

ibelongto...



## In the swing of things

Scott Cupit is out to prove that swing dancing is anything but old-fashioned.

**Q: I belong to:**

**A:** A great community of swing dancers. We operate under the name Swing Patrol, and we have weekly classes in Paddington and Newtown. We love anything and everything that swings.

**Q: What do you love most about it?**

**A:** The fantastic community that exists. The people are more important than the dance and we make lifetime friendships. The collective passion to share the dance we love means the scene just keeps growing. After almost eight years as one of the directors of Swing Patrol, I still love teaching and I love each dance as if it's my first lesson.

**Q: What do people say when they hear you are a swing dancer?**

**A:** I travelled around Europe last year and when people asked what I did I said, "I am a professional swing dancer". No one believed me and they thought it was just a line. So then I would have to grab them flip them over my head, twirl them and safely put them down.

**Q: What would you say to someone who is interested in swing dancing?**

**A:** I'd guarantee that they'd have a great class by offering their money back if they don't. It is great music, a great vibe and the dance itself has this great raw energy

where the inspiration is drawn from the Savoy Ballroom dancers in New York back in the 30s.

**Q: It's cool to belong because:**

**A:** It's full of young funky people. While we have some very funky mature dancers involved, the main age group is about 22-35 and the dancers are a very cool group. Nothing is greater than swinging out in front of a big fat swinging big band.

**Q: What sort of community is it?**

**A:** The swing dancing community is just a snap shot of society with every type of person involved. One trait, however, is that it is full of people that enjoy the company of others and don't stay home and watch TV. They want to get out, have fun, learn something and be part of what we think is something quite special. We have over 700 students every week – it's contagious.

**Q: When I am old and grey I hope to belong to...**

**A:** One of the greatest swing dancing cities in the world. There is a great respect for the dancers from "the day", so when I am really old I hope the new kids will wheel me out and ask me what it was like when Sydney started to really swing.

*Scott Cupit spoke to Denee Savoia*