

When Australia Day meets Chinese New Year

It is not every year that Chinese New Year falls on Australia Day. But in 2009, it does. And many Chinese-Australians consider this is as symbolic even if fortuitous. "I think it is great that in 2009 the Year of the OX, Australia happens to celebrate her birthday" said Chinese Australian Forum's President Anthony Pang.

Despite general concerns about the economy, Mr. Pang hopes things will take a turn for the better sooner rather than later. "The Chinese New Year marks new beginnings and we hope the year will present fresh opportunities and enterprises for everyone" said Mr Pang. Just as the USA can look back on 2009 as

the year that inaugurates the first African American President, Mr Barack Obama, so too can Chinese and Australians reflect how Australia has shared in celebrating Australia Day and Chinese New Year on the same date in 2009, and how these two cultures have embraced and grown together in maturity and acceptance of each other's cultures on every level.

"From my perspective, many great Chinese-Australians have contributed to the Australian landscape. For instance the late Victor Chang, Australia's eminent heart surgeon, Sir Leslie Joseph Hooker, founder of LJ Hooker, Billy Sing, the respected and feared World War I sniper at Gallipoli,

Kylie Kwong, one of Australia's much loved chef, Lisa Ho, a fantastic fashion designer, Jeff Fatt, one of the globally renowned Wiggles, John So, the extraordinarily popular Mayor, and the recently Federal Minister Penny Wong, Australia's first Chinese-Australian cabinet minister," said Mr Pang.

The Chinese Australian Forum will be celebrating Australia Day and Chinese New Year with their upcoming 2009 Annual Dinner on Thursday, 29 January 2009 at The Marigold Restaurant in Sydney. The Guest Speaker this year will be the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP who will be sharing his own insights on Australia Day, Chinese New Year with

Chinese Australians and friends. Mr Pang said, "we have always been committed towards building a socially harmonious and cohesive Australia. Regardless of where we come from, we are all Australians."

Other Australian icons who have been Guest Speaker at Chinese Australian Forum's Annual Dinners have included the Hon Wayne Swan MP, the Hon Dr Brendan Nelson MP, the Hon Kim Beazley MP, Sir William Deane, the Hon John Howard MP, the Hon Paul Keating MP, the Hon Peter Costello MP, the Hon Bob Carr MP, John Brogden MP, Gareth Evans and the Hon Bob Hawke MP.

Statue of Alexander to go up in northern Iraq

Greek authorities plan to build a statue to Alexander the Great in northern Iraq to mark the site of a key 331 BC battle that led to the fall of the Persian Empire, Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis said yesterday.

Bakoyannis, who discussed the project yesterday with her visiting Iraqi counterpart Hoshyar Zebari, said the host country has welcomed the erection of the statue near the oil-rich city of Mosul. According to Bakoyannis, Zebari, who is a Kurd, said of the proposed project, "It's a great idea and we back it."

The Battle of Gaugamela took place between Alexander and Darius III of Achaemenid Persia near present-day Mosul. It resulted in a massive victory for the Alexander's army of Macedonians and led to the fall of the Persian Empire.

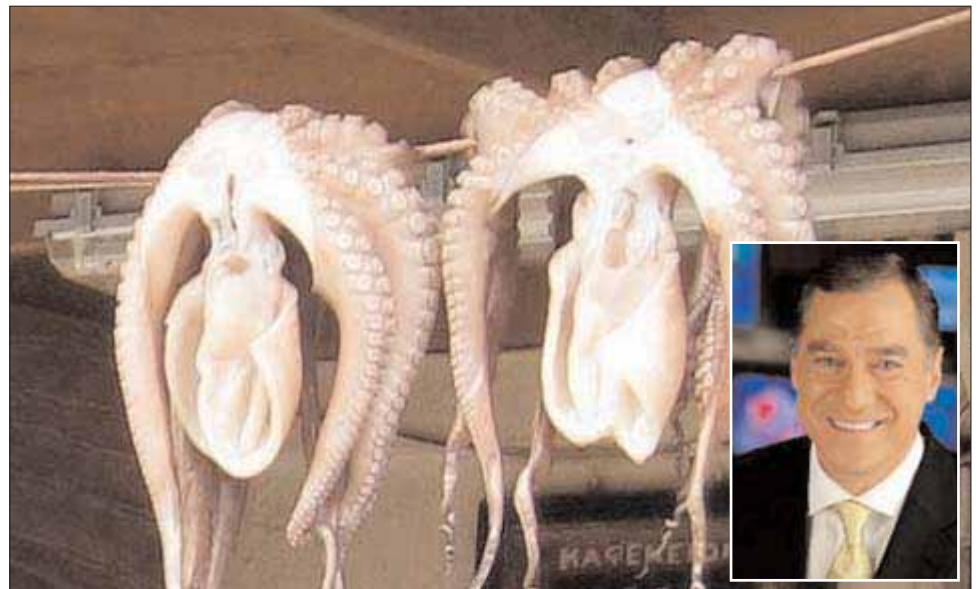
Bakoyannis said that Greece also plans to help Iraq fund the reconstruction of looted and war-damaged museums.

