



TIMS Members at the 2016 AGM

## Annual Report 2017





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## Refugee Welcome



A 'Refugee Welcome and Community Expo' was held on 23 June 2017 at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ). TIMS partnered with USQ and MDA to organise the event. Over 80 new migrants attended the forum and later took a tour of the University gardens and library. Mr Peter Driese gave the welcome to country with a smoking ceremony and an introduction to Indigenous cultures and practices (pic above). Deputy Mayor Carol Taylor, Prof Ken Udas Deputy-Vice-Chancellor, USQ and Ms Julie McDougall Executive Director, Multicultural Affairs Queensland (pic below right) welcomed the refugees along with Ms Gitie House President TIMS and Ms Kelly Buckingham (Manager MDA). The event was hosted by USQ. Special thanks to Mr William Conwell, Multicultural Development Officer, USQ and Ms Kelly Buckingham.





## 'Our Story, Our Future' - Queensland Multicultural Policy and Action Plan Launch

Hon Grace Grace, Minister for Multicultural Affairs Queensland launched the 'our Story-Our Future'



Queensland Multicultural Policy and Action Plan at Parliament House on 15 February (pic above).



Above: Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and Hon Peter Wellington Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Qld signing the Multicultural Queensland Charter on 23 August 2017. flanked by members of Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council.

## TIMS Ambassador for the Multicultural Queensland Charter



TIMS was invited by the State Government to join their first group of Multicultural Charter Ambassadors programme. Ms Maud Bagnall has been appointed as our TIMS Ambassador and is pictured with Minister Grace Grace above at the induction meeting held in October.



Representing Toowoomba Mr David Wallis, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Mr Syed Ghazali, Ms Maud Bagnall, Minister Grace Grace, Ms Gitie House and Mr Ron House at the Premier's function to thank the multicultural community for their contributions to the development of Queensland.



## Waddup Group Bollywood Dance Workshop

A bollywood dance workshop for indigenous kids was held in October with the Waddup Group. 35 children danced to the beat of popular bollywood music for the first time. Ms Preeti Parikh and Ms Jasmin Latimer demonstrated the dance moves. The Waddup group is coordinated by Ms Robyn Silcox and supported by Catholic Care Social Services. The feedback has been tremendous and more workshops will be organised next year.





## Digital Literacy for Small Business Start Up Workshops for Migrants

TIMS partnered with the Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) to organise four half-day workshops for migrants who sought to start small businesses. Twenty five participants from China, Philippines, Liberia, Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, India, Vietnam and Mexico attended the workshops. The programme was sponsored by TRC and included digital literacy basics and digital marketing basics.



## Peace Education Programs

TIMS members Ms Anne Stuart, Mr Ray and Mrs Helen Brearley (pic below left) ran two series of the Peace Education Program (PEP) developed 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.



## OAM Honours



Above left: Queensland Governor His Excellency the Hon Paul de Jersey giving the Order of Australia Medal to TIMS President Ms Gitie House for services to the Community. Above right: Mrs Carene Taylor, Mr Ron House, Ms Gitie House OAM, Ms Lea Rapoport and Ms Karen Hannay at Government House after the investiture ceremony.



## Harmony Day Celebrations



Above: Bollywood Belles performing at the USQ Harmony Day celebrations: Ms Preeti Parikh, Ms Bhavna Gupta and Ms Trudy Moses with Ms Gitie House who was one of the speakers.



Above: TIMS members enjoying Harmony Day get together – Ms Maud Bagnall, Ms Preeti Parikh, Ms Trudy Moses and Ms Gita Sharma.



Above: Mr Ray Brearely, Ms Preeti Parikh, Ms Maud Bagnall, Ms Greta Woods enjoying Harmony Day in the City with friends.

## Group Members' Activities

TIMS welcomes the Toowoomba Indian Group and the Toowoomba Malayali Community

### *Toowoomba Indian Community*



Pic above: Indian kids performing at the Indian Independence Day 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations held on 12 August this year.

### *Toowoomba Malayali Community*



Above: Members of the Toowoomba Malayali Community at the TLC Festival.



## Darling Downs Fiji Community

Fiji Community. President Mrs Waqa Benito Vaturavutu with the Fiji community celebrating their celebrations (pics below).



