

# MAGazine

A Newsletter for Mature Age Gay & Bisexual Men  
SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2015



**Caring for each other, sharing friendships & affection with each other in similar situations to lead as full a life as possible**

## VALE HARRY WEST OAM

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Harry West OAM. Harry was 92 years old & was our oldest living Member before his *passing*.

He had only been to a few meetings of late, but was interested in what was at MAG.

To John we extend our deepest sympathies.

A number of members were at his funeral to say "farewell". Harry met John O'Dea at one of our meetings some 23 years ago & they clicked & became soul mates & partners from then.

Harry was well respected by the members of not only MAG, but of the Papua New Guinea Assoc of Australia. He was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2009 for his services to that body.



Harry was a Greeter for MAG meetings at Commonwealth Street. He would welcome you, wrote your name tag & made sure that you *were looked after* by having someone help show you the ropes — to make you feel welcomed.

This photo [left] shows Harry & John at **Fair Day in 2008**. They grew many, many plants & bottled delicious jams for the MAG Stall. They were an institution at Fair Day.

[www.magsydney.org](http://www.magsydney.org)

## MAG'S FORTHCOMING FUNCTIONS in 2015

**Saturday — 12th September — MAG's 24th Anniversary Social Evening — theme is "Tieriffic". A neck tie must be worn by all Attendees**

**Saturday — 26th September — To be Advised**

**Saturday — 10th October — Tim Ellis — What causes a bad back**

**SUNDAY — 11th October — Our bus trip to Temples** Our bus will depart at 9.30am outside the ACON building, 414 Elizabeth Street & returning back there in the afternoon. Cost is only \$15.00 — Contact David if you wish join our bus to see these beautiful Temples.

**Saturday — 31st October — MAG Members Remember—fellow members, family, friends**

**Saturday — 14th November — Walter Rope — Chronic pelvic pain**

**Saturday — 28th November — Tony Breinl — Lifestyle changes to avoid cancer**

**Saturday — 12th December — MAG's Christmas Social Evening**

**Saturday — 26th December — NO MEETING**

**Thursday Night Social** - Just a reminder to members that on Thursday evenings, at the Petersham Inn, on Parramatta Road, Petersham, a group of our guys catch up over a meal and drink & discuss all sorts of subject & topics. A very warm invitation is issued to all readers and friends to come along and enjoy the night — We arrive any time from 6:30pm onwards. We eat around 7pm. There is a Badge draw during the night, and a number our guys have joined the Pub's Social Club, hoping to have their badge drawn out, and maybe win some cash.

In fact one of our group won some \$100.00s with his badge number being drawn out on Thurs 23.7.2015. It is an enjoyable evening!!!

### Marcantonio's Tasmanian Style Ham Hock and Apple Casserole.

#### Introduction:

It's mid-winter in Sydney. It's dark. It's cold. The wind and rain are beating against the windows. Inside, you're seating with your feet up on a footstool all rugged up, nice and warm. You're watching a Channing Tatum movie. There is also the dead weight of 30kilos of German Shepard sleeping contentedly across your lap. All the while, you're aware that from the kitchen emanates the delicious aroma of spice, sage and apple. This is winter comfort food at its best. So this is that recipe...

Prep time: 25 min. Cook time: 1 hr 45 min. Serves: 4

#### Ingredients:

- 4 tbsp vegetable oil
- 4 ham hocks
- 1 red onion, sliced
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 4 large red apples
- 600 ml Menorval Calvados [a good sweet cider will do at a pinch]
- 1 tbsp wholegrain dry mustard, cracked and lightly ground
- 1 tbsp Manuka honey
- 100 ml double cream
- 6 sage leaves [fresh not dried], chopped, to garnish

#### Preparation:

- Heat the oil in a deep, lidded casserole and fry the ham hocks until golden. Remove the ham and set to one side.
- Add the red onion, garlic, and apples to the pan. Cook until slightly softened and then cover with the Calvados. Mix in the mustard and honey, then cover and leave to cook for 90 minutes.
- Remove the ham hocks and place on a serving dish. Bring the cooking juices to the boil and add the cream. Cook until reduced and thickened, until you get a beautifully rich consistency. Pour over the ham, garnish with the sage leaves.

