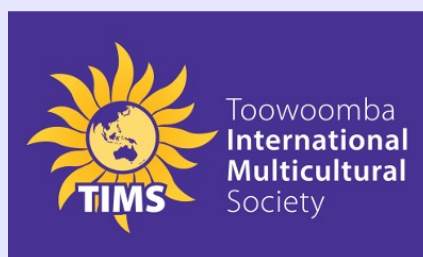




## Annual Report 2022



*Cover: International Street Fiesta – photo by Maud Bagnall*

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### ***Special Acknowledgements***

## Harmony Day Picnic



Harmony Day was celebrated at a community picnic organised by TIMS members Ms Maud Bagnall, Mr Eakraj Adhikari, Mrs Sam Adhikari, Mr Nick Day and Mr Prince Lo in collaboration with the wider community. The event was opened by the Mayor and enjoyed by more than 500 members of the community coming from all walks of life.



## Luminous Lantern Parade in Toowoomba

TIMS participated in the first Luminous Lantern Parade organised by Multicultural Australia at the Civic Square. Many thanks to Ms Maud Bagnall for the decorations and to Ms Melody Shepherd and her team for their help with lantern making.



## World Peace Day

The 2<sup>nd</sup> World Peace Day was held on the 1 October. A lovely afternoon was attended by over 1000 people.



Above: Children enjoyed an art competition along with a variety of speeches and performances.

The day was organised by the Heartfulness Centre (Dr Uma Kumar and Dr Kumar Gunda – pic left below) and Pureland Learning College. TIMS was an organising partner with Ms Maud Bagnall organising the volunteers to handle the set up and set down (pic below right with Cr Megan O'Hara Sullivan and Ms Jane Williams of Mercy Community Services).



Below: UNAA President Ms Claire Moore talks about the importance of Peace Building.



## International Street Fiesta

The First International Street Fiesta was held on 15 October. It continues the tradition of the Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival in a new and refreshed format. The new format was very well received by more than 12,500 people who attended the event. More than 60 volunteers helped with the set-up/set-down, stage management, photography and many other tasks needed to make the day a wonderful occasion for everyone.



Above: Emcees Krazy Kevin and Mr Prince Lo kept the audience on their feet dancing and enjoying the festivities.



Above left: Ms Cassandra Hunter (Festival Director) with Ms Maud Bagnall (Volunteer Coordinator) with volunteers Mr Nick Day and Mr Wayne Rutledge. Above right: Stage Manager Mrs Sam Adhikari with volunteers Mr Rick Feril and community helpers.



The event ran from 3.00 – 8.00 pm. A program of 30+ non-stop performances was closed with a fireworks display. Performances kept the audience enthralled till the very end.



Above: African Fusion representing nations across African performed with their live drum dance.





A big thankyou to our sponsors: Toowoomba Regional Council (Platinum sponsor), Multicultural Australia (Gold Sponsor) and the University of Southern Queensland was the Silver sponsor. Supported by The Queensland Government Multicultural Affairs Grant. The rides were sponsored by the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce. Above Town Crier Mr Kavin Howart and Crs Rebecca Vonhoff and Cr Megan O'Hara Sullivan look on Mrs Gitie House OAM presented Ms Kelly Buckingham Regional Director Multicultural Australia with a Certificate of Appreciation.



The Media Launch was held on 4 October with the Mayor Paul Antonio launching the Fiesta. Performances were showcased by dancers from the Nepalese community, Glowing Divas from the Gujarati community and the Toowoomba Chinese Dancers. The events were covered by Channel 7 and The Chronicle.

## Multicultural Advisory Committee of Toowoomba



Toowoomba Regional Council formed its first Multicultural Advisory Committee which has been meeting monthly since the start of this year. Priorities are to make Toowoomba a welcoming place and to develop employment pathways.

## Peace Education Programs



TIMS members Mr Ray and Mrs Helen Brearley ran a series with the use of video conferencing technology of the Peace Education Program (PEP) and also a series of Facilitator training sessions. PEP is developed by The Prem Rawat Foundation (TPRF). The classes are very popular and have received tremendous feedback. Above Mr Eakraj Adhikari and Mr Ray Brearley promoting TIMS and PEP at the World Peace Day

## Group Members' Activities

### Fiji Independence Day

The Fiji Community celebrated their 52<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day with a picnic and performances.



## Indian Independence Day



The Indian Communities of Toowoomba celebrated 75 years of Independence with a big function attended by almost 800 people at the Centenary State School. Representatives from many Indian Cultural Groups came together to organise the event (see pic bottom). The event was attended by our Federal and State MPs and the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and many local Councillors.



## Himalayan Connection Australia Toowoomba

The Himalayan Australia Connection Group from Nepal participated in the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers parade dressed in their colourful national costumes.



