

Back to class for blokes who are pork chops in the kitchen

You're a rotten cook? Great



Janine Clements puts reporter Jesse Phillips (centre) and student Chris Gardiner through their paces.

Jesse Phillips

IF your cooking repertoire involves heating things poured out of a packet – and you're a man – then you've passed the criteria for an exciting new cooking class.

Cooking For Blokes, which is run by five-star chef Janine Clements and her cooking enthusiast partner Peter Weste, is designed to be a fun, six-class course covering the fundamentals of classic French cooking.

The first class covers basic knife skills as well as soups, stocks and sauces and each subsequent class builds on the skills of the previous class.

"I want to teach people to cook properly," said Ms Clements.

"I absolutely love cooking and teaching. I've been a chef for 20 years and I used to really enjoy training up our apprentices."

The class is run in a relaxed atmosphere, fuelled in large part by Mr Weste's general love of all things food.

"We wanted to offer a class where people could come in and get their hands dirty and not just watch other people cook," Mr Weste said.

"A lot of cooking classes aren't really interactive, but with this one you come in, learn what to do, do it and then eat it.

"The best part is when you go into a restaurant after having done the course – you'll look at the food and say 'I know what that is, I can do that'."

Both culinary experts said once they came up with their Cooking For Blokes concept, the hard part involved a suitable kitchen to hold classes.

"We found this place through a catering supply company that told me about a disused kitchen at Willoughby," Mr Weste said.

"It was absolutely derelict when we got here, but it had such potential. After a couple of weeks of cleaning it came up great."

The kitchen certainly has everything the aspiring chef would want, and the best part is there is no cleaning to be done by students.

The course is held at Willoughby Legion Ex-Services Club and costs \$480 for the full six classes and is flexible over what length of time it takes to complete. Contact Peter Weste on 0438 811 368 for more information.