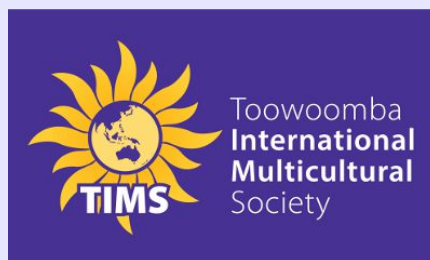




TIMS is honoured to receive the Australia Day Community Organisation Award.

Annual Report 2015



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2016 Horizon

Recognitions and Awards 2015

Congratulations to TIMS members for their excellent work and contributions to TIMS and the community. We are very proud of their achievements and the recognition their tireless and selfless efforts have received.

MAQ Outstanding Volunteer Award



Congratulations to TIMS Vice-president Ms Daphne Fung who received the Outstanding Volunteer Award from Minister Shannon Fentiman.

Australia Day Award



TIMS received the TRC Community Organisation Australia Day Award 2015.

Australian of the Year – Local Hero - Finalist



Premier Campbell Newman presenting the Award

United Nations Zonta International Woman of the Year 2015



Chair of the Zonta Committee Ms Kath Smith presenting the Award.

Healing With Wholefoods Workshops

In partnership with the *Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)* TIMS held three workshops in Dalby 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 excellent feedback and requests for more. Many thanks to Mercy Community Services for providing their training rooms, Wrays Organic Foods who sponsored some of the morning tea and also to Ms Megan Masters from 'Life' and Krazy Kevin from Radio 87.6 FM who helped promote the workshops.



Event Management Mentoring Workshops



Members from Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Bangladesh, TAFE, Centacare, Mercy Community Services and Modern Languages & Teachers Association attended two TIMS Event Management Mentoring Workshops to learn about creating sustainable events. The workshop commenced last year has been extremely popular. Sponsored by Multicultural Affairs Queensland they were presented by Mrs Frances Holmes of FHEM.

Bollywood Workshops

TIMS ran a series of thirteen workshops in response to the public demand for Bollywood workshops for a public dance at the tenth TLC Festival celebrations. Participants learned three folk dances from different parts of India.



All three dances were performed at the festival. The classes were conducted Mrs Preeti Parikh who is a dance instructor for Mumbai, India and has been running Bollywood workshops locally since 2009. the workshops were sponsored by the Toowoomba Regional Council Cultural Arts Scheme Grant, TIMS and the venue provided by the Darling Heights State School.



Group Members' Activities

Mercy Community Services

Congratulations to Mercy Community Services on their 40th anniversary of their Fatima Centre, serving families and communities around the region with much needed support and services. Hearties felicitations to Ms Frances Klaassen on being awarded the Order of Australia for a lifetime of services to the community.

Fatima's 40 Year Story:



Ms Gayle Sainsbury Coordinator Counselling Program, Ms Judith Standen Foster Care worker with Ms Frances Klaassen OAM, Senior Manager, Mercy Community Services.



Ms Sue Hamlet (Lifeline, Warwick), Mr David Barton, Team Leader Cultural Diversity Hub and Mr Peter Sydes CEO.

Mi-Start Business Workshops:



Mi-Start Business Workshops team meeting at Warwick with Mr David Barton.

Cultural Diversity Network (CDN)

CDN organised and chaired by TRC Multicultural Development Officer Roberto Garcia (below right), provides multicultural information to the community and service agencies.



Filipino Community of Toowoomba

The Filipino community continued their charitable work performing at various fundraising activities and the Toowoomba Languages & cultures Festival.



Nepalese Community celebrates Teej

On the occasion of Haritarika Teej (a great Nepalese women's festival), the Nepalese community celebrated the Teej program on 12 September 2015 attended by Nepalese community members in Toowoomba and surrounding areas. The Nepalese Association of Toowoomba (NAT) organised the program at a hall at USQ. Cultural songs, classical and modern dances and dances to Teej songs were performed on the occasion. More than one hundred fifty Nepalese community members participated in the program.



Photo: Nepalese Teej Program on 12 September 2015

Sri Lankan Community of Toowoomba

Below: Lighting the Lamp ceremony at the Sri Lankan New Year Celebrations in April.



Bollywood Belles

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



Above: USQ students performing at the TLCFFestival.

