

MAGazine

IT DID RAIN ON OUR PARADE -
BUT WE HAD A
MAGNIFICENT NIGHT



Our Bus in silver sequins, with a pink slipper on its roof. The rain did come at the wrong time, but our guys had a great evening, as our video shows

Look us up on the web
magnsw.org

MAG is a
project of



2012 EVENTS

Queen's Birthday Weekend

Saturday, 9th June
2012



On the above evening, we will be having a traditional royal garden afternoon tea to celebrate the official birthday of the Queen of Australia, Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

It will be a Diamond Tiara Evening. All guests are commanded to attend in their **finery** - in colourful attire - diamonds, crowns, tiaras, top hats, tails, fur stoles, or whatever one deems appropriate, so as to ensure we celebrate and toast Her **Majesty's Diamond** (60th) Anniversary on the Throne.

She has served her loyal subjects with grace and style, and accordingly we plan to celebrate this milestone as only MAG can - another evening to remember, and with your help it shall be so. Please start to plan your outfits now.



Wednesday Luncheon Movies.

On the first Wednesday of each month, the Hayden Orpheum, at 380 Military Road, Cremorne have Wednesday Luncheon Movies. Cost is only \$13.00, which includes the movie, sandwiches and a cuppa afterwards.

Prior to the movie being screened you will be entertained by Neil Jensen playing on the Wurlitzer Organ. You can also win some prizes in the trivia quiz.

2nd May - The Best Exotic
Marigold Hotel.

6th June - Salmon Fishing
in the Yemen.

It is a good day's outing, so, please keep the dates in mind, and while you are at the theatre, checkout the other movies being screened there.

COMING MEETINGS

12 May

Nature of Sexual
Revolution

Dr Alex Zavgorodniy

26 May

T B A

9 June

A Diamond Tiara
Evening

To celebrate the Diamond
Anniversary of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

30 June

Wash your Hands
Patrick Maywood

30 June

Peace of Mind
Vicky Coumbe

PRESIDENT

In my last newsletter I said "roll on Mardi Gras" and although it seems an age since the Mardi Gras Parade, I would like to sincerely thank all who helped prepare the MAG Float, the weather could not quell the enthusiasm of the crowds lining the Parade route who gave us a rousing cheer as we



passed by. MAG is indeed fortunate to have the dedicated members who year after year do so much to make this night a success. I particularly mention our Vice President/ Secretary David Bowron who was the **driving force behind "MAGcilla Queens of the Sofa"** – thank you David!!

I was quite impressed with the goodly number of MAG members who attended the funeral of our esteemed member Noel Hunter, the family were very impressed with the support given to Noel in his final days by a number of members and I think **it demonstrated that MAG is a "family"** and we do care for one another. Noel was our volunteer liaison person visiting members who were ill or needed a visit so hopefully another of our members will volunteer to take on this role.

We are quickly slipping into winter with the short days and long nights, it has been suggested that perhaps as our members are growing older, we should start our meetings earlier in the winter months so that members and visitors can get home earlier. We will canvas your opinions before we implement any changes but please let us have your thoughts.

Eric Ellem, President

Thank you Mardi Gras

MAG applied to New Mardi Gras for a grant to help us with the cost of decorating our Bus for the 2012 Mardi Gras Parade.

A hot pink slipper on a silver sequined bus - Our theme was MAGcilla - Queens of the Sofa.



We are extremely pleased to advise and sincerely grateful to Mardi Gras for granting MAG \$500.00. This certainly assisted MAG with costs in creating the Hot Pink Slipper for the roof of our silver sequined bus.

The rain came at the time of our putting it all together and all that was planned was somewhat killed off, by the rain, heavy at times - but MAG was there, we were seen and noticed; and all on the bus and those who walked thoroughly enjoyed the Parade!!

Thank you again Mardi Gras!

Photos from 2012 Mardi Gras Parade

Should any members or friends wish to **obtain photos from the MAG's successful entry in this year's Mardi Gras Parade**, please contact Michelle at any of our meetings.

Michelle has some really fantastic shots of our guys.

Some of Michelle's photos can be seen on pages 8 and 9, together with some pics from Valery.

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,



Well we have lost yet another of our wonderful MAGs.

As you must all know by now Noel Hunter has passed away from a multitude of ailments.

Noel blessed us with his years of devotion to MAG/IC, 'MAG in the Community', helping, solacing and being there for all those who needed someone to talk to or even more.

Noel serviced the lonely and ill segment of our community almost entirely on his own and he will be lovingly remembered by all for his dedication, devotion and MAGnificent contribution of his time and efforts.

And that is what MAG is all about. We are not just a Saturday meeting place for members, but rather we are here for all of the Mature Age Gay and Bisexual and whatever of our community across all of Australia and indeed through our website for all of the world to see and participate. And many groups have fashioned themselves after the holistic services we offer.

