



• The impressive new veranda (left and right) incorporating state-of-the-art solar panelling.
Photos: ANTHONY BROWELL



Shelly's – it's easy being green

Club leads way with environmental plan

Special report by DANELLE SEAGAR

SHELLHARBOUR Workers' Club is emerging as a leader in environmental design, blasting the stereotype that big business and being green do not mix.

The club is implementing a long list of green initiatives starting with its impressive outdoor veranda project, which will be launched by NSW Premier Bob Carr next Wednesday.

The community has been invited to a sneak preview of the innovations at a family fun day on Sunday, July 6.

The veranda has transformed the club's original castle-like appearance into a contemporary look, taking advantage of the eastern and northern views to Bass Point.

What's more it incorporates an architecturally designed, solar panel roof – the first of its kind in NSW.

"Shelly's is such a big organisation and employer on the South Coast that we felt it was our duty as we expand to be proactive and set an example in environmentally friendly business," operations manager Debbie Cosmos said.

The process of "greening" the club meant introducing many new features that are without precedent in NSW clubs.

A rainwater harvesting system has been integrated into the extension where half a dozen tanks underneath the veranda collect rainwater to be used to flush toilets.

As a prelude to the veranda project, the club did a major upgrade of its air-conditioning system using 100 percent outside air and incorporating heat exchangers that dramatically save energy.

Builders maximised the reuse of salvageable materials in the construction process. For example, they relocated a large aluminium and glass external wall instead of scrapping it. Landscaping is about to start around

the veranda incorporating a worm farm and native plants suited to the climate.

Ms Cosmos said the project was two-pronged as it had economic as well as environmental benefits.

All of the renovations help reduce energy and water consumption at the club, reducing costs.

The move will also help accommodate future smoking bans by providing an outdoor area for cigarette smokers if inside is to become smoke free.

The project complements a recent extension of the main lounge area that provides extra smoke-free seating.

It also puts the club in a position to educate others about environmentally friendly business.

Not only will the community have a prominent example of solar power they can visit but there also will be a permanent interactive display to educate visitors.

A Club Industry Day will be held on July 7 to educate other clubs in the Illawarra and Southern Sydney about how to save money and the environment when renovating.

An education day for schools, university groups or anyone with an interest in the project will be held on July 8 when behind-the-scenes tours will be conducted.

Interested people can phone the club on 4296 7155.

The date for the community to remember is this Sunday, July 6, when Shelly's will hold a day of family fun with activities highlighting solar energy and recycling.

The community day will run noon until late and features special guests Kip Gamblin and Tammin Sursok from Home and Away.

"Hopefully we've created a more complete experience for our members and guests while finding financial and environmental benefits in the process," Ms Cosmos said.



• Shellharbour Workers' Club general manager David Whyte and president Russell Connell are proud to boast new environmental features that have never been attempted by a registered club in NSW.

Key elements of the new veranda



• A rainwater harvesting system has been integrated into the extension where half a dozen tanks underneath the veranda collect rainwater to be used to flush toilets.

THE \$3 million veranda takes advantage of Shelly's outlook to Bass Point and provides extra outdoor seating for 500 people.

It incorporates photovoltaic cells, or PVs, that generate up to 22 kilowatts of electricity in full sunlight.

In a year that is enough to fully power four typical Australian homes.

The PV system is one of the largest of its type installed in Australia and incorporates clear glass laminate panels that filter light coming through the roof on to the veranda below.

Tanks underneath the veranda can store up to 160,000 litres of recycled rainwater.

The worm farm

AN industrial-size worm farm will become the latest outdoor feature at a greener, healthier Shelly's.

The farm, when fully operational, will have the capacity to handle more than a tonne of food waste every week.

The club generates more than 600kg of food waste each week and that is

It is expected in a normal rainfall year they will be emptied and filled more than 10 times – enough water to meet the demands of eight typical homes.

The water will be used to flush toilets and possibly in the future to top up the air-conditioning cooling towers.

It is estimated the solar panelling will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 25 tonnes a year.

The veranda was designed by Caroline Pidcock Architects and Richard Goodwin (a prominent sculptor) and the project was managed by Big Switch Projects.

expected to rise due to the popularity of the new veranda.

The worm farm will handle all forms of organic waste, including citrus and bones that cannot be used in domestic systems.

It will also produce about 100kg of valuable fertiliser every week.