

Tasmanian Area Connectors Report for 2024 and early 2025

Dance Circles in Hobart

We have 2 dance circles in Hobart now, with Nicola Amina continuing her monthly weekday evening offering in South Hobart, and Sangita and Chando co-leading a monthly Saturday afternoon meeting in Lenah Valley. Both circles are enjoyed by regular and dedicated participants, but lately only 4 or 6 people are attending the meetings.

Dances were also offered at a 70th birthday party, and formed part of Equinox and Solstice gatherings - we danced outdoors in Angela's lovely garden and at Skylark's wonderful space next to the sea. Chando offered a Dance at a Yoga and Meditation weekend.



These photos are of the Spring Equinox Celebration Oct 2024 at Angela's.
From centre in orange: Skylark, Jayashree, Angela

Hobart also has regular Full Moon Sings with Kirtan and chanting, and Chando and Sangita are part of the organising group. The Full Moon Sings usually attract about 20 people, and we have started introducing one or two Dances of Universal Peace songs with movements during the evening, as a gathering at the beginning, or later on.

This year some of the Saturday afternoon Dances meetings coincided with the full moon, so that a programme was offered starting in the early afternoon with Dances of Universal Peace, followed by tea and a break, then a pot luck supper followed by Full Moon Sing.

Sangita runs a choir called The Om Choir weekly during school term times. She is offering one or two Dances during these evenings.

Retreats

There was no Tasmanian retreat this year.

Sangita went to the National retreat in April 2024 in Corindi Beach.

Chando attended the Spring Renewal retreat in Burril Lake with Uncle Noel & Trish Butler in October 2024.

Nicola went to New Zealand to the retreat in Mana with Allaudin in January 2024, and again in 2025 to dance with Abraham and Hallima.

Dance Leader in Training

We have a new Dance Leader in Training - Jayashree Lesley Bonnefin from Stanley in Northern Tasmania. She is making the 6 hour trip down to Hobart for Dance meetings whenever she can. What dedication! Chando and Sangita will be her Mentors-in-Training under Anahata's mentorship.



This photo taken at Angela's Autumn Equinox March 2025:
from left: Jayashree, Sangita, Chando

Ideas to improve attendance at meetings

Despite the fact that more people are being exposed to the Dances - at the Full Moon Sings, at The Om Choir, this has not led to increases in attendance at the regular Dances of Universal Peace circles; in fact attendance appears to be dwindling slightly. This makes it difficult to cover the cost of the halls, and is a bit dispiriting for the leaders after the dedication they have shown to prepare for the meetings.

We are considering what can be done to attract more people, and discussing options, whether to consolidate the two circles into one, or other ideas.

Ideas under discussion include:

- advertising in more varied ways - flyers, Facebook, Hobart events paper & online
- being part of other festivals and events
- creating new types of meeting which include Dances but do not adhere wholly to the traditional meeting style.
- changing to cheaper venues

We have recently put a considerable amount of effort (& money) into learning about bulk email technology, as both Full Moon Sing and Dances of Universal Peace have quite extensive lists of email addresses of people who have shown interest over the years. We email out to over 300 people but still only a few turn up, so this is not the whole answer.



This photo taken at Skylark's winter solstice celebration June 2024



This photo taken at Skylark's summer solstice celebration December 2024
Nicola with drum, Sangita with guitar

With Love
Chando

Area Connector Tasmania

April 2025