

# MAGazine

The Newsletter for Mature Age Gays

September and October 2011 Edition



WHAT A NIGHT OUR  
20th ANNI VERSARY WAS !!



Some of the fantastic costumes worn by our guys

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

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

# President MAGazine

**WOW!** What a night!! MAG Members and friends celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday of MAG in style and it was great to see so many colourful "characters" join into the spirit of the occasion. We were honoured to welcome Michael Kirby an old friend to MAG for his congratulations and good wishes for the future success of MAG. We were also pleased to welcome Mark Orr, President of ACON and other members of ACON including Siri May who is our link between MAG and ACON. We very much appreciate the support and encouragement we enjoy from ACON.

Opera Bites, the musical group who entertained us was superb and took us down memory lane with their Broadway songs, guests joined in the singing of some of these old hits and we were delighted to see ACON's President Mark Orr joining the group on stage to 'help' the entertainers with one of their numbers. A very enjoyable meal was rounded off with a fantastic Birthday Cake made and decorated by Dawn Hough (it certainly caused a few chuckles!) and was cut very appropriately by our Founder Steve Ostrow. Steve has been a source of inspiration and encouragement over the 20 year history of MAG – we salute and thank you Steve for the MAGnificent contribution you have made over the years and I am sure we can look forward to many more directives to "give one another a hug". However I do believe that the real success of the night was the comradeship and friendly atmosphere of being with our friends to celebrate the milestone.

I sincerely thank the members of our Committee for their hard work in preparing the festivities under the Sub-Committee Chairmanship of Jon Allwood and the immense contribution from our "Artistic Director" Ken Mears for the decoration of our venue. I am sure you will join with me in thanking ACON for providing a great facility and I know we can look to the future of many more successful occasions.

However we are all growing older and if we are to continue to survive and grow in strength we must look to the future and recruit more new members, it is obvious from the number of members who regularly attend our meetings that there is a real need in the community for an organisation like MAG so I would urge our members to spread the word amongst friends and acquaintances to let others know of us. I also remind you that the Committee members are always ready to listen and consider ways to improve our meetings and to provide you with the activities you want from MAG, we have had very positive feed-back from the recent musical Trivia Night and with the new and better facilities being provided by ACON there will be more opportunities for education and entertainment. Guest Speakers are an important factor so if you know somebody who you think would be good person to invite along please let us know and we will be happy to arrange the night mutually suitable for the guest speaker. Members have also suggested we should have outdoor activities and it is worth considering, we will seek your views and the degree of support likely.

Once again I thank you for your support and encouragement and I hope that together we can go on to a greater future for MAG.

Eric Ellem, President.

## Don't forget:

All our meetings are now held at  
[414 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills](#)



Pharaoh Eric

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,

See below for the last Fiscal year — **aren't we MAGnificent!**

Annual Report Content MAG

Over the past year MAG has continued its role in support of the health and welfare of gay and bi-sexual men over the age of 40.

As we are living longer but not necessarily better, the needs and concerns of our ageing population are the challenges MAG has, is, and will be dealing with to ensure that we provide as much assistance and direction as possible.

In the last fiscal year MAG has held 24 SAT MAG Meetings attended by an average of 100 MAGs or more at each meeting.

In addition, MAG sponsors MAGnet, weekly Wednesday social and bonding evening get-togethers at the TAXI Club with attendance from 80-90 MAGs. MAG/C, MAG in the Community, provides emotional, logistical support and companionship and continues to be a major part of MAGs service to MAGs homes, hostels, hospices, hospitals etc.

**Our Watson's Bay Group which was the for-runner of MAG** holds bi-weekly meetings and is also in its 20<sup>th</sup> year!

Especially important is our liaison with Long Bay Prison gay inmates and assisting in the rehabilitation of those now released.

MAG also published, posted and distributed over 600 MAG Newsletters bi-monthly to MAG members country and world wide.

