



## Case Study 41

### Village Square, Stages 1 & 2

Mt Buller Alpine Resort VIC

**Representing Australia's clay  
brick and paver manufacturers**

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**Client:** Mt Buller Resort Management Board

**Landscape design:** Environmental Resources Management Australia (ERM)

**Landscape construction:** Living Landscapes

**Engineering:** Earth Tech Australia

## Village Square, Stages 1 & 2 Mt Buller Alpine Resort VIC



*(This page)* Clay pavers are laid on edge in three-to-one herringbone pattern. The pavement is comprised of five metre square modules, delineated by header courses. Each module is isolated by movement joints pass through the paving and the underlying slab.

*(Facing page from top left)*

The square is a gathering point and entry portal for daytrippers and residents. A small stand of ghost gums provides an appropriate high-country backdrop. Bands of granite setts separate the lively paving patterns and add to the overall visual texture. The focus of the square is a gas-fired flame feature surrounded by heated stone seating and highlighted with fibre-optic lighting.

Legend has it that the first skiers at Mt Buller were miners who in the 1890s, bored with winter inactivity, schussed down the slopes on fence palings.

Just 250 km from Melbourne, Mt Buller attracts around half a million visitor-days in winter and another 200,000 in summer. In the late-90s the Alpine Resort Management Board decided to redevelop the village centre into a more vibrant public space.

"The central area was pretty run down, there was no focus for day visitors or longer term residents so the Board decided to develop the square as the central focus," explains Allan Wyatt of consultants ERM.

"We looked at many materials including stone. One of our initial concerns with brick was its adaptability to the cold climate. It's not a forgiving environment. The paver manufacturer gave a guarantee of their product in alpine conditions and on that it was chosen."

The 65 mm thick pavers are laid on edge in a 45 degree herringbone pattern over

125 mm slabs. Laying on edge allowed a finer three-to-one pattern than the usual two-to-one pattern formed when pavers are laid on the flat. Bands of granite setts snake across the pavement, adding some mountain character and textural diversity.

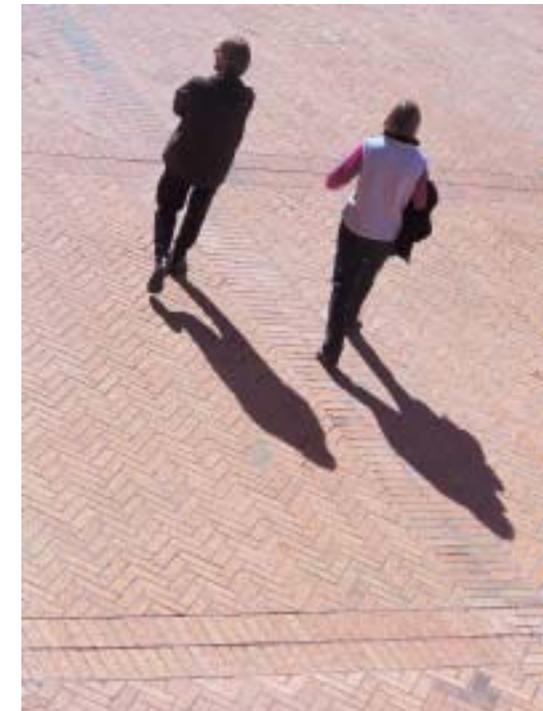
The pavers are laid in a five metre square grid, with header courses on each edge and expansion joints that pass through the pavers and slab. Blankets of heating elements were sandwiched between the pavers and the slab at critical points to reduce ice formation and promote water dispersion.

Stage 3 of the project is underway and eventually the paving will form a pedestrian walk up Old Summit Road. "The same materials are being used on all the subsequent stages," says Allan Wyatt. "There doesn't seem to be a reason for their alteration. They seem to be successful and durable."

David Westphalen, technical services manager of the Mt Buller Resort Management Board, is pleased with the outcome. "The whole blend is pretty striking. The granite in

particular has lots of colour changes through it and the pavers complement the granite. When you see them, particularly when you look down on them it's quite a good look. They are very striking indeed."

