

The Toowoomba International Multicultural Society Inc.

Annual Report 2010

Dear *Members,*

Welcome to the 2010 Annual General Meeting!

2010 has been a very busy, exciting and successful year for TIMS. At the 2008 AGM the Society had planned two fund raising events for Feb and May 2010, a mid-year review of our financial status and future goals and TIMS had submitted an application for the Multicultural Affairs Queensland Grant for the Toowoomba Language and Cultures festival. The TIMS committee has worked very hard to bring all these projects to fruition.

Highlights 2010: The major accomplishments for this year are:

- Chinese New Year
- Multicultural Affairs Queensland (MAQ) Grant Application and Toowoomba Language and Cultures (TLC) Festival
- Diwali Concert
- Bollywood Dance Classes
- High School Language Scholarships
- Donations
- Representations at Other Functions

2011 Events:

- Chinese New Year celebrations
- Toowoomba Language and Cultures Festival 2011
- Diwali Concert 2011
- Multicultural Affairs Queensland (MAQ) Grant Application 2011

Special Acknowledgements:

- TRC, Multicultural Office
- TIMS Committee

2010 Events Highlights:

Chinese New Year Celebrations – 21 Feb 2010:

Red Dragon Lion Dancers from Brisbane heralded in the Chinese New Year at the *Pandan Restaurant* who gave a special deal for the night. The evening was attended by 200 guests and was a great success. Gifts were sponsored by the *Pureland Buddhist Learning Centre* and many local businesses including *Ms Wendy*



Orth Feng Shui, iHerbal by Ms Alison Mullholland, Shrees Spices, Gary Vaughan's Organic Teas/Coffee.

the general feedback for very encouraging. Our special appreciation to *Ms Daphne Fung, Mr Darren Lawson, Ms Catherine Rathbourne, Ms Nancy Fung* for their help in organising the event. Our gratitude also to *Ms Elizabeth Jones* and the Toowoomba Regional Council Multicultural Office for their assistance with administrative support. (For more photographs and media coverage see tims.org.au & follow the links on the left hand bar to the [Photo Gallery- Chinese Lion Dance.](#))

MAQ Grant Application and Toowoomba Languages and Cultures (TLC) Festival 2010:



TIMS was again successful in its application for \$11,000 grant from Multicultural Affairs Queensland (MAQ). TIMS and the Festival Committee were honoured to play host to *Their Excellencies The Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce and Mr Michael Bryce* when they accepted our invitation to open the festival. The Governor-General also said that she appreciated and admired the work being done by the Toowoomba Regional Council, TIMS and the all the organisations that worked together to organise the Festival to make Toowoomba a more inclusive and cohesive community.

The grant enabled us to partner with the Toowoomba Regional Council through their Multicultural Officer Elizabeth Jones, Modern Languages Teachers Association of Qld, Lifeline, Mercy Family Services, University of Southern Queensland, Refugee and Migrant Support Services Interchange, Cultural Diversity Network, and many cultural groups in the region to organise the Fifth Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival on 8 August. The event was the biggest and best ever with many groups participating for the first time. TIMS submitted the acquittal report to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs Qld on 30 Aug 2010. (Photographs of the event can be viewed at the TIMS website: <http://tims.org.au>)

This year TIMS held a drink stall in partnership with the Modern Languages and Teacher's Association. Many thanks to members *Mr Louis Geist* for managing the drink stall and members *Ms Trudy Moses, Ms Helen Strange, Mrs Preeti Parikh,* young *Shalin Parikh* and *Druv Chaudhary.* and *Mr Ron Newbury* for their help with the drinks stands.

Diwali Concert:



The Indian Festival of Lights (Diwali) was celebrated for the first time in Toowoomba. This event was organised in conjunction with the **Toowoomba Bollywood Belles** who also provided the main entertainment with a dance concert by The Toowoomba Bollywood Belles, and Indian supper and film on 23 Oct. Over a 100 people attended the function and a fantastic time was had by all. The function raised \$500 which was donated to the Toowoomba West Special School and the Toowoomba Refugee and Migrant Services.

We are very grateful for the support and sponsorship of our TIMS Members *Ms Aparna Arcot and Mr Srinivas Pushpa of Shree Spices* who donated three lucky door prizes for the event. Special thanks too to TIMS members *Mr Peter and Mrs Bev West* of for organising the sound.

We would also like to acknowledge the kind and generous contributions made by the general community specially *Mr Bill Rutkin of Ali Baba's Bazaar* on North St for lending us their Ganesh statue for our display; *Ms Lynne Craswell* for giving us the use of her Ganesh statue. We would also like to acknowledge *Ms Frances Holmes* and the *Humeridge Church* of Christ for lending us battery candles for display for the night.

We are also very grateful to all the members of the *Toowoomba Bollywood Belles* who helped us host and organise the function. Special thanks to TIMS members *Ms Daphne Fung, Ms Trudy Moses, Ms Jenny Ryan, Mrs Preeti Parikh, Mr Ron House, Mr Louis Geist and Mr Darren Lawson and Shalin Parikh* for their help with the organisation.

