



JCU
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND
CENTRE FOR RURAL
& REMOTE HEALTH

Welcome to Clermont

Orientation Booklet

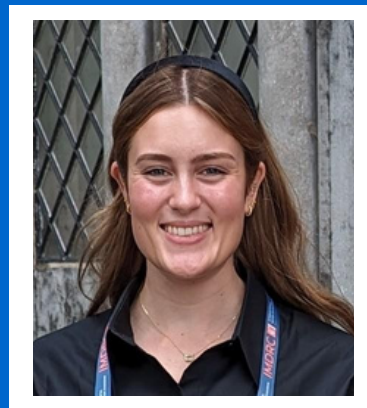


Student Handbook
PLEASE READ

The Emerald Team



The Biloela Team



Welcome to JCU Central Qld Centre for Rural & Remote Health

Here at the JCU Central Queensland Centre for Rural and Remote Health, our aim is to attract, build, and retain a high-quality health workforce across Central Queensland. This in turn will lead to the delivery of better health, aged care, and disability services in regional, rural, and remote communities across Central Queensland.

The team at the Central Queensland Centre for Rural and Remote Health (CQCRRH) comprises clinical leads in Occupational Therapy, Social Work, Speech Therapy, Nursing, Psychology, Exercise Physiology and Pharmacy, and Physiotherapy. Research and Operations team make up the rest of the team.

In Biloela, we have clinical leads in Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. Students on placement in Clermont are managed by the Emerald Team.

Orientation

Introduction

This handbook aims to assist students and staff with the induction and orientation process.

It is important that you attend the orientation to Clermont as it will cover settling into your accommodation, along with a tour of the area.

The vibrant rural town of Clermont is nestled in the Isaac Region. Clermont is situated approximately 274 kilometers southwest of Mackay. It lies at the junction of the Gregory and Peak Downs highways, making it a central hub for the surrounding agricultural and mining areas.

Clermont is one of the most historic towns in northern Australia, renowned for its colorful past, dramatic history, and moments of tragedy. As the first inland settlement in the tropics, it truly epitomizes the spirit of a frontier town.

Acknowledgement of Country

JCU CQCRRH acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the traditional owners of Wangan and Jagalingou peoples. Their Country refers to the Clermont and Belyando regions of Central Queensland. We pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past and present.

JCU CQCRRH is committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

We acknowledge the past and stand together for our future.



Welcome

Settling into rural life

LIBRARY FACILITIES

There is a local public library located at the Cnr Karmoo and Herschel Streets, Clermont. Opening hours: Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 5.00pm.

MENTORSHIP and PASTORAL SUPPORT

While CQCRRH - Clermont is not able to provide specific clinical support in all disciplines, staff are on call to assist students should the need arise. Students are encouraged to contact the Centre if they are experiencing difficulties during their placement (Bush Crisis Line is available - please refer to page 10) or alternatively contact your universities for their allocated pastoral and well-being support program.

TRAVEL

Students are expected to organise travel to and from Clermont at the start and end of the placement.

OUTBACK DRIVING

Central Queensland has some beautiful towns and sightseeing opportunities. We encourage students with their own transport to explore the surrounding area.

JCU STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

<https://www.jcu.edu.au/policy/student-services/student-code-of-conduct>

JCU STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

<https://www.jcu.edu.au/students/support/student-charter>



Student Code of Conduct

All students should be aware of their home Universities Code of Conduct and any other associated policies. All students must remember that while attending a placement in Clermont District you are a representative of your university and as such you are expected to continue to adhere to their policies.

In addition, your presence in Clermont and surrounding placement sites is sponsored by Central Qld Centre for Rural & Remote Health (CQCRRH). This means that your conduct also reflects upon the Centre. This includes behaviour at our accommodation which is recognised by the community as a CQCRRH/JCU facility.

1. Respect all people with whom you come in contact during your placement.
2. Respect different values, beliefs, cultures and religions.
3. Value the contribution made by people willing to give their time and knowledge to assist you during your placement. This includes, but is not exclusive to, health profession preceptors, co-workers, patients and the public.
4. Be punctual for all placement and CQCRRH organised activities.
5. Abide by the dress code established by your University.
6. Avoid conduct which might reasonably be perceived as discriminating, harassing, bullying or intimidating to others.
7. Conduct yourself in a professional manner whilst undertaking your placement.
8. Maintain the highest standards of academic integrity during your placement.
9. Observe confidentiality of all patients or clients and familiarise yourself with the confidentiality requirements of the organisation where the placement is being undertaken.
10. Respect CQCRRH property and the facilities, such as accommodation, library, computing and laboratory resources.

