

Getting plastered is all in a day's work

Getting plastered with celebrities is something that Joe Stephens often participates in.

Mr Stephens owner of J&J Traditional Rendering and Plastering is often called upon to work on celebrity homes and mansions.

"We often pull out some extra stops to cater to celebrity wishes including recessing a wall to ensure a flat-screen television sat flush with the wall and many other specialty requests," he said.

J&J tradespeople work on the painstaking job of refurbishing interior plaster including making new to match intricate and sometimes unusual old plaster pieces to match, and outside heritage restoration work is also taken on with relish.

Crack repair is something that J&J specialises in.

Mr Stephens said the crack repair and restoration work had up to three times the life of usual plaster.



"This is because we use the HeliBar process to reinforce cracks in brick and stone walls," he said.

"Once a crack occurs in plaster, it will continue to crack unless it is addressed in the brickwork.

"The HeliBars stabilise the brickwork where the crack exists."

Stainless steel HeliBars are dug into the mortar bed about half the depth of the brick and sunk into epoxy resin. An expanded metal lath goes on top of the bricks, then render, and plaster is finished over the work.

Mr Stephens said he didn't know any other plasterers that worked with HeliBars.

"Not many of them seem to know about HeliBars but using them means when we do our work it is done a lot more thorough.

"Some cracks are so wide you can put your hand in them."

Because of demand on J&J work an \$88 fee is charged on quotes and this is refunded when approved.

J&J spends an enormous time on repairing old lath and plaster ceilings. Mr Stephens said these ceilings often times sag.

"In order to make the repairs we temporarily baton the ceiling to pull it back up to the ceiling joists," he said.

"We then apply resin to the top side of the ceiling that bonds the lath and plaster back together.

"The batons are then removed and the ceiling plaster retouched and restored to bring it back to its former glory."

J&J employs tradespeople to carry out the work and in-house training is constantly undertaken.

Plastering can be a messy profession and at the end of the day it is company policy to leave the job clean and tidy, especially if working in a house where the owners are in occupants.

Details: J&J Traditional Rendering and Plastering visit www.jjtrp.com.au or call 1300-651 254.