The project won the LIAV Awards of Excellence 2002 in the Commercial over \$250,000 category.



# "It's not a forgiving environment"

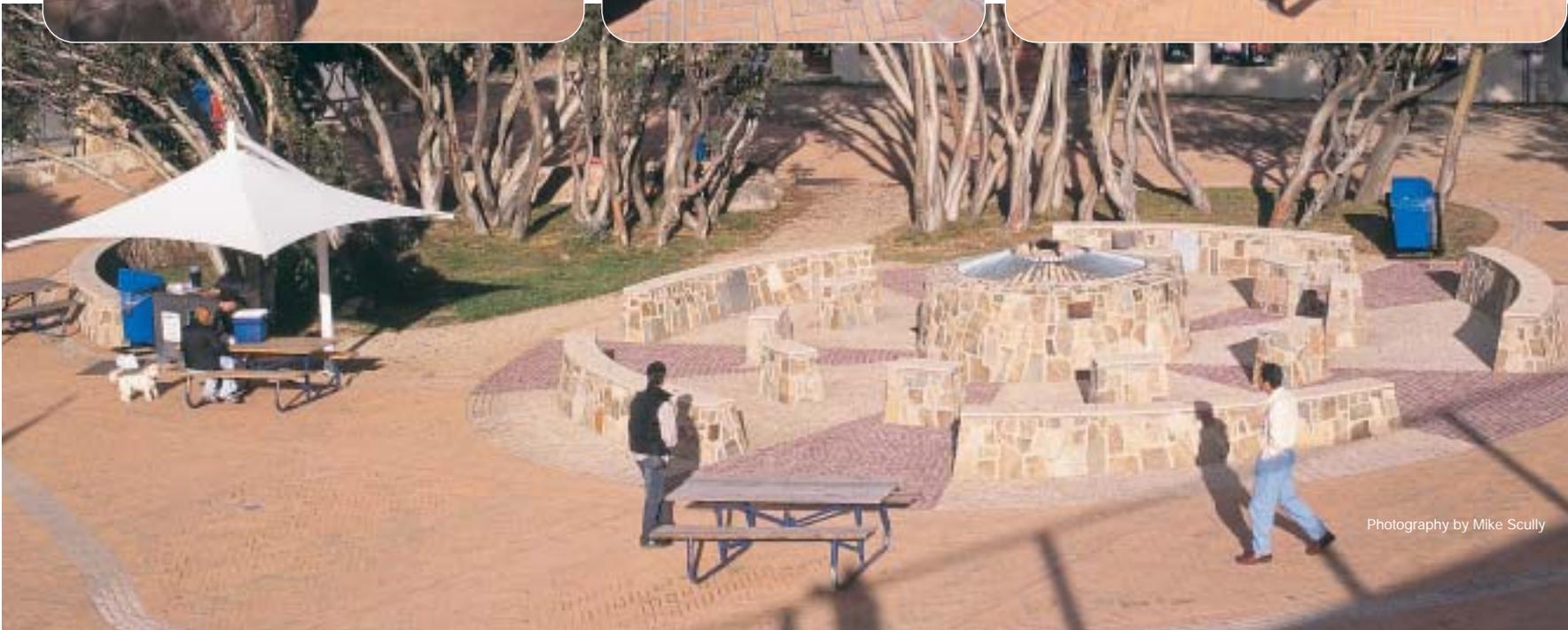
## Links

[www.mtbuller.com.au](http://www.mtbuller.com.au)

[www.erm.com](http://www.erm.com)

[www.earthtech.com.au](http://www.earthtech.com.au)

[www.liav.com.au](http://www.liav.com.au)



Photography by Mike Scully

## ALPINE RESEARCH PROJECT

The Clay Brick and Paver Institute has conducted a research project investigating brickwork in alpine areas. The complete paper, *A Survey of the Frost Resistance of Clay Brickwork in the Australian Alps*, is available for free download in PDF (Acrobat) format from [www.brickbydesign.com](http://www.brickbydesign.com). Follow the links to Publications and Properties.