

# MAGazine

The Newsletter for Mature Age Gays

November and December 2011 Edition



These magnificent Banners promote our group in a professional **and positive way. Created by ACON's talented Danny Adams.** They are dedicated to the memory of the late Tony Vandenberg.

To all our readers, their family, friends and acquaintances all of us at MAG send best wishes for a very Happy Christmas & a great New Year!!

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

# President MAGazine



As the year draws to a close it is good to look back over the past year and reflect on the positives rather than the negatives. It has been a big year for MAG, packing up at Commonwealth Street and moving to our new home in Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills, this caused quite a disruption in our activities but I am sure you will all agree our new facilities were worth waiting for. The Annual General Meeting saw a change in the Committee members and I have been very encouraged by the good wishes and support from our members. Whilst on the subject **of Committee members I am pleased to announce that John O’Dea** who continues to organise the Supper after our meetings, has accepted our invitation to rejoin the Committee and I welcome his knowledge and experience again being available to the Committee.

Members and friends of MAG have been very generous in their praise of the 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations and again my thanks to the organising Sub-Committee who worked very hard to make this a special night for us all, a special thanks also to ACON for making the facilities available to MAG.

Christmas is a special time for many people and while it can be a special time for families it can also be a lonely time for those who do not have a family or circle of close friends to celebrate with during the festive season, Charities and Business folk are generous with the material needs of people but what can we **do on a personal level to brighten somebody’s Christmas? Perhaps you know** someone who would welcome a greeting or kind word at this time and as Steve would say “Give them a hug!”

I take this opportunity to thank my Committee and the many others who contribute to the success of our meetings, there is a lot going on behind the scenes every meeting night and I especially thank those guys who get in and help us.

And to you my friends I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year full of health and happiness in 2012.

Take the opportunity to celebrate and we will look forward to a MAGnificent year ahead

Eric Ellem, President



Kindly remember —  
all our meetings are now held at  
414 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills

**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

# Steve Ostrow MAGazine

Hi Guys,

Wow!! What an event our 20<sup>th</sup> was. Below is the speech I made to the group for those who missed it and for those who didn't to reperuse. Let's hope we are all together for the next 20 years, otherwise we will have to form a MAG you know where! Love Steve.



"Hi Guys and welcome to a hallmark in gay history, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of MAG.

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 wonder men who continue to donate their time and efforts to assure that the efficacy of MAG that has made it 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

*the incredible Justice Michael Kirby, Mark Orr President of ACON, Nicolas Parkhill CEO of ACON, Geoff Honnors, Siri May, Michael McNaughton all of ACON... and you, the entire GLBT Community!*

*And now in the great MAG tradition I ask that we all stand up and spread our love to each other in great bear hugs. THANK YOU...let the games begin!!"*



**acon**

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY'S  
HEALTH & WELLBEING

Steve Ostrow -  
Proud MAG Founder & ACON MAG Project Officer

# Secretary MAGazine



## Our 20th Anniversary Celebration

I have now received more photographs taken at our 20th Anniversary by Glenn and David, for which I sincerely thank.

As there were plenty on great character outfits worn on for our 20th, I have posted even more photos on the following pages for all to enjoy— as the Birthday Issue had to be rushed for the printers. We have some *very clever little Vegemites* in our group, as can be seen from the terrific outfits worn! Michelle *our photographer extraordinaire* has also taken great shots of the night and a number of these photographs are on sale from her at any of our meetings.

By the way — did anyone happen to see where my Swans Table Flag, I had on my table went, as it has gone missing!!

## Our Annual Christmas Party

On Saturday, 10th December we will be holding our Annual Christmas Party. **It won't be as big as our 20th**, but it will be *very festive!*

## Dates for 2012 to keep in mind

FAIR DAY — SUNDAY, 12th FEBRUARY 2012

PARADE — Saturday, 3rd MARCH 2012

There are heaps of other events happening during the Mardi Gras Festival. Please check out the 2012 Mardi Gras Guide, or the SSO or SX Newspapers, or log onto [www.mardigras.org.au](http://www.mardigras.org.au)

Best wishes to all for a joyous Christmas and a happy 2012 !!!!

