



TANGO SYNERGY INCORPORATED

Annual General Meeting 2014

5:30pm, Sunday 2nd March 2014, Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, NSW

Minutes

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present:

Apologies:

2. Acceptance of Minutes from previous AGM on 27 February 2013

3. Reports:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer (including presentation of Annual Statement)

Other Reports: DJ co-ordinator; Special Events;

4. Election of office bearers and committee:

Nominate Returning Officer

- President:
- Vice President:
- Secretary:
- Treasurer:
- 3 Ordinary Members

5. Other Business

Bundanoon

Warehouse milongas

Tango Synergy milongas

Tango Synergy practicas

TS DJing

Sydney Tango milongas

TS On-line presence

Katoomba

Business Without Notice

- 1 **Welcome & Apologies**(6.10 pm)
In the absence of Paul Warren, Natalia Varakina as as out-going Vice-President of Tango Synergy will chair the meeting.
Present: (initially), Julian Wright, Jean Weiner, Natalia Varakina, Frida Kotlyar from 2013 committee; and 5 general Tango Synergy members: Kate Messenger, Carol Fallows, Lisa Peers, Crismen Tache and Isao Morimoto.
Michael Rogers (Ordinary member of committee, 2013) arrived at 6:20pm
Paul Warren (President of Tango Synergy 2013) arrived at 6:40pm
Apologies: Karan Rowe (Ordinary member of committee, 2013). June Es.

- 2 **Acceptance of Minutes of 2013 AGM**(6:20 pm)
Natalia Varakina proposes that the Minutes from the previous AGM on 27 February 2013 be accepted. Julian Wright seconds the motion. The Minutes are tabled and accepted.
- 3 **Reports**(6:25 pm)

PRESIDENT: (Paul Warren)

2013 had many facades to it. It started with the continuing issue of Sydney Tango and Robert Clancy's insistence that we weren't upholding our part of the agreement between us.

Sydney Tango Website and Milongas;

After much discussion within the committee and some legal advice we decided that the most prudent course of action was to return the name and all assets back to R. Clancy. This was a great pity as Tango Synergy Inc. was, and still is, the perfect body to own and operate it. But the working relationship with R. Clancy was totally impossible and the right decision was made by the committee to protect Tango Synergy and its members from any further and unnecessary actions.

BASH 2013;

The final report came through from the Canberra Social Club only two weeks ago. The weekend was again a huge success, and the financial report thoroughly put together by their Treasurer, Gordon, revealed a small profit that is equally split between Canberra and Synergy. This small profit shows that all expenses were covered and the overall price of the weekend to all participants is as low as possible. A great outcome and a great weekend. Many thanks and acknowledgement to Karan Rowe, June Es and Emily-Rose Sarkova for all their hard work in making BASH such a success.

As outgoing President I'd like to encourage the new committee to be very pro-active in this coming year. It takes everyone on the committee to step up to not only bring new ideas but to act on their ideas rather than the expectation that someone else will do the job. It takes energy and imagination to grow this great community association of dancers for dancers.

VICE-PRESIDENT: (Natalia Varakina)

Firstly I would like to thank the other members of the Synergy Committee for their great work over the year 2013-2014; it was a pleasure to work with a team of dedicated people who put countless numbers of hours into improving Synergy, as well as conducting their direct obligations in a Committee (and having daily jobs too!)

Last year was my second year as Vice President of Tango Synergy.

My main duty (as per last year) involved looking after Synergy's Wednesday milonga at Bar Cleveland (setting up and closing down, greeting of DJs, greeting new people, making announcements, explaining how Synergy operates, filling up Synergy memberships, liaising with the venue's personnel, etc). Since two to three members

of the Committee were absent during the period of September-November 2013, Frida and I managed Bar Cleveland milongas in their absence.

Another collective effort of Tango Synergy was starting and the running of the Warehouse milonga in Redfern every second Friday of the month (starting in June 2013).

Two milongas – 13th of September (“Friday the 13th”) and 11th of October (“Spring Milonga”) – were also conducted in the absence of most Committee members, so Frida and I shared preparation, decoration, set up, running and closing down of these two events.

Together with other Committee members I was involved in the running of the last Concord Milonga held by Synergy in March 2013.