Radio India

Radio India is now in its third year running in partnership with 4DDFB on 102.7FM as part of their ethnic program. The one hour show airs on Monday evenings at 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 2016. (Pic right: Hosts Mrs Preeti Parikh with Manager Mr Owen Mutzelberg.)



High School Language Awards



Alex Rawlings (right) from Toowoomba State High School received the TIMS language award this year. Alex is an exceptional student who has worked diligently in all areas of his studies, as well as in his service to the school community as a School Captain. Alex has studied Asian Languages for 5 years consistently achieving excellence in this area.

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

Chinese New Year Celebrations

International and National Champions from the Red Dragon School of Martial Arts enthral guests enjoying an 8 course banquet at the Pandan Restaurant. The event raised \$2,500 for the Toowoomba Children's Hospital Appeal.



Our gratitude to Telstra who donated the main raffle prize of an iPad (pic above of winner Marilyn Bailey). Other prizes included electrical goods donated by friends of the Toowoomba Hospital Fund. 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. Special thanks also to Pureland Learning College for their gift package and to Mercy Community Services and the Toowoomba Regional Council Multicultural Office for their assistance with printing.

Third International Fashion Show

Hailed as one of the most joyous events the third International Fashion show attracted bigger than ever crowds. Participants from over fifteen communities proudly showcased their traditional attire at the event organised by Mercy Community Services in partnership with Grand Central Shopping Centre and TIMS.



Above: The Japanese kids in their traditional outfits stole the show with their gorgeous smiles.
Below:: Crowds throng to watch the Fashion show at Grand Central.



Harmony Day Events

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



Above Pacific Island dancers perform on the village green.

Peace Education Program

TIMS ran its first series of the Peace Education Program (PEP) created by The Prem Rawat Foundation (TPRF). Covering the topics of Peace, Appreciation, Inner Strength, Self awareness, Clarity, Understanding, Dignity, Choice, Hope and Contentment, the classes were attended by over 25 people. The feedback has been tremendous with attendees asking for more. We are very grateful the Toowoomba PEP group facilitator Ms Anne Stuart, TIMS members Mr Ray Brearley (course coordinator and IT/AV expert) and Mrs Helen Brearley, Ms Jill Morrow and Ms Hanni Olsen for helping with the organisation. More series are being organised for 2016.



The Tenth Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival



Celebrating ten years the Toowoomba Languages and Cultures (TLC) Festival was held on 9 August. Uncle Darby McCarthy gave the Welcome to Country address and Kooma Diggeree Dance troupe performed the smoking ceremony. The event was opened by *Minister Shannon Fentiman (pic left below) and Mayor Paul Antonio* . Featuring an Indian Spectacular the festival was attended by over 17,000 people making it the biggest to date with 110 stalls and 65 performances and TIMS member volunteers put in a lot of hard work and their personal time in supporting the festival. Their in-kind support is estimated at over \$117,000.



Minister Shannon Fentiman MP giving the opening address.



Mayor Paul Antonio, Mr Vigesh Singh, Mrs Archana Singh (Hon. Indian Consul for Qld), Mrs Gitie House, Cr Geoff McDonald.



At the media launch - Bollywood Belles dancers Mrs Nidhi Jinto, Mrs Preeti Parikh, Dr Rati Srivastava, Mrs Deepti Arya & Mrs Charmaine Williamson with Mrs Gitie House & Ms Daphne Fung.



Cutting the birthday cake are committee members Mr Roberto Garcia (TRC), Ms Cecily Bishop (MLTAQ President), Mrs Gitie House and Ms Kim Walmsley.



Above: Festival volunteers at the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration.

TIMS organised all aspects of the festival. Ms Frances Holmes was appointed as the Festival Manager. Frances ran the first festival and was also its main community sponsor. Ms Kim Walmsley designed the new logo (see pic above). Ms Daphne Fung coordinated the Health Expo while Mrs Gitie House chaired the committee, oversaw the event and coordinated the programme. Mr Ron House designed the website TLCFestival.com.au at very short notice and coordinated the Multi-faith displays. Special thanks to members Mr Darren Lawson for planning the site-layout and helping with the bump-in of marquees and to Mrs Greta Woods for coordinating the gate collection. Other organisational highlights included for the first time a media launch of the prospectus by the Mayor at City Hall.

