Celebrity chef adds flavour to Bangamalanha Conference

In a huge boost for TAFE Western’s Bangamalanha Conference, celebrity chef Mark Olive has confirmed he will not only whip up a storm at the popular conference dinner, he will also be one of several high profile guest speakers.

Mr Olive, affectionately known as ‘The Black Olive’, was Australia’s first high profile Aboriginal chef. He hosts his own television series The Outback Café on the Lifestyle Network, makes regular appearances on Network Ten’s The Circle and even held his own Masterclass on MasterChef.

He has promised to bring vibrant colours and ancient outback flavours to this year’s dinner, which has been rescheduled to be held on August 16 at the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre.

“The Black Olive is famous for his outback flavours and his unique cooking methods and we are absolutely thrilled he has recognised the importance of this conference and agreed to return despite his hectic schedule,” Bangamalanha Conference Coordinator Tenesha Bell said.

“He is passionate about cooking and sharing a huge range of native bush foods and has promised the menu will be a taste sensation, including native foods such as emu and kangaroo, and an array of spices and fruits.”

Ms Bell said in other good news for the conference, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda had been confirmed as the conference’s opening speaker.

“Mick has been actively involved in advocacy in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs throughout Australia for over 25 years and has delivered strategic and sustainable results in remote, rural and urban environments,” Ms Bell said.

“To be able to have Mick, as well as The Black Olive, Principal Advisor Indigenous Affairs, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Kerrie Tim and Darryl Monaghan, General Manager of Reconciliation Australia all confirm their willingness to speak at this year’s conference is a great result.

“We feel these high profile speakers will inspire those in attendance to strive to facilitate better outcomes for Aboriginal peoples and communities and bridge the gap Aboriginal people face when it comes to education and employment.”

The Bangamalanha Conference will be held in Dubbo from August 15-17, with the dinner on August 16. Those unable to attend the conference but wish to purchase a ticket for the dinner are most welcome.

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