



MEDIA RELEASE

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Hidden Valley on the map? Is the Pope Catholic

Hidden Valley is one of North Queensland's undiscovered gems. Off the beaten track in the old mining town of Hidden Valley on the Paluma Range, and close to the spectacular Running River gorge, sits Hidden Valley Cabins, a local, family-run nature retreat.

Until recently Hidden Valley was almost impossible to discover – unless you were in the know. But no longer, thanks to the Queensland Online booking system the world is their oyster.

Hidden Valley Cabins and Tours were amongst the first operators listed with the new Queensland Online booking system rolled out by Townsville Enterprise. Just five months after their web based bookings went live a routine check of the system unearthed a booking from the world's smallest country.

Vatican City is geographically the world's smallest country – at just 0.44 square kilometres it's just one hundred times bigger than the Hidden Valley property. The Holy See has a reported population of 841 – unfortunately it seems the guest is actually from Stoke Gabriel in England, population 1,205.

The tourist unwittingly created a frenzy of activity amongst the McLennan family, long time Hidden Valley residents, after selecting the country from a drop down menu on the booking form.

Ross is philosophical about the mistake, while a booking from the Vatican was something special – he's still happy to be receiving bookings from all over the world.

"We were really excited at the thought of hosting somebody from somewhere as obscure as Vatican City. This new online system has really opened our product up to the globe. While Stoke Gabriel may not be as glamorous as Vatican City – it's still more than 15,000 kilometres away. We now have a shop front available to anyone in the world at any time," he said.

ENDS

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