

Game to give it a try . . .

NICOLE Johnschwager never wants to eat nachos again.

The Mexican favourite, teamed with beer, have been on the menu at Nicole and her partner Nathan Ruff's Manly home for some time.

The couple had invited friends, family and colleagues around and cooked countless meals for a reason.

The pair have devised a new board game and needed guinea pigs to trial it. "I got the idea when I was doing a job I hated, I'd sit around gossiping and chatting," Ms Johnschwager, 32, said.

Her mission was to find out just how well she really knew her friends and family and what made them tick.

Nitty Gritty is the result of six years of questions, soul searching and research. Other friends too have collaborated on the project helping with the design.

The couple feel confident taking on Hasbro and Parker Bros – the big boys of the games world – with their independent Australian-designed game.

Nitty Gritty is divided into five categories like Skeletons in the Cupboard, Love it/Hate it and dilemmas, and takes about an hour to play. As many as 10 players can take part but it's unsuitable for young children.

"It's a great game to play with friends and the more the merrier. It's also a great ice-breaker," Ms Johnschwager said.

Treasure Island Toys in Warriewood and Humphreys in The Corso, Manly have copies on sale for \$50. For more information contact www.nittygrittygame.com



Members of the board . . . Nathan Ruff with partner Nicole Johnschwager and Nitty Gritty