

MAGazine

The Newsletter for Mature Age Gays

April, May and June 2009 Edition



This *fabulous* shot of our walking *guys* behind the MAG letters. The pic was taken from the top of our bus as we proceeded up Oxford Street, heading towards Taylor Square.

Photo courtesy of Alan

Despite us being Float #123 out of 135 Floats in the Parade, the crowds were very supportive of us older gay guys; as were the volunteers at the barricades.

Look us up on the web
magnsw.org

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President MAGazine



Hello Everyone,

Well it is hard to believe that we are here post Fair Day and Mardi Gras and all is over for another year. There are just far too many wonderful guys to thank for all their efforts, they know who they are!! I do want to particularly mention a few very special people who contributed greatly to making both events such a resounding success. Firstly I want to thank all that gave of their time for the entire day at Fair Day, but especially John O'Dea and Harry West for their extraordinary contribution with the Plants and Jams. John Morrissey who flew over from New Zealand, hired a truck and gave of his time to help load and unload all the plants for sale on Fair Day. Alan Granland and John Bell who also gave of their time to assist with the unloading of the plants, as well as driving the truck. All these guys were not members of MAG at the time. David our Secretary, who as his alter ego *Dame Dolly Devine of Marrickville*, spruiked all day for our raffle. Jon Allwood from the UK for his exquisite hand made Greeting Cards. Ken Mears for designing the wine raffle pyramid and for his contribution for designing and decorating the bus in the Parade. Well done all for a magnificent effort!!

By the time this article goes to print my beautiful boyfriend will be back home in the UK. He was a great inspiration for me at Fair Day and Mardi Gras and I will miss him immensely. I look forward when I make my next visit to the UK, possibly in June this year. I thank him for all the help he gave to MAG over this special season. Until next time take care. Love from your President - Erroll.



Erroll & Jon at raffle table, take shelter from the rain at Fair Day

MAG 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



Jon & Erroll on the top of our Bus in the Parade

OUR PLANNED EVENTS

11 April
ACON's Housing Project

25 April

Sam Everingham

The Art of Living Dangerously
[Writing the lives of eccentric Australians]

9 May

Our Annual General Meeting

30 May

To be advised

13 June

To be advised

27 June

To be advised

Steve Ostrow

MAGazine

Mardi Gras Hi Guys,

I wonder if any of you know what the words **'mardi gras'** really mean. I didn't. It means Fat Tuesday, and originated in New Orleans in 1699. Notice the middle 2 numbers.

In New Orleans, Paris and Rio, Mardi Gras is always celebrated 47 days before Easter Sunday, on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, with the official colours being purple, green and gold. Purple for justice; green for faith; and gold for power.

I don't know about you guys, but the first Mardi Gras celebration I marched in was a lonely affair in New York City, back in the 60s, beginning at Greenwich Village and marching up Broadway to Central Park. We were only a stalwart group of about 100, and were looked on with disdain and spat upon by passers-by in the streets.

Now when we marched in the Mardi Gras in Sydney, up to 500,000 people blew kisses and shouted encouragement to us as we paraded brilliantly with an extravaganza of floats and costumes, designed to collectively celebrate our individuality and embrace the **message of the event 'Nations United' with our own proclamation... 'MAG Salutes The World'... and how our world has changed!**

But has it? What now exists is the racism, ageism and discrimination we find in our own community. The general public has almost accepted us as an entity, no longer a threatening one. We are part of society, and it has taken decades for this to be accomplished, and we rightfully should celebrate this achievement. But I do believe we tend to stigmatise our own community by too often presenting gays as foppish, loutish and feminine, when that is really not the *total* essence of homosexuality. Being gay does not necessarily have to equate with being feminine, as charming and brilliant as that can be when in the hands of our own, Dame Dolly Devine. But that is a creation, not the man himself, as we all can attest to. On the other hand, it can also be an accentuation of masculinity, with one man binding with another, thereby doubling the masculine genes.