## Flores De Mayo



The Filipino community celebrated Flores de Mayo on 27 May. TIMS members Ms Greta Woods, Ms Charmaine Williamson, Ms Maud Bagnall and Ms Gitie House were on the judging panel.





## *Toowoomba Nepalese Community*

The Nepalese Community celebrated Holi with colour, music and dance in March. The festival is also called the Festival of colours in India and Nepal.



## *Sri Lankan Community of Toowoomba*

The Sri Lankan Community celebrated the Sri Lankan New Year. Boiling the Milk (pic below) is one of the traditional rituals performed on the day.



Below: The Sri Lankan Pooja Dance Group with Deputy Mayor Carol Taylor and Ms Gitie House.





## Bollywood Belles



The *Toowoomba Bollywood Belles* dance group are a popular act across the region. They perform at many functions and charities. Many thanks to the group's Dance Director *Mrs Preeti Parikh* for her artistic choreography and training. *Pic above left: Bollywood Belles at the Australia Day 2017 function at Picnic Point. Above right: Performing at the Harmony Day in the City function on March 21.*

## Radio India



New host Mr Avaljot Gill continues the Radio India show. The program is now in it's fifth year running in partnership with 4DDFB on 102.7FM. The one hour show airs on Monday evenings at 6.00 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 2018.

## High School Language Awards

TIMS continues to sponsor the Language Awards in the participating schools: Harristown State High School, and Centenary Heights State High School. Congratulations to Charlotte Lyon, Ruxin Fang, Karry Sheng and Yao Zhao from Centenary State High School. Akhtar Abdul Hadi and Prisca Kalenga received the awards from Harristown High School.

## The Twelfth Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival

The Toowoomba Languages and Cultures (TLC) Festival was held on 13 August. 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. Toowoomba's Scottish Heritage was celebrated with feature performances by the Toowoomba Caledonian Society & Pipe Band, Bernadette's School of Highland Dancing and the McGrath School of Highland Dancing. A record number of 1170 performers gave 75+ performances from 69 cultures. A record crowd of 21,000 people attended the event. 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 \$160,000.



The Town Crier Mr Kevin Howarth announcing the Mayor Paul Antonio & Minister Grace Grace MP at the opening address.



Cr Geoff McDonald, Uncle Darby McCarthy OAM, Minister Grace Grace, Mayor Paul Antonio, Ms Gitie House OAM, Ms Irene Batzloff and Mr Col Mckay.



At the media launch: Highland Dancers gave a magnificent performance to live pipe music.



The Lightning Dance Company performing their Dreamtime Connections.



Bollywood Belles performing at the Festival.



School children performing on the Harmony Stage.



## TLC Festival Sponsor & Volunteer Appreciation



Sponsors and Volunteers got together to enjoy a celebration appreciating their efforts and contributions to the festival. Cr Geoff McDonald (pic above right) said the Festival is one of the biggest events of Toowoomba and a very important part of the region's cultural profile. Champion and Super-champion volunteers received a Festival key ring along with their certificates of appreciation.

Community Consultations were held in January this year. Operational suggestions received were implemented at this year's festival. Strategic ideas are being discussed with potential partners and also the Toowoomba Regional Council.

## Health & Wellness Expo at the TLC Festival

The TIMS Health & Wellness Expo was again held in conjunction with the TLC Festival this year. The event attracted 22 health stalls showcasing mainstream and alternative health therapies. We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship by the Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre.



## TIMS Strategic Projects

### **TIMS Programs 2018-2018**

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 TRC, USQ and other organisations)
  - International Fashion Shows (with Mercy Community Services and other organisations)
  - Multicultural, Peace and Multi-faith Forums with USQ, Pure Land College 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



Above: Launch of the Australian Kimono at the Toowoomba Town Hall by Mayor Paul Antonio. This hand painted kimono was designed by 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from Takatsuki, Toowoomba's sister city in Japan and is a gift from Japan to Australia for the 2020 Olympics.



Above: Ms Gitie House at the Human Rights Day organised by the Zonta International Womens Club



Mr Ron and Mrs Gitie House with Ms Alison Broome and Rev Penny Jones at the UNESCO Conference in Toowoomba.



