



Director Pacific Rim

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It is pleasing to report that much activity is taking place throughout the Pacific Rim region.

Recently the 7th annual WA Oceana Fest competition took place in Perth, with not only international representation coming via way of representation from Fiji and the New Zealand Culinary Team, whom this year for the first time ever, also consisted of Junior Squad who scored 10 medals from 10 classes, picking up 5 Gold, 2 Silver and 3 Bronze medals for their efforts. Once again the Senior Squad competed in the Restaurant of Champions competition and successfully defended their 2003 Open Team Challenge title.

We were also pleased to have chef Otto Weibel attending as a guest judge for the restaurant of Champions competition along with two of Australia's most renowned former culinary competitors, chefs Michael Stratmanis and Ingo Schwartz. All three brought a wealth of culinary history and experience to this year's event and the competing team's certainly got something from their feedback and also some of the stories that they recounted during the weekend of Oceana Fest. A very BIG Thank-you to each of them for donating their time, energy and wisdom.

The annual Nestle Golden Hats competition for young chefs has gone very well, with a record number of entries. The finalists are now preparing themselves for the Grand Final Cook Off later in September.

Around the Region:

Fiji

? Organization is well under way for the annual Fiji Salon. Taking place on the 30th November and 1st December 2004. This is the highlight of the year among Fiji Chefs as it gives them all a chance to catch up, and to see what's new in the way of trends, styles etc... This year is looking like it will be the best ever with new sponsors coming on board, which has enabled the Fiji chefs association to augment these with their more established sponsors, thus enabling them to enhance Fiji Salon Culinaire even further. For the first time they are able to have everything all at the 1 venue (Sheraton Royal). It looks as though interest amongst the chefs of Fiji is very strong for this year's Salon, with almost 100 chefs seeking to register. The Fiji chefs Association are grateful to chefs Glenn Austin and Rick Stephen from Australia and chef Gary Miller from New Zealand for agreeing to attend this year's event and assist

with judging duties, as well as other special events lined up throughout the duration of Salon 2004.

? Mohammad Joseph has just recently returned from Perth after representing Fiji at the 2004 WA Oceana Fest Competition. Joseph came home very happy with Silver and a Bronze medal. This is the first time Fiji has been represented internationally and a big Vinaka Vakalevu to WACS and the Australian Culinary Federation for making this possible.

? Adam Haywood – Technical Advisor and Business Manager to the Fiji Chefs Association have just returned from the New Zealand Culinary Fare in Auckland where he was invited to judge the very prestigious Toque d'Or. Adam was very impressed with the quality of food produced by the students and some very good skills were shown. Most of the students competing have got fantastic futures ahead of them.

? Fiji is starting their own monthly newsletter, which will be a very useful tool in communication with existing and potential members.

New Zealand

The New Zealand Culinary Team are to be congratulated for another fine performance, not only in the culinary arena, but also in the way in which they conduct themselves at all times – they truly are ambassadors not only for their country, but also for the profession of the culinary practitioner.

The WACS 2006 Organising committee have released details on the World Junior Chefs Challenge The 'Hans Bueschkens World Junior Chefs Challenge' will form part of the 32nd Congress of the World Association of Cooks Societies (WACS) to be held in Auckland New Zealand from 12-16 March 2006.

2006 congress director, Murray Dick, states that the 'Hans Bueschkens World Junior Chefs Challenge' would form part of the Congress underpinned the growing importance of the Congress' junior forum. "The junior forum has gone from strength-to-strength since its inception at the 2002 Congress in Kyoto, Japan," he said. "The 2004 Congress in Ireland included a junior team cooking competition. However, at the conclusion of that Congress, it was decided by the WACS Board that there should be a shift to a single competitor event instead of a team competition."

Murray states that the New Zealand Chefs' Association that is organising the 2006 Congress had the full endorsement and recognition of the WACS Culinary Committee to host the 'Hans Bueschkens World Junior Chefs Challenge'. "The event has been successfully held in New Zealand before both in 1999 and 2002," he said.

The 2006 'Hans Bueschkens World Junior Chefs Challenge' will be open to every member country within WACS. "While member countries can send more than one junior delegate to the congress' junior forum, only one person will be able to compete in the 'Hans Bueschkens World Junior Chefs Challenge'."

All competitors taking part in the event must be under the age of 23, as of 10 March 2006.

"The strength and ongoing success of any organization is that of its youth. The New Zealand Chefs Association is, therefore, very focused on supporting junior chefs at the 2006 Congress."

Further details regarding the content and structure of the actual Congress will be released in a timely fashion in the coming months.

Other Business

The Continental Directors office is currently in contact with chefs in Papa New Guinea whom are interested in forming their own association. There is a long way to go with this particular project and currently I have delegated initial responsibility to the NZ Regional representative, chef Gary Miller to liase with PNG and start to assist them to organise a framework under which they could successfully operate.

Due to my commitments with the Australian National Culinary Team attending the IKA Culinary Olympics I have asked ACF Treasurer Ms Deb Foreman to handle all WACS Pacific Rim correspondence for the near future. She will be responsible for answering general queries and or passing info through to the Pacific Rim Regional Representatives. Deb's email address is deb2804@optusnet.com.au

The 2005 WACS Asia Pacific Forum – Planning for this is well underway, with the ACF Gold Coast responsible for bringing this to fruition. They are planning this forum to fit perfectly around the WACS Principle of the C.H.E.F.

All in all a buoyant and progressive time for the Pacific Rim region.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in gold ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Austin', is positioned above a vertical line.

Glenn Austin

Continental Director

WACS Pacific Rim