

Outdoor Structures Australia

October 2015 Newsletter

Written by Ted Stubbersfield

[New Publication is Finalised](#)

[New - Riser and Stair Kit](#)

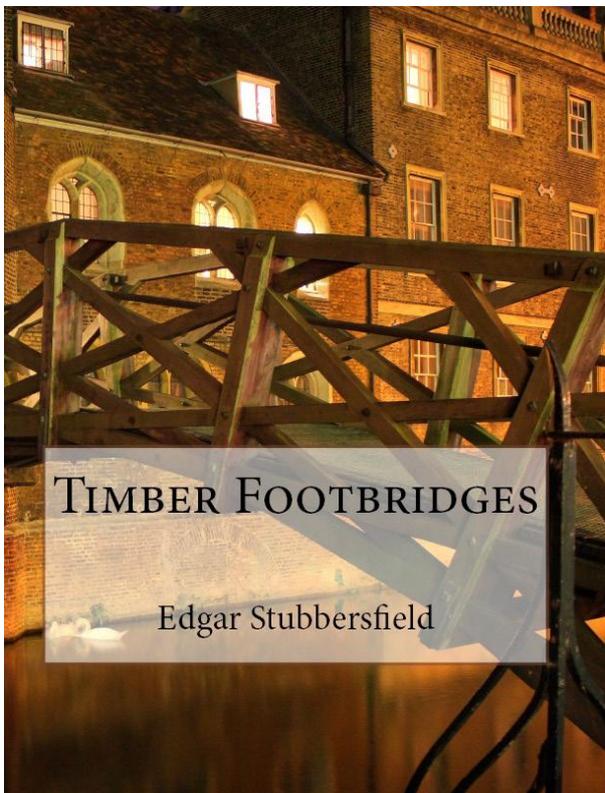
[Bollards - Let the Buyer Beware](#)

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Dear Reader

[New Publication is Finalised](#)



The latest book in my Timber Design Files series, with over 140 images, *Timber Footbridges*, is complete. The cover image is from the Mathematical Bridge in Cambridge. For more on this famous bridge see the [April 2012 newsletter](#) [You can purchase the PDF from the author for \\$50](#) or purchase a hardcopy from Amazon.

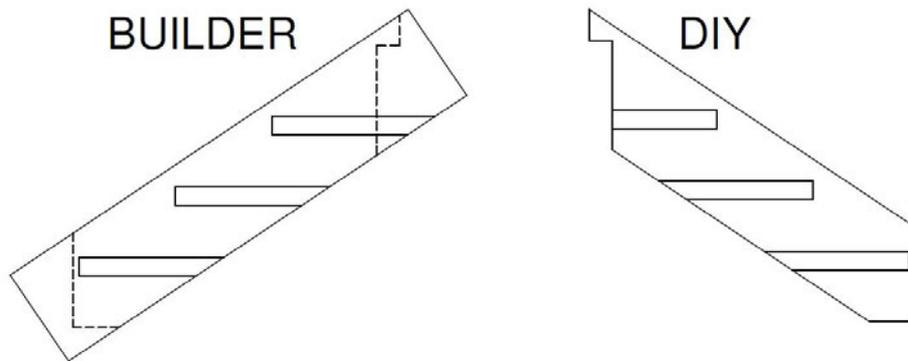


This is one of the images from the book. We think of cable stayed bridges as something new and post 1950 but this bridge was built over the Logan River in Queensland in 1880 and was in service for over 65 years. For those of you who love concrete and steel, consider, what material other than timber can give a ten fold increase in its design load and continue to give good service. Oh, and for my interstate readers, this bridge and the [36 m Finke truss from last month](#) appear to only have been made in Queensland. Perhaps they were right about us living in the "smart state" even that far back.

Step Risers and Tread Kits



Building a set of stairs from scratch (above) is a time consuming and skilled exercise. OSA can now simplify that for you with pre-made riser and stair kits made from a variety of material. We offer the risers in two different formats the Builder and DIY. It sure beats getting out there with a chisel.



Contact Tammy for a quote on 0403 601 041 or get a quote from Wilson Timbers.
Contact Stuart Maddil on [07 3277 1988](tel:0732771988) or email Stuart@wilsontimbers.com

Bollards - Let the buyer beware



One day i was walking in the park opposite my home when I happened to see a friend. I asked him how he was, "Not very good" was the reply. Then I saw what had happened. His dear wife had hit the accelerator not the brake and driven into one of my 30 year old Heavy Duty series traffic barrier posts. There was sufficient damage to write the car off. That is the performance you can expect from a good hardwood bollard or post. I have been watching these posts

and rails over the years and the only thing that needed modification was a water shedding profile to the top of the rails and some other minor incremental changes (e.g. pencil rounding instead of chamfering) we have introduced over the years.

We produce a good product but not everybody is willing to pay what it costs to do it properly. Our main customers are councils and state government who are interested in purchasing product that ages gracefully with minimum maintenance, not contractors maximising the profit that can be made (there are exceptions of course). I was very disappointment recently when, in my travels, I came across a project where timber bollards were used. But the disappointment was not because OSA didn't get the order but because of the quality of the timber, the treatment and the apparent installation practice. Consider these nine images.

CCA treatment label	Water ring, end split and close to heart	Close to the heart

		
Included heart	End split and close to heart	End split and close to heart
		
Gum vein and close to heart	Close to heart	Gum vein and close to heart

If the appalling timber quality and the CCA treatment wasn't enough it was compounded but here was evidence that the posts were set in concrete!, That is something you never do with hardwood. Incidentally, these images are representative, not the total.

The type of material we are looking at is what you would expect if someone purchased landscaping timbers (no quality control and cut to the heart) grown in a higher rainfall area such as northern New South Wales. Who would blame the assert owner if they said, "If this is how timber behaves we will never use it again.." People who have not been trained in timber can be forgiven for not being aware but there is [plenty of information available on how to do it correctly](#). Two of the seven deadly sins in my [book and CPD session of that name](#) cover what went wrong here. An investment of \$22 could have stopped this!!! Who is primarily at fault is the sawmiller, but only if these were sold as bollards not landscaping. You cannot produce timber for years and not be aware of how the species in your region will perform and know the consequence of included heart. Once again the timber industry is its own worst enemy.

A few years back I got so sick of my bollards being specified and substituted with this type of material that I had a firm of very good landscape architects design a range of bollards that were hard to copy. This would protect our customers who had the faith in us to specify our product. The Eclipse range of bollards is one of these designs. [Have you purchased my bollard guide yet?](#) - Only \$22.

The lesson, Let the buyer beware and order your bollards from OSA

Fence Images Sought



The next book will be on fences. Thank you Colin for this pic. Do you have any images you would like to share with me? I am looking for images showing good practice, bad practice and remarkable fences. In the meanwhile, if you want to do a good job with your fence, talk to me. A few years ago I rebuilt my side fence and the contractor complained about my requirements, which were things that he had never done before. I was only following Timber Queensland's technical data sheet on fencing.

Particular images I need are:

Old pine fence in the south that is faring well

Old cypress pine fence in the south. I am particularly seeking an image showing the sapwood decaying.

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 something really useful?

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.

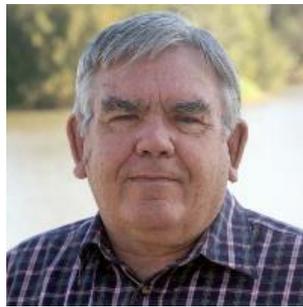
Timber Decks – Designing for Durability,

Utilising Small Diameter Hardwood.

The Seven Deadly Sins of Timber Design.

Joints and

Architectural Timber Battens



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