



Annual Report 2014



*Celebrating Divali (Indian Festival of Lights) - and TIMS achievements are members:
Front: Estela Estoria, Preeti Parikh, Sally Hewes, Trudy Moses
Back: Ron House, Lita Hatherley, Tina Bumamtay, Gitie House, Darren Lawson, Daphne Fung*



Annual Report 2014

2014 has been a very busy, exciting and successful year for TIMS. Our major events and achievements are summarised below:

Highlights 2014:

- Recognitions and Awards
 - Volunteer Awards
 - Australia Day Awards
- ABC Open Video Workshops
- Stress Management Workshops
- Event Management Mentoring Workshops
- Group Members Activities
 - ACAG
 - CDN
 - Filipino Community of Toowoomba
 - Nepalese Community of Toowoomba
 - Sri Lankan Community of Toowoomba
 - Bollywood Belles
- Radio India
- Chinese New Year Celebrations
- Second International Fashion Show
- Harmony Day Events
- Peace Initiative & Multi-faith Forums
- High School Language Scholarships
- Ninth Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival
- Health & Wellness Expo at the TLC Festival 2014
- Multi-faith Display at the TLC Festival 2014
- Representations at Other Functions/Programmes
- Sponsorships and Donations

Special Acknowledgements

2015 Horizon

Recognitions and Awards 2014

Queensland Volunteer Awards

Congratulations to *TIMS* vice-president *Ms Daphne Fung* who received the *Volunteer Award* from *Hon John McVeigh* and *MP Trevor Watts* (pics below) for her work in organising the Chinese New Year, other cultural activities and the *TIMS* Health Expo.



Australia Day Awards

Congratulations to *Toowoomba Languages & Cultures (TLC) Festival* for the *Australia Day Community Event of the Year – 2014* award from the *Toowoomba Regional Council* and also to *TIMS* president *Mrs Gitie House* for the *Australia Day Cultural Award*.



The TLC Festival C'tee: Front: Sally Hewes, Yira Cortes, Cecily Bisshop, Elizabeth Jones, Gitie House, Taisoo Kim Watson; Back: Wendy Johnson, Ann Dashwood, Kirsten Casey, Darren Lawson, Daphne Fung, David Barton, Maud Bagnall, Roberto Garcia, Ron House.

ABC Open Video Workshops

ABC Open producer Mr Ben Tupas ran the first round of the two day intensive workshops for TIMS in March this year. Participants learned how to use and care for the HD digital SLR equipment along with filming techniques and the use of editing software. Members Ms Estela Estoria, Mr Roberto Garcia, Mrs Preeti Parikh, Mr Ron House and Mrs Gitie House produced ABC TV quality videos on '*Life's Big Questions*' which are now published on the ABC Open website and Vimeo . The equipment is sponsored by the Queensland Government Gambling Community Benefit Fund. Further workshops will be organised for 2015.



Stress Management Workshops

In partnership with the *Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)* TIMS held three workshops in Dalby, Gatton/Lockyer Valley and Toowoomba Outer Districts in March- May this year. Run by holistic health practitioner Ms Daphne Fung the workshops were attended by 100 people with outstanding feedback. Participants wanted more workshops on related topics and repeat workshops so they could send their friends. Further funding has been sought from FRRR to hold these workshops. Many thanks to *Wrays Organic Foods* who sponsored some of the morning tea and also to *Ms Megan Masters* from the *The Chronicle*, *Krazy Kevin* from *Radio 87.6 FM* and *Clifton News Selection* who helped promote the workshops, and to *TRC* who offered their venue for the Toowoomba workshop.



Event Management Mentoring Workshops

Members from 12 community groups (*Nepalese, Japanese, Indonesian, Filipino, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indian, Korean, Malaysian, French, TIMS, TRC and Carers Qld*) attended the first *TIMS Event Management Mentoring Workshop* held in March to learn about business planning, marketing events, avoiding volunteer burnout and creating sustainable events. The workshop is part of the community capacity building program funded by *Cultural Diversity Queensland*. Presenter *Mrs Frances Holmes of FHEM* has over 25 years of event management experience and was part of the first team to run the *Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival*.



