



# Things are heating up in the kitchen

By **Emma Brown**

BRYCE Flitcroft isn't usually one for the limelight.

But the third year apprentice chef will get plenty of attention when he heads to Brisbane next month to pit his skills against some of the country's most talented apprentices and tradespeople at the Worldskills Australia National competition.

The event will see more than 500 competitors between the ages of 16 and 23 fight it out to win a coveted spot in the Australian Worldskills team, which will compete in London next year.

Fifty categories are represented, ranging from the traditional trades of bricklaying and plumbing to more modern vocations such as web design and IT software applications.

For the competition, Mr Flitcroft, 21, has devised a two-course menu consisting of a herb-crusted lamb rump on baked polenta served with a ratatouille-stuffed mushroom and a shiraz glaze plus a honey fruit terrine and a chocolate tart with a raspberry coulis.

Mr Flitcroft — who has

## Other competitors

- **Samantha Barras** from **Ballarat Sanctuary Day Spa**;
- **Sarah Cook**, **hairdresser**;
- **Vanessa Stephenson** from **Paul Rabbit Hairdressing**;
- **Alexander Plucke** from **Hills Plastering**;
- **Joseph Mark** from **Peter Eltringham Bricklayers**; and
- **Tom Ryan** from **Ken Ludbrooks Joinery**.

worked at Europa Cafe for the past three years — believes he has finally found his true vocation in food.

"I was doing engineering at university but found I didn't enjoy sitting in a classroom," Mr Flitcroft said.

"I had always enjoyed cooking at home and it's all worked out really well."

Europa Cafe owner Adam Rasmussen said the business would help raise money to send Mr Flitcroft and his Western region teammates to Brisbane.

"We have Bryce's WorldSkills dishes on the menu and half the cost of each of the main meals will go towards travel and accommodation costs," Mr Rasmussen said.



**ALL THE SKILLS:** Apprentice chef Bryce Flitcroft will compete against some of the country's most talented apprentices and tradespeople at the Worldskills Australia National competition. Picture: **Daniel Hartley-Allen**