

MAGazine

The Newsletter for Mature Age Gays

November and December 2009 Edition

Wishing everyone a
Merry Christmas and
the very best for 2010



Left to right
Michelle, Erroll,
Steve with the knife,
Richard and Mark

The cutting of MAG's 18th birthday cake

Look us up on the web
magnsw.org

MAG is a
project of **acon**
BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY'S
HEALTH & WELLBEING



President **MAGazine**

Greetings to all.

Our 18th Birthday celebrations were a great success. Many thanks to all the guys who helped make it so successful, especially the boys in the kitchen and a special mention to Richard King for donating the beautiful birthday cake and all the floral decorations.

At the present time I am going through a difficult time having been diagnosed with a rectal cancer which fortunately was detected very early. I am undergoing chemotherapy and 5 weeks of Radiation treatment, so consequently I am now on extended sick leave from my regular employment at Concord Hospital.



Jon and Erroll

It is encouraging having my boyfriend here with me for the initial 3 weeks of my treatment and also for my many friends who have offered their support when Jon goes home. I would encourage all to open up to family and friends as their support at a vital time is of great comfort.

I would like to thank the special get well wishes from the new CEO of ACON, Nic Parkhill and Michelle Sparks, Manager Community Development, ACON also our own Steve Ostrow plus all those who have sent me get well wishes and cards.

For all of us in the gay community it is important to be aware of our own health and have checks for prostate, bowel and testicular cancer regularly especially if there is any family history of cancer.

It was very encouraging to see MAG members represented at the funeral service in the city on Friday 2nd October for one of our beloved members Frank Wheeler, partner of Ken Iwano. Frank regularly attended our MAG meetings and he will be sadly missed.

Our condolences go out to Ken Iwano.

Best wishes for the forthcoming Festive Season and for a great 2010 - Erroll, your President.



OUR PLANNED EVENTS

14 November

To be advised

28 November

A presentation by COTA -
The Council On the Ageing
Beyond Maturity Blues

What depression is, what are
the symptoms and causes in
older people and what are the
available treatments

12 December

Our Christmas Party

Please bring along
something special for
the supper table !!!!

26 December

Social Evening

Everyone is welcome to come
along a free 'n' easy night

Steve Ostrow MAGazine

Hi Guys,

The following is an edited script of the speech I made on our fantastic 18th Anniversary.

The evening was a monumental success and none of it could have happened these 18 years without the avid and committed support of our incredible team of volunteers and YOU, the MAGs in MAG!!

'Well, it is now 18 years since I founded MAG the Mature Age Gay Men's Group in September 1991. What a trip! And how MAGnificent it has been to have interacted with so many outstanding guys who have helped form a family for all of us survivors of the 60's and 70's era of sexual liberation and then the 80's and 90's when we were devastated by a microbial monster, just 100 nanometers across, the greatest biological scourge ever to plague a minority.

But here we still are, having lost many of our ilk...not only to AIDS but also to the decrepitation and travails that we all in our time will eventually succumb to.

But isn't it grand to know that we need not be alone? That there is a place to come to and share and be supported. That there are people who care and indeed cater to us.

That there is someone to call on us when we are sick, in trouble or just lonely. That there are multi-talented wondermen who continue to donate their time and efforts to assure that the efficacy of MAG that has made it one of the largest gay organisation in Australia and indeed in the entire world catering to the needs and concerns of the mature gay and bi-sexual male, continues to flourish beyond our finite existence. And this evening is proof of that indeed.

And yes, there is the inestimable availability of being hugged and solaced and to know that I am you and you are me, and together we are one.

There are many things that I am proud of in my life. I won't be egotistical in citing them ad infinitum, but along with having been instrumental through the Continental Baths in the changing of the laws against homosexuality in New York City in 1972, which saw us no longer as criminals; and then, when homosexuality was removed from the American Medical Association's list of pathological disorders in 1974, and we were no longer depraved – along with that... is having founded MAG!

And so I pay tribute to all of those tireless volunteers, all too numerous to mention, who have made it all possible. And then to ACON, under whose umbrella we have been protected and secure all these many years.

And of course our fabulous invited guests of the evening amongst whom are Mark Orr, President ACON, Nicolas Parkhill our new ACON CEO and Michelle Sparks, Community Development Manager, and YOU without whom there **would be no MAG! Thank you.....**

That was the speech and it all revolves around a 4 letter word LOVE!

Steve



Disclaimer:

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



Secretary

MAGazine



[Our 18th Birthday Celebrations](#) Thanks to all who assisted in making this evening the outstanding success that it was.