High School Language Awards

TIMS has continued to sponsor the Language Awards in the Toowoomba State High School, Centenary Heights State School and Harristown State High School.

Liem Nguyen-Winner of the English as a Second Language Award, Harristown SHS 2010 pictured right after receiving his award sent us this letter:

"I'm from Vietnam. I came to Australia alone 2 years ago as an international student. I started speaking English since I came here. I go to Harristown State High School. I have enjoyed studying in grade 11 and 12 at Harristown. This year, I have won subject prizes for Maths B, Maths C and the English as a second language prize donated by the Toowoomba International and Multicultural Society. I love Australia, the country and people. I am looking forward to going to USQ next year to study Mechanical Engineering. "



(LtoR: Raul Madden, Christia Rodriguez, **Liem Nguyen** and Nathanne Pamogas)

Winners from Centenary Heights are: *Lareina Rettke* for Mandarin and *Keira Gao Yi* for English.

Bollywood Dance Classes:



The Toowoomba Bollywood Belles dance classes (auspiced by the society) have continued and the Toowoomba Bollywood Belles have become a popular act performing at the Toowoomba Languages and Cultures festival and many other occasions (e.g. *Australia Day, Harmony Day Function by Carer's Qld, USQ Harmony Day, Seasons Conference at Humeridge Church, St Thomas More's Anniversary Celebration, St Xavier's Fundraiser at the Callaghan Centre, Dalby Delicious and Delightful festival, Applebomb Charity Function,*

Esk Multicultural Festival, the Potter's Gallery Exhibition and more.) Many thanks to the group's Dance Director *Mrs Preeti Parikh* for her delightful choreography and training.

Donations:

TIMS made the following donations in 2010:

- Itarsi Friend's School : \$2500 (includes fund raising from 2009 and other organisations' donations)
- Singing Kites School - Cambodia: \$500
- Spinal Injuries Qld: \$100
- Pureland Learning Centre: \$100
- Wildlife Endangered Species Rescue – Bats Qld: \$200
- High School Language Awards: \$300
- TRAMS: \$250
- Toowoomba West Special School: \$250
- **Total : \$4,200**

Representation At Other Functions:

- Cobb & Co – Multicultural Festival Kit Launch
- Presentation to Parole Office (invited by District Manager *Ms Eloise Manita*)
- MAQ Policy Review meeting
- TRC Strategic Planning Focus Group
- Sudanese 'Walking To Freedom' Launch
- Taoist Tai Chi Centre Launch (as Guest Speaker)
- East Creek Neighbourhood Planning Day (represented by *Ms Helen Strange*)
- Phillipine Family Fun Karaoke Day (invited by member Emma Richardson)
- Papua New Guinea Independence Day Celebration
- TRC Access Advisory Sub-Committee
- Toowoomba State High School Awards Ceremony (by *Ms Strange*)
- Centenary Heights High School (represented by *Ms Helen Strange*)

Events for 2011:

Chinese New Year – 13 Feb 2011: Lion Dancers (from Brisbane) and Banquet Dinner is being organised at Pandan restaurant. Tickets have to be pre-purchased and will be available from Daphne (4635-9669).

TLC Festival 2011 and MAQ Grant: The next Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival will be held on Sunday 14 August, subject to the availability of funds and resources from MAQ and TRC. The MAQ Grant Application is being submitted by the due date of 15 November.

Diwali 2011 – depending on time and resources – we may again host this function in October 2011.

Other Ideas: What would the members like? We welcome suggestions along with active participation by the members.

Special Acknowledgments:

TRC Multicultural Office:

A special thank you to, at the *Toowoomba Regional Council Multicultural Officer Ms Elizabeth Jones* and her team for all their administrative help and assistance throughout the year, without which we not have been able to accomplish so much.

TIMS Committee:

I would like to thank all the committee members especially our event coordinator *Ms Daphne Fung* for her exceptional efforts in all our fund raising activities and also for assistance as minutes secretary and *Mr Ron Newbury* our treasurer.

Challenges:

TIMS has achieved some big projects for a small society and this is due to the enthusiasm and hard work of its committee. We appreciate the confidence and support of our general membership, our biggest challenge still is to encourage more active participation from them in the form of assistance in planning, organising, promoting and attending events.

Opportunities:

TIMS has build some great partnerships in the community and gained a solid reputation for creating inclusive events that gives the wider community the opportunity to get together to celebrate and learn about different cultural interests. The Society is now well placed to strengthen these ties, reach out to more groups and continue to contribute towards creating a more cohesive and harmonious community.

Members Participation:

This is your Society, its success and survival depends on you. I would like to invite and encourage you to take this opportunity to make 2010 the most participative and successful year and so give it a renewed momentum to survive many more years. Active teamwork is essential to keep up the society's work and continue to build on our strengths

Thank you

Gitie House
President