



Living a Life.....Parking and Toilets

The AAA office is alive with phones ringing, faxes buzzing and email alerts going ping!!!! Bookings are coming in all the time for our training, facilitation and other access project services. In listening in on our conversations, you could be excused for thinking that the AAA team have an obsession with accessible toilets and parking. We ask the same two questions over and over again, before we confirm whether can go out to an organisation and assist them with their access needs.

Do you have an accessible parking area? and Do you have an accessible toilet? If the answer is no then ***Houston, you have a problem !***

You see some members of our AAA team need these basic requirements if they are to work in other organisations. My disability is not physical, so I am not immediately impacted on by lack of accessible venues, until of course I try and wheel my bags full of training materials, a data projector and laptop up the stairs or I am trying to push a colleague using a wheelchair.

Organisations that cannot provide accessible parking and accessible toilets may never be aware of the opportunity they miss when potential clients do not contract their services, shoppers do not spend their money and meals are not ordered in restaurants, all because basic access requirements are not available. Over the years we have often heard people say "We don't need access in our organisation, because we do see anyone with a disability in here" Exactly! We can't get in!

The provision of accessible toilets in particular is an absolute must in all organisations. We all need to go to the loo and many of us don't give it a second thought, we know, we can go.....somewhere we can get to a loo. Not the case for people with a disability, they often need to know in advance, prior to visiting an organisation that there will be an accessible toilet available for them to use.

Remember, anyone can use an accessible toilet, not just people with disabilities. They are just bigger toilets that can also provide support for parents with young children and babies, particularly if a change table is incorporated into a larger area in, or close to the toilet.

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Access Audits Australia

provides a wide range of access improvement services including access audits, training programs, policy development, community consultation and advice.

New Team Member

AAA is excited to welcome Katie Goodrope to the team. Katie is a well known and well respected former Rural and Metro Access Worker who will be involved in a range of AAA projects along with Joe, Anthony, Kellie, Jim, Tim, Lucas, Nicole and Michael. Welcome aboard Katie, it's always a wild ride.

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History of Toilets

Credit for the invention of the toilet is usually bestowed on Sir John Harington, a relative of the Queen, as far back as 1596.

The pioneering companies that first brought the toilet to market were more a company of artists than engineers. They put their names boldly and proudly on the products they created. One English company, Thomas Crapper, has more than any other been remembered for its flush toilet. It changed the course of history. The flush toilet is the very symbol of modern civilization. It has done more for public health than all the doctors since Hippocrates. Life without the water closet is, for most of us is inconceivable.

No matter how much toilets have changed over the years, everyone in the world still needs them! Going to the loo is an opportunity for daily reflection, don't forget to have your moment today!!!

Foggy Facade

When nature calls, ice cream lovers are privy to more than two scoops and a waffle at Sloan's Ice Cream Parlor in West Palm Beach USA.

Both the hungry and curious flock to Sloan's to check out the high-tech bathrooms with see-through glass walls. Transparent walls and doors give customers a clear view into the loo, and enclose the two one-room bathrooms.

The faint of heart need not take shelter a mere turn of the bathroom door handle and the glass fogs up, becoming opaque and offering users total privacy from prying eyes.

Pasha's Palace

At Pasha's in Chicago women head to the ladies' room in clusters. This hip club is home to "Ladies Only," the ultimate women's bathroom.

Girls are free to bond over makeup and mirrors, escape a dud of a date, or even order a cocktail! Females head in droves to this lavish lavatory, decorated in pink and mahogany, and sparkling in the glow of candlelight. After doing their business, women let the fun begin.

A tiny bar is situated in the heart of ladies' room, complete with plush velvet bar stools and a singing bartender!



Weird and Wonderful WCs

See-Through Loo

Outside the Tate Britain art gallery in London in 2003 was a very weird public toilet. From the outside, it looked like it was made of mirrors you couldn't see in. But from the inside, you could see out, so it looked like it was made of glass. A loo with a view! www.snopes.com

Medical Marvel

In Japan, a toilet is being made that can see how healthy you are. It can take your blood pressure and see what's in your wee. It can then send the information to a doctor over the internet.

Jewelled Loo

A jeweler in Hong Kong has built a golden bathroom. The toilet is made out of real gold, and there are rubies, sapphires and emeralds in the ceiling. It cost £2.4 million, which some people might say is money down the toilet!

Going in Luxury

The Washlet is a toilet in Japan that does almost everything for you! It lifts the lid up, so you can sit on the heated seat. It makes flushing noises while you do your business, so no-one can hear you. When you've finished, it washes and dries your bottom, then freshens the air.

A Pop-Up Toilet

The UriLift is a pop-up urinal. There's one in Reading, England. It cost £17,850. The loo pops up between 9 and 10 in the evening, and goes back down around 6 in the morning. Underground, it is connected to water pipes and electricity. It has an automatic flushing and cleaning system, so nobody ever needs to come and clean it.

Accessible Bay Painted Around Car!

A UK Council in Hampshire apologised to a woman who was fined 60 pounds after workmen painted an accessible bay around her car.



"I had just gone to the hairdressers and when I returned there was an accessible bay and the 60 pound fine. I saw the funny side of it the next day."

