

# MAGazine

**FOR OVER 21 YEARS, MAG HAS BEEN  
SUPPORTING OLDER GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN!**

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!!**  
**mag**   
**MATURE AGE GAYS**  
acon



**MAG meets on the 2nd and last Saturday of each month at 414 Elizabeth St Surry Hills. Meetings start at 6:30pm and generally feature a guest speaker followed by a light supper. Come and find out why MAG is one of the largest gay groups in Australia that meets on a regular basis.**



This *magnificent* 21st Anniversary Poster was created by Emily Spencer from **ACON's Studio Department**, and all at **MAG** sincerely thank **Emily** for a great job!

**mag**   
**MATURE AGE GAYS**  
Celebrating 21 years in 2012 **acon**

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

## 2012 EVENTS

Hayden Orpheum,  
the Art Deco Cinema  
at 380 Military Road, Cremorne  
will be screening the following films: -



### To Rome With Love

WEDNESDAY  
NOVEMBER 14 AT 11AM



## COMING MEETINGS for November and December 2012

10 November  
Lee Rickwood  
Carers New South Wales

24 November  
To be advised  
8 December

Our Christmas Party  
Please wear your best Chrissy  
party gear!

Please bring your own liquid  
refreshments -  
MAG will certainly provide a very  
festive supper, as we have done  
in previous years!

29 December  
A very social evening



Can this be so??

# PRESIDENT

Happy 21<sup>st</sup>!! - MAG came of age in September and our Birthday Party celebrated 21 great years – 21 years of friendship, of fun and frivolity and a sense of identity. I thank my Committee for their hard work in the preparation of the evening and I thank our members and friends who joined with us to celebrate the occasion. Our thanks must also go to Steve Ostrow for his vision and efforts to get MAG up and running 21 years ago and it is a joy that we still have Steve playing a vital role with MAG.

We were all delighted with John O’Dea’s recognition at ACON’s 2012 Honours Award. We at MAG are grateful to John’s dedication to our suppers after the meeting but you should be aware that he does the purchasing of the food as well as organising the supper itself and on your behalf I congratulate John and thank him for his tremendous service to MAG every meeting night – he is a great bloke too!!

Another special night was our Annual Remembrance Night to light a candle and remember our members and friends who have passed on and I would like to thank Donna Drew from Walter Carter Funerals for her kind and gentle introduction to the lighting of the candles.

Our Treasurer Ken Mears and I attended a “National LGBTI and Aged Care Strategy Consultation” which covered many issues such as the widespread lack of awareness of the specific needs of LGBTI people within mainstream society and within LGBTI communities, we were given a Strategy Paper but of course all the strategies in the world will be useless unless there is a definite commitment by the Government to implement the strategies. However this has caused us to look within ourselves as to OUR strategies and hopefully we will organise a seminar in the New Year to look at where MAG is going and how we can look after the needs of our MAG members, we will keep you informed.

Ken and I also attended a meeting with the Mardi Gras Parade Committee and I know David is very keen to organise MAG’s entry to the Parade next year, we will keep you informed

And so we end another year, a year filled with joys and disappointments but we are still here waiting for Steve to tell us to give each other a HUG. May I take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS and all the best for the New Year - 2013.

Eric Ellem, President



President Eric with the Honourable Michael Kirby.

We are sincerely appreciative of Michael being able to attend our 21st and a good **number of MAG’s previous birthday** functions.

## Below is Nic Parkhill's message to the staff of ACON.

“On Saturday night I attended MAG's 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday, along with Shannon, Adrian, Steve and Mark Orr. It was a fantastic night - a huge success. Thanks in particular to Adrian and Steve for their work on the celebration – it was fantastic.

It is important to remember that MAG was born in a time of crisis – at the height of the AIDS crisis here in NSW. This was also a time in which there was very little by way of support or recognition of the needs of older gay men. Over these past 21 years, MAG has served to provide a “safe place” to meet, share experiences, support one another and enjoy the sense of camaraderie that being part of a community can bring.

I particularly want to pay tribute to the many hundreds of hours that MAG volunteers have devoted to the success of MAG.

Of course, this is also a great opportunity to make special mention of Steve – not only because of his upcoming 80<sup>th</sup> birthday this week (more news on a special celebration to come) but also to acknowledge his pioneering work in founding MAG back in September 1991.

