

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

Pacific Rim

The crisis in Asia has brought the Pacific Rim together; the Australian Government put in place several years ago laws that stopped individuals from profiteering from honorable charities. Example there were many individuals who found an easy way to get a buck was to walk around with a can and have the name of a charity on it and then keep the proceeds. The actual Charity received nothing. These excellent laws effectively cleaned up a lot of these undesirable people but have now made it awkward in the respect that for the ACF to fund raise for the tsunami needs official letters from WACS as this is where we were sending all the money (to the central fund). The World association is identifying the worst hit areas and is focusing on the hospitality Industry to assist.

There appears to be a problem getting these letters. But the disaster in Asia is one issue, we need to look at what is happening in our own back yard and see what we can put in place to assist our own. We have had record droughts, fires in the ACT and in South Australia and I cannot recall that we as an organization have done much. This is the year that we are putting together a plan of attack to support our own regions in time of need. We are aligning ourselves with an organization that currently assists people in emergencies and this will become one of our projects this year. It is excellent to be able to help others but as I have said previously charity begins at home.

The ACF State Presidents have been given proposed dates for the Golden Chef Hat cook offs, please keep an eye on your State Web pages for the announcement of these dates. We have already received in excess of 180 enquiries into this years comp so you will need to register early to become part of the event. There is an excellent overseas food prize this year, but I will keep it under my hat until it is finalized. Notice how I mentioned under my hat, I am still a little gun shy of Mr. George Hill in Melbourne I have not taken mine off since last year.

The ACF Culinary committee has had there first meeting this year; I have the chairperson putting together a report for the Web page currently. This committee will ensure compliance throughout Australia and ensure that the standards are raised and all get a fair go. Whilst I am on about competitions the Dairy Farmers Best of the Best Pizza comp is about to start the State cook offs, this year the event has received huge support from its partners to revamp and improve the event. You can look forward to purchasing specials form the stand; attend master classes, industry

forums as well as an expert forum for discussion. The partners in the event are Natural Gas, Moffat Equipment and Castlemain KR small goods.

The Pacific Rim has held its regional meeting in Brisbane Rick Stephen Australia, Adam Haywood Fiji, Gary Millar New Zealand and myself have worked on a growth strategy for the region over the next 12 months, we currently are in discussions with Noumea and Tahiti, if we are successful we will have almost doubled the pacific Rim associations in 14 months. We are quite excited at this happening; we also have a plan to run a Pacific Chef or the year event due to the abundance of enquiries I have received for such a competition.

The potential countries are discussing Chef exchange, new product availability and the extremely popular Queensland secondary school Challenge. We will keep you posted on this as it progresses.

Fiji is working hard to increase membership around them, we aim to create a good strong sustainable network through out the pacific for the betterment of all Chefs and pass on the Word of Metz Chef, Chef, and Chef

Regards

Glenn Austin

Director Pacific Rim