

REVAMPED MITTAGONG RSL CLUB SHINES

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Already home to many stunning destinations, the Southern Highlands has a new contender thanks to a impressive renovation.

Partnering with supervising architects Abeo Architects and Meridian Construction, Mittagong RSL Club has produced a impressive design for the Club's future.

The previous round of club renovations involved the creation of alfresco areas for gaming and general access to external areas to allow for members who are smokers (2008), and a refurbishment of the main lounge area (2010). There was also a 600 sqm back of house extension, new maintenance area, general storage area and staff room facilities plus a refurbishment and decoration of the existing gaming lounge and main bar area (2012).

This round of renovations focused on the food and beverage offering and functions. "The club recognised that we needed to bring our food and beverage offering to a level that meets the expectations of a more modern dining culture" says Mittagong RSL General Manager Craig Madsen.

As well as moving away from a dated offering and what Madsen describes as "old cafeteria-style food" the club also wanted to become more family-friendly. To this end, seating capacity has increased from 280 to 520 including a new café and outdoor areas.

The dining area, is not only impressive but thoughtfully designed. It reflects the area's heritage by using Ironstone from Mittagong's Fitz Roy Iron Works, Australia's first iron smelting works, which was built in 1848. Timber laminate on the stairs and other parts of the building adds a real touch of class.

The Club's renovations capitalise nicely on the growth and changing demographics in the area. Two land subdivisions within four kilometres of the club will provide 800 new houses over the next seven years and a new wave of members for the revamped Club.

Keeping existing members happy was of course very important. With an emphasis on keeping the club operational during construction, work was carried out in two major phases. Madsen says it is critical to keep club members informed when undertaking major works. He is confident, however, that it will be worth the wait.

"When we open the main dining area, we believe that our members will be truly stunned and impressed by the building work being done," says Madsen.

Punters won't have to wait long — the new-look Mittagong foodie hub is scheduled to open on the 11th of September. ♣



START DATE

AUGUST 2014

END DATE

SEPTEMBER 2015



COST

\$7.4 MILLION



ARCHITECT

ABEO Architects



CONSTRUCTION

Meridian Construction



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