Noel will be sorely missed but his work will continue and so will that of MAG in all areas of our community.

MAG is the epitome of the most fabulous 4 letter word in our **vocabulary ... LOVE!**

So, don't wait till it's too late, spread the word now and we will all prosper in ways that are far beyond possessions, and dollars.

Love to all, **Steve,**
Founder of MAG and
ACON's Project Officer for MAG



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.

Facebook

We are pleased to announce that MAG has a facebook page. Please see the details below. Our grateful thanks to Danny Adams, **ACON's Communications Team** Leader for creating this page for MAG.

SECRETARY

THE 2012 MARDI GRAS PARADE



Dame Dolly with broly in hand in front of our Bus

MAGcilla - Queens of the Sofa.

It rained when we were trying to decorate the bus, and how I planned the bus to look, did not eventuate. On saying that the - guys on the bus and - those who walked thoroughly enjoyed the Parade. I want to sincerely thank all who joined the MAG contingent and also thank Glynn our driver for obtaining the bus, driving it and also dressing it. I thank all those guys who also helped out when it started to rain. Thank you Michelle & Valery for your great photos and Maggie for videoing the Parade for us.

This video shows our guys enjoying the crowd and the fantastic reaction we received from the crowds to us - mature gays. Michelle even had photographs at our meeting the week following the Parade.

I would like to give special mention to ACON's Emily Spencer for producing our bus signage - and sincerely thank her for them.

Another OBE

I am pleased to advise that we had another OBE presentation. This time it was bestowed upon John O'Dea OBE at our 10th March meeting. A photo of John with his OBE is on Page 11.

MAGnet

I was about to announce the demise of a gay icon - The Grosvenor Club, affectionately known as the Taxi Club. A number of MAG guys meet there each Wednesday for a meal, the badge draw and join in the fun of Trivia. But I am now please to say that the Club will be continuing for a while yet. I shall keep you posted.

I enjoy the Club, as you can chat with friends and acquaintances in an enjoyable atmosphere with a good wine, or a cold beer and enjoy a nice meal.

Afternoon Delight



What a fantastic Sunday afternoon the 25th March was!!

The two movies screened were great and the finger food afterwards that was served by the lovely young ladies delicious. The Seniors Week Ambassador, Robina Beard "Madge" from the Palmolive Ads those many years ago, told us of her interesting life and passed on words of inspiration to all in attendance.

I was very pleased there was a great attendance of MAG guys, and this was appreciated by the organisers.



Over 300 people were at the function.

On behalf of everyone would like to thank Adrian Eisler from ACON and all the volunteers for a thoroughly fun afternoon for us oldies to enjoy.

I was not sure about seeing a lesbian movie, but I thoroughly enjoyed "Cloudburst". The one liners were so funny, I can't remember them as there were too many.

"The Sons of Tennessee Williams" was interesting with the over the top outfits.

Below, I am with some of the gorgeous young hostesses who served us delicious finger food and beautiful, yummy cup cakes.



Noel Hunter

Noel Hunter our Welfare Officer, sadly passed away in the Sacred Heart Hospice. A tribute to Noel is on pages 6 & 7. We will miss his friendship.

Facebook - MAG has a Facebook page. Check it out!!

David, Secretary

VALE - NOEL HUNTER

Noel Hunter passed away on 8th April 2012, aged 83 years old, after a short illness.



Noel Hunter, wearing a **blue cap** is with David and Peter Homes on the All Boyz Tour of Turkey in 2005.

We had just attended the Dawn Service of 90th Anniversary of Australian and New Zealand troops landing at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli and were now on our tour of fascinating Turkey, discussing *where in the bloody hell were we!*

I was asked by Noel's brother if I would say a few words on behalf of MAG.

My eulogy is below:

"Good morning, as the Secretary of MAG, I am honoured to be able to say a few words on behalf of our guys regarding our esteemed member Noel Hunter, and thank Noel's family for this opportunity to do so.

Noel was a MAG member for many, many years, perhaps too many to count. He was there before 1998, when I joined.

He was a magnificent supporter of our group, a regular attendee at our meetings, and devoted his time as our Welfare Officer, visiting members who were ill, or those who just wanted someone to talk to – he was there for them, and we appreciated this kindness. We call this project MAGIC – MAG in the Community.

I would even go so far as to call him a *MAG Stalwart*.

Noel will be sorely missed by a great number of our members as well as myself, as I was in his company together with other members such as Steve, Bill, Tony along with other guys at the Taxi Club each Wednesday evening, where we tried to win the \$100 members badge draws. Lively discussions took place at our table on various matters.

A number of the MAG members, including Noel and myself attended the 2005 Dawn Service to mark the 90th Anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli and enjoyed a terrific tour of Turkey after it.

