

MAGazine

Another Successful Fair Day

MAG had another successful Fair Day. We were part of ACON Alley and our Stall *dressed* in silver sequins, Banners and the **pink** Australian Flag flying proudly in the breeze, you could not miss us. All our home grown jams and home made chutneys all sold, as did a lot of our 2nd hand books. The raffle was a bit disappointing, considering all things. Crowd numbers from previous years were down; but we were there and were seen.

2012 Seniors Week

March dates to remember!
2012 Premier's Seniors Week
Gala Concert
for Individuals is on
Monday 19th March 2012 either at
10.30am or 2.30pm.

"Afternoon Delight"

Sunday 25th March 2012.
As with past years, this will be a
Movie Matinee with a delicious
afternoon tea included.
Check out page 8 for details!
Other events are listed on the
following Page [page 2].



Glenn, David, Allan with Peter at the Raffle Table - Fair Day 2012

Look us up on the web
magnsw.org

MAG is a
project of



2012 EVENTS

Mardi Gras Parade

Saturday, 3rd March 2012

MAG has been approved by Mardi Gras as a participant in this year's Mardi Gras Parade. MAG will have a smaller Bus in 2012. It will be *dressed* in silver sequins and have a **hot pink slipper** on its roof with silver streamers at the back of the bus.

Guys will be required to wear a white shirt with a silver vest [which we will issue].

Our theme this year is

MAGcilla - Queens of the Sofa.

For your information, there will be 9,160 participants, 132 vehicles and it will take approx 2 hours to pass vantage points.

The Parade will start at 7.45pm from the Whitlam Square area and the last float will move off from there at 9.50pm.

There will be 5 kms of love. Negotiations with a Broadcaster are ongoing, at the time of going to print. Mardi Gras hopes to announce it shortly.

MAG is in Block G 4 and this year we will be assembling in College Street, in front of the Marriott hotel or the Hyde Park Plaza Hotel.

MAG's participants are to meet outside the Telstra Shop in Elizabeth Street, on the corner of Bathurst Street at **6pm sharp [no later please].**

The \$10.00 fee we are charging our Parade participants will help pay for the fee that Mardi Gras is charging MAG to be in the Parade [\$150.00].

I am pleased to advise that MAG received a grant for our *Slipper* from Mardi Gras, which is fantastic and we most grateful for this assistance.

2012 SENIORS WEEK

Exciting times are planned for 2012 Seniors Week Premier's Gala Concerts.

[details appeared in Jan & Feb Issue].

ACON's "Afternoon Delight" - 25 March

at the NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre Auditorium, 37 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills.

Free or gold coin donation appreciated. Bookings essential (02) 9206 2028, or email aeisler@acon.org.au

[See Page 8 for further details.](#)

Health is Wealth.

Health Promotion War Memorial Hospital invites you to a free seminar

"Older men's health day",

Monday 5th March 2012.

Information on health checklist and men's sheds, volunteering and exercise.

10:00am to 12:30pm.

[Bookings are essential -
Catroina 9365 0215](#)

War Memorial Hospital, 125 Birrell Street, Waverley.

Lunch will be provided.

10 March

"Safe in my Lover's Arms"

a gay novel by writer

Lance Loader

31 March

A re-run of a Movie, that we were unable to screen on 11 Feb due to technical difficulties.

Our apologies for that

14 April

The Titanic Revisited

100th Anniversary of its sinking

Bradley Falappi

28 April

GAMMA

Peter Kedwell

PRESIDENT



February in Sydney has been a great month with a mixture of entertainment and events for the GLBT community and our friends and supporters culminating in the Fair Day at Victoria Park.

MAG with the help of our Committee and members, made its contribution to another successful day and of course the presence of our own Dame Dolly the SMH Superstar, ensured that the MAG stall will be remembered as one of the more colourful stalls in ACON Alley.

I would like to particularly thank **John O’Dea, Harry West OAM and Jonathan Allwood** for the delicious homemade jams and chutneys which sold very quickly. Alex Sikkes for his sterling effort selling our surplus books, John Waterstreet for the plants he donated and not to forget the folk who staffed the raffle table throughout the day selling tickets for the wine generously donated by members.

For me I believe Fair Day is far more important to MAG than the Mardi Gras Parade, as I moved among the stalls during the day. I was impressed with the diversity and range of organisations and groups catering for the GLBT population, an opportunity to ask all those questions for which you wanted answers but too afraid to ask!! And it was all done in a friendly manner.

