



Annual Report 2013



TIMS Committee Members holding the Multicultural Regional Community Award and the Cultural Diversity Ambassador Award.



Annual Report 2013

Dear **Members,**

Welcome to the 2013 Annual General Meeting!

2013 has been a very busy, exciting and successful year for TIMS. Our major events and achievements are summarised below:

Highlights 2013:

The major accomplishments for this year are:

- Queensland State Multicultural Awards
- New Group Members
- Radio India
- Chinese New Year Celebrations
- International Fashion Show
- Cobb & Co Festivals Display
- Harmony Day Events
- Multi-faith Forum & Peace Initiatives
- Refugee Day Walk
- Government Grants
- Multicultural Film Festival 2013
- Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival
- Health & Wellness Expo at the TLC Festival 2013
- Multi-faith Display at the TLC festival 2013
- Bollywood Dance Classes
- High School Language Scholarships
- Representations at Other Functions/Programmes
- Sponsorships and Donations

Special Acknowledgements:

- TRC, Multicultural Office
- TIMS Committee

2014 Horizon:

- Chinese New Year celebrations
- Harmony Day Events
- Toowoomba Language and Cultures Festival 2014
- Workshops
- Diwali Celebrations 2014

Queensland Multicultural Awards 2013



Minister for Multicultural Affairs the Hon Glen Elmes presenting the Regional Community Organisation Award to TIMS Vice-president Daphne Fung

"The Queensland Multicultural Awards recognise work and volunteering efforts that develop strong culturally diverse communities and promote awareness of the benefits of cultural diversity."

"The Regional community organisation:

This category recognises not-for-profit, large or small community-based organisations that have shown leadership in supporting cultural diversity in regional Queensland."

"Cultural Diversity Ambassador:

This category recognises an individual who has demonstrated an outstanding and sustained commitment to promoting the values of multiculturalism and promoting harmonious community relations. The recipient of this prestigious award will be inaugurated into a Queensland Multicultural Hall of Fame and recognised as a noteworthy champion for cultural diversity in Queensland."

- *Datsima website*



Premier Campbell Newman presenting the Cultural Diversity Ambassador Award to President Gitie House

New Group Members:

TIMS welcomes new Group members the *Nepalese Association of Toowoomba*, the *Filipino Community of Toowoomba* and the *Spiritual Women in Friendship Network (SWIFNet)*.



Pics above:

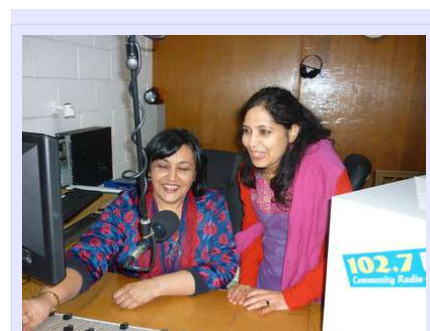
Left: Members of the Nepalese group showcasing their national costumes at the Harmony Day Multicultural fashion show.

Centre: Filipino Community Children in front of their float at the Carnival of Flowers.

Right: SWIFNet - Spiritual Women In Friendship Network – developing harmony through spiritual sharing in friendship.

Radio India

Radio India was launched on 1 July 2013 in partnership with 4DDFB on 102.7FM as part of their ethnic program. The one hour show airs on Monday evenings at 6 pm bringing Indian music and topical interviews to Toowoomba. Hindi is the main language of the show. Each week a 15 minute segment is dedicated to one of the other languages from India and the other nations of the Indian sub-continent. The language segments include Punjabi, Gujarati, Bengali, Tamil, Nepalese, Sinhalese, Urdu and Malayalam. The show has been received well by the Indian community and we hope to continue this new venture in 2014.



Hosts Gitie House and Preeti Parikh at the 4DDFB studios.

Chinese New Year Celebrations

TIMS Chinese New Year Celebrations has become an iconic event of the Toowoomba region.

International and National Champions from the Red Dragon School of Martial Arts enthrall guests at the Westlake Chinese Restaurant. The event helped raise \$2000 for the Toowoomba Children's Hospital Appeal.



Left: Ms Sue Unwin, Manager, Bunya Mountains Accommodation Centre presents the first prize of a weekend at the Bunya Mountains to winner Mrs Vinnie Vernon.



Below: Renowned artist and TIMS member Ms Titien Van Opdenbosch presents her painting to raffle winner Mrs Doris Garcia

Other prizes included 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. The Chronicle generously sponsored our advertising and provided great coverage of the event. Our special appreciation to Ms Daphne Fung and Mr Darren Lawson for their help in organising the event. 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 2013.](#))



International Fashion Show

Celebrating the diverse backgrounds of the people in our region, TIMS members proudly showcased their national costumes. The event was organised by Mercy Family Services in partnership with Grand Central Shopping Centre and TIMS.



Pics above:

Left: Starting the event in traditional Indian style with a classical dance performance is Mrs Preeti Parikh, Dance Director of Bollywood Belles.