Health & Wellness Expo at the TLC Festival

The Seventh 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. We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship by the Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre.



Representation At Other Functions



Mayor Peter Scott, Cook Shire Council, Ron House, Gitie House and Sayah Scott at the Australia Day function in Cooktown



Celebrating 25 years of the Toowoomba Taoist Society with dignitaries.



Celebrating Iftar dinner – front: - Ms Wendy Richards, Mr David Barton. Back: Ms Gillian Lance, Mr Syed Ghazali, Mr Ron House.



Mrs Gitie House with Mrs Ratna Deeth at the Mosque Open Day.



Mrs Mary Wagner, Mrs Gitie House and Dame Quentin Bryce at the YWCA fundraiser.



Mr Ron House. With the Anzac Day wreath

Other Events include:

- WelcomeFest – Brisbane’s Refugee welcome festival (Gitie House, Ron House)
- Mi Start – Migrant Small Business Seminar (Gitie House, Preeti Parikh)
- EAL/D Department of Harristown State High School Function (Preeti Parikh)
- Garden City Mosque Open day (Ron House, Gitie House, David Barton)
- Anzac Day Memorial Service Wreath Laying Ceremony (Gitie House, Ron House)
- Fatima’s 40 years (Gitie House)
- Cultural Diversity Network Meeting (Talk by Gitie House)
- Harmony Day on the Village Green (Talk by Gitie House)
- Toowoomba Municipal Band Fundraiser concert for the Toowoomba Hospice (Preeti Parikh and Bollywood Belles)
- Mercy Community Services Celebration with Afghan Ladies (Preeti Parikh and Bollywood Belles)
- Taoist Tai Chi Society celebration (Daphne Fung, Ron House, Gitie House).
- TRAMS Anniversary (Preeti Parikh, Frances Holmes, Gitie House)
- Premier’s Reception for the Indian Prime Minister (Gitie House, Preeti Parikh)
- Premier’s Reception for the Indian High Commissioner (Gitie House, Preeti Parikh)

Sponsorships & Donations

TIMS received \$65,840 in donations, grants and sponsorships including \$55,370 for the Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival. TIMS made the following donations in the past year:

- Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival: \$55,370 (includes grants & sponsorships); In-kind support: \$117,000+
- Toowoomba Hospital Children’s Appeal: \$2,500
- Pure Land Learning Centre: \$100
- State Emergency Services: \$800
- High School Language Awards: \$100
- Wilson’s First Aid: \$300
- Singing Kites \$100

Total donations: \$ 59,270 + In-Kind support: \$130,000+

Special Acknowledgements

Multicultural Development Australia (MDA Ltd): Our special thanks to the MDA Executive Director Ms Mitra Khakbaz, CEO Ms Kerrin Benson, Mr Sebastian Flynn, Ms Kika McIntyre, Ms Behice Bagdas, Mr Eddy Isles, Ms Kelly Buckingham Ms Katherine Hagenbauch, Ms Carolina Parker, Ms Akua Ahenkorah, and their teams in Brisbane and Toowoomba for their tremendous help and support with the TLC Festival planning, organising, graphic design, sponsorship and many other Festival activities.

Sponsors and Partners: We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship and support of our partner organisations and individuals who make these projects possible: Friends of the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation, Toowoomba Regional Council, Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Queensland State Government, Multicultural Development Australia Ltd, Centacare, University of Southern Queensland, Heritage Bank, Telstra, Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre, Mercy Community Services, The Chronicle, Channel Seven, Radio 4GR, Radio 84.7, Radio 4DDBFM, Veetone, Toowoomba Party Hire, Songlines Creative, Modern Languages Teachers Association, Cobb&Co Queensland Museum, Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, New Hope Group, Pure Land Learning College, Wrays Organic Foods and Darling Heights State School.

