

# easy entertaining



**Freda Nicholls - our intrepid new gourmand - hails from Southern NSW and will be treating you to contemporary country cooking utilising seasonal produce.**

STORY + PHOTOS **FREDA NICHOLLS**



## Winding back to Jugiong

Often when traveling you can never find that perfect meal stop, you either pull into a town and try to find somewhere that doesn't smell of old chip fat, or give in to the fastfood nightmare that has taken over our main transport arteries. One enterprising young lady has solved this dilemma for travelers on the busy Hume Highway as well as lucky locals, by starting up a great place to eat, drink and revive.

Juliet Robb started up The Long Track Pantry and Cafe in the sleepy little village of Jugiong two years ago. Situated on the Old Hume Highway alongside the mighty Murrumbidgee River, the Long Track has become the place to eat for all those in the know and is the epitome of what any weary traveler craves, the contemporary country cafe.

A true country cook, Juliet utilises seasonal produce on an ever-changing blackboard menu, growing salad ingredients and herbs out the back of what was once the Jugiong general store. Juliet says she leans towards more Italian flavours in her cooking, and prefers slow-cooked food with well-developed flavour. The home-

baking style of her cakes and slices brings back memories of a carefree youth, and her Apple and Walnut Cake has become quite the signature piece of the Long Track.

In quieter times, Juliet and her staff produce a superb array of branded products including flavour-filled pies, soups, jams, dressings, paté and preserved fruits suitable to stock the most selective of pantries. As well, there is a great range of homemade ice creams, cordials and cakes and everything is elegantly packaged in the café's signature red-and-cream colours. The contemporary country décor is highlighted by Juliet's landlord Jo Miller, whose great sense of style can be seen throughout the building as she sources works of art and decorates from her own garden, giving a fresh always changing country feel.

The Long Track is a great find whether for a rejuvenating travel break or a long slow lunch with the ladies.

**Contact: Riverside Drive, Jugiong T: (02) 6945 4144.  
Open every day except Tuesday 10:00am to 4:00pm**



Wine suggestion for pork and fennel recipe: Gundagai Wines 'Track Winding Back' 2007

Chardonnay - the fruity overtones in the crisp wine go extremely well with this dish