Other events I helped to promote as a member of the Synergy Committee were special workshops (with Synergy discount) – Anibal Montenegro and Hosanna Henrich, Mario Consiglieri and Anabella Diaz-Hojman, Karina Kolmeiro and Sebastian Arrua to name a few.

Also together with Frida (our DJ coordinator) we organised and ran the celebration of the National Argentine Tango Day on the 10th of December with the performances of wonderful Sydney teachers Pedro Alvares and Belen Silva and DJ-ing of Leonel Colque.

Another event in promoting tango in Sydney I was involved in was the organising and negotiation of the outside milonga run as part of the “Month of Love” event in Darling Harbour on February 2014 (which would be not possible without the involvement of other members of the Sydney tango community as well).

From July 2013 till December 2013 I was sending out Synergy weekly Newsletters with current information about milongas, practicas, special events, any events with Synergy discounts etc. and informing Synergy members what is on every week.

As usual, lots of work was conducted behind the scenes – working out our Synergy strategy and goals for the year, redirecting roles within the Synergy Committee depending on the coming event and availability of the members, resolving different administrative issues etc.

I am leaving the position of Vice-President of Tango Synergy next year to concentrate on other things in my life.

I feel that it was an enjoyable and productive year for Synergy and I hope it will be even better in the years to come.

SECRETARY: (Jean Weiner)

Secretarial duties during 2013 have been as follows:

- 1 Keeping TS members notified of their membership status and notifying them when their membership is due for renewal.
- 2 Liaising with the Treasurer & e-mailing out receipts when memberships have been payed.
- 3 Mailing out updated or new membership cards.
- 4 Keeping the Membership List up to date.
- 5 Some statistics have been gleaned from this list (as at 31 Jan 2014):
234 people are/have been members, including 18 Honorary members (professional teachers) since TS was founded in 2007. The figures show that the annual average increase in expired members is balanced by the average number of new members. There were 32 new members during 2013. It would seem then that there is a regular drop off rate, and that the total number of expired members will, of course, grow annually. However this also indicates that the total number of current financial members remains reasonably constant. Clearly TS membership needs to grow. It must be said, though, that a certain number of non-financial members semi-regularly attend TS events. Whether we should make an extra effort to get such members to renew, and whether such members still consider they can benefit from TS discounts, is something to be discussed.
- 6 Writing minutes of formal TSynergy meetings and sending copies to the Committee.
- 7 As the Public Officer for TSynergy, and in collaboration with our treasurer, Julian, we continue to renew TS's status as an incorporated non-profit organisation, submit our annual return to the ATO, as well as renewing our insurance cover for public liability.
- 8 As Secretary of TS, I continue to negotiate with City of Sydney Council to rent the upstairs space at the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, Crown St, from 7:15pm –10:45pm on the 1st, 3rd and occasional 5th Sunday of the month for the purpose of conducting tango practice sessions (TS practicas). I have also been primarily

responsible for the setting up and running of these practicas, including compiling 8 different music playlists. Thanks must go to committee members Frida & Michael for running practicas when I was overseas during September & October, or otherwise unavailable.

- 9 To assist in the improvement of tango dance technique and style, numerous teachers were employed, individually or as couples, to give advice at the request of dancers at our Sunday practicas. I organised, scheduled and liaised with the teachers, and assisted by Julian, arranged for payment for their services. So far in 2014, this arrangement has not been continued, but if TS considers the scheme worth continuing, we will have to re-negotiate with teachers regarding their payment as our treasurer considers that it would not be economically feasible to continue with the same amounts we paid last year. Overall though, the scheme was well received by our members.
- 10 As a committee member of TS, I have made it my mission to attend as many TS milongas as possible, and when either the President or V-President is not in attendance, I have often been giving the welcoming talks and announcements.
- 11 Exceptionally, I had to be the prime communicator between TS and a former member, Robert Clancy, in the difficult return of the SydneyTango website to him and the relinquishing of the running of the SydneyTango milongas at Concord RSL on the 5th Saturday of a month. To assist in the clarification of all issues involved in the handover, I organised that we had legal advice from a competent lawyer. The handover was completed after much stress on the committee's behalf, and great relief was felt once the handover was successfully effected.

