

# ACT SCHOOL CANTEEN ASSOCIATION

Incorporated (A1552)

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October 2007

## MASTER CLASS

### Fresh Food = Profit

As members are aware the skills based training programme CAPACT, initiated and developed by ACTSCA, was taken over by ACT DET in 2006 and to date we have know information as to its future, nor that of DETSCA.

However ACTSCA firmly believes that it is well placed to continue skills based training for its members and we approached, Torrien Lau, who is a chef, restaurateur, business analyst, Level IV accredited trainer and Teacher at the School of Hospitality, Canberra to work with us to continue helping canteen staff to offer good food choices to students and remain viable small businesses.

Master Class – Fresh Food = Profit is truly a skills based training course, aimed at providing both theory and practical training to canteen staff, the basis being to prepare and provide food using fresh ingredients while taking into account the limitations of space, equipment, time, staff, money and a restricted customer base.

We started in May with a theory based session, which dealt with correct pricing structures for preparing and serving freshly prepared foods, and also covered the issues of OH&S, food safety, limited staff assistance, etc. It was a refresher course for those who had done CAPACT and it was the basis of gaining information for those who are new to the industry.

Many students who attended in May asked for some practical training, so ACTSCA and Torrien Lau decided to develop a 'hands-on' training session.

So that we could be sure that we would get the mix right, we conducted a brainstorming session with 23 canteen staff, at both primary and high school level which enabled information sharing not only between canteen staff, but to Torrien Lau, who was given first hand information about the conditions under which canteen staff are expected to operate.

On 15 September the group invaded the Home Economics kitchens at one of Canberra's high schools, which proved to be an almost perfect replica of some of the school canteens. Torrien had

developed some basic recipes which then become multiple use products.

**WHERE TO FROM HERE?** - Plans are underway to present the course in 2008. The course will be over two Saturdays, during Semester 1.

Day 1 will be theory and Day 2 will be practical with an opportunity to find out workable solutions for providing freshly prepared foods for sale in the school canteen, that will be profitable. It is also designed to help canteen staff to gain the skills to assist them in having their canteens gain accreditation.

With this newsletter is an 'expression of interest' form for you to complete and return to us by 30 November 2007. We expect the total cost to be around \$180. We plan to have no more than 25 in the class so that everyone has an opportunity to get the most out of the course. More details are on our website

[www.actschoolcanteen.org.au](http://www.actschoolcanteen.org.au)

We look forward to helping canteen staff to continue doing the great work they do every day.

### **Morning Tea**

This is a reminder that a special Morning Tea will be held on

**27 October 2007**  
**ACROD House**  
**Thesiger Court Deakin**  
**9 am to 12 noon**  
**\$15 per person**

and all net proceeds from the day will be donated to

### **BREAST CANCER RESEARCH**

So, not only will the morning offer you the chance of mixing and chatting with canteen colleagues, you will also be supporting research into a disease that affects so many Australian women.

Every member should have received an invitation, but if yours hasn't arrived or it has 'relocated' itself elsewhere, you can download it from the ACTSCA website at

[www.actschoolcanteen.org.au](http://www.actschoolcanteen.org.au).

Please let us know by 20 October if you coming - all staff, volunteers, friends will be more than welcome. **WEAR SOMETHING PINK!**

### **A new service ACTSCA is offering its members**

With increasing pressure on canteen staff to provide more freshly made items for sale and to move away from the 'heat and serve' operation, so too come problems of remaining financially and operationally viable. The task can be a daunting one. Most of the time, the move to improvement is done collaboratively between the canteen staff and the P&C/P&F Association or its sub-committee.

ACTSCA, because of the collective knowledge of its committee members, and the resources it has gathered during its 19 year history is able to help canteen staff and P&C/P&F

Associations to look objectively at the practices and operations of any canteen, and to come up with suggestions and implementation strategies that will make the job of providing good food choices at affordable prices to students and school staff while remaining a viable small food business achievable.

We do this by meeting with you two or three times, discussing your canteen's operations and structure and helping to develop some goals that are achievable and workable for your canteen. We provide a written report at the end. There is a reduced charge to members of ACTSCA for this service.

If you think we can be of help to you, or you would like to use this service, please contact us either by email at [actsca@optusnet.com.au](mailto:actsca@optusnet.com.au) or ring on 6282 2158 for more details.

### **Wage Increase & the proposed P & C Employer Agreement**

We have still not received the detailed information on new pay rates for lower paid employees as announced by the Fair Pay Commission. The increase of \$10.26 came into effect on 1 October 2007. This amounts to an increase of 27 cents per hour. ACTSCA strongly suggests that your treasurer rings the Workplace infoline on 1300 363 264 for confirmation and the exact date on which the pay increase commences. We will also put the information on our website when it becomes available.

The P&C Council Committee working on the Multi Collective Employer Agreement (MECA) which is planned to replace contracts for canteen staff, hope to issue the final document at the end of November 2007. The agreement will cover a period of 3 years employment. Please contact Susan Rockliff at the ACT Council of P & C Associations if you need more information.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The ACTSCA Annual General Meeting will be held on

**Wednesday 21 November 2007  
3 pm  
ALFRED DEAKIN HIGH SCHOOL  
Denison Street, Deakin**

(Afternoon Tea will be served)

All Committee positions will be declared vacant and there will be an election to appoint the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Officer and at least three committee members for 2008.

Being a member of the ACTSCA committee is not hard, and it is not a time consuming commitment. We meet on average once a term, and it is a friendly group primarily made up of canteen staff, who are committed to making the work of other canteen staff as easy as possible. They recognise the importance of the work being done and how it will impact on the health of Canberra's school students. It is also an opportunity to bring your knowledge and ideas to ACTSCA so that we can

continue to provide the service that is expected of the Association.

If you are interested in being involved in running your Association, please complete and return the tear off slip at the bottom of the AGM notice and return it to us at PO Box 56 Curtin ACT 2605.

**We need at least 12 people to attend the AGM so please join us - it's another great chance to catch up with you.**

### **Price Comparison 2008**

**Can you help us to help you?** So that we can collate all the information to prepare the annual price comparison lists for Colleges/High Schools and Primary Schools we need a copy of your menu, together with details of how many students you have at your school.

Please send us your menu no later than the end of November so that we can put the information together over the long summer holidays in time for the Term 1 2008 newsletter. You can send it to any of

PO Box 56 Curtin ACT 2605  
Fax to 6282 2158 or 6281 3763  
email [actsca@optusnet.com.au](mailto:actsca@optusnet.com.au)

We respect your privacy so won't print any identifying information about your canteen.

### **Website**

Yes, we do keep going on about the website but it is there for your use and

help. Keep up to date with what is happening with ACTSCA and other canteen organisations by regularly visiting [www.actschoolcanteen.org.au](http://www.actschoolcanteen.org.au). The latest FOCiS Registered Product list is instantly available by direct link to [www.focis.com.au](http://www.focis.com.au)

### **Did you know?**

Schools in the UK serve  
**6 million lunches each day.**

Vending machines have been removed. Fizzy drinks, cakes and biscuits are no longer on the menu and all children attend cookery classes at school!

### *A Message to all Members*

*ON behalf of ACTSCA may I thank all members and supporters for your ongoing involvement with the Association and I wish you every success for the rest of 2007 and for 2008.*

*With the closure of more schools in the ACT at the end of 2007 we wish you all the best for the transition to new school communities.*

*Deirdre Love  
Chairperson*

Please ensure that you pass this Newsletter on to your P&C/P&F representative so that they can be kept up-to-date with the latest workplace information.