

# CQ News

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## Discover region's jewel

Explore and enjoy the diversity



**DISCOVER YOUR BACKYARD**  
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WHEN was the last time you travelled to Capella?

No, passing through on the way to somewhere doesn't count.

So when was the last time that you purposely got in the car with the intention to not pass through but to visit, to stop and spend a day or two and enjoy the diversity and friendliness of this great little town?

Last Thursday, I had the pleasure to do exactly that. Along with a group of seven, we stopped in Capella and enjoyed a day reliving the past, exploring the future and engaging with friendly locals happy to share their personal journeys and their life stories. Believe me, they are happy to share.

First stop was the Capella Pioneer Village. I had



**FITTING TRIBUTE:** The Capella Lighthorsemen.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

envisaged a two-hour stop here, whereupon our group's departure we would tour the town, having a look at Bridgeman Park, an undercover arena of unlimited potential, the Capella Cultural Centre, which in every sense of the word is the Cultural Capital of the Central Highlands and the great community asset that is the Capella Aquatic Centre.

If time allowed we then

intended to visit Lillyvale, the historic township that is no longer there except for the numerous signs of a once very lively town that time has passed by, leaving a tome of stories involving pioneers, town characters and even a Chinese ghost.

But alas, the Capella Pioneer Village was where my best laid out plans failed.

The two-hour stop turned into a five-hour journey, a journey that travelled

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through the ancient past where fossils provide a clue to a life a million years ago. The journey captured a

small but significant snapshot of the lives of the local Aboriginal people who called the landscapes of the Peak Range home. The journey gave a sneak preview into the pioneering days and early farming developments and the families that set the scene of innovation.

But most of all, it was a journey of discovering once again a jewel in our own backyard.