**Over the past year MAG volunteers at ACON's packing sessions produced over 50,000 safe sex packs** for distribution to sex venues and wherever Gay and Bisexual men and women assemble.

MAG support by after hour telephone availability has engendered approx 6 calls per evening from new enquiries and MAGs in stress or in need of reassurance.

At our April AGM our newly nominated Executive Board was elected with a new President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer together with 6 Exec Board members taking office.

Over the last few months the transition from our domicile at Commonwealth St to Elizabeth Street has now been accomplished and despite some usual logistical problems, promises to be very promising and productive.

MAG will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> year on 10 Sept and is very proud of what it has provided to so many for so long, all made possible by the commitment of its volunteers and the support of ACON.

**MAG is also proud of maintaining it's status of being the largest Gay**

organisation in Australia and the largest in the world catering to the needs and concerns of Mature Age Gay and Bi-Sexual men.

MAGs challenges in the New Year are the assistance and information support in relation to Ageing Care Services, and how to make these remaining years as healthy and rewarding as possible.

Love Steve Ostrow - Proud MAG Founder & ACON MAG Project Officer



# Secretary **MAGazine**

## Our 20th Anniversary Celebration

It would have to be up there as one of the BEST, if not the best function we have put on for our members' enjoyment. I thank Dr Jon for his efforts in organising a first class 20th Birthday Party and thank

Ken Mears for decorating ACON's Café. I am pleased my suggestion to have balloons in the foyer was accepted.

Thank you to all who assisted in putting up the decorations on the Friday before and then taking them down on the Sunday following the party. I hope all who attended enjoyed themselves, although more guys came along than we catered for, due to confusion in the paying of fees for Membership and the Party.

I most sincerely thank all those guys who made an effort and came along dressed in some absolutely magnificent creations, which ensured that our party was a **huge success**.

We sincerely thank our Guests — Michael Kirby, Mark Orr, [ACON's President], Nic Parkhill [ACON's CEO] & partner Rob, Geoff Honors, [Senior Manager from ACON], Siri May [from ACON] and partner Sveta and friend Nikki, Michael McNaughton [from ACON] and partner Rob, together with other friends for joining us to mark our 20th.

The cast of **Opera Bites** put on two *cracking* shows which were extremely well received. The food provided by Phillip from **Catering for Sydney** was delicious; as was our beautiful birthday cake created by Dawn Hough — our sincere thanks Dawn!

Please enjoy the photos I have posted on the following 5 pages that were kindly taken by Valery, Glenn & Erroll; and I do thank these guys for taking them. I am sure Michelle will have photos at following meetings for guys to obtain.

**David,  
Secretary &  
Editor of the  
Newsletter.**

Tel:  
[02] 9516 2063.



**King Arthur of Come Not A Lot tells guests not to eat their Fantales until after their meal**



**News that the Swans had beaten St.Kilda**

## OUR 2011 PLANNED EVENTS

10th September  
**MAG's 20th**

Anniversary Social

This event has already taken place  
—please see photos on pages

5,6,7,8 & 9

24th September  
TBA

8th October

**When loss isn't recognised**

Donna Drew

Walter Carter Funerals

29th October

MAG Members  
Remembered  
Evening

Our 20th  
Celebrations

MAGazine



Our absolutely magnificent  
20th Birthday Cake,  
that was lovingly created by  
Dawn Hough from ACON



Alan & Michael



Damian & Bill [Herman is  
in background]



Jon & David



MAG's Committee left to right  
Stuart, David, Lewis, Jon, Mario, Joe & Eric



Michael

Our 20th  
Celebrations

MAGazine



A hairy legged, towel wrapped,  
*gorgeous lady?*



**Kelvin**



**Joe**



Our audience being entertained by *Opera Bites*



More of the audience being entertained



*Opera Bites* member &  
Adam with his short  
legged pants

Our 20th Celebrations

MAGazine



Steve MAG's founder cuts our absolutely beautiful 20th Birthday Cake



Lewis



Ken



The cast of *Opera Bites* with Mark Orr, ACON's President.

