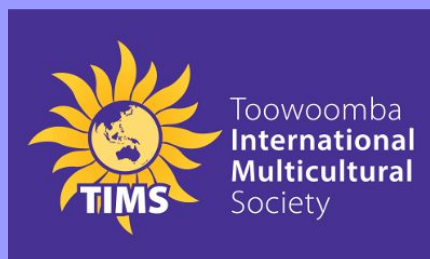




Artists Tyrone Pearce, Jane Phelan, Megan Darr, Kim Walmsley and Jim Walmsley painting the Toowoomba Art Gallery Wall as part of the First Coat project.

Annual Report 2016



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Special Acknowledgements

2017 Horizon

First Coat – Indigenous Mural



(pic by Sharon O'Phee)

"Cultural Census – One Culture, Many Nations" - Toowoomba Art Gallery

Gracing the wall of Toowoomba Arts Gallery is the magnificent work of creative director Indigenous artist Kim Walmsley and her very talented team Megan Darr, Tyrone Pearce, Jane Phelan, and Jim Walmsley. The artwork depicts Toowoomba's indigenous residents that have contributed to Toowoomba's growth and development. TIMS is very proud to support its artist members in participating in this significant public art which is also the first mural on Toowoomba Regional Council property and part of the First Coat project.



Left: Artist Megan Darr from the Mardigan nation (pic left above) and Creative Director Kim Walmsley (pic right above) from the Mununjali nation.

Queensland Multicultural Recognition Act

On 16 February 2016, the Queensland State Government passed the Queensland Multicultural Recognition Act. This landmark legislation honours people from all backgrounds past and present and their contributions. It encourages full participation in the cultural, economic, political and social life of Queensland; grants them equal rights and responsibilities under the law to equitable access to services; and commits to building a unified and harmonious community. TIMS President Ms Gitie House said, "It has been my honour and privilege as a member of the Multicultural Community Interim Reference Group to work with Minister Shannon Fentiman, Minister Grace Grace and their teams especially Ms Julie McDougall and her wonderful team from Multicultural Affairs Queensland to achieve this. These act beautifully expresses what we all feel in our hearts."



The inaugural meeting of the Queensland Multicultural Advisory Council was held on 31 August. The Council is working to provide advice to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs on how to support a unified, harmonious and inclusive community taking into consideration the needs, aspirations and contributions of people from diverse backgrounds. The full copy of the Act is available at the Queensland Government website.

Queensland Multicultural Recognition Act 2016

Charter – 8 Principles

1. A shared commitment to Queensland and Australia, and a free and democratic society governed by the rule of law, fosters a strong and unified community.
2. The people of Queensland come from many diverse backgrounds and have worked, and continue to work, together to build a prosperous, fair and harmonious Queensland.
3. The people of Queensland should be able to express and celebrate, in a lawful way, their cultural, linguistic and religious diversity.
4. Equal rights and responsibilities under the law and equitable access to the services provided or funded by the Government for all people of Queensland helps build a fair community.
5. A shared commitment, among members of the Queensland community, to mutual respect, fair treatment and valuing the diversity of peoples in the community fosters a caring, safe and inclusive community.
6. The creation of opportunities that encourage the full participation of people from diverse backgrounds in the cultural, economic, political and social life of Queensland helps build a prosperous State.
7. Sustained, respectful and inclusive engagements between all individuals, groups and the Government are a basis for mutual understanding.
8. A unified and harmonious community promotes a sense of belonging among its people and builds community confidence and resilience.

Queensland Multicultural Recognition Act - Forum

TIMS organised a half day forum on the Multicultural recognition Act in partnership with the University of Southern Queensland and Multicultural Affairs Queensland. In his opening address Mayor Paul Antonio said that the Toowoomba region is a rich tapestry of many different cultures and this legislation is important for the future of the region and the state. Executive Director Stakeholder Engagement and Communication of the Department of Communities, Mr Wayne Briscoe said that the Act for the first time gives formal recognition to cultural diversity. Special thanks to Mr William Conwell, Multicultural Coordinator, USQ for all his efforts in organising the forum.