These first 21 years of MAG’s existence are a testament to his foresight and courage in advocating for the needs of older gay men. Steve – we are very grateful to you for this – thank you so much.

You are an extraordinary man.

Thanks Nic”.

# STEVE OSTROW

OBE

Hi All,

I'm looking at the world through 80 yr old eyes. My legs have travelled most all over the world. I have lived in New York, San Francisco, Texas, Montreal, Toronto, Salzburg, Zurich, Geneva, Rome, Paris, London, Mexico, Stuttgart, Hamburg, Paris and... Sydney.



And what have I learned?

**People make places. I don't miss any of the places I've been, but I do miss the people who made it a happening.**

And now having lived 25 years in Sydney, I can honestly say... I am happy and would not now choose to live in any other place. I am still working, teaching, performing, writing etc...but, I like everything that I do, so work is just a way of life for me.

**I feel that one should celebrate one's life** while they are still here and not wait for a eulogy to encapsulate it.

My thanks to all of you who have made my life so fulfilling and worthwhile and hope I have added to yours.

Much love Steve  
MAG Project Officer.  
[www.magnsw.org]  
9206 2072



### Steve's friends

Julie and Cathy clearly enjoying the 21st birthday

### Steve Ostrow OBE

At MAG's 21st Birthday Celebrations, 'Major I Should Be So Lucky, Lucky' presented Steve with an OBE; no, not the Order of the British Empire, but an Over Bloody Eighty Medal. The Certificate with the Medal was signed by *Father Time* and *Mother Nature* and was issued at the Continental Bath House, New York.



'Major I should be so Lucky, Lucky' displays the OBE Certificate [above] and Steve checking it for any spelling mistakes [below]



**ACON's CEO**  
Nic Parkhill addresses the gathering and offers his congratulations on our 21 years



# SECRETARY

## Our 21st Birthday

Our 21st birthday party was a fantastic evening.

Thanks Ken for obtaining the pink balloons - they looked great on the tables - please check out the photos on page 6.

John, Jon, Lewis and the Kitchen guys created a terrific supper for us to all tuck into.

[I enjoyed the apricot chicken drumsticks - very yummy] - Thanks guys.

I was a bit disappointed that someone forgot to obtain certain beverages.

Thank you to all who dressed for the occasion.

Thank you Michelle and Valery for your great photos, and also to the Sydney Star Observer for Anne-Marie coming along to take photos.

We were all very surprised and ever so pleased to see Suzie Wong's [Lionel] face gracing the front page of the SSO following our party and a fine article on MAG appearing under the photo - naturally Suzie had to be reapplying her makeup.

I wish to make special mention of Adrian Eisler for all his behind the scenes efforts to make our party the outstanding success that it was.

Few people are aware of what Adrian did, and I just wish to offer my sincere thanks to him, on behalf of all the guys, for everything, especially the mouth watering cakes.

We were honoured to have our friend Michael Kirby, from ACON the President Mark Orr, the CEO Nic Parkhill, the Director Community Health and Regional Services, Shannon Wright and Manager Community Care, Adrian Eisler with us to celebrate our 21st.

Thank you all for joining us.

ACON's Studio Department have some really creative people working there; and I wish to sincerely thank Emily Spencer for designing and creating the amazing MAG's 21st Anniversary Poster that is on the front of this Newsletter

[Harry West](#) OAM, OBN

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, Harry West one of our oldest Members, is slowly improving his health, which we are all really pleased about. Harry turned 90 back in July. I was pleased to attend a small party for this milestone and to be able to surprise him with an

**OBN - Over Bloomin' Ninety.**

So he will now be known as

Harry West OAM, OBN.

Keep getting better, Harry!



## JBear

Likewise, I mentioned in our last Newsletter, that JBear was to be a contestant on Channel 7's X Factor. He was on for a number of weeks, but sadly was eliminated. We are pleased that one of the reasons he was appearing on the show was to find his missing daughters. He has been successful in this journey and has been reunited with them. We certainly wish him all the very best for the future.

In closing I wish everyone a very stress-free and happy Christmas and the best of every good wish for 2013.

David, Secretary



Whatever Major I Should Be So Lucky, Lucky said to Michael Kirby, both he and President Eric were very much amused!