Students must not engage in any conduct that:

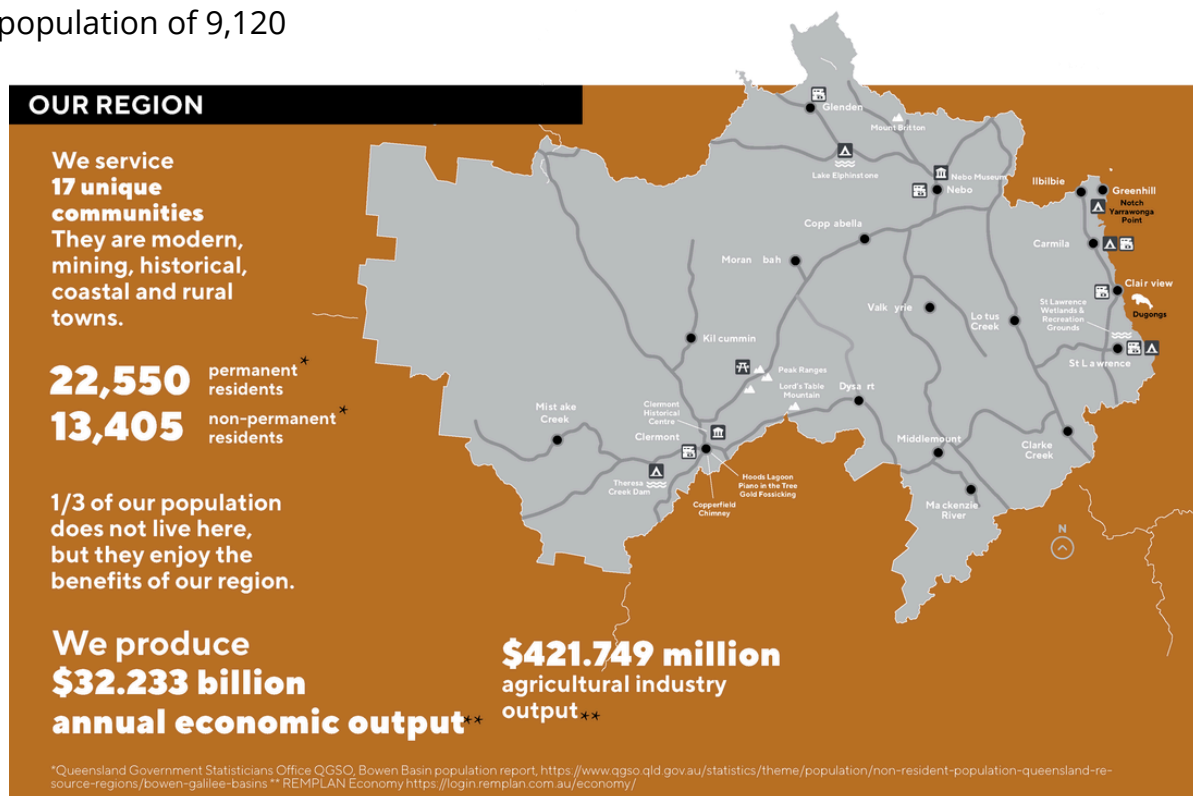
1. Impairs the reasonable freedom of other persons to pursue their placement or studies.
2. Is otherwise detrimental to the operation of CQCRRH or causes damage to CQCRRH property or reputation.
3. Contravenes federal, state or local law.
4. Reflects badly upon CQCRRH or the student's home university.

Issac Region

Discover the local area.