Unfortunately in MAG we are an aging population and as we know health and welfare problems increase as we grow older, it is good to learn that ACON is developing its Community Care programme.

Roll on the Mardi Gras Parade our next big event!!!!

We hope to arrange a variety of speakers over the coming months to advise and guide our members on what is available to assist our members as we grow older. In our next edition of the MAGazine we hope to include a survey for you to let us know what you want from MAG.

As always the Committee welcomes your feedback, we have thick hides and while we prefer ‘bouquets’ we do not shy away from ‘brickbats’

Eric Ellem, President



CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION - DEVONSHIRE STREET EXIT.



Guys travelling by train will be pleased to know that the elevator at the Devonshire Street exit of Central Station is now operational.

The escalator is also working, which is great as those stairs were *a killer*.

Mature Age Gays MAG

Caring for each other, sharing friendships and affection with each other in similar situations to lead as full a life as possible

STEVE OSTROW

HI GUYS, Mardi Gras



I wonder if any of you know **what the words 'mardi gras' really mean. I didn't.**

It means Fat Tuesday, and originated in New Orleans in 1699.

In New Orleans, Paris and Rio, Mardi Gras is always celebrated 47 days before Easter Sunday, on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, with the official colours being purple, green and gold. Purple for justice; green for faith; and gold for power, and is not a celebration of sexual identity.

I don't know about you guys, but the first Mardi Gras celebration I marched in was a lonely affair in New York City, back in the 60s, beginning at Greenwich Village and marching up Broadway to Central Park. We were only a stalwart group of about 100, and were looked on with disdain and spat upon by passers-by in the streets.

Now when I march or ride in the Mardi Gras in Sydney, up to 500,000 people blow kisses and shout encouragement to us as we parade brilliantly with an extravaganza of floats and costumes, designed to collectively celebrate our individuality. How our world has changed.

There are those of us in our so-called queer community who, other than their sexual preference, are really no different from any other of our species. We are all homosapiens first and heterosexual, bisexual, homosexual, transsexual and asexual afterwards.

I think our Mardi Gras with its conglomerate of all aspects of our community is MAGnificent, but with so much hatred in the world between one sect or belief and **another, wouldn't it be fabulous if one year** we went back to Fat Tuesday and invited the entire community, gay and straight to march together, celebrating not only our differences but also our common humanity.

And we could then add pink to the purple, green and gold.

Love to all, **Steve,**

Founder of MAG and

ACON's Project Officer for MAG



COMPLIMENTS ON MAG's FAIR DAY EFFORT

Steve sent David, MAG's 2012 Fair Day Stall Co-ordinator, a thank you note concerning our efforts on Fair Day:-

"It was a great showing of power, enthusiasm and support of our great MAG group which serves as an inspiration to all who flowed by to see that age is not a sickness but a triumph and an achievement which many younger can envy aspire to and learn from.

Much love to you and ALL our fab MAGs who **made the day!!"** **Steve Ostrow.**

Ian Walker, Director Community Health & Wellbeing sent a congratulatory message, through Adrian Eisler, Manager Community Care ACON:-

"Please pass on my congratulations to the organisers and participants for the MAG Fair Day Stall, it looked fantastic.

I intended to give my congratulations in person on the day, but was called away wearing my Mardi Gras Board Member hat, then the rain set **in."** **Ian Walker.**

Remembering MAG in your Will

Previous members have bequeathed a small amount 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.

SECRETARY

Red, White & Blue Evening

On 28th January we had a red, white & blue evening.

A few guys dressed for the occasion and I thank them for doing so.

I also had the pleasure to award & present John White with an OBE - Over Bloody Eighty Medal and Certificate.

THE 2012 FAIR DAY

We had a great Fair Day this year, despite the rain coming along in the afternoon to spoil things.

I would like to thank those guys who helped out on the day, for without their efforts we would have not been as successful as we were.

Thank you to all who came along to say "hi" - this was much appreciated.

Thank you David & Glenn, and Valery & Chris for the photos of the Stall - they are terrific. Please see page 7.

Thanks Harry & John for your lovely jams & Jon for your chutneys.

Thanks to all who donated a bottle of wine for our raffle, or who bought a ticket or 2.



