

<https://web.archive.org/web/20110221222852/http://www.holidayinspirations.com.au/Stories/ACT/Australias-Best-Beach-Holiday-Accommodation-2009.html>



[TakeABreak.com.au](http://www.TakeABreak.com.au), Australia's only independent boutique accommodation website, is presenting the "Best Places to Stay" awards for the tourism industry, which recognise outstanding service in specialist segment categories.

State winners were selected via an exhaustive process from over 13,000 properties in 1400 localities and 39 accommodation types. National winners will be announced in early November. For now you too can vote for the 'People's Choice' national winner for each of the specialist categories.

18 categories were judged in total with winners awarded in segments such as Beach, Budget, Eco-friendly, Group, Romantic and Pet-friendly accommodation.

#### **TakeABreak Beach Accommodation State Winners**

##### **Aldinga Beach Reef Retreat, South Australia**

An authentic Aussie fibro beach shack, constructed in 1955 and fitted out with 50s furniture. The beach is 50m away, perfect for a stroll or walking the dog. 2km drive to the only drive-on beach in South Australia. Listen to the surf when it's up. Children and pets always welcome.

People say 'wow' after staying at the retreat for many reasons including the vast amount of information provided when booking, on where to eat and what to do within the area. The operators often receive favourable comments on the unique 50s decor and our extensive collection of in-house entertainment including DVDs, CDs, board games, cards, sports equipment, X-Box console....



##### *Judges comments:*

- Love the 50s beach shack theme
- Great information

### **A Mollymook Beach Waterfront, New South Wales**

This waterfront accommodation provides guests with a relaxed, laid-back, quality beach experience. The waterfront location provides guests with the unsurpassed beach and ocean views desired by so many guests yet available from so few accommodation providers in the Mollymook area. The design of 'Waterfront' provides for uninterrupted ocean views both from the kitchen, dining and lounge areas as well as the guests' private balcony, which a great vantage point to enjoy the views, surfers, dolphins and even whale watching (in season), regardless of weather conditions.



Guests have easy access to the beach for swimming, fishing, snorkelling and surfing in front of the 'Waterfront' property. Operators provide a self-catering style beach property, which enables guests to fully relax with all the mod cons, space and privacy desired. Generous complimentary provisions await the guests' arrival so that they can immediately begin to relax rather than having to run off to the shops for provisions.

The location provides guests with easy access to the sought after facilities of beach, golf course, licensed beachside golf club house, restaurants and local cafes. Binoculars are provided in the apartment to enhance the 'Waterfront' experience. 'Waterfront' is a true waterfront reserve property in a peaceful, private and most exclusive location in Mollymook, overlooking the ocean to the east and adjoining the beachside golf course on the western entry side.

#### *Judges notes:*

- Very detailed entry, actually answers the questions for this category
- Agree, very strong contender

### **Strandhaus, Queensland**

Strandhaus, Rainbow Beach, Queensland

Strandhaus is located just 4 minutes walk from the beach, via an uninterrupted bush track located at the back of the property. The beach is pristine and secluded. As Strandhaus is located in a bush setting it is cool and protected from the coastal winds, however you can always hear the roar of the waves and the local fauna. Strandhaus is also equipped with a large pool nestled in the bushland setting with a huge amount of decking to enjoy the shade, sun and landscaped gardens. The house is new and was architect-designed specifically for the needs of beach holiday guests, and has features such as high ceilings, fans throughout, bamboo floors, European kitchen and a seamless integration between the main living area and the outdoor decks. The guests are also provided with stylish and comfortable furniture, a flat screen DVD/ sound system and there is a large selection of quality DVDs and books for their stay. The house is has a linen service and items such as soaps, washing powders coffee, so that the guests do not have to bring such supplies with them on their holiday.

#### *Judges notes:*

- This is more what I'm looking for
- Very nice, very good information.

### **9-Mile Escape, Tasmania**

Located right on pristine Nine Mile Beach, this stunning architect-designed property takes full advantage of its amazing views over Great Oyster Bay to Schouten Island and the Freycinet National Park, including the iconic 'Hazards'. In summer, guests wander down their private beach access for glorious days on the child-friendly sands and enjoy the clean, refreshing waters. Big, quality beach towels, sunscreen, beach toys, boogie boards and frisbees are provided. At the end of the day, they can wash off sandy feet in the outdoor shower before externally accessing the big bright bathroom, coolly tiled for minimum cleaning fuss.



Perhaps a BBQ on the deck before a glass of wine at the viewing bench tucked away on the sand dunes, to fully appreciate the colours of sunset over the water and the wonderland of starry skies, unhindered by city lights? In winter the views are just as amazing, the beach walks even more exhilarating and the sanctuary of the warmth inside, the huge plasma TV and cutting edge sound system, make coming home just as much of a welcome retreat.

Stunning views are everywhere, with floor to ceiling windows and the numerous decks taking full advantage of them. Guest service is exceptional; nothing is left to chance, and the original artworks, modern top quality fittings and personal touches mean guests feel pampered as well as 'at home' and completely relaxed. Location, location, location - there is something for everyone in the local area and access is easy to the National Parks, vineyards, quaint towns, top class restaurants and tourist attractions of Tassie's 'sunshine coast'. At 9-Mile Escape the operators try to think of everything people might need and want and make sure it is not only provided, but provided in generous quantities.