Mr Ron House with the Qld Nepalese Association leaders and Minister Grace Grace at the Nepalese Festival in Brisbane.



Ms Preeti Parikh, Mayor Paul Antonio and Ms Gitie House with the Indian classical dancers from Dubai at the first Indian Classical dance concert in Toowoomba.



Ms Lea Rapoport, Ms Maud Bagnall, Mr Ron House at the Mayoral Charity Breakfast.



Ms Gitie House speaking at the Community Connections Seminar organised by Mercy Community Services.



Ms Jenny Ryan with guests at the Community Connections seminar.





Mr Ron House & Ms Preeti Parikh at the wreath laying at the Anzac Day Services



Dr Mark Copland, Rev Jonathan Inkpin, Mr Ron House and Uncle Darby McCarthy OAM at the UNESCO conference.



Ms Gitie House with Ms Yasmin Khan, Qld's nominee for Australian of the Year.



Mrs Preeti Parikh and Dr Vipul Parikh with Ms Deepan Sandhu at an Indian Community function.



Cr Bill Cahill, Ms Gitie House, Ms Anna Bartlett (recipient of the Highfields Australia Day Culture Award, Mayor Paul Antonio, Cr Geoff McDonald on Australia Day at Highfields Pioneer Village.



Mr Nishit Gupta, Ms Gitie House, Ms Dipika Aggarwal and Mr Ron House at the Premier's reception at Parliament House.





Mrs Bhavna Gupta demonstrating how to make Chapatis at the 'A Day in Uganda' function.

**Other Events Include:**

- USQ Harmony Day – Ms Gitie House (speaker), Ms Preeti Parikh, Ms Trudy Moses, Ms Maud Bagnall, Ms Bhavna Gupta, Ms Charmaine Williamson.
- Cultural Diversity Network Meetings – Ms Maud Bagnall, Ms Gitie House.
- Bollywood dance performances for Anglicare and Salem Aged Care – Ms Preeti Parikh and Bollywood Belles.
- Seminars on Volunteer Coordination – Ms Gitie House.
- Small Business Start Up Workshop planning meetings – Ms Gitie House
- Meetings with the Toowoomba Heritage Society – Ms Betty Tan
- MAQ Community Consultations re Multicultural Policy – Ms Preeti Parkih, Ms Gitie House
- DET Community Consultations re employment – Ms Preeti Parikh
- A Day in Uganda – Ms Bhavna Gupta, Ms Gitie House
- Premier's Function: Mr Anand Kesavan, Mr David Wallis, Ms Maud Bagnall, Mr Ron House, Ms Gitie House.

## Sponsorships & Donations

TIMS received \$66,300 in donations, grants and sponsorships. TIMS made the following donations in the past year: Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival: \$66,300 (includes grants & sponsorships) and in-kind support: \$160,000+. Rural Fire Brigade: \$1000; Angel Flight \$1,000 ; State Emergency Services: \$1000; High School Language Awards: \$200; Movember: \$230. Total donations: \$70,032 + In-Kind support: \$185,000+

### *Charities and Projects Funded by TIMS since 2008:*

TIMS has supported many charities and projects has donated over \$35,000 over the years. These include:

#### Local:

- Rural Fire Brigade (Toowoomba)
- SES (State Emergency Services)
- Toowoomba Hospital Children's Appeal
- Grantham Flood Relief
- Wildlife Rescue
- Language Awards (Toowoomba High Schools)
- Toowoomba West Special School
- Community Development Projects – Toowoomba Region
- Health Workshops (6)
- AV workshops (3)
- Dance workshops (5)
- Training & Workshops (Community development)
- Vinnies Community Sleepout
- TRAMS (Toowoomba Refugee & Migrant Support)

#### National:

- Angel Flight
- Movember
- Toowoomba Sunflower Tribute
- Spinal Injuries Qld
- Australian RedCross
- Motor Neuron Disease
- Ocoberfest
- Children's Cancer Fund

#### International:

- Singing Kites School Cambodia
- Friends School Itarsi
- Japanese Tsunami Relief
- Phillipines Flood Relief

## Special Acknowledgements

**Multicultural Development Australia (MDA Ltd):** Our special thanks to the MDA for their support for the festival. Many thanks to Ms Kelly Buckingham, Ms Mitra Khakbaz and Mr Eddy Isles for their tremendous help and support for the TLC Festival.

