



The Toowoomba International Multicultural Society Inc.

Annual Report 2011

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Dear **Members,**

Welcome to the 2011 Annual General Meeting!

2011 has been a very busy, exciting and successful year for TIMS. Our major events and achievements are summarised below:

Highlights 2011: The major accomplishments for this year are:

- Chinese New Year
- Cobb & Co - Queensland Museum- Chinese Exhibition
- TRC Access Audit – Crows Nest
- International Gourmet Cooking Classes
- MAQ Grant Application and TLC Festival 2011
- Health & Wellness Expo at the TLC Festival 2011
- Diwali Celebration
- Bollywood Dance Classes
- High School Language Scholarships
- Donations
- Representations at Other Functions/Programmes
- Donations

Special Acknowledgements:

- TRC, Multicultural Office
- TIMS Committee

2012 Horizon:

- Chinese New Year celebrations
- Toowoomba Language and Cultures Festival 2012
- Diwali Celebrations 2012
- Multicultural Affairs Queensland (MAQ) Grant Application 2012

2011 Events Highlights:

Chinese New Year Celebrations – 13 Feb 2011:



The Year of the Rabbit Celebrations this year was in aid of the Grantham Flood Appeal and raised \$4000 for the cause. 200 guests enjoyed the traditional Lion Dance performed by the Red Dragon Martial Artists from Brisbane at the *Pandan Restaurant*. The generous raffle prize for a weekend at the Bunya Mountains donated by *Ms Sue Unwin, Manager of the Bunya Mountains Accommodation Centre*. All Guests received a gift package from the *Pureland Buddhist*

Learning Centre and the *Bunya Mountains Accommodation Centre*. 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: [Chinese New Year 2011.](#))

Cobb & Co – Queensland Museum – Chinese Exhibition:

Cobb & Co Museum partnered with TIMS to create an exhibition on the contribution made by the Chinese Community to Toowoomba. Many of their exhibits were contributed by TIMS members *Ms Daphne Fung, Ms Helen Strange* and *Prof Yan Li & Dr Paul Wen*. The exhibition was opened on 20 March by TIMS President *Ms Gitie House* and ran till 19 August. Cobb & Co are keen to continue their partnership with TIMS to create exhibits each year to promote other cultures and their contributions to the Toowoomba Region. (Photo above: *Traditional Chinese Medicine display*)



Toowoomba Regional Council Crows Nest Access Audit:

TIMS members *Ms Trudy Moses* and *Ms Gitie House* helped the TRC Access Subcommittee with their audit of the Council owned facilities in the Crows Nest Area.

International Gourmet Cooking Classes:



In partnership with the *PCYC (Mr Gavin Pike)*, *Toowoomba Japanese Group (Mr Jeff Brady)*, the *Pureland Learning Centre (Mr Haniff Abdul-Razak)* and the TRC (*Ms Elizabeth Jones*), TIMS (*Gitie House*) organised a series of International Cooking Classes to help raised \$651 for the Japanese Tsunami Relief. Many thanks to the instructors, *Ms Taisoo Kim Watson* (Korean), *Ms Preeti Parikh* (Indian), *Mr Richard Thum* (Vegetarian) and *Ms Ann Dashwood* (Greek) who not only volunteered their time and expertise on the evening but also prepared a magnificent meal for all the participants in their classes. The classes were very successful. PCYC with Mr Jeff Brady's help are starting regular cooking classes in response the feedback. (Photo above: *Taisoo Kim Watson giving a Korean cooking demonstration*)

MAQ Grant - TLC Festival 2011:

TIMS was again successful in its application for \$11,000 grant from Multicultural Affairs Queensland (MAQ) for the sixth Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival on 14 August. This year's festival was the biggest so far with over 60 displays, 3 stages with 55 performances, 25 food stalls. Over 12,000 people attended the event. (See tims.org.au for the photographs). TIMS is one of the major sponsors of the event. This year we donated \$16,000 to the event. TIMS members also played a major role in helping the TLC Festival Committee. *Ms Trudy Moses* was the volunteer coordinator, *Ms Daphne Fung* coordinated the Health Expo (see below) while *Ms Taisoo Kim Watson* and *Ms Gitie House* coordinated the performances and were emcees on the main stage. Gitie is also the Chair of the TLC Festival committee and to *Mr Louis Geist* for helping at the TLC Volunteers Stand.

Health & Wellness Expo at the TLC Festival:

The Third TIMS Health & Wellness Expo was held in conjunction and as a part of the TLC Festival this year. The event attracted over 25 health stalls. Stallholders sent unsolicited praises to *Ms Daphne Fung* who coordinated the expo expressing their desire to return, bring their colleagues and expand their displays in 2012.