## Toowoomba Nepalese Community

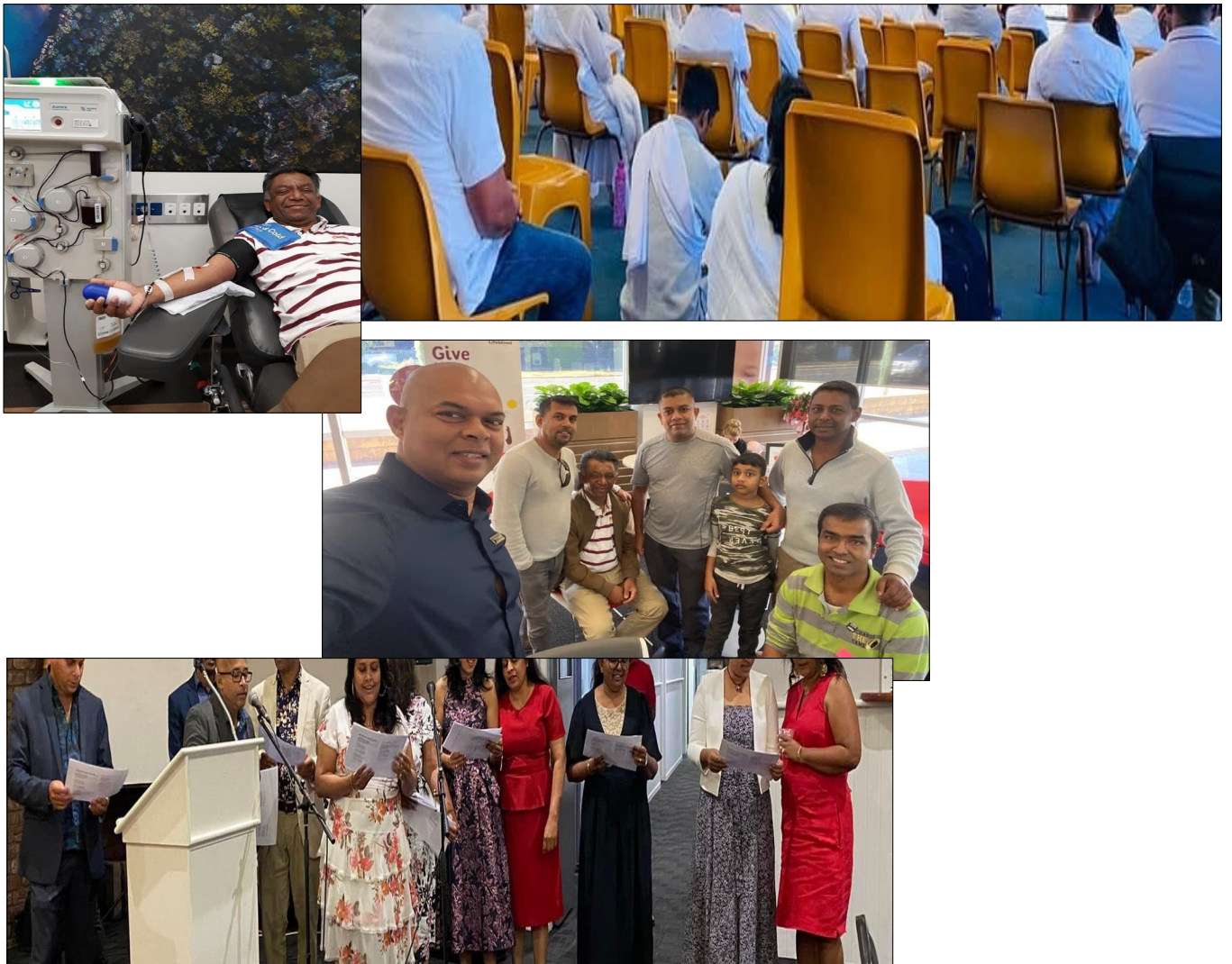
The Toowoomba Nepalese Community celebrated Teej, the Nepalese Independence Day and Holi (the Festival of Colours).



## Sri Lankan Community



The Sri Lankan Community celebrated their New Year with their beautiful Puja Dance. They also organised food for the homeless with Tony's Kitchen (pice below) and a blood donation day. They also celebrated Christmas Carols and a Meditation Day.



## Queensland Path To Treaty

The Premier launched Queensland's Path to Treaty along with Elders of the Indigenous Communities of Queensland. Queensland is the only State where the process will include consultations across the State with Queenslanders of all backgrounds. This is to ensure that everyone's voice is included in the outcomes. The process is now part of the Queensland Legislation. TIMS was very honoured to be part of this significant event in Queensland's reconciliation history in bringing everyone together.





# TREATY

## Queensland's Path to Treaty Commitment

August 2022

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have lived on and cared for this land for thousands of years and assert they have never ceded their sovereignty. In this, the 163rd year of the State of Queensland, the Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders continue our shared commitment to a reframed relationship.

This is a commitment whose time is now. The time to reach out to each other, to understand each other, to grow together and to move together to a unified future where we value, respect and protect each other.