Above left: Speakers – Ms Gitie House, Mr Ali Moses, Prof Jan Thomas, Vice Chancellor USQ and Mr Wayne Briscoe, Above right: Mayor Paul Antonio giving the welcome address.

Peace Education Programs



TIMS members Ray Brearley, Anne Stuart and Helen Brearley ran two series of the Peace Education Program (PEP) created by The Prem Rawat Foundation (TPRF). The topics covered included Peace, Appreciation, Inner Strength, Self awareness, Clarity, Understanding, Dignity, Choice, Hope and Contentment. The classes are very popular and the feedback is amazing with attendees asking for more. We are very grateful the Toowoomba PEP group for organising these sessions.

Chinese New Year Celebrations



TIMS organised the first public Chinese New Year Celebrations in Toowoomba which was held on 14 February. Over 1500 people jam packed Bell St Mall undaunted by the summer heat and enjoyed the programme. There were over 70 performers. More than 30 volunteers from many organisations helped set up the event. The community investment for the event was over \$10,000 of in-kind support.

Indigenous student Miss Tegan Lingwoodcock (gave the traditional acknowledgement (pic left with emcee Ms Daphne Fung and Ms Kim Walmsley).

Mayor Paul Antonio officially opened the function (pic right). The attendance far exceeded expectations. The feedback has been extremely positive with people wanting more next year. The event was organised in collaboration and partnerships with community organisations of people from different backgrounds, Chinese,



Mainstream Aussies, Indigenous Australians, established migrants, new migrants and refugees including Pure Land Learning College (pic right below), HongKong Restaurant, Women In Harmony (WIH) Choir, Modern Languages Teachers Association, Gabbinbar School and others.



The traditional lion dance was performed by the International and National Champions from the Red Dragon School of Martial Arts. Our gratitude to Telstra who donated the main raffle prize of an iPad.



Chinese language students (420+ children learn Mandarin across the region) demonstrated their skills and learnt more about the Chinese traditions. WIH choir with members from over 30 backgrounds also performed in Chinese at the event. Chinese Health and Martial Arts Centre, U3A Tai Chi Group (pic left above), Taoist Tai Chi Group collaborated to make this event a success along with Chinese Community members to organise decorations, performances and Children's activities.

Group Members' Activities

Papua New Guinea Community

TIMS welcomes the PNG Community of Toowoomba. The PNG Community under the leadership of President Mrs Kila Xavier was instrumental in coordinating the tremendous efforts of the Pasifika Toowoomba community and their magnificent performances at the TLC Festival (pics below).



Kila Xavier and Christine Moses (from Cherbourg)



Fikilder Lapin (USQ student), Brianne and Molly Kimmins

Pasifika Dance Workshops

Auspiced by TIMS, the Toowoomba PNG Association (President Mrs Kila Xavier) was successful in getting the Toowoomba Regional Council Cultural Arts Scheme Grant to run a series of free workshops in styles from Samoa and Tonga. Participants came from many backgrounds. The classes were held at St Saviours Hall who provided the venue in-kind and performed at the TLC Festival (pic below).



Darling Downs Fiji Community

TIMS welcomes the Fiji Community. President Mrs Waqa Benito Vaturavutu has brought together many Fijian groups. Fijian Kids enthralled the audiences with their performance at the Festival (pic below).



Filipino Community of Toowoomba

The Filipino community continued their fundraising work for local charities. Filipino kids group the Dancing Angels and the Filipino Dance group also participated in the Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival.



The Filipino Dance Group performing at the Flores De Mayo Mother's Day event.

Toowoomba Nepalese Community



On the occasion of Haritarika Teej (a great Nepalese women's festival), the Nepalese community celebrated the Teej program on 12 September 2016. Organised by the Nepalese Association of Toowoomba (NAT) the function was attended by more than one hundred fifty Nepalese community members.

Sri Lankan Community of Toowoomba



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

Bollywood Belles



TIMS Group members the *Toowoomba Bollywood Belles* dance group performs 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.

