

# Outdoor Structures Australia

## June 2015 Newsletter

Written by Ted Stubbersfield

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Dear Reader

### [New Prestige Bollards Released](#)



Following the success of the Double Eclipse bollard, our first foray into making a prestige bollard, we are now introducing a second premium bollard called the Shore bollard. It uses the same bolt down base as the double eclipse which measures 180x180. The timber, which is pre-leached, is a little larger. The bollard bolts down with four M16 chemsets. Both premium bollards are the same price. Below is the double eclipse if you missed it. [Here is a link to the design tools](#)



[Your Opportunity to Inspect Forestry Research Centre](#)



Lock the date Wednesday 5th August into your diary and come down to the Blomfield Street Salisbury research facility of the 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm? If your career is ahead of you, not finishing like mine, you need to be very aware of the radical changes that are occurring in both timber supply and the products that will be made from it. Right at the cutting edge is Henri Bailleres and his remarkable team of scientists and technicians. Henri would love to show you around the facilities and discuss the new directions for timber. You will see:

Material testing laboratory,  
Plywood facility  
Kilns  
Practical constructions  
Vacuum drying  
And lots more

You will have the opportunity to study the above shelter. What makes the above shelter impressive is not the design, though you have to admit Michael Dixon of UQ's architecture department has done a great job, (note no visible fixings) but it is the fact that it is built from 12 year old plantation hardwood! This shelter incorporates both laminated beams and LVL in hardwood.

If that is not enough reason we will finish up with a CPD session on the Seven Deadly Sins of External Timber Design. Phone me on 0414 770 261 for the RSVP.

### [Feedback on Being Able to Drive a Bus Through Timber Standards](#)

[In the March newsletter i wrote about timber standards that you can drive a bus through.](#) When doing a CPD session recently I was told of a job where exactly the same thing happened I warned about. Deckwood was specified and the builder substituted with a lower priced timber that contained large amounts of untreated sapwood. It lasted four years and now the asset owner has lost all confidence in timber. He will probably do something unwise and replace it with plastic.

You specify Deckwood or approved equivalent for a reason and people substitute for a reason, and they are not the same reason. The approval process for a substitute must be followed to protect yourself, the public and your client. It is not something left to the whim of a contractor who, in this case, did not have the faintest idea what he was doing. We can help you honestly assess the differences.

### [Why do I bother?](#)



I get so frustrated and disillusioned at times. Yet again we were beaten on price for a boardwalk. I happened to be driving past and saw the alternative so I thought I would have a look. Hardwood posts set in concrete, (one of my seven deadly sins) and the joists attached with galvanised triple grips (and it is in a floodway!). the very poor image above shows a boardwalk where the joists were fastened by triple grips and was washed off the bearers in a flood. I write my books, I do my CPD sessions and at the end of the day it almost always comes down to price not specification

and best practice. One of the things I do in my consultancy service is check plans. It would have been money well spent.

### [Paint System for External Structures \(Not a paid advertisement\)](#)



Timber has its limitations; reluctantly even I have to admit it. Ironbark is wonderful but you cant weld it yet though Henri and his team are probably working on that. There simply are times when you have to incorporate steel to lesser or greater degree. I once quoted to supply a new steel framed footbridge but lost the tender for, I understand, \$2-300. The bridge that was purchased

(illustrated above) instead was showing rust after only 6 months. This is not the result you should be aiming for or what we offered. I want to share with you how we get a long life from our steel painted structures.



An OSA truss is a fully welded one piece construction which gives us the U frame action required under the bridge code. The above truss is 27 m long and was moved in one piece. Because these bridges are too large to fit in the galvanising bath we have to use a painted

finish to get our corrosion protection. We were originally pointed to PSX 700 by PPG and we could not have been happier. This paint's genesis was from the coating systems used for the rocket launch facilities of NASA. This finish gives us:

High gloss retention  
Equal to or better than galvanised protection  
Very high adhesion properties  
Good environmental outcomes  
Damage can be touched up simply with a paintbrush  
Grafitti wipes off with solvent.

[Click here for more info on PSX 700](#) Our contact in PPG is David Slinger 0459 823 768

So between robust steel sizes, high quality PSX 700 finish and Deckwood decking you should not be specifying anything less than an OSA truss. Thinking of allowing a lower priced substitute? check out and ponder the third image in [last month's newsletter](#).

### [New CPD Session on Architectural Timber Battens](#)



There has been a surprising level of interest in my latest CPD subject, *Architectural Timber Battens*. Have you made a booking yet. You know you have to do CPD so why not avail yourself of a free subject?

Timber construction and durability in external application has always been my passion and In particular to see timber used In a fit for purpose application and last a lifetime In all its glory. I have written several books on external timber design and application over the years and presented as guest speaker at many Seminars including Timber Queensland's on the topic.

The free seminars have stopped for the time being, except for those already booked. The seminars usually taken up first are either the Seven Deadly Sins of Timber Design or Timber Decks - Designing for Durability (or both if you can make the time on the same day). These are serious seminars with [serious learning outcomes](#) and, if required for CPD points, they come with a test and a certificate. Call me on 0414770261 to arrange a suitable time for your personalised "Ted talk". The full range of subjects I have available are:

***Timber Preservation.***

***Hardwood Grading.***

***Timber Decks – Designing for Durability,***

***Utilising Small Diameter Hardwood.***

***The Seven Deadly Sins of Timber Design.***

***Joints and***

***Architectural Timber Battens***

## New Book Being Written

I started to accumulate so much material on Architectural Battens that I thought I would try to put it into book form. I fully expect to sell as many as six copies. If you have stories of Architectural battens, either successes or failures I would love to hear them so we can all learn. An image of leaching from battens would be helpful. I need a good image of a clear film finish breaking down, can you help?

### 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 longer span timber road/rail/heritage bridge issues, we suggest you talk to Mr. Dan Tingley Cell: 04 5957 6314 or 04 28983328 E. [dant.tingley@gmail.com](mailto:dant.tingley@gmail.com)



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