Our Treasurer wanted to give Noel a small recompense for his expenses for visiting our guys, but Noel was not having any of that – that was Noel. Eventually the Treasurer wore him down and Noel did accept our gift for his out of pocket petrol expenses.

He is now at peace and is with his mate JOCK, who was also a MAG member, and no doubt **he's telling the Lord how to fix a few things.**

We shall lovingly remember his friendship, his dedication, his devotion and magnificent contribution of his time and effort for the success of our group – thank you Noel.

May you rest in peace!!"

WARREN'S POEMS

A TRIBUTE TO NOEL, NOEL HUNTER.

Written 15th April 2012.



The nurses looked out from the hospital
and saw our star.
Not so much him shining; in the inner city.
Beyond them far.
But poor Noel needed more light.
To continue through the day and night.
Our Noel, Noel Hunter.
The gay man who lived at Chippendale.
Out first Noel, the nurses did say.
Was now certainly a poor ill gay,
In the hospital bed there now he lay.
Trying to sleep.
On a hot Autumn night that was so deep.
Our, Noel, Noel Hunter.
The gay man who lived at Chippendale.
Then entered the wise men three.
David Bowron, Steve Ostrow and Warren
Sawkins, me.
They greeted Noel respectfully; the man they
came to see.
They offered themselves and more to our
dear Noel, Noel Hunter
A copy of the MAG Magazine, SX, The Sydney
Star Observer.
Their sincere feelings of get well wishes for
his future to be.
Our Noel, Noel Hunter.
A gay man who lived at Chippendale.
Our Noel the star, now needed to draw more
personal light
To the city not the west.
As the nurses themselves; now need to take
some rest.
**Noel came to St Vincent's hospital, then
moved to a respite.**
There he stopped and eventually God decided
he stay.
On the Sunday, 8th April 2012.
Noel said his goodbyes and passed away.
Farewell to you, our forever remembered,
Our loved MAG friend, and to many personal
friend.
Our Noel, Noel hunter.
A gay man who lived at Chippendale.

NOEL HUNTER.
Written 16th July 2010.

Noel Hunter on the whole I find.
A very sincere, genuine guy.
I know.
As a very special somebody who can
be kind.

He's a pillar of an individual?

A natural person, an example to live by.
Noel's no reason to determine my thoughts.
To think or ask why.
Noel is out there in a very special way.
More than words can sometimes say.
Noel is a person who understands one's
feelings.

Through his compassion and welfare
dealings.
Noel is considerate and most human beings.
People with his nature are very hard to find.
He can be thoughtful to the core.
He has many good character traits.
Individual ways you can adore.
He has most people in general mind.
Noel is willing to stand up and fight.
For humanitarian issues he feels are right.
Noel is my sunshine that offers my daily
glow.

He's a good guy and the friend.

Most people would forever want to know.

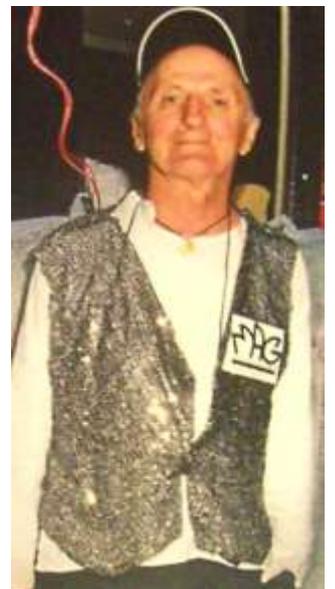
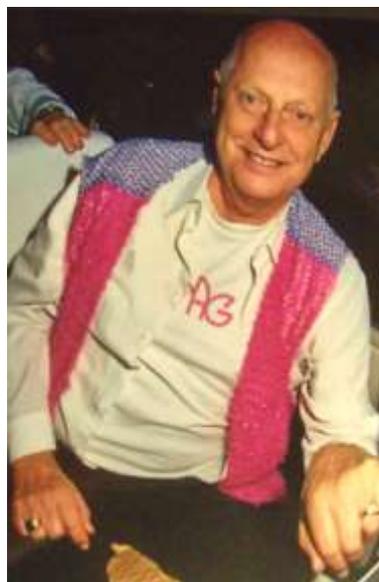
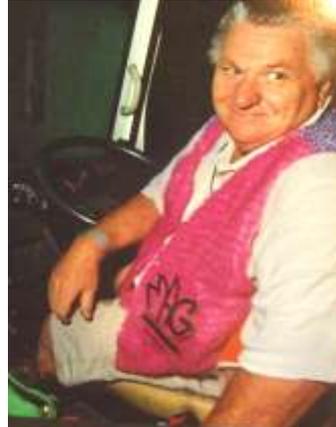
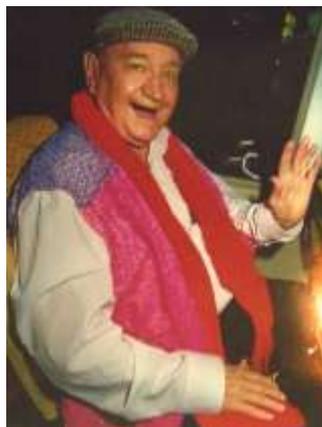
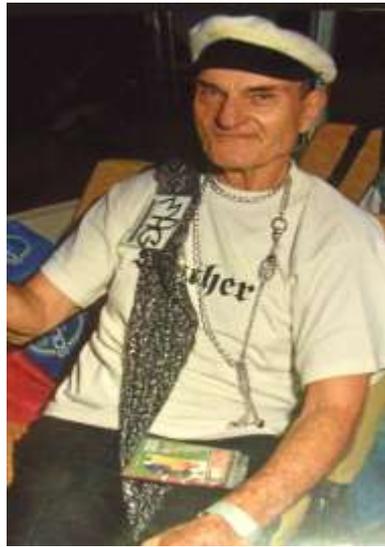
Christ Church St Laurence
Railway Square, Sydney

