



» TOUR: The group exploring Emerald by foot and enjoying the winter weather. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

## Getting off the beaten track

**Discover  
YOUR OWN BACKYARD**



THE Central Highlands Visitor Information Centre is getting foot loose and fancy free.

In an effort to capture our growing tourist audience and with the aim to keep them longer in our region, the VIC has just launched a new tour of Emerald - Footloose and Fancy Free.

This weekly, two-hour walking tour of the Emerald CBD takes in a number of local attractions and talks about some interesting facts, backed up by some old historic photos of our town.

The tour kicked off three weeks ago with two customers the first week, eleven customers the second and twelve customers in the third and it is hoped that with demand a further town tour will be released to cater for an increase in numbers.

The tour includes a walk through Morton Park, including the Visitor Information Centre, the Easel and the Pioneer cottages, then wanders down Egerton St, stops at the Emerald

War Memorial and tribute to our local Anzacs, looks at the public art, the Emerald Art Gallery and as part of the tour a number of historic photos and interesting stories are shared. Stories such as the elephant races along Clermont St and Bridgeman's Butcher shop.

Reviews to date have been very encouraging with each participant applauding the Visitor Centre Initiative.

Joint co-ordinators of the Visitor Information Centre, Jane Kirk and Sally Roberts have both stated that the town tour was brought about through a need to give our visitors a more informative look into Emerald and not just around Emerald.

Jane said that the town tour was also aimed at locals and visiting friends and relations and provided the perfect opportunity for new residents getting to know a bit about their own albeit new, back yard.

This week the Central Queensland News, in partnership with the Central Highlands Development Corporation, presents the new column, Discover your own backyard.

Each fortnight Discover your own backyard will introduce readers to a new corner of the Central Highlands.

We hope to encourage CQ residents to get out and discover their own back yard.

