

MAGazine

The Newsletter for Mature Age Gays

September & October 2010 Edition



MAG to celebrate
19 years of outreach and support
to mature gay and bi-sexual men of Sydney
on 11th September 2010.

MAG started back on 16th September at the Clock Tower Hotel in Surry Hills, on **Steve Ostrow's Birthday.**

Our Theme is *Feathers and Hats* —

ATTENDEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR A HAT OR FEATHERS, OR BOTH!!.

I am sure that some of you must have an old, tiara, crown, an old Dave Crockett hat; or maybe an old fox stole lying in a cupboard, or some length of feather boa; or what ever you may want to wear so as to make the evening a real fun event.

Get your creative thinking caps on!!

We have some real geniuses at MAG, so we look forward in anticipation to the evening. Prizes for the most creative attires.

Some very important guests are expected to be with us on the evening to help celebrate our 19th Anniversary !!!!

Congratulations Michael Kirby!!

A good friend of MAG, retired High Court of Australia Judge, Michael Kirby has been named as a co-winner of the Gruber Justice Prize 2010.

Michael is the first Australian to win the legal prize.

All at MAG send their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Michael and also to his partner Johan.

Look us up on the web
magnsw.org

MAG is a
project of



President MAGazine



Hi Guys,

It's hard to believe that 19 years ago a dream became a reality and MAG was born.

The brain child of Steve Ostrow, who today still remains an active member of our organisation.

At our September 11th meeting we will celebrate our 19th Birthday with a theme of **Hats and Feathers**. I am hoping many of our regular members will dress up for the occasion.

On reflection over these 19 years we have had some wonderful guys who have used their talents to make MAG what it is today. There are far too **many to list; but a special mention must go to Harry West and John O'Dea** for their wonderful commitment to raising funds on our annual Fair Day stalls with their generous donation of plants and home made jams; and Doug Lee for his many years of service in the kitchen on MAG nights.

To all the members who have served us over the years on the Committee a huge thank you for devoting your time and energy in helping to make MAG the huge success it is today.

Where would we be without the support of ACON, their generosity is immeasurable in allowing us to hold our meetings in their building, also supporting us financially with our Newsletter printing and mail out.

A huge thankyou to them for their support!

Lastly, but not least, we pause to remember all our Members and friends who have passed away, may they all rest in peace.

Until next time, Happy Birthday and love from your President, Erroll xxx.

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

11 September

Our 19th Birthday
celebration

Theme: Feathers and Hats

25 September

Geoff Ostling

MAG Members Mexican Adventure

9 October

Tony Breinl

Blood the River of Life

30 October

MAG MEMBERS REMEMBERED

Photographers and/or names of
members who have passed away sought

Kindly see page 5 for details

Steve Ostrow MAGazine

Hi Guys,

Well by the time you read this we will soon be 19 yrs old! (Don't we wish) And it's been a great 19 yrs. Think what our lives would have been like without the nurturing, bonding, interacting and education that MAG has provided these 2 decades. And add to that how many people have bonded with each other because there was a MAG!

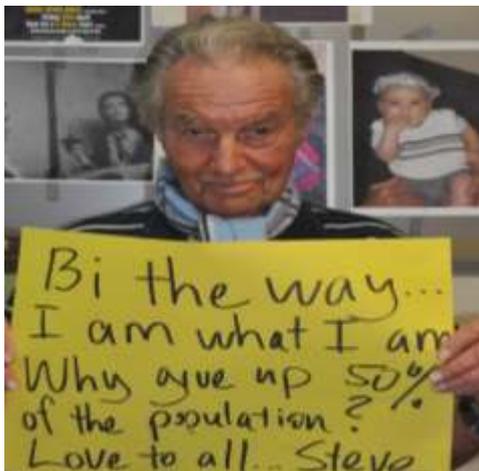
I started MAG 16/9/1991 in the height of the AIDS epidemic and the 'Grim Reaper'. But by dealing holistically with the needs and concerns of the mature male, we have been able to enjoy the years that we have and actually be role models not only for the younger and older in our community but for MAGs all over the world that enjoy our web-site and our fab MAG Newsletters, all of which can address the loss of esteem, estrangement from family and loss of partners and fear of our unknown future, all by knowing that MAG is there for us all as is ACON and it's MAGnificent support all these years.

And that's what makes MAG Australia's largest gay organisation meeting on a regular basis and the largest in the world catering to the needs and concerns of the Mature Age Gay man.

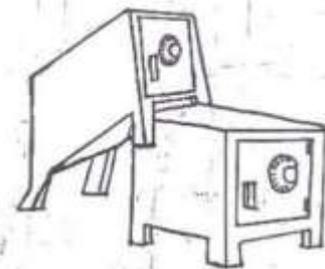
So feel proud as I do that we have made these years make a difference in so many lives. And congratulations to all those too many to mention that have and continue to do the work that makes MAG flourish,--- for without them and you there would be no MAG!