#### Serving suggestions:

- Serve with hunks of warm sourdough bread along with a glass of either a Merlot, a Cider or that Calvados.

**Enjoy!!**





## The President's Report

### Members and Friends,

I, along with many of our Members were saddened at the passing our stalwart and esteemed friend, Harry West OAM — He was 92 years of age. I had a lot of time for Harry & enjoyed our many chats & loved his company. Harry along with his *friend & soul mate* John O'Dea grew many, many plants and made delicious jams for MAG's Fair Day Stalls over many year. In fact, they were an institution at Fair Day where punters would come up and ask John & Harry questions about plants, or to tell them how well their plants, purchased at the last Fair Day, were growing. Harry's funeral was well very attended with people from PNG A of A, as well as *older* MAG guys. The past 3 MAG Presidents and myself, the present President, all attended to say 'farewell to a dear & much loved friend'. To John we extend our thoughts, prayers and love. Everyone who knew Harry, liked him, I did. I had the honour of awarding Harry an OBN — 'Over Bloomin Ninety' on his 90th birthday. **May He Rest In Peace.**

The response from members in renewing their memberships has been outstanding. 90 guys have renewed. I sincerely thank all who have done so. We have had five new guys join our ranks — Toshi, Daryl, Peter B., Jacques & Barry — I hope you will enjoy our company. We even had two ex members come to a meeting & have renewed their memberships, which is great news. Our meetings are well attended, and everyone is enjoying the gatherings.

Our *Christmas in July* saw 55 people attend, some dressed in **very creative WHITE outfits**, like Brian face painted & Richard feathered head dress, Toshi large white bow tie & Roger head dress. Well done to all who made the effort — I DO THANK YOU! Thanks also to our Kitchen Staff for the delicious meal. Valery & Michelle took some great pics of the evening & Anne Marie from the SSO even popped in to take a few shots — thank you all for doing so. See Valery's pics-next pages. Our Bus Trip to **the Sri Venkateswara Temple [SVT]** at Helensburgh [**Hindu**] and **the Nan Tien Buddhist Temple [Buddhist]** at Berkley, near Wollongong will be held on **Sunday, 11th October 2015**. Cost is \$15.00. To book please see me at our Meetings or phone me on 9516 2063. We will leave at 9.30am outside 414 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills — the ACON Building & return back to there in the afternoon. It will be a great day out, so plan to come on board & move on down the centre of the bus.

**Our 24th Anniversary** will be held on **12th September**. The Theme is a **TIEriffic** night. **ALL ATTENDEES MUST WEAR A NECK TIE**. Please plan to join us to celebrate this important event — **24 years of service & outreach** **MAG has provided to Sydney's Elderly Gay & Bi-sexual men of our Community**. There will be some surprises, so please contact our Secretary to indicate your attendance [include any friends that might come along with you], as we would like to know possible numbers for catering purposes. Like I told our Christmas in July night, we don't want to cater for 50 persons, when we might get a 100; or vice versa. So please contact Mr. Secty Michael — his number is on the back page, to indicate your attendance.

**Meaculpa – and on bended knees, may I humbly apologise and may it be know through out the land that Sister Inferior is in fact, Mother Inferior.**

My caption in the previous issue of our Newsletter was A TERRIBLE ERROR — sorry MOTHER

Should anyone require an Application for Renewal of Membership of MAG, please go to our web site **www.magsydney.org** and click over **RENEWAL OF MAG MEMBERSHIPS** & an application form will appear on the seen — please print it, kindly complete all the details and together with your cheque — made out to **MAG SYDNEY INC** and then post your envelope to **PO Box 350, Darlinghurst NSW 1300** — thanks.

