

Introduction

As a reminder the World Association of Cooks Society (WACS) is the umbrella organisation for many national cooks' societies. It operates worldwide and currently consists of approximately 72 member countries of which we Australia are one.

WACS thus represents some 500,000 professional chefs who are full members of the organisation and additionally represents approximately 8 million chefs and cooks globally.

The Australian Culinary Federation is a National Body representing all chefs and cooks throughout Australia and is proud to be part of WACS. We are a united group dedicated to creating culinary opportunity for all members and making Australia a better place to eat. We are a progressive organisation who proactively and collectively makes decision to better our federation and make it bigger and stronger.

I believe that we have made steady progress throughout 2004 with sensational results on the world culinary arena and most importantly in growing our membership base.

National ACF Offices

Recent negotiations with Moffat, a major sponsor of ACF have established a suitable relationship to develop a National ACF Office in their Victorian Facility. Moffat have offered ACF National a dedicated area that will house all relevant files and a display area for trophies and library. In addition a secretariat to manage all incoming communication and some warehouse space to house all competition equipment. This allows us the opportunities to asset manage all equipment that can be loaned and managed for various culinary activities.

The new space is adjacent to their training kitchen that we can also use when available for demonstrations and master classes.

National President ACF

Since becoming WACS Continental Director Pacific Rim I have been contemplating the position of National President ACF and have decided to pass over the position if a suitable candidate could be established. I have given the ACF state Chapters the opportunity to nominate suitable candidates and during our February National ACF meeting accepted the nomination from Mr. Peter Wright to become the new National ACF President. I will still remain president until the Asia Pacific Forum in September, this will allow for a smooth transition for the incoming president. Mr. Peter Wright has started taking tasks subsequent to the February meeting.

9th WACS Asia-Pacific Chefs Forum

Preparation for this years WACS Asia-Pacific Chefs forum is well under way. This global event will be hosted by the Queensland Chapter of the ACF and will attract delegates from Asia and the Pacific Rim. The forum runs from the 1st to the 5th of September 2005. The forum includes guest speakers and demonstrators, food and wine tours showcasing the best of Queensland, the regional final of the MLA Black Box culinary challenge and the international secondary schools culinary challenge. Conference and accommodation packages are available through the ACF web site www.austculinary.com.au

State Chapters – Committee Movements

A new committee has been elected for the ACF South Australian Chapter with Simon Dunstall leading the way as the State President

A new committee has also been elected for the ACF Victorian Chapter with Gary Farrell leading the way as State President.

Following the resignation of the ACF Canberra Chapter Neil Abraham's has returned to the Presidents position following a stint on the Australian National Culinary Team.

Discussions are being held to start a chapter in Tasmania and shortly requests to form a committee will be sent out.

Competitions - 2005

ACF National have coordinated the approach to culinary competitions and their respective guidelines and developed a proposal for a dedicated culinary committee. The inaugural team has been selected with fair representation throughout the country. This group will be responsible for the development of culinary competitions rules and guidelines in accordance with WACS requirements.

Queensland - MLA- Black Box, Asia- Pacific Forum

This years WACS Asia-Pacific Chefs Forum will include the biggest live professional cooking competition hosted in Australia "MLA Black Box", and will be hosted by the Queensland Chapter of the ACF and coordinated by Meat and Livestock Australia. 20 Countries have been invited to enter from the Asia-Pacific region and will compete in the new Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Western Australia – Oceania Fest 2005

The Western Australia Oceania Fest 2005 will be held in conjunction with Fine Foods Perth. The competition will be from the 9th -11th October in the new Perth Exhibition & Convention Centre.

Nestle Golden Chefs Hat Award

The Nestle Golden Chefs hat Award is the only national junior culinary competition and has been running since 1966. This is our contribution to Australia's sound reputation for cuisine, innovation and excellence and paves the way for our next great chefs. Teams from each state will be judged and one team from each state will be selected to compete in the regional cook off in Melbourne in November 2005

Pacific Culinary Challenge

The Pacific Culinary Challenge will take place in Fiji in October and teams will represent their region and will consist of one chef and one junior chef. This competition will be a black box event with a 2-hour duration.

Fiji

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 the rest of the Pacific Rim through the Continental director are also currently trying to make 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. Our annual Salon is underway the organising committee have taken another step forward and have sourcing teams for the secondary school challenge and MLA Black Box competition in Australia. These opportunities are not only viewed as events only for the competition minded Chef but valuable internal learning opportunities for all that belong to the association. Any food related activity on the island brings many other logistical forces into place, we all benefit in the process.

Fiji is planning to host the first Pacific Challenge; this will be the first time the Pacific has joined together for a joint activity. We will keep you posted on this

NZ

As you are all aware NZ is hosting the Congress next year, this is the main focus for them and Murry Dick is the Director of the project. Even though this is a brief statement on behalf of NZ, believe me it is business as usual and Murray is way more skilled than I at informing the World what is currently happening on his home front.

In closing the Pacific Rim is still moving forward, all are working together, we are confident Noumea, Tahiti and the Cook Islands will join us shortly but it is taking considerable time effort and finances, I will keep you all posted

PW