



August 2010 Newsletter

Various timber matters

Contents

- **Timberlife Prediction Software**
- **Useful Magazines for Timber Designers**
- **Take Care When Using Merbau/Kwila**
- **Three New Bridges Coming**

Timberlife Prediction Software

Depending on its use, timber can have a functional service life anywhere from one to 100 years. How do you ensure that you achieve a lifespan in the higher end of the range? The first response is probably to look to your standards. But structural standards for timber engineering such as AS1720.1 are mainly developed using the latest structural mechanics and reliability concepts but the same rigor is not applied in them to the effects of long term influences on structural performance.

An unprecedented engineering approach for designing for durability has been developed with sponsorship from Forest and Wood Products Australia. This was a 10 year nationwide project. Overseas experts said such an approach was impossible. But as data was gathered from test sites going back 20-30 years and actual projects, the Australian researchers were confident that the uncertainties of prediction could be quantified to enable "probabilistic modeling". Extraordinarily this covered each major kind of attack, every climactic condition of every part of Australia.

This was developed into software and a design manual which is available free of charge from the internet. We urge you to download these and use them. Do you still need our guides? Yes. You still need to know best practice for design and these are where you will find them.

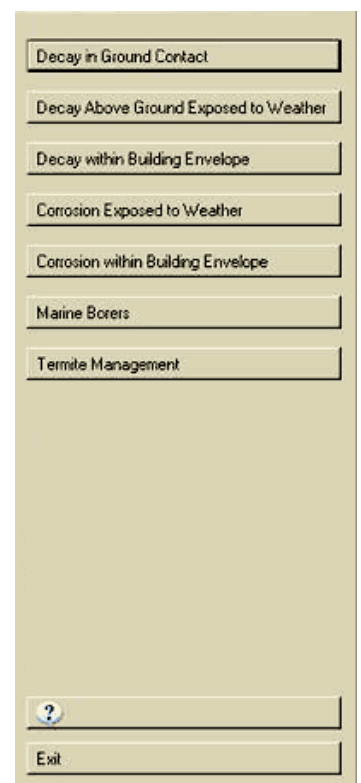
Links

Timberlife Educational Software

<http://www.timber.org.au/menu.asp?id=159>

Timber Service Life Design guide

http://www.timber.org.au/eWebeditpro4/upload/Timber_service_life_design_%20guide09.pdf



Menu Options of Timberlife prediction software

Useful Magazines

Over the years two publications have been particularly helpful in assisting us keep abreast of trends in timber design and in the timber industry. These are *Timber Design* and *In Wood*, both published by Neilson Promotions. If you have an interest in timber you might find them useful also

TimberDESIGN Australasia is a high quality publication targeting design and build professionals throughout Australia and New Zealand. Each edition is designed to inspire architects, designers and other building professionals with the latest applications of sustainable building and design solutions in wood.

In Wood - There is no other timber industry news like *In Wood* magazine “intelligent, original and inquisitive” covering New Zealand, Australia and the world. It is designed specifically for industry decision makers.



Links

Subscribe to Australasian Timber Design

<http://www.neilsonpromotions.com/timberdesign>

Subscribe to InWood

<http://www.neilsonpromotions.com/in-wood/subscribe-to-in-wood>

Take care when Using or Specifying Kwila/Merbau

If the environmental issues are not enough to cause you to rethink whether you should use Kwila/Merbau, tannin staining should cause you to think twice.

Environmental

From what we hear and read there seems to be a much greater awareness in New Zealand than Australia of the environmental issues involved with using Kwila/Merbau. The NZ government estimates that this one species alone represents 80% of the illegally logged timber coming into that country. Is it then a great stretch of the imagination to then accept that the bulk of what comes into Australia is “fair dinkum”.

While I am not saying do not use Kwila/Merbau, I would urge some heart searching before you specify it.

Tannin Stains

During this last month alone we have had two customers experiencing problems with tannin staining from Kwila/Merbau decks. This staining is virtually impossible to deal with as many if not most clear sealants will not go straight over new Kwila/Merbau.

Our own Tanacoat requires Kwila/Merbau to have at least three months weathering prior to its application, similarly Sikkens ask for 3 to 6 months weathering. This species is similar to Blackbutt in that there is a large problem with tannins. On the other hand the Australian species with probably the least amount of staining is Spotted Gum - look under finishing in the DPI link below.

Spotted Gum can be sealed immediately with Tanacoat - see Maintenance of external timber in our bollard guide (right at the very end of the document).

Links

Greenpeace report on Kwila/Merbau

<http://www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/news/the-end-of-kwila>

New Zealand Government report into Kwila/Merbau

<http://www.maf.govt.nz/forestry/illegal-logging/labelling-of-illegal-timber-products/legality-of-timber-final.pdf>

Timber Species Note on Spotted Gum

http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/26_5162.htm

Bollard Traffic control and Fencing Guide

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/bollard_guide_09_10.pdf

Three new bridges coming

We hope to have three new bridges ready for the next newsletter. An authentically styled Japanese bridge and two trail bridges for remote access. One trail bridge can be carted in using a trail bike and the other by helicopter.

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 it when assessing the suitability of quotes.

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

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

