

Food for

When Rod, Rachel and Renee dropped in for the weekend, Tony Bullivant threw another chop on the barbie.

For Tony (left), who caters to the rich and famous at Auckland's exclusive Waimanu hideaway, cooking for Rod Stewart, his model wife and their baby daughter was a piece of cake — or to be more precise, a piece or two of steak for the barbeques they shared with friends and family.

But when the McCartneys — Linda, Paul and their children Heather, Mary and James — came to stay, Tony had but two weeks to prepare for his vegetarian adventure.

"I was told they wanted strictly organic vegetables," Tony says. "There was to be no chicken, meat or even fish on the menu. Eggs had to be free-range.

"I've always found vegetarian food in restaurants a bit boring, so I had to put my thinking cap on.

"And there isn't an awful lot of organic growing done here, although it is on the increase."

After checking out local suppliers, Tony faxed menus to the McCartneys (right) for their approval and stocked up on vegetable goodies such as shitake mushrooms, eggplant, kumara and beancurd.

For Tony, who began his catering career cooking bread at 4am before school, the results were definitely worth the effort: "They were rapt. They let me create for them."

Those creations included spiced mushrooms wrapped in spinach leaves and braised, and panfried beancurd and mushroom sandwiches. But the superstar and his family were just as happy with breakfasts of toast, cereal and juice, Tony says.

And Linda, who has written a vegetarian cookbook and marketed a range of packaged meals, was taken up with the

open plan kitchen. "She popped in and out while I was cooking and we exchanged recipes," Tony says.

"I'd tried to buy her cookbook before she got here so I could see what they were into. But I needn't have bothered — she presented me with one anyway."

Cooking for Rod and Rachel (right with Renee) at the Herne Bay hideaway was much simpler. "They love their barbies. I was amazed that after all their travel and staying at swish places how down to earth they both are," Tony says.

"Rachel still adores lamb chops and Rod likes to get into the barbie and do his own thing.

"I'd do the preparation and