I also wish to record my sincere thanks to all those wonderful guys who have in past years assisted, in what ever way, to ensure the success that MAG enjoys today. We also acknowledge and thank ACON for their continued support of MAG. Thank you Nicholas Parkhill the newly appointed CEO of **ACON, Mark Orr President of ACON and Michelle Sparks ACON's Community Development Manager** for being in attendance at our 18th — all the guys most certainly appreciated you giving up your Saturday evening to be with us. Thanks Richard for the delicious birthday cake. Thanks to the catering guys— a great job — well done. My sincere thanks to all who entered the spirit of the night by wearing a mask. Also to Peter and Ross for your elegant period costumes. Rohan for you outfit, including the boots — which I thought magnificently added to your blue flowing gown and pink cowboy hat! Thanks to Valery, Jon and others for great pics of the evening. Thank you Sydney Star Observer for sending a photographer to record the night and publishing **the blurbs on MAG in the SSO. To those who didn't wear a mask, the question must be asked WHY NOT!!**

John Goosen told me that Her Excellency the Governor of NSW, Marie Bashir, was unable to attend our party, but asked John to convey her best wishes to us.

[Halloween Evening — 31 October](#) As we go to print, we will be having our Halloween evening — thanks Richard for your suggestion and for your efforts in decorating the meeting room. Thanks to all who did come along in costume — *trick or treat*. Photos will appear in our next Newsletter.

[Congratulations](#) Graeme Clarke one of our members who lives in Cook, ACT has been awarded the AO. We congratulate Graeme on this honour.

I hope to receive more information on Graeme's award.

[Members' Passing](#) It is with regret that I inform readers of the passing of Joe Matula (aged 65 years) and Frank Wheeler (aged 80 years).

I attended Frank's funeral. He and Ken were always at our meetings and I will miss Frank. To the family and friends of both guys we extend our condolences.

We especially send to Ken, Frank's partner for 32 years, our thoughts and prayers.

[Our Christmas Party](#) Our Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, 12th December in the ACON Building and there will be no charge!!

All who intend to come along — please bring something **really special** for the supper table for everyone to enjoy. **For those who don't normally bring in anything, why not do something different and bring along a plate? Naturally, its BYOG.**

Season's Greetings

To all readers may I extend the very best of good wishes for a happy and enjoyable Christmas and hope everything will be great in 2010.

David, Secretary & Editor of the Newsletter.

Tel: [02] 9516 2063.



Joe and yours truly in our Tuxs

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

MAGazine



Copies of this card were given to all who attended Frank Wheeler's funeral. We strongly urge everybody to note the information provided on the Card.

Brian celebrates his 90th Birthday



David presents Brian with his birthday cake we thought 2 candles were enough for him to blow out

At our 18th Birthday celebration, we had a surprise birthday cake for Brian from Dee Why. Brian celebrated his 90th birthday a month previous, but was not able to attend our meetings until October, as his transport, John & John weren't able to bring him into MAG as John was recovering from a hip operation. The photos show Brian was delighted with his *surprise* birthday cake.



Brian, all smiles, with his cake



Ready to cut his cake John watches on, as does David

Our 18th Celebrations

MAGazine



John, Brian and Elliott



Stephen, Gary and Keith



Rohan with hat and boots



Ross and Peter

Ross - Sir William Simons and Peter - Sir Percy Blakney [Alias The Scarlet Pimpernel] An interview with The Scarlet Pimpernel will appear shortly.



Dr Eddie



Chris



Roscoe



David "the cap"



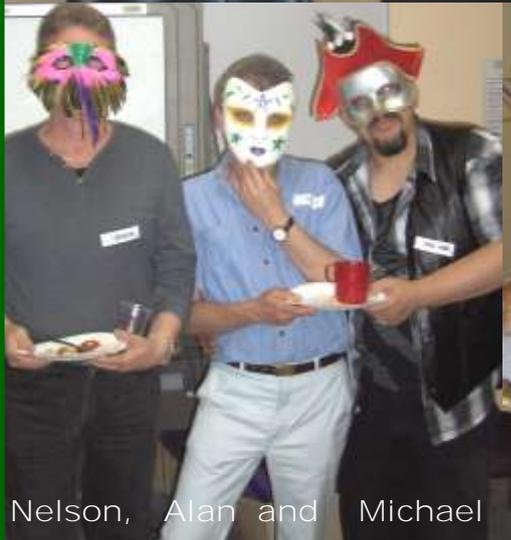
Nicolas CEO
of ACON



Mark ACON's
President



'Old' John, Brian and John



Nelson, Alan and Michael



A masked friend
with Scary Michael



Ray



John and Michelle, ACON's
Community Development Manager



Bill and Richard

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

Letter of thanks

[Brian was our Guest Speaker on 26 Sept]

MAGazine



Hi Steve

Thank you for your kind words, it was a pleasure to attend and address the members of MAG.

You must be pleased as to the way the MAG group has grown since you founded it some 19 years ago. I was very impressed by the manner in which the members responded to my presentation and overall I enjoyed the evening.

You seem to have developed a harmonious group, and I am sure there would be many more MAG men in the suburbs who would benefit from the camaraderie and fellowship the group engenders - so a well done to you.