Right: The Filipino Community fill the stage with their style and colour

Pics Below:

Left: The Nepalese community showcase a range of their national dresses.

Below: The Korean community in their flowing gowns

Left: The Indian Community in traditional outfits



Cobb & Co Festivals Display

Diwali -Indian Festival of Lights, Chuseok – Korean Rice Festival, Winter Soltice – Finland were the themes of the Queensland Museum’s Threeway Multicultural Festival display developed in partnership with TIMS this year which ran from March - September.



Pics above

Left: Preeti Parikh (India), Laila Nusala (Finland) and Taisoo Kim Watson (Korea) with Janelle Insley (Cobb&Co) put together a magnificent threesome display of International festivals.

Center: Diya and rangoli arrangement at the Diwali altar

Right: Traditional dinner setting in Korea

Special Acitivities days were also held for India, Korea and Finland.

Pics Below:

Left: Indian group with Cr Taylor and Ms Janelle Insley

Centre: Cr Carol Taylor and Cr Geoff McDonald try out Indian outfits

Right: TRC Multicultural Development Officer Mr Roberto Garcia opens the display with Cr Geoff McDonald.



Harmony Day Events

TIMS partnered with TRC and many other service organisations to host a Harmony Day celebration at the Village Green and an evening function at the Empire Theatre.



Harmony Day at the Village Green. Pics above:
Left – Dudu Zulu welcomes the crowds with African Drumming.
Right: Ms Sally Hewes and Ms Trudy Moses enjoying the cultural get together.

Harmony Day Film Evening at the Empire Theatre



Pics above:
Left: The Nepalese musical group entertaining the guests at the Harmony Day Film Evening.
Right: Mrs Preeti Parikh performing an Indian Classical Dance to open the show.

Multi-Faith Forums and Peace Initiatives:

TIMS Multi-faith Coordinator Mr Ron House facilitated a workshop at the Pure Land Multi-faith forum. 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 Tititen Van Opdenbosch, Ms Daphne Fung, Mr Darren Lawson, Ms Lea Rapoport, Mr Ron & Mrs Gitie House, Mrs Preeti Parikh, Ms Taisoo Kim Watson* (also representing the Friends Society), *Rev Dorothy Woodside* (representing the Spiritualist Church) *and Mrs Shantelle Shore* (representing the Jewish Community) *and Mr Roberto Garcia* (representing TRC). Gitie also gave a talk on TIMS at the Friendship Dinner. Gitie and Preeti attended their Friendship lunch. (pics below).



Refugee Day Walk:



Members *Ms Titien Van Opdenbosch, Mrs Gita Sharma, Ms Lea Rapoport, Mr Ron House and Mrs Gitie House* joined *Ms Jennifer Summers (President, Arts Council), Cr Carol Taylor, Cr Bill Cahill and Ms Sally Hewes (Carer's Qld)* (pics above) and hundreds of like minded people at the Refugee Day walk organised by *Multicultural Development Australia (MDA)*. Mayor Cr Paul Anotnio declared Toowoomba a Refugee Friendly Zone.

Government Grants:

TIMS was once again successful in getting the Multicultural Affairs Queensland (MAQ) Cultural Festivals grant of \$11,000 for the Toowoomba Languages and Cultures (TLC) Festival 2013. MAQ recognises the Festival as a signature event and has committed to giving \$12,000 for 2014 and 2015 festivals.



Pic above: TLC Festival management committee members.

TIMS was also successful in receiving the Queensland Gambling Community Benefits Grant for \$28,563.63 to purchase IT and AV equipment to run workshops in partnership with ABC Open and Empire Theatre. Acquisition of equipment is underway and it is envisaged that ABC Open will conduct the workshops from early 2014.

Multicultural Film Festival 2013

Four short documentary films featuring aspects of the Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival were finalists in this year's Multicultural Film Festival organised by Multicultural Development Australia. Three of the films featured TIMS members (*Ms Daphne Fung, Mrs Preeti Parikh* and *Mrs Gitie House*). Two of the films were produced/directed by TIMS members Gitie and Ron House. All the videos were part of the ABC Open project in partnership with Empire Theatre. This is a great achievement for our events and region. The films can be viewed on the ABC Open website: <https://open.abc.net.au/>

The Eighth Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival:

The eighth Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival was held on 11 August. The event was opened by the *The Mayor Cr Paul Antonio* . 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 which is hallmark for a 6 hour event. Tims is one the major sponsors of the event. This year we donated over \$34,123 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 \$76,000. *Ms Daphne Fung* coordinated the Health Expo (see below) while *Ms Gitie House* coordinated the performances. *Ms Taisoo Kim Watson* was an emcee on the main stage. *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* for planning the layout and helping with the bump-in of marquees and to *Ms Trudy Moses, Mrs Preeti Parikh, Mr Shaiel Parikh and Mrs Lea Rapoport* for helping with the VIP reception and welcoming the dignitaries. (See tims.org.au for the photographs).



