



Tango Synergy Incorporated

Minutes of AGM held on 1st March 2015 at 7pm Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre

1: Welcome and Apologies

Jean Weiner opened the meeting and welcomed those present:

Jean Weiner, Crismen Tache, Julian Wright, Alex Nodelman, Anna Griffiths, Frida Kotlyar, Michael Rogers, Natalia Varakina, Selin Ebeci, Mona Low, David Wong, Veronica Valderas, Karan Rowe

Apologise were received from:

Kate Messenger, Pavel Wagner and Lisa Peers

2: Acceptance of Minutes of 2014 AGM:

Jean Weiner proposes that the Minutes from the 2014 Tango Synergy AGM be accepted.

Michael Rogers seconded the motion.

The Minutes are tabled and accepted.

3: Reports

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015 (Jean Weiner)

To begin with, I'd like to briefly thank all the current committee for their hard work in making 2014 an overall successful year for Tango Synergy. Our Vice-President, Frida, was most helpful in organising and recording Synergy events on Facebook, as well as organising DJs for our special events and our regular Wednesday milongas at Bar Cleveland. She also contributed to a most successful BASH in November. She has worked constantly behind the scenes of Tango Synergy. Without her dedication, ongoing efforts, and passion for the community at large, Synergy would not be what it is today. Her resignation from the committee means she will be sorely missed.

Karan has helped set up most of our Wednesday milongas at Bar Cleveland. She has also been our secretary since the end of BASH last September. Many thanks. Prior to that she was overseas for several months and then was heavily involved with BASH organization, leaving the secretarial duties to me. Julian has continued his good work as treasurer and occasional DJ, always ready to give advice and keep tabs on our funds. Thanks, Julian!

Our ordinary committee members have also been busy this past year. Crismen deserves a congratulatory slap on the back after coordinating the BASH committee, which resulted in arguably the best BASH ever. Not an easy job! He continues to have input into Synergy's direction, for which I thank him.

Kate has been putting out the weekly newsletter which keeps all members, including those not on Facebook, up to date with recent & forthcoming events. Her insightful presence at committee meetings will definitely be missed as work pressure prevents her continuing on the committee. Merci buckets! Another who will also be sorely missed is Michael, who not only was also on the successful BASH committee and has been our resident IT

specialist, but whose thoughtful analyses of situations has helped us make better decisions for Synergy. Thanks to you all.

Looking now back over the year, we can see that Synergy has indeed been busy. Despite the dramatic relinquishing of both the running of the Sydney Tango website and the 4 or 5 Sydney Tango milongas per annum at Concord prior to last year, we have been busier than ever.

Firstly, in a loose arrangement with Paul Warren & Tom Rivard, we had hoped to continue holding the popular monthly milongas at their Redfern warehouse until various factors including fire safety issues and increased venue hire forced us to find another venue. The Russian connection proved most useful in finding the spacious Russian Nights restaurant in Bondi. In homage to Aníbal Troilo, the event was called 'Tinta Roja', after the song he made popular. Tinta Roja means 'red ink', which was appropriate as we always made a loss on these monthly events through 2014, despite their popularity. It was only the well-attended, very last of these events just recently, where Tángalo played along with Duo Ramirez-Satorre, that we actually made a moderate profit, thus offsetting our losses to some degree.

Other regular events in 2014 have been: our weekly milonga at Bar Cleveland. Generally well attended, these have proved our stable portal to the Sydney tango community. We had Maggie Ferguson playing with violinist Guillermo Rubino and members of Fuego Blanco on one occasion last year which brought in a considerable crowd. Along with several local and the occasional overseas tango teachers, international & interstate tangueros regularly attend giving the milonga that bit of exotic flavour.

Every two weeks, on average, we have been running the Sunday Practica at the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre. It continues to prove popular and regularly brings in a small profit. In 2013, we hired teachers to attend, but at our i.e., our members', financial loss. Practica is still popular even without teachers. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" is our motto here.