TIMS Committee and Members: Special thanks all the committee members especially Ms Daphne Fung for her exceptional efforts in all our fund raising activities. Thanks also to Ms Marilyn Bailey for her work. Also to our acting-secretary Ms Greta Woods, treasurer Ms Preeti Parikh, and committee member Mr Darren Lawson for their tremendous efforts and assistance. Special thanks to members Mr Ron House, Mr David Barton, Ms Wendy Richards, Mr Bill Fairweather, Ms Wendy Orth, Ms Michelle Li and Ms Cecily Bisshop, Mr Ray Brearley and Mrs Helen Brearley for their help and support. Daphne and Darren will be taking a break from committee membership this year. We wish them all the very best in their exciting new endeavours and thank them for their tireless efforts and support over many years that has made TIMS so successful.

TLC Festival Management Committee Members: Big thanks to the Committee members and Festival Coordinators: Ms Greta Woods (Secretary, TIMS), Festival Manager Mrs Frances Holmes, Cecily Bisshop (President MLTAQ), Mr Sebastian Flynn (Senior Manager Major Events), Mr Peter Munster (Director Student Engagement and Leadership, USQ), Mr Angus Moffat (Media Relations Office, TRC), Mr Roberto Garcia (Multicultural Development Officer, TRC), Ms Kate Gaffney (Marketing, Centacare) and Ms Hannah Belesky (TRAMS Centacare), Mr Darren Lawson (Site Planner, TIMS), Ms Daphne Fung (Health Expo Coordinator, TIMS), Mr Ron House (Information/Multi-Faith Coordinator TIMS), and Mrs Gitie House (Chair, TIMS) for their massive efforts in organising this year's festival.

Mercy Community Services: We gratefully acknowledge Mercy Community Services for the use of their conference and training rooms as well as their work on the festival.

Centacare: We gratefully acknowledge Centacare for the use of their Board rooms as well as their sponsorship of the festival.

Toowoomba Regional Council: A special thank you to, the Toowoomba Regional Council Multicultural Officer Mr Roberto Garcia and Mr Angus Moffat, for their work on the TLC Festival. We are also grateful to Mr Leo Jenson, Mr Darryl Bates, Ms Kirsten Casey for their support. Special thanks to Mayor Paul Antonio, Cr Geoff McDonald, and Cr Carol Taylor for their assistance and support with this year's TLC Festival.

Friends and Volunteers: A very big and special thank you to the hundreds of friends and volunteers who help us each year with our projects. Their friendship and efforts have enabled us to deliver such a range of successful projects every year.

TLC Festival Executive Advisory Committee Members:



Special thanks also to Mrs Gitie House (Chair, TIMS), Ms Brooke Winters (Regional Executive Director, Dept of Communities), Ms Mitra Khakbaz (Executive Director MDA) Cr Geoff McDonald, Mr Carl Rallings (Deputy Vice-Chancellor Students & Communities, USQ), Ms Cecily Bisshop (President, MLTAQ) and Ms Wendy Richards (Mercy Community Services) for their invaluable work for the festival.

2016 Horizon

14 Feb 2016, Sunday Chinese New Year – TIMS is investigating the feasibility of making this celebration a public event for the first time to be held at Bell St Mall from 11.30 – 2.00pm. Volunteers help will be needed to help set up decorations on Saturday before and for set up, clean up and set down on Sunday. Details will be emailed later.

March - Harmony Day Events – A number of Harmon Day event are being organised. We'll keep you posted as they get closer.

PEP Workshops: Further Peace Education Workshops will be organised in partnership with The Prem Rawat Foundation (TPRF). The dates will be announced in the new year.

TLCF Festival: 14 August 2016, will feature 'Aloha' and celebrating our friends from the Pacific Islands.

Strategic Directions:

TIMS is a leading organisation of Toowoomba's Multicultural landscape. In 8 short years it has received multiple awards, runs an iconic award winning event and its members have also received major accolades. This a big achievement 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.

In 2015 we've made huge strides in our sustainability of our projects, particularly the TLC Festival. In 2016 we aim to consolidate our achievements. Our strategic directions to develop a range of sustainable projects to enable us to eventually hire a full-time manager for TIMS. This is going to take a concerted effort over the next few years. A big thank you to Mrs Radhika Sunderaj for her efforts re this.

TIMS will continue to build more partnerships in the community. We have 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 continue to contribute towards creating a more cohesive and harmonious community.

Members' active teamwork enables us to build on our strengths. This is your Society, its success and survival depends on its members. All members invited and encouraged to take this opportunity to make 2016 the most participative and successful year.
