

W.A.C.S Continental directors report Report – Jan 2005

Australian Culinary Federation

Here we go into 2005 and even after a hectic Christmas and New Year it feels that there has been no break at all. I think my final note for the year gave you the highlights, this one should give you some incite into the year ahead. There will be many changes to the ACF this year I believe all for the betterment of the association, these changes will be from the executive of the ACF but I will keep you posted. Many of the articles written last year created some excellent feedback to the Editor; I hope this year is the same. They say, as you get older you get wiser; well I am the exception to the rule. If upset or verbalize my thoughts on those people that mistreat Chefs, tough luck, do not think you will get a reprieve this year, my attitude towards those is worse than ever.

Now on a positive note, the Asia Pacific Forum that I have spoken about for the last two years is only months away, at the same time Alan Parker and his crew have the biggest MLA Black box comp running that has ever been held. Add the Gold Coast Salon, a new branch in Cairns, the secondary school challenge as well as the normal issues with running a Chapter and there will be no prizes for guessing what Alan will be doing in his spare time. Lucky he has got a good committee behind him.

The crisis in Asia has brought the Pacific Rim together, there are many programs being held throughout the Pacific with the largest being held in Melbourne co-ordinated by the ACF Victoria President Gary Farrell. For more information on that program check the Web site www.austculinary.com.au to date Australian Pork Corporation, Meat and livestock Australia, Inghams Poultry and Dairy Farmers have joined to make the events a National success. These guys are major players in the Industry and their support is greatly appreciated.

The ACF Nestle Golden Chefs hat competition will commence soon, Rick Stephen and myself are operating that again this year. The ACF Culinary committee has been appointed, they have been tasked with creating a National calendar, bringing all competitions in line as well as dealing with the Judging register and other related tasks.

The ACF is assisting a long term Member from Melbourne Mr. George Hill (you know the man in the Hat) to launch a world first, the virtual Salon. George is no spring chicken I can assure you but his mind is light years ahead of most. He must have abused himself as much as some of us did in our earlier years.

This year (February) will see us sign up for our new long term Continental Directors and Australian Culinary federations National office, it will be located in Melbourne in the Moffat Equipment office. This will provide us with a central location for all correspondence to hit as well as the beginning of the Hall of fame for Chefs and some secretariat support. Moffat has been a long-term supporter of all Chef associations and once again they have come forward to help again, well done. The contract needs some fine-tuning but I am sure that between Patrick O'Brien and myself this will take no time. Keep your eyes and ears open for the launch date.

Please remember that the loyalty we show to our supporters does come back to us, I had the unfortunate position of explaining to a friend in business the other day that we (Chefs) must stick with those that support us, he wanted me to turn my back on that arrangement and do a mates deal with him. This happened to be another equipment company and I would not be part of it, the argument went on then headed down the threatening avenue, still no budging. My point was if they had supported chefs we needed them things would be different, at the time they did not understand nor care, I can tell you they do now and will continue to in the future. This is one of many projects that Chefs will be using their influence to support their Industry Partners.

Fiji Chefs Association

Fiji Chefs Association sends out's condolences to all those who have been caught in Nature's worst ever Disaster the Tsunami. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank WACS for driving such a strong "donation" programme with "Dine Aid" and the likes.

Fiji being made up as a group of Islands like some of the countries caught up in the "Disaster Zone" in Asia can sort of sympathize as if it was to happen here we too would be destroyed.

The Fiji Chefs Association and our Continental Director are also currently making contact with other Pacific Island Country's and are trying to help establish Chefs Associations and offer advise and assistance where we can. Anybody who is in the Pacific and would like further information on our plans and goals in the region can contact Adam Haywood at adam@outriggerfiji.com.fj

We are also in the planning stage of setting up our own Web Site so stayed tuned for more details as we go along.

On a personal note I would like to offer my thanks to the Fiji executive and the Continental Director for giving me the opportunity to become the 3rd assistant in the region, I now join Gary Millar from New Zealand and Rick Stephen from Australia. I firmly believe that the Pacific Rim team will achieve their stated goals and benefit all Chefs in the Pacific in due course.

New Zealand

With the traditional busy Xmas season and then the holiday season, things here in NZ have been somewhat quieter than normal.

Feb will see the WACS 2006 Congress Committee getting together to start finalising projects and tasks associated with this event. We are hopeful of having Glenn attend this meeting

The branches of the NZCA will be out in force around the country at numerous festivals and events where they traditionally undertake the cooking demonstration duties.

The 2005\06 New Zealand Culinary Team will be convening and starting out on their culinary campaigns for the coming year. Even though I am for once stuck for words I can assure you that it still is business as usual but it is more work on the same projects basically. The silly season traditionally slows communication down but defiantly not the workload.

Have no fear I will be back on the paper trail once I get back to my normal routine. I am looking forward to our next regional meeting, which is happening in Brisbane in February, I am sure we will make some headway with our region. Face to face meetings is always more productive than emails. Talk soon

Gary Millar

New Zealand regional assistant