



# Shellharbour Workers Club

First stage of renovation works unveiled - Special feature

## Shelly's shows off new \$2.5m facelift

SHELLHARBOUR Workers Club has unveiled the first stage of its \$2.5million upgrade.

The club's foyer, gaming lounge and the Ocean View lounge have undergone major renovations during the past three months.

When patrons enter the club, via the giant revolving doors, they are greeted by a stylish reception area, with the original reception/office having been converted into a bottle shop.

The "Rivers of Gold" gaming lounge is the result of a rebuilt gaming lounge.

With 236 poker machines now all on one level with the Ocean View lounge, in which the bar has been completely renovated.

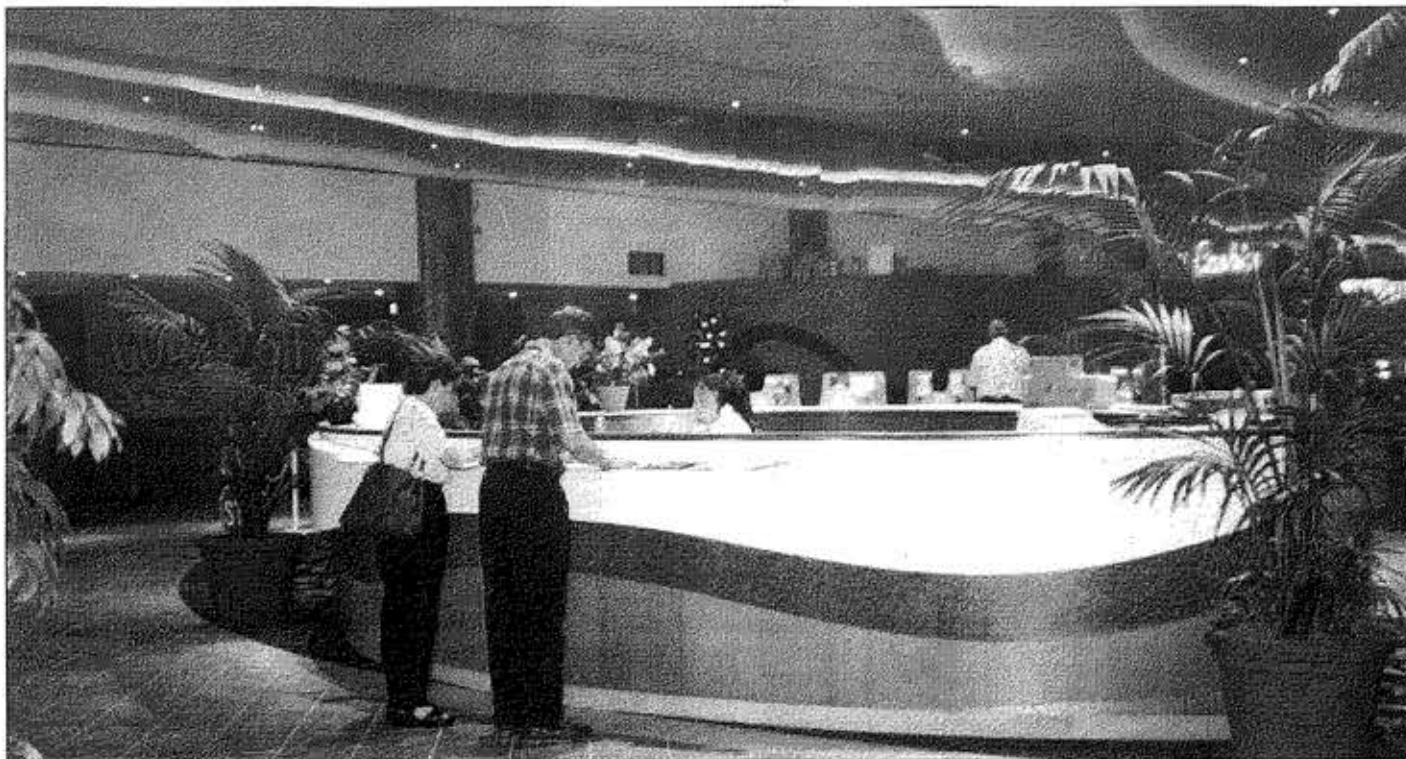
The more open and spacious area has been redecorated in a modern combination of blues, greens and oranges.

Ceiling lighting adds to the glamorous, modern atmosphere, and mirrored pillars have been replaced by thick, marble-look columns.

"We are the new focus of Shellharbour," Entertainment Manager Shayne Leslie told the *Lake Times*.

"We try to reflect the feeling of the community, which is expanding and growing all the time."

• *The new-look foyer at the Shellharbour Workers Club makes certainly makes an impression upon entry via the revolving doors.*



• *The way it was... the old gaming room, complete with its red and pink colour scheme and large chandeliers, has made way for a sparkling array of light and colours in the new-look "Rivers of Gold" gaming lounge.*

## Always ahead of the times

STAYING ahead of the times is something that Shellharbour Workers Club has always strived to do.

When the new club was opened in 1983, its gaming room was state-of-the-art.

A new coin-handling system - one of the first of its kind in Australia - was installed and only the latest in technology was used.

The early decor, which included a red and pink colour scheme and large chandeliers, was highly fashionable at the time.

However, the lounge has updated its image to ensure it remains ahead of the times.

The once-sunken gaming area has been raised to one level, allowing a more spacious appearance.

236 poker machines, plus a computerised Roulette game, are arranged in a user-friendly layout. Now known as the "Rivers of Gold" gaming lounge, flowing coloured lights adorn the ceilings to complement the new image.

The old colour scheme has been scrapped, with modern blues, greens and oranges taking over.

"It's bright, modern, dynamic, zesty and goes a long way in promoting our new image," Entertainment Manager Shayne Leslie said.

"The most popular poker machine in NSW is Queen of the Nile and we have about 20 of them."

The Queen of the Nile herself will be at the official opening of the Rivers of Gold gaming lounge, which

will be held tomorrow night (Thursday, February 3) from 6pm.

The popular poker machine character will be handing out lucky gold (chocolate) coins, while the Unicorn Dreaming Princess will distribute magic roses.

The Queen of Cash will also be among the club's special visitors at the long-awaited opening night.

A balloon sculpturer will keep the young at heart entertained and bring to life a carnival atmosphere.

There will be various promotions run throughout the night, with the chance to win up to \$6000 cash.

With lots of prizes on offer and music by Earth Angels, it is sure to be an opening night worthy of the renovations' \$2.5m price tag.

## From small beginnings...



DRAMATIC changes have featured in the history of Shellharbour Workers Club since it began as a small, renovated house in 1956 (top picture).

The club was started by a group of local men in 1952.

As beer was scarce following World War II, a club was the only way to enjoy a drink regularly.

A liquor licence was granted in 1956 and Shellharbour Workers Club was finally a reality.

With some help from the Labor Party, then-State MP Mr Howard Fowles and a Friday night "booze up", funds were soon raised to improve the club.

An auditorium was built in 1969 but the premises located on the corner of Mary and Addison Streets, Shellharbour, was soon too small to house the growing number of patrons eager to enjoy the facility.

The popularity of the Shellharbour Workers Club



forced the board to build a completely new club.

The "tin shed" was torn down and made way for a much bigger club (pictured above). In 1983 a new club

was opened in Shellharbour township relocating to its present site with a much larger building which today boasts thousands of members.