

# Ted's News

## October 2018

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[AILA Gold Coast Conference Eco Tour](#)



On Thursday 11th, an eco tour was conducted as part of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects conference in Surfers Paradise. It visited the Hinterland Regional Park, then onto David Fleay Wildlife Park before finishing with a tour at the Eco Village in Currumbin. The tour was organised in conjunction with major sponsor Wood Solutions. I spoke at Fleay's about good

timber design and used the mangrove boardwalk as an example. I supplied the Deckwood Decking and my guides were followed to the letter. It was great to be able to point out very good detailing. Note the staggered screw line, fixing handrails from underneath and no film finishes. I wrote about this boardwalk in the [September 2011 newsletter](#)

The Currumbin Eco Village was good too as I had last seen it at an early stage. We supplied a lot of Tanacoat to the site. Pity such a brilliant concept still give town planners apoplexy. How different this project is to the "Little boxes" of Pete Seeger fame.

### Les Atkinson Park, Example of Purchasing for Durability



During October, The Brisbane City Council completed a new boardwalk in the City Botanical Gardens (see image above). The decking was Deckwood and was built strictly in accordance with my technical guides and had technical input from me. It is looking great, but then, if you do everything wrong it will still look good at this early stage. What separates the good from the bad to the downright ugly is time.



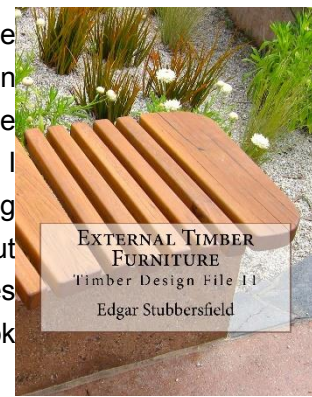


When I started my own business in 1997 which would become Outdoor Structures Australia, my first order was for the timber for Les Atkinson Park in Sunnybank Hills. Our consultant prepared the drawings. It utilised all of what we believed to be best practice in timber design. It was way ahead of the competitors and our understanding only got better over the years. So, was the extra expenditure money well spent over the intervening 21 years?

Stewart Madill, Business Development manager for Outdoor Structures Australia visited the site recently and took some video of the site. I think it is still impressive. If you are still purchasing your timber products on price not specification and design excellence it really is time to think hard about the long term implications of this. [Here is a link to the video](#)

### [New Guide - External Timber Furniture](#)

Last year I wrote an expert witness report on some very expensive external timber furniture that had gone terribly wrong. So, having seen that there were designers and fabricators that did not appreciate the difference between good and bad practice in external timber furniture, I realised that another book was needed. The book is not about teaching you how to design an outstanding piece of furniture. It is about empowering you to design a piece that stays together and ages gracefully. A detailed design check list ensures you don't overlook something.



You can [purchase a PDF of this book](#) individually for \$55 or as [part of the set for \\$440](#). Alternatively, you can [purchase it as a hard copy or kindle from Amazon Australia](#).

### [Cyclone and Earthquake Resistant Building in Solomons](#)

(An update - Not a paid advertisement)



[In May 2017 I write an article about an amazing library that was built on the remote village of Kia in the Solomons](#). It was a gift from the Tingley Family Foundation and some dedicated volunteers and donors and came prefabricated from the US premises of [Wood Research and Development](#). The plan through the Foundation and friends was to add classrooms and teachers so an extra year's education could be added each calendar year. The climate

controlled building has been a great success but it was found that with all the rainfall it was necessary to add extra solar panels. As for the expansion of the school, the Solomon Islands

government has risen to the challenge and are expanding the school and teachers accommodation themselves. The foundation will turn its attention elsewhere now.

This termite resistant building is very suitable for remote locations in Australia and provides excellent value for money especially compared to what is often paid. For more information, contact [Dr Dan Tingley](#).

### [FWPA Timber Bollard Guide](#)



#### Timber Bollards

For protection and traffic control  
Technical Design Guide issued by Forest and Wood Products Australia

A while back, I sold rights to my Bollards, Traffic Control and Fencing Guide to Forest and Wood Products Australia and they have reworked and reformatted it and have now made it available to the public.

This guide includes information I just took care of in the background that protected you from inappropriate timbers, grades and practices. A lot of this is distilled in Appendix A has a section *Timber Selection and Construction Notes for Bollards* and covers hardwood, cypress and pine. Images in the guide will also make you aware of inappropriate quality and installation practices.

To download this free guide go to the [Wood Solutions](#) website, log in then go to resources and then technical guides.

If you would like more information about bollard styles and products that I have had good experience with then my Bollards, Traffic Control and Fencing Guide will also be of assistance.

### [Download the New Timber Species App](#)



WoodSolutions has launched the WoodSolutions Species App to support professionals in the design and build industry, including furniture makers and DIYers to choose and specify the best timber species and products for structural, exterior and interior applications. “Our objective,” explains Eileen Newbury, National Marketing and Communications Manager, “was to take all that wealth of resources and information available

on wood species and deliver it into a convenient, easy to use tool that is available on the go. The app has the potential to make the decision process so much easier and faster.”

The WoodSolutions Species App is available for free download in the iTunes (Apple) or Play Store (Android). To download it, simply search for WoodSolutions in each of the stores and click download.

### [Footbridge Fundamentals Course](#)



The image is of two magnificent footbridges leaving the old OSA site. I have been asked to prepare a full day seminar on footbridges and that is now complete. The course covers the fundamentals of what to look for in the design, why the tender process is important, what to look for when inspecting the structures and lessons learned from several case studies. Phone me on 0414 770 261 to arrange a session [or email](#).

#### **Content of bridge fundamentals course**

Grading Hardwood - 83 slides

Buying well to avoid problems - 131 slides

Doing the inspection -36 slide

#### **Case histories**

Lessons from London Millennium bridge - 39 slides

Berrinba Wetlands – 64 slides

3 bridges closer to my home – 100 slides

Sundry horror images - 31 slides

To have a single CPD session, *Buying well to avoid problems* in your office contact me.



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