



MEDIA RELEASE

21 December 2015

GET READY TO CELEBRATE PULSES IN STYLE THIS JANUARY

Behind the scenes activity has been underway in preparation for the United Nations declared 2016 International Year of Pulses following the official UN launch on 10 November 2015 in Rome, Italy.

Australia will commence its official year of activities with a Launch Gala Dinner on 28 January 2016 in Melbourne bringing together over 250 industry, government and community leaders to celebrate Australia's role as a world-class supplier of pulses.

"The Launch Gala Dinner will be a chance for members of both the industry and the public to come together and celebrate the role pulses play in providing a healthy and versatile plant protein to Australia and the world. Australia is also amongst the top-3 pulse producing nations and this sustainable crop provides over \$1billion to the Australia economy each year" said Georgie Aley, Chair of the Australian International Year of Pulses (IYP) National Committee and Chair of the Global IYP Creating Awareness Theme.

The launch dinner is an open invitation to anyone with a passion for pulses and the national and global pulse industry is calling all Australians to attend.

Mr Hakan Bahceci, Global Pulse Confederation IYP Chair and CEO of [Hakan Agro Commodities Trading Company based in Dubai](#), will be attending the launch dinner which will be formally opened by Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Senator Anne Ruston on behalf of the Hon. Barnaby Joyce, Federal Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources.

"There are strong signals now of just how badly the world needs pulses. Climate change is looming, we need better diets, and we need better pulse yields around the world." Said Mr Bahceci. "The planning that started four years ago for the International Year could not have come at a more urgent time."

The objectives of the IYP are focused on enhancing the global awareness of the significant role pulses plays in terms of nutrition, sustainable food production and crop rotations. As the world's largest exporting country of faba beans, Australia is renowned for premium quality pulse products for human consumption markets.

Annabel Crabb, host of *Kitchen Cabinet* and author of *The Wife Drought*, will be Master of Ceremonies for the evening and Simon Bryant, Star of the ABC's *The Cook and The Chef* will be preparing the winning Australian Signature Dish for dinner guests to sample.

A lively and entertaining auction with items ranging from holiday homes to containers of pulses will be conducted during the evening, with all funds raised contributing towards further promotion of events and awareness raising of the role of pulses in Australia throughout the year.

The IYP National Committee would like to acknowledge IYP Principal Industry Partner Blue Ribbon and their allied food company, Foods from the Earth, IYP Event Silver Partner Ward McKenzie and IYP Event Supporting Partner Pangkarra Foods in their support of the Launch Dinner event.



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With Hundreds of tickets already sold for the dinner, places still remain for what will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate such a unique United Nations year so people are encouraged to register their attendance to join the celebration at <http://pulse.bowmanrichards.com/events/iyp-gala-dinner/>

Further information on Australian IYP activities can be found at www.glnc.org/iyp. Media wishing to attend the IYP Gala Launch Dinner are encouraged to contact the IYP Project Coordinator, Rebecca Freeman, on 0414 844 425.