There are those of us in our so-called queer community who, other than their sexual preference, are really no different from any other of our species, in other words— just as boring. We are all homosapiens first and heterosexual, bisexual, homosexual, transsexual and asexual afterwards. No future anthropological study, when examining our frozen remains thousands of years from now, will be able to distinguish who was gay, straight or otherwise, unless they **had found the 'gay' gene by then.**

I think our Mardi Gras with its conglomerate of all aspects of our community is **MAGnificent**, and congratulations to all who made our MAG entry so brilliant, but with so much hatred in the world between one sect or belief and another, **wouldn't it be fabulous if one year we went back to Fat Tuesday and invited the entire community, gay and straight to march together, celebrating not only our differences but also our common humanity.**

And we could then add pink to the purple, green and gold.

With love Steve



Steve and Dame Dolly at Fair Day
Photo courtesy Rod Spark

2009 Fair Day – at Victoria Park, Broadway

It was cloudy, it rained a couple of times, I got wet and the crowds were down, but MAG was there for all to see. John and Harry did a fantastic job with the plants and their delicious jams. They even had some Dolly Orange Marmalade, that sold very quickly. Jon from the UK brought 100 hand made greeting cards that were also a great hit and sold within minutes of being put on display. Our wine raffle for *dirty sex* [that was thirty six bottles of wine] that could be won, was well supported. Our empty wine bottle pyramid created by Ken was a huge success, as was his suggestion that the customers write out their own tickets, helped speed up the selling tickets procedure. **Thank you: - John o'b, Harry, Ken, John, Lionel, Simon, Peter, John G, John S, Damian, John G, Bill, Chris, Alex, Erroll, Peter, Ross, Kent, Roscoe for your help on the day.** For without their help, MAG's presence would not have been the success that it was. I am pleased to report that we even made over \$2,000. A special thank you is extended to John from Wellington, *the Land of the Long White Cloud* [New Zealand] for providing a truck and driver to collect the plants from Woronora and deliver same to Victoria Park *gratis*.

2009 Mardi Gras Parade – Our theme was MAG Salutes the World!!

We were 123rd Float out of 135 Floats. We waited almost four and a half hours in what I would describe as the *Elizabeth Street Concentration Camp*. President Erroll almost got himself arrested as he was going to carry Harry West, who is 86, over the barricades, after the area was *locked down* and Harry could not get into the area. Sometimes I think Mardi Gras is time **for the power to go to some Lesbians' heads.** One common sense official let Harry enter at a side gate. Despite the long **WAIT**, it was a great evening. We were very well received by the crowds, as can be seen from the front page photo and others on pages 5 & 6— they were great! [Thanks Allan for the pics of the crowds].

I regret to advise that I will not be involved in MAG's Parade for 2010. I waited for almost an hour for the bus at the entrance gates, but the bus had already entered the marshalling area, earlier than it should have. This is the second year I have been *stuffed around*; so next year, I plan to just be a participant, not an organiser.

Thank you **Michelle** from **Photomedia** for taking heaps of fantastic photos of the guys and of the Bus. These pics can be ordered at a cost of \$5.00 a print — very good value. Please **check with me to view at Michelle's Photo Book of the many photos that she took on the evening.** I also wish to thank **Alan & John G** for their other photos — they certainly captured both the events — Fair Day and the Parade.

Vale It is with much regret that I advise that Terry Morrison, the partner of Ray for 44 years, passed away in February. Terry was 75 years old. A larger number of MAG guys, **including myself, attended Terry's funeral.** We wish Ray and Terry's family strength and peace at time sad time.

David, Secretary & Editor of the Newsletter.
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Dame Dolly Devine with the wine bottle pyramid



With one of the gorgeous ACON Angels Oh my God!



With two cuties before the Parade **4**

Mardi Gras Theme:
Nations United

MAG's Theme:
MAG Salutes the World

MAGazine



Another shot of the crowds, from top of the bus



Michelle's our
photographer's
Business Card



Lorraine from Wellington, NZ

To all who joined our Bus in the
Parade - thank you and we hope
you had a great evening.

Many thanks Ken for decorating the
bus and also to the guys who
helped out with the banners &
flags.



