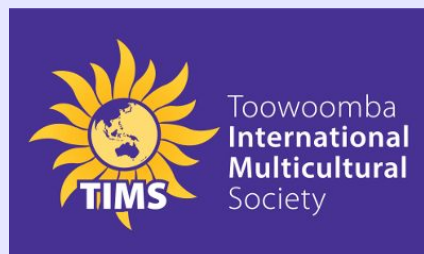




Annual Report 2019



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Special Acknowledgements

2020 Horizon

Job Assist Careers Expo

Over 200 people attended the Job Assist Careers Expo and held on 11 February and the two follow-up mini expos held in June. The projects were organised by TIMS in partnership with The CEDAR Centre as part of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work traineeship program 'The Diversity Project'. The Department of Small Business, Education and Training helped sponsor the events.



The Expo targeted a select number of industries identified by job seekers ranging from agriculture, trade, hospitality, aged care, disability care, retail, emergency services and many others. 26 companies presented their services and programmes. Workshops (pic above) were translated into 3 languages (Swahili, Kurdish Kurmanji, Arabic). They covered a wide range of topics to provide job seekers with practical information regarding their next steps in getting a job.



The feedback from attendees and stallholders has been tremendous with all involved asking for more events. Two followup mini sessions were organised in June targeting the agriculture, trade apprenticeships, childcare and early education sectors.

The Diversity Project

The Diversity Project is a partnership between TIMS and the CEDAR Centre's flagship traineeship project under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Scheme run by the Queensland State Government. Under this programme two intakes of 10 trainees each gained experience through a 20 week programme giving the trainees experience in business admin working on TIMS projects. Planning the Job Assist Career Expos is a significant component of the traineeship programme. The trainees also helped with the Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival.



Above and Below: The Diversity Project trainees for terms 1 and 2.



The program has an excellent success rate with many of the trainees gaining employment or proceeding to further their skills. The project has been given approval for 2020 by the Queensland Government for the CEDAR Centre and TIMS to continue providing essential admin skills and training to another 20 people.

Toowoomba Youth Festival

'Falling Leaves' Toowoomba Youth Autumn Festival was held in April as part of TAMS 10 year celebrations. The event was organised in partnership with the Toowoomba Regional Council Youth Leadership Group and MDA Toowoomba.



The Festival was a variety concert for high school youth (12-18) to come together from all parts of the Toowoomba Region to celebrate youth week by sharing their culture and activities in a safe environment. The Youth festival also gave the youth from isolated areas, CALD backgrounds, indigenous backgrounds, disadvantaged backgrounds to meet and interact with each other and to find out about some of the other services in the area. Pic Above: Crocodylus was the Youth's choice for the featured band sponsored by



Hutchinson Builders. Pics above left: members of the TRC Youth Leadership Group. Pic right: Members of the organising committee Ms Dipika Aggarwal and Ms Bhavna Gupta. Sponsors included The TRC Community Events program and The Event Group Toowoomba. Special thanks to Ms Cassandra Hunter for all her work as the Festival Director.

Queensland Multicultural Advisory Council & Plans

The First Queensland Multicultural Advisory Council Chaired by Minister Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe (pic below) completed its three year term at the end of August. New plans have been released for the next three years.



Multicultural Affairs Queensland

Toowoomba featured prominently in this year's Multicultural Awards issued by Multicultural Affairs Queensland and were finalists in 5 categories and winner in 3 (pic below). Tambo Teddies (with MDA) (Business), Toowoomba Regional Council (Roberto Garcia, Garry Humphries and team) (Govt), Stefan Ambruster (Media for SBS coverage of TLC Festival) – were all winners in their categories. Also finalists were The Mulberry Project (Louise Noble and team) (Community) and Erin O'Shannessey (Yazda English at Home) for Outstanding Individual Achiever.



Above: Premier's receptions for the Indian community (left); Multicultural Month Celebration (right).

Queensland Regional Community Forum

The Queensland Government has launched a new Office of Rural and Regional Queensland. Seven Regional Community Forums have been appointed across the State. Twenty members have been appointed to each forum from a wide range of stakeholders. TIMS President Ms Gitie House has been appointed to the Darling Downs South West Queensland Forum. The forums are led by Ministers and will meet quarterly to advise the Government on key priorities and strategic solutions for the region.

Peace Education Programs

TIMS members Mr Ray and Mrs Helen Brearley ran two series of the Peace Education Program (PEP) for TIMS each year. 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 further series have been planned for next year.



Harmony Day Celebrations



TIMS celebrated HOLI – the Indian Festival of Colours emphasising harmony in diversity at the Harmony in the City function this year. Colourful ‘mahlas’ (garlands) were worn by the audience and participants filled the event with colour.



