



Signpost
to
Comet



COMET

We are a welcoming rural community, proud of our pioneering heritage and located on some of the richest agricultural land in Central Queensland.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND US?

We are situated on the Capricorn Highway between Emerald, which is 40 kilometres to our west and Blackwater is 35 kilometres to the east.

Our closest major regional centre is Rockhampton, which is located around 230 kilometres to the east.

The rich black alluvial soils of the Comet and Mackenzie river floodplains support our prosperous grazing and agricultural industries.

HOW DID COMET BEGIN?

Explorer Ludwig Leichhardt and his party were the first Europeans to travel through the Comet area, which was occupied by indigenous people for thousands of years.

The Comet River was named after Leichhardt's sighting of Haley's Comet in the night sky on 28 December 1844. The abundance of natural resources along the Comet River and its fertile floodplain led to pastoral expansion in the 1860s and 1870s.

Our town began as a railway camp in 1877 named Cometville, when the railway was being constructed westward from Rockhampton to Longreach. In 1931, Comet was renamed and became an established town servicing many grazing and agricultural properties.

Irrigation farming in the 1950's and the construction of the Fairbairn Dam in the 1970's continued to expand productive broad-acre agriculture in the area.

Today, the rich black soils of our floodplains produce crops such as cotton, sorghum, maize, soya beans and sunflowers. Substantial ridge country in the Comet area support prime beef grazing and feedlots including the AAcO enterprise.

WHAT MAKES OUR COMMUNITY UNIQUE?

We are one of the oldest towns in the Central Highlands region and are proud of our pioneering heritage. The 'Dig Tree', a tourist attraction in our town, marks the spot where journals belonging to Leichhardt were buried in a canister at the base of the famous coolibah tree. The old Comet Railway Station relocated to Whistle Stop Park has a historical display depicting our treasured past. By 2010, our population reached 234.

We are a close-knit community and stand united in times of adversity and opportunity. We value our town and work hard volunteering to maintain and beautify it. We are passionate about improving our town facilities and recently completed the restoration of the Comet Hall.

Our primary school is an important focal point for our community and, with the support of the Parents and Citizens group, supports numerous community initiatives. The school publishes a newsletter, which is distributed to the community and provides sporting facilities for residents to use such as the tennis courts, football oval and running track.

We have a lively pony club, an active playgroup and a dynamic School of Arts. We host an



Signpost to Comet



annual show, campdraft and a rodeo, which raises funds for Camp Quality.

We are a proactive and youthful community that is home to many young families. Comet offers a safe environment and an active outdoors lifestyle for children and people of all ages.

We are a welcoming community that is proud to invite tourists and new residents to glimpse our historic past and become part of our vibrant and sharing community.

WHERE DO OUR PEOPLE LIVE AND WORK?

We are a community of crop and livestock producers. Many of our property owners, managers and agricultural employees live and work on farms or cattle properties across the Comet area. Also, the vast majority of the 30 students who attend the Comet State School live on nearby properties.

Town residents are mostly employed in services such as the school, hotel or store with a few travelling to work in Emerald.

With our close proximity to several coal mines, many Comet residents also have permanent employment in the mining sector.

HOW DO WE GET AROUND?

Our position on the Capricorn Highway enables us to drive easily to other centres. We are close to Emerald, the largest town in the Central Highlands. We can access our day to day requirements locally or drive a short distance to Emerald for more specialised services.

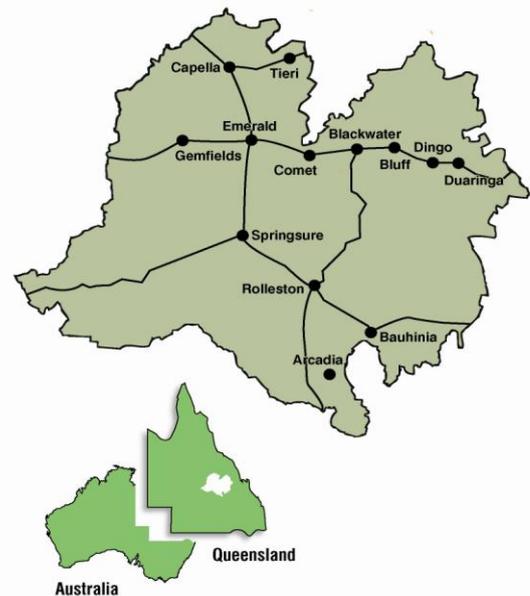
School buses bring primary students from the outer laying area to Comet State Primary school and take students to attend one of the high schools in Emerald.

We can also access airports at either Emerald or Rockhampton, which is 230 kilometres away.

COMET – A JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE.

As we look to the future, we will continue to value our energetic and enthusiastic community, while nurturing and sustaining our town as an integral part of our daily lives.

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.

Disclaimer: Every effort has been taken to ensure this information sheet is free from error and/or omission at the date of printing. Council is not responsible for loss experienced by persons or organisations acting or refraining from action as a result of this information.