

MAGazine

The Newsletter for Mature Age Gays

November and December 2010 Edition



Your Committee cut MAG's 19th Birthday Cake !

From left to right — John, David, Erroll, Bradley, Mario and Joe

All at MAG send best wishes to all for a
Happy Christmas and a great 2011



Look us up on the web
magnsw.org

MAG is a
project of



President MAGazine

Hi Guys,

Well what a great night we had for our 19th Birthday party, Well done to everyone who helped to make it such a memorable night.

Some of the creations were absolutely exceptional and congratulations to all who made an effort and wore a head gear or feathers; and got in the spirit of the evening.

To Michelle for taking all the photographs and putting a collection together for us to keep.

Thank you David for such a nice surprise with the *bottomless* waiter. He sure turned a few heads including our special guest Justice Michael Kirby.

To all the guys in the kitchen thanks and John O’Dea for the scrumptious supper.

I guess we will now be looking towards our next big event and that is our Christmas party in early December.

I’m sure Dame Dolly will come up with another big surprise for our members.

As we go to print there is speculation on the big move for ACON. At some stage ACON will be moving from their present building in Commonwealth Street to another building in Surry Hills, near Central Railway.

All members will be informed as soon as we have been advised by ACON.

Until next time hope to see you all at our regular meetings.

With the festive season being with us soon, I would like to wish all Members and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

With much love from your President, Erroll xxx.



Erroll admires our magnificent Birthday Cake



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

OUR PLANNED EVENTS

13 November

Dr Gita Niar-Smith &
Dr Andrew Smith

Answering questions on how
to manage your general health

30 November

T B A

11 December

Our Christmas Party

JBear will be entertaining us

25 December

NO MEETING due to
Christmas Day

Steve Ostrow MAGazine

Hi All MAGs

See below my address to the group 11 Sept 2010 which pretty **much says it all. A great night hope you didn't miss it.**

Love Steve.

MAG 19th ANNIVERSARY

Hi Guys and girls and whoever—many thanks for sharing this night with us After having been in the sex industry all my life, The Continental Baths, Golden Boy Escort Service etc, when AIDS hit I decided to go on the other side and became a volunteer with ACON on the hot line and an emotional support officer with ANKALI .

I was then approached by AFAO to do a needs assessment of gay and bisexual men over 40.

Most of their campaigns till then were addressed to the 18 to 30 some odd and it was wear a condom and the Grim Reaper etc.

When I did the assessment, loneliness, estrangement from family, fear of the future, getting old alone, these were the concerns. So I decided to take a holistic approach dealing with all these concerns. I then created MAG.

I then lobbied ACON and convinced them to take on MAG as a project which they did and have been with us all these 19 years with support while respecting our autonomy.

So here we are 19 years later and you know what, our concerns and needs are still the **same and that's why MAG is so important and what has made it the largest gay org in Australia and the largest in the world catering to the Mature age gay man.**

When you come to a MAG Meeting you are greeted, entertained, given space to socialise, educated and fed. And above all feel like you are part of a family which indeed you are, MAG.

I had a dream, and in that dream all the peoples of the world would at the exact same moment in Greenwich time be invited to go into the street and then take each others hand and say, I am you, you are me, together we are one.

Realising that we all came from the same seed and that regardless of religion, gender, creed, colour or sexual preference, we are all part of the same family.

It was then that I discovered my true religion, **LOVE**. For if we all loved each other what a wonderful world this would be!
SOOOO lets share in that tonite.

I invite all to stand up, take each others hand and say...I am you, you are me and together we are one.

Great and now lets all give each other a wonderful hug and experience what MAG is all about. Thank you.

I would now like to pay tribute to some of our fab guests tonight, The Hon Michael Kirby

Dawn Hough from Pride and Diversity who in addition baked the fabulous cake you will enjoy later, and so many others - Thank you all,

And last but certainly not least, one of our most honoured and long time member, Harry West, who was presented with the Order of Australia medal last year.

Harry is also famous for being the partner of our much beloved and overworked

Treasurer John O'Dea.

