



Annual Report 2012



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Dear **Members,**

Welcome to the 2012 Annual General Meeting!

2012 has been a very busy, exciting and successful year for TIMS. Our major events and achievements are summarised below:

Highlights 2012:

The major accomplishments for this year are:

- Group Memberships
- Chinese New Year
- Multi-faith Forum & Peace Initiatives – Talks
- Refugee Day Walk
- MAQ Grant Application and Iconic TLC Festival 2012
- Health & Wellness Expo at the TLC Festival 2012
- Meeting with The Honorary Indian Consul
- Bollywood Dance Classes
- High School Language Scholarships
- Representations at Other Functions/Programmes
- Sponsorships and Donations

Special Acknowledgements:

- Honorary Lifetime Membership Award
- TRC, Multicultural Office
- TIMS Committee

2013 Horizon:

- Chinese New Year celebrations
- Toowoomba Language and Cultures Festival 2013
- Diwali Celebrations 2013

2012 Highlights:

Group Memberships:



The year commenced with TIMS adding Group memberships to its constitution. *The Cultural Diversity Network* (pic above) and the *Toowoomba Bollywood Belles* (pic right) formally joined the Society as group members. Several ethnic groups are considering TIMS membership for 2013.



Chinese New Year Celebrations – on Win TV:



WinTV featured our *Chinese New Year, Year of the Dragon Celebrations* at the Coffee House with a 5 minutes coverage showing the lion dance and an interview with *Vice-President Ms Daphne Fung*. This was also the first year that we advertised the event on television. Over 160 guests packed the Coffee House to see the lion dance, martial arts demos by International and National

Champions the *Red Dragon School of Martial Arts* and enjoy the traditional

banquet dinner. The event helped raise \$1000 for the *Toowoomba Children's Hospital Appeal*.

The generous raffle prize for a weekend at the Bunya Mountains donated by *Ms Sue Unwin, Manager of the Bunya Mountains Accommodation Centre*. Other prizes included a traditional Chinese tea set donated by Mrs Lea Rapoport and electrical goods donated by friends of the Toowoomba Hospital Fund. 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 and Ms Catherine Rathbourne* (pic above) for their help in organising the event and to *Ms Trudy Moses* (pic left) for managing the raffle ticket sales. Our gratitude also to *Mr Roberto Garcia* and the Toowoomba Regional Council Multicultural Office for their assistance with administrative support. (For more photographs see tims.org.au & follow the links on the left hand bar to: *Chinese New Year 2012*.)

Multi-Faith Forums and Peace Initiatives:



TIMS Multi-faith Coordinator Mr Ron House gave a talk on "The Wisdom of the Masters" at the *International Multi-faith forum* in December 2011 and also at one of the Pure Land friendship dinners. *Mr Ron House* also represented TIMS at the *Pure Land Multi-Faith Prayer* function on Australia Day. (pic left)

The Pure Land Learning College has initiated a number of Multi-Faith workshops and forums with the aim to make Toowoomba a model city of peace and harmony. TIMS has fully supported these programs. Their Saturday night friendship dinners have been attended by many of our

members including *Ms Trudy Moses, Ms Daphne Fung, Mr Darren Lawson, Ms Lea Rapoport, Mr Ron & Mrs Gitie House, Ms Taisoo Kim Watson (also representing the Friends Society) and Mr Roberto Garcia.*



(representing TRC) (pic above).

At the Multi-faith Forum in March 2012 *Mrs Gitie House* gave a talk on "Morality and Virtues – A Cultural Perspective". *Venerable Master Chin Kung* further invited Gitie to give a talk on TIMS' Multicultural Initiatives at their *World Peace Conference* in Bangkok in May.

The World Peace Conference was also attended by members *Ms Taisoo Kim Watson* (representing the Friends Society) and *Mr Roberto Garcia*

Refugee Day Walk:



Members *Ms Titien Van Opdenbosch, Mrs Gita Sharma, Ms Daphne Fung and Mrs Gitie House* joined *Cr Carol Taylor* (pics above) and hundreds of like minded people at the Refugee Day walk organised by *Multicultural Development Australia (MDA)*. MDA is also one of our invaluable supported of the TLC Festival.

MAQ Grant:

The start of the year was very exciting with the State Government announcing the Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival as an iconic event and giving us a three year grant over 2012-2014 of \$45,000. Unfortunately the finding has been terminated in the recent budget cuts costing the festival \$33,000. TIMS and TRC are canvassing other sponsors for the 2013 festival.



Pic above: TLC Festival committee members and volunteers at Queens Park preparing for the big day.

The Seventh Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival:



The seventh Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival was held on 12 August. The event was opened by the *The Mayor Cr Paul Antonio* and *Member for Toowoomba North Mr Trevor Watts, MP*. This year's festival was the biggest so far with over 105 displays, 3 stages with 60 performances, 25 food stalls. Over 15,000 people attended the event.



TIMS is one the major sponsors of the event. This year we donated over \$20,000 to the event. TIMS members also played a major role in helping the TLC Festival Committee. TIMS members put in a lot of hard work and their personal time in supporting the festival. Their in-kind support is estimated at \$52,000.

Ms Daphne Fung coordinated the Health Expo (see below) while *Ms Gitie House* coordinated the performances and was an emcee on the main stage along with *Ms Taisoo Kim Watson*. *Mr Ron House* coordinated the Multi-faith displays. *Gitie* is also the Chair of the TLC Festival committee. *Mr Roberto Garcia (TRC)* is also the TLC Festival coordinator. Special thanks to members *Mr Darren Lawson* (pic left) for planning the layout and helping with the bump-in of marquees and to *Dr Yan Li, Mrs Lea Rapoport & Mrs Trudy Moses* for helping with the dignitaries. (See tims.org.au for the photographs).