TREASURER: Financial Report 2013-14 (prepared by Julian Wright as at 26 February 2014)

Report Summary:

Loss of the Concord milonga

Due to an apparent breach of agreement, Tango Synergy were obliged to be legally represented to defend our case. However due to rising legal fees and the parties involved dragging the case to what we believe was an untenable position, the Tango Synergy committee decided to hand back the running of the milonga held at Concord each 5th Saturday of a month to SydneyTango. The effect of this is that a regular stream of income has been lost.

Bundanoon (BASH)

Another high turnout at BASH again returned a good financial result for Tango Synergy.

Fortnightly practicas

This year we experimented with having Sydney-based Tango teachers attending our practicas to assist our dancers with their technique or any other tango-related issues. This resulted in a large cost over the year and we are unsure whether to reintroduce the offer to the teachers in the current year. We look forward to feedback from our members.

Membership

A slight increase in membership income was observed.

Current Balance

We have a balance of just over \$11,000 and are looking into ideas on how this can be used to benefit our members. Ideas we have include : a gala event, heavily subsidised for our members; the continuation of the assisted practicas. We welcome ideas from our members on this subject too.

The net profit for the Financial year 2013-14 was **\$56.62**

Financial Report 2013-14

Date 26 February 2014 Prepared By: Julian Wright

Financial Status Report											
Report Summary		Achievements this year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Warehouse milongas ~ 50 weekly milongas Fortnightly practicas Assets (> 1 year old) <table> <tr><td>Sound System</td><td>\$2100</td></tr> <tr><td>Banner</td><td>\$600</td></tr> <tr><td>Dance Floor</td><td>\$400</td></tr> <tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>\$3,100</td></tr> </table>		Sound System	\$2100	Banner	\$600	Dance Floor	\$400	TOTAL	\$3,100
Sound System	\$2100										
Banner	\$600										
Dance Floor	\$400										
TOTAL	\$3,100										
Bundanoon		Total takings	\$1030.27								
		Total outgoings	\$140.00								
		Profit	\$890.27								
Split between CSCT : Profit share 2012 (2013 not banked in current year)											
Milongas – Sydney Tango & Warehouse (Redfern)		Total takings	\$1025.00								
		Total outgoings	\$1287.45								
		Loss	\$262.45								
Sundries (Postage stamps, refreshments)		Total takings	\$0.00								
		Total outgoings	\$1284.50								
		Loss	\$1284.50								
Tango Synergy Memberships		Total takings	\$2895.00								
		Total outgoings	\$0.00								
		Profit	\$2,895.00								
Running costs – eg.insurance, web hosting, bank fees		Total takings	\$99.37								
		Total outgoings	\$755.07								
		Loss	\$655.70								
Surry Hills Practicas		Total takings	\$2,994.00								
		Total outgoings	\$4520.00								
		Loss	\$1,526.00								
BANK ACCOUNT		Current Balance as at 07 Feb 2013	\$11,011.35								
		Current Balance as at 07 Feb 2014	\$11,067.97								

MUSICAL COORDINATOR: (Frida Kotlyar)

I would like to thank the Synergy members and committee for giving me the opportunity to act as DJ coordinator. Tango Synergy continues to evolve within the Sydney's tango community and our DJs are dedicated and enthusiastic about making our milongas successful.

DJ list for 2013:

Catrina Bleicher, Manuel Garber, Emil Jankulovski, Isao Morimoto, Frida Kotlyar, Emily-Rose Sarkova, Pavel Wagner, Jean Weiner, Mohamed Ibrahim, Owen Solome.

Current DJ list:

Manuel Garber, Emil Jankulovski, Mohamed Ibrahim, Jean Weiner, Julian Wright, Isao Morimoto, Frida Kotlyar, Owen Solome and more recently Duke Lee.

Milongas

Due to improved quality of DJ music our milonga functions are very popular among Sydney tango dancers.

Wednesday milonga at Bar Cleveland was held regularly throughout the year.

We had few special events at the Bar Cleveland:

- 1) Canyengue performance and workshop was given by our famous Nelson and Liz in March 2013.
- 2) To celebrate Argentine National Tango Day we had Leonel Colque as guest DJ and performance by Belen Silva and Pedro Alvarez.

