

# VIBE ACTIVITIES

## Vibe Wire – Food Fusion page 6

# Food fusion

Indigenous chef Clayton Donovan is living his dream, running a restaurant that fuses Indigenous foods and Asian flavours.



**T**HE JAANING TREE RESTAURANT IN NAMBUCCA HEADS, QLD, IS THE CREATION AND GASTRONOMIC PLAYGROUND OF CHEF CLAYTON DONOVAN. ON A VISIT TO THE JAANING TREE, DINERS ARE TREATED TO A BLEND OF FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE AND ASIAN FLAVOURS WITH A BUSH TWIST. THE MENU INCLUDES UNIQUE DISHES, SUCH AS CITRUS-CURED CROCODILE CARPACCIO AND LEMON-MYRTLE SMOKED KANGAROO.

For the past five years, chef Clayton Donovan has been crafting a complete fine-dining experience that encompasses his passions: his culture, native foods and the water. The Jaaning Tree restaurant sits on the river at Nambucca Heads, with views out to the ocean and beyond. For the past few years the restaurant has earned a chef's hat through the *Australian Good Food Guide* and a steady stream of satisfied customers.

Jaaning (pronounced "jaa-nee") is Gumbaynggirr for the wattle tree (*Acacia irrorata*), which has been a source of food for local tribes for centuries.

Chef Clayton Donovan says the restaurant is the culmination of a life-long dream as he learnt about food gathering and cooking at a very young age.

"Aunty Jess Williams and my mum were the first ones to take me out on walks, looking for wild carrots, jaaning and other wild foods. They showed me different varieties and where to get them."

Clayton started cooking at a young age as a way to help out around home and his passion grew from there. After moving out of home, Clayton worked at a few small takeaway shops and cafes, then ended up at an establishment in Nambucca. That's

when one of his friends noticed that he had a certain knack in the kitchen and encouraged him to get professional training.

"At the time I couldn't quite understand what he was suggesting. I was content skating, surfing and playing drums in a band. I didn't really think much further than that," Clayton says.

After some initial training in Sydney, Clayton's first job was working on a glamorous catamaran that sailed on Sydney Harbour and often catered to the stars.

"It was amazing. We catered for big clients, such as Molly Meldrum, The Eurythmics and the LA Lakers. I still think about that time now. I miss being on that boat!"

Clayton then moved on to gain some invaluable experience, working at one of Sydney's finest restaurants, The Watermark at Balmoral Beach. Next he headed overseas to work

in some fine English hotels and restaurants, where again he cooked for high-profile people like Elle Macpherson and Tom Cruise.

The idea for the Jaaning Tree came about after Clayton moved home to Australia with his young family. Clayton's reasoning for establishing his own restaurant was this: "I've got this cultural side that I would like to expose, which isn't really being exposed in Australia – there are only a few places that are doing it – but if I'm going to do it I want to do it at the top end [of the market]. I want people to accept it, not just as camp food, but [something that can] be highlighted, like an Asian cuisine or French cuisine, and be placed in a contemporary sense where it can be all funky and fabulous and people can enjoy it and celebrate it.

"It's sustainable for the country, and it's part of Australia. It's what I would want to eat if I'd come from somewhere else. I want people to be exposed to and understand these flavours."



## What food do you love to cook?

Indigenous chef Clayton Donovan is running his own restaurant that combines Indigenous foods and Asian flavours.

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### ACTIVITY 1

#### BUILDING READING SKILLS



- skimming and scanning for information.
- reading headings, text boxes and pictures.
- reading for meaning.
- making connections between the text and your world.

#### There are three levels of comprehension questions:

- Literal** The answer is located in one sentence in the text.
- Inferred** You need to make links between sentences and graphics (such as illustrations, maps and tables) and what you already know.
- Applied** The answer is in your background knowledge, what you already know or feel.

**1** What food flavours does Clayton Donovan fuse in his restaurant? (literal)

Write your answer on the lines.

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**2** What is Clayton's restaurant called? (literal)

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**3** Where is his restaurant located? (literal)

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**4** List two of the meals on the menu at Clayton's restaurant.

(inferred)

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**5** What inspired Clayton to create his restaurant?

(inferred)

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**6** What is the relationship between the photos, the heading and the main text?

(inferred)

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**7** What is the overall purpose for writing this text?

(applied)

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## ACTIVITY 2

### LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS – SPELLING

**1** The spelling mistakes in these sentences have been underlined. Write the correct spelling for each word in the box.

His resturant was a lifelong dream.

The encouragemint helped him to succeed.

He has a lot of satisfyed customers.



**2** Each sentence has one word that is incorrect.  
Write the correct spelling of the word in the box.

It was a source of food for centurys.

The food is amazeing.

He wanted to highlite bush foods.



## ACTIVITY 3

### GRAMMAR

**1** Change these sentences from **indirect** to **direct speech**.  
The first one has been completed for you.



#### Indirect speech

Clayton Donovan said he catered for some high-profile clients.

#### Direct speech

"I have catered for some high-profile clients," said Clayton Donovan.

#### Indirect speech

Clayton said that he enjoyed his time catering on the boats in Sydney Harbour.

#### Direct speech

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#### Indirect speech

Clayton said that he gained some invaluable experience in some of Sydney's best restaurants.

#### Direct speech

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## ACTIVITY 4

### PUNCTUATION



**1** Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- Its sustainable for the country and its part of Australia said Clayton Donovan.
- "Its sustainable for the country and its part of Australia," said clayton Donovan.
- "It's sustainable for the country and it's part of Australia," said Clayton Donovan.
- "It's sustainable for the country and it's part of Australia," said clayton donovan

## ACTIVITY 5

### WHAT FOODS DO YOU LOVE?



**1** Create a three course menu using your favourite types of foods.

A large rectangular area enclosed by a dotted green border, intended for writing a three-course menu.