Pic: standing: Roberto Garcia, Estela Estoria, Amit Giri, Mithali Khan, Lita Hatherley, Imam Machfudi, Delima Faigl, Tina Bumatay, Sophia Imran, Keita Ishii, JinheeYi, Jeff Brady, Maud Baugnall, Rohan Bajracharya, Tazmarry Khan; Front: Sally Hewes, Gitie House, Frances Holmes, Jessica SyurRin Bhang

A follow-up workshop based on the feedback received from the first workshop was held in October on 'How to Write a Business Plan for Your Event' (pic below). Run by *Ms Denise Quinn*, who has 12 years experience in mentoring all over Australia, and also *Secretary of the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce*. The workshop was attended by members from the *Filipino, Nepalese, Sri Lankan, Iraqi, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh and Solomon Islands communities, MLTAQ and TIMS*. Further workshops will be held in 2015.



Group Members' Activities

TIMS welcomes new Group members the *Sri Lankan Community of Toowoomba* and the *Agencies CALD Action group (ACAG)* of Mercy Community Services.

Agencies CALD Action group (ACAG) of Mercy Community Services

TIMS is delighted to welcome *ACAG, Mercy Community Services (Chair, David Barton)*. ACAG provides early intervention capacity building for migrants and refugees and has 35 agencies.



Above: Minister Glen Elmes and MP Trevor Watts with Mercy Community Services Manager Ms Frances Klaassen and ACAG Chair Mr David Barton at the launch of their program 'Strengthening Communities' – resource for migrants and refugees which can be downloaded from their website.



Above: ACAG Forum on 'Conflict Resolution' on 13 August 2014

Cultural Diversity Network (CDN)

CDN chaired by TRC LAMP Officer Roberto Garcia, celebrated the Indian Festival of Lights in November 2013.



Bollywood Belles performed the traditional Diya (tea candle) dance for the occasion.

Filipino Community of Toowoomba

The Filipino community continued their charitable work by raising \$2245 for typhoon victims in the Philippines and \$2000 for the Toowoomba Hospice at their annual Flores de Mayo celebration.



Nepalese Community of Toowoomba



The Nepalese ladies celebrate Teej (pic above) and family sports day (pic below).



Sri Lankan Community of Toowoomba

TIMS welcomes The Sri Lankan Community as new group members

Performing the Pooja dance at the Sri Lankan New Year Festival - 12th April 2014



Sri Lankan Vesak Festival - 17 May at USQ (above) & Bhakti Geet in June (below)



Bollywood Belles



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 training.

Radio India

Radio India celebrated its first year on 1 July 2014. In partnership with 4DDFB on 102.7FM as part of their ethnic program the one hour show will air on Monday evenings at a new time slot of 9.00 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 venture in 2015. (pic above: Hosts *Preeti Parikh* and *Gitie House* recording at *DDBFM studios*.)



Chinese New Year Celebrations

TIMS Chinese New Year Celebrations is now an iconic event of the Toowoomba region.

International and National Champions from the Red Dragon School of Martial Arts enthral guests enjoying a 10 course banquet at the Pandan Restaurant. The event helped raise \$3000 for the Toowoomba Children's Hospital Appeal.



Renowned local artist and TIMS member Ms Titien Van Opdenbosch presents her painting to winner Ms Jenny Ryan (pic right above). Mr Roberto Garcia wins a raffle prize (pic below left). Mrs Asha Venugopalan and Dr Venugopalan unwrapping their raffle win and Dr Rani Krshnappa receiving her raffle prize (pic below right).



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](#) who also sponsored the first prize. 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)

Second 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.



Above left: The *Nepalese Community* members showcase a variety of national costumes along with admirers from the African community.



Above right: TIMS members and *Bollywood Belles* join the Indian community on the catwalk.



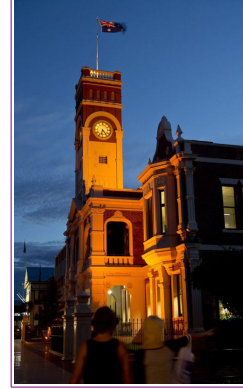
Above left: Organisers *Mr David Barton* and *Ms Frances Klaassen* from Mercy Community Services with *Mrs Gitie House* and *Ms Holly McDonald* from Mercy CS.



Above right: *Mrs Preeti Parikh* and the *Bollywood Belles* opened the event with a feature dance.

Harmony Day Events

TIMS partnered with TRC, Carers Qld and many other service organisations to host Harmony Day celebrations at the Village Green.