Harry can you please come up and say a few words as to what MAG has meant to you these many years

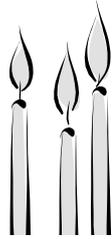
OK guys lets applaud our wonderful volunteers, exec board, catering comm., clean and set up and all those that make this all possible for us.

And last but not least all of you sitting here, for without **you** there would be **NO MAG**

Thank you, enjoy your evening —



Further
Members
pass



MAGazine

**REMEMBER!! SAFE SEX
ALL WAYS ALWAYS**

We very much regret to advise that:

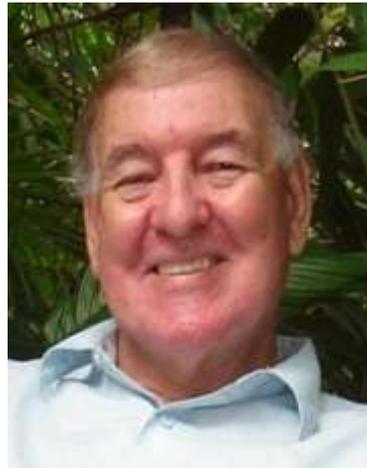
Tony Vandenberg
of Bondi Junction passed
away on 1st September 2010

- aged 78.



A number of MAG
guys attended
**Tony's funeral at
MCC Sydney, at
Petersham.**

Rex Masters of Qld passed
away on 1st September 2010
— aged 75.



Murray Johnstone of Carlingford passed away
14th September 2010 — aged 82.

**Murray was MAG's Secretary prior David for four [4]
years — 1997 till 2001.**

Murray was Richard Buckdale's partner and soul mate.

A Memorial Service commemorating Murray's wonderful
and productive life will be held at St David's Uniting
Church, 454 Pacific Highway Lindfield, on
Saturday, 13th November starting 2pm.

For further details please contact Richard on 8812 3495,
or 0432 393 566.

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

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

Secretary MAGazine



Our 19th Well what an absolutely terrific evening!!!!!!!

Thank you everyone **who made it happen, especially John O'Dea.**

Thank you to our visitors – the honorable Michael Kirby, Dawn Hough, her partner Judy and Jennifer Rose for your support. Thank you to all who dressed up for the evening – you made it a really fun and enjoyable night – a number of guys made some really outstanding creations. Readers can see photos on the following pages. Thanks to Michelle our photographer extraordinaire, who also *dressed up* for the night and took some great pics. Photos can be obtained from Michelle at \$5.00 a pic and readers can contact her on 0409 777 971. The Sydney Star Observer kindly sent Ann-marie Calilhanna to take some terrific pics, which appeared in print in the 15.9.2010 Issue – thanks SSO.

I would also like to sincerely thank Dawn Hough for the absolutely wonderful 19th Birthday cake she made and decorated. It was *magnificent* [sorry] and a shame to cut up.

However once we did, it was mouthwatering, [it was a chocolate mud cake] and I went back for seconds. As a small token of our sincere appreciation, I presented Dawn with a small moth orchid plant.

Murray Johnstone As mentioned on Page 4 Murray passed away on 14 September. Murray was the Secretary of MAG prior to myself and was very helpful in assisting me *into* the position. I had heaps of fun with Murray when we were preparing the *Fred Flintstone* outfits for MAG's 2001 Mardi Gras Parade entry, at Erskineville at the Mardi Gras Workshop. I called Murray *Mr Fenner* from the old TV show "The Rag Trade" on ABC TV – many, many years ago. We had a great time working on the outfits together with other MAG guys.

Season's Greetings I wish you all best wishes for a happy Christmas spent with family and/or friends and hope that 2011 will be a good one for all of us!

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



With Joe who had a really great outfit, together with his *dead fox* over his shoulder. His shoes were also very creative – see page 7.



With Morris and Sammy our cute waiter Sammy was from *Waiters in the Buff* – telephone 8078 4633

Sammy wore a collar with bow tie, cuffs and a black apron to cover his front [his rear was not covered]. **Sammy had a nice tatt of Superman's logo on his lower back** – see page 7.