**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, University of Southern Queensland, Heritage Bank, Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre, Kesavan Whole Enterprises, Stonestreeets Coaches, Fairholme College, The Chronicle, WinTV, Radio 4GR, Radio 84.7, Radio 4DDBFM, Veetone, Range Event Hire, Modern Languages Teachers Association, Pure Land Learning College, Flexischool and St Joseph's School. Special thanks to the Cedar Centre and Carers Queensland for their help with volunteers at the Festival.

**TIMS Committee and Members:** Special thanks all the committee members especially our Treasurer Ms Greta Woods, Vice-President Mrs Preeti Parikh, Acting-secretary Ms Charmaine Williamson and Community Development Officer Ms Maud Bagnall. Special thanks to members Mr Anand Kesavan, Mr David Wallis, Ms Samantha Woods, Ms Vanessa Woods, Mr Ron House, Mr Bill Fairweather, Mr Gary Fagg, Ms Betty Tan, Ms Anne Stuart, Mr Ray Brearley, Mrs Helen Brearley, Mr Nishit Gupta, Ms Dipika Aggarwal, Ms Yan Zhao, Mrs Bhavna Gupta and Mr Shailin Parikh for their help and support. Our thanks and best wishes to our previous secretary Ms Radhika Sunderaj who has moved to Melbourne. We also thank and Ms Charmaine Williamson who filled in as acting secretary. Best wishes and special thanks to Ms Greta Woods who has been our amazing treasurer for the past three years and is moving onto higher professional roles.

**TLC Festival Management Committee Members:** Big thanks to the Committee members and Festival Coordinators: Ms Greta Woods (Treasurer, TIMS), Festival Manager Ms Cassandra Hunter, Ms Bel Boothby (President MLTAQ), Ms Majella Costello (MLTAQ), Ms Kath Symmons (MLTAQ), Mr Peter Munster (Director Student Engagement and Leadership, USQ), Mr Angus Moffat (Media Relations Office, TRC), Mr Roberto Garcia (Multicultural Development Officer, TRC), Ms Maddy Ciesiolka (TRC) and Ms Hannah Belesky (TRAMS CCSS). Ms Charmaine Williamson (Minutes Secretary TLC Festival) and Mrs Gitie House (Chair & Festival Director) for their massive efforts in organising this year's festival. Pic right: TLC Festival Committee debrief meeting.



Special thanks also the The Event Group Toowoomba team – Ms Cassandra Hunter, Ms Jo Capp and Ms Maree Parsons for their tremendous efforts in organising the festival.

**Toowoomba Regional Council:** A special thank you to, the Toowoomba Regional Council staff Mr Angus Moffat, Mr Roberto Garcia and Ms Maddy Ciesiolka 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.

**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.



## 2018 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.

**Regional Refugee Forum:** The first regional Form on Refugee Settlement is being organised in partnership with MDA, Social Justices Commission, TRC and other partners. The date is yet to be finalised and will be announced soon.

**PEP Workshops:** Further Peace Education Workshops will be organised in partnership with The Prem Rawat Foundation (TPRF). The first set in 2018 will be held on Tuesdays fro 23 January to 27 March 2018 from 6.30 – 7.70 pm at the Meetings Rooms, Level 3, Toowoomba City Library.

**13<sup>th</sup> TLCF Festival:** will be held on **12 August 2018**. TIMS will be celebrating its tenth year and MDA will be celebrating 20 years of Multicultural Development and Refugee Settlement.

**Traineeships and work experience:** TIMS is partnering with the Cedar Centre to provide work experience opportunities to their students. This will also provide invaluable assistance to the TIMS committee and help us make our projects more sustainable for the long term.

### 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 2017 we've made huge strides in making our projects sustainable, particularly the TLC Festival. In 2018 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 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 are invited and encouraged to take this opportunity to make 2018 the most participative and successful year.

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