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



This remarkable photograph, taken by Michelle, captures the fun of our 20th — everyone is clearly enjoying themselves.

## 2011 PLANNED EVENTS

12th November  
Vivid Sydney

Michelle Mika shows us the photographs she took of the Vivid Sydney Event — held 27 May to 13 June 2011  
See page 8 for a sample

26th November  
Ian Bayly's travel post cards  
Ian Bayly show us his collection of postcards

10th December  
Our *Festive*  
Christmas  
Social Evening



31st December  
Sorry, No Meeting

More photos on our  
20th Celebrations

# MAGazine



Graham

Photographs taken on this page and Pages 6 & 7 were kindly taken by Glenn & David.



John



Ken



Bruce & Lionel  
[David in background]

## More of creative outfits on display

Back—Michael, Brian, Bruce  
Front— John, Ron, Ken, Les,  
Jack, Daniel & John



More photos on our  
20th Celebrations

MAGazine



Elliott & Morris



Tony



Eddie

Ken



David & Brian



Alex & Lionel



Jack

More photos on our  
20th Celebrations

# MAGazine



'Information' Mario & 'Vitamins' Jim



Eric & Laurie



John G



Who  
is  
this?



Nigel



John S



Joe



Alan & Michael

REMEMBER!! SAFE SEX  
ALL WAYS — ALWAYS



Invitation

MAGazine

BGF has sent MAG an invitation to attend The 2011 John Marsden Lecture, on Monday, 14th November at 6:30pm, at The Grand Lodge Room, of the Sydney Masonic Centre, located at 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney. All are welcome, but should you plan to attend, please make sure you do RSVP to [9286 3767](tel:92863767).

**SECRETS & SPIES:**  
**ASIO AND CIVIL LIBERTIES**

**THE 2011 JOHN MARSDEN LECTURE**

Go deep Down Undercover with The Hon. Dr Meredith Burgmann and The Chaser's Julian Morrow as they lift the cloak, unsheathe the dagger and delve into the strange and shadowy world of Australia's secret police.

**THE HON. DR MEREDITH BURGMAN**  
Dr Burgmann, an accomplished author and academic as well as one of NSW's most experienced politicians and political activists, will examine the contemporary role of Australia's spy agencies while exposing the operations of the Australian Secret Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) and the NSW Police Special Branch during the 1960s and 1970s.

**JULIAN MORROW**  
In the context of a post-9/11 world of WikiLeaks, phone-hacking and online privacy concerns, Dr Burgmann will consider important historical and contemporary issues that go straight to the heart of what we value in Australia in terms of personal and political freedoms.

**JOHN MARSDEN**  
Dr Burgmann is a former union leader, MP and President of the NSW Legislative Council. As a result of her anti-Vietnam, anti-Apartheid, environmental and Aboriginal rights activism during the 60s and 70s, Dr Burgmann was arrested 21 times, and has lengthy ASIO and Special Branch files. She is presently working on a book about well known Australians and their ASIO files.

**WHAT** The 2011 John Marsden Lecture  
**WHEN** Monday 14 November 2011, 6-30pm  
**WHERE** The Grand Lodge Room, Sydney Masonic Centre, 66 Goulburn Street, Sydney

**COST** FREE but RSVP will be much appreciated  
**RSVP** [office@nswccl.org.au](mailto:office@nswccl.org.au) | (02) 92863767

The annual John Marsden Lecture is an initiative of the NSW Council of Civil Liberties to honour the late John Marsden who was a long time President of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties, President of the NSW Law Society and champion of law reform for sexual minorities. The lecture is supported by Marsden's Law Group.

**Bobby Goldsmith Foundation | Bobby Goldsmith Foundation**  
PO Box 97, Darlinghurst NSW 1300  
Ph: 02 8283 8732  
Fax: 1800 851 011  
Freecall: 1800 851 011  
[www.bgf.org.au](http://www.bgf.org.au)

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



On the 12th November 2011, Michelle Mika will be showing us her collection of photographs she took during the Vivid Sydney Exhibition, back in May/June this year. As can be seen on the right, this colourful shot of the Sydney Opera House she took is great.

