

# MAGazine

The Newsletter for Mature Age Gays

March and April 2010 Edition



Hope you all had a great Mardi Gras!!



## **MAG's stall at Fair Day 2010.**

Pictured — Les and Erroll at the Wine Raffle Table.

The wine pyramid is on the right of Erroll.

In our stall are Lionel, David [getting dressed up] , Luke and Christine from Scone.

Look us up on the web  
[magnsw.org](http://magnsw.org)

MAG is a  
project of



# President MAGazine

Hi Guys,



Well by the time this message goes to print Fair Day and Mardi Gras parade will be over for yet another year.

To all the guys who helped out on Fair Day and also to the guys who walked for MAG in the Mardi Gras parade a big thankyou.

With all the restrictions and all the road closures this year it will be a very **stressful time for all of us. Let's hope it is successful** — Good luck to everyone.

I am now back at work after a few medical problems last year and hopefully I have made a full recovery. To all the people who sent me good wishes during my illness, your support helped me through a very difficult time.

I would especially like to thank my special friend Jon in the UK as he came out to be with me whilst I was having my treatment and again after the treatment was finished.

No other news right now except to wish you all a HAPPY MARDI GRAS,

Love from your President, Erroll.

## Remembering MAG in your Will

Previous members have bequeathed a small amount of funds from their wills to MAG, following their passing.

We would be very honoured if members or friends of MAG may care to consider doing something similar.

REMEMBER!!  
SAFE SEX  
ALL WAYS  
ALWAYS

Should you no longer wish to receive this MAGazine, kindly inform our Secretary — thanks

**STOP THE PRESS:** Ken [Kandy] Johnson, who founded KKK at Kensington passed away on Saturday the night of the MG Parade. He was 75 years. Ken spoke at a MAG Meeting and was really interesting with his talk on the Purple Onion Days and so on. We have his book in our Library.

## OUR PLANNED EVENTS

13 March

Paul Mart [Paul is 92 years old]

Seniors Health &  
The Gay Games

27 March

Emma

Song and Dance

10 April

Tony Breinl

Getting a Good  
Nights Sleep

24 April

Natalie Moffatt

Aged Care is Sexy

## Steve Ostrow MAGazine



Hi Guys,

**'Old age sucks. Things either dry up or start to leak.'** An old doctor friend of mine told me this when he was 60 and I 40. **And you know what? Now that I'm 77 going on 78, those words ring true.**

**I find lately that it's a full-time job staying alive.** Between arthritis, tracheitis, gastritis, laryngitis and many more **'itises'**, **holding this poor old body together is a chore...BUT a chore that I gladly accept.** Why? Well, consider the alternative.

**On the other hand, it's not death that I'm afraid of. It's living: if I lose my independence, mobility, capacity to function, or mental alacrity.** Which some of you may say I lost a long time ago.

When I was in my teens, getting older was looked upon with excitement; in my 20s, with purpose; 30s, with procreation of progeny; 40s, with power; 50s, with maturity; 60s, with wisdom. But 70s---well, as Shakespeare put it succinctly, in **'The Seven Ages of Man':**

...Last scene of all  
That ends this strange eventful history,  
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,  
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans every thing.

**So what is there to look forward to? OK, I'll tell you what there is that makes it good for me.** Nature: the vastness of the universe, the splendour of what has been created, no matter who or what you attribute that to. Family: with all the ups and downs, to know that you leave this world with your genes being carried further. Friends: the intimacy of loving, caring, sharing and daring. Faith: a belief in a higher spirit. Purpose: to be needed by your fellow man for their betterment and your fulfilment.

**I won't harp on the dismal attitude of our youth-oriented gay culture that relegates to oblivion, any of us who they perceive to have passed their use-by or best-by date.** We have been down that track before. And yes, philosophically, there is an acceptance that we all must go at some time. No one yet has broken that tradition. But when my time comes, I want my passing to be a celebration of a life lived to the fullest of my meagre capacities. And when would I want that to be? When I can no longer receive, recognise or give love.

