



URGENT PRESS RELEASE

“A Shining Emerald”

The sun is now shining on the Central Queensland town of Emerald and the talk has turned from disaster to opportunity. Last week the waters of the sprawling Nogoa River subsided, transforming the countryside from its traditional outback colours of burnt orange to a wonderful shade of ‘Emerald’ green!

“This is nature’s way of spring cleaning, and these floods have made way for an early tourist season for the Central Highlands”, said Capricorn Tourism General Manager Alan Chamberlain. “The Botanic Gardens are flourishing, Lake Maraboon looks spectacular, and every nearby waterhole is full of fresh clean water. It’s now a perfect time for; catching Redclaw (freshwater crayfish), water skiing, fishing, and camping in the region”.

Another area impacted by flood was Central Queensland’s Sapphire Gemfields. Well renown for their rich sapphire fields, local residents have a very positive outlook after the recent wet-season.

“This is the perfect time for “specking”, said Peter Brown of Rubyvale Gem Gallery. “Creek beds have been flushed out to unveil new “wash”, and the dust has been wash away from all the fossicking fields making it easier to spot a shiny sapphire in the rough!”

Carnarvon Gorge is another attraction benefiting well from the wet. The National Park is now open to 4WD vehicles, but rangers are cautioning visitors to take care (it is advisable to call ahead before entering the Park).

“Locals are telling us that they have not seen the National Park this green in 20 years,” said Canarvon Gorge Wilderness Lodge Manager, Kim Hill. The waterfalls are running well, and the landscape is so lush and green even the kangaroos are smiling”!

Operators in the Central Highlands Region are predicting one of the best tourist seasons in years and are very excited about the prospects that lie ahead following this heavy wet season. Apart from a few isolated areas, it is business as usual for the area and locals are extending a warm friendly invitation to all visitors. For more information on visiting the Central Highlands contact Capricorn Holidays on 1800 676 701.

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