Above: City Hall lit up with orange lights to celebrate Harmony Day.



Above left: *MP Trevor Watts, Mr Robert Ketton, Mayor Paul Antonio & Mr Roberto Garcia.*
Above right: *Mr Robert Ketton and Mrs Gitie House talk about cultural harmony.*



Crowds throng to see the cultural performances at the Village Green.

Peace Initiatives and Multi-Faith Forums

TIMS work in building harmony and peace continues with participation in talks and forums on peace, conflict resolution and in multi-faith conferences. The *Women's International League of Peacewomen and Freedom (WILPF) Queensland* branch gave Mrs Gitie House the *Peacewoman of the Year* award in April.



The multi-faith section of the TLC Festival continues to expand and attract new groups as they see it as a safe, friendly way of sharing information as well as learning about the diverse beliefs in the region. Gitie also gave a talk on '*Building Bridges – Local Perspectives on Conflict Resolution*' at the Pureland multi-faith forum in August.

High School Language Awards

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

The Ninth Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival

The ninth Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival was held on 10 August. The event was opened by *Mayor Paul Antonio*. Bigger and better than ever, the festival had 110 exhibitors, 3 stages with 65 performances, 40 food stalls. Over 12,000 people attended the event which is hallmark for a 6 hour event. This year we donated over \$46,000 to the event. TIMS members put in a lot of hard work and their personal time in supporting the festival. Their in-kind support is estimated at over \$200,000. *Ms Daphne Fung* coordinated the Health Expo while *Ms Gitie House* chaired the committee, managed the event and coordinated the programme. *Mr David Barton* coordinated the information displays. *Mr Ron House* coordinated the Multi-faith displays. *Ms Sally Hewes* and *Mr Roberto Garcia (TRC)* are also the Volunteer coordinators. Special thanks to members *Mr Darren Lawson* for planning the site-layout and helping with the bump-in of marquees and to *Miss Marilyn Bailey* for coordinating the gate collection, *Ms Estela Estoria* for managing the gates, *Mr Upul Udayajeewa*, *Mrs Lita Hatherley* and *Mrs Tina Bumatay* for helping with the VIP reception and welcoming the dignitaries and young *Nonimi Wasala* for trying his hand at emceeing. (See tims.org.au for the photographs).



Above left: Nepalese group performing their traditional dances. Above right: Mary Bailey, Gitie House, Lita Hatherley, Wendy Richards & Tina Bumatay welcoming guests.



Above left: Opera Diva Shantelle Shore delights the audience with her arias in three languages. Above right: The Sri Lankan girls perform the auspicious Pooja dance for the official ceremony.



Above: The Filipino dancers regale the audience with their grace and costumes.



Above left: Bollywood Belles delight the crowd with Indian folk dances.
 Above right: The Sri Lankan groups's spicy food stall attracted food lovers.



Above left: Children added peace message ribbons to the Peace Dove in the First Exhibition Lane coordinated by renowned local indigenous artist Kim Walmsley. Kim also painted the Tree of Life painting with people pressing their thumb prints to make the leaves (above right).

Health & Wellness Expo at the TLC Festival

The Sixth TIMS Health & Wellness Expo was again held in conjunction with the TLC Festival this year. The event attracted over 36 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. (More pics: tims.org.au) We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship by the Commonwelath Respite and Carelink Centre.



Pics above & below: Health & Well Expo Coordinator Ms Daphne Fung and Ms Wendy Orth talking to the public and some of the stalls showcasing mainstream and alternative health options.



Multi-Faith & Information Displays at the TLC Festival

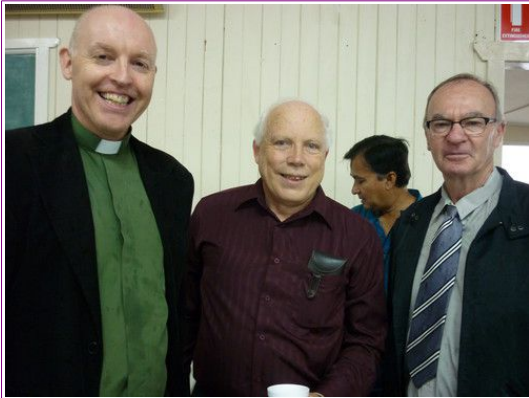


Faith Groups have increased their participation at the TLC Festival this year. *Mr Ron House* coordinated the Multi-faith Displays. Over 130 invitations were sent to all the faith groups in the Toowoomba Region as part of our on-going efforts to increase understanding between people of all backgrounds to create an inclusive and harmonious community through mutual exchange of information. There are strict rules prohibiting proselytisation at the Festival. The Hindu community from the *Bhakti Yog* group participated for the first time this year (pic above).