Issac Regional Council

Isaac's family-friendly communities offer a safe and relaxed lifestyle, and include the modern mining towns of Moranbah, Middlesbrough, Dysart and Glenden, to the historic communities of Nebo, Clermont and St Lawrence and small picturesque coastal villages and rural localities. Moranbah is the main service centre for the region with an estimated population of 9,120



FIRST NATIONS

The Clermont region is home to the Wangan & Jagalingou people, who are the traditional custodians of the land. They have a deep connection to their culture and heritage, which they continue to nurture and protect. The Clermont Aboriginal Community Development Fund supports community-driven projects that aim to achieve positive outcomes for the Aboriginal community of interest, including education, training, employment, and economic participation. The Clermont region also acknowledges the Yangga and Koinmerburra people, recognizing their wisdom and contributions to the health and wellbeing of the community. This acknowledgment reflects the ongoing connection of First Nations people to land, waters, and community.

Issac Region

Discover the local area.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Clermont offers a mix of historical landmarks, natural beauty, and outdoor adventures, making it a unique destination in Central Queensland. There's lots to see and do around 'Clermont', including some of Queensland's best camping and fishing spots. Theresa Creek Dam and Clermont Historical Centre are a 'must-do'.

Climate

Depending on the time of the year, temperatures range from very hot too comfortable in Clermont. On average, daytime temperatures range from a very hot 35°C in December to a comfortable 24°C in July. Winter offers cooler and more pleasant weather, ideal for outdoor activities, with minimal rainfall.

Transportation and Communication

Public Transport in Clermont is quite limited compared with larger Queensland towns and cities. Clermont has a public bus stop, including Clermont Rose Harris Park Bus Stop, which is used by coach and bus services. However, Clermont does not appear to have a regular local urban bus network. The nearest major transport hub is usually Emerald, about 100 km southeast, where you can connect to long-distance coach services including Greyhound Bus Stop Emerald

Sealed roads ensure visitors enjoy comfortable and safe journeys, south, north, east and west. Clermont has a local taxi operator called Clermont Taxi, based in town at 31 Blair Street. The listed booking phone number is (07) 4983 1784.

The nearest commercial airport closest to Clermont is either Emerald or Moranbah (Both approximately 110km away). For most residents, Emerald Airport is often the more practical choice because it has regular scheduled services to Brisbane and other connections

Issac Region

Discover the local area.

The main local publication is the Clermont Community and Business Group's ***Clermont Telegraph***, an independent community newspaper that covers local news, events, schools, sport, mining, agriculture, and community activities.

Clermont does not appear to have a standalone local commercial radio station based in town. Residents generally receive regional radio services that cover the Central Highlands and broader Central Queensland area, including:

- ABC Capricornia
- Hit Central Queensland
- Triple M Central Queensland

These stations provide regional news, weather, road conditions, and community information for towns including Clermont.

Demographics

Clermont is a small regional mining and agricultural town in the Isaac Region of Central Queensland. Mackay is the nearest major coastal city (290km away), Emerald (about 100 km away) is actually the closest larger regional centre for many day-to-day services and Brisbane is 750km south.

Clermont is a small regional town with about 2,950 people in the Clermont. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people make up 3.6% of the population. Clermont's economy is heavily influenced by: Coal mining, Cattle grazing, Agriculture and supporting service industries

Arts and Culture

Rather than having large theatres or art galleries, Clermont's arts scene is community-based. Local groups organise exhibitions, concerts, markets, workshops, and cultural events, often coordinated through the Clermont Community Business Group. One of the town's main cultural attractions is the Clermont Museum. The museum tells the story of Clermont, Copperfield, and Blair Athol through exhibits on gold mining, coal mining, farming, and the devastating 1916 flood that led to the town being relocated.

Issac Region

Discover the local area.

Sports and Recreation

Clermont Sportsground – main oval used for cricket, rugby league, soccer, school sport, and community events. It has change rooms, shade areas, toilets and a pavilion. Local clubs and competitions commonly include Rugby league, Cricket (seasonal), soccer, netball and Touch football / social sport. Clermont also has a Swimming Centre – a 50m outdoor pool with lanes. There is also a fitness center with 24/7Gym, Casual Day Passes, Personal Training, Indoor Volleyball, Squash Court Hire, Group exercise classes, Functional Training Area, Massage Therapy,

Aged Care and Social Welfare

Clermont has limited but real residential aged care beds, including: Montcler Nursing Home (Clermont MPHS) – small facility with around 24/7 nursing support for residents needing high care and Monash Lodge – additional aged care/residential care beds within the health service.

