



Annual Report 2018



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2019 Horizon

TIMS 10 Year Celebration

TIMS celebrated its 10 years and held the TLC Festival Sponsors and Volunteers Thank you party on 8 September. The Mayor Paul Antonio, Deputy Mayor Carol Taylor and Cr Megan O'Hara Sullivan accepted the Certificate of Appreciation for the Toowoomba Regional Council and commemorative keyrings (below).



Over 80 volunteers, guests and members joined the celebrations with music and line dancing led by Ms Phyllis Charlton and the Crows Nest Boot Scooters (pic below).



Miss Radhika Bhardwaj, the youngest chef in the world launched her cookbook and is pictured below (left) with her parents Mrs Divya and Mr Sid Bhardwaj and her sister Krishnapriya.



Above right is emcee Mr Aodh Bagnall.



Above: Mrs Preeti Parikh led the Bollywood dance workshop. Below left: Ms Kelly Buckingham Manager MDA, and long time Festival sponsors receiving their Certificate of Appreciation. Below right: Crows Nest Boot Scooters enthralled audience with their footwork and grace.



Regions of Welcome – First Regional Settlement Forum



Australia's first Regional Settlement Forum' was held on 13-14 August 2018 at the Town Hall Annexe. TIMS was one of the organising partners with MDA, Toowoomba Council and Catholic Social Justices Commission taking the lead. The forum was attended by over 200 delegates from around the country.



Above: Panel on Welcoming Moments: Emcee Mr Michael Hing, panelists Ms Gitie House OAM, Mr Erfan Daliri, Mr Emmanuel Musoni, Mr Asif Rasheed and Mr Shankar Kahynathan. Pic below: Steering Committee.



Queensland Multicultural Advisory Council & Plans

The Queensland Multicultural Advisory Council chaired by Minister Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe (pic below) held several community consultations and focus groups around Queensland including Toowoomba. Topics covered included issues with the implementation of NDIS; issues facing migrants seeking previous skills recognition and employment; and domestic violence (pic far below).



MAQ Awards: There were a record 133 applicants for this year's Multicultural Awards. Toowoomba had two finalists in this year's Multicultural Award. Pictured below are Venerable Wu Ping And Ms Meiling Chow representing Pure Land Learning College and Mr Ari Pilani from the Empire Theatre along with TIMS Multicultural Ambassador Ms Maud Bagnall, Tims President Ms Gitie House and Mr Ron House. TIMS has received several MAQ awards (2013-2016).



Premier's Events: The Queensland Premier and Cabinet held several meetings and events in Toowoomba giving the community the opportunity to discuss many local issues and strategic plans with many Ministers including Minister Shannon Fentiman, Minister Grace Grace, Minister Stirling Hinchliffe and Minister Di Farmer. TIMS President Gitie House was a panelist at the Premier's Inspire and Infor: Women On Boards – First Regional Launch held in Toowoomba along with Ms Julia Telford and Ms Caire Braund. Pic below: Minister Di Farmer, Ms Julia Telford, Premier Annatascia Palaszczuk, Ms Claire Braund, Ms Gitie House OAM, Deputy Mayor Carol Taylor, Deputy Premier Jackie Tradd, Cr Megan O'Hara Sullivan.



Whaddup Group Bollywood Dance Workshop

TIMS received the TRC Cultural Arts Scheme Grant to conduct a series of eight dance workshops for indigenous kids who participate in Whaddup program. The feedback has been tremendous with around ten children regularly participating in these workshops and learning about Indian dance. The workshops were held fortnightly at the James Martin Centre. The Whaddup group is coordinated by Ms Robyn Silcox and is supported by Catholic Care Social Services. The classes are conducted by Bollywood Belles Director Ms Preeti Parikh.



Peace Education Programs

TIMS members Ms Anne Stuart (pic below – top right), Mr Ray and Mrs Helen Brearley (pic below seated centre) ran two series of the Peace Education Program (PEP) for TIMS. PEP is 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. The next series commences in October.