Susie Wong and Major I Should Be So Lucky, Lucky with the 21 balloons



Steve, Nic, Mark, as did everyone who was in attendance at our 21st, listen attentively to **Michael Kirby's comments.**

Great pics of the Cafe looking resplendent with the pink balloons and our guests.

The pic below is of Steve telling us how proud he **is that his "baby has come of age".**



Bill peering thru the balloons, with Norm, Eddie and Chito



Suzie re-applying her makeup

Mark, Michael, Nic, Steve and Eric cut our beautiful 21st birthday cake. Special thanks to Guy and Linda of **The Whimsical Cakehouse, Dolan Bay** for generously donating the 21st Anniversary cake.



Ronghui in his red coat and scarf, with Damian admiring it all



Treasurer Ken talks on our money matters

**The Whimsical Cakehouse is located at 743 Port Hacking Road, Dolans Bay.**

*Cool Dude Joe* - pink hat and pink boots. Everyone loved his **Pink Ugg Boots**.



James with Richard and his new look - pink hair



Tony and Barry



Khalid & the Major

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes and noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily apprising a basket of freshly picked green peas.

I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas, as I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes.

**Pondering the peas, I couldn't help**

overhearing the conversation between Mr Miller [the store owner] and the ragged boy next to me.

"Hello Barry, how are you today?"

"H'lo Mr Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admiring them peas. They sure look good."

"They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?"

"Fine .. Gittin' stronger alla' time!"

"Good. Anything I can help you with?"

"No, Sir, Jus' admiring' them peas."

"Would you like to take some home?" asked Mr Miller.

"No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with."

"Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?"

"All I got's my prize marble here!"

"Is that right? Let me see it, said Mr Miller.

"Here 'tis .. She's a dandy."

"I can see that. Hmmmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?! The store owner asked.

"Not zackley, but almost."

"Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble." Mr Miller told the boy.

"Sure will. Thanks Mr Miller."

Mrs Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me.

With a smile she said, "there are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever.

When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store."

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had an occasion to visit my old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr Miller had died.

They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the Mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts. All very professional looking. They approached Mrs Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket.

Each of the young men kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved onto the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the Mortuary awkwardly, wiping away his tears.

Our turn came to meet Mrs Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket.

"Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim 'traded' them. Now at last, when Jim could not change his mind about colour or size. They came to pay their debt."

"We've never had a great deal of wealth in this world", she confided, "but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho."

With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband, resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

### The Moral:

We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds.  
Life is not measured by our breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath.

Continued on page 9

## WHAT WE SCATTER! continued

Today, I wish you a day of ordinary miracles!

A fresh cup of coffee you didn't make yourself...

An unexpected phone call from an old friend...

Green *stoplights* on your way to work...

The fastest line at the Supermarket...

A good sing-along song on the radio...

Your keys found right where you left them.

**IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GATHER,  
BUT WHAT YOU SCATTER THAT  
TELLS WHAT KIND OF LIFE YOU  
HAVE LIVED !!**

On Saturday, 27th October MAG held a lovely candle lighting ceremony to remember family, friends and MAG Members who have passed away. We were honoured to have Donna Drew from Walter Carter Funerals at Bondi Junction to conduct this moving ceremony for us. Donna read out the Poem below and then kindly presented a framed copy for all in attendance. Thank you so much Donna.

### WHEN TOMORROW STARTS WITHOUT ME

When tomorrow starts without me  
And I'm not here to see  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes  
All filled with tears for me

I wish you wouldn't cry  
The way you did today  
While thinking of the many things  
We did not get to say

I know how much you love me  
As much as I love you  
Each time that you think of me  
I know you will miss me too

When tomorrow starts with out me  
Please try to understand  
That an angel came and called my name  
And took me by the hand

The angel said my place was ready  
In heaven far above  
And that I would have to leave behind  
All those I dearly love

So when tomorrow starts without me  
Do not think we're apart  
For every time you think of me  
Remember I'm right here in your heart

- Anonymous

Walter Carter  
waltercarter.com.au

## WARREN'S POEM

A DOG WILL ALWAYS BE  
YOUR LOYAL FRIEND.

Written By Warren Sawkins.

A dog can be a good and loyal friend.  
Who just sits next to you on the ground.

**It doesn't complain, demand anything,**  
or most times, hardly makes a sound.  
Dogs can be your everlasting companion,  
to yours and their living end.

