



## July 2010 Newsletter

### Various timber matters

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### *Satisfactory performance?*

Australia is blessed to have some of the finest hardwoods available in the world but, we are increasingly finding a deep reluctance to use, them especially in southern states. Sadly, we find the concern perfectly understandable. Let me explain;

A few days ago I had a landscaper - who hadn't dealt with us before - phone and started to ask for a timber bollard similar to the bollard above which is prepared and installed in a way that simply cannot give satisfactory service. As I spoke about this, my words fell on completely deaf ears.

*"I don't care, If there is a problem it's the landscape architect's worry. We are just supplying according to her specification."* The landscaper will have made his profit, the product has to give poor performance with the full knowledge of the installer and the unfortunate landscape architect is not likely to want to use timber again. It is not a good outcome and ultimately it impacts the whole of the timber industry and OSA.

Please talk to us about your external timber even if you have no intention of specifying our product. Having timber used well and its reputation enhanced as a reliable product is good for all parties.

### *Put a Face to the Name*

As part of last year's Advanced Technology Showcase awards where we were one of the ten finalists for Queensland, I was interviewed about Outdoor Structures Australia. This interview is now available from our website.

The video deals mainly with product and I hope it shows our passion for timber.

It is a 4 min, 15MB WMV file. It may take a few minutes to download on slower broadband connections. I believe for most people the video will commence downloading and



You can avoid this by talking to us!



playing within their web browser. For some, based on their own settings, the video may open in a separate software application after completing the download.

If you would like to know a little about me and the philosophies that drive OSA, [and they are different to others], there is a link to an article from the InWood magazine where this is captured

## Links

Video interview about OSA

[http://ats.business.gov.au/ATSCompany%20Videos/OUTDOOR\\_STRUCTURES.wmv](http://ats.business.gov.au/ATSCompany%20Videos/OUTDOOR_STRUCTURES.wmv)

Magazine article about Ted Stubbersfield

[http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/act\\_of\\_faith.pdf](http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/act_of_faith.pdf)

## Revision to Technical Guides & Codes

### Boardwalk Design Guide

We have clarified Figure 23 on page 17 and re-issued Revision 3 which is available from our website. If you have a hard copy of this guide and missed our email about Revision A, there was a minor change to figure 25 in the same page. Please amend your hard copy. Follow this link to download the Boardwalk Design Guide.

### Commercial Barrier Guide

We have made a notation against Custom Rail 1 on Page 15 and 20 only to use these in a maximum length of 3.6m with a centre support. Normally we say 2.0m but the timber is simply too large (ex 125x100) to be pushed straight into a planer hence the shorter length and spacing on this product. Follow this link to download the [Commercial Barrier Guide](#).

### Building Code of Australia 2011.

A draft of the new code is available at [www.abcb.gov.au](http://www.abcb.gov.au) if you wish to comment.

### AS1720 Timber Structures Code

All timber strengths (Hardwood & Softwood) have been reduced by 15% or so (bending, shear, tension & compression). That is quite significant. Shear in beams for MGP grades has been reduced to 40% of what it was, making design for high loads short span applications more challenging. Fortunately, shear in beams does not govern design too frequently.

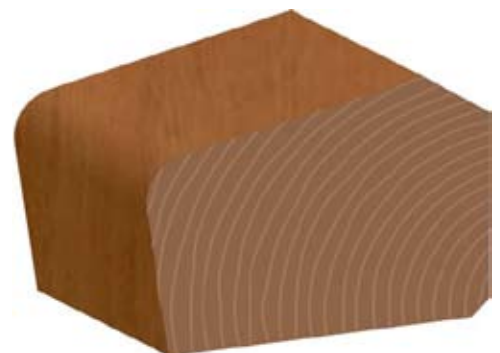
These changes do not affect the span charts for our Deckwood or Joistwood as their properties have been determined by destructive testing when used as product.

### Be Careful of Handrail Substitutions

When we supplied our first order of Custom Rail 1 some years ago it was in single spans. Most bowed upwards the remainder bowed downwards and so the rail looked dreadful and the customer was disappointed.

We never supplied handrail in single lengths after that. We poured this distilled experience into our Commercial Barrier Guide so you don't have to repeat our mistakes.

Can you imagine our shock and disappointment when a pack of "Custom Rail 1" made to our dimensions arrived at our treatment plant



for Tanalith E treating? They were all in short lengths, all treated after dressing and with no engineering for the customer. This product is likely to perform as my first order did.

OSA's product would have been treated before dressing and the timber pre-coated with Tanacoat and in double lengths. Both the initial and long term appearance would have been far better. There would also be engineering and practical support.

## **OSA Timber Presentations**

To assist professional designers and students understand what at times can appear to be very complex issues, OSA has developed a number of PowerPoint presentations. We enjoy passing on what we have learnt and give these lectures at professional offices and universities. PowerPoint allows us to illustrate the problems clearly with many well chosen images.

### **Joist Layout:**

This presentation illustrates the common causes of premature failure in a commercial deck and shows how to design around them. This results in a trouble free structure that reaches its maximum life.

### **Timber Treatment:**

This presentation explains the limitations and strength of timber treatments and the importance of not relying on them alone for durability

### **Heart Centre:**

This presentation explains the implication of the 1988 South East Queensland Forests agreement and shows how to design with the smaller diameter timber that has resulted.

### **7 Deadly sins of Timber Design.**

This presentation illustrates some of the most common mistakes in using timber and how to do it correctly.

Each OSA Timber Presentation takes about an hour and is free from advertising. We have always had good feedback and we are certain you will find them helpful. Delivering these in Brisbane is very simple, further afield is more complicated. Talk to us and we will see what we can arrange. If the very worst comes to the worst I can post off a disk. We may also be able to customize these to meet your particular needs.

Regards

Ted Stubbersfield

Director OUTDOOR STRUCTURES AUSTRALIA



### **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 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

### **Back Issues**

We have added new back issues to our website  
[April 2010 Newsletter](#) *Designing for durability*  
[June 2009 Newsletter](#) *Wire Balustrade issue*

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