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. This year's winners will be announce at the School Awards nights later in October.

Harmony Day Celebrations



Above: TIMS celebrated HOLI – the Indian Festival of Colours emphasising harmony in diversity at the Harmony in the City function this year. The Cedar Centre students helped design the card (pic overleaf). Colourful 'malas' (garlands) were distributed to the audience along with the Happy Holi Greeting card.



Above: Mr Cameron Dickman and the Lightning Spirit Dance Company welcomed the crowds.

Below: Bollywood Belles performed a Holi Dance.

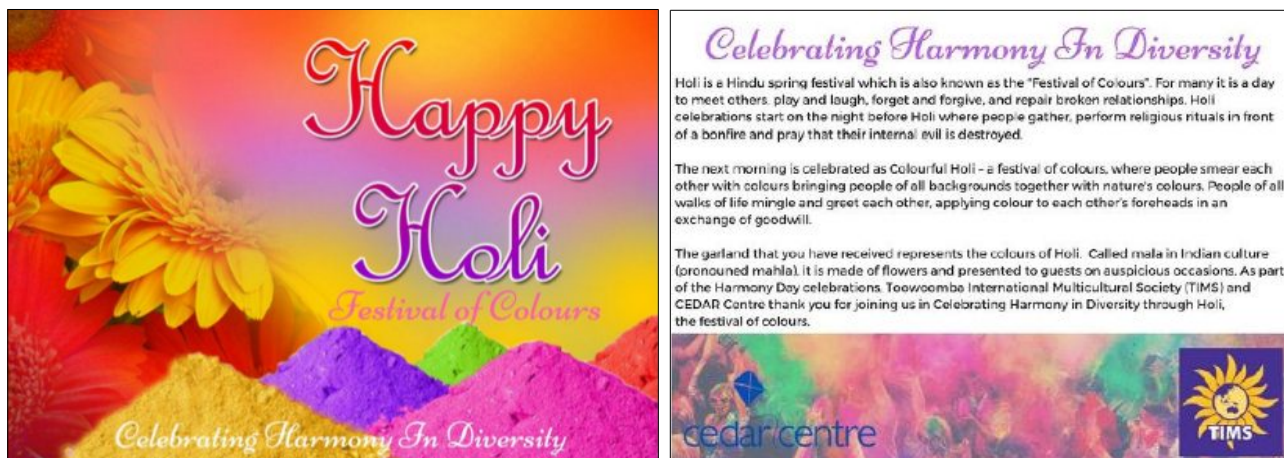


Around 200 members of the public attended the event and joined in the celebration of the different cultures in Toowoomba. Below; The performers take a bow at the end of the function.



Above: Women In Harmony performing at the Harmony Day function.

Below: the HOLI Greeting card – with the story of HOLI at the back.



Harmony Day at the University of Southern Queensland



Above: Bollywood Belles performing at the USQ Harmony Day function.



Above: TIMS President, Gitie House addressing guests at the USQ Harmony Day function. Guests included the Honorary Indian Consul for Queensland Mrs Archana Singh (pic right).

Group Members' Activities

TIMS welcomes Women In Harmony Choir and the Toowoomba African Women's Alliance



Directed by Ms Elaine Coates, the Women in Harmony Choir was founded in 2006. They sing in over 30 languages and their members come from more than twenty cultures and are one of the most loved choirs in Toowoomba. They meet every Saturday afternoon and perform for numerous charities and functions all year round. Ladies from all backgrounds can join, for more info visit: <http://womeninharmonychoir.org>.



Pic above: At the WIH Choir open day, members of the public learn some quick songs with Music Director Ms Elaine Coates..

Toowoomba African Women's Alliance



Bringing the African women together, the Toowoomba African Women's Alliance have members from Liberia, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sudan, Kenya and other African nations, President Ms Imme Nyangatom is pictured above with Ms Angie Mulgrew at the TIMS meeting.

Bollywood Belles



Pictured at the Australia Dy function the *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.

