

# The 2018 International Toilet Tourism Awards Now Open



The destinations with the best tourist toilets in the world will be invited to sit on the throne for a year

THE 2018 International Toilet Tourism Awards are now open to submissions from tourism destinations that want to wipe the floor with the competition.

After many years analysing tourism trends, the awards' creators and owners, MyTravelresearch.com, aim to show tourism destinations that clean, creative, quirky public toilets go a long way to boosting a destination's image and generating tourism dollars. People stop to spend a penny and end up spending more.

The 2018 awards will go to public toilets in the following categories: Best Economic Contributor, Best Location, Best Design, Quirkiest Toilet Experience, Best Accessible Toilet, Sanitation Progress (aimed at developing economy destinations that have made big steps in public toilet provision), and Overall Winner.

The 2018 awards were announced open 14 February at the Southern Highlands Welcome Centre in Mittagong, New South Wales — the destination that won Best Economic Contributor in the inaugural awards last year.

Officially opening the 2018 awards, Carolyn Childs, co-founder of MyTravelResearch.com and the awards, told attendees: "More smart destinations around the world are waking up to the power of the loo as a promotional statement. There are brilliant examples around the world. We want to recognise the best of them for a job well done."

## Good Loos a Tourist Attraction in Their Own Right

At the launch event, Manager Tourism & Events, Destination Southern Highlands, Steve Rosa, said: "It's fair to say our loos have become a draw card in their own right since our win last year."

Childs said the public loos at Destination Southern Highlands were indicative of the transformation destinations can make when they take pride in their public conveniences.

For example, the Southern Highlands Welcome Centre toilets were refurbished in late 2015 as part of a major overhaul of the centre. Today the toilets include a bright colour scheme, posters, audio reel, quirky fact stickers and free Wi-Fi. In recent weeks the centre added a bright mosaic entry wall to the loos.

Rosa told the audience that since the revamp of the centre's "toilet experience" product sales at the welcome centre's shop have increased by 20%. "The appeal of our toilets has allowed us to divert visitors into our information centre where we have been able to educate, motivate and sell them products. They also make hotel, restaurant and activity bookings there. It has given us an opportunity to disperse more visitors around the Southern Highlands and keep them longer."

No Entry Cost for Toilet Tourism Awards

The 2018 International Toilet Tourism Awards are free to enter. Destinations or toilet owners simply fill out an online form at <https://www.mytravelresearch.com/international-toilet-tourism-awards/> and submit it before the closing date of 1 May 2018. Winners will be announced 4 June 2018.

A judging panel drawn from the tourism and toilet provision sectors will be announced shortly.

The overall winner will receive a AU\$2000 donation contributed to the World Toilet Organization for allocation to a sanitation project in a developing economy. The donation will be made in the name of the overall winner, who will also receive a copy of every MyTravelResearch.com research publication in 2018 (worth AU\$8000), and access to tourism research events. Other category winners will receive the same, minus the donation to the World Toilet Organization.

“The 2018 International Toilet Tourism Awards are up for grabs,” said Bronwyn White, co-founder of the awards. “Let’s see who will ascend the toilet tourism throne and wear the crown for a year.”

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#### RESOURCES FOR JOURNALISTS

- A full list of 2017 International Toilet Tourism Award winners is here, <https://www.mytravelresearch.com/international-toilet-tourism-awards/> including video of Carolyn Childs explaining toilet tourism to Today Tonight on TV, and a good example from Western Australia.
- Images: a list of images of last year’s winners is here, [https://app.box.com/s/r1kbpcomq2lbo8d7brdl82frc561e6e?ct=t%282017+International+Toilet+Tourism+Award+Winners%29&mc\\_cid=6390a6d6d4&mc\\_eid=%5BUNIQID%5D](https://app.box.com/s/r1kbpcomq2lbo8d7brdl82frc561e6e?ct=t%282017+International+Toilet+Tourism+Award+Winners%29&mc_cid=6390a6d6d4&mc_eid=%5BUNIQID%5D).
- Images of the loos at the Southern Highlands Welcome Centre are here, <https://app.box.com/s/edj0zyqjyfuat6el8qrej3ybsk0gyc4u>.
- Promotional video for loos at Southern Highlands Welcome Centre is here, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iaJvA1A58P0>.
- Bronwyn White on BBC TV World News on sanitation issues here, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1zrJVdE4Hg>.
- Statistics about sanitation issues and World Toilet Day here, <https://us10.campaign-archive.com/?u=0c873b07b6f9e16ea297cd3c9&id=d899ba410d>.
- World Toilet Organization website, <http://worldtoilet.org/>
- World Toilet Day website, <http://www.un.org/en/events/toiletday/>, has many statistics on sanitation in emerging economies

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Founded by principals with lifetime careers in travel, tourism and aviation, MyTravelResearch.com exists to build the visitor economy and successful tourism businesses. It does this by putting the voice of the customer and best practice business thinking into an easy to implement, hands-on approach via an innovative membership model. MyTravelResearch.com can help:

- \* National Tourism Organizations (NTOs) meet the expectations of their industry by acting as an extension of their research and marketing resources.
- \* Businesses make more informed decisions. (It is like having your own research and/or marketing team)

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