



Signpost to Capella



CAPELLA

We are a vibrant and welcoming community who actively celebrate our cultural, sports and heritage activities and prosper from thriving agricultural and mining industries.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND US?

We are located on the Gregory Highway mid-way between Emerald to our south and Clermont to the north, both 52 kilometres away.

Our neighbouring town is Tieri, which is a short 35 kilometre drive to our east. The major regional centres of Rockhampton and Mackay are both around 300 kilometres away.

We are situated in the famous Peak Downs district, which features fertile rolling downs country and the prominent Peak Range.

HOW DID CAPELLA BEGIN?

The indigenous people who first inhabited our area lived a traditional lifestyle for thousands of years.

The first European to travel the area was explorer Ludwig Leichhardt in 1845. His favourable reports of the open downs country soon enticed settlement by sheep pastoralists. Leichhardt also noted the impressive volcanic plugs of the Peak Range, which he described as a 'range of noble peaks'. By 1883, our town developed alongside the railway line constructed between Emerald and Clermont. Capella was named after a star constellation by an early settler.

Although disrupted by the Great Shearer's Strike, which began just north of Capella in 1891, and plagued by periods of severe drought, the wool industry remained dominant for almost a century

until cattle were introduced. Instead of fine wool production, graziers began to breed and fatten prime beef cattle.

After World War II, the Queensland British Food Corporation converted large tracts of grazing land north of Capella to grain production. Although this project failed, it paved the way for future broad-acre farming in the fertile black soils.

An economic boost of a different kind came when the Gregory coal mine opened in 1979 followed by German Creek, Crinum and Kestrel in the 1980s, which greatly enhanced the prosperity of our town.

WHAT MAKES OUR COMMUNITY UNIQUE?

We are a thriving rural community and flourishing mining town. We are exceptionally proud of our pastoral beginnings and are dedicated to the preservation of our heritage. The restored 1869 Peak Downs Homestead is the centrepiece at the Capella Pioneer Village. Murals on street poles and the Light Horse monument depict our area's colourful past.

We are a safe, peaceful and friendly town. Our vibrant community spirit enables us to work together and volunteer to improve and promote our town.

Our population totally 1,410 by 2010 with 918 people living in Capella and 492 in the surrounding rural area.

We are renowned for our community events and top-rating entertainment attractions. Each year we host a range of events including 'Christmas in July' Craft Fair, the Old Machinery and Craft Fair, the Agricultural Show and concerts.



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We have first-class sports and cultural facilities such as the excellent aquatic centre, multi-purpose covered arena, showgrounds, Bridgeman Park Sporting Complex and Cultural Centre that attract a range of sporting and recreational opportunities.

We appreciate our outstanding community amenities, which provide a high standard of living for all age groups, from young families to the elderly.

We have primary and secondary schools, a general store, post office, bank, chemist, health and emergency services, hotel and motels. We have an industrial estate, which enables service businesses to be located close to agricultural and mining activity across the area.

We have a long tradition of country hospitality and of welcoming visitors to our area who enjoy our spectacular scenery and the impeccable presentation of our town.

WHERE DO OUR PEOPLE LIVE AND WORK?

The majority of our community work in the agriculture and mining industries. Many of our primary producers live and work on their properties. Our proximity to several major coal mine developments means people from across the area work in a variety of occupations in the mining industry.

People are also employed in town services, schools, businesses and professional occupations.

HOW DO WE GET AROUND?

Road networks carry grain and cattle trucks across the region, especially along the Gregory Highway and Capella link to the Fitzroy

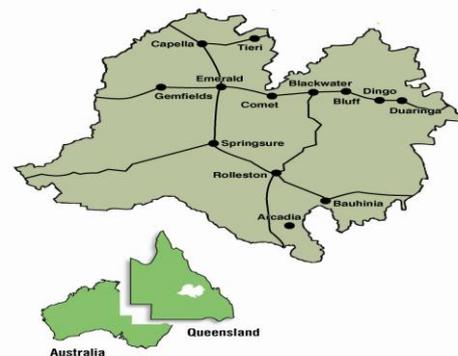
Development Road. A large number of mine vehicles servicing the mining industry also access these roads, especially travelling workers, service contractors and trucks carrying mining equipment. Railway lines were constructed to carry livestock, freight and grains but today additional links also deliver coal to export outlets at Mackay or Gladstone.

School buses bring primary students from outlying areas to attend primary and secondary school at Capella. We access specialist services, shopping and airports at larger centres such as Emerald, Mackay and Rockhampton.

CAPELLA – A JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE.

As we look to the future, we will continue to foster our vibrant community spirit, celebrate our heritage and maintain our first-class facilities and high standard of living.

Central Highlands Region



This signpost was created as a brief introduction to our town/locality. Information was accessed from a variety of sources including brochures, web-sites and people.

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