For I believe love to be the greatest aphrodisiac for living that anyone has ever invented. To he, she or it that created love, my thanks. And may the world recognise and abide with it. I am enthralled by the words of the American philosopher William James, who, in his maturity, wrote:

I am done with great things and big plans, great institutions and big success. I am for those tiny, invisible loving human forces that work from individual to individual, creeping through the crannies of the world like so many rootlets, or like the capillary oozing of water, which, if given time, will rend the hardest monuments of pride.

With Love, Steve

# Secretary MAGazine

## Apols for the delay in our January/February Newsletter

I sincerely apologise to all our readers for the delay in printing the January/February 2010 Issue of the Newsletter. This is the first time since taking over as the Editor [back in 2001] that the Newsletter has been late. Procedures have been made to ensure that it does not happen again.

## Our Web Site

**MAG's Web Site was not online for a number of weeks recently. I am sorry for this and apologise for anybody who tried to access the site. I am pleased that the problem has now been rectified.**

**2010 Fair Day** Well, we have done it again!! A terrific Fair Day!! What a great day we had — or should I say I had *as Dame Dolly Devine*. A full report, plus heaps of pics of Fair Day appear on Pages 7 & 10.

**2010 Mardi Gras parade** We had 12 people participate in the MAG's walking group for the parade. We did march with ACON and a full report and photos will be in the following issue of the Newsletter. I enjoyed the evening and hope everyone else did.

**Farewell** Michelle Sparks, ACON's Community Development Manager, **Steve Ostrow's boss**, left ACON in February. I wish to thank Michelle for the assistance she gave to me in the printing of our Newsletter, and for taking an interest in MAG's activities. Michelle attended our birthday bashes and also dressed for the functions — which I really appreciated.

Michelle's message to all MAG guys is below-

*"I would like to farewell all the MAG members who I've had the privilege of meeting during my time at ACON, especially the volunteers who have given their time and energy to help strengthen our community and combat the issues that affect us. I wish you all good health and continued strength."*

## Another Member passes

Another of our guys passed away recently. I was saddened by the news that Keith McFarland had passed away in February [he was 92 years old].

**We had not seen Keith at our meetings for a few years, as he wasn't keen to venture out of an evening.**

**Errors** I would like to thank Richard King for pointing out a number of errors in the Newsletters and informing me of problems with the MAG web site. Those errors and problem have been corrected. *I am sorry for being human.*

**Photos** I propose to have a record of photos of our members. I would like to hold them on file and use them when necessary, for example for a BIG birthday, a death notice in the Newsletter, etc. I think that a photo of the person I am talking about is good so our readers know who that person is. If you would like to participate in my project, kindly send me a recent photo of yourself, or I will only be pleased to take one of you at a MAG meeting for the record.

## Congratulations

Sincere congratulations are extended to our *two Dutch Johns* who will be celebrating 50 years together in April 2010 — well done John & John — best wishes to you both.

## Halloween

On page 9, are some belated pics from our Halloween evening we held last year. I do sincerely apologise for not publishing these pics earlier.

David, Secretary and Newsletter Editor Tel: [02] 9516 2063.



**Disclaimer:** The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect the policies of MAG or ACON.

As those present will realise the Masquerade to celebrate the 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MAG was a tremendous success last year, with many members in masks and some heavily disguised as historical characters. We were particularly honoured to welcome the presence of Sir Percy Blakeney (alias the Scarlet Pimpernel) and one of his comrade-in-arms, Sir William Simons.

Owing to the danger posed by revealing his identity, even today, to those nuclear bomb-testing French authorities, Sir Percy was initially reluctant to be interviewed but finally agreed providing that he was allowed to remain in character. I have **retained his pronunciation to capture the intonation of this gentleman's speech** qualities.

*My first question related to what he thought of our belief that all men and women are born equal.*

Sir Percy: **Demn it man! Look around you. Are all people equal? It's poppycock, no matter what those infernal American colonists say. And as for those Fwoggies: they will never make everyone equal no matter how many heads they chop off. And they will never catch the Scarlet Pimpernel. I have made up a little rhyme about it:**

**"They seek him here, they seek him there, Those Fwenchies seek him everywhere. Is he in heaven? Is he in Hell? That demned elusive Pimpernel"**

Reporter: *Will this be good for England: stopping France from achieving equality, liberty and fraternity?*

Sir Percy: The Pimpernel is making England safer. And now that we have finally got rid of that millstone around our necks: the American Colonies, we can go full steam ahead and have our own Industwial Wevolution which will keep England safe and No 1.

