - those who attend the Meetings and those who for various reasons are unable to do so - my sincere good wishes for the year ahead. My heartfelt thanks also to all who have helped me in my job as Secretary during 1993.

THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1993

1992

INCOME

2,595	Subscriptions Received	2,575.00
878	Interest Received	461.17
5,950	St. Patrick's Night Dinner	5,280.00
2,475	Mid Year Dinner	2,340.00
1,000	Christmas Party	1,450.00
271	Suppers	182.00
225	Donations Received	75.00
50	Sale of Aisling Cards	15.00
<u>13,444</u>	<u>Total Income</u>	<u>12,378.17</u>

LESS EXPENDITURE:

140	Advertising	180.00
150	Aisling Prize - Univ. N.S.W.	150.00
150	Aisling Prize - Macquarie University	150.00
300	Aisling Prize - Sydney University	150.00
6,589	Cost of St. Patrick's Night Dinner	4,784.10
2,052	Cost of Mid Year Dinner	2,244.50
848	Cost of Christmas Party	1,157.75
19	Bank Charges	33.64
1,250	Donation	650.00
274	Gifts to Guest Speakers	251.30
104	Entertaining Guest Speakers	64.00
250	Honoraria	250.00
90	In Memoriam	10.00
760	Postage & Telephone	797.05
433	Printing & Stationery	422.79
525	Suppers	525.00
10	Miscellaneous Expenses	121.90
121	Flowers	-
<u>14,065</u>		<u>11,942.03</u>
(621)	<u>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</u>	<u>436.14</u>
<u>9,630</u>	<u>ADD: SURPLUS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR</u>	<u>9,008.49</u>
<u>\$9,009</u>	<u>BALANCE C/FWD TO NEXT YEAR</u>	<u>\$9,444.63</u>

THE AISLING SOCIETY OF SYDNEY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1993

1992

ACCUMULATED FUND

9,008	Balance of Fund - End of Year	9,444.63
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CURRENT LIABILITIES

<u>75</u>	Subscriptions in Advance	<u>-</u>
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<u>\$9,083</u>	<u>TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED</u>	<u>\$9,444.63</u>
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THESE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY:

FIXED ASSETS

207	Filing cabinet at cost	207.00	
137	Library at cost	137.50	
<u>98</u>	Answering Machine at cost	<u>98.00</u>	
442			442.50

CURRENT ASSETS

341	Bank Account	502.13	
8,000	Deposits - Interest Bearing	8,000.00	
300	Prepayments	<u>500.00</u>	
			<u>9,002.13</u>

<u>\$9,083</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>\$9,444.63</u>
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Hon. Treasuere: Maureen McLoughlin F.N.I.A.

Auditors Report:

The above Balance Sheet and the accompanying Income and Expendure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1993 are in my opinion correct statements according to the books.

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