

# MEMBER UPDATE

## News Flash

the place to go when you need to go



March 2016  
BEST Public Toilet  
Supplement

## ALL cisterns are [now] officially GO !

Greetings and welcome!!

The wait is over, the welcome seat has been lowered and the BEST Public Toilet in the South Pacific has now been officially opened.

As they say in the trade ... *"we are open for business ... your Business"*.

And despite our best efforts to keep the opening all hush, hush and quiet (yeh, right) the story has been picked up – thanks to the reach of the "WWW", by none other than, Radio New Zealand and the BBC, yes that's right, the BBC, the one in Britain – who would have thought?! And read into it what you like...

Maybe if we can just get the Queen or some of her family involved, we can work a "Royal Flush" angle into future promotions...?

A link to the RNZ and BBC online stories, plus a transcript, can be found on the next page.

So how *do* you officially open a public toilet? Rather than the traditional ribbon cutting, a more appropriate approach must surely be the ripping of toilet paper ... as shown in the photo below:



Yumi TokTok  
Tugeta

As reported in the last Member Update, it is hoped that the toilet will assist in building up the North Efate region as a preferred destination for tourists choosing to visit Vanuatu.

Not just as a drive-through on the round-island-circuit, but a place to really stop, enjoy and experience – specifically with local attractions, guided by local land-owners as part of a grassroots genuine discovery trail.

Stay tuned for more exciting information on topics and tours as diverse as **fish-feeding**, **hot springs** and **sulphur-mud** to **cool-river canoe rides** and **snorkelling over a WW2 sunken U.S. plane wreck** (and lots more) – but in the meantime check out the Vanuatu Tourism Facebook site for the whole Shefa Province:

<https://www.facebook.com/ShefaTourism/>



AND of course...

[www.bestpublictoilet.org](http://www.bestpublictoilet.org)



Global tourism vi  
Find out more >

## News From Elsewhere

### Vanuatu shows off 'best toilet in the South Pacific'



The toilet's website says villagers want to "extend the hand - and toilet seat - of friendship" to visitors

A village in the island nation of Vanuatu has opened what it calls "the best public toilet in the South Pacific" in the hope of attracting tourists to help fund local projects.

**A village in the island nation of Vanuatu has opened what it calls "the best public toilet in the South Pacific" in the hope of attracting tourists to help fund local projects.**

Located on the opposite side of the country's main island to the capital Port Vila, the village of Paunangisu hopes that the newly-opened block will be a convenient stopping point for visitors taking round-the-island road trips, [Radio New Zealand reports](#). Frustrated that tourist buses don't stop for their market stalls, backers - which include a church in Melbourne - instead turned to an idea that would make drivers hit the brakes.

"There's nothing like a sign on the road saying 'best public toilet in the South Pacific' to trigger something in the brain," supporter Robert Latimer [told the radio](#), explaining that once the visitors have stopped, it's easier to sell other services and offer tours of the area. Spending a penny in Paunangisu doesn't come cheap, however. Visitors are charged 200 vatu (\$1.83; £1.30) to use the toilet, but get a 75% discount if they are part of a large group. Even locals have to pay 50 vatu, but as Mr Latimer told Radio New Zealand: "If you've used the public toilets in Port Vila you would gladly pay 50 vatu to use this one in the village."

Locals are so proud of their facility that it now has [its own website](#), which explains that the lavatory is not just about tapping into the tourist dollar. Cash raised from visitors will pay for much-needed village projects such as water storage, education and job training. The toilet's backers have even adopted a slogan: "It's the place to go when you need to go".



<http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/299778/top-notch-loos-in-vanuatu-village-could-spark-tourism>

### Top notch loos in Vanuatu village could spark tourism

24 March 2016



**Villagers in the north of Vanuatu's main island Efate are hoping to tap into the tourist dollar that comes in and out of Port Vila with the erection of first world toilet facilities.**

Under a partnership with supporters from Australia and North Ringwood Uniting Church in Melbourne, Paunangisu villagers opened a brand new toilet block, which even has its own website. Robert Latimer, who's based in Melbourne, is involved in the Paunangisu Village Partnership and said the idea is to encourage tourists to make the village a stop-off point.

The new toilet block is opened in Paunangisu village, Efate. Photo: [bestpublictoilet.org](#) He said north Efate is a hidden gem but it's hoped the toilet block will help spark tourism and enterprise.

"There's nothing like a sign on the road saying 'best public toilet in the South Pacific' to sort of trigger something in your brain and once you've stopped you've got a chance then to engage and to if you like sell fries with that, whether it's bottled water, or whether it's artefacts or take them on a simple tour." Robert Latimer said the Ring Road that goes around Efate was meant to spread the wealth out of Port Vila, into the surrounding villages and around the island. he said the reality is different. "I read a study out of Massey University from about three years ago that showed that really a lot of that hasn't happened and it's not going to happen just by accident or by osmosis. They put money into building market stalls along the road but the locals were quoted as saying 'but the buses don't stop and the cars don't stop' and that's really where the money is."

**Full Radio New Zealand transcript and audio link ...**

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/international/programmes/datelinepacific/audio/201794568/toilets-give-vanuatu-village-bite-of-tourist-cherry>