HAPPY MARDI GRAS TO ALL! THE 2012 PARADE

MAGcilla - Queens of the Sofa.

MAG's details are on Page 2.

Photographs of the Parade from Michelle will be display in the next Newsletter.

On, I forgot to mention that in "Spectrum" of Saturday, 11th February's Sydney Morning Herald there was a nice pic of Dame Dolly Devine of Marrickville from last Fair Day, promoting this year's Fair Day.

Then in Monday, 13 February's Sydney Morning Herald was a pic from this year's Fair Day of DDDM with Geoff & his colourful tattoos.

You could say that DDDM is now a SMH's page 20 girl.

Michael & Allan you'll have to beat that - ha ha!

David, Secretary



Dame Dolly with a friend having a pic taken Allan is in the background at the Raffle Table, with our pink Australian Flag flying in the breeze.



Dame Dolly Devine's Official Photograph

It was good to see so many people at the 28th January meeting and a pleasure to see familiar faces from my visit last year, as well as encountering many new ones. You are fortunate to have such a useful and convenient space to meet. Back home in the UK, I discovered that the LGBT Network (our equivalent to your ACON) was falling apart. As the Network holds the lease of the building where our group meets, this means that we are going to be homeless. **However, I'm sure that situation will be quickly resolved.**



On my trip this year, I not only managed to attend the finale of the Australia Day celebrations in Darling Harbour, but also saw much of the Chinese New Year Procession. Given my size, I soon realized that I would see little if I **stayed in George Street...and the Town Hall steps were already overfull...so I found a vantage point on a side street which fed into the main procession. Not ideal...but at least I had a decent view.** Of course what I would really like is to **attend Sydney Mardi Gras. But that can't be for a year or so because I still have another 2 years study to complete my Degree in Modern Languages and can't afford to skip class in March.** Something that I think I omitted to say in my talk is that ageing with HIV is not much different than ageing as a gay or straight man. The issues are **pretty much the same...although the risks are allegedly greater.** However, in my view, you need to **make the most of what you've got and push at whatever boundaries you encounter. It's a strategy that seems to work for me.** Those with Internet access might like to check out this link to **an LGBT older people's group in London...their promotional video is well worth watching.** <http://www.openingdoorslondon.org.uk/opening-doors-promotional-video.html>

You might also like to visit a couple of sites of the HIV organisations with which I am involved in the UK : The National Long Term Survivors Group (HIV) <http://www.nltsg.org.uk> and Staffordshire Buddies: <http://www.staffordshirebuddies.co.uk> Thank you for making me feel so welcome and taking an interest in my story. You will be pleased to know that, like last year, I left feeling encouraged by your warm reception and inspired by your achievements.

Take care, Maurice Greenham.

Correct time to drink water - Very Important!

I knew you need your minimum water to flush the toxins out of your body, but this was news to me.

Correct time to drink water - from a Cardiac Specialist.

Drinking water at certain times maximizes its effectiveness on the body: -

2 glasses of water after waking up - helps activate internal organs.

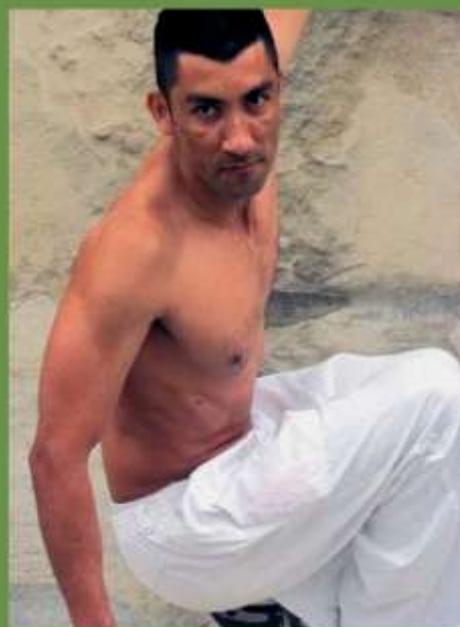
1 glass of water 30 minutes before a meal - helps digestion.

1 glass of water before taking a bath - helps lower blood pressure.

1 glass of water before going to bed - avoids stroke or heart attack.

Please pass this on to the people you care about - I DID !!!

SAFE IN MY LOVER'S ARMS



Lance Loader

Lance Loader, the author of the **"Safe in My Lover's Arms"** will be our Guest Speaker on 10th March.

