



Dry stone wall wets appetite

SPECIFICATIONS

Location:

Private residence, Mollymook, New South Wales

Architect:

Rob Brown, Casey Brown Architecture

Builder:

Neil Riles Construction

Stone Quarry:

Hansen Quarries, Bass Point (basalt)

Stonemason:

Stonehedge Masonry and Dry Stone Walling

Stonemason Brett Hofman of Stonehedge, worked closely with architect Rob Brown of Casey Brown Architecture and Master Builder of the Year 2007 Neil Riles, to replicate the authentic appearance of dry stone walling in the façade of a new dwelling located on the south coast of New South Wales.

Dry stone walls are prominent in the region and Brett Hofman and his team of stonemasons, took the unusual step of adapting the rustic appeal of Hansen Quarries basalt, to produce a unique residential façade.

The experience Brett gained while working with the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain and on a variety of projects in Australia, paid dividends when it came to utilizing traditional materials and techniques in a contemporary context.

Hansen Quarries, Bass Point, the stone supplier are a major supplier of aggregates. Following blasting and

primary crushing processes, Stonehedge carefully evaluated which material could be used for masonry construction. Once the stone was delivered to site, Brett Hofman's team tackled the task of "working the stone vigorously to produce a dry look."

Occasional trips to the quarry were necessary to produce some essential elements, including Scottish style upright cappings, cheekends, and special feature pieces.

The location of the small beachfront site presented some problems in terms of access with teams of electricians, plumbers and carpenters competing with the stonemasons for elbow room.

Careful planning produced an excellent outcome and a fine example of how application of traditional techniques and materials can produce a novel finish. **05**