In late 2014, at the request of Paul Wagner and others, Synergy began running a free outdoor milonga at Darling Harbour on Sunday evenings when there is no Practica. A good quality battery-operated sound system was bought for the purpose and proves to be a worthwhile investment of members' funds. The event is becoming very popular and draws tangueros from around Sydney, and hopefully will attract new members into the broader Sydney tango community.

BASH was a great success this year. Congratulations to the BASH committee for doing such a good job. And we made a moderate profit here too! Apart from those I mentioned above, special thanks must also go to: Carol Thompson for her expert handling of the registrations & financial matters; to June Es, Chris Condrón & Jenny Wood, and also Peter Varley, who made Maggie Ferguson's quartet sound like a full tango orchestra. Many thanks must also go to the many volunteers who helped it all come together. Crismen will give a fuller account of the BASH event in his report.

I must now thank once again those committee members who are stepping down. I wish them every success in their various ventures and I hope to see them nonetheless on our dance floor. And of course at the same time I welcome the new members to the committee. I'd like to encourage them and the rest of the committee to be imaginative and pro-active in the coming year, to not only bring fresh ideas but to act on their ideas rather than expecting others to do so. It takes energy, imagination and communication to grow this great community association of dancers for dancers. Hopefully Tango Synergy will continue to provide an independent, different and exciting outlet for Sydney's tango aspirations.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014 to 2015 (including DJ's Report & Media Presence Report) (Frida Kotlyar)

First I would like to thank all committee members for continuous support and for making last year such a great success.

2014-2015 was a great success due to great enthusiasm and hard work of committee and volunteers. I'd like to mention Natalia Varakina and Paul Wagner as volunteers of Synergy who supported us in the events.

As Vice President of Tango Synergy I was involved in the following:

- 1) Contacting and negotiating with Bar Cleveland and Russian Nights.
- 2) Welcoming and communicating with interstate and international visiting dancers.
- 3) Investigated together with Jean Weiner, Natalia Varakina venues in Blue Mountains for future Xmas in July functions. I investigated "Fairmont" resort and received their event organizer's "Proposal" for the new committee's review.
- 4) At Wednesday milongas at Bar Cleveland, I worked together with Karan Rowe on preparation for evening.
- 5) Organizing "Tinta Roja" night together with members of committee and volunteers, which included setting up and wrapping up the event.
- 6) Supplying information for weekly Newsletter.
- 7) In March 2014 I was involved in contacting and organizing Canyengue workshop with Nelson and Liz (flyers, Facebook).
- 8) In June 2014 I was involved in contacting and organizing live music in Bar Cleveland with Maggie Ferguson and violinist Guillermo Rubino, who was visiting Sydney performing in show "Milonga".

DJ Cordinator:

I coordinated DJs for all Synergy events which included Bar Cleveland, "Tinta Roja" and BASH 2014. We were able to rotate DJs and give dancers a variety in music.

At the moment we have the following DJ's:

Manuel Garber, Emil Jankulovski, Isao Morimoto, Frida Kotlyar, Pavel Wagner, Jean Weiner, Julian Wright.

Every DJ has his or her own style in music they offer. It was enjoyable for Sydney tango dancers.

My suggestions to the new committee encourage new DJs and keep contact with our current DJs.

Administrator of Tango Synergy Facebook page:

- a) I posted weekly announcements, photographs of regular Wednesday milonga, Synergy Outdoor Milonga and Sunday Practica.
- b) Created special events for all Synergy events "Tinta Roja", Synergy Outdoor Milonga.
- c) Interacted with members for Synergy's Facebook page: welcomed new members, informed tango dancers of Synergy's milongas, practicas, as well as other tango community nights.