And I'll close by hugging all of you ... and maybe much more.

Love Steve



BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY'S
HEALTH & WELLBEING 1985-2010



SAFE SEX

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

I am sure that this is
not the type of Safe
Sex that ACON
promotes — Ed!!

MAG MEMBERS REMEMBERED

MAGazine

REMEMBER!! SAFE SEX
ALL WAYS ALWAYS

On Saturday, 29th May 2010, Donna Drew from Walter Carter Funerals at Bondi Junction gave a most informative presentation on 'Grieving'. As part of her talk, she conducted a candle lighting ceremony and asked guys to come forward to light a candle in memory of a loved one who had passed away. One of our guys, Tony came forward to light a candle and said that "this was for all the guys who had passed away, whilst he had been a member of MAG, which was well over 10 years"

Following on from this, it was decided to have an evening where we will remember our departed, loved and loyal MAG members, and accordingly we will be holding a **MAG Members Remembered Evening on Saturday, 30th October 2010.**

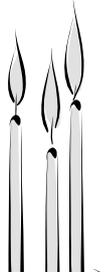
Should readers have a photo of a MAG member who has passed away could you kindly give or send some to our Secretary, so it may be placed in a frame to display. Should you not have a photo, but know of a person, please inform the Secretary of that person's name, so we can also list all the names of departed members on the frame in lieu of a photograph. As without these guys' efforts, recently deceased or who have passed away many years ago, MAG would not be here today, to celebrate our 19th.

We will commemorate this tribute in memory of our friends each year, to remember and thank all those wonderful guys for their love, kindness in building the foundation of this most successful organisation, that we all enjoy this day.

As we state in each Newsletter —

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

Walter Carter Funerals at Bondi Junction hold free seminars on 'coping with the impact of death' and the grieving process' and also on 'coping with Christmas' — please feel free to contact them on 9389 3499 for further information on the dates and also to register.



Another Member passes -

We regret to advise that John Hoare passed away on 13 August 2010, aged 82 years old.

John was an original Mature Aged Gay, and meetings were often held at his home in the early days, as was the norm back then.



The inventor said to his pencil there are four [4] things you must remember: -

1. The goodness is within you.
2. You need to be held.
3. You need to be sharpened from time to time.
4. Most importantly — leave your mark.

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

Secretary MAGazine

For "Willy's" Pleasure! I thank 'Willy' for *complaining* that there were too many pics of *Dame Dolly* in the last issue of the Newsletter. *She* has told me that *she* was sorry for wearing **RED** so as to make *her* stand out. From *her* time with the Boomerangs Social Club, in the 90s *she* remembers advice given that to really stand out in the Mardi Gras Parades, one should wear Red, Gold or Silver. *She* has been in every Mardi Gras Parade since **1990**.

I looked into the Archives and for 'Willy' *pleasure* here are a few more pics of *her*, and I agree with 'Willy' I think *she* does need *counselling*!!

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



"I would like to extend a warm "Thank You" to Erroll, David, John, Steve and all the MAG members who were present at the Saturday night meeting.

It was a pleasure to meet with you and to hear your thoughts, concerns and questions regarding Residential Aged Care in Australia.

I appreciate that it is a topic that most people would prefer not to think about, and sweep it under the carpet. I hope that I was able to clear up some questions and put to bed some of the misconceptions about Aged Care.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with you all, and would be happy to come and meet with you all again if MAG members feel this would be of benefit.

Otherwise, if any of your members would like to ask any questions regarding access to Aged Care, or any other questions, I would be happy for them to call or email me.

My phone number is 0457 860 189, and my email address is

charlotte.wenham@llprimelife.com

Please feel free to pass my details on to anyone who has any questions about Aged Care or Primelife.

Again, thank you again for inviting me to talk with MAG.

Kind Regards, Charlotte Wenham,

Admissions Co-ordinator - **Aged Care, Northern Region"**.

Charlotte spoke to us on Saturday, 31st July 2010, on Aged Care.

"Hi Steve

Would you pass on to the group my grateful thanks for the gift of tea bags.

I am addicted to Earl Grey and had no idea so many varieties were in Australia.

It will be my pleasure to try them all out when we are back.

Anna was also quite touched by the African Violet — it now decorates our kitchen window ledge.

And my thanks to the group for the interest shown, and for feeding us.

As always, I very much enjoy talking to MAGs and look forward to October.

Cheers, Tony".

Tony spoke to us on 10th July 2010 on Fall Prevention.

"Hi Erroll and David,

So great to have you back on board Erroll and I look forward to seeing your Jon when he comes here.

David, you as always help make MAG the MAGical entity that it is.