Over 36 exhibitors displayed their services in the Information Display Marquee coordinated by *Mr David Barton*.

Representation At Other Functions/Programmes



Above left: Rev Jonathan Inkpin, Ron House and Evan Reichelt at the opening of the first mosque in Toowoomba. Right: St George Mayor Donna Stewart & Australia Day Ambassador Gitie House at the Australia Day function in St George.



Above left: Daphne Fung, Gite House, Prof Jan Thomas, Ms Sharon Boyce at YWCA 125 years fundraiser. Right: At the Mercy Community Services Strengthening Communities Launch, David Barton, Frances Klaassen, Gitie House, Wayne Briscoe (Exec Director, CDQ), Trevor Watts MP, Sally Hewes, Moses Alli.



Above: At the Sri Lankan New year celebration –Left: Upul Udayajeewa, Gayan Kahandawa, Roberto Garcia, Ron House; Right: Gitie House, Sri Lankan dancers, Mayor Paul Antonio.



Above left: Trevor Watts MP, Daphne Fung, Gitie House, Minister John McVeigh at the Queensland Volunteer awards. Right: Gitie & Ron House at the MDA Luminous parade to welcome newcomers in Brisbane.



Above: Celebrating one year of Afghan women in Toowoomba at the MDA organised function are Gitie House with Afghan ladies and also with Sue Bishop (USQ) and Wendy Richards



Above left: At the CDQ Language Policy Review Forum David Barton & Gitie House represented the Toowoomba region; Right: At the CDQ Multicultural Awards Cultural Diversity Ambassador Gitie House with Minister Glen Elmes and Mrs Lesleigh Elmes.

Below: Roberto Garcia, Ron House, Wendy Johnson, Gitie House, Sally Hewes, Yira Cortes, Preeti Parikh, Maud Bagnall, Shaiel Parikh with Cr Carol Taylor, Cr John Gouldson and Mayor Paul Antonio at the TRC volunteer appreciation function.



Above: TRC Multicultural Policy Review forum.



Above right: Making Afghan women feel welcome at a picnic in Queen's Park are - Tazmarray Khan, Meiling Chow, Gitie House, Rev Dorothy Woodside, Ven Wu Chin.
Above left: Setting up on the Saturday before for the TLC Festival are Preeti Parikh, Marilyn Bailey, Estela Estoria.

Below: TIMS members enjoying the Diwali (Indian Festival of Lights) Dinner after the AGM 2013.



Below: SWIFNet ladies at their Christmas break meeting in 2013 - with Coordinators Shantelle Shore, Rev Dorothy Woodside and Gitie House are Helen Kennedy, Kathryn Hynes, Sr Beryl Gleeson, Rev Penny Jones and Ven Wu Ping.



Other Events include:

- Celebrating Queensland – Premiers Function (Gitie & Ron House)
- Queensland Day – Premier’s Function (Gitie & Ron House)
- CDQ Awards Judging Panel (Gitie House)
- Pureland College Multi-faith Women’s Forum (Rev Dorothy Woodside, Gitie House)
- Sharing Settlement Practices talk at Mercy Community Services. (Gitie House)
- Meeting Anti-discrimination Commissioner Mr Kevin Cox (Gitie & Ron House)
- Meeting with CDQ Executive Director Mr Wayne Briscoe (Gitie & Ron House)
- Premier’s Indian Community Reception (Preeti Parikh, Gitie & Ron House)

Sponsorships & Donations

TIMS received \$54,559 in donations, grants and sponsorships including \$46,250 towards the Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival. TIMS made the following donations in the past year:

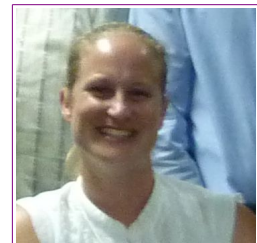
- Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival: \$46,750 (includes grants & sponsorships); In-kind support: \$200,000+
- Toowoomba Hospital Children's Appeal: \$3000
- Pure Land Learning Centre: \$100
- State Emergency Services: \$2000
- High School Language Awards: \$400
- Children's Cancer Foundation: \$500
- Wilson's First Aid: \$800
- Life Education Australia Ocoberfest: \$300
- Filipino Flood Relief: \$500

Total donations: \$ 54,550 + In-Kind support: \$200,000+

Special Acknowledgements

Multicultural Development Australia (MDA Ltd):

Our special thanks to the MDA Executive Director Ms Mitra Khakbaz, CEO Ms Kerrin Benson, Toowoomba manager Ms Leah Percival and their teams in Brisbane and Toowoomba for their tremendous help and support with the TLC Festival graphic design, sponsorship and assistance in coordinating the Exhibition hall, emcees, meeting venues and general activities.



TRC Multicultural Office:

A special thank you to, the Toowoomba Regional Council Multicultural Officer Mr Roberto Garcia (pic left) and TRC for all their administrative help and assistance throughout the year.

Special thanks also to Ms Kirsten Casey, Mr Angus Moffat, Ms Belinda Iseppi, Ms Sally Bayfield, and the TRC team for their work on the TLC Festival. We are also grateful to Mr Nick Hauser, Mr Leo Jenson and Mr Darryl Bates for their support. Special thanks to Mayor Paul Antonio, Cr Geoff McDonald, Cr Carol Taylor, Cr Bill Cahill and TRC CEO Mr Brian Pidgeon for their assistance and support with this year's TLC Festival.

Sponsors and Partners:

We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship and support of our partner organisations and individuals who make these projects possible:

Bunya Mountains Accommodations Centre, Friends of the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation, Toowoomba Regional Council, Cultural Diversity Queensland, Queensland State Government, Multicultural Development Australia Ltd, Centacare, University of Southern Queensland, Heritage Bank, Telstra, Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre, Mercy Community Services, Carers Queensland, The Chronicle, Channel Seven, Radio 4AK/4WK, Radio 84.7, Radio 4DDBFM, Veetone, Toowoomba Party Hire, Vision Accountants, Songlines Creative, Modern Languages Teachers Association, ABC Open, Empire Theatre, Cobb&Co Queensland Museum, Pureland Learning College, Bank of Queensland, Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, Wrays Organic Foods.

TIMS Committee and Members:

Special thanks all the committee members especially *Ms Daphne Fung* for her exceptional efforts in all our fund raising activities. A big thank you to our retiring secretary *Ms Trudy Moses* (pic right) who held the fort for many years. Also to our acting-secretary *Ms Marilyn Bailey*, treasurer *Ms Preeti Parikh*, and committee member *Mr Darren Lawson* for their tremendous efforts and assistance. Special thanks to members *Mrs Lea Rapoport, Mr Ron House, Mr David Barton, Ms Wendy Richards, Ms Sally Hewes, Mrs Lita Hatherley, Mr Upul Udayajeewa, Mrs Tina Bumatay, Ms Wendy Orth, Dr Yan Li, Ms Michelle Li and Ms Majella Costello* for their help and support.



Thank you to the TLC Festival Committee:



Front: Roberto Garcia, Kirsten Casey, Belinda Iseppi, Gitie House, Sally Hewes, Rita Hall (for Leah Percival). Back: Angus Moffat, Kim Walmsley, Ron House, Jessica Taylor, Marilyn Bailey, Kate Gaffney, Cecily Bisshop, Majella Costello, Yira Cortes, David Barton.

2015 Horizon

Chinese New Year – 21 Feb 2015: The traditional 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) in the new year.

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 2015 and Mentoring workshops: The 10th anniversary of the Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival will be held on Sunday 9 August. CDQ has given TIMS a grant of \$10,000 per year and another \$2000 has also been allocated for continuing the very successful event mentoring workshops. Details will be announced in February 2015.

Workshops: Further Video and photographic Workshops will be organised in partnership with ABC Open and Empire theatre. Details will be announced in early 2015. More health workshops will also be held if we are successful in our grant applications.

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 its members. All members invited and encouraged to take this opportunity to make 2015 the most participative and successful year. Members' active teamwork keep sup the society's work and continue to build on our strengths

Thank you

Gitie House
President