Reporter: *I think you have just offended our American Founding Father (Steve Ostrow walks out of the room at this point). Is that Industrial Revolution a good thing?*

Sir Percy: That howwid man-Kaaaarl Maaaarx-says that we shall be lumped with what he **calls an Industwial Pwoletawiat. But what's that? It's just them demned street urchins and pickpockets.**

Reporter: What do you suggest should be done with the Industrial Proletariat?

Sir Percy: **I have had a bwilliant idea! Why don't we send them 12,000 miles away to New Holland and Van Diemen's Land? That should keep England safe and No 1.**

Reporter: **So you don't think that the Industrial Proletariat poses any risk to English democracy in the future?**

Sir Percy: **Democwacy! That just means bwibing voters. I don't call that pwogress.**

Reporter: **But Sir Percy, ...**

Sir Percy: Look I will have to interrupt you. I have agreed to dress up here as Sir Percy Blakeney, even though I should be in Paris rescuing Jean Paul Sartre and Michelle Foucauld from the guillotining they get from Citizen Murdoch and all those others.

Reporter: **But Sir Percy, ...**

Sir Percy: **But look here old man. I haven't got any of my servants or staff here and I am still dressed up in all this clobber. Without Jeeves here to help me I am pretty much desperate. Answering a call of nature in this dandy's outfit is demned difficult. And God demn me I have been here answering your fool questions all evening. I've got three layers of clothes to get out of. I am near to bursting. I have got to get to a chamber pot and you know what I am going to say...**

Reporter: *Yes Sir Percy I think I do. Thanks for your time.*

Sir Percy: Out of me way lad. I have to point Sir Percy at the porcelain!!

END OF INTERVIEW

Thank you Peter Twist for your work in making this interview — hope our readers enjoy it

ACON's Lesbian and Gay Anti Violence Project (AVP) has released a new campaign titled 'Speak Up' that aims to increase the number of GLBT people who report homophobic violence to the police and to the AVP. Key partners for the campaign are NSW Police Force and City of Sydney.

NSW Police have funded the development of a poster with a specific focus on building the relationship between NSW Police Force and the GLBT community. The poster features Supt. Donna Adney, NSW Police Force GLBT Corporate Spokesperson and Surry Hills Local Area Commander.

City of Sydney has donated the use of poster display space on 30 bus shelters throughout the local government area.

The 'Speak Up' campaign aims to address the problem of homophobic crime being largely unreported and as a result, prevention and support strategies are under- resourced.

Research into the reasons for under-reporting shows that one of the most common reasons people don't report hate crime to police is that GLBT community members fear they won't be taken seriously or that they will experience further victimisation in the form of homophobia from police. In addition, many GLBT people feel the incident is too small or too common to report.

The police version of the campaign aims to build the relationship between the GLBT community and NSW Police Force by illustrating a strong commitment from NSW Police Force to responding to all crime against the community.

The 'Speak Up' campaign aims to motivate the GLBT community to report for reasons beyond the specific incident; to speak up in order to make the overall issue of homophobic violence visible. Reporting incidents allows police and the AVP to build up a picture of when, where, and how often violence is happening. This is essential in order for police to respond to homophobic violence, and for the AVP and ACON to develop education and prevention strategies, inform our community of risks, lobby governments for improved security, and to help secure ongoing funding for the AVP.

Members of the NSW Police Force are a secondary target audience for the campaign. Through their role in distributing this resource, we aim to improve police understanding of the existence of homophobic crime, the barriers to reporting, and the importance of reporting. By using a high ranking police officer the campaign aims to promote an attitude of zero tolerance towards homophobia within NSW Police Force.

Finally, the 'Speak Up' campaign encourages community members who have experienced violence to make contact with the AVP in order to access support, information and referral. Accessing support services earlier rather than later helps to reduce the impact of the violence and can also be a first point of contact for community members who can then be referred to other ACON services.