Pic left: Bollywood Belles performing at the Australia Day 2016 function at Picnic Point.

Queensford College

We welcome Queensford College as our corporate members this year. Queensford College also sponsored our TLC Festival Volunteer Appreciation Function. Queensford College delivers wide range of courses including new courses Diploma of social media marketing, Diploma of Beauty Therapy and more to come next year.

Radio India

New hosts Deepan Sandhu and Aaditi Dang continue the Radio India show. The program is now in its fourth year running in partnership with 4DDFB on 102.7FM. The one hour show airs on Monday evenings at 9.00 pm bringing Indian music, a number of Indian languages and topical interviews to Toowoomba. The show has been received well by the Indian community and we look forward to more in 2017.



High School Language Awards

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. Congratulations to Miss Fatima Shabbir and Mr Henry Ramzani from Harristown State High school. We are awaiting details of the recipients from the other schools.

The Eleventh Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival

Celebrating eleven years the Toowoomba Languages and Cultures (TLC) Festival was held on 14 August. Kim Walmsley was the emcee for the official greeting. Uncle Darby McCarthy gave the Welcome to Country address and William Haupt performed the smoking ceremony. The event was opened by Honourable Grace Grace, Minister for Employment and Industrial Affairs, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. and Mayor Paul Antonio. Pasifika Toowoomba gave the feature performances. Participating nations included PNG, Fiji, Cook Islands, Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribas, Tuvalu was attended by over 17,000 people with 160+ stalls and 104+ performances. Over a 1050 performers, TIMS members and volunteers put in a lot of hard work and their personal time in supporting the festival. Their in-kind support is estimated at over \$140,000.



Emcee Kim Walmsley welcoming guests & Minister Grace Grace MP at the opening address.



William Haupt performing the smoking ceremony..



At the media launch: Rose Chong Nee, Peter Munster, Mayor Paul Antonio, Gitie House, Francis Xavier, Faiga Ene, Kila Xavier



Pasifika Toowoomba held a Parade of Nations for the official opening.



Bollywood Belles performing at the Festival.



School children performing on the Goodwill Stage.

Information & Multi-Faith Stalls the TLC Festival

There were 36 information displays from service organisations and multi-faith groups. Over 130 invitations were sent to Faith groups around the region. Eight groups participated. Special thanks Ron House for setting up the main marquee.



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 30 health stalls showcasing mainstream and alternative health therapies. We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship by the Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre. We also thank Ms Daphne Fung for her work in setting it up.



TLC Festival Sponsor & Volunteer Appreciation



Sponsors and Volunteers got together to enjoy a celebration appreciating their efforts and contributions to the festival. Mayor Paul Antonio (pic bottom right) said Toowoomba was much richer for having the Languages & Cultures Festival. The mayor also thanked the Chair, TIMS, TLC festival Committee and all the team for their tremendous efforts in making the festival so successful and in bringing the Governor-General and Ministers to Toowoomba. Super-champ volunteer Alex Cossu had a double celebration as he cut the Thank you cake on his birthday with Volunteer Coordinator Maud Bagnall. We are very grateful to Queensford College for sponsoring the function.



TIMS Strategic Projects

TIMS Programs 2017-2018

TIMS has a number of significant programs:

- a) **Signature Programs:** These are run and managed by TIMS.
 - Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival
 - Health & Wellness Expo
 - Radio India (held weekly)
 - School Language Awards
- b) **Cultural programs:** These are held when possible depending on time, resources and availability.
 - Chinese New Year
 - Diwali – Indian Festival of Lights
 - Multicultural Fashion Shows
 - Dance Concerts
- c) **Workshops:**

TIMS has run workshops on Event Management, Business Planning, Health and Video/Photography tools. These workshops are free for the attendees and depend on funding from various grants(e.g. FRRR, MAQ, CBFQ).
- d) **Forums, Education & Cultural Programs with partner organizations:**

These are managed by other organizations with TIMS providing vital assistance in organizing the events:

 - Peace Education Program (PEP) in partnership with the Toowoomba PEP group and The Prem Rawat Foundation (TPRF).
 - Harmony Day (with Toowoomba Regional Council and other organisations)
 - International Fashion Shows (with Mercy Community Services and other organisations)
 - Multicultural, Peace and Multi-faith Forums with USQ, Pure Land and others as they arise
 - Others – as they arise.
- e) **Cultural Programs run by Group Members:**

These are events run by TIMS Group members under TIMS insurance. TIMS does not organize these events but may assist if required and feasible.

