



A message from the President of the Vanuatu Chefs and Foodhandlers Assoc.

Dear, members, sponsors and supporters of the Vanuatu Chefs Association,
There has been a fairly reasonable response to our announcement that this years “Moffat Chef of the Year” would not be awarded from the majority of our members and supporters however unfortunately a couple of venues have accused us of cheating and being Prima donnas in the way we have not released this prestigious award. I would like to take this opportunity to explain in greater detail as to why the judges and committee decided to not present this award in 2008.

In 2005, 2006, and 2007 the award was presented to Chefs Billy Pascal Le Lagon, Amos Ronnie of Coconut Palms and Johnny Toara of Erakor Island. These chefs participated and achieved Bronze Medals in all their required classes.

This is the minimum requirement to win the “Moffat Vanuatu Chef of the Year”; this year unfortunately we had no chef successfully win 3 medals in the required classes. The Judging Panels included the Moffat Representative from New Zealand (chief Sponsor) , the President of the NZ Chefs Assoc, Pacific Rim Continental Director for WACs, the President of Vanuatu Chefs Association, and executive chefs from around Port Vila.

The Judging Panel decided after consultation with the sponsor that as the previous winners and their venues had achieved the benchmark set by the Association that it would not be fair to either them or the Chefs to award the title to a chef who had not achieved the same standards. This was one of the hardest decisions I have been involved in and was a big disappointment to all concerned. This Title is an honor and carries a lot of prestige both here and overseas and the “Moffat Chef of the Year” is not only an Ambassador of the Association, but of our Sponsor when he competes overseas

We have no desire to award our most prestigious prize to the second or 3rd best chefs as the whole purpose of the Origin Culinary Arts Show is to improve our industry and to give our chefs a benchmark that we hope to see them achieve in their professional lives.

I have not received any negative feedback from our sponsors or any of our chefs at this time, and can only assume that they are in full agreement with our decision.

To those chefs and General Managers who may disagree with our decision please feel free to attend our next Association Meeting, air your opinions and get involved so that next year the Association can appoint a “Moffat Chef of the Year”. We are always happy to work with our fellow Industry partners in raising the standards of our chefs.

I trust that this clarifies the reasons behind a very hard decision, and that we can forward and concentrate on preparing our chefs for future competition

Congratulations to all of you competed, attended or supported our Showcase event and we look forward to seeing the newly announced “Air Vanuatu National Culinary Team” attending their team briefing early next week and seeing the Moffat Demonstration Kitchen up and running in the new year

Grant Johnston
President

Vanuatu Chefs and Foodhandlers Assoc