Corn Chowder with Croutons

INGREDIENTS:

Soup

- 1 bacon rasher, chopped
- ¹/₄ onion, chopped
- ¹/₂ celery stick, diced small
- ¹/₂ large potato, diced
- 1 cup vegetable stock
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon plain flour
- ½ cup corn kernels (plus 2 tablespoons for garnish)

Croutons

- 1 slice of wholemeal bread
- 1 tablespoon of margarine, melted.

- 1 small piece red capsicum
- ¹/₂ teaspoon fresh thyme (plus a few sprigs for garnish)
- 1 spring onion, chopped
- Pinch salt
- Pinch cayenne pepper
- 1 tablespoon cream, to garnish
 - 1 clove of garlic

METHOD:

- 1. Prepare all soup ingredients, as detailed in the list of ingredients.
- 2. Lightly fry the bacon, onion and celery in a saucepan. Do not brown.
- 3. Add potato and cook for 1 minute.
- 4. Add the vegetable stock, cover and simmer for 10 minutes (until potato is soft).
- 5. Add $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of milk to the saucepan, keeping $\frac{1}{4}$ aside.
- 6. Blend the leftover milk with the flour.
- 7. Add the flour and milk mixture to the saucepan. Stir until boiling then cook for 3 minutes.
- 8. Add corn, capsicum, thyme, spring onion, salt and cayenne pepper to taste.
- 9. Cook for 5 minutes.
- 10. Puree half of the soup in the blenders at the front of the classroom (bring your soup to the front bench in a large bowl, with oven mitts, using a ladle to pour).
- 11. Once pureed, return this mixture to the saucepan on a low heat.
- 12. For the croutons, heat the oven to 180c.
- 13. Rub the bread with the garlic clove. Cut bread into 1cm cubes.
- 14. Melt the margarine in a small saucepan. Then add the croutons to the saucepan and gently coat in the margarine.
- 15. Place croutons on a baking tray
- 16. Bake for 5 minutes or until golden brown.
- 17. Serve soup with garnish and croutons.

EVALUATION:

- 1. Describe your product's appearance, aroma, taste and texture using sensory analysis language.
- 2. Conduct a PMI (plus/minus/interesting) reflecting on your final meal, production skills and areas that you would like to improve.