The Clermont Multipurpose Health Service (MPHS) is the hub for most allied health care in town. It is part of the Mackay Hospital and Health Service network. Because Clermont is a small rural town many allied health professionals are not permanently based there full-time - specialists often travel from Mackay, Moranbah, or via Royal Flying Doctor Service support.

Clermont CONNECT – coordinates wellbeing, ageing, education and community initiatives. Local churches and volunteer groups also play a big role in food support, social visits, transport help and isolation support

Issac Region

Discover the local area.

Tourism and Festivals

Clermont is one of Queensland's oldest inland towns, and a lot of tourism is based on its history.

Key attractions include:

- Hoods Lagoon – scenic walking area with wildlife, picnic spots, and memorials to the 1916 flood that destroyed much of the original town
- Clermont Historical Centre – large museum with mining equipment, steam engines, and historic artefacts from gold, copper, and coal eras
- Copperfield Chimney – remains of Queensland's first commercial copper mine site

The Clermont Gold and Coal festival is an annual event typically held on August each year. This festival celebrates the rich history and community spirit of Clermont. The Wombat Festival is an annual community arts festival in Clermont, run by local arts volunteers and supported by organisations like Clermont Artslink and the Isaac Regional Council. It celebrates:

- the Northern Hairy-Nosed Wombat population near Epping Forest National Park
- local art, culture, and community creativity
- environmental awareness and conservation

Education, Commerce and Industry

Clermont provides a variety of recreation, employment, education and lifestyle options. Clermont has 2 primary schools, 1 high school and an CUC Isaac - regional university study hub that supports university students studying online (tutorial spaces, mentoring, tech access).

Clermont has 2 main supermarkets - IGA SUPA Clermont and Cornetts IGA Clermont. Clermont does have a few take away options and Pub's which supply a variety of meals from a-la-carte to takeaway.

CLERMONT

THINGS TO DO

- Visit Clermont Historical Centre (museum)
- Peak Range National Park
- Visit Theresa Creek Dam for a ski, swim, fish, camp or for a scenic lunch at the kiosk
- View the railway station and murals and find the green frogs located on each carriage
- Hoods Lagoon and Centenary Park
- Go for a scenic walk around the lagoon and see the 1916 flood memorial area including the piano in the tree, war memorial, Billy Sing memorial, Mary MacKillop grotto, indigenous heritage site and more
- Fossicking (Gold hunting) - try your luck at striking gold at one of its 11 General Permission Areas.
- Local Markets - Held periodically
- Pub crawl Clermont's historic pubs.
- Take a stroll through Rose Harris Park on Capella Street. Named after local identity, Rose Harris, in recognition of her services to the community during the 1916 flood. Rose and her father were responsible for saving five lives
- Clermont is famous and popular for its gold fossicking – try your luck at striking gold at one of its 11 General Permission Areas.
- Go for a drive to visit Copperfield Chimney - Copperfield ghost town site and learn about the town that was
- Peak Range National Park – Approximately 50 km from Clermont, this park features volcanic plugs, walking trails, and wildlife spotting. Wolfgang Peak is a popular climb with panoramic views, though caution is advised due to bats and spiders along the route
- Explore surrounding areas - Capella, Gemfields, Emerald, Mackay

Further Afield

THINGS TO DO

Hoods Lagoon and Centenary Park

Hoods Lagoon is a scenic natural watercourse full of birds and wildlife. The adjacent Centenary Park provides a peaceful atmosphere for picnics and barbecues. Follow the lagoon's winding footpaths and boardwalk and learn about Clermont's rich and often tragic history. Memorials, monuments and sculptures including St Mary MacKillop, local war service men and women, the Northern Hairy-nosed Wombat, the 1916 Flood and local Aboriginal heritage, all line the surrounding footpaths. The full circuit of the lagoon is approximately 1.8km long.

Copperfield

In 1862 a high wall of solid copper ore was discovered at Copperfield, approximately 4km south of Clermont. Queensland's first copper mine soon opened and continued until the 1880s, by which time the best quality ore was mined out. It is difficult to imagine that Copperfield was once a bustling town of 2,000 people. Today all that remains of the town's thriving past is a lonely brick chimney and the old general store. Copperfield Cemetery is located on the right-hand side of the Rubyvale Road. Browse through the old graves to feel the echo of lives lived and lost in this slice of Australia's pioneering past.