The Path to Treaty is a significant step forward in reframing the relationship with First Nations peoples—a process through which all Queenslanders can recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of the land, winds, sky and waters we now share.

This Path to Treaty is a journey, not for the timid, but for those who are courageous to confront our uncomfortable past, the curious who long to find out and live with the truth, and the optimists who dream of the possibilities of a future where we live comfortably with the past, free of blame and rancour because we commit to not repeating those things that shame us.

This journey together will enrich the lives of all Queenslanders and provide for greater recognition, celebration and learning from First Nations peoples.

In Queensland we commit to be courageous, curious and optimistic as we hear the truth and collaborate in maturity to build the consensus necessary to establish treaties, to build a place where the world's oldest living culture of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples is celebrated as central to the identity of all Queenslanders.

## 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.

## TIMS Strategic Directions

TIMS Member met at a Special General Meeting on 10 September to consider and approve the new Constitution. The new Constitution enables TIMS to register as a Charity with the ACNC and to apply for DGR Status. The members also approved following the Government processes and protocols to achieve this. The new constitution has been approved by the Office of Fair Trading.

## Around the Ridges



Above left: Ms Maud Bagnall with other guests at the Iftar dinner. Right: Mr Prince Lo, Ms Gitie House, Mr Roberto Garcia and guests at the Iftar dinner organised by the Multi-faith Islamic Group of Toowoomba. Below: Multicultural Australia Roundtable forum with the Minister and Mayor Paul Antonio, Ms Kelly Buckingham Regional Director MA and Ms Christine Kelly, CEO MA.





Above: Mrs Sam Adhikari , Mrs Gitie House and Ms Alisa Adhikari at the wreath laying at the Mothers Memorial on Anzac Day.



Above: Ms Maud Bagnall, Mrs Gitie House, Mrs Sam Adhikari, Dr Uma Kumar and guests at the Police Connection function. Below: Queensland Governor Dr Jeanette Young, Mrs Gitie House, Mr Ron House and guests at the Garden City Mosque welcome to the Governor.



**Other Events Include:**

- Ethics of Compassion – Pure Land Conference – Mr Ray Brearley, Mrs Gitie House, Mr Ron House, Ms Maud Bagnall, Mr Nick Day, ....
- Cultural Diversity Network Meetings – Ms Maud Bagnall, Mr Ray Brearley, Mr Prince Lo (see pic below).



Below: TIMS members at the AGM 2021



## Special Acknowledgements

**Sponsors and Partners:** We gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship and support of our partner organisations and individuals who make these projects possible. For the IS Fiesta Toowoomba Regional Council, Multicultural Affairs Queensland, Multicultural Australia, University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce. Special thanks also to Ms Cassandra Hunter, Mr Goodwill and her team at the Event Group Toowoomba and to Mr Rouz Fard and Ms Fatima Blila, UniSQ, Mercy Community Services and the Lions Club of West Toowoomba.

**TIMS Committee and Members:** Special thanks all the committee members especially our Treasurer Ms Dipika Aggarwal, Vice-President & Community Development Officer Ms Maud Bagnall, Mrs Bhavna Gupta (minutes Secretary) and Committee member Ms Anna Nicholls. We also thank members Mr Nick Day, Mr Prince Lo, Mr Ron House, Mr Ray Brearley, Mrs Helen Brearley, Mr Nishit Gupta and Mr Klaus Meretz for their help and support. We also thank our group members and their community leaders. Special thanks to Mr Ekraj Adhikari, Mrs Samjhana Adhikari for their tremendous efforts. Special thanks to Mr and Mrs Brearely and Mr Anand Kesavan and Dr Shaku Shanmugam for their generous donations to help TIMS.

**IS Fiesta Committee Members:** Big thanks to the Committee members and Festival Coordinators: Festival Manager Ms Cassandra Hunter, Ms Fatima Blila (UniSQ), Mr Angus Moffat (Media Relations Office, TRC), Mr Roberto Garcia (Multicultural Development Officer, TRC), Ms Kelly Buckingham(MA) and her team, Ms Jenny Rix (Bonjour), Ms Anna Nicholls (TIMS), Ms Maud Bagnall (TIMS, Volunteer coordinator), Mrs Bhavna Gupta (TIMS), Mrs Samjhana Adhikari (TIMS, Assistant Performance Coordinator), Mr Wayne Rutledge, Mr David New, Mr Prince Lo and Mrs Gitie House OAM (Chair & Festival Director) for their massive efforts in organising this year's festival. Special thanks also the The Event Group Toowoomba team – Ms Cassandra Hunter and team.

**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 Geoff McDonald, , Cr Megan O'Hara Sullivan, Cr James O'Shea and Cr Rebecca Vonhoff for their support with this year's IS Fiesta.

**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.

Below: View from the stage – International Street Fiesta. Photo by Anna Nicholls.