New projects/events are taken on the basis that their workload and financial requirements are feasible and do not interfere with existing commitments or impose additional workload from the existing project coordinators who are already fully committed.

Around the Ridges



The TIMS get together held on 7 July was attended by Ms Greta Woods, Ms Arlene Keating, Ms Allyce Keating, Dr Yan Zhao, Mr Bill Fairweather, Mr Ray and Mrs Helen Brearley, Ms Gitie House, Mr Ron House, Ms Rosa Rother, Ms Preeti Parikh, Ms Jenny Ryan, Mr Harsha Kumarasinghe (President, Toowoomba Sri Lankan Community) and Ms Radhika Sunderaj.



ABC TV filmed The Moral Compass from Toowoomba with panel members Gitie House, Moses Ali, Dr Lorelle Burton, Geraldine Dooge, Prudence Melom and Dr Mark Copland.



Human Rights Day Flag Raising ceremony organised by the Zonta International Women's Club on 10 Dec 2015 at the Village Green.



Mayor Graeme Shu and Cr Lori McKay from Goondiwindi Council, with Ron House, Gitie House (Australia Day Ambassador at Goondiwindi).



Meeting with the Pasifika Toowoomba Leaders Group Ms Helen Cochrane, Mr Waq Vataravitu, Ms Gitie House, Ms Kila Xavier, Mr Francis Xavier, Mrs Ben & Mrs Sereima Litidamu.



Mr Ray and Mrs Helen Brearley at the Peace Education Program Stand at the USQ Peace Day.



Mr Ron House, Ms Kamerieh Ghazaly, Ms Kim Walmsley and Rev Jonathan Inkpin at the Iftar Dinner.



Ms Kim Walmsley & Ms Megan Darr at the Heights Community Gathering NAIDOC Celebrations.



At the Filipino Independence Day Function with Cr Bill Cahill, Mayor Paul Antonio and Filipino Community Leaders.



Ms Gitie House & Ms Preeti Parikh lay a wreath at the Anzac Day Services



Ms Tazmarr Khan, Ms Maud Bagnall, Ms Sam Berner and friends at the CDN meeting.

Other Events Include:

- Opening of new Catholic Care Social Services Venue – Ms Preeti Parikh
- Forum on Domestic Violence – Ms Radhika Sunderaj
- ADSA Conference – Keynote address on – Ms Gitie House
- Queensland Multicultural Awards – Ms Gitie House, Ron House
- Cultural Diversity Network Meetings – Ms Maud Bagnall, Ms Gitie House, Ms Preeti Parikh
- Mosque Open Day – Ms Gitie House, Ms Daphne Fung, Mr Darren Lawson
- Seminars on Volunteer Coordination – Ms Gitie House.
- Toowoomba Small Business Expo – Ms Radhika Sunderaj.
- Fatima Bazar - Afghani Cultural Day – Ms Preeti Parikh
- Talking Multiculturalism - MAQ forum on Multicultural Policy Priorities – Ms Preeti Parikh
- Making Queensland Home Forum – Ms Betty Tan
- Building Women’s Start-up Resilience in Regional Qld – workshops – Ms Radhika Sunderaj.
- Mayor’s Civic reception to the Governor General – Ms Gitie House, Mr Ron House.
- Pure Land Learning Centre consultation re One Community project – Ms Gitie House.
- MAQ Community Consultations re Multicultural Policy – Ms Preeti Parkih.
- Pasifika Sports Day – Ms Gitie House, Ms Frances Holmes.
- Workshop on Writing Grants – Ms Radhika Sunderaj.



