

Skylie high on a sugar rush

TV chef goes her own sweet way

Geoff Shearer
TV AND FILM EDITOR

IT would be cruel to say being jettisoned from the *MasterChef* kitchen means you've got your just "desserts".

But for last night's eliminated contestant, Gold Coast's Skylie Craig, there is a sweet lining to being out of the competition.

The 35-year-old makes two massive changes in her life this weekend – launching her own dessert business, Wild Sugar, and relocating to Brisbane to move in with her partner Pete.

Today she picks up the keys to their new pad and launches wildsugar.com.au, which will showcase her unique desserts based around Australian native flora and raw food recipes.

Skylie is starting small at the Northey Street City Farm's organic markets in Windsor in Brisbane's inner north.

"It's about getting my desserts out there at a reasonable

cost," she said. "I may end up releasing my own line of desserts that they can order either online or through a shop, or it may end up being a dessert bar."

"But financially it makes sense for me to start small."

Skylie has closed her owner-operated design business to concentrate on Wild Sugar.

"It was a hard decision in terms of I'd set myself up in a great little business... but I was really ready for a change which is why I applied for *MasterChef* in the first place," she said.

Skylie said *MasterChef* was the

"ultimate culinary adventure". "It's been an incredible, juicy adventure," she said, adding that she had no regrets.

"If you have any regrets in life they only prevent you from moving forward. It taught me to really believe in myself. In order to get through some of the gargantuan challenges you're faced with, you've really got to believe in yourself."

"It has given me more confidence, that's for sure."

She said setting out on her new venture and moving in with Pete were "wonderful".

"We've been together for a year and a half," she said.

"He has been very patient because I've been away (on the show) quite a few months. I feel great about it. We're madly in love with each other and we'll just see what wants to happen... he's definitely the man for me, that's all I will say."

MasterChef Australia,
Ten, 7.30 tonight

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BRANCHING OUT: Former *MasterChef* contestant Skylie Craig at the James Street Markets in Brisbane. She is setting up her own dessert business, Wild Sugar. **Picture:** Mark Cranitch