Don't miss this most interesting talk! 6



Christine from Scone
[in background is Dame Dolly]



Eric & Alex with
the Jams



Lionel & Lewis with the Chutneys



Joe, Jon & Roscoe
at the Raffle Table

Thank you so much - Glenn, David, Allan, Peter, Chris, Roscoe, Alex, Lionel, Lewis, Eric, **John O'D, Harry, Jon, Erroll, John Wa, Chris, Valery, Joe, Mario and Steve** for helping to make our Fair Day 2012 a great success.

The raffle was won by Liz Andrews of Surry Hills and was drawn by a Senior Police, on duty at Victoria Park. Many thanks to all who purchased a ticket, bought a jam or chutney.



Glenn, David, Allan & Peter
with a customer writing out raffle tickets



3 Purple outfits

Red, White & Blue Evening

MAGazine



Joe



Phillip



John and Joe



Clouburst



The Sons of Tennessee Williams

Enjoy an afternoon of escapism with a special double feature of *Clouburst*, starring Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker, and *The Sons Of Tennessee Williams*. Delicious afternoon tea will be served by charming matinee guydolls as you mingle at a handy central Sydney location, the NSW Teachers Federation building. Presented by ACON and Queer Screen. More info visit: www.acon.org.au

Afternoon Delight

Gay & Lesbian Movie Matinee + Tea Party
Sun 25 March 1pm (for 1.30pm start)

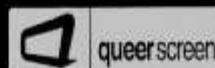
Conference Centre Auditorium,
NSW Teachers Federation
37 Reservoir Street, Surry Hills 2010

FREE or gold coin donation

Bookings essential: 02 9206 2028 or aisler@acon.org.au

acon

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY'S
HEALTH & WELLBEING



NSW Seniors
WEEK

18-25 March 2012
www.nswseniorsweek.com.au

Live
Life!

John White, pictured below, being awarded and presented with the *OBE*.

No, not *the Order of the British Empire*, but *OVER BLOODY EIGHTY* medal and certificate. In a surprise ceremony held on 28.2.2012, a Representative from Buckingham Palace, none other than *DDDM*

[in Formal Attire - Jacket, Top Hat with Tiara & Medals] did the honours!

So from now on, John will be know as John White, *OBE - over bloody eighty*.

John turned 80 years of age on 24th January 2012.

We also had a small birthday cake to mark this *magnificent* milestone.



A response from John White.

Thanks David once again for "knighting" me on Saturday night, much appreciated.

I thought I'd tell you about my extremely interesting & diverse life and you may print it if you like. [I did like and printed it - Ed.]

"I have been overseas 23 times including unusual countries such as Tibet, Burma, Syria, Lebanon, Morocco, Uzbekistan, all of South America.

I have had 19 operations mainly caused by playing tennis 5 times a week, also dancing Disco, Ball Room (New Vogue & old Time), Round & Square Dancing (including teaching beginners.)

I went to my first gay dance aged 30 years, and from there went to Aquarius on Friday nights and of course, all the Pollies and Boomerangs Dances.

My partner at the time Bruno and I were famous for usually being first on the floor at the Pollies at Mascot and quite often the last to leave, albeit reluctantly.

As for my sexual proclivities, I think everyone knows about that and if they don't, as Mae West said, "Come up and see me sometime", and hopefully arrive with me saying, "Ooh, is that a gun in your pocket or are you glad to see me".

Ah, wonderful memories but now that's mainly all they are, but I've enjoyed life and as Shakespeare may have said, 'Wouldn't be dead for quids.' Thanks David - John White". **9**

WARREN'S POEM

IN A CHAIR BY YOURSELF.

By Warren Sawkins

Is a feeling, to some like being left on the shelf.

But on a more positive thinking side. These feelings, we can easily put aside.

In a chair by yourself.

More than often, brings peace and well being. Essential possessions in our amicable every day. This being good mind necessary feelings material. A valuable part in the overall collection, Of our individual attitude wealth.

On occasions, it's important to be by yourself.

Those moments of solitude are important. For your overall sometimes general health. Time passes very quickly, than the eye can blink. Good time out time is needed.

For life's reflection moments in our lives.

Where we just do nothing but think. People can pass you by. No one asks, what you are doing or why. Sometimes you need to switch off to the world. Give your mind a break, a temporary rest. Allow you inner self to do, think what it does best. Always remember.

