TAFE Illawarra is thrilled to announce our fantastic line-up of high profile and hatted Chefs who will participate in the 10th Annual Celebrity Chef Scholarship Dinner at Destiny’s Training Restaurant located at Nowra Campus on Tuesday 13 November 2012.

This is TAFE Illawarra’s tenth Celebrity Chef Dinner and six out of nine Celebrity Chefs from the previous dinners are returning to TAFE Illawarra to celebrate this special event.

The high profile and hatted Chefs include:

Peter Doyle
Peter Gilmore
Matthew Kemp
Peter Kuruvita
Alessandro Pavoni
Giovanni Pulu
Darren Simpson

The Celebrity Chefs represent a range of restaurants including Est, Quay Restaurant, Flying Fish Restaurant and Bar, Ormeggio at the Spit, Spiedo Restaurant and Bar and Pulu at Freshwater.

Peter Gilmore will be sharing his culinary skills and knowledge with our apprentice chefs for the first time. Peter Gilmore has been Executive Chef at Quay Restaurant for the past 10 years. For 10 consecutive years Quay has been awarded three Chefs Hats in The Sydney Morning Herald’s Good Food Guide. Peter was awarded the 2012 Sydney Morning Herald Chef of the Year.

Each of the seven Chefs will design a course for the Celebrity Chef Degustation Menu and mentor TAFE Illawarra’s Commercial Cookery students to present dishes of the highest quality. The menu will highlight each Chef’s individuality and cuisine style, giving our diners a unique experience and a taste of some of the best food available in the country. Local wines that complement the meal will be served throughout the evening.

The Celebrity Chef Dinner also involves TAFE Illawarra’s Hospitality and Events students. The Hospitality students will showcase their excellent restaurant service skills. This high profile event will be organised and managed by the TAFE Illawarra students studying a Diploma of Events. This year there will be an Indigenous connection with students in the Aboriginal Visual Arts programs holding an exhibition at the Celebrity Chef Scholarship Dinner.

All of the involved students study at TAFE Illawarra, Nowra campus.

A selection of Commercial Cookery, Hospitality and Events graduates who participated in the Celebrity Chef Dinner in 2011 will be awarded Scholarships. The Celebrity Chefs will determine which students are successful based on the student’s performance at last year’s event as well as their results, passion, professionalism and their submission for the Scholarship.

“The Celebrity Chef Scholarships provide our students with a fantastic opportunity to undertake fully funded work experience in a celebrated Chef’s restaurant or prestigious
event management team. This type of experience is invaluable to our students and many have developed very successful careers,” said Ms Murray, TAFE Illawarra Institute Director.

A number of TAFE Illawarra graduates have been employed at some of Australia’s best restaurants including Aria with Chef Matt Moran, Pilu at Freshwater with Chef Giovanni Pilu, Flying Fish Restaurant and Bar with Chef Peter Kuruvita, Est with Chef Peter Doyle and Glass with Chef Luke Mangan.

“We are very grateful for the continued support of these high profile Chefs who take time out of their busy schedules to help our students develop their skills and expose them to current trends,” said Ms Murray.

“The annual Celebrity Chef Dinner is an exciting event in TAFE Illawarra’s calendar and this year promises to be the best Dinner yet,” Ms Murray added.