



April 2011 Newsletter

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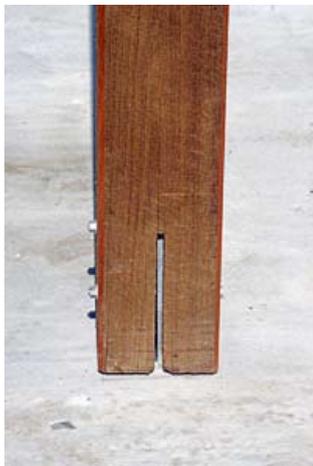
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Copy of an OSA Lindsay 10x4 shelter when first installed



Extra bracing later added to the shelter to stop it shaking



Inadequate post support for a freestanding 200x200 post



OSA Post support for a freestanding 200x200 post

Installing Freestanding Posts in Supports Or... Why it is Important to Respect Copyright

Is there a right and wrong way to put freestanding structural posts in supports? Most definitely! Frequently, if not invariably, it is done the wrong way either because it is cheaper and simpler or because there is no knowledge that there is a better way.

But first let me tell you a story. A while ago I quoted for a deck and two of our Lindsay 10x4 shelters for which we supplied copyright typical sales drawings. These drawings showed enough information to understand the

construction but no details to actually build the shelter. We were favored with an order for the deck but not the shelters. When we went to photograph the deck there were two obvious copies of our Lindsay shelters! That was bad enough but they were bad copies. I expect that some of the 200x200 posts that did not have expansion joints will by now have split down one face making matters worse. The posts were not even sanded. The post supports were a simple blade of 10mm steel and as a result the shelter rocked.

Next time I went to site the shelters had a number of very unattractive braces added to the posts to try to stabilise it. Anyone looking at that shelter and knowing our product could be forgiven for thinking that we do not know how to build a shelter. I was not happy and let the company know that this is not how you do things.

The Solution

An ideal post support is a heavy C section either a standard section or folded to suit dressed posts. Instead of just dynabolting the support to the slab it is attached to a cage about 150mm from the surface. This provides a rigid post support. Further, we screw the post to the support as there is then no slop in the holes to deal with. Agreed it is not unobtrusive but it works. Having to choose between a shelter that rocks and a heavy post support I think I would still choose the third option of placing the posts directly in the ground.

A note on Copyright

It is important to respect copyright. It costs a lot of money refining and certifying working drawings, preparing and printing brochures, and then developing design tools etc. This is why companies use copyright. But an even more important reason is to avoid problems by choosing an unproven design over one that is proven. OSA is meticulous in its recognition and respect of copyright.

The best post you can use even in a post support is OSA's own Pioneer Post. See the links below.

Links

Letter from Timber Queensland re post life. <http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/life-of-post-letter-timber-queensland.pdf>

Brochure on Pioneer Post. http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/pioneer_post.pdf

Rationale behind the Pioneer Post. http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/pioneer%20post_bkgnd.pdf

Installing bollards. http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/installation_of_bollards.pdf

New AutoCAD Blocks on Design Tools page

To assist you design well with OSA products we have added some more AutoCAD blocks to the Designers Tools section of our website. You will find new blocks for our steel post cycleway and pedestrian handrails. To complete your handrail design there are also a block with details of our OSA1 and OSA2 stainless wire system. We also have added blocks for two of our bollard ranges, the Baychester and the Eclipse E4.

When downloading the block you have to save it on your computer first. The links are below.



C4 Cycleway barrier system



P8 Pedestrian barrier system



OSA1 wire rope system for runs that terminate up to 10m



OSA2 wire rope system for continuous, tamper resistant, for continuous runs with 20m between terminations



Baychester Bollards



Eclipse Bollards (standard bollard does not have wire)

Links

Design tools for Cycleway barriers: http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/tpd_cycleway_sys.php

Design tools for Pedestrian barriers: http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/tpd_pedestrian_sys.php

Design tools for stainless steel wires: http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/tpd_stainless_steel_cable.php

Design tools for bollards: http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/tpd_bollard.php#beacon

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 2010 Newsletter](#). Refer to the May OSA Newsletter when assessing the suitability of quotes.

See our [Steel Bridge Quotation Request Form](#) and our [Timber Bridge Quotation Request Form](#)

Steel Bridge Quotation Request Form

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/bridge_request.php?Mode=st

Timber Bridge Quotation Request Form

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/bridge_request.php

Regards

Ted Stubbersfield

Director OUTDOOR STRUCTURES AUSTRALIA

Phone 07 5462 4255

OUTDOOR STRUCTURES AUSTRALIA

E-Mail: ted@outdoorstructures.com.au

Web: www.outdoorstructures.com.au

Phone: (07) 5462 4255

Fax (07) 5462 4077

Old College Road Gatton, Australia

PO Box 517

Gatton Q 4343

Australia

ABN 29 713 463 351