Two guys talk with John about some of his plants. Tony purchases a ticket from Les and Simon  
Note *the Wicked Witch of Woronora's hat* —  
Maybe a dose of Viagra to get its end up is needed??



Dame Dolly Devine poses with the Wine Pyramid



Geoff with Christine from Scone

# HALLOWEEN

## MAGazine

Some of the guys who dressed for the evening



Richard



Peter in a red cape

Apologies for the delay in publishing the photographs from our Halloween Evening held last year - Ed.

The ceiling and hall decorations were created and erected by Richard

**Richard's hanging decorations**



Count Joe and David



Michael and Alana



Another of **Richard's hanging decorations**

## 2010 Fair Day

cont'd

# MAGazine

MAG has experienced another very successful Fair Day!!

Our plants and jams, plus Jon from Manchester's Greeting Cards sales raised around \$2,000.00. Our raffle for *dirty sex*— 36 bottles of wines raised \$699.00. Dame Dolly

Devine told President Erroll 'if we raise \$500 in the raffle she would be happy'.

Steve Ostrow won the raffle [*again*]. It is worth noting that Steve purchased \$40 worth of tickets, so he had a greater chance than someone who only purchased 1 ticket. I am pleased to say that Joe won 2nd prize — bottle of champers [kindly donate by Richard King]

Steve has most kindly re donated 34 bottles of wine from the raffle back to MAG — Thanks Steve.

Thank you to the guys who assisted to make our day successful in flying *the MAG flag*.

**We were there and people did notice our presence!!!**

Thanks to all those generous guys who donated a bottle of wine, or who purchased a ticket in the raffle, or who purchased some jams or plants.

Thank you ACON for *trucking* our tables, chairs and banners to and from

Victoria Park for us. Thanks to all the guys who came along to say 'Hi' - your moral support was much appreciated by all the workers.

Thank you to John and Harry for growing and caring for all the plants that were sold. Also for the stacks of glass jars of wonderful jams and marmalades you bottled, labelled and decorated with the cute pink material. Thanks to the guys who assisted on the: -

Raffle table — Erroll, Les, Simon, Damien, Peter, Ross and *Bradelina*.

Our stall — Lionel, Luke and Kent. Our plant sales — John, Harry & Joe.

Our raffle and stall spruikers — Geoff, *Christine from Scone* and *Dame Dolly Devine of Marrickville*.

John O'Dea said he was chuffed that regular customers came up to him to tell him that the plants they purchased last year are still going great.

Likewise, Dame Dolly Devine was over *the moon* with the people who wanted to have another photo taken with her. [They had one taken last year].

**A REALLY GREAT TEAM EFFORT**

All concerned - please take a bow!!!!



Our Plants for Sale!! Harry and John talk with Teddy from ACON, as 2 ladies walk by



Lionel & Luke hold some of our greeting cards

The delicious home made jams were made by John and Harry, and the greeting cards by Dr Jon from Manchester



By Warren Sawkins  
MAG MAGazine  
POET

### CLICK, CLICK, CLICK:

Click, goes the mouse on the computer, click, click, click, you change from screen to screen, quick, quick, quick.

Hesitate for a moment, think which programme will you go.

The computer, step by step, will show you what you want to know.

Proceeding through your paces in what interests you, the computer will help you all the way through.

Now, to the finishing touches, to that handiwork, those moments grand, because the computer has followed your every command.

Finally, store it in the memory, for the future, for you to review, those magical moments produced by, the computer and, you.



On Page 5 is an Interview with Sir Percy Blakeney [alias the Scarlet Pimpernel]

Pictured above taken at our 18th Anniversary is Peter on the left as the Scarlet Pimpernel and Ross on the right as Sir William Simons one of his comrade-in-arms

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2 DUTCH JOHNS!!!!

We would like to extend, on behalf of all our Members, best wishes to John and John for celebrating 50 years together, which will be in April 2010.

*Well done guys!!!!*

Our love is sent to you both, and we thank you for your continued support in helping to make MAG the success that it is.



### MAGnet

MAGnet — is our mid week venue for mature gay and bi men.

Every Wednesday evening meeting at the Taxi Club, on Flinders Street, Darlinghurst, from 6:30pm for a meal.