The outside world will still be out there somewhere.

There will be a time when you need to get back. To where, you need in your mind to be there, Do people thinking and human sharing. To get involved again as a team player. To do all that is needed and required. Then once again personally, individually participate.

With clear thoughts of sincere caring. A time when all your negative thinking time. Has passed you by.

When your mind doesn't need to question all.

Or ask for reasons why. Peace and well being, is now there for you. To move on with your day and do the things With other people that are necessary for you to do.

Time to remove yourself from being
In a chair by yourself.



A FUNNY

Why Ethel had to change Motels

Last week, Ethel checked into a motel on her 65th birthday and she was a bit lonely. **She thought, "I'll call one of those men you see advertised in phone books for escort and sensual massage."**

She looked through the phone book, found a full page ad for a guy calling himself *Tender Tony* - a very handsome man with assorted physical skills flexing in the photo. He had all the right muscles in all the right places, thick wavy hair, long powerful legs, dazzling smile, six pack abs and she felt quite certain she could bounce a dime off his well-oiled butt.

She figured, what the heck, nobody will **ever know, I'll give him a call.**

"Good evening, ma'am, how may I help you?" .. On my, Ethel thought, he sounded soooo sexy!

Afraid she would lose her nerve if she hesitated, she rushed in:

"Hi, I hear you give a great massage. I'd like you to come over to my motel room and give me one.

No, wait. I should be straight with you. **I'm in town all alone and what I really want is sex. I want it hot, and I want it now. Bring implements, toys, rubbers, leather whips, everything you've got in your bag of tricks.**

We'll go hot and heavy all night - tie me up, cover me in chocolate syrup and whipped cream, anything and everything, I'm ready!! Now how does that sound?"

He said,

"That sounds absolutely fantastic, but first you will need to press 9 for an outside line."

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

MAG's DETAILS

Executive Members:

President: Eric Ellem 0418 686 429
 Secretary: David Bowron 9516 2063
 Treasurer: Jon Allwood 0431 062 343

ACON — Project Officer MAG
 and the founder of MAG:
 Steve Ostrow 9206 2072

Committee Members:

Joe Mula	—
Lewis Turtur	—
Mario Panzarino	—
Stuart Ferguson	—
John O'Dea	—

MAG / C

MAG in the Community.
 For guys who are ill, in hospital,
 or who require assistance.
 Kindly contact Noel Hunter on
 (2) 96991317.
 (3)

Our postal address is:

**MAG, PO Box 350
 DARLINGHURST NSW 1300**

web site is

www.magnsw.org

We meet on the second and the
 last Saturdays of each month

at **414 Elizabeth St.,
 Surry Hills**

[near Devonshire St],

from 6:30 pm for tea & coffee
 with the meeting commencing
 at 7:00pm, usually with a
 Guest Speaker — every so
often we'll have a
 social, or even see a movie.

A light supper follows.

The Committee meets on the
 second Saturday of the month
 prior to the General Meeting.

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 Min 9206 2080
 bgay Community News Contact Marc on
 0404112831.

Country Network for friendship & support
 through social events & networking across rural,
 regional & city Australia.

Information at www.countrynetwork.com.au
 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
 Tel. 9267 4000 www.gamma.org.au
 Gaydownunder www.gaydownunder.com

GLCS Tel. 1800 184 527

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

MAM — Mature Age Men
 Meets the last Saturday of month Sportsman's
 Hotel, Springhill, Brisbane at 4pm

Contact Noel (07) 325 77743 for more details.
 MCC Good Shepherd 6:30pm Sundays
 37 East Street, Granville.

Pastor *Robert Clark* Tel. 9386 9293
 MCC Sydney 96 Crystal St, Petersham.
 10:00am & 6:30pm Sundays

Pastor part time *Greg Smith* Tel. 9569 5122
 Email — office@mccsydney.org
 PFLAG

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays.
www.pflagaustralia.org
 SCOG

Southern Cross Outdoor Group: Bushwalks and
 other outdoor activities in the Sydney area.
 Contact *David* 9698 9308.

Email: southern.cross.outdoors.group@gmail.com
 SPAIDS

Sydney Park AIDS Memorial Groves
 Dates on tree planting days kindly contact
josken@josken.net 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