

Media Release – Shellharbour Surf Life Saving Club Official Opening

Shellharbour Surf Life Saving Club will host an official opening ceremony for its newly renovated and extended clubhouse on Saturday 14th August 2010 at 10:00am.

The project was jointly funded by the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation under the Surf Life Saving NSW Facility Development Programme, the Australian Government under the Jobs Fund, Bendigo Oak Flats Community Bank and the club itself.

The extensive renovation of the downstairs facilities to enable greater storage of vital rescue and training equipment has been complemented by an upstairs addition, to allow for member training, meetings, radio monitoring and communications and beach surveillance. The new clubhouse also provides modern facilities for members, with improved showers and a patrol kitchen for surf lifesavers to enjoy. A large rainwater tank, collecting rainwater from the roof to supply the toilet system and for external watering has also been installed with funding from the Australian Government's National Rainwater and Greywater Initiative in conjunction with Surf Life Saving Australia.

The club, which boasts approximately 600 members, had outgrown its facilities and spent several years accumulating funds and planning the project. Funding amounts were:

NSW Department of Sport & Recreation - \$350,000

Australian Government Jobs Fund - \$251,416

Bendigo Oak Flats Community Bank donation - \$150,000

Shellharbour Surf Life Saving Club - \$250,000

Australian Government National Rainwater & Greywater
Initiative - \$11,000

In addition, many club members volunteered their time and expertise to manage the project or provide skilled and unskilled labour to the project.

The project provided direct employment in the local area during the Global Financial Crisis for 135 local people and provided work experience opportunities for 8 young people. 16 apprentices also worked on the project at various times. In addition, the use of approximately 50 local suppliers is estimated to have assisted many more local employees to retain work.

Oak Flats Community Bank came on board initially with a \$50,000 donation to assist the project. Showing fantastic community engagement and faith in the project, the Community Bank then extended a \$50,000 loan to assist with cash flow. Towards the end of the project, the Bank converted this loan to a further donation and then surprised everyone with a further \$50,000 to assist with furnishing the interior of the newly completed club.

Club President, Dene Herbert, also noted that there were many local suppliers and contractors who had supported the club with discounted materials and donations and thanked them all for their support.

The club expects membership to increase in line with the new facilities and has scheduled Registration days on Sunday 12th and Sunday 26th September. Further details of these days are available on the club website – www.shellharboursurfclub.com

The official opening ceremony begins at 10am, with the clubhouse to be officially opened by Ms Lylea McMahon MP in conjunction with Mr Geoff Egan, Chair of Oak Flats Community Bank. Members will have the opportunity to show off some of their surf life saving skills, with a flotilla of surf ski and surf boat paddlers paddling from Kiama and expected to arrive at the ceremony by approximately 10.30am. Fellow club members will be supporting them by walking a similar distance to join up at the ceremony.

Media are welcome to attend the official opening ceremony.

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