



A STAFF CHALLENGE FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

Over a period of 6 months, 17 bathrooms are being upgraded by Brookfield Multiplex and their subcontractors at no cost to Warrah, a charity that supports people with disabilities. The result will be modern designs that improve independence and will also enhance privacy for the many residents living within the homes.

THE START OF SOMETHING AMAZING

The relationship between BM and Warrah was born through Urban Taskforce's Property Person of the Year event when Ross McDiven was the award recipient in 2012. Warrah is one of the beneficiaries of funds raised from the event.

After a visit to Warrah Ross saw the need for building and property upgrades and wanted BM and their subcontractors to help make a difference to the lives of those who depend on support from Warrah.

BUILDING A TEAM

The project launch of the Warrah Bathroom Blitz started with a team briefing session, with Patricia Abraham, Residential Manager at Warrah, introducing the not-for-profit organisation described the resident's day-to-day lives and how the teams should undertake the works in order to cause the least amount of disruption.

The 24 BM staff also brushed up on 'Waterproofing Best Practice' and viewed 3D models to bring the theory to life.



Not only is Bathroom Blitz about improving people's lives – it is also about

collaboration and creating networks and this is a great opportunity for people from different sites to meet for the first time.

SPECIAL THANKS

The training event marked the end of an extensive pre-planning and design phase which involved many people and services – all donated free of charge. Those involved include Fiona Curdie-Evans an Occupational Therapist from Mend Services who viewed the designs ensuring they were fit for purpose.

Anthony Palamara and his team at Buchan Group contributed architectural designs and drawings. Jason Langer from the Robert Bird Group contributed structural engineering services, Anthony Mitchell from StrataSurv Surveyors surveyed the site, and Andrew Pittaway from Airsafe conducted a hazardous material survey.



BM & Warrah thank all the companies involved for their kind commitment and efforts, click [HERE](#) for the full list.

FULL STEAM AHEAD

Several groups have met with their Residents and Carers already – there are plenty of challenges to resolve, but the teams are flexible and able to meet the resident’s needs. It is not a straightforward job and some of the solutions have seen changes to programme, staging the upgrades, collaborating with other teams, sharing resources and joining forces wherever necessary. We’re also working within constrained timeframes and in environments that are more used to caring for people with special needs than construction work.

Warrah’s CEO Georgina Michaelis said, “There is a very sizable saving to Warrah from BM organising donated goods and services. But it’s also the level of expertise that BM brings to organising and running the Bathroom Blitz which is extraordinary because it’s what they do well. Seeing that expertise in action at Warrah is wonderful – we are confident that we will get the best possible result, and we can continue to do what we do well – supporting people with disability. Harnessing the enthusiasm of others as contributors adds lots too.”

KEY MILESTONES

- Glenny team have commenced with the old bathroom demolished, services roughed in ready to start tiling. BM’s environmental and Quality team pitched in to help pour concrete to reinstate

services trench – a great example of our people demonstrating BM values.

- Redgum team brought hardhats and t-shirts for the Residents and Carers which were received excitedly by the residents of the cottage. The team said, “Meeting the residents has been an insight into the valuable work Warrah is doing and meeting the carers – who have the skills and patience to keep the residents day to day activities together and keep the houses going – really puts our lives into perspective.”

ABOUT WARRAH

Warrah was formed in 1965 by Karl and Hannelor Kaltenbach when they worked with a small group of intellectually disabled teenagers to clear land in Dural for an organic vegetable garden. It has since grown to a charity that employs 140 staff and supports a community of over 100 families and extended families through a range of services based on the educational philosophy of Rudolf Steiner, Austrian philosopher and social reformer.

In addition to group homes, Warrah provides Day Services, a Special School for children aged 5 to 18 years and a Biodynamic Farm and Shop.

For more information visit brookfieldmultiplex.com www.warrah.org