Concord milongas I organized live tango bands and DJ's for Concord milongas for 2013. The last Sydney Tango Concord milonga that Synergy organized was held on 30th of March with DJ Federico Mattiuzzi. Concord now is running by new organizers.

Warehouse milongas Our monthly milongas started 28th of June, 2013, and it is now running as regular function on the second Friday of each month.

I helped to organize DJs and decorate special theme Warehouse milongas:

“Friday the 13” in September,

“Spring milonga” in October,

“International food” in November,

“Xmas milonga” in December,

“Valentine’s milonga” in February,

During Jean’s absence I ran 6 Practicas and organized assisting teachers for them.

My other contribution for Synergy music was as music educator. I ran musicality and history of music

workshops. The workshop “Musicality for tango dancers” at the BASH 2013 tango weekend had a very good response. In future I am happy to start music talks on a regular basis.

4 Election of office bearers and committee(6:50 pm)

Paul Warren nominated Jean Weiner for position of Returning Officer. Julian Wright seconded the nomination. Jean Weiner accepted and was appointed the Returning Officer for 2014.

Nominations for positions on the new Tango Synergy Committee were called for. Submitted was a printed list of all nominees, nominators, seconds and acceptances of nomination by nominees.

As only one person had been nominated and seconded for each position, and no objections were forthcoming, all nominees were immediately declared elected as Committee members.

President: Jean Weiner

Vice-President: Frida Kotlyar (also Musical Director)

Secretary: Karan Rowe

Treasurer: Julian Wright

Ordinary Members: Michael Rogers, Kate Messenger, Crismen Tache

The new Committee was formally accepted, and Jean suggested that all Committee Reports will be posted on the Tango Synergy website in the interests of public transparency. The new committee also thanked Paul and Natalia for all the effort they have put in over the many years as part of the Synergy committee and wished them all the best in their future activities.

5 Other business

BUNDANOON: (22-24 November 2013) BASH (*Buenos Aires in the Southern Highlands*) is an annual event, jointly coordinated by the Tango Social Club of Canberra (Tango Canberra) and Tango Synergy Inc. (Sydney). Karan Rowe, June Es and Emily-Rose Sarkova, all members of Synergy, were very constructive in the organising of last year’s event.

Karan Rowe: After volunteering to be part of the organising committee for the BASH weekend in November 2013. I recruited Anna Griffith, Emily-Rose Sarkova and Kathy Pejakovic to be part of the Team. They all worked extremely hard at the task given to them and were very much a part of a successful BASH. As part of the committee I was responsible for the organising and running of the Saturday night dinner and also the accommodation which included The Bundanoon Hotel /Quest for Life and Tree Tops. I liaised with Erika from Canberra, and June Es, for many months and at great length, from May until the event in November, working together to produce the best possible weekend for our tango dancers .

June Es: The tango weekend was once again a huge success with maximum numbers of participants and great buzz experienced by all. My role at BASH 2013 saw my tasks expanded in many ways from the previous year's role.

In my main role, I coordinated workshops and non-tango activities. The highlight at BASH 2013 workshops was the superb presentation on milonga DJing, delivered by Tom Schroder, visiting from Germany. I recruited workshop and activities facilitators and communicated with them regarding timing, their requirements, and venue procedures.

I took on the following additional tasks:

- * Coordinated the tango market - communicated with the new tango goods (shoes and clothes) vendors, and with sellers of pre-loved tango goods, confirmed open times, setup and security procedures, and signage. Obtained gift vouchers from some vendors for the Friday milonga lucky draw.
- * Maintain sustained publicity on Facebook throughout the lead-up to the BASH weekend - set up the BASH tango weekend as an event page and linked it to the BASH community page, regularly posted blurbs about different workshops and non-tango activities.
- * Organised volunteer photographers - recruited and assigned volunteer photographers to various BASH activities, and posted resulting photos to the event page of Facebook, arranged free foot massage for the volunteer photographers
- * Managed the main hall venue during the workshops, and recruited the assistance of Crismen to manage the Bundanoon Hotel conference room - unlocked the venues, set up chairs, and organised specific workshop equipment where requested by presenters.
- * Arranged for a local massage therapist to be available to take any paid bookings
- * Liaised with Michael Hayes and Gordon Condon (from Tango Social Club of Canberra) with regards to the question of insurance coverage for BASH outdoor activities.

