Taste the Territory

BOND Springs Station will host a new headline food event in Alice Springs this year. The 150 table dinner will showcase some of the Northern Territory’s finest produce, as part of the inaugural Territory Taste Festival in April.

The festival will also feature an event at the Darwin Convention Centre on April 16-17. It will feature Territory producers, farmers, growers, stallholders, suppliers and bush harvest experts. Discussions are already underway for expanding it to a four-day event in Darwin and Alice Springs in 2017.

Local, national and internationally renowned chefs will demonstrate their work with Northern Territory produced ingredients, and producers will discuss the Territory’s growing food scene.

Event organiser Anya Lorimer said the gala dinner in Alice Springs would be held the following weekend, to coincide with Alice Springs Cup festivities.

She said a cattle station was the perfect venue for the event.

“We wanted to really feature the paddock-to-plate element, the idea of the freshest ingredients following going directly from the producer to the consumer,” Ms Lorimer said.

“It’s around 20 minutes out of Alice, and we’ll be running buses to and from the venue as well.”

She said Territory Taste Festival was also seeking Central food producers to exhibit at the Darwin Convention Centre.

They will join a program featuring food and wine tasting, pop-up restaurants, a beer garden, cocktail lounge and live entertainment, as well as a farmers’ market, indigenous bush tucker, chef talks and an exclusive master chef workshop.

“To be a true Territory Taste Festival we really want producers from across the whole Territory,” she said.

“The festival will showcase the Northern Territory’s strengths in hospitality and primary industries and help establish the Territory as a gourmet destination.

“We’re expecting over 10,000 people over two days in Darwin so it’s very worthwhile for producers to attend, and we welcome anyone who wants to be involved.

“Territory Taste Festival plans to extend the festivities to audiences throughout the NT with a series of planned regional shoulder events, and that’s why the 150ft table dinner is such a key event. We want everyone to experience and share the ‘paddock to plate’ philosophy that will put the Northern Territory on the foodies map.”

Chef Minister Adam Giles said there was enormous potential for the Territory to become a “must-do destination for foodies”.

Forum taps into new and growing markets

Representatives from chambers of commerce throughout Asia will join their Australian counterparts to explore emerging regional opportunities and attend a trade expo during Open Territory, reports ASHLEY MANICAROS

A regional forum of representatives from chambers in Australia and Asia will showcase business during Open Territory next year. The Chamber of Commerce NT is hosting the two-day event which will incorporate a trade expo.

CCNT chief executive Greg Bicknell said the idea for a forum was generated following a visit to the world chambers forum held in Italy earlier this year.

“We feel a forum like this is critical as part of the Northern Australian development,” Mr Bicknell said.

“How we’ve got the free trade agreements we really need businesses getting together to make the best of these Government has done their job so they need to take a back seat and business now needs to get on with it.”

Topics in the preliminary program include the importance of global supply chains to business growth; regulatory barriers to business growth; opportunities flowing from free trade agreements; economic partnerships in the region; and opportunities for strengthening regional business partnerships and networks.

“You’ll have experts discussing about the free trade agreements and SME connectivity between Australia and Asia,” Mr Bicknell said.

“Local business needs to be focusing on markets to their north as well as locally and we are looking at businesses who are export capable or export ready.

“Expect to have a few international exhibitions as well.

“We will also run a business trade expo that will coincide with the forum. The first day will focus on international visitors and the second day will be general public.”

Mr Bicknell is expecting international delegates to come from businesses or business representative groups from China, Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, East Timor and Vietnam.

“We’ve had a lot of interest out of East Timor and Bangladesh, which was a market we had not considered,” he said.

“Guam is looking at sending a delegation. We took a small chamber delegation looking at defence and how they deal with the military.”

The event will run on April 28 and 29 at Skycity Casino.

From left, Anya Lorimer of Territory Taste magazine, Britta Decker Agentur and Minister for Business Peter Styles at the event launch.