BASH 2014:

- a) Revised and planned BASH program with extended hours of dancing
- b) Contacted and negotiated with Maggie Ferguson and tango band "Fuego Blanco"
- c) Contacted and organized DJ roster (six DJs from different cities)
- d) table hire and catering

Highlights of 2014-2015:

Friday 14 February 2014 Valentine Milonga at Warehouse DJ Mo Sydney

Mohamed Ibrahim: "Thanks to you Frida and the team, Natalia, Michael, Jean, Paul and Julian for your time and effort for organising and catering for this rocking milonga"

Friday 14 March 2014 Milonga at Bar Cleveland, DJ Emil Sydney

Jake Hart: "It was like you guys were pumping party drugs into the aircon or something. Omggggggggggg BEST MILONGA EVER IN AUSTRALIA. You rocked our whole worlds! :))))"

Tinta Roja every 2nd Friday of month, DJs and quotes

11 April 2014 Duel of DJs Leonel (Buenos Aires) and Mo (Sydney)

9 May 2014 at Paddington RSL DJ Tim (Canberra) Belen Silva: "Gracias Tango Synergy and Milonga Tinta Roja to welcome Cecilia Gonzalez, always supporting our work. Thanks"

6 June DJ Hosanna (Sydney)

11 July DJ Zaman Kamry (Melbourne)

8 August DJ Emil (Sydney)

12 September DJ Pavel (Sydney)

10 October DJ Peter Williamson (New Zealand)

14 November DJ Anibal Montenegro (Buenos Aires)

12 December Xmas milonga DJ Emil (Sydney)

13 February 2015 DJ Anthony Miller (Sydney) with Tango band "Tángalo" and Duo Ramirez-Satorre

Performance by Sydney teachers (180 attended)

Canyengue workshops with Nelson and Liz, March 2014

CANYENGUE WORKSHOPS (Facebook page)

Nelson & Liz, directly from Buenos Aires, and in conjunction with Tango Synergy, are conducting a series of 3 Canyengue workshops. Each class is 90 minutes in duration. All are welcome.

Wednesdays 12 & 19 March at 7pm -8:30pm

Level 1, Bar Cleveland, cnr Cleveland & Bourke St., Surry Hills. Sunday, 16 of March at 7pm-8:30 pm

Level 1, Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, Crown St. Surry Hills.

Classes cost \$5 each for current Tango Synergy members; \$15 each for all others.

Come along and enjoy this classic style of tango, and enhance your dance repertoire.



Bar Cleveland Wednesday, 11 June 2014 live performance Maggie Ferguson and violinist Guillermo Rubino from Buenos Aires, who's in town to perform with the Milonga show at the Opera House.

SECRETARY'S REPORT 2014 – 2015 (Karan Rowe)

I have held the position of Secretary on the Tango Synergy committee since the 2014 AGM .

However I didn't take up the duties until sometime in September 2014 because of my travel plans and my BASH commitments.

Jean Weiner held the fort until the work on BASH was almost completed and I thank him very much for that.

Since then and up until this AGM I have been handling the duties of Secretary. The role of Secretary involves primarily managing the membership base: sending out renewal notices to members, receipt letters and membership cards to new and renewed members, and keeping the XL spreadsheet of members up to date. As of this date we have 73 paid-up members. Since end of February 2014 we have had 29 members who have not renewed and we have welcomed 17 new members.

As Secretary I notify committee members of meetings when necessary, organise an Agenda, record minutes, write them up and distribute to the committee. AGM notices and reminders are sent to all paid up members.

For the past two years, beginning in about May, I have been on the BASH committee. I have been mainly responsible for the accommodation overview, liaising with the Bundanoon Hotel management during the months prior to the event in November. I was also in touch with many other establishments to try to obtain the best rate possible for our BASH participants, advertising a select few on the BASH website to give attendees a choice.

I liaised with the designer Michael Golding to produce the flyer for the event.

I was responsible for organising, hosting and setting up of the Cocktail Party pre-Saturday night milonga. I believe this was a very successful and relaxed format. I thank Jean for providing the entertainment on the piano and very much adding to the ambience.