BASH this year will occur on the last weekend of November (28th – 30th). As it will be the fifth weekend of the month, the event will clash with other groups than those disadvantaged on previous years. Hence Federico of Dance Tango is pleased that for once he will be able to attend.

A committee of Synergy members will be drawn up in the near future to assist in the organisation of the event in collaboration with Erica and Gordon of Tango Social Club of Canberra

WAREHOUSE MILONGA: Beginning on 28 June 2013, Tango Synergy has been running a milonga on the 2nd Friday of the month at a warehouse space in Redfern St, Redfern. These events have proven to be increasingly popular as the venue has a wonderful ambience with separate spaces for dancing and socialising. The spacious venue is actually an architect's private residence and all the architectural models, sculptures and other artistic creations give the place a unique flavour. Many thanks must go to the various DJs for providing great music to dance to. Thanks must also go to all those who help set up the venue, and who provided drink, finger food and decorations. As each month went by, a theme for the evening was chosen appropriate to the time of year, or celebratory date.

However, following our last event there on 14 February 2014, Jean received an email from a certain Christine, voicing her concerns about the venue with regard to some health & safety issues. These were taken on board by both the TS committee and the lessee of the venue. The legal and building advice that the lessee has since received has actually cleared the building of any problems perceived by Christine. Her concerns were and are unfounded. The Committee is happy with the outcome and the OH&S aspects of the venue. A letter has been drafted by a barrister in response to Christine's concerns. We are still waiting for her response, and the lessee is very happy to meet with her to assuage her concerns.

TANGO SYNERGY MILONGAS: TS Milongas at Bar Cleveland, Redfern, have been running successfully throughout 2013. They have proved popular among local and visiting interstate or overseas dancers. Some Sydney teachers also often attend. Frida will continue to organise DJs for these milongas; she will also call meetings of DJs to discuss music choice, DJing practice, and sharing of music.

There are some issues that need to be attended to regarding these (and other) Milongas. With too many people either not paying or not paying the correct amount, a door-person (thanks Nicole) was employed for a period of time. Attending committee members or other volunteers also took it in turns to man the door for 20 minute periods. Jean suggested that in future, as all current members have membership cards, these should be sighted on entry for the discount entry price to apply. Another issue was the often sticky floor. The hotel management requested not using talcum powder on the floor. Sawdust has been successfully used instead. In the interest of our dancers knees, TS also requested that the hotel wash the floor on Wednesdays prior to our milongas. On occasions, though, a TS committee member has had to do it.

TANGO SYNERGY PRACTICAS: The bi-weekly practicas at the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre have also been running successfully during 2013. All dates have been booked with the SHNC for 2014 and rental fees are payed monthly. During 2013, TS decided that it would be more beneficial if practicas were guided practicas with a teacher in attendance. All recognised Sydney tango teachers were invited to participate in the scheme. Many responded favorably. From May till December 2013, numerous teachers, either singly or as couples, assisted dancers. Many thanks to all those who participated. However, the scheme has not yet been continued in 2014. Many dancers preferred not having a teacher in attendance. Furthermore, to continue the scheme with the fees we offered in 2013 would mean that practicas would run at a loss. If teachers would accept a lower fee, TS might reinstate the scheme. It has also been suggested that we run the practicas weekly as there is a definite need to practice. This will be looked into.

Many thanks to Frida & Michael who ran the practicas in Jean's absence during Sept & October.

TANGO SYNERGY DJING: (See also report above)

The first DJ meeting organised by Frida was in April 2013 where we shared our ideas. We developed guide lines for our DJs to follow and set up goals to improve the music for dancers. Some of the goals still have to be accomplished in future.

- 1) To build a shared music library for Synergy DJ's. (Disk, 1TB capacity, USB interface) to share music.
- 2) Use of a DJ blog on Synergy's website to share ideas.
- 3) Use of Facebook to give dancers an idea of what DJ is planning for evening.
- 4) Regular DJ meetings to continue to work on our goals.

