

Bray CONSTRUCTIONS BEAT

Spring 2009



Introducing Brendan

Brendan Hahn joined our production team in early 2008 as a carpenter and wasted little time in becoming an onsite leader. Having already completed a Certificate IV course in Building Management, Brendan was clearly on a path to leadership roles and Bray Constructions was well placed to offer him opportunities in that area.

Having now established himself as a key member of our onsite team, Brendan continues to grow his skills and is fast becoming an accomplished site foreman.

Brendan is marrying Kathryn, his girlfriend of several years, in October and they will honeymoon in Vanuatu, their first overseas trip together. Brendan had a tough time at the end of September, being a Saints supporter, however we're tipping that the wedding and subsequent honeymoon will lift his spirits!

This spring edition of the Bray Constructions BEAT is probably arriving a little later than you would usually expect. We've been so busy that we just haven't got around to it until now. There has been a wedding proposal, a pregnancy, planning for engagement parties and weddings, not to mention the completion and handover of several recent construction projects and taking on new staff. All of these things are cause for celebration and all demand a certain level of attention and effort. So it's without overstatement that we can say the Bray team has been very busy of late and no doubt will continue to be so into the annual silly season, also known as the Christmas period. We have our work cut out for us for the remainder of 2009 and we are now booking in new construction projects to start in 2010.

Our feature story in this edition of the BEAT is about water saving measures. While we have enjoyed some recent rain, we are still at historical lows of water storage levels, so there is ample cause for us to continue doing our best to conserve water.

We also elaborate a little further on the above list of goings on at Bray Constructions.



Water Conservation

Water conservation has been high on people's priority list for a number of years now. The Victorian government has recently engaged a contractor to build a desalination plant and hopes that this will solve our water needs for the foreseeable future. But our attitude to water as a resource has undeniably changed and water saving measures are now a regular part of plans to build new homes or renovate or extend existing homes. So what are our options?

The most common water conservation measure we are seeing now is the rainwater storage tank. These draw water from the roof of your house and/or garage for later use for toilet flushing, on your garden or for pool top ups. As well as the obvious benefit of having an onsite water supply independent of the mains water, these systems

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also reduce the burden on our community storm water systems. This fringe benefit is of growing importance as the density of housing in Melbourne increases and pushes our existing infrastructure to its limits.

Perhaps the main reason rainwater collection systems have become so common is that in 2005 the Victorian government introduced a requirement (among others) that all newly constructed homes must include either a solar hot water system, or a rainwater tank connected to all flushing toilets. Consequently rainwater collection systems have become readily available at affordable prices and their popularity goes far beyond the new home builder market.

Another option available is to capture waste water from bathrooms and laundries, known as grey water. There is no Victorian legislation specifically relating to the use of grey water, however it is generally accepted that grey water should not be stored untreated for more than 24 hours as it has the potential to become septic. This effectively means that the reuse or recycling of grey water must be by diversion or by treatment and storage for later reuse.

Grey water diversion systems are usually unsophisticated tap and hose systems. This provides for a hose to expel the grey water into the garden as soon as it is produced.

Other systems allow for short-term storage of grey water such that it can also be used for toilet flushing and any remaining grey water is pumped from the storage tank every 24 hours.

Systems for treating and storing grey water are certainly available, however the uptake has been much slower. These treatment systems must be EPA approved and a council permit is required for their installation. Invariably these systems are more costly than diversion systems but produce higher quality water that can be stored for long periods of time.

The Victorian Government is further supporting water conservation by offering advice on how households and industry can save water and also by offering government funded rebates on certain water smart products. You can find more information about this by visiting their website at www.ourwater.vic.gov.au.



Bray Family News

As mentioned earlier in this edition of the BEAT there has been a lot going on with the Bray team lately. Lukas recently asked his girlfriend of two years, Jen, to marry him. Jen happily accepted and they are looking forward to a ceremony in late 2010. No doubt an engagement party will come first. Which is something that Garth and Brooke have finally gotten around to. After becoming engaged in early 2008 an engagement party is finally due to materialise in October 2009. Wedding plans are still very scant in detail for those two! As mentioned earlier in the BEAT, Brendan and Kathryn are getting married late in October. In answer to our recent call for new apprentices, Kenny and Claire excitedly announced recently that they are pregnant and expecting their first child around March 2010. It's all happening at Bray Constructions! Call in for a cuppa – we look forward to seeing you.

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