

Our Keynote Speaker - Catherine Barrett

WINSC were delighted to introduce Catherine Barrett as the keynote speaker at this year's National Conference in Sydney. In the past it has been their practice to have a guest speaker at the annual dinner. However, this year it was decided to carry this segment of the programme over to follow the Social Assessment Workshop.

Catherine Barrett is a Resource Development Officer for the Fisheries Development Division in Dublin, Ireland: something like Seafood Services Australia is to our seafood industry. She was in Australia to speak at the IAFI Congress and attend Seafood Directions 2005. It was her first trip to Australia and her travel companion was her very sprightly mother. They were both very keen to attend our WINSC dinner. They both thoroughly enjoyed their Sydney experience and were looking forward to 3 days at Kingfisher Bay Resort on beautiful Fraser Island.

Catherine entertained the audience with her story of involvement in the Irish Sea Fisheries Board (Bord Iascaigh Mhara) and how the industry is working for the fisherman in Ireland. At present her department has programmes on offer for the fisherman to become involved in to assist them in their ventures. She told of her family's involvement in the industry and also shared a very funny yarn of a trip she had to sea. She revealed how after a long day at sea the skipper ran aground on the homeward straight much to the dissatisfaction of herself and the crew who were all hanging out for something to eat and the chance to down a "wee toddy". (Small drink, preferably beer.)

WINSC were interested to hear that there is a women's network group in Dublin but Catherine had little knowledge of their work or membership structure.

Catherine was absolutely delighted with the Presentation Pack courtesy of Bundaberg Distilling Co. I was quite impressed to learn that she was very aware of some of the advertisements featuring the "Big White Bear" – The Bundy Rum logo. She will surely have sampled the wares by now and she will remember WINSC when she does.