Toowoomba Indian Community



Pic above: Indian kids performing at the Indian Independence Day 71th Anniversary celebrations.
Below: The Indian community celebrating Vaisakhi.



Darling Downs Fiji Community

Fiji Community President Mrs Waqa Benito Vaturavutu with the Fiji community at the Fiji Day celebrations and Family fun day event.



Sri Lankan Community of Toowoomba

The Sri Lankan Community celebrated the Sri Lankan New Year with Pooja dance and a childrens' play (pic far below). Lighting the candles is one of the traditional rituals performed on the day (pic below) with Deputy Mayor Cr Carol Taylor.



Nepalese Community of Toowoomba

The Nepalese Community celebrated Teej at the USQ Refectory Hall. Pic below: President Mr Eak Raj Adhikari and members of the Committee with the children in the National costumes.



Pic below: Nepalese girls performing a traditional dance.



The Thirteenth Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival

The Toowoomba Languages and Cultures (TLC) Festival was held on 12 August. The event was opened by Mayor Paul Antonio. Guests speakers included Hon Dr John McVeigh, Federal Minister for Regional Development Hon, Bart Mellish MP, member for Aspley representing Minister Hinchliffe and Ms Kerrin Benson CEO MDA. MDA's 20 year celebrations included three renowned bands Bustamento, African Fusion and The Mad Mariachi. Toowoomba's new settlers were celebrated with feature performances by the Ezidi Community and the Kelele Boyz African Drumming Group. Over 1000 performers gave 60+ performances from 70 cultures. 19,000+ people attended the event. TIMS members and 140 volunteers (cover pic) helped set up the festival. Their in-kind support is estimated at over \$200,000. The Mindful Wellbeing Expo showcased a variety of health therapies. We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship by TIMS member, Mr Anand Kesavan of Kesavan Realty for sponsoring the Wellbeing Expo.



The Rojava Dance Group performing a Kurdish dance.



African Fusion had the crowds on their feet dancing.



Josh Arnold and the Small Town Culture Choir



Kelele Boys Drumming Group tapping Congo beats.



African food cooking demonstration.



Colombian Dance Group

TIMS Strategic Projects

TIMS runs a number of significant programs:

- a) **Signature Programs:** These are run and managed by TIMS.
 - Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival
 - Mindful Wellbeing Expo
 - School Language Awards

- b) **Cultural programs:** These are held when possible depending on time, resources and availability.
 - 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.

- f) **New Projects for 2019**

Jobs Expo – in partnership with The Cedar Centre – 5 February
Youth Forum & Festival – in partnership with TRC – April/May – details to TBA

Around the Ridges



Mr Ron House with Ms Prudence Melom at the ERaced launch.



The Ezidi Group commemorated the tragic genocide of their members on 3 August at the Humeridge Church.



Zonta International Women of the year 2014-2018 at their International Women's Day lunch.



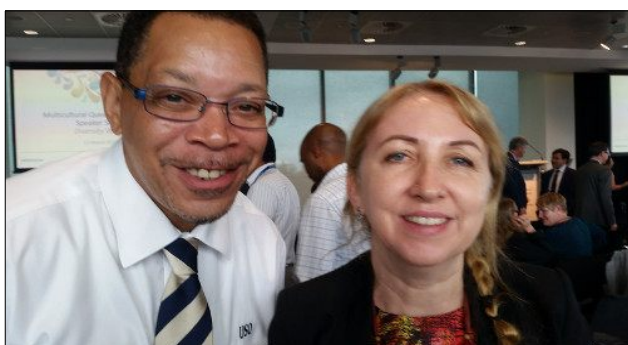
The Janamashtami celebration held in Toowoomba by the Swami Narayan group



Mrs Preeti Parikh and Mrs Gitie House at the wreath laying at the Anzac Day Services



Ms Preeti Parikh and Ms Gitie House with the Nepalese community at their Teej Festival.