Health & Wellness Expo at the TLC Festival:



The Fourth TIMS Health & Wellness Expo was held in conjunction and as a part of the TLC Festival this year. The event attracted 37 health stalls showcasing mainstream and alternative health therapies. Many stall holders offered generous lucky draw prizes for the public. 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 2013. (More pics: Health and Wellness Expo at tims.org.au)

Multi-Faith Displays at the TLC Festival:



Faith Groups have increased their participation at the TLC Festival this year. *TIMS Multi-Faith Coordinator Mr Ron House* is now also the coordinator for the Multi-faith Displays for the Festival. Over 130 invitations were sent to all the faith groups in the Toowoomba Region as part of our on-going efforts to increase understanding between people of all backgrounds to create an inclusive and harmonious community through mutual exchange of information. There are strict rules prohibiting proselytisation at the Festival. The displays and interaction are for information and education only.

Meeting with Honorary Indian Consul:



TIMS members with an Indian background were guests of Mr *Greg Johnson, CEO of the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce (TCC)* at a dinner to welcome the *Honorary Indian Consul for Queensland Mrs Archana Singh (pic above left), Mrs Gitie House welcomed Mrs Singh to Toowoomba along with Mr Ron House, Mrs Preeti Parikh, Dr Vipul Parikh, Mr Ron Sharma, Mrs Gita Sharma, Dr Rani Krishnappa, Mr Venu Venugopalan and Mrs Asha Venugopalan.*

High School Language Awards:

TIMS continues to sponsor the Language Awards in the participating schools.

Recipients for Centenary Heights State School are: **Mandarin - Daniel Verrall, English – Stacey Li Shiwamming.**



Recipients from Toowoomba State High School are **Elli Tonscheck (pic above centre) & Nicloas Condoleon (pic above right) who tied for Japanese.** The award for Excellence in English went to **Francois Coetzee (pic above left).**

Recipients for Harristown State High School are yet to be announced.

Bollywood Dance Classes:

The Toowoomba Bollywood Belles dance classes are now a group member of TIMS. The Toowoomba Bollywood Belles have become a popular act performing at the Toowoomba Languages and Cultures festival and many other occasions including the *Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards*. Many thanks to the group's Dance Director *Mrs Preeti Parikh* for her delightful choreography and patient training.



Representation At Other Functions/Programmes:

- Tour of the Queensland Parliament House (*Mrs Preeti Parikh and family*)
- Talks at Pure Land Friendship Dinner (*Mr Ron House*)
- Australia Day Multi-faith Service at Pure Land College (*Mr Ron House*)
- Sunflower Tribute Sculpture Unveiling (*Mrs Gitie House, Mr Ron House*)
- Filipino Flores De Mayo judging and celebrations (*Ms Daphne Fung, Mr Darren Lawson*)
- Multi-faith weekend workshops (Parts 1 & 2) run by Pure Land College (*Mrs Gitie House, Mr Ron House, Mrs Taisoo Kim Watson, Mr Roberto Garcia*)
- USQ Multicultural Seminar on India as an emerging superpower (*Mrs Gitie House*)
- TESOL Academy Opening (*Mrs Gitie House, Mr Ron House*)
- Talk on TIMS for Toowoomba Tourist Information Centre (*Mrs Gitie House*)
- Sunflower Painting Hanging at USQ (*Mrs Gitie, Mr Ron House*)
- Cultural Diversity Network Meetings (*Mrs Gitie House, Mrs Preeti Parikh*)
- Group Dynamics Handover to new committee (*Mrs Gitie House, Mr Ron House*)

Sponsorships & Donations:

TIMS received \$34,700 in grants and sponsorships towards the Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival.

TIMS made the following donations in 2012:

- Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival: \$36,200 (includes \$16,500 of MAQ Grant); In-kind support: \$52,000
- Toowoomba Hospital Children's Appeal: \$1000
- Pureland Learning Centre: \$100
- State Emergency Services: \$200
- High School Language Awards: \$300
- Animals Australia: \$250
- Wildlife Rescue – Bats Qld: \$250

Total donations: \$38,300 + In-Kind support: \$52,000

Special Acknowledgements:



Honorary Lifetime Membership:

TIMS is proud to announce its first Honorary Life Time Membership to be awarded to Mrs Lea Rapoport for her tireless work for the community and invaluable support for TIMS and our activities. The award will be presented at the AGM on 9 November 2012.

TRC Multicultural Office:

A special thank you to, the *Toowoomba Regional Council Multicultural Officers Mr Roberto Garcia (pic left)* and his 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, our secretary *Ms Trudy Moses*, treasurer *Ms Preeti Parikh* and committee member *Mr Darren Lawson* for their efforts and assistance. Special thanks to members *Mrs Lea Rapoport* and *Dr Gaye Kenny* for their help and support.

2013 Horizon:

Chinese New Year – 10 Feb 2013: New venue & new menu - Lion Dancers & Banquet Dinner is being organised at the Westlake Restaurant. Tickets have to be pre-purchased and will be available from Daphne (4635-9669).

Harmony Day, Holi (Indian Festival of Colours) – will be celebrated with a joint concert of Bollywood Belles and Women In Harmony. Details will be announced early in the new year.

TLC Festival 2013 and Grants: The next Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival will be held on Sunday 11 August, subject to the availability of funds and resources from MAQ and TRC. Grant applications have been submitted to various organisations.

Diwali 2013 – depending on time and resources – we may again host this function in October 2013.

Unscheduled Events: The TIMS Committee considers requests for events as they come up from our Group members, partners and other community organisations.

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 built 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 2012 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