Should any further information be required, please speak to me at any of our meetings or by phoning me — number on the back page.

In view of our 24th birthday theme, this joke is most appropriate — an Englishman, a Scotsman, an Irishman, a Welshman, a Gurkha, a Latvian, a Turk, an Aussie, a German, a Yank, an Egyptian, a Korean, a Mexican, a Spaniard, a Russian, a Pole, a Lithuanian, a Jordanian, a Kiwi, a Swede, a Finn, a Canadian, an Israeli, a Romanian, a Bulgarian, a Serb, a Swiss, a Greek, a Singaporean, an Italian, a Norwegian, an Argentinean, a Libyan and an African go to a night club. The bouncer says, "Sorry, I can't let you in without a **Thai**."

**David — President**



**Our 2009 18th masked birthday — Harry proudly shows his OAM medal**



**Sister MAGdalene with MOTHER INFERIOR**

**MAG SYDNEY INC - 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**





HO HO HO

MAGazine

OUR CHRISTMAS IN



PETER, BRIAN & RICHARD



JOHN & TONY— ROGER IN BACKGROUND



MICHAEL & ALAN



ELLIOTT, ALEX & MORRIS



CHRIS & ROSS



KELVIN

We thank Valery for these great pics



CLAUDE, MERV & PETER

Cheers Merv



BEN



JULY SOCIAL FUNCTION



LIONEL, LEWIS & MICHAEL



STEVE



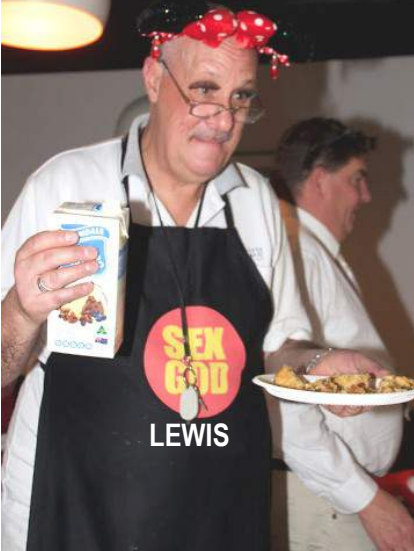
JOHN



JOE



JACQUES, VICTOR, RAYMOMND & MICHAEL



LEWIS



DAVID



MIKI & JOHN



GEOFF & MARK

What a great evening — lovely food thanks to our kitchen staff, good cheer and much comradeship.



JOHN & MARK





Photos courtesy of Richard Hedger, 2015

# HERE FOR AGEING



Our LOVE (Living Older Visibly and Engaged) Project is about creating better conversations and improved social engagement with older lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people.

By understanding people's needs, we can help our LGBTI elders get better connected with each other and the community, and live life to the fullest.

## FACT SHEETS

In response to consultations with community members and health professionals, a series of healthy ageing fact sheets have been developed covering topics specific to our LGBTI elders' needs.

- Ageing and HIV
- Alcohol and Prescription Drugs
- Dementia
- Depression and Anxiety
- Elder Abuse and Domestic Violence
- Fitness and Exercise
- Health Checks
- Health Screens
- Legal Tips
- Nutrition
- Smoking
- Social Connections

For more info or to download the factsheets, visit:  
[WWW.LOVEPROJECT.ORG.AU](http://WWW.LOVEPROJECT.ORG.AU)





## Pics & info on Harry West

We are pleased to publish some pics of Harry, that were captured over the years he was a MAG Member. An interesting photo of Harry was taken on the occasion of Harry's 87th & John Charles' 80th birthday celebrations in 2009. We summonsed a *Police Officer* to arrest John for turning 80; the Officer then started to remove his uniform. We got a bit worried when John & Harry got near this Police Officer – what was going to happen to his blue G string?