Group Members' Activities

TIMS welcomes Jay Jay Girva Gujarat Group and the Kelele Boyz

Jay Jay Girva Gujarat Group



Pics Above: Members of the Jay Jay Girva Gujarat Group celebrating the Festival of Navratri with traditional Dandiya and Garba dances.

Kelele Boyz

TIMS welcomes the Kelele Boyz African Drumming Group from Congo. The group have performed for many years at the Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival. They also perform at many functions across the region. Pics below: Kelele Boyz were a feature performance at the Media Launch of the 13th Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival in 2018.



Women In Harmony Choir



Between July 2018 and June 2019, The Women in Harmony Choir took the message of harmony, inclusiveness and respect for each other's cultures and languages throughout our Region. In 24 performances, to audiences as diverse as Zonta's Human Rights' Day, Carnival of Flowers, Masonic Lodges, Languages and Cultures Festival, childcare facilities, Endeavour and psychiatric hospitals, the choir sang songs in many different languages, mostly reflecting the countries of origin of its members. Ms Elaine Coates is their Music Director. The choir sings in over 30 languages. 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: WIH Choir members with the UBUNTU group at a joint concert.
Below: WIH choir performing at the Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival.



Darling Downs Fiji Community



Fiji Community President Mrs Waqa Benito Vaturavutu with the Fiji community fundraisers at the Fiji Day celebrations and Family fun day events. Pics above and below.



Toowoomba Indian Group

The Indian Community of Toowoomba organised the first public Diwali (Indian Festival of Lights) function at the Civic Square. Diwali is the biggest festival of India celebrated by people of all backgrounds. The event was attended over 2000 people who came to enjoy the cultural performances from all over the Indian sub-continent. They also got the opportunity to taste the cuisine of Ms Radhika Bhardwaj who is the youngest published chef (at the age of 12 years) in the world who cooked 1500 meals on the day. The event was supported by Toowoomba Regional Council, University of Southern Queensland and TIMS.



Above: Hon Trevor Watts MP joins the Toowoomba Malayali Community (representing the State of Kerala in India) in a traditional tug of war.

Below: Members of the Indian community in traditional costumes from different parts of the country.



Nepalese Community of Toowoomba



Pics above: The Nepalese Community at the Media Launch of the Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival in May. Below: The Nepalese Community celebrating Teej at the USQ Refectory Hall.



Below: President Ek Rak Adhikari and community members at the TLCF Volunteer Thank you function.



Whaddap Workshops

TIMS completed the workshops for the Whaddap Indigenous Children's Group. The workshops were sponsored the the Toowoomba Regional Council and very well received by the children. Many thanks to Ms Robyn Silcox, Coordinator of the Whaddap Group from Catholic Care Services for organising the events. Pics below: Henna decoration was a big favourite with the kids.



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 announced at the School Awards nights later in the year.

TDP Graduates



Above: TDP Trainees proudly receive their certificates on completion of the programme.

The Fourteenth Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival

The Toowoomba Languages and Cultures (TLC) Festival was held on 11 August. The event was opened by Mayor Paul Antonio and Minister Stirling Hinchliffe, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Professor Geraldine Mackenzie, Vice Chancellor USQ also spoke at the official greeting. TIMS members and over 160 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.



Left and above: The Nepalese Community joined by their Brisbane friends wowed the audiences with their never seen before traditional performances.



Above and right: over 500 children performed.



Above: Te Hau Tawhiti with members from Toowoomba's Sister City Wanganui perform. Their act was sponsored by TRC's International program.



MDA presented stories, coffee and music from recent migrants at The Living Book Teepee.

The TLCF Volunteer and Sponsor Appreciation Party: was held on 14 September. The festival had a record number of volunteers this year with over 160 people registering. See cover for the group photo at the Volunteer Thank you function.



Pic above – at the volunteer training session held the week before the Festival.



Above: Deputy Mayor Carol Taylor and Mayor Paul Antonio enjoying a Nepalese group dance.



Above: TIMS Member and gate volunteer Ms Angie Mulgrew presenting two beautiful thankyou cushions to TIMS President Ms Gitie House and TLC Festival Volunteer Coordinator Ms Maud Bagnall. The cushions were made from the TLCF T-shirts that are given to the volunteers.

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
- Youth Festival/Youth week activities
- 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 where 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 2020**

Job Assist Careers Expo – in partnership with The CEDAR Centre

Around the Ridges



Ms Gitie House & Mr Ron House at the Barcaldine Australia Day function.



Ms Dipika Aggarwal, Ms Bhavna Gupta, Mr Ron House, Ms Gitie House and Ms Anjali Kakkar at the Indian Holi Celebrations.



Mr Ray Brearley speaking at the Pure Land friendship dinner.