SYDNEY SEAFOOD SCHOOL'S OUTSTANDING AUTUMN SERIES

Sydney Seafood School's autumn program of classes (March - June) has just been released with an outstanding line up of leading chefs.

Take the chill out of March with fresh Italian seafood ideas from former La Sala chef Ruben Martinez, now with ex-boss Darren Simpson at Barrenjoey House (10/3/09), and spicy Vietnamese with Mark Jensen from Red Lantern (12/3/09). Lyndey Milan matches sunny Spanish dishes with delicious Spanish wine (18/3/09), while Lucio Galletto brings the fresh flavours of his Ligurian Kitchen to your table (24/3/09).

In April Giovanni Pili from Pili at Freshwater presents seafood recipes from his homeland, the Italian island of Sardinia, while passionate home-cook and Sky News presenter, John Mangos, whips up a Greek seafood feast.



Chef, author and mistress of spice, Christine Manfield, conducts a 4-hour lunch workshop in May, and Mark Best presents sophisticated French-inspired dishes from his 3-hat restaurant Marque. Ready, Steady, Cook regular, Damien Heads from Pony and Steel Bar & Grill in The Rocks also makes

an appearance, demonstrating his way with Modern Australian flavours.

As we slide into winter, the June line up of Matt Kemp (Restaurant Balzac and The Burlington), Kathy Snowball, James Kidman (Otto), Justin North (Bicasse and Etch), Christine Manfield (Universal) and Matt Moran (Aria) is sure to warm things up.

The full program of classes and latest FISHline News can be viewed at www.sydneyfishmarket.com.au. Classes can be booked online and gift certificates purchased from the website.

Contact Sydney Seafood School on (02) 9004 1111 or sss@sydneyfishmarket.com.au and FISHline on (02) 9004 1122 or fishline@sydneyfishmarket.com.au

AUSTRALIA TO PROVIDE \$5 MIL. ADDITIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR GAZA

Australia will provide a further \$5 million for urgently needed humanitarian assistance in Gaza. The additional assistance I am announcing today demonstrates Australia's on going support for the considerable efforts being made by Australian and international organisations to provide critical humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. The additional \$5 million includes up to \$2 million for Australian NGOs to deliver immediate emergency assistance in Gaza.

Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, Bob McMullan, will meet with Australian NGOs this week to finalise details of the proposed \$2 million assistance package by Australian NGOs. The remaining \$3 million is for United Nations agencies to replenish food and emergency stores.

This brings to \$10 million the amount of emergency humanitarian assistance committed by Australia to Gaza this year, and is in addition to the \$45 million in development and humanitarian assistance provided to the Palestinian people in 2008.

Australian assistance announced earlier this month has provided financial support to families displaced by the violence in Gaza and delivered urgently needed food aid and medical supplies to those affected. This earlier assistance included \$2 million cash assistance through United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNWRA) for displaced families, \$1.5 millions for emergency food through the World Food Program (WFP), and \$1.5 million to the Red Cross.

Wednesday 22 April

Greek Seafood with John Mangos
6.30pm - 9.30pm Class Code:
JMG \$110

This celebrated home cook will teach you to prepare some simply delicious Greek seafood dishes - all great for casual entertaining. John will greet you with barbecued octopus and ouzo before your hands-on dinner class.