1916 Flood Memorial

The 1916 Flood is Clermont's most iconic event. Striking suddenly, the flood washed away Clermont's central business district and claimed at least 65 lives. It is still known as Australia's second worst flood in terms of loss of life. Visit the 1916 flood marker on the corner of Capricorn and Drummond Streets to view the height of the flood waters and read the names of the citizens who perished. The 'Piano in the Tree' in Capricorn Street (opposite Ivan Bettridge Park) is an eerie reminder of the height and ravaging force of the flood waters. Although the piano seen today is a replica, there were originally three pianos found in trees after the flood. The mass grave of the flood victims is in the Clermont Cemetery.

Further Afield

THINGS TO DO

Clermont Historical Centre

Located 2km north of Clermont along the Gregory Highway, the Clermont Historical Centre contains over 8,000 artefacts reflecting the rich history of Clermont and its surrounding region. Behind its small-town façade, and hidden amongst the new prosperity, are the remnants of earlier times from the days of gold rushes, copper mines, timber getters, shearers, stockmen, and squatters.

Peak Range National Park

Take a scenic drive along the Peak Downs Highway to take in the panoramic views of the Peak Range. The range is a chain of prominent and picturesque volcanic mountains between Moranbah, Clermont and Dysart and includes Wolfgang Peak, Eastern Peak, Lords Table Mountain and Gemini Mountains.

Theresa Creek Dam

An ideal recreation area for families, Theresa Creek Dam is located 22km southwest of Clermont and was built in 1983. It is one of the most idyllic camping spots in the Isaac region. Pitch your tent, pull up your caravan or camping trailer and make Theresa Creek Dam campground your base to explore the region. Enjoy swimming, canoeing, water skiing, jet boating and fishing ... or just sit back and relax. Redclaw crayfish are the main target species in the dam. You can also chase Barramundi, Golden Perch, Saratoga, Eel-Tailed Catfish, Sleepy Cod, Silver Perch and Bony Bream. There are two boat ramps to choose from with bitumen approaches all the way. Land-based anglers and Redclaw hunters can find plenty of spots to access the dam. Find shaded picnic tables, barbecues, playground, swimming areas, food kiosk, camping shelters, showers, toilets and dump point provided. Spend the evening on the shores of the dam. Camping fees apply.

Gemfields & Fossicking

Nearby Rubyvale hosts Pats Gems Tourist Fossicking Park and the Gemfest Festival, where visitors can search for sapphires and other gemstones, enjoy gem-cutting demonstrations, and participate in local festivities.

Further Afield

THINGS TO DO

Fishing

Fishing around Clermont and the wider Isaac Region is really good — it's a mix of outback dams, stocked impoundments, and freshwater creek systems, with a strong focus on redclaw, barramundi, golden perch, and catfish