Add John and the myriad others that comprise our miracle workers who feed, setup and cleanup and you have the MAGic ingredients that make MAG the most successful project serving the needs of the mature age gay and bi-sexual man ... in the world today.

And as we approach our 19th Anniversary, feel proud for all the people we have **assisted over those years ... and as we continue to do so.**

Lots of love, Steve — **The Founder of MAG"**.

"Hello Gentlemen

I just want to 'ditto' Steve's words and thank and commend you on the amazing work that you have done in making MAG the amazing project that it is. That MAG is turning 19 could not have been done without your hard work and **commitment you guys are amazing and should feel proud.**

I know ACON is very proud of MAG, all that it does Thanks guys.

Nicolas Parkhill, Chief Executive Officer, ACON"

Rita Hayworth



MAGazine

By MAG Member
& Movie Buff
Tony Sierra

Rita Hayworth was born Margarita Cansino in New York on 17th October 1918. Her father, Eduardo Cansino, was a celebrated Spanish dancer and her other, Volga Hayworth, a Ziegfeld Follies Showgirl.

The family settled in California in 1927 where Eduardo opened a dancing school. When the great depression of 1929 hit he was forced to close down the school and took work as a dancer in nightclubs, south of the border, using his young teenager daughter, Rita, as his dancing partner.

In 1934, a Hollywood agent for Fox Studios spotted Rita at "Aqua Caliente" in Tijuana and offered her a film contract. Under the name of Rita Cansino she starred in a swag of B movies for different studios before Columbia Pictures picked her up, changed her name to Rita Hayworth, then loaned her back to her original studio, Fox Studios, to act with screen legend, Tyrone Power, and famous actress Linda Darnel, in the screen epic "Blood and Sand".

Rita was given third billing but actually stole the picture as a Femme Fatale. It was at this point in time that Rita became a Star. A lot of musicals followed, two with Fred Astaire, "You'll Never Get Rich" and "You Were Never Lovelier". The musical score was by Cole Porter and the next was another musical with the great Gene Kelly, titled "Cover Girl". Years later when interviewed, Fred Astaire said of Rita "She was the best dancing partner I had ever had".

From 1941 to 1945 the world was at war. According to a Hollywood popularity poll Bette Gable and Rita Hayworth were voted the servicemen's favourite Pin-Up Girls. **In 1946 the film "Gilda" capitulated Rita to the top of Hollywood stardom and made her the leading actress of that era. She was given the label "The Love Goddess". She had become the most beautiful, desirable female actress on the screen and the heartthrob of millions of moviegoers worlds wide. People actually thought of Rita as Gilda, which was very far from the truth, how could any woman ever hold up to that image?**

Rita, in reality, was a simple woman with very down to earth ideas. She had a full on private life with five different husbands that made the headlines as regularly as her films did. Her husbands, apart from the first husband (Ed Judson) were all men of influence and included film making genius Orson Wells (1943—1947), next was well known Muslim, Prince Ali Khan (1949—1951, then singer Dick Haymes (1953—1955) and finally film producer James Hill (1958—1961). It seems that as hard as she tried to find a compatible partner, none of these men she married could bring her true happiness, although her children from her marriages, daughters Rebecca Wells and Princess Yasmin Khan made up for what her husbands failed to do so.

In the 70s Rita's behaviour started to become strange, and she was found to have early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

From 1980 to 1987 Rita was cared for by private nurses and daughter, Yasmin, in the Penthouse apartment in New York.

On 14th May 1987 Rita lost her battle with her illness and passed away peacefully. Rita made over 60 films, some of the best being 'Blood and Sand', 'You Were Never Lovelier', 'Cover Girl', 'Gilda', 'Loves of Carmen', 'Affaire in Trinidad', 'Salome', 'Miss Sadie Thompson', 'Pal Joey' and 'Separate Tables.'

An actress of Rita's calibre doesn't exist anymore, unfortunately.

Rita was a classic beauty, glamorous, talented and above all oozed class!!



Someone had to remind me,
so I am reminding you, too —
the Perks of reaching 50 or
being over 60 and heading
towards 70!

MAGazine

Kidnappers are not very interested in you.

In a hostage situation, you are likely to be released first.

No one expects you to run – anywhere.

People call at 9pm, and ask 'did I wake you?'

People no longer view you as a Hypochondriac.

There is nothing to learn the hard way.

Things you buy now, won't wear out.

You can eat supper at 4pm.

You can live without sex, but not your glasses.

You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.

You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.

You sing along with elevator music.

Your eyes won't get much worse.

Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.

Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather service.

Your secrets are safe with friends, because they can't remember them either.

Your brain cells are finally down to a manageable size.

The Editor can't remember who sent this to him and when was it sent!