It is a great place to be at. We recommend guys join the Taxi Club — **it's only \$11 per year** and you can enjoy all the benefits. MAG invites all mature age gay and bisexual men to join our guys in having a meal, a drink and socialising.

John Goosen and John Smit at Fair Day. They are promoting John O'Dea's highly sought after 'Woronora Orange' Jam. Kent is in the background manning the Stall.



## MAG's Details

### *Executive Members:*

President: Erroll Higson 9557 5903  
Secretary: David Bowron 9516 2063  
Treasurer: **John O'Dea** 9521 1953

ACON — Project Officer MAG  
and the founder of MAG:  
Steve Ostrow 9358 1460

### *Committee Members:*

Bradley Falappi 9550 6359  
Ross MacKinnon —  
Mario Panzarino 0438 931 999

### **MAGIC**

MAG in the Community.  
For guys who are ill, in hospital,  
or who require assistance. Please  
contact Noel Hunter on (02)  
96991317.

Our postal address is:  
[MAG, PO Box 350](#)  
[DARLINGHURST NSW 1300](#)

[Web site is \[magnsw.org\]\(http://magnsw.org\)](#)

MAG meetings are held at:  
Lower Ground Floor  
ACON Building  
9-25 Commonwealth Street,  
Darlinghurst

The entrance is at the back of  
the building, on the corner  
of Clarke and Alberta Streets.  
We meet on the second and  
last Saturdays of each month,  
from 6:30 pm for tea & coffee  
with the meeting commencing  
at 7:00pm, usually with a  
Guest Speaker — sometimes  
**we'll have a social evening.**

*A light supper follows.*

The Executive Committee  
meets on the second Saturday  
of the month after the General  
Meeting.

**Editor — David 9516 2063**

## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Acceptance (Gay Catholics) Tel. 9568 4433.  
Friday Mass, St. Josephs Church, Bedford  
Street, Newtown, 8pm.

Aleph Australia for gay Jews & friends,  
Contact *Michael* 9300 9700.

Asian Project Contact Solomon 9206 2080  
bgay Community News  
Contact Marc on 0404112831.

Country Network a national social network  
of gay men. Sydney Metro contact is Neil  
Maguire on 9547 1258.

Cronulla Gay Group  
Contact John 9528 9158 or Eric 9589 1161.

Cross Section for gays within the Uniting  
Church phone *Des* 9319 0722.

GAMMA Gay & Married Men's Assoc  
Meets on 1st & 3rd Wed every month,  
**at 9 C'wealth St, Surry Hills. Tel. 9267 4000**  
[www.gamma.org.au](http://www.gamma.org.au)

Gaydownunder [www.gaydownunder.com](http://www.gaydownunder.com)  
GLCS Tel. 1800 184 527

GSN - Gay Sydney Nudists  
contact *Tony James* 49725357.

MCC Good Shepherd 6:30pm Sundays  
Pastor *Robert Clark* Tel. 9386 9293  
37 East Street, Granville.

MCC Sydney 10:00am & 6:30pm Sundays  
Pastor *Gavin Ward* Tel. 9569 5122  
96 Crystal Street, Petersham.

PFLAG Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians  
& Gays. [www.pflagaustralia.org](http://www.pflagaustralia.org)

SCOG Southern Cross Outdoor Group:  
bushwalks and other outdoor activities in the  
Sydney area. Contact *John* 9907 9144.

Email address is [scog@scog.asn.au](mailto:scog@scog.asn.au)  
SPAI DS Dates on tree planting days contact  
[josken@zipworld.com.au](mailto:josken@zipworld.com.au) for further information.

Christ Our Hope Community  
Meetings: fortnightly at 320 Riley Street,  
Surry Hills, at 11am. Contact: Father Peter  
on 9588 6893 or 0419 464 353

WAGS 1st and 3rd Saturdays of month  
ACON, 13 Ellen Street, Wollongong  
7:00pm till 9:00pm.

There is no supper. [www.wags.net.au](http://www.wags.net.au)  
Apostolic Community of St Nicholas  
Meetings: 1st Sunday of month at 11am.

10/5-6 Edgar Cres, Belfield  
Community Pastor Alexei G Schmidt  
9642 7881