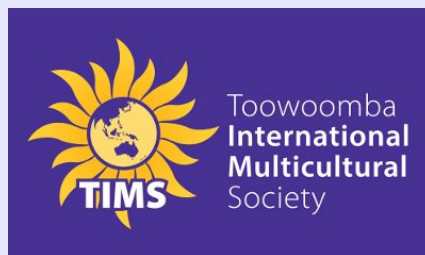




Annual Report 2020



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2021 Horizon

Job Assist Careers Expo

“The Job Assist Careers Expo is such a great program, it provides so much helpful information to people looking for jobs. I wish we had something like this to help us when we first arrived in Australia.” was the enthusiastic comments from some of the community members who attended the second Job Assist Careers Expo held on 10 February. The Expo attracted over 200 people. The event was 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 event.



The Expo targeted a select number of industries identified by job seekers ranging from hospitality, retail, business administration, cleaning, agriculture and community services. Companies presented their services and programmes covering more than 20 displays. The workshops were translated into three 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. Participants were also provided with a booklet with key information in the above sectors. The feedback from attendees and stallholders has been tremendous with all involved asking for more such events.



The Diversity Project

The Diversity Project ran for a second year. The program 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 administration working on TIMS projects. Planning the Job Assist Career Expo and Information Sessions are a significant component of the traineeship programme.



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

The program has an excellent success rate with most of the trainees gaining employment or proceeding to further their skills. The project has been given approval for 2021 term 1 by the Queensland Government for the CEDAR Centre and TIMS to continue providing essential skills and training to another 10 people.



Job Assist Employment Information Session

Industry presentations on apprenticeships in the skilled trades, retail and hospitality sectors were held on 10 August. The event was held to strict Covid-19 health and safety requirements. The presentations were made by professionals in the employment sector and translated into Kurdhi Kurmani and Arabic. The event was a great success and the venue was full to capacity under the new constraints. The event was organised as part of the Diversity Project traineeship for term 2 in partnership with the CEDAR Centre and also sponsored by the Queensland Government.



Skills Recognition Workshop

A second information session was also organised an overseas and migrant skills and qualifications recognition information session on 24 August presented by the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training. The event was again filled to capacity given the strict Covid-19 health and safety restrictions that were re-introduced just a day prior to the event. Many attendees felt that this workshop should be held more often.



Regional Community Forums

The Premier's Queensland Regional Community Forums met with regional community leaders as part of their development plans to rejuvenate rural and regional Queensland. Forums were held in Toowoomba, Roma and Goondiwindi. The Chinchilla forum had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. The forum continued its work through electronic means.



Above: Minister Stirling Hinchliffe, Minister Mark Bailey, Assistant Minister Jennifer Howard (Chair) with members Ms Kelly Buckingham, Mr Armando De La Flor Olavide, Ms Kate Venables and Mrs Gitie House visiting the new Roma Hospital (under construction).

Below: Forum members from all parts of the Darling Downs South West Region.



Peace Education Programs

TIMS members Mr Ray and Mrs Helen Brearley ran one series of the Peace Education Program (PEP) before Covid-19 interrupted. 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 available online, on youtube and mobile devices. Live classes will resume in due course.



Toowoomba Languages & Cultures Festival



Above: Members of the FABICCCQ (Filipino Business Industry and Communities Council of Qld): Mr Roberto Garcia, Mrs Mena Edmonstone, Mr Risker Feril, Mrs Agnes Cabe meeting with TLC Festival Chair, Mrs Gitie House to discuss the features program for the next Festival.

The Festival was postponed this year due to Covid-19. Plans are underway for next year's festival. The new format of the festival will be planned keeping people's health and safety as our top priority and with a Covid-19 Safe plan approved by Qld Health.

Royal Commission on Disability Focus Group

The Royal Commission on Disability approached TIMS to organise a focus group to meet front line workers and learn about the issues facing the CaLD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) community. Mr David Wallis and Dr Ek Raj Adhikari attended the focus group. The group raised issues of stigma with the term Royal Commission and the barrier of migrants not wanting to disclose their problems due to fear of some kind of retribution. The group also discussed the use of interpreters and the importance of using the same interpreter and face to face interpreting. There is apprehension in the community about where their information will end up. Employment was also discussed and the lack of support from Disability Employment Services. Other issues discussed included problems with the funding model and how to access the different language groups. The idea was thrown around of having a 'champion' in each community to assist with collecting stories for the Commission.