A Funeral Service for
Noel Hunter
(Magpie)
(07.06.1928 – 08.04.2012)

10.30am, Friday 13th April 2012

2012 PARADE MAGazine

Photos of the Parade were taken courtesy of Michelle & Valery. On behalf of the guys, we sincerely thank you for taking these great photos of the evening under terrible weather conditions.

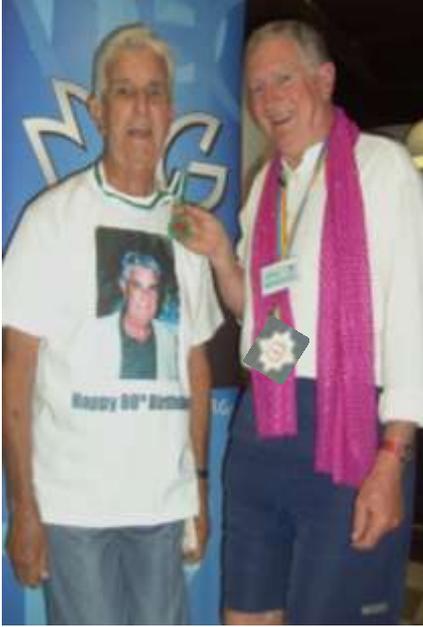




OBE

John O'Dea turned 80 on 8th March and accordingly he was presented with an **OBE - Over Bloody Eighty** Medallion and Certificate.

He is pictured, in his 80th birthday shirt that was a gift from his family, with Secretary David, presenting him with his **OBE** medallion.



A FUNNY

Welfare Cheque

A guy walked into his local Centrelink Office to collect his cheque. He marched straight up to the counter and said, "Hello, you know I just HATE drawing welfare, I'd really rather have a job."

The Centrelink worker behind the counter said, "Your timing is excellent. We just got a job opening from a wealthy old man who wants a chauffeur and body guard for his beautiful daughter. You'll drive his 2011 Mercedes-Benz CL and he will supply you with all your clothes. Because of your long hours, your meals will also be provided. You will be expected to escort the daughter on overseas holiday trips.

This rather awkward to say, but you will also as part of your job description have to satisfy her sexual urges. The daughter is in her mid-20s and has a rather strong sex drive".

The guy in wide-eyed amazement said: "You're bullshittin me!"

The social worker replied: "Yeah, well ... you started it".

NEW MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS PROJECT



Peace of Mind is a new ACON project developed to create mental health awareness and promote wellbeing within the GLBT communities across NSW. The project has been developed as a response to recent research which tells us that mental health concerns and suicide attempts are more common within the GLBT communities than the general population.

Mental health workshop for GLBT community members will be set up across NSW. The workshops will cover topics such as:

- How to recognise when some one is in emotional distress
- How to spot early signs and symptoms of common mental health concerns
- How best to support friends and loved ones to get the support and help they need
- Where to go for GLBT friendly support services

The Peace of Mind Project is looking for interested participants that represent the diversity of the GLBT communities to take part in workshops that will run between August and October.

If you would like to take part in this important work and participate in one of the workshops then please contact Vicky Coumbe on 9206 2000 or email peaceofmind@acon.org.au to express your interest.

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.

We are seeking a person to fill the shoes
 of the late Noel Hunter - please contact
 our President if you can help us to assist
 our members and friends.

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 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 (2nd & last Sundays)
 at 11am, 414 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills
 on level 3.

Contact: Mons. Peter Johnson O.S.C.
 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