



February 2014 Newsletter

Written by Ted Stubbersfield

For Infrastruxion Pty Ltd

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Dear Reader

[Different Ways to Prepare Rails](#)



The two images above show three ways a timber traffic barrier rail can be processed. The rails in the top image show two versions of our 190x44 Continuous Rail. The rail on the left shows one of our rails that was treated with Tanalith E to H3 and then dressed. The rail on the right was dressed then treated with Tanalith E. The second rail has a uniform brown colour from the preservative. The timber rail in the lower image looks untreated and has not been dressed. It is not as pleasing to the eye as either of the rails above refer to last months newsletter for an image of a whole fence with the dressed after treating option. Now there is not a big difference in the timber specification but there are differences, it is not dressed for a start and we use better species as well.



One thing we noticed is the need to shed moisture on these rails even though they only have a small top surface area. The rail on the right is a 20 year old piece from one of my bridges. I thought, I could do better and after taking that image always ensured that the tops of our rails had a radiused top surface. Not enough years have gone by to tell you it is a great success but it should perform better.

So, with your rails you can continue in your old ways or you could specify 190x44 Continuous Rail by Outdoor Structures or its licensees in either treated after dressing finish or dressed after treating finish. The standard lengths are 3.6 m and 2.7 m. Other sizes are available. Talk to us about your needs.

Fungal Growth



In the October 2012 newsletter I gave a summary of the coroners report on the deck fatality at Yeppoon where a young baby died. There, the builder who was called in to inspect the deck did not understand the significance of fruiting bodies that could be seen on the underside of the decking. - [click here](#) for a link to the October 12 newsletter. Fruit bodies of decay fungi are often leathery-looking brackets or they can look like mushrooms and the colour ranges from white to brown. Spores are released from gills or pores. You would

think that it would be easy to spot and identify something so obvious.

These two images from a recent consultancy (used with permission) show examples of where it is not so clear. When looking at the white flecks, you cannot tell if we are looking at patches of vegetative fungal growth; (not spore-forming) or a flat fruit body (reproductive structure; spore forming). When you see the presence of this type of material on the outside of timber you should test the affected areas to see if it is just something on the surface or a symptom of internal decay. On the image on the left the decay was clearly evident once I started trying to push the spike into the treated pine brace. The brace has exposed end grain which allowed moisture to enter which then caused it to decay. Once the decay started, it then spread into the joist to which it is bolted. The added lesson here is don't clutter your design and avoid exposing end grain, especially in pine.

A "Dear Lord Give Me Strength" Moment

Some time ago, when I was interviewing someone for a job in sales, I told him that people who work for me tend to become very religious. "What do you mean?" he said. I explained that people will do things that are so exasperating that it will not be too long before I hear you say, "Dear Lord, give me strength". Let me tell you of a recent "give me strength moment"

We supplied some of our decking to a job and some time after we had a call back from the client that we forgot to dress the face of the decking. To assist us, and without making a call to chastise us, they ran it through a planer and reduced the thickness by 5 mm. Immediately the timber is probably undersize for the load but more importantly they lost the slip resistance provided by the rough sawn face. When we had it tested, freshly Tanacoated Deckwood went R12 but if decking had a dressed face it was highly likely that someone would slip. Unless you have a roof over you should not be considering dressed faced decking.

Podcasts from Centre for sustainable Architecture with Wood

The Centre for Sustainable Architecture with Wood, part of the School of Architecture at the Uni of Tasmania have been producing a series of very useful podcasts that can be found on Youtube. They cover a wide range of useful topics and I can recommend them. The first Podcast deals with moisture metres which are a trap for young players. Click here for the link

For further information contact Janice Bowman, Centre for Sustainable Architecture with Wood (CSAW), School of Architecture & Design, University of Tasmania, Locked Bag 1324, Launceston TAS 7250, Ph: 61 + 3 6324 4470, Fax: 61 + 3 6324 4088

Bridge Quote Requests

If there is any doubt that OSA make the best kit bridges in the country look at the [Berrinba Wetlands Project](#) . Not all bridges are equal. After encountering three bridges in one month that did not meet the Bridge Code I wrote the [May 2012 newsletter](#). Refer to it when assessing the suitability of quotes.

[Steel bridge Quotation Request Form](#)

[Timber Bridge Quotation Request Form](#)

More information:

If you have timber road/rail/heritage bridge issues,

we suggest you talk to:

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