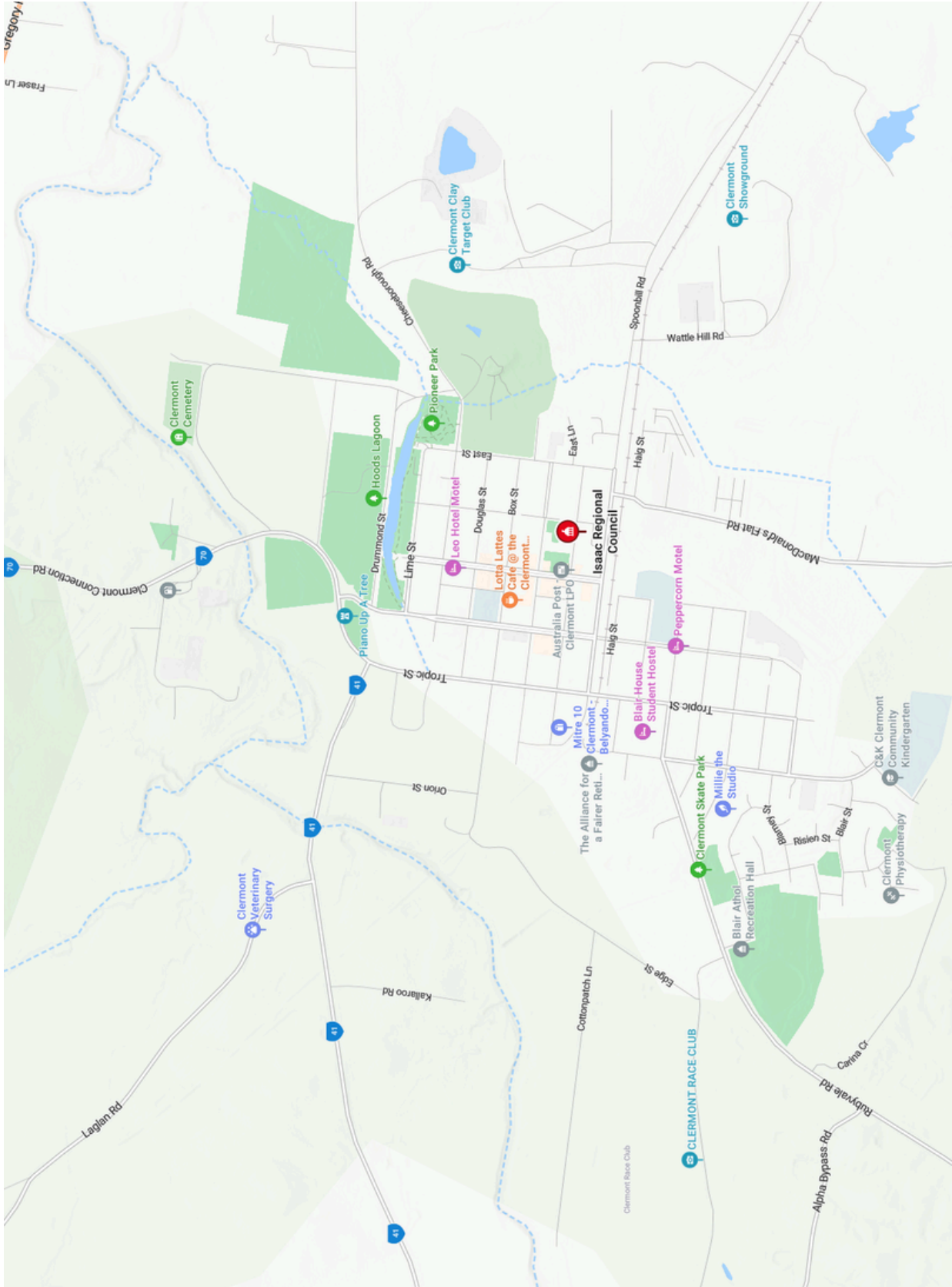
- Theresa Creek Dam (Clermont)
- Hoods Lagoon (town fishing spot)
- Issac River System (Clermont)
- Kinchant Dam (Mackay)
- Peter Faust Dam (Proserpine)
- Lake Maraboon/Fairbairn Dam (Emerald)

Capella Pioneer Village – A Glimpse into the Region's Pioneering Past

Step back in time at Capella Pioneer Village, a historical village that showcases the region's pioneering past. The village features a collection of heritage buildings and artifacts, providing a fascinating insight into the lives of the early settlers. Wander through the village and explore the various exhibits, which include a blacksmith's shop, a general store, and a schoolhouse.

The village also hosts a range of events throughout the year, including heritage days and historical re-enactments, offering visitors an immersive experience of the region's history. Capella Pioneer Village is a must-visit destination for history enthusiasts and those seeking to learn more about the region's past.

Town Map



Useful Contacts

Emergency Contacts

Immediate Emergency	000
Police	07 4983 4444
Ambulance	07 4983 4000
Fire	07 4940 3969
Clermont Multipurpose Health Service	07 4983 400

At times during your placement you may experience isolation, loneliness and frustration with the unpredictability of working and travelling in rural and remote areas. The Bush Crisis Line is a national 24 hour telephone support and debriefing service for multidisciplinary rural and remote health practitioners and their families and is answered by qualified psychologists with rural, remote and cross- cultural experience.

Useful Contacts

Bush Crisis Line	Freecall 1800 805 391
Lifeline	131 144
Telstra	132 200
Ergon Energy	131 046
Clermont Taxi's	07) 4983 1784 131 008



Thank you !



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