Pics above (L-R):

- 1: Volunteer Ms Trudy Moses arriving to get the VIP gate ready
2. Filipino Hon Consul for Queensland, Ms Alan Grummitt, Mrs Gitie House, Mayor Paul Antonio, Mrs Preeti Parikh
3. Ms Shantelle Shore performing a classical western song at the opening
4. Bollywood Belles performing later in the day.

Below: Left: Festival Team Coordinators – Mr Roberto Garcia, Ms Daphne Fung, Mr Darren Lawson, Mr Ron House, Mr David Barton, Ms Majella Costello. Centre: MC Ms Taisoo Kim Watson
Right: Filipino Community Dancing Group



Health & Wellness Expo at the TLC Festival:

The Fifth TIMS Health & Wellness Expo was held in conjunction and as a part of the TLC Festival this year. The event attracted over 40 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 2014. (*More pics: [Health and Wellness Expo at tims.org.au](http://tims.org.au)) We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship by the The Commonwelath Carelink and Respite Centre.*



Pics Above:

Left: Coordinator Daphne Fung

Centre and Right – two of the forty stalls showcasing mainstream and alternative health options.

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 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.

High School Language Awards:

TIMS continues to sponsor the Language Awards in the participating schools – *The Toowoomba State High School, Harristown State High School and Centenary Heights State High School*. We are awaiting details of the recipients from the schools.

Bollywood Dance Classes:



TIMS Group members the Toowoomba Bollywood Belles dance group has continued to perform at various functions throughout the region. Many thanks to the group's Dance Director *Mrs Preeti Parikh* for her artistic choreography and patient training.

Representation At Other Functions/Programmes:

- Filipino Floods Fundraiser – December 2012 - (*Pic below: Mr Roberto Garcia, Mayor Paul Antonio, Mrs Lita Hatherley, President Filipino Community of Toowoomba, Mr Ron House, Mrs Tina Bumatay, Secretary Filipino Community*)
- Filipino Flores De Mayo judging and celebrations (*Ms Daphne Fung, Mrs Preeti Parikh, Mr Darren Lawson*)
- USQ Multicultural Forum (*Mrs Gitie House, Mr Ron House*)
- India Day at Cobb&Co Museum (*Gitie House*)
- Drawn To India Art Exhibition – 7 April (*Ms Trudy Moses, Mrs Gitie House, Mrs Preeti Parikh, Dr Vipul Parikh and Shalin Parikh, Mr Ron House, Mrs Asha Venugopalan, Dr Rani Krishnappa, Ms Shanthi Venugopalan*)





- Meeting with MLTAQ Indonesian Spectacular Group at Harristown School – 24 March (*Mr Roberto Garcia, Mrs Gitie House*) (see pic left)
- Cultural Diversity Network Meetings (*Mrs Gitie House, Mrs Preeti Parikh*)
- Meeting with Honorary Indian Consul for Queensland Mrs Archana Singh at USQ – 22 May - (*Mrs Gitie House, Mrs Preeti Parikh, Mr Ron House*)

Sponsorships & Donations:

TIMS received \$23,936 in grants and sponsorships towards the Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival.

TIMS made the following donations in 2013:

- Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival: \$34,123 (includes MAQ Grant & sponsorships); In-kind support: \$76,000
- Toowoomba Hospital Children’s Appeal: \$2000
- Pureland Learning Centre: \$100
- State Emergency Services: \$1000
- High School Language Awards: \$300
- Redcross: \$500
- TRAMS: \$1000
- Wilson’s First Aid: \$500
- Vinnie’s Community Sleepout: \$500
- Phillipines Flood Relief: \$500

Total donations: \$40,523 + In-Kind support: \$76,000

Special Acknowledgements:



TRC Multicultural Office:

A special thank you to, the *Toowoomba Regional Council Multicultural Officers Mr Roberto Garcia (pic left), Ms Kirsten Casey* and his team for all their administrative help and assistance throughout the year, without which we not have been able to accomplish so much. We are also very grateful to Mr Darryl Bates, Cr Geoff McDonald and Mayor Paul Antonio for their support.

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 *Mr Ron House* for their help and support.

2014 Horizon:

Chinese New Year – 2 Feb 2014: New venue & new menu - Lion Dancers and Banquet Dinner is being organised at the Pandan Restaurant Tickets have to be pre-purchased and will be available from Daphne (4635-9669).

Harmony Day, Holi (Indian Festival of Colours) – Preliminary discussions are being held on a number of fronts re organising a celebration event around this festival of harmony.

TLC Festival 2014 and Mentoring workshops: The next Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival will be held on Sunday 10 August. MAQ has given TIMS a two year grant of \$12,000 per year. \$2000 has also been allocated for mentoring workshops. Details will be announced in February 2014.

AV Workshops: Video and photographic Workshops will be organised in partnership with ABC Open and Empire theatre. Details will be announced in early 2014.

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 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 2013 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