World's Largest Toilet Block

The south-western Chinese City of Chongqing has created what may be the largest toilet in the world. At 32,290 square feet, the four-storey building contains more than 1,000 toilets with some toilets resembling crocodiles and others adorned with the Virgin Mary.

Toilet Restaurant Flushed with Success

In a restaurant in Taiwan you can eat food off plates and bowls shaped like western loo seats as well as Japanese "squat toilets".



You sit on colourful toilet seats studded with flowers and shells, at tables converted from baths. Urinals are used as lamps and neon-lit taps decorate the walls. The restaurant proved so successful that the owner opened a second and bigger branch just seven months later.

Baywatch - Back by Popular Demand.



A national campaign is running throughout the UK called Baywatch this is not the return of the popular TV show, it is the latest campaign to tackle misuse of accessible parking bays.

There's no excuse for parking abuse!

The campaign aims to discourage non-disabled drivers from using parking spaces meant for a person with a disability who holds a blue badge. The blue badge scheme and the provision of designated parking for people with a disability is supposed to make it easier, but all too often people with disabilities find they can not park because other non-badge holders have parked in the allocated spaces.

Does this sound familiar?



In the Know When you Need to Go

If you happen to be planning a trip around Australia and would like to know where the nearest public accessible toilet is located, check out the National Public Toilet Map website on www.toiletmap.gov.au.

This site shows the location of more than 14,000 public / private toilet facilities across Australia. Useful information is provided such as location, opening hours, baby change availability and details of other nearby toilets.

Checklist to Reduce Parking Abuse

In the UK there is an active group of people from the Apparelyzed Spinal Cord Injury Peer Support Group who have come up with a way of combating those that park illegally in disabled parking bays. If a vehicle is identified not displaying a Blue parking badge a leaflet is placed on the windscreen. The leaflet reads:

As you have parked in a accessible parking bay, but have not displayed your parking permit, please complete the following as it applies to you.

- Sorry, I forgot my Disabled Parking Permit
- I'm the Village idiot, and enjoy making people struggle.
- I'm just lazy, and couldn't be bothered to walk.
- I want to be disabled, and am just practising.
- The voice in my head told me to park here.
- I'm a Cash Point Cripple.
- I'm just too important to think about others.
- Doesn't driving whilst legally blind count?

Your vehicle has been photographed, and can be seen on the internet with your personal details at:
www.apparelyzed.com/parking

Mobility Maps

AAA is assisting Councils to develop Mobility Maps highlighting accessible toilets and parking. Some Councils with Mobility Maps include:

- Adelaide
- Maribyrnong
- Ballarat
- Melbourne
- Bass Coast
- Mildura
- Boroondara
- Monash
- Geelong
- Perth
- Glenelg
- Grampians
- Hobsons Bay
- Wodonga

Did you know ?

- A 33 meter toilet in Florida was spotted from space. We know everything is bigger in the US, but this is taking the concept to unplumbed depths.
- Four motorists caught illegally using disabled parking permits of deceased people have been referred to police for possible criminal charges in New South Wales.
- Builders who were climbing scaffolding and operating heavy machinery face legal action in England after being caught using disabled parking badges to gain closer access to the building site.
- A public loo in Kingston London, has been converted into an art gallery, to display work by young artists.
- The City of Greater Bendigo has a 'Draggable Dunny' which is an adapted old Mobile Library. It can be hired to provide toilets for events.
- That in 1857, Joseph Cayetty invented toilet paper in the USA.
- There were no separate toilets for men and women, until a restaurant in Paris put up 'Men Toilet' and 'Women Toilet' signs at a dance party in 1739.

What is an Accessible Parking Strategy?

Many people with disabilities will travel by private motor vehicle as they find alternatives such as public transport limited. Limited mobility often means that a person cannot easily carry shopping, or other items when they are travelling on public transport and a motor vehicle is required for this purpose.

Accessible parking is crucial and many local Councils are now realising the importance of developing Accessible Parking Strategies. A Strategy provides the framework for developing and delivering accessible parking across a municipality that can respond to the needs of a range of growing user groups with access challenges. Residents, workers and visitors with disabilities as well as older adults, parents with prams and pushers, will all benefit from an accessible parking strategy.

Accessible Parking Strategies include review of the following key elements of accessible parking:

- the need for accessible parking
- legal requirements
- risk analysis of non compliance
- configuration of bays
- location of bays
- distribution of bays
- allocation ratios of bays
- spatial distribution of bays
- additional options to accessible bays
- bays for larger and adapted vehicles
- parking payment systems and processes



Contact AAA for more information, training or assistance.

Contributions

Contributions to Access News are welcome and can be emailed to AAA at any time. AAAaxs@bigpond.net.au

AAA Web site

Details about services provided by Access Audits Australia can be found on our website at www.accessauditsaustralia.com.au

Our site is designed to be accessible for all users. It has AAA W3C level compliance and is AAA Bobby approved. Earlier Access News editions can be downloaded and there are also links to other relevant access related web sites.

Information contained in **Access News** is intended to highlight the importance of improving access for every person

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