Please Remember – NEVER, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, TAKE A SLEEPING PILL, and A LAXATIVE ON THE SAME NIGHT !!

An old prospector shuffled into town leading an old tired donkey.

The old man headed straight for the only saloon to clear his parched throat.

He walked up and tied his old mule to the hitch rail.

As he stood there, brushing some dust off from his face and clothes, a young gunslinger stepped out of the saloon with a gun in one hand and a bottle of whiskey in the other. The young gunslinger looked at the old man and laughed, saying, "Hey old man, have you ever danced?" The old man looked up at the gunslinger and said, "No. I never did dance never really wanted to." As the crowd had gathered as the gunslinger grinned and said. "Well, you old fool, you're gonna dance now," and started shooting at the old man's feet.

The old prospector - not wanting to get a toe blown off — starting hopping around like a flea on a hot skillet. Everybody was laughing their heads off.

When his last bullet had been fired, the young gunslinger, still laughing, holstered his gun and turned around to go back into the saloon.

The old man turned to his pack mule, pulled out a double-barrelled shotgun, and cocked both hammers. The loud clicks carried clearly through the desert air.

The crowd stopped laughing immediately. The young gunslinger heard the sounds too, and turned around very slowly. The silence was almost deafening. The crowd watched as the young gunman stared at the old timer and the large gaping holes of those twin barrels.

The barrels of the shotgun never wavered in the old man's hands, as he quietly said, "Son, have you ever licked a mule's ass?"

The gunslinger swallowed hard and said, "No sir ... but ... I've always wanted to."

There are a few lesson for us all here:

Never be arrogant. Don't waste ammunition. Whiskey makes you think **you're smarter than you are.** Always, always make sure you know who has the power.

Don't mess with old men, they didn't get old by being stupid.

I just love a story with a happy ending, don't you? - Ed. 8



MAGazine

Today there are many Gay social groups in many parts of Australia. One of the oldest is Country Network. Founded in 1977 in Dubbo NSW to foster contact and friendship among gay and lesbian people living in rural and remote Australia, it aims to help overcome social isolation and homophobic **discrimination often experienced in small communities. By the late 80's with membership growing, the group became Australia wide.**

Membership peaked in the mid 90's with most members located in state capital cities and larger regional towns and cities throughout Australia.

Most social activity, including BBQ's, trips to various places of interest, cultural activities, theatres, and many others are state, regional centre or city based. A calendar of events is published for all members and friends. Twice a year, Members from all over Australia gather together, every Spring - in a different capital city - and every Autumn - in a different State's regional area for the half yearly 'Corroboree'.

These main gatherings of most members are always hugely successful.

Member "Networking" is also via our confidential membership list together with the monthly newsletter where all the future and latest events (and perhaps a little bit of gossip!) can be found.

The groups website enables easy and private contact with other members together with details of all functions and activities across the nation.

One of the strongest traditions of Country Network is offering hospitality to other members. Indeed, welcoming visitors to your region and helping them enjoy their visit is perhaps the most important thing we can do to further the principle aims of the club. Commonly members are welcomed into other members homes during their visits.

Country Network presently has around 200 members across every capital city and many major regions including Australia's red centre. New members are welcome, particularly those from rural and remote country areas where access to social contact with other gay people can be limited. Country Network's success can be measured over many years by the number of strong and lasting friendships formed.

If you would like to meet other like-minded gay people for friendship and social activities, or you feel you have something to offer those that do, then Country Network is for you.

To contact Country Network

Their web page is : www.countrynetwork.com.au

or contact local coordinators, Max or Ian, on the telephone number at the back of this magazine.

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.

Warren's Poem

MAGazine

ACHIEVE THINGS IN TIME 14th April, 2010.
Hurry, Hurry,
A need for everything to be done, Yesterday.
Maybe consider tomorrow, or a future day.
Weather patterns no change, there to stay,
Rain, hail or shine.
Still always the need, everything done, anyway.
Paint that wall, don't forget the hall.
The ceilings, that door, there is always more.
What about the carpet?
A definite need to clean or replace.
Time never stops, always endlessly moving on.
More wants still at a demanding pace.
What about the paper work?
It needs to be done too!
Come on what's the matter with you?
Do a bit tonight.
Feeling tired. Sorry this I can't hide.
Do some more paper work the next day.
Hurry, Hurry please, go away.
When you are by yourself, consider your health.
Sometimes we all must rest, to achieve our very best.
Yesterday's are gone, do what you can do today.
Think more Tomorrow or a future time, o.k.
We can't let old hurry, hurry control our every day
We are not lazy or committing a crime.
To want to, ACHIEVE THINGS IN TIME.



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.

So, can you guess who is coming to dinner??



Michael's driver, Tony, Steve, Michael and Johan check out Steve's book '**Live at the Continental**'.



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