At Harry's funeral we were told of some interesting facts on him - in World War II, Harry was a private in the AIF at 19 years of age, and a Lieutenant in ANGAU a few years later. At the end of the War in 1945, he took up a new career, one that was very similar to his Army role, he joined the Civil Administration in PNG. He was appointed as a Patrol Officer, and the associated roles of magistrate, officer of police, inspector of labour, lick of stamps etc. He was then appointed as an Assistant District Officer, a District Officer, then District Commissioner in Rabaul, New Britain, the Australian Liaison Officer in Dutch New Guinea, Australia's Special Representative to the Trusteeship Council, and ultimately the Head of the Department. Harry's contribution to Papua New Guinea went unrecognised by the Australian Government. He and his achievements are, and will always be, a more significant and a lasting memorial than any other. Masta West or Mata 'arry as he was called in PNG was admired, respected and loved by all who knew him: black, brown and white.

As a friend of Harry's, Bill Brown MBE said of him at his funeral service – Harry was not a big man, he was not a small man, but Harry was a great man. He was also a kind man, a thoughtful man, and a generous man. All who knew Harry would certainly agree with Bill's sentiments!!



## Where & when MAG meets

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

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

Geoff Ostling is maintaining our [Guest Speaker Listings](#). Should members feel that a certain person could give an informative talk at MAG, please contact Geoff on 9568 3029. Geoff will be very pleased to hear from any members or friends.

## MAG's Details:



### The Executive:

**President:** David Bowron 9516 2063  
**Vice Pres:** Michael Darley 0408 359 989  
**Secretary:** Michael Filipovic 0429 290 000  
**Treasurer:** Bill Alford: 8096 4891  
**The Founder of MAG:** Steve Ostrow - 9358 1460

### The Committee:

Lewis Turtur 9319 1280  
 John Waterstreet 0449 290 898  
 Geoff Ostling 9568 3029  
 Ken Mears - email: ken.ophelia.cox@outlook.com

### MAG/C - MAG in the Community:

Guys who are ill, in hospital, or who require assistance.

### Our postal address is:

**MAG SYDNEY INC**  
**PO Box 350, DARLINGHURST NSW 1300**

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

**Newsletter Editor — Michael Filipovic**

We thanks those guys who have renewed their MAG Memberships. Your support is very much appreciated.



## Our Community's Details:

**Acceptance (Gay Catholics)** Tel. 9568 4433. Friday Mass, St. Joseph's 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** - [www.bgay.com.au](http://www.bgay.com.au). Contact Marc on 0406645075

### Bobby Goldsmith Foundation [BGF]

to empower & support people living with HIV to live well  
 L 3, 111-117 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills  
[www.bgf.org.au](http://www.bgf.org.au) 9283 8666

**Country Network** for friendship and support through social events and networking across rural, regional & city Australia. Info at [www.countrynetwork.com.au](http://www.countrynetwork.com.au)

**Cronulla Gay Group** - [www.cronullagaygroup.com](http://www.cronullagaygroup.com). Contact John 9528 9158

**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

### SYDNEY GAY MEDITATION GROUP

+++SESSION DETAILS+++

EVERY TUESDAY 7PM, (contribution - by donation)  
 MEDITATION SPACE, 99 CROWN STREET, EAST SYDNEY  
[www.sydneygaymeditationgroup.com](http://www.sydneygaymeditationgroup.com)

**GSN - Gay Sydney Nudists** - [www.gsinc.com](http://www.gsinc.com)  
 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. 0412 481 195

**MCC Sydney** - 96 Crystal St, Petersham. 10:00am & 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 & other outdoor activities in 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)

**COMPANIONS OF HOPE** - Meetings: fortnightly (2nd and last Sundays) at 11am, Level 3, 414 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills  
 Contact: Bishop Peter on 9588 6893 or 0419 464 353  
 Email: [christ-our-hope-community.net](mailto:christ-our-hope-community.net)

**GONG GUYS** - <http://www.gongguys.site90.com/>  
<http://www.gongguys.info/>