Mr William Conwell and Ms Maud Bagnall at the MAQ Ambassador Speaker Series at QUT



Mr Nishit Gupta and Ms Dipika Aggarwal at the MDA Luminous Parade at Southbank.



Mayor Paul Antonio at the opening the Willowglen Medical Centre with Dr Shakuntala Shamangam.



Mr Anand Kesavan and Mr Ron House at the opening of the Willowglen Medical Centre.



St Vincent's Hospital Regional Advisory Committee



Ms Maud Bagnall with Ms Prudence Melom, Young Citizen of the Year and Aodh Bagnall on Australia Day.

Other Events Include:

- Cultural Diversity Network Meetings – Ms Maud Bagnall, Ms Gitie House, Ms Angie Mulgrew, Ms Imme Nyangatom
- Telstra Community Event – Gitie House
- MAQ Speaker Series: Ms Maud Bagnall, Ms Gitie House
- MDA Luminous Parade: Ms Dipika Aggarwal, Mr Nishit Gupta
- Pure Land friendship Dinner & Peace Forums: Ms Lea Rapoport, Ms Maud Bagnall, Ms Gitie House.



'Wear to Work' - Cedar Centre Launch, Ms Gitie House, Ms Maud Bagnall.
Ms Maud Bagnall with Ms Anna Nichols & Ms Amy Seekamp (Cedar Centre) at the Regional Settlement Conference.

Sponsorships & Donations

TIMS received \$73,200 in donations, grants and sponsorships. TIMS made the following donations in the past year: Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival: \$71,500 (includes grants & sponsorships) and in-kind support: \$200,000+. State Emergency Services: \$1,000; High School Language Awards: \$200; Movember: \$500; Vinnie's Sleepout: \$310; Whaddap: \$700. Total donations: \$74,810 + In-Kind support: \$225,000+.

Charities and Projects Funded by TIMS since 2008:

TIMS has supported many charities and projects has donated over \$39,000 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)
- Whaddup
- James Martin Centre

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 TLC 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, Multicultural Development Australia Ltd, Catholic Care Social Services, University of Southern Queensland, Heritage Bank, Kesavan Realty, The Chronicle, Veetone, Range Event Hire, Modern Languages Teachers Association, Pure Land Learning College and, Flexischool. 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 Dipika Aggarwal, Vice-President Mrs Preeti Parikh, Secretary and Community Development Officer Ms Maud Bagnall and Committee member Mr David Wallis. Special thanks to members Mr Anand Kesavan,, Ms Samantha Woods, Mr Ron House, Ms Anne Stuart, Mr Ray Brearley, Mrs Helen Brearley, Mr Nishit Gupta, and Mr Vipul Parikh for their help and support.

TLC Festival Management Committee Members: Big thanks to the Committee members and Festival Coordinators: Festival Manager Ms Cassandra Hunter, Ms Bel Boothby (President MLTAQ), Ms Majella Costello (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), Mr William Conwell (Multicultural Officer USQ), Ms Kelly Buckingham(MDA), Mr Eddy Isles (MDA), Ms Anna Nicholls (Cedar Centre) and Ms Hannah Belesky (TRAMS CCSS).Ms Preeti Parikh (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. Pic above: Setting up the festival are Ms Kelly Buckingham, Ms Maud Bagnall, Ms Anna Nicholls, Ms Amy Seekamp, Ms Cassandra Hunter with Andrew Hunter

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.

Coming Events

November 4 – Colours of India Diwali Mela in partnership with the Indian Community.

February 5: Job Connect and Careers Expo in partnership with the Cedar Centre.

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.

April/May Youth Forum & Festival in partnership with the TRC Youth Connect & Youth Leadership group.

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

14th TLCF Festival: will be held on **11 August 2019**. The media launch will be in May.

Diversity Project - Skilling Queenslanders 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. Ms Sally Witherspoon has been appointed as the Project Coordinator and first group of trainees commenced on 2 October.

Strategic Directions:

TIMS is a leading organisation of Toowoomba's Multicultural landscape. In 10 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.

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 2019 an even more participative and successful year.

