

WORLD PRESIDENT'S MEDAL RECIPIENT KEITH CLARK

Discussions took place about a President's Medal recipient some 3 months ago and after writing up why Keith Clark should receive this prestigious award, it was agreed to present this when WorldChefs President Thomas Gugler was on his short visit to New Zealand.

Keith was to be the eleventh recipient of this medal but the office could not locate medal number 11 so Keith was presented with medal number 12. The very first medal ever issued was to Rob Smillie from Moffat at the last Worldchefs Congress in Greece in 2016.

I must admit it was hard to keep this to myself for so long and I kept on asking Keith and Carmel if they were attending the Toque d'or awards dinner, luckily they did not catch on that something was afoot!

Thomas had a chance to meet Keith and Carmel whilst waiting for guests to arrive in the function room after the meet and greet in the hotel foyer. This helped Thomas get some more info about Keith that he could use in his presentation speech.

Although the focus of the evening was truly and rightfully focused on the young students that had competed in the Toque d'Or finals that day, it worked out that this was the only forum that President Gugler had to present the medal before he flew out that night to Singapore.

The look on Keith's face was well worth the secrecy of the medal presentation and a very surprised and well-deserved Keith accepted the medal to a standing ovation by everyone in the room.

Keith has been a long time stalwart of NZ Chefs, been a member for 30 years and the finance director for 22 years. He is always working hard behind the scenes on all facets that enhance the future development of NZ Chefs for both senior and youth competitors.

A special moment in the culinary history of NZ Chefs and a great acknowledgement to someone who just gets on with it. Well done Keith.

Murray M Dick

Continental Director- Pacific Rim