**A dog doesn't ask very much of you.**  
Only that you are sincere, in all that you  
choose to do.

A dog always gives you, their uncondi-  
tional love.

A rare gift!

Something that must have been given to  
them,  
from the creator above.

A caring sincere part of your love,  
a pat and cuddle to a dog, is all it takes.  
To make their day special and worthwhile.  
Something they must recognize from you,  
as your only special style.

They can then, reward you with their love,  
in their own unique way.

**We humans don't have the gifts of a dog's**  
special love,

We were created uniquely, individually.  
A more sometimes complex living being.  
By the creator above.

I wish I had my own dog to care for and  
love.

A lot of dogs I see are only given food and  
water for their daily health.

I feel they should be given lots of love as  
well, for their personal wealth.

Always remember,

**It doesn't matter what others may**  
personally think.

Or treat their dogs in the end.

To me!

A dog will always be your loyal friend.

## **CONGRATULATIONS JOHN O'DEA**

**We are pleased to announce that our very own John O'Dea won ACON's prestigious Award for Health and Wellbeing in this year's ACON HONOURS AWARD.**

Details of his achievements are as follows: -

“For most of its 21 years, John has been one of the driving forces of Mature Age Gays, a support and social group for gay men aged 40 years and over.

He was Treasurer of the group for over 13 years and continues to offer sterling support as ongoing catering supervisor. He has also been involved for many years with MAG's fundraising activities and has ensured MAG has a strong presence in each year's Mardi Gras parade, believing that it's important for older gay men to remain active and visible in the community.

As well as all this, for over 15 years John has been the leader of the ACON Packers, a group of dedicated volunteers who put together over 140,000 safe sex packs every year for distribution throughout NSW.”

All at MAG sincerely congratulate John on receiving this Award - well deserved!!!



**John with his Award**

**acon**  
BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY'S  
HEALTH & WELLBEING

The photos are courtesy of  
**Robert Knapman**



**The winners of ACON's 2012 Honours Award**

### Disclaimer:

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

### 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

## MAG's DETAILS

### Executive:

President: Eric Ellem 0418 686 429  
 Secretary: David Bowron 9516 2063  
 Treasurer: Ken Mears see his email below  
 ken\_me55@hotmail.com

### ACON — Project Officer MAG and the founder of MAG:

Steve Ostrow 9206 2072

### Committee:

Allan Jones 0423 595 177  
 Lewis Turtur Vice President 9319 1280  
 Warren Sawkins -----  
**John O'Dea 9521 1953**  
 Jon Allwood 0431 062 343

### MAG/IC

MAG in the Community.  
 For guys who are ill, in hospital,  
 or who require assistance.  
 Please contact Eric Ellem on  
 0418 686 429

Our postal address is:  
 MAG, PO Box 350  
 DARLINGHURST NSW 1300

Our web site is  
[www.magnsw.org](http://www.magnsw.org)

We meet on the **second** and the  
**last Saturdays** of the month  
 at **414 Elizabeth St.,**  
**Surry Hills**  
 [near Devonshire St],  
 from 6:30 pm for tea and coffee,  
 with the meeting commencing  
 at 7:00pm, usually with a  
 Guest Speaker — every so  
 often we have a  
**social, or a 'pop corn' night**  
*A light supper follows.*

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

## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Acceptance (Gay Catholics)  
 [Celebrating their 40th year] Tel. 9568 4433.  
 Friday Mass, St. Josephs Church,  
 Bedford Street, Newtown, 8pm.

Aleph Australia for gay Jews and friends,  
 Contact *Michael* 9300 9700.

Asian Project Contact Min 9206 2080  
 bgay Community News Contact Marc on  
 0404112831.

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

Information at [www.countrynetwork.com.au](http://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 and Married Men's Assoc  
 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  
 37 East Street, Granville.

Pastor *Robert Clark* Tel. 9386 9293

MCC Sydney 96 Crystal St, Petersham.  
 10:00am and 6:30pm Sundays

Pastor *Greg Smith* Tel. 9569 5122

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

PFLAG

Parents, Families and 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 *David* 9698 9308.

Email: [southern.cross.outdoors.group@gmail.com](mailto:southern.cross.outdoors.group@gmail.com)

SPAIDS

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 (2nd and 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

GONG BOYS

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)