Radhika (3rd left back) with the Building Women’s Start-up Resilience in Regional Qld group.

Sponsorships & Donations

TIMS received \$70,350 in donations, grants and sponsorships including \$62,820 for the Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival. TIMS made the following donations in the past year: Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival: \$65,170 (includes grants & sponsorships); In-kind support: \$120,000+ Angel Flight \$1,000 ; State Emergency Services: \$800; High School Language Awards: \$250; Wilson’s First Aid: \$300; Movember: \$50. Total donations: \$ 65,904 + In-Kind support: \$140,000+

Special Acknowledgements

Multicultural Development Australia (MDA Ltd): Our special thanks to the MDA Brisbane and MDA Toowoomba for their support for the festival. Many thanks to Mr Eddy Isles, Ms Kelly Buckingham, Ms Mitra Khakbaz, Mr Neil Favager, Ms Katherine Hagenbauch, Mr Sebastian Flynn and their teams in Brisbane and Toowoomba for their tremendous help and support with the TLC Festival graphic design 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: Toowoomba Regional Council, Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Queensland State Government, Multicultural Development Australia Ltd, Catholic Care Social Services (previously Centacare), University of Southern Queensland, Heritage Bank, Telstra, Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre, The Chronicle, WinTV, Radio 4GR, Radio 84.7, Radio 4DDBFM, Veetone, Toowoomba Party Hire, Songlines Creative, Modern Languages Teachers Association, New Hope Group, Pure Land Learning College, and St Saviour's School.

TIMS Committee and Members: Special thanks all the committee members especially our treasurer Ms Greta Woods, Vice-President Mrs Preeti Parikh, Secretary Mrs Radhika Sunderaj, Committee member Ms Rosa Rother. Special thanks to members Ms Daphne Fung, Ms Kim Walmsley, Ms Arlene Keating, Ms Allyce Keating, Ms Kylie Kirby, Mr Darren Lawson, Mr Ron House, Mr Bill Fairweather, Ms Cecily Bisshop, Ms Charmaine Williamson, Ms Anne Stuart, Mr Ray Brearley and Mrs Helen Brearley for their help and support.

TLC Festival Management Committee Members: Big thanks to the Committee members and Festival Coordinators: Ms Greta Woods (Treasurer, 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), and Ms Hannah Belesky (TRAMS CCSS), Mr Darren Lawson (Site Planner, TIMS), Ms Daphne Fung (Health Expo Coordinator, TIMS), Mr Ron House (Information/Multi-Faith Coordinator TIMS), Ms Charmaine Williamson (Minutes Secretary TLC Festival) and Mrs Gitie House (Chair, TIMS) for their massive efforts in organising this year's 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 Darryl Bates, for his support. Special thanks to Mayor Paul Antonio and Cr Geoff McDonald for their support with this year's TLC Festival.



Frances Holmes Event Management: A special thank you to Ms Frances Holmes for all her wonderful work and efforts as the TLC Festival Manager for 2015 and 2016. We wish her the very best for the future. *(Pic right: Frances, Charmaine, Maud and Ron during the TLC Festival bump-in.)*

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.

2017 Horizon

March - Harmony Day Events – TIMS participates in a number of Harmon Day events organised by other organisations. 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.

12th TLCF Festival: will be held on **20 August 2017**. The Caledonian Society and Scottish groups have confirmed that they would like to provide the feature performances.

Strategic Directions:

TIMS is a leading organisation of Toowoomba's Multicultural landscape. In 9 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 2016 we've made huge strides in our sustainability of our projects, particularly the TLC Festival. In 2017 we aim to consolidate our achievements. Our strategic directions to gradually develop a range of sustainable projects. This is going to take a concerted effort over the next few years. A big thank you to Mrs Radhika Sunderaj, Ms Greta Woods and Ms Maud Bagnall for their efforts with 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 2017 the most participative and successful year.