This amazing property is always scrupulously clean, while remaining warmly welcoming. Would guests like to relax on the couch with an up-to-date magazine? It's provided. Would they appreciate a touch of hazelnut syrup and quality shortbread with their cappuccino from the Italian coffee machine? It's there. That bathroom towels are not only colour matched and in abundance, they are 100% Egyptian cotton luxury. Water temperature can be input to the exact degree for maximum comfort and enjoyment. At every turn there is a 'wow' experience.

#### *Judges comments:*

- Wow
- outdoor shower
- many extras provided

### **Shelly Beach Retreat, Victoria**

Swimming, surfing and fishing: there is direct beach access from the house by means of a very well-constructed and well-maintained path. A swimming beach patrolled by the surf club is 2 minutes away by car. Swimming and surfing at Shelly Beach depends on sea conditions and it is recognised as a surf and rock fishing location. Shelly Beach Retreat itself is undoubtedly in a 'stand out' location, making it a very special place to be. Secreted within a coastal reserve with stunning unspoilt panoramic coastal views across Bridgewater Bay to the Bridgewater and Nelson Capes, no other house is visible from the



Retreat - ensuring absolute privacy. Regardless of the weather, the endlessly changing ocean view (and the occasional whale) can be enjoyed from one of two decks or from beside the cosy wood fire through the large windows. The isolation means it is unusual to see other people, or even footprints, while walking along the pristine beaches. The 250 km-long Great South West Walk meanders past the property. Sections of this walk can be enjoyed along beaches, rugged cliff tops and through nearby tall eucalypt forests. A large breeding colony of fur seals can be viewed from the cliff tops, and native fauna is often found close to the house. It is an ideal, fully self-contained retreat away from the pressures of contemporary life.

The unique location of Shelly Beach Retreat and the stunning view from the house is the drawcard for this holiday property. The fresh flowers in every room also regularly draw favourable comments. The property is presented with attention to detail while ensuring it retains a homely and relaxing atmosphere.

#### *Judges comments:*

- great views
- good info and an actual beach themed property!



## Toggs



### Cottage, Western Australia

Toggs Cottage is a freshly renovated 1950s beach bungalow that has two queen bedrooms and one room with two single beds. The modern kitchen is fully equipped with top quality European appliances including a fridge, oven, cooktop and dishwasher. All crockery, cutlery and cookware is of commercial quality and the pantry is stocked with basic essentials including: flours, sugar, tea/coffee supplies, sauces, condiments and relishes. The cottage is perfectly located for visiting the attractions of the region, only two blocks back from the beach and a short five minute walk to the town centre, cafes and Busselton jetty. The walk and cycle trails are only 200 metres from the cottage and follow the beach in both directions.

A point of difference with Toggs Cottage is that we care for the property ourselves and for the guests. The majority of our bookings are through the Internet yet we make personal contact with guests and this is appreciated. We endeavour to meet all the requirements of our guests and follow up with them after they have departed to see if there are any maintenance issues or if there is anything that could have made their stay more comfortable. We have furnished the cottage with top quality fittings and furnishings. We use the cottage when it is not being used by visitors so can attend to the maintenance, gardening and cleaning ourselves, rather than rely on staff or contract cleaners. A guest compendium assists visitors to plan their holiday with ease, promoting the attractions and activities of the region.

Good guest service is the capacity to exceed the guests' expectations of the presentation and facilities of the cottage. It is the little things that are appreciated, like the stocked pantry, tissues, bath gel, body lotion and sunscreen in the bathroom. Instead of discounting, we offer 'value added' packages and during the year donated \$50 from each party that booked during a particular month to the Victorian Bush Fire Appeal. Guests appreciated this because they felt as though they could contribute to a charitable cause. We forwarded bank deposit slips to the guests to confirm that we had honoured our contributions.

#### *Judges notes:*

- great guest comments about the beach etc
- nice!

### **About the Author**

Penny Parsons is CEO for [TakeABreak.com.au](http://TakeABreak.com.au)

Penny loves to travel and it was this that led to the idea of [TakeABreak.com.au](http://TakeABreak.com.au). With many travellers looking for more than just a standard hotel experience, her objective was to provide them with access to as many different accomodation types as possible.

When searching for boutique accomodation such as B&Bs or holiday homes she also found the only option was calling local real estate agents or accessing local newspapers and information centres. This process was not only time consuming but sometimes yielded no results at all.

She felt there needed to be a more comprehensive yet easier, streamlined and convenient search option.

So in 2003, with 300 properties, the seed for [TakeABreak.com.au](http://TakeABreak.com.au) was sown.

### **About the author**

Penny Parsons wrote this article

If this article mentions a tourism region or activity you're passionate about, why not help us promote it by linking to this article from your own website or blog? You can use a short excerpt with your link if you wish. If you'd prefer to publish the entire article, please contact [media@takeabreak.com.au](mailto:media@takeabreak.com.au) - we are usually happy to grant permission with reasonable restrictions.

## Comments



Wow, I love the look of that retro place at Aldinga Beach. Well, all of them are fabulous, but if I had to choose one place, that would be it.

Posted on Nov 04 2009 at 14:44