Sammy did wear a feathered boa for a time. 5

Pics from our 19th
Birthday Party

MAGazine



John, Erroll & Harry



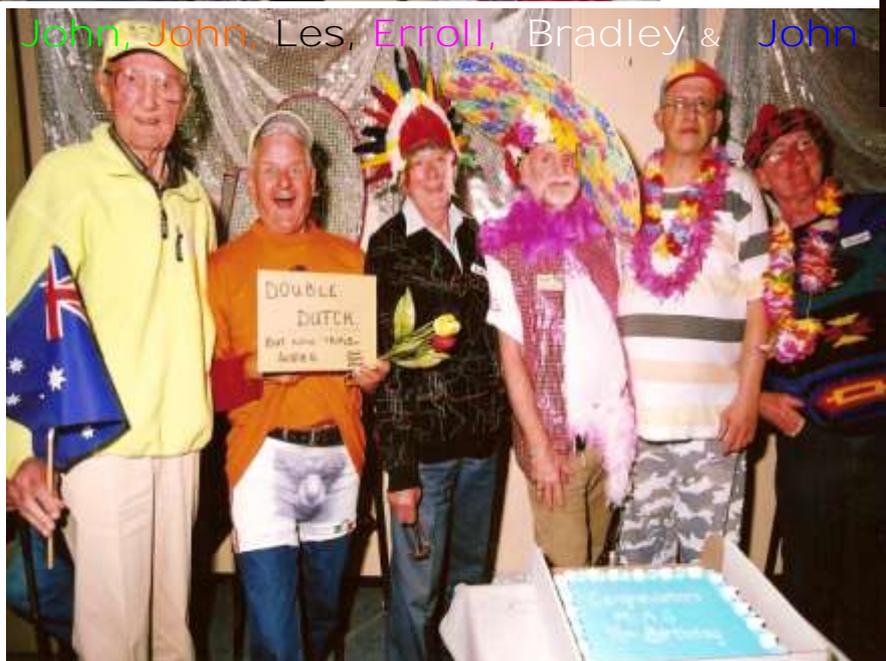
Sammy our cute waiter



Harry,
Joe
&
Brian



Ken adjusts
Suzie's [Lionel's]
cleavage



John, John, Les, Erroll, Bradley & John



Pics continued

MAGazine

Photos courtesy of
Michelle, Erroll
& Morris.



Michael, Ed & David



Mario & James



Erroll, Joe & Richard

Dear Steve and Erroll

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend MAG's 19th Birthday celebrations this coming Saturday as I have an AFAO board meeting all weekend and an AFAO board dinner on Saturday night.

I wanted to wish you both - and all of MAG's membership - a huge congratulations on this wonderful achievement. The growth and development of MAG continues to inspire me and it is wonderful to see such a great community institution like MAG prosper.

I cannot thank MAG members enough for the contribution that they make to the ACON family, and to the work that ACON does ... particularly the safe sex packers. Your work is so invaluable and really is the back bone of the work that ACON needs to do in the fight against HIV.

I also wanted to wish Steve Ostrow a very happy Birthday ... I hope you have a healthy and happy year ahead Steve. You continue to amaze and motivate me ... you are a dear friend and we are so grateful to have you as part of the ACON family.

Have a great night, be safe and take good care of each other.

Love Nic xxx Nicolas Parkhill, Chief Executive Officer, ACON

Dear Steve and all at MAG,

First of all, what an absolute pleasure it was to attend your 19th birthday celebrations. From the moment Judy and I walked in, we were welcomed with open arms and made to feel completely at home. We both had a wonderful night, chatting to your many members, hearing their stories, learning all about the work of MAG and the incredible difference it has made to so many people's lives ... and the jokes! well ... I don't quite know what to say about the jokes :) ... but laugh we did ... all night!

What an amazing group of caring, supportive people and what a wonderful organisation you have in MAG. You must be very proud. Happy happy 19th birthday, it was our absolute pleasure to contribute in a small way and I certainly hope our MAG visit won't be our last, thank you again for firstly inviting us to join you, and secondly for a wonderful evening. May you grow in strength and love ...