This year at BASH I also organised the bar for the Friday night Welcome drinks which included sourcing donations of wine from the Bundanoon hotel and Tertini wines. I made many calls to other wineries in the area but they were not forthcoming with a donation.

I have frequently helped with the regular Wednesday night milonga set up and door, and when possible at the monthly Friday night milonga. Recently at the Tinta Roja special milonga I even found myself making chicken sandwiches to supplement the supper provided. We were worried that we wouldn't be able to provide for the number that we so excitedly expected and so chicken sandwiches were added to the menu!!!

If re-elected to the TS Committee I look forward to helping as much as I can to spread the word of tango to the people of Sydney and beyond, whilst providing our loyal members with opportunities to exhaust their love of tango in friendly, comfortable surrounds.

Financial Report 2014-15

Julian Wright presented the Report to the AGM 2015

Date	26 February 2015	Prepared By:	Julian Wright
-------------	------------------	---------------------	---------------

Financial Status Report			
Report Summary	Achievements this year		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor milongas • ~ 50 weekly milongas • Fortnightly practicas 		
	Assets (> 1 year old)		
	• Sound System		\$2100
	• Banner		\$600
	• Dance Floor		\$400
	TOTAL		\$3,100
BASH	Total takings	\$	12,910.00
	Total outgoings	\$	12,441.70

	Profit	\$ 468.30	
Milongas – Tinta Roja & Outdoor (Darling Hbr)	Total takings	\$6,945.90	
	Total outgoings	\$8,804.30	
	Loss	\$1,858.40	
Canyengue W'shop	Total takings	\$0.00	
	Total outgoings	\$220.00	
	Loss	\$220.00	
Tango Synergy Memberships	Total takings	\$2440.00	
	Total outgoings	\$0.00	
	Profit	\$2,440.00	
Other Income: PA Hire + Interest	Total takings	\$162.36	
	Total outgoings	\$0.00	
	Profit	\$162.36	
Running costs – eg.insurance, web hosting, bank fees (incl. purchase of outdoor speaker)	Total takings	\$ 0.00	
	Total outgoings	\$2,330.01	
	Loss	\$2,330.01	
Surry Hills Practicas	Total takings	\$3,177.35	
	Total outgoings	\$1,837.50	
	Profit	\$1,339.85	
BANK ACCOUNT	Current Balance as at 07 Feb 2014	\$11,067.97	
	Current Balance as at 07 Feb 2015	\$11,070.07	

Synergy Report - Outdoor Milonga Summer (2014-2015)

(Jean Weiner read the following report by Pavel Wagner who sent his apologies):

The event's purpose is to provide an interactive way of enjoying the outdoor scenery, Sydney's weather, exercise, having some impromptu fun, and listening to exotic and cultural music.

But also what is more important is to bring new People into the tango community!

After the mutual agreement of all Synergy committee members, Synergy Outdoor Milonga in Darling Harbour was established. Following actions took place:

- Negotiation with SHFA - Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority
- Anastasia Keros contributed a lot and helped with the negotiations

- As a result we found out that the best way to run an outdoor milonga in Darling Harbour was by applying for a Busking Permit.
- Paul Wagner has applied and signed for the permit and is the responsible delegate of the Group. He has to be present when the group is busking.
- Synergy committee members and Nick Young did a great research to find a suitable portable amplifier for the event.
- Crismen Tache helped with negotiating an offer with DJ CITY store and got a quote for the RM102 LD Systems Roadman 102 Portable PA Speaker with a 10% discount.
- Julian Wright payed \$1338.10 for the PA and Protective Cover from Synergy bank account.
- The first milonga in Darling Harbour took place on the 26th of October.
- Regular DJ - Paul Wagner was nominated as he has to be present at the event at all times as a responsible delegate.
- Frida Kotlyar and Jean Weiner helped with Synergy poster and flyers
- Michael, Karan and Kate helped with the set-up and the newsletter

Total Expenses:

- Busking Permit (valid for one year) \$20
- Portable PA and Protective Cover \$1338.10

Donations received at the milonga:

26.10.2014	\$111
09.11.2014	\$91,75
23.11.2014	\$80
14.12.2014	\$90
28.12.2014	\$120
25.01.2015	\$95
22.02.2015	\$125
Total	\$712,75

BASH Report: (Crismen Tache)

Post BASH 2014, Crismen talked to Paul McGlew about the good and bad things about BASH 2014. Discussed were the things that were successful and to perhaps be continued, and the things that were not so successful and could be considered as not necessary .

