Case Study 44

CBD Streetscape Upgrade
Ulverstone TAS
Perched on Tasmania’s north coast, Ulverstone is the hub of a rich farming district. Five years ago the Central Coast Council devised a series of community and cultural plans and engaged John Mongard Landscape Architects to masterplan an upgrade of public area paving.

The first stage, Apex Park “has been such a success that clay pavers have been adopted as the preferred material for further redevelopment in central Ulverstone,” according to an article in Inscape’s sister publication Hod 14 (available in PDF format from www.brickbydesign.com).

The basic paving pattern – red clay pavers laid diagonally in a square, flanked by cream pavers – has been taken to the streets in a staged program to replace concrete paving and asphalt. “We wanted some colour to make the place look a little more vibrant and warmer,” says Randell Stott, Central Coast’s engineering officer (streets and parks).

The pavers are mostly laid in a thin sand bed over a crushed rock base. Some crossovers have a concrete base but most are on cement-stabilised crushed rock.

The resultant pavements perform well and look great. “I don’t know of any problems at all, everybody’s very happy with the look of
it, it seems to be wearing well, and there’s been no structural problems,” says Central Coast’s senior engineering officer, Greg Osborne.

The work was carried out by contractors and council day labour. “The workmanship is first rate,” Greg Osborne contends. “The main thing is to get your base right. If you do that you won’t go too far wrong.”

The pavement texture and colour blend masks spills and soils at The Foster Experience. The tourist complex celebrates the career of legendary axeman David Foster.

“Is David Foster Australia’s most successful and enduring sportsman? For over two decades the towering Tasmanian has chopped his way to untold championships in Australia and around the world.

His life and achievements are celebrated at the Foster Experience, a tourist drawcard at Latrobe, 10 minutes from Devonport on Tasmania’s north coast. Clay paving features prominently in the cafe/museum complex.

“We’ve used the pavers to form an outdoor cafe area, then the colours of the pavers lead you up over a feature bridge and into the Foster Experience”, David Foster tells us. “The paving really suits the area, especially the bridge.”

The texture and lively blend in the pavement body masks the inevitable soils and spills in such an area. The pavement edges are strongly delineated with a double header course of a lighter colour.

David Foster is pleased with the appearance and durability of his clay pavers. “The pavers have been down for about six months now, and are easy to clean and have all stayed nice and level – they look fantastic.”