John and Ian



Suzie Wong,
Dame Dolly
& Cleopatra

The Parade Cont'd



Erroll & Jon resplendent in pink



The Yellow Beryls with Chai in purple

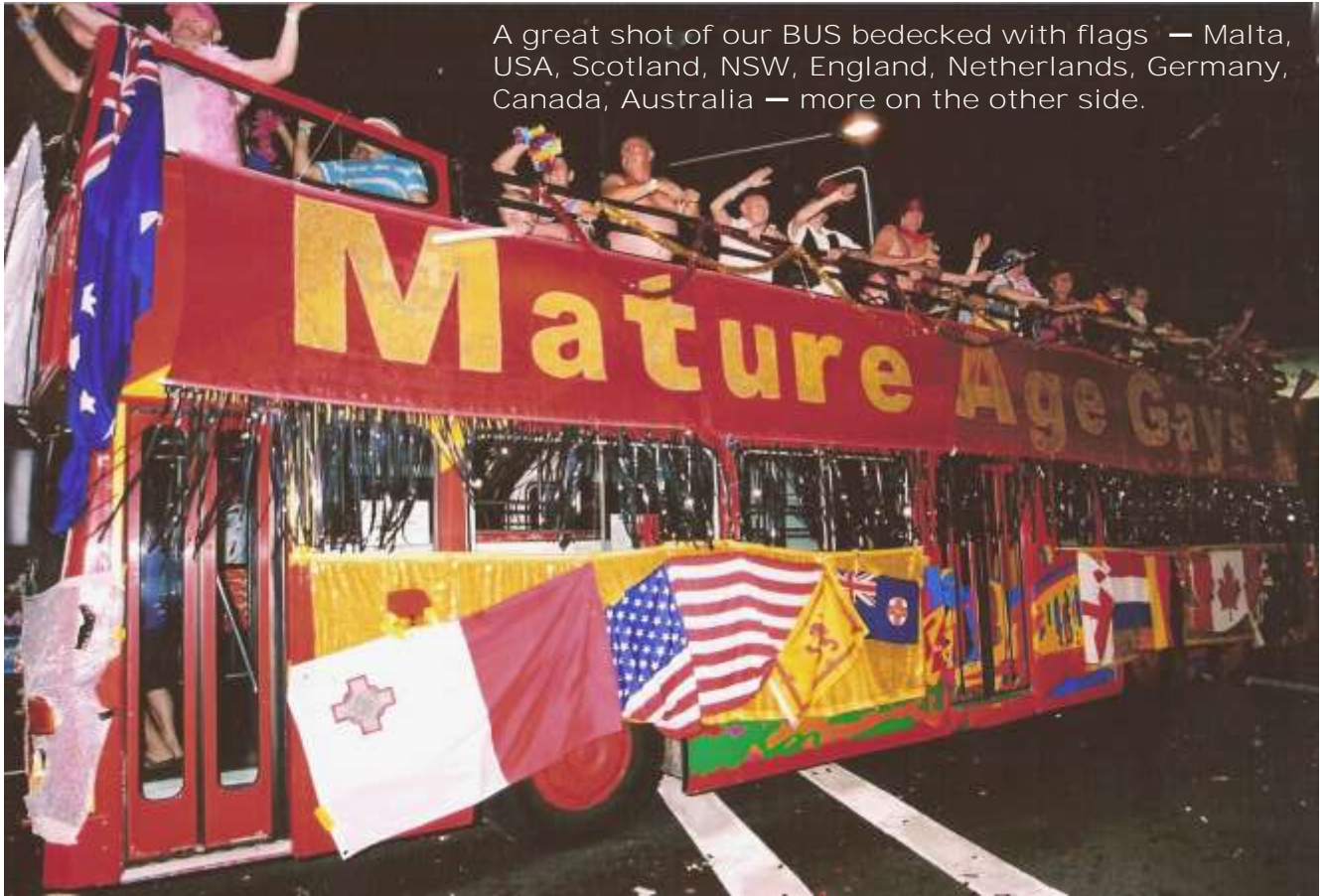


Two waiters give DDDM a drink love their hair do!



Cleopatra, Peter & Damian

This Issue of the MAGazine newsletter is for the months of April, May and June. The last issue for 2009 will be for November and December.



A great shot of our BUS bedecked with flags — Malta, USA, Scotland, NSW, England, Netherlands, Germany, Canada, Australia — more on the other side.



Another view *looking up* Oxford Street — look at the crowds on either side of the barricades

Disclaimer:

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