(More Photos: [Health and Wellness Expo at tims.org.au](http://tims.org.au))

Diwali Celebration:



The Indian Festival of Lights (Diwali) was celebrated for the second time in Toowoomba. 50 guests packed the *Curry & Spice Restaurant* for an absolutely magnificent banquet dinner. Guys and Gals participated in the Indian fashion show. Members *Ms Preeti Parikh* & *Ms Asha Venugopalan* who are also members of the *Toowoomba Bhajan Group* led the singing of traditional hymn and were joined by *Dr Rani Krishnappa*, *Ms Gitie House*, owners & staff of the restaurant. Sisters *Phoebe & Amy LeBroc* of the

Toowoomba Bollywood Belles performed a semi-classical dance to the Oscar winning song *Jai Ho* from *Slumdog Millionaire*, choreographed & trained by dance director *Ms Preeti Parikh*.

High School Language Awards

TIMS has continued to sponsor the Language Awards in the participating schools.

Recipients for Centenary Heights State School are: **Mandarin - Daniel Sorenson, English - Amy Lee** (see pic right)

Recipient from Toowoomba State High School is **Trinh Nguyen**.

Recipients for Harristown State High School are: **Indonesian -Nora Abdalla, German -Abigail Eberhard** (in-lieu of no students qualifying for the English Award this year).



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 including *USQ Harmony Day Function, Warwick Peace Festival, Crows Nest Day*. Many thanks to the group's Dance Director *Mrs Preeti Parikh* for her delightful choreography and patient training.

Representation At Other Functions/Programmes:



Daphne Fung, Annastacia Palaszczuk, MP Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs, Gitie House at the Premier's function to thank Not-for-profit organisations

- MDA – Multiculturalism in Australia (*Ms Lea Rapoport, Ms Gitie House*)
- Cobb & Co – Queensland Museum – Chinese Exhibition Launch - Guest Speaker (*Ms Gitie House*)
- Premier's Function Honouring Not For Profit Organisations (*Ms Daphne Fung, Ms Gitie House*)
- Qld Premier's Roving Cabinet – meeting at Cobb & Co (*Ms Lea Rapoport, Ms Gitie House*)
- Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce – Small Business Assistance Programs (*Ms Gitie House*)
- Griffith University – Director of Multi-Faith Centre – meeting at Pureland Centre (*Ms Gitie House*)

- TRC Access Advisory Sub-Committee and Crows Nest Access Audit (*Ms Trudy Moses, Ms Gitie House*)
- **Community Connect** - Edition 17 (Oct-NOv 11)- Qld Govt -Dept of Communities Magazine – article on volunteer (*Ms Gitie House & TIMS*)

Donations:

TIMS made the following donations in 2011:

- Grantham Flood Relief \$4000
- Pureland Learning Centre: \$100
- State Emergency Services: \$200
- Toowoomba’s Sunflower Tribute: \$500
- High School Language Awards: \$300
- Japanese Tsunami Relief: \$650.42

Total donations: \$5,750.42

Special Acknowledgements:

TRC Multicultural Office:



A special thank you to, the *Toowoomba Regional Council Multicultural Officers Ms Elizabeth Jones (pic left), Mr Roberto Garcia* and their team for all their administrative help and assistance throughout the year, without which we not have been able to accomplish so much.

TMS owes a special debt of gratitude to former TRC Multicultural Officer *Ms Elizabeth Jones*. Elizabeth’s counsel, support and assistance has been vital in TIMS growth as a leading community group in the region. We wish her the very best in her new and very important role of Flood Recovery Officer for the Toowoomba region as she guides the rebuilding of the region.

We welcome *Mr Roberto Garcia* who has taken on the post of the TRC LAMP Officer and consultant to TIMS. Roberto brings a wealth of experience from his former role as Lifeline’s multicultural programme coordinator.

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, our secretary *Ms Preeti Parikh*, treasurer *Ms Trudy Moses* and all the committee members for their efforts and assistance. Special thanks to member *Mr Darren Lawson* for helping us organise and set up at all our events.

2012 Horizon:

Group Memberships: TIMS is actively pursuing partnerships with other cultural groups who would like to have a group membership of TIMS and form collaborative relationships to promote cultural programmes.

Cobb & Co Museum – Harmony Day: to create exhibits on different cultures and their contribution to Toowoomba

Chinese New Year – 4 Feb 2012: New venue & new menu - Lion Dancers & Banquet Dinner is being organised at the Coffee House. Tickets have to be pre-purchased and will be available from Daphne (4635-9669).

TLC Festival 2012 and MAQ Grant: The next Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival will be held on Sunday 12 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 14 November.

Diwali 2012 – depending on time and resources – we may again host this function in October 2012.

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

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.

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.

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 2011 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