



September 2010 Newsletter

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Magnificent old growth Blackbutt.

What do you think of the image above? This magnificent Blackbutt tree is not something you are likely to see in a sawmill log dump.

How would you process it for a start with modern milling equipment (built for smaller logs) and further, if you could see inside the tree, it is likely to be unsuited for a high recovery of quality hardwood. This harks back to a different era of the timber industry than is now possible or even desired.

Unfortunately we are still receiving enquiries for timber sizes that can only be cut from such trees.

When we wrote our Boardwalk Design Guide we ensured that the timber sizes and grades we nominated can be cut from the re-growth forests and future plantations that will become available in another 10 or so years time. These guides will steer you through quite a complex area of wise and practical specifying.

Even if the forests were full of Blackbutt logs such as this we would not sell the timber from them to you for decks and boardwalks. Blackbutt will produce F14, F17, F22 unseasoned hardwood but it remains unsuitable to use in fully weather exposed applications such as decking. Why? On a practical basis, if it has proved unsuitable for road bridges, railway sleepers and crossarms on a power pole it is not likely to work for you either.

Links

Boardwalk Design Guide

<http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/boardwalk-design-guide-3.pdf>



Blackbutt (pilaris) in Bellthorpe State Forest with researcher.
Source: DERM Forest Products

Feedback on Tannin Stains

Following last month's newsletter one of my recipients told how he was rung by a very agitated design professional on a problem with a Kwila/Merbau deck. It appears that owners of a Queensland business, who wanted to help their staff, came up with the idea of a first story deck over the car parking area where staff could have lunch etc. This then created a covered car park for the owners and managers. All went well until one day a heavy storm dumped lots of water on the Kwila/Merbau deck. The cars underneath all had to be re-painted due to the effects of the tannin staining!

Now it is fairly easy to remove the tannin from tiles and concrete with oxalic acid but you cannot use it on automotive paints. OSA would not recommend putting cars under a timber deck, even a spotted gum one.

Horse Fencing Guide

Some years ago we were asked by an owner of several multimillion dollar horses in Japan (He was obviously not in the timber industry) about the optimum design for horse fencing.

We, with the help of Dr. Hohenhaus of University of Queensland, Gatton Campus did some homework so we could understand the product. It proved to be very complicated as the wrong design could easily break a leg or a neck!!

The report is useful to any of our readers that are into horses and make it available for you.



Links

Horse Fencing Report:

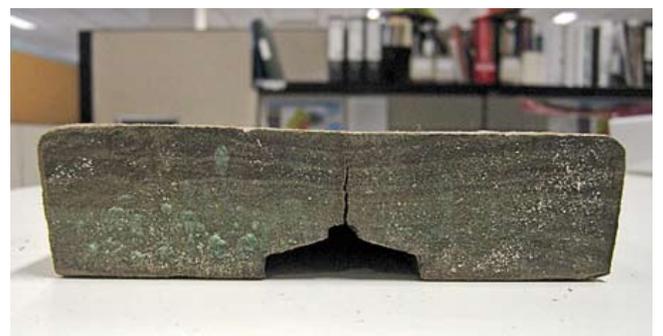
<http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/horse-fencing.php>

Patent Approved for Deckwood/LifePlus

The piece of timber above should be a warning to any builder/specifier/asset owners who think that by simply putting tapered sides on any piece of timber you have Deckwood. The piece came from a job where Deckwood or approved equal was specified. The customer specified Deckwood after having using it successfully on a previous job but received CCA treated Blackbutt (New England Blackbutt perhaps) and it performed very poorly as it would have to.

For your own sake, please be *very, very careful* when allowing substitutes. Talk to us if you are considering a substitute, we can talk you through a minefield and advise if the product offered is a true equivalent and of course if there is any patent infringement. Invariably when there is a substitution the builder has never bothered to check what the conforming product is.

While Deckwood/LifePlus has a patented profile, it is not just a shape you are purchasing. Behind that profile is a deep understanding of the properties and behavior of timber. So deep we were awarded an advanced technology showcase award. It is part of a system approach to decking.



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

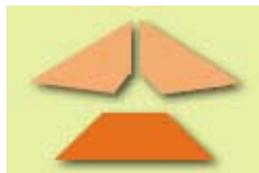
Timber Bridge Quotation Request Form

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

Regards

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