TANGO SYNERGY ON-LINE PRESENCE: The TS weebly-based website <www.tangosynergy.com> is running well but needs to be regularly updated, e.g., photos, up-coming & past events, though this aspect of the website is also covered by our Facebook page. The Website homepage needs to contain more information about Tango Synergy's history and *raison d'être*. It is also an essential portal to our membership drive as the general public can request information about us, and the membership form can be easily downloaded, from this site. TS needs to find a suitable person to maintain and regularly update our website, if not set up a smoother site than the rather ungainly Weebly system.

Tango Synergy's **Facebook** presence is increasing, with coming and past events being constantly added, along with photos and blogs, thanks to Frida's diligent work. Mohamed Ibrahim must also be thanked for announcing Sunday Practicas on Facebook.

SYDNEY TANGO MILONGAS: As indicated in reports above, it was deemed in our members' best interests to return the name and assets of SydneyTango to Robert Clancy. Hence Tango Synergy conducted only one Concord milonga during 2013, that being on 30th March. Unfortunately, despite Frida's best efforts, no tango orchestra was available to play on that night, but the event was still well attended, and with the DJing of Federico Mattiuzzi, dancers had a most enjoyable evening.

KATOOMBA: Our previously regular mid-winter event at the Carrington Hotel in Katoomba was not held in 2012 nor 2013 as prices have become exorbitant considering the services being received, the price escalation no doubt due to July being the peak time of year for the hotel. It was felt, nonetheless, that the Katoomba event was always something special and it would be a pity not to conduct a similar event that would draw tango dancers from Sydney and beyond. Some committee members have agreed to discuss the problems with holding a mid-

winter event and to look into other possibilities in the Blue Mountains or elsewhere, and will report back. Paul Karan and Jean investigated the possibility of holding a special event at the International College of Management, Manly. Though it is a large and spectacular venue in itself, any event there has to finish by 11pm, and to ensure no financial loss, the entry price per person was calculated to be prohibitive. Boronia House, on Military Rd, Mosman, was also investigated but was deemed unsuitable.

BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE:

Tango Australia: Carol Fallows, who runs Tango Australia, is also a TS member. She says that Synergy is welcome to use Tango Australia's website and blogsite for announcements. She also offered TS the use of numerous items which are currently laying idle in storage. These items include lights, par-cans, a sound system, table cloths, and candelabras. She also said she would be happy to contribute toward running any Gala/Special event that TS wanted to organise. Such an event could not only use local talent, but also interstate bands or DJs.

Tango Synergy's presence in the community: Julian commented that regardless of the timing of any event we conduct, it is inevitable that there will be a clash with some other tango event(s). Isao responded by saying that TS should not feel apologetic toward the different tango schools. We have been accepted by them and have shown them good faith e.g., by shifting milongas to accommodate changes they have made so not to clash. TS creates a good tango community spirit which helps general business. Because our entry prices are low, some say we take people away from other milongas. Isao suggested that people have different economic factors to consider, and hence we may attract more younger dancers than other schools initially, but they will ultimately go to other schools for lessons and attend their milongas as well as ours.

Outdoor tango events: Recently several flashmob tango events were conducted in the city with participation of dancers from many different tango groups. These are fun to do, but all public outdoor events theoretically need permission from the appropriate city council. Thus flashmobs are maybe two songs in duration at most to minimise the risk of being accosted by city officials or police. Another successful outdoor event was also recently conducted in February at Darling Harbour, this time officially sanctioned. However if Synergy's participation is called for, and its insurance cover requested, organisers must consult the committee members first.

One factor that became apparent in these outdoor tango events was the need for a good (and sufficiently loud) battery-operated sound system. The system used for the city flashmobs was barely adequate. Sophia of SoTango has purchased a battery operated sound system, but apparently it is a small unit. Nonetheless, a flashmob system has to be portable and battery-operated. Such a system should cost around \$200. However for larger outdoor events this sort of sound system would be inadequate, and either we use our larger power-operated PA or we hire a still larger PA suitable for the event, rather than purchasing such a system which we would use only occasionally.

6

Close:

Jean Weiner officially closed the AGM at 7:50 pm.