Regards

Brian **Brian Daniels** www.alzheimers.org.au Dementia Helpline: 1800 100 500

THE UGLY FROG [thanks Ian]

A mature gay man was somewhat lonely and decided he needed a pet to keep him company. So, off to the pet shop he went. He searched and searched. None of the pets seemed to catch his interest, except this ugly frog. As he walked by the jar the frog was in, the frog looked and winked at him. The frog **whispered, 'I'm so lonely, too. Buy me and take me home. You won't ever be sorry'.**

The man figured, what the heck! He hadn't found anything else. So, he bought the frog. He placed him in the car, on the front seat beside him. As he was slowly **driving down the road, the frog whispered to him, 'Kiss me and you won't be sorry!'** So! The man figured, what the heck, and kissed the frog.

IMMEDIATELY the frog turned into an absolutely gorgeous, sexy, young, handsome Prince. **The Prince then returned the Man's kiss.** Suddenly the Man felt himself transforming from the kiss. Now can you guess what the man turned into??

COME ON, GUESS!

He turned into the first **HOLIDAY INN** he could find!!

He's mature NOT DEAD!!!

OLD GAY MEN ROCK!

The scent of flowers cannot travel against the wind, but the scent of good deeds travels in all directions.



SENIORS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS.

How can you avoid that terrible curse of the elderly wrinkles?

Take off your glasses.

Why should 60+ year olds use the valet parking?

Valets don't forget where you parked your car.

Is it common for 60+ year olds to have problems with short term memory storage?

Storing memory is not the problem, retrieving it is a problem.

As people age, do they sleep more soundly?

Yes, but usually in the afternoons.

Where should 60+ year olds look for their glasses?

On their foreheads.

What is the most common remark made by 60+ year olds when they enter an Antique Store?

'Gosh, I remember these'. Smile — it is good to see you still have a sense of humour!

End-of-life Care:

MAGazine



Better Understanding GLBT People's Needs

You are invited to participate in a study exploring gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) people's knowledge of, and attitudes towards end-of-life care. We are especially interested in hearing about the experiences and attitudes of mature aged gay men with regard to end-of-life care planning.

The aim of the research is to explore end-of-life care planning attitudes and knowledge, including decisions around medical care for life-limiting illness or an unexpected accident, attitudes towards care options such as palliative care or medical intervention, and decisions relating to who will make decisions on your behalf should you lose the ability to do this for yourself.

The research, which is being conducted by the Aged Services Learning and Research Centre (ASLaRC) at Southern Cross University, is funded by the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, and is also generously supported by ACON, the Gender Centre, the Inner City Legal Centre and the Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre.

The information provided from this survey will help us to identify GLBT people's level of knowledge, and attitudes towards end-of-life care planning, and will assist in developing educational resources on important end-of-life care planning processes. We also hope it will help improve end-of-life care.

The research will be conducted October 30 to November 20, 2009 via an anonymous survey. Participation is voluntary. MAG and ACON are kindly distributing the survey. Completed surveys can be left with MAG for return to the research team or you can post it back in the reply paid envelope provided. Information about the study and surveys will also be available at ACON branches and, if you prefer, you can complete the survey online through a link on the ACON website www.acon.org.au from October 30, 2009 to November 20, 2009.

Thanks from the ASLaRC team!



Warren's Poem

MAGazine

By Warren Sawkins
MAG MAGAZINE
POET
Written 29 November
2008.

MY FRIEND 3.

In a sometimes aggravation of disarray,
and social communication decay.

A single leaf might blow under your door.

You look at it, pick it up and, wonder what it's for.

Also people we meet, in an organization or the street,
are sometimes like that leaf, an unknown identity
from outside the door.

Why did they find us, and friendship combine us?

What can you say, the leaf and life happened that way.

In life, there will always be memories of the past,

the moments, the heartwarming times that didn't last.

But what can you do, everywhere you go, life follows you.

In everything you say and everything you do.

What should we do with the dear leaves,
that one day came from outside the door.

Looking for someone to show a need for them,
in a new found friendship, they might find and adore.

Let's hope the leaves have found someone

to need them, befriend them, understand them,

keep them in their hearts safe like a life long secret,

in a ideal leaf found friendship place, inside the door.

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.



Harry proudly
displays his
recently
awarded
OAM

WE ASKING FOR BOTTLES
OF WINE FOR OUR WINE
RAFFLE FOR FAIR DAY

*Any donation will be
thankfully accepted*

Some Irish Medical Terms

Bowel — A letter like A, E, I, O, U

Cat Scan — Searching for kitty.

Impotent — Distinguished, well known

Labour Pain — Getting hurt at work

Medical Staff — **A Doctor's cane**

Outpatient — A person who has fainted

Pelvis — A Cousin of Elvis

Prostate — Flat on your back

Rectum — Damn near killed him thanks Harry

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





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 —
Richard King 0425 248 480
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.

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

Gaydownunder 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

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
SPAI DS Dates on tree planting days contact
josken@zipworld.com.au for further information.

Independent Catholic Church of Aust
Meetings: fortnightly at 320 Riley Street,
Surry Hills. 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
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