

ADDRESS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY MS QUENTIN BRYCE AC  
**GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**  
ON THE OCCASION OF  
**OPENING ADDRESS FOR THE TOOWOOMBA LANGUAGES AND CULTURES FESTIVAL**  
**2010 - ONE WORLD, MANY FACES**  
QUEENS PARK, TOOWOOMBA  
8 AUGUST 2010

Ladies and gentlemen, I acknowledge the traditional keepers of this magnificent land and give thanks to all those who have tended to it so carefully and affectionately over many generations.

I am really thrilled to be in Toowoomba for a celebration:

that warmly welcomes the people of this city and district

and embraces the support of leading community and business organisations that have worked for a long time here to improve the wellbeing of individuals and families.

Now in its fifth year, the Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival is an honest and joyous reflection of local life:

a rich and fascinating montage of cultures and languages drawn from

North-Western Europe, Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, Southern and Central Asia, the Americas, and this state and country;

indeed, it is a proud snapshot of broader contemporary Australia,

and a wonderful example of our growing interest in and respect for our shared and separate stories,

that have evolved over tens, hundreds, thousands of years,

and those that are yet to unfold.

Through music, dance, film, art, literature and food, we are exploring ways of deepening this mutual sense of our diversity and of our common humanity.

And through simple daily acts of living, working, learning and playing alongside one another we are coming to see and understand more about our neighbours and ourselves.

This is the process of community building:

listening

observing

remembering

keeping alive the stories of lives lived and places cherished

and allowing new lives to emerge in new places

all of it, part of a continuing, shared human experience

a neighbourliness on which true citizenship is based.

And this festival is a celebration of your sincere commitment and effort towards each of these things.

The Toowoomba Regional Council

Toowoomba International Multicultural Society

The Modern Languages Teachers' Association of Queensland

Mercy Family Services

Lifeline Darling Downs

The West African Alliance

and the myriad community and cultural organisations, businesses, and individuals who have contributed to making this day happen,

I express my greatest admiration and praise:

for your support and nurture of human dignity and unique language and culture  
for encouraging each of us to give and receive, generously and graciously

for strengthening our tolerance, understanding and appreciation of differences between people

and for your leadership in fostering inclusiveness, cohesion, openness, and harmony from diversity.

My friends, we are many faces of one world:

In the whole web woven of the being of the world  
Each of us has a place,  
A small corner of the tapestry uniquely ours,  
Spun in with our times and those around us.

We weave our own corner into its own shape  
And all the tiny shapes become the whole&hellip;  
Until all are part of one another.

Each touches the whole and becomes a part of it&hellip;  
&hellip;touches and changes  
the skirts of the universe.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with pleasure and fond wishes that I now declare open the 2010 Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival.