

Location Sydney, Australia

Architects Frank Paterson, Stanton Dahl Architects

Builder Glyn Hubbard, J.M. Coyle & Co. P/L

Installation Ian ('Mick') Ashford Wykes

Total Cost Approximately \$2.2 million

Completion Date January 2005

Building Confidence in Thomas Hassall School



Five years ago Thomas Hassall Anglican College, a co-ed school on the corner of Second and Sixteenth Avenues in West Hoxton, Sydney, was little more than a signpost and a small role of tentative students. Today it is one of Sydney's most prestigious private education institutions.

Last year, school Principal Dr. Cowling and Council Chairman Ven Dr G. Huard, launched a new development for the school to create a woodworking, metal craft and technical studies wing. It would comprise of a two storey block housing six specialist and two standard classrooms due for completion in January 2005.

Since the school was only built in 2000, its design was contemporary using modern materials and design practises. According to architect Frank Paterson of Stanton Dahl Architects, the design needed to be contemporary to fit well with the existing buildings. It also needed to be built with cutting-edge materials that would be tough enough to withstand the normal wear and tear of a school

environment with the additional resilience required for demanding technical studies activities; something the school wouldn't need to go back and address for a long time. "This is a specialist kind of school environment that would have lots of high impact zones, such as in the woodworking and machinery based classrooms. That's where we put the USG Powerscape® Ultra Mesh."

Frank agreed to use USG Powerscape over other lining materials for this project through close consultation with the builder, Glyn Hubbard of J.M. Cole & Company. According to Frank, "The builder had doubts or insecurities about using other materials like fibre cement."

The lining material they would choose needed to be suitable for high impact zones with a high level of robustness. "The one we chose was the 'Ultra-Mesh' version of USG Powerscape Health®, which is the one with the mesh running through it for extra strength." The 13mm thickness tied in well with the 13mm existing linings for a smooth transition from one sheet to the next. "From the tests we were shown, it just seemed USG Powerscape® would give us a better, stronger finish than the FC, and be better in the long run which all counts for the client really."

According to builder, Glyn, "We just put those linings up over the last two or three weeks and it's going well. This is the first time we'd used it, or even heard of it. The USG Powerscape® team were really good, they came on-site a few times and gave some technical support and demonstrations to the guys who were installing it, and made sure it was going together properly." Glyn said he found USG Powerscape to be easy to handle on-site, a lot easier than fibre cement to cut, "Like when you cut compressed board, you've got to be outside and all the guys have got to be wearing protection and all the rest of it". USG Powerscape® can be cut to size virtually dust free using multi-score and snap. Or hand tools and powered wood working tools can be used when using a dust mask. As far as integrity goes, Glyn thinks that USG Powerscape® has a solid feel to it. He knows it tested well in impact resistance, and believes it has a distinct feeling of integrity to it, like the strongest of boards available.



Fitting USG Powerscape is a breeze according to Ian "Mick" Ashford-Wykes, director of Baygreen P/L, "Well, 9mm cement board would take you a bit longer to install instead of this new board [USG Powerscape Ultra-Mesh 13mm] that I'm installing. You don't have to put expansion joints. With the other board I'd have to put joints at 4.2; with this board I can go 9 meters. I can cut it with a circular saw, no problems. With the 9mm fibre cement I'd have to cut it with the snapper shears. It's also a lot easier to handle, so time-wise I'd say it's a lot easier to put up than 9mm fibre cement."

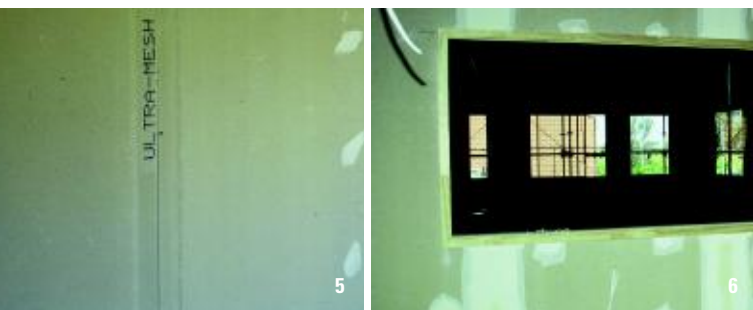
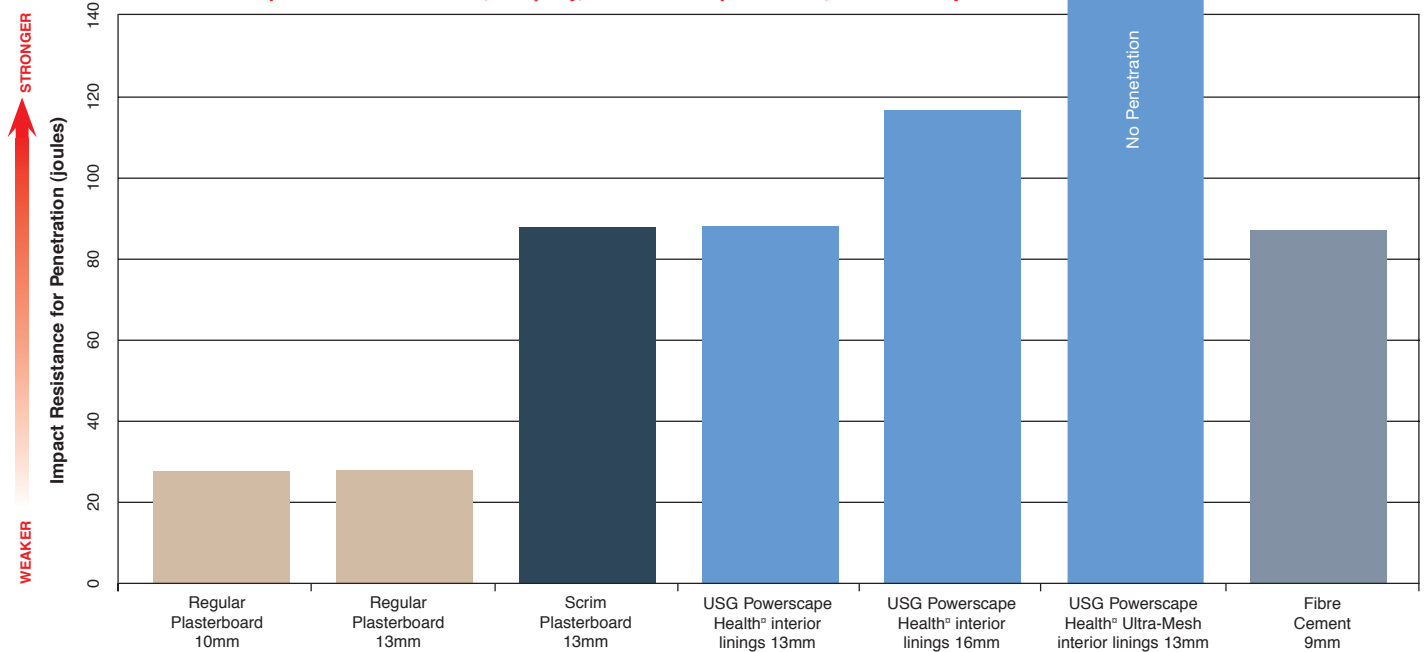
Mick says he's confident in the product, that it has gone up well and when the painters come through, it will provide an excellent basis for a good finish to the project. "I'd recommend this product again, especially in this environment where there's a lot of timber and machinery and impacts. I reckon you'd have to use it in high usage areas like in gymnasiums, schools, nursing homes where beds stack up against the walls, and anywhere there's a lot of wear and tear to the walls."

Thomas Hassall School has made a name for itself by taking a new line on quality education; but their growing reputation has not been founded on the quality of their education alone. Moreover, it has to do with the whole package; because education is as much about the curriculum as it is about surroundings in which it is delivered. In this case USG Powerscape linings score very high grades indeed.



Penetration, large hard body, steel frame

USG Powerscape Health® Ultra-Mesh, uniquely, could not be penetrated, even at 140 joules



- 1 Cutting was simple with a battery powered thin blade low PRM power saw.
- 2 Tidy holes for services were easily formed with a standard hole-saw.
- 3 Screws drive and seat easily. There is no surface paper to take care not to puncture.
- 4 Back-blocking is simple when required, due to the excellent screw holding into the material itself.
- 5 Wide and deep tapers for strong joints include clear product identification.
- 6 Cut-outs are easy to allow correct sheet placement around the window.

Key Product Features - USG Powerscape Health®

- Four product thicknesses and suitable for interior linings in wet and dry areas.
- Exceptional impact resistance; USG Powerscape Health® is at least as strong as 9mm fibre cement and scrim reinforced plasterboard, and twice the strength of same thickness regular plasterboard. Powerscape Health® Ultra-Mesh, much stronger again, is in a class of its own.
- Joints easily to provide monolithic finishes.
- Screws, nails, glues and staples easily. Cut to size virtually dust free with multi-score and snap. Hand tools and powered standard wood working tools can also be used when using a dust mask.
- Two way fire rated systems up to 60 minutes (single layer) and 120 minutes (2 layers).
- High mass gives superior noise control, including inter-tenancy rated systems.
- Excellent substrate for paint and tiles, and a number of abrasion resistant coatings.

Australian Distributor:

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