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 are Ms Masoumeh Ghavamjoo, Ms Grace Callow, Ms Sammea Mujib and Ms Sophie Tang.

Research & Project Assistance

TIMS has assisted with the following projects:

- Migrant Music in Regional Australia - PhD student Ms Alexandra Blok from Griffith University was assisted with her research on this topic.
- 'Cultural glass ceiling', the fact that many women from culturally diverse background do not progress into senior management roles. Ms Rajandeeep Kaur PhD student from the University of Western Sydney was assisted with her research.
- 'Colour of Queensland - A visual representation of the multicultural population of Queensland' to describe 200+ ethnic backgrounds in regional Australia. Mr Richard McLaren (profession photographer/videographer/documentary story teller/writer/editor) and Ms Elena Volkova (Transmedia storyteller/writer/editor) are being assisted in their research and project in writing a coffee-table book and video - series.

Sponsorships

TIMS received a sponsorship of \$3,023 for the Job Assist Information Expo and workshsops. TIMS gave High School Language Awards: \$100;

Around the Ridges



The Nepalese Community welcome Mr Khimlal Gautam who had twice successfully climbed the peak of Mt Everest and who used specially designed equipment to measure the height of the tallest mountain in the world.



Above: Congratulations to TIMS member Mrs Lea Rapoport (centre) who was awarded the Fellow of the University of Southern Queensland by the President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Geraldine Mackenzie and Chancellor Mr John Dornbusch for her efforts in helping develop the university.



Above: Culture Diversity Network Meeting organised by TRC Multicultural Officer Mr Roberto Garcia. Attendees included Ms Maud Bagnall and Mr Ray Brearely.

Other events:

- Launch of the Giant Kookaburra on its journey from Brisbane to Townsville.
- The Premier's Cabinet Christmas function giving donations to charities for their bushfire and drought relief operations attended by Mrs Gitie and Mr Ron House.
- Women's International day lunch by the Zonta club honouring Ms Alyssa Azar attended by Mrs Gitie House.

Special Acknowledgements

Sponsors and Partners: We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship and support of our partner organisations and individuals who make these projects possible: Department of Employment, Small Business and Training of Queensland Government, Toowoomba Regional Council, Multicultural Affairs Queensland, and Modern Languages Teachers Association. Special thanks to the CEDAR Centre, GM Ms Claire Norris, Ms Tina Jacobs, Ms Nancy Tindin and her team and the TDP trainees, and 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 Ms Maud Bagnall, Mrs Bhavna Gupta (minutes Secretary) and Committee member Mr David Wallis. Special thanks to members Mr Ron House, Mr Ray Brearley, Mrs Helen Brearley and Mr Nishit Gupta for their help and support. Thanks also the TIMS Constitution sub-committee members Ms Anna Nicholls, Ms Dipika Aggarwal and Ms Bhavna Gupta. Thanks also to Mr David Wallis and Dr Ek Raj Adhikari for their help with the Royal Disability Commission Focus Group.

TLC Festival Management Committee Members: Big thanks to the Committee members for their support during this quiet year.

Toowoomba Regional Council: A special thank you to Toowoomba Regional Council staff Mr Angus Moffat and Mr Roberto Garcia, Mr Darryl Bates, Mr Garry Humhreys and Cr Geoff McDonald. .

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.

Reflections and Plans

Covid-19 has created a number of challenges for TIMS. As restrictions ease we hope to be able to revive our cultural events in a reimagined and Covid-19 safe way. Tentative dates are being considered for our flagship events and will be announced in the new year.

TIMS has continued to work with the community and our partner organisations on projects that will help and assist them through the Covid-19 crisis. Our Job Assist Information Sessions have been very well received by the community. The TDP training programs have seen another 20 people from vulnerable backgrounds trained and placed in jobs. Trainees for 2021 have already commenced and we hope to continue the program for the rest of the year.

TIMS is also reviewing its constitution to enable further growth as a charity and a cultural organisation.

TIMS is keeping up to date with the Covid-19 guidelines and considering new opportunities for bringing people together to share their cultures in harmony and with understanding.

2021 Horizon - Coming Events

Please Note – The health and safety of our members and the community are of utmost importance to us. All events are subject to Covid-19 Safe restrictions and health plans and may have to be cancelled or postponed dependent on the restrictions and advice of Queensland Health at the time.

February 2021: Job Connect and Careers Expo in partnership with the Cedar Centre.

March - Harmony Day Events – TIMS participates in a number of Harmony 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).

15th TLC Festival: TBA

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.

