

Foodies are 'spoilt for choice'

Region now offers wide range of venues with varied menus for eating out

AS JUNE McGregor and Ryleigh Jones enjoyed a quiet cuppa on Friday afternoon, the pair found it difficult to pinpoint their favourite place in Blackwater for a bite to eat.

The two ladies said they were "spoilt for choice", but often frequented the Blackwater Country Club with friends, and have found the food is not the only drawcard.

"It's a nice atmosphere, and the Thai restaurant is lovely," June said.

"21 Doon have great coffees and cakes, and it's nice and quiet," she added of another cafe at the top of her list.

Country Club duty manager Michala Donohue said having grown up in Blackwater, she has been on both sides of the bar, and seen the offerings grow over the years to include all tastes.

She said everything from a full Thai banquet to your basic steak and chips plus cakes, pies and sausage rolls were on the menu.

"We also have our cafe down the end for coffees and cakes and toasted sandwiches," Michala said.



MENU: The Blackwater Country Club's Karra Kleinig and Michala Donohue offer a selection of food and beverage options.

PHOTO: AMBER HOOKER

"We are trying to get that out a bit more let people know that we do that because not many places in town offer coffee, we do."

After working at the club

through high school, Michala has come back following an apprenticeship in the mines, and said she enjoyed the loyal customers who came through the door.

"We have ladies that come in every Tuesday and get Thai," she said.

"And there's usually a big group that come in for coffee every week."

Central Highlands Development Corporation tourism development officer Peter Grigg said the region's eating-out scene had evolved rapidly in the

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past three to four years. "A number of years ago you would have been hard-pressed to find a good place for brunch on a Sunday morning and now we have numerous places opened up, which is good for not only tourists but the local community," he said.

"The community's demand for variety has changed; it's all about choice now."

Mr Grigg said it was great to see operators evolving to meet the demands of their clientele.