

31st January, 2011

Celebrations for Wimmera Health Care Group Foundation

The Wimmera Health Care Group Foundation will celebrate its 21st anniversary on Thursday 3rd March 2011 with a gala dinner. The dinner will be a rustic Italian feast, prepared by celebrity chef and champion of regional Australian produce, Stefano de Pieri.

The 21st anniversary celebrations will incorporate the grand final of the Wimmera Health Care Group Foundation's Master Cook competition, at which Mr de Pieri will judge.

Stefano de Pieri is a passionate ambassador for regional Australian produce, and is world-renowned for his Italian restaurants and cafes in Mildura. Self-trained, Stefano has played a key role in transforming the cuisine of regional Australia and bringing his style of Italian home-cooking into our homes and onto our TVs, with his popular series *A Gondola on the Murray*.

"2011 is shaping up to be the biggest year in the Wimmera Health Care Group Foundation's history," said Foundation Chairman Mr Don Johns.

"After 21 years, it is time to celebrate the Foundation's achievements, and, like any 21 year old, we've set ourselves some long term goals and we're looking forward to a bright future. We will be throwing a big party to celebrate the anniversary and raise money for our goal of reaching \$1 million in capital by 2014.

"Whether you have donated to the Wimmera Health Care Group Foundation in the past, or buying a ticket to our 21st anniversary dinner is your first donation, we welcome as many people as possible to be part of our \$1 million goal.

"The benefit of donating to the Foundation is that your donation is kept forever. It is invested and earns interest which is then used on important projects around the Wimmera Health Care Groups campuses in Horsham and Dimboola," he said.

Deputy Chair of the Wimmera Health Care Group Foundation, Denise Leembruggen, is also looking forward to the dinner and its presentation of the winners of the Master Cook competition.

"More than 20 Master Cook teams are out and about raising money and practicing their cooking skills, before the cook-offs at Horsham Plaza in late February," she said.

"We are so pleased to have Stefano de Pieri involved with the Wimmera Health Care Group Foundation. Not only will he be judging the grand final of Master Cook, which will be held at the Wimmera Machinery Field Days, he will also prepare a fantastic dinner for 140 guests. The theme of the dinner is Rustic Italian, and the venue – the Horsham RSL – will be transformed into a small corner of Italy for the evening," she said.

The Wimmera Health Care Group Foundation's 21st Anniversary Celebration dinner

Thursday, 3rd March, 2011 at 6.30pm

Horsham RSL, McLachlan Street, Horsham.

Tickets cost \$150 each, which includes a 3-course dinner, wine, beer and soft drink. \$50 from each ticket sale is a tax deductible donation to the Wimmera Health Care Group Foundation.

Tickets available from Wimmera Health Care Group Reception, Baillie St, Horsham

Media enquiries to Bronwen Clark, 0422 135 229

More information on Stefano de Pieri, including photos: <http://www.stefano.com.au/docs/media.asp>