Make sure you are there on 12/11/11



Parramatta Pride  
Picnic 2011

MAGazine



On Sunday, 18th September 2011, the Parramatta Queer Forum, that includes ACON, PLFAG and a number of other organisations held a Picnic in Parramatta Park for the GLBT Community of Western Sydney.

MAG was asked to support the Picnic by having a Stall — and we did.

**MAG's President Eric, Secretary David, Treasurer Dr Jon, past President Erroll, MAG's Founder Steve; along with other MAG Members Michael, Alan** and a few others were present — we all had a good day.

Information Flyers on MAG as well as old and current Newsletters were handed out to those enquiring about MAG; and we had a number.

You could not have missed our Stall with our new Banners, displayed for the very first time at a public event.

These Banners were created and designed by Danny Adams of ACON, a genius, who did a fantastic job with them as they look absolutely magnificent.

Cost was only \$515.00 — money well spent!

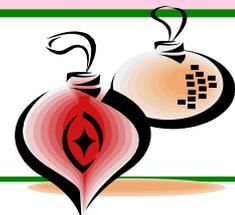
We dedicated them to our past friend and member Tony Vandenberg, who passed away on 1st September 2010

The photo below is of Secretary, David, and President Eric in their silver vests, with David wearing a *stylish red hat* to compliment the Red Banner.



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

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



# Warren's Poem

## MAGazine

### ALWAYS, AS HAPPY DAYS.

( A poem of figment of my imagination)

You lit the candle in my wanting, needing heart.  
You gave me a reason to inwardly feel and care.  
For truly wanting each day to really start.  
To allow each and every of my inner feelings,  
total contentment and love.  
Maybe, a white dove flew in from above.

You tuck away my lonely yesterdays,

#### **In you self invented today's.**

You employed you completely and totally.  
In your own unique ways,  
in your many pockets of loving happy days.  
You sang me a song of love.  
Like a loving message, sent from above.

We expressed a mutual smile,  
you captured my feelings,  
with your style.

Your loving eyes glowed; as your love showed.  
Happiness flowed.

Like a stream of love; as you enveloped me.  
Travelling under the blue sky above.

Over time; you created a real life for me,  
It came across in many different ways.  
Always as happy days.

### 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

### Jokes

What is it?? Those who make it, don't use it.  
Those who buy it, don't use it.  
Those who use it, don't see it. What is it??

### **It's a Coffin.**

A lady was picking through the frozen Turkeys at her local Supermarket, but could not find one big enough for her family.

**She asked a male staff member "do these Turkeys get any bigger?" The staff member replied, "No, they are all dead."**10



Warren Sawkins  
MAG MAGazine  
POET

Written  
28/09/2011.

### 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 — \$100 is given to lucky Members present at 6pm, 6:30pm, 7pm, 7:30pm & till 8pm.

The meals are well priced and 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: 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 9358 1460

### *Committee Members:*

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

### MAG/IC

MAG in the Community.  
 For guys who are ill, in hospital,  
 or who require assistance.  
 Kindly 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)

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

at **414 Elizabeth  
 Street, Surry Hills**

[which is 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 evening.

*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 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 414  
 Elizabeth street, 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.

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  
 Pastor *Robert Clark* Tel. 9386 9293  
 37 East Street, Granville.

MCC Sydney 10:00am & 6:30pm Sundays  
 Pastor part time *Greg Smith* Tel. 9569 5122  
 96 Crystal St, Petersham.

Email — [office@mccsydney.org](mailto:office@mccsydney.org)

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 *Barry Webb* 9662 6409.  
 Email address is [southern.cross.outdoors.group@gmail.com](mailto:southern.cross.outdoors.group@gmail.com)

SPAI DS Sydney Park AIDS Memorial Groves  
 Dates on tree planting days kindly contact  
[josken@josken.net](mailto: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](http://www.wags.net.au)