We do thank Mark for joining in the fun which gave a new meaning to the song "what do you do with a problem named Maria, I mean *Mark*".



Lewis & Erroll



Eric & Alex



Max

Our 20th  
Celebrations

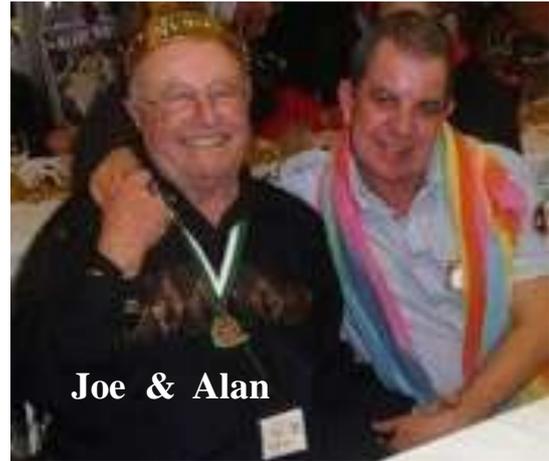
MAGazine



Arthur & Dennis



Brian



Joe & Alan



Erroll & Jon



Michelle, who normally takes our photos, poses for us



Harry & John

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

Our 20th  
Celebrations

MAGazine



David [King Arthur], Mark Orr - President of ACON,  
Michael Kirby, a good friend of MAG & Eric [Pharaoh]



David



Jim



Lionel



The cast of the very entertaining *Opera Bites*

**A note that was sent to all ACON Staff Members.**

Hi all, as some of you may already know, on Saturday night MAG celebrated it's 20 year birthday. While I could only attend for the beginning of the night, I have heard that the whole event was a great success and everyone had a fantastically entertaining evening. I would like to pay tribute to Steve and the many volunteers who have over the last two decades worked so tirelessly on MAG. It is an extraordinary project that provides many in our community with a sense of belonging and connection. Steve has done an incredible job over the last twenty years making MAG the success it is and we owe him a debt of gratitude.

So congratulations to Steve and all of MAG - happiest of Birthdays and well done!  
Nic x Nicolas Parkhill , Chief Executive Officer, ACON

# Warren's Poem

MAGazine



WITH A TEAR IN MY EYE, I SAY GOODBYE.

(A Tribute to Tony Gallagher.)

You were my down to earth; loyal,  
Lawn mowing client and caring, elderly friend.

**Sorry I couldn't be there when,**

God decided it was your final end.

You brought me a lot of happiness and joy.

I remember in your kind way,

you referred to me as boy.

You passed away alone,

In your neat and always proud,

Inside and out home.

With a large long backyard,

a place you loved to roam.

I remember on the 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2011.

Calling to your place to cut your grass.

No one was there to greet me as usual and care.

No one was there for our friendship to share.

I rang your number on your phone.

For some reason I felt alone.

I will miss your company and always remember you.

Before your time came to leave this world.

A moment God chose to be your final end.

I will miss the things that were only you.

The words you used to say and the things you used to do.

That special ingredient that made a person a real friend.

**I'm sure God has a lot of things planned for you.**

A homely new place for you to be proud of too.

I hope you find peace and suffer no more.

In a place with lots of new friends,

For you to love and adore.

I loved you my friend and always will remember you.

Before a heart attack brought your life to an abrupt end.

Tony Gallagher, My loyal lawn mowing client,

and caring elderly friend.

With a tear in my eye, I say goodbye.

Warren Sawkins  
MAG MAGazine  
POET

Written  
4<sup>th</sup> August, 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.

REMEMBER!! SAFE SEX  
ALL WAYS — ALWAYS

## 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 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 —

### **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](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.

Editor — David (02) 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 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)