

Dig Some Events

From underground light spectacles and picnic races on a cattle station to Dingo Trap throwing, no matter when you arrive, you can be sure to find an event worth celebrating on the Capricorn Highway.

Summer

Summer Solstice

Where: The Capricorn Caves

When: 22 December 2007

The Summer Solstice is celebrated on 22 December when the sun and the Tropic of Capricorn are directly in line. Visitors flock to the caves to view this spectacle with amazement: the colours and intense warmth of the sun in contrast to the cool temperature of the cave.

Tel: 07 4934 2883

Autumn

Easter Sunflower Festival

Where: Emerald

When: Easter Long Weekend

Emerald is a major centre for the growing of sunflowers in Australia and holds a Sunflower Festival around Easter each year. The annual Festival features an art exhibition, races, rodeo, street parade, bush breakfast and Sunflower Queen announcements and has developed international connections with Emerald's sister city Altona, in Manitoba, Canada, where a similar festival is celebrated.

Tel: 0408 723 914.

Emerald Multicultural Festival

Where: Emerald Racecourse

When: 28th April 2007

An entertaining event that will celebrate and showcase the diversity of the local community through performances of world music and dance, ethnic art and craft stalls, and international food

outlets. Admission is free and everyone is invited.

Tel: 07 4982 8333

Running the "Cutter"

Where: Mount Morgan

When: May Weekend

On the corner of Central St and Morgan St is a statue titled 'Running the Cutter' which recalls the interesting custom of buying beer in billy cans, commonplace at the mine between 1900 and 1918.

Tel: 07 4938 2312

May Day Weekend Celebrations

Where: Barcaldine

When: 29 - 30 April 2007

Barcaldine is the birthplace of the Labor Party which grew from under the Tree of Knowledge. Therefore May Day Weekend is a time for Barcaldine to celebrate its heritage and history. Traditionally politicians of different political persuasions make a pilgrimage to visit the Tree of Knowledge site and the Australian Workers Heritage Centre, so you never know who you might see wondering down the street during May Day Weekend.

Tel: 07 4651 2162

Big River Jazz, Rockhampton



Summer Solstice, Capricorn Caves



Easter Sunflower Festival, Emerald



Kroombit Park, Biloela

Fossicking, Sapphire Gemfields

Quay Street, Rockhampton

Underground Mine, Rubyvale

Relaxed Dining, Gem Gallery



• ROCKHAMPTON • GRACEMERE • DUARINGA • DINGO • BLACKWATER • COMET • EMERALD • ANAKIE (Sapphire Gemfields) • ALPHA • JERICHO • BARCALDINE • ILFRACOMBE • LONGREACH •

You'll dig the Tropic of Capricorn

FACT SHEET



Campdrafts

Experience the excitement of droving and the hospitality of a country fair when the Campdraft Competition comes to town. The sport of campdrafting has its origins in the early days of the Australian stockman, and is believed to have begun in rural Queensland in the early part of the twentieth century. A horse and rider pit their strength against the will of a steer, which is cut from the herd and controlled around a set course in a fight against the clock. Lookout for Campdraft events along the Capricorn Highway, including:

- Capella Campdraft (3rd weekend March)
- Alpha Golden Ox Bow (30 March – 1 April)
- Paradise Lagoon Campdraft Championships, Alton Downs, near Gracemere (4 – 6 May)
- Clermont Performance Horse (October)
- Duaringa Campdraft (April)
- Rolleston Campdraft (May)
- Jericho Rodeo/Campdraft (September)

www.campdraft.com.au

Winter

World Championship Dingo Trap Throwing

Where: Dingo

When: July

Each year in July, the locals take their association with the dingo quite seriously in the competitive sport of Dingo Trap Throwing. Not just any old dingo trap throwing contest, but the World Championship Dingo Trap Throwing.

For information contact Duaringa Information Centre
Tel: 07 4935 7105

Gemfest – Festival of Gems

Where: Sapphire Gemfields

When: 9–12 August 2007

An absolute must on the Central Highlands Sapphire Gemfields calendar is multi-award winning Gemfest – Festival of Gems, the annual 4-day event celebrating sapphires and the sapphire industry of Central Queensland. Gemfest – Festival of Gems is Australia's foremost Gems and Jewellery Event, attracting visitors from all over the world to the Sapphire Gemfields.

Featuring attractions such as country music groups as well as street entertainment.

www.gemfest.com.au

Goldfest

Where: Clermont

When: 17 – 19 August 2007

Goldfest is an annual festival celebrating the gold mining heritage and current gold fossicking activities in Clermont, Central Queensland. The festival atmosphere is enhanced by rides and sideshows, and stalls selling craft, jewellery, food, clothing and books. Local businesses decorate their shop windows to add to the atmosphere in the town.

Tel: 07 4983 1133

Gracemere Bull Sales

Where: Gracemere Saleyards Complex

When: (Aug – Nov)

The original selling ring at the Gracemere Saleyards Complex was constructed in the late 1950's. Stud sales began a few years later and now Gracemere, with its state of the art selling ring, ranks as one of the major selling centres in Australia.

Tel: 07 4931 7300

Spring

Wilpeena

Where: North of Dingo

When: First Saturday in September

The annual McKenzie River Amateur Picnic Race Club – better known as Wilpeena Races, is a unique affair in many ways. It is a charity race meeting run on a Cattle Station! The grounds cater for overnighters with first-class camping and associated facilities.

Tel: 07 4980 5555

Big River Jazz

Where: Rockhampton

When: 7 – 9 September 2007

The Big River Jazz is a massive 3-day program incorporating fine wining and dining and great jazz. The program includes Jazz, Latin, Soul & Blues and an outdoor concert on the banks of the Fitzroy River.

Tel: 07 4922 2855

Capella Pioneer Village Craft & Vintage Machinery Fair

Where: Capella

When: 8 September 2007

Held annually on the 2nd Saturday in September. Enjoy a full day of fun witnessing old tractors and engines in action, blacksmithing demonstrations, shearing and wool pressing demonstrations in the 'Gordon Downs' Woolshed, craft stalls, and much more. Food and bars operating. Gates open at 0900 to kick off the running of the lucky gate prize.

Tel: 07 4984 9449

Kroombit Park, Biloela



Fossicking, Sapphire Gemfields



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