Thank you. Dawn Hough Program Director [pride in diversity®](#)

I received this following message after the Sept & Oct Issue of the Newsletter was printed and distributed:

"Only two naked bums in this edition of MAGazine? I'm disappointed!"

It was from Meggan Grose, Aboriginal Project Team Leader, ACON.

[I do apologise Meggan, but there were too many birthdays in that Issue - had no room. There are more for your pleasure in this Issue. Thanks for your interest — Ed](#)

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.

Our friend Michael Kirby

MAGazine

Michael Kirby turned up to help celebrate the 19th birthday of MAG. His partner, Johan van Vloten, was not present as he was laid low by flu.

Michael Kirby expressed congratulations to MAG for putting emphasis on happiness and friendship when so many other nasty people in the world wanted to make life difficult for gays. He expressed surprise and sadness that this antagonistic attitude was usually the outcome of irrational religious views.

Michael described two new international bodies to which he had been appointed since his retirement from the High Court of Australia:

The first is the Eminent Persons Group investigating the future of the Commonwealth of Nations. This is relevant to gays because in 43 out of 54 countries of the Commonwealth (the old British Empire) the inherited anti-gay criminal laws remain in place. They oppress gay men; burden GLBTIQ people with shame and stigma; and impede the struggle against HIV.

The second is the Global Commission on HIV and the Law of the United Nations Development Programme. This has been established by Helen Clark, former New Zealand Prime Minister who is now the head of UNDP. It aims at changing the laws that impede the global effort to reduce the spread of HIV. This means the laws that consign women to a second-class status; that add to the costs of anti-retroviral drugs through patent law regimes; and criminalise men who have sex with men, injecting drug users and sex workers.

Michael Kirby encouraged celebration and congratulations for MAG. But he said that everyone should do what they can to change the world for the better. And that often means reforming the law and getting rid of irrational prejudice and violence.

Michael joined in cutting the MAG birthday cake, joking that he was getting into practice for a wedding cake, when that became available in Australia. [See page 11 – Ed.](#)

Steve Ostrow.



Steve with Michael

Warren's Poem

MAGazine



TO GOD KNOWS WHAT'S OUT THERE. 3rd October, 2010.

Looking out my window.
This is what I see.
This is a spare of the moment.
A confused sight viewed by me.
Just two small birds.
That just sit and stare.
Sitting apart at the end of a wet sloping roof.
Outside my window.
So close, just there.
Not looking at each other.
Not saying or doing anything.
What is their real truth?
They sit ever so motionless.
Not a movement to see.
What a waste of good time.
This is my human feeling.
This confuses me.
Something now must have happened out there.
That caused them to change their posture.
Slowly do they move their heads.
To indicate maybe, they are alive.
Or have personal feelings to show.
What they truly feel or care.
The rain now starts to softly fall.
Their posture has met with change.
Their wings now flutter.
No sign of complaint or noise.
Do they utter.
Maybe they are just thinking.
No eyes blinking.
Just two small birds.
That just sit and stare.

To God know what's out there.



Ann-Marie's pic
of the cutting of
our 19th
Birthday Cake,
that appeared
in 15.9.2010
issue of the
Sydney
Star Observer.

L-R Dawn, Erroll,
Steve and Michael

By Warren Sawkins
MAG MAGazine
POET

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.

For instance the
Wednesday
Members Badge
Drawer — There are
\$100 badge draws
from 6pm till 8pm for
those members
present.

The meals are
reasonable priced
and most enjoyable.

MAG invites all
mature age gay and
bisexual men to join
our guys in having a
meal, a drink and
socialising.



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

Eric Ellem —

Mario Panzarino 0438 931 999

Joe Mula —

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 Committee meets on the
second Saturday of the month
prior to 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
for gay men. Sydney Metro contact Max Cluff or
Ian Campbell Tel. 9648 0304.

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 (*Vacant at present*) 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.

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

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