

WORLDCHIEFS PACIFIC RIM PRESIDENTS MEDAL RECIPIENT –ROB SMILLIE

The only medal given out by Worldchefs (up until the congress in Thessaloniki, Greece) was the Honorary Life Members medal. However the criteria to be awarded with the Honorary Life Membership medal is a strict criteria that not everyone meets.

There are many persons around the world that contribute to Worldchefs in many ways and need to be acknowledged but do not meet the Honorary Life Members criteria.

Past President of Worldchefs, Charles Carroll moved to remedy this by the instigation of a Presidents medal. The criteria are there are only 10 medals that can be awarded in any one calendar year from the 1st January to the 31st December. These medals can be awarded any time within that year and not necessarily at a congress. Each medal is numbered and the reason for awarding the medal must be given to the office in Paris so as a history of who received the medal and what number they were issued becomes part of Worldchefs history.

Past President Charles Carroll requested each of the 7 Continental Directors to nominate a person who has undertaken work within the region and would be worthy of this acknowledgement. The President would then nominate the other 3 recipients to make up the 10 recipients at the inaugural awarding of these medals at the congress in Greece.

For the Pacific Rim I thought very carefully as to who should receive this new award and it didn't take me too long to come up with a name that has undertaken many supportive events and has assisted in promoting Worldchefs throughout the Pacific Region so it is with absolute pleasure that Rob Smillie from Moffat was put forward to receive the Presidents medal from the Pacific Region.

This award has many significant firsts. As mentioned the medals are numbered and Rob received medal number one. Not only is Rob the very first to receive the Presidents Medal but he is also the first and only non-chef so far to receive this award and is now cemented in as part of Worldchefs history.

Rob and Sarah were instrumental in developing the Chefs Association in Vanuatu and even when they left Vanuatu they still remained part of the executive and still take an active role in the development of this association. Rob was instrumental in getting the chefs from Samoa involved as Worldchefs members plus with his position with Moffat and his constant travels around the Pacific he is the constant face of culinary support at many culinary competitions. This could not be possible without the continued support that Moffat offers the whole region.

So it with great pleasure that we acknowledge Rob as the very first recipient of this award and thanks to Rob and Moffat for the very supportive approach they undertake throughout the Pacific Region.