



QLD NEWS

Merthyr Bowls Club voted Australia's best in Wotif Uniquely Aussie Awards

A Brisbane bowls club has been crowned the best in the country in a national awards devoted to identifying the best of what makes Australia the place we love, while a popular market in the southeast has taken the crown as the best in the land.

Jeremy Pierce, tourism reporter, The Courier-Mail

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IT'S the tourism award that has Queensland putting its best (bare) foot forward.

Brisbane's Merthyr Bowls Club has been crowned the country's best bowl in Wotif's annual Uniquely Aussie Awards.

While the Big Pineapple was controversially pipped in the best Big Thing award by Coffs Harbour's Big Banana, Queensland dominated the best bowls club category, taking out six of the top 10 spots.

Eumundi won the title of the country's best markets ahead of Melbourne's Queen Victoria Markets and the famous Salamanca Markets in Hobart.

For Merthyr, the award comes after a proud tradition of barefoot bowls launched more than two decades ago to counter a decline in traditional bowls membership.

Club general manager Phil Shilvock said it was humbling to be recognised as the most popular bowls club in the country.

"We've got a great location on the river, there's a nice, relaxed and laid-back atmosphere, so those factors would have helped," he said.

He said an easing of coronavirus restrictions that saw the club shut for almost three months earlier this year was helping it get back on its feet.

"It's made it a lot more viable lately and we're starting to get good numbers through again," he said.



Laura McCallion (front) from Greenslopes, with Alison Sternes, Phil Shilvock, Sam Tims, Gary Maguire and Jose Clavijo at Merthyr Bowls Club Barefoot Bowls. Picture: Richard Walker

Wotif’s Queensland travel expert Chris Milligan said Merthyr was a deserving winner.

“With incredible views across the river and a casual, relaxed vibe, Merthyr Bowls has become an institution in Brisbane – well deserving of being recognised as the best in the country,” he said.

“If you’re not up for barefoot bowls, it’s just as great for a sunny, weekend afternoon with friends.”

Chermside came in second, with Broadbeach (fourth), Mooloolaba (seventh), Burleigh (eighth) and Club Kawana (10th) also featuring in the top 10.