Crismen admitted that it was a steep learning curve for him as project Co-ordinator but the committee pulled off the event with seamless effort.

There was positive feedback given via a blog which was set up to gauge the response to the event.

BASH 2014 made a small profit of \$468.30.

Reports Accepted :

Accepted: Crismen Tache Seconded: Julian Wright

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

Jean Weiner nominated Karan Rowe for the position of Returning Officer. Julian Wright seconded the nomination. Karan Rowe accepted and was appointed the Returning Officer for 2015.

Nominations for positions on the new Tango Synergy Committee were called for. Submitted was a printed list of all nominees, nominators, seconders 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.

Nominations were tabled as follows:

Position of President:

I, Frida Kotlyar, hereby nominate Jean Weiner for position of President of the Tango Synergy committee for 2015-16.

I, Karan Rowe, hereby second the nomination of Jean Weiner for position of President of the Tango Synergy committee for 2015-16.

I, Jean Weiner, hereby accept the nomination for position of President of the Tango Synergy committee for 2015-16.

Position of Vice-President:

I, Karan Rowe, hereby nominate Crismen Tache for the position of Vice-President of Tango Synergy committee for 2015-2016

I, Julian Wright, hereby second the nomination of Crismen Tache for the position of Vice-President of Tango Synergy committee for 2015-2016

I, Crismen Tache, hereby accept the nomination for the position of Vice-President of the Tango Synergy committee for 2015-2016

Position of Secretary:

I, Jean Weiner, hereby nominate Karan Rowe for the position of Secretary of Tango Synergy committee for 2015-2016

I, Frida Kotlyar, hereby second the nomination of Karan Rowe for the position of Secretary of Tango Synergy committee for 2015-2016

I, Karan Rowe, hereby accept the nomination for the position of Secretary of Tango Synergy committee for 2015-2016

Position of Treasurer:

I, Frida Kotlyar, hereby nominate Julian Wright for the position of Treasurer of Tango Synergy committee for 2015-2016

I, Jean Weiner, hereby second the nomination of Julian Wright for the position of Treasurer of Tango Synergy committee for 2015-2016

I, Julian Wright, hereby accept the nomination for the position of Treasurer of Tango Synergy committee for 2015-2016

Ordinary Member: 1

I, Karan Rowe, hereby nominate Alex Nodelman for the position of Ordinary Member of the Tango Synergy committee for 2015-2016

I, Frida Kotlyar, hereby second the nomination of Alex Nodelman for the position of Ordinary member of the Tango Synergy committee 2015-2016

I, Alex Nodelman, hereby accept the nomination of Ordinary Member of Tango Synergy committee 2015-2016

Ordinary Member: 2

I, Karan Rowe, hereby nominate Anna Griffiths for the position of Ordinary Member of the Tango Synergy committee for 2015-2016

I, Jean Weiner, hereby second the nomination of Anna Griffiths for the position of Ordinary member of the Tango Synergy committee 2015-2016

I, Anna Griffiths, hereby accept the nomination of Ordinary Member of Tango Synergy committee 2015-2016

It was noted that there was a third Ordinary Member position that had not been nominated for. It was possible to declare it a casual vacancy to be filled in due course. However Mona Low offered to fill the vacancy.

Crismen Tache nominated Mona Low as an Ordinary Member of Tango Synergy for 2015-2016

Alex Nodelman seconded the nomination.