Ms Bhavna Gupta and Ms Gitie House laid a wreath at the Mothers Memorial on Anzac Day.



Volunteers setting up on the Saturday before the TLC Festival.



Mr Ron House with Filipino Community Leaders Ms Tina Bumamtay and Ms Lita Hatherley at the Philippines Independence Day Celebrations.



Ms Eida Maamo, Ms Shireen Maamo volunteering at the Diwali Function



Refugee Migration Roundtable organised by Regional Development Australia

Other Events Include:

- Cultural Diversity Network Meetings – Ms Maud Bagnall,
- MAQ Speaker Series: Ms Maud Bagnall, Ms Gitie House
- Pure Land friendship Dinner & Peace Forums: Mar Ray Brearely, Mrs Helen Brearely, Ms Lea Rapoport, Ms Maud Bagnall, Ms Gitie House, Mr Ron House
- Refugee Migration Roundtable Forum – Ms Gitie House
- Refugee Employment Group – Ms Gitie House
- International Mother’s Language Day – Ms Gitie House (speaker)
- Maurice Blackburn Harmony Day, Ms Gitie House
- India’s 70 Independence Day celebrations organised by USQ – Ms Gitie House (speaker), Ms Bhavna Gupta, Ms Dipika Aggarwal.
- The Diversity Project – meetings – Ms Gitie House, Ms Bhavna Gupta, Ms Maud Bagnall.
- Mayor’s Charity Breakfast – Ms Lea Rapoport, Ms Gitie House, Mr Ron House, Ms Maud Bagnall
- MAQ – Speaker Series – Ms Maud Bagnall, Mr Ron House, Ms Gitie House



TAMS Members:

Top: Mr Ray Brearley, Mrs Gita Sharma, Ms Trudy Moses, Mr Ron House, Mr Nishit Gupta, Mrs Helen Brearley, Ms Imme Nyangatom (President, TAWA), Ms Angie Mulgrew

Bottom: Md David Wallis, Ms Dipika Aggarwal, Ms Maud Bagnall, Ms Gitie House, Mrs Preeti Parikh, Mrs Bhavna Gupta.

Sponsorships & Donations

TIMS received \$73,608 in donations, grants and sponsorships. TIMS made the following donations in the past year: Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival: \$64,660 (includes grants & sponsorships) and in-kind support: \$210,000+. State Emergency Services: \$1,000; High School Language Awards: \$200; other events: \$8,948 with a total in-kind support of: \$225,000+.

Charities and Projects Funded by TIMS since 2008:

TIMS has supported many charities and projects has donated over \$42,000 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
- Job Assist Careers Expo

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 Director Ms Kelly Buckingham and her team 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, University of Southern Queensland, Heritage Bank, Kesavan Realty, The Chronicle, Veetone, Range Event Hire, Modern Languages Teachers Association and Pure Land Learning College. Special thanks to the CEDAR Centre, CEO Ms Anna Nichols and her team and the TDP trainees, and to TAFE and Carers Queensland for their help with volunteers at the Festival. Special thanks also to Ms Cassandra Hunter and her team at the Event Group Toowoomba.

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, Mrs Bhavna Gupta (minutes Secretary) and Committee member Mr David Wallis. Special thanks to members Mr Anand Kesavan, Mr Ron House, Mr Ray Brearley, Mrs Helen Brearley, Ms Angela Mulgrew, Mr Nishit Gupta, and Mr Animesh Gupta for their help and support. We also thank our group members and their community leaders. Special thanks to Mr Ek Raj Adhikari, Mrs Samjhana Adhikari and the Nepalese Association of Toowoomba for their tremendous efforts.

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), Mr William Conwell (Multicultural Officer USQ), Ms Kelly Buckingham(MDA), Ms Anna Nicholls (CEDAR Centre) and Ms Penny Pyke (DHPW). Ms Maud Bagnall (Volunteer coordinator), Mrs Bhavna Gupta (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 and Ms Jo Capp for their tremendous efforts in organising the festival. Pic above:

Toowoomba Regional Council: A special thank you to, the Toowoomba Regional Council staff Mr Angus Moffat and Mr Roberto Garcia for their work on the TLC Festival. We are also grateful to Mr Darryl Bates, for his support. Special thanks to Mayor Paul Antonio, Deputy Mayor Carol Taylor, Cr Megan O'Hara Sullivan, Cr James O'Shea 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.



Volunteers stopping for a lunch break while setting up for the TLC Festival

2020 Horizon - Coming Events

February 2020: 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).

15th TLC Festival: will be held on **9 August 2020**. The media launch will be in May.

Diversity Project - Skilling Queenslanders Traineeships and work experience: TIMS is continuing its partnership 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 11 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 2020 an even more participative and successful year.