Mona accepted the position of Ordinary Member of the Tango Synergy Committee 2015-2016

All Nominations were accepted and the new committee for 2015-2016 was formed.

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 Frida, Michael and Kate for all the effort they have put in over the past year as part of the Synergy committee and wished them all the best in their future activities.

OTHER BUSINESS:

BASH

Natalia commented that even though the profit for BASH was less than other years, in her opinion the extended dance hours format worked.

As Tango Synergy ran the event in 2014, the Tango Club of Canberra will be running the event in 2015.

Tango Synergy Milonga Wednesday Bar Cleveland

TS Milongas at Bar Cleveland, Redfern, have been running successfully throughout 2014. They have proved popular among local and visiting interstate or overseas dancers. Some Sydney teachers also often attend.

There are some issues that need to be attended to, the main one being the danceability of the floor.

Alex suggested that the Library in Surry Hills should be looked at as a possible alternative to Bar Cleveland. He stressed that the poor floor was a deterrent to many people. Selin also agreed that the condition of the floor was a deterrent.

Crismen will follow up with the new management to see if there is anything that can be done about the floor.

Karan suggested stripping and repolishing it. Alex commented that it would be very expensive. It was suggested that TS could contribute to costs.

It was noted that the floor would still have to be very well maintained, especially after a refurbishment, if it were to go ahead.

Practica:

The bi-weekly practicas at the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre have been running successfully during 2014/15.

Numbers continue to grow and the Practica format proves popular with Sydney dancers.

Jean commented that the Practica format was working and should be continued.

Outdoor Milonga:

See Outdoor Milonga Report by Pavel Wagner

The first Summer Series Outdoor Milonga at Darling Harbour was held in late October 2014. Pavel Wagner approached the committee with the idea to promote tango to the wider community while supporting teachers via flyers at the event. Numbers have grown and it is proving very successful in achieving the goals set. The committee thanks Pavel for his great idea and for following it through and organising the event every second Sunday and also for providing the music for the dancers to enjoy.

It was decided to continue the event until the end of March or early April.

It was suggested that a second Buskers Licence should be applied for so as to free up Pavel if the need arises.

DJ'S

Frida has been DJ co-ordinator for 2014 and the committee thank her for her work during the year. Frida is retiring from the committee and so a new DJ co-ordinator will be chosen.

See Frida's DJ Report for 2014/2015 It was noted by those present that more DJs are needed and there should be an effort to encourage DJs to come on board.

Julian suggested that new DJs should be encouraged by giving them the opportunity on Wednesday night to play the first half of the night under supervision as was practised in previous years.

Jean commented on the need for a communal music library for Synergy DJs.

Crismen suggested a mixing of styles of music and more alternative music.

Alex commented that the majority of dancers want traditional style.

Facebook and Social Media:

The TS weebly-based website <www.tangosynergy.com> needs to be reviewed. The 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. David Wong commented that he has done an evaluation of the website and that there should be some discussion about the purpose of the website and what it should include.

Mona Low has volunteered, as a new Ordinary Member of the TS Committee, to review the webpage and make recommendations on how to provide a better, easier site that is a true and up to date reflection of what Tango Synergy is all about.

Tango Synergy's Facebook presence is increasing, with up-coming and past events being constantly added, along with photos and blogs – thanks to Frida's diligent work. It has been a very useful tool in advertising up-coming events and keeping people informed of what Synergy is doing on a regular basis.

Mona offered to manage Facebook and Social Media.

BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE

Frida mentioned that John Lowey from Gold Coast was booked to DJ at Bar Cleveland on 1st April .

Canyengue workshop with Nelson. Dates and price to be confirmed with Nelson.

Alex suggested that Synergy should encourage more people to play canyengue music at our milongas to give people the chance to dance canyengue.

Jean Weiner declared the AGM closed at 8.22pm

AGM 2016: date yet to be set, but towards end of February or early March 2016.