

# Ted's News

## August 2019

[I Found a Decent Door Supplier](#)

[Never Purchase Treated Pine on Price](#)

[Should Have Used Concrete Not Timber](#)

[Verdict is in on my Coastal Decks Course](#)

[Continuing Professional Development Courses](#)

[Timber Resources](#)

[Timber Consultant](#)

[I Found a Decent Door Supplier](#)

Not a paid advertisement



Last month I put out a plea for help, asking if anyone knew a decent door supplier. One of my readers sent news of my plight on to John Coates of The Woodworkers Company who wrote to me saying:

*Well Ted-actually, we're a decent door supplier! Suggest you look at our website [www.woodworkers.com.au](http://www.woodworkers.com.au)*

*Woodworkers is the largest joinery in Queensland and the oldest (because we amalgamated a lot of older joineries into one). If you'd like to see how joinery should be done drop by and I'll show you around. We only make doors and windows out of solid timber made traditionally with mortice & tenon joints. Our product is built to last a lifetime (plus) unlike the engineered veneered stuff you got stuck with. The pity is that getting real joinery isn't more expensive than the imported XXXXXX dodgy joinery. I'm an architect and started this company 30 years ago because I bought rubbish for a development and thought someone should do joinery right.*



*John Coates, an employee and myself inspecting the assembly of a traditional window*

I did go to the premises and John Coates showed me around the factory and warehouses. I was very impressed with the combination of traditional and high tech machinery and the stock level was far beyond what I expected. Frankly, I had passed their premises on Ipswich Road, Moorooka many times and discounted them as I considered that a hand-made door would simply be out of my price range.

When John told me the price I was surprised. Humes have a veneered laminated timber 2040x820x40 10 light door with a RRP of \$680 on their website though Bunnings seem to have the same door for \$184.00. With a 5 year warranty and my past experience that is not an option. Bunnings also have an internal solid Woodcraft brand internal timber door for \$240 not an option again. Doorsplus quoted me \$280 in untreated "pacific ash" which is a made up trade name for hem/fir. As its properties are density 475 kg M3, strength group 7, durability class 4 above ground, I would not consider this a brilliant product (CTIQ page 8).

Granted the price quoted by John was dearer than this but not wildly so considering what I would be getting. The doors are made from Toona calantas (which is from the same family as our red cedar (Toona ciliate var. australis)) and though it is a similar weight to hem fir and Australian red cedar, it is a durability class 1 above ground timber. This should give me a 50 year design life. [So I am going cap in hand to my bank manager.](#)

So, for all you designers and builders out there, If you love timber or you have had a bad experience like me, you would find a trip to the Woodworkers or a talk to John Coates (07 3848 1383) very worthwhile. [Here is a link to the website.](#)

### Never Purchase Treated Pine on Price



A recent consultancy has brought home to me the importance of exercising due diligence when purchasing treated pine. I took samples of blue treated pine (H2F) from a site and sent them for analysis to see if they were treated in accordance with *AS1604.1 Specification for preservative treatment Part 1: Sawn and round timber*. Now the starting point is that correctly treated timber is very effective, but the downside is that there

is no national scheme in place to verify that timber is treated correctly. In this case, I took sample from pine supplied by three different manufacturers in the one job and only one of them passed. That supplier has set in place independent verification of its treatment processes, and in case you are wondering, it was from Hyne.

If you are using treated pine you need to do some homework. You need to get in writing what the manufacturer's independent verification processes are. If you are a reseller, you need to do the

same and even more, you should also send a few samples to IVS (Tim Evans 0417 726 741) to see that what you are selling matches any certification you are given. It is all very well purchasing on price but when everything hits the fan you will wish you had purchased on compliance with a specification. It is probably also a good idea not to mix material from more than 1 supplier.

### Should Have Used Concrete not Timber



Recently I had to write reports on two decks built 150 mm off the ground. The image above is something like the application a. If you have to do a deck close to the ground there are excellent technical data sheets from Timber Queensland that are freely downloadable from many sites. Normal decks are covered in TDS4 and the extra requirements for decks close to the ground is found in TDS13.

Now, these decks didn't even pay lip service to these guides and short comings included:

- No ventilation
- Wide boards
- Insufficient gaps
- Joists with insufficient durability
- No damp proofing
- No dampcourse on joists

- Timber not sealed all around.
- Irrigation system adjacent.

With one joist even wet to the touch and the moisture content on the back of the once seasoned boards rising as high as 27%, you can imagine what happened. Of course, everyone said that timber was to blame. As much as I love timber, there are times when its use is simply not appropriate, and concrete would have been the best option.

### Coastal Deck Course

Thanks for the day course on coastal desks and boardwalks. All of us who attended gained useful knowledge about working with timber, and I think the cost of the course will easily be recouped through that translating to better outcomes on the ground. All the additional information on fixings and metals with the focus on local conditions was invaluable. It was especially helpful to have plenty of time for questions and answers with a mix of designers, project delivery and maintenance officers able to ask questions and discuss ideas and solutions.



**Clare Staines** | Senior Landscape Planning Officer  
Parks Asset & Capital Planning  
Sunshine Coast Regional Council

The main part of the day takes you through the design checklist in my Deck and Boardwalk Design Essentials, line by line and explains and illustrates why that line is there and why that aspect of the design must be attended to. There are three supplementary sections:

- A look at the alternatives to traditional hardwoods and discuss their weakness and strengths (if they have any)
- A look at two very different boardwalks in Cairns and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each design
- A look at boardwalks I built at Point Cartwright in 2000 and Jacobs Well in 2003

Unlike the free CPD sessions, there is a charge for this course but it is "very small bickies" compared to what you could spend if you get the basics wrong and end up with a very unsatisfactory result. From the course you will see just how logical everything is. Contact me on 0414 770 261 or [email me](#)

## Free CPD Sessions



Here I am delivering my CPD course on Architectural Timber Battens at the offices of GHDWoodhead.

Why avail yourself of a free CPD course sponsored by Wilson Timbers/Outdoor Structures Australia (OSA) are meeting the cost of delivering CPD sessions in your office? Simply because they are very good and the free offer will end soon. Here are two references:

*From a recipient at Cornell Engineers:* We started with Ted's Timber 101 class. It really was a great talk. Can totally recommend it to all engineers, designers and architects.

*From a recipient at BSPN Architecture:* Thanks for speaking with us again – your talks are always very informative.

There are only two conditions, and these are that I can travel there and back in a day and that OSA be allowed to give a sales pitch. These are exactly the same presentations I would give if you paid. It sounds like a good deal to me. Here is the [link to the courses I have available](#). I suggest External Timber 101 would be a good start. The learning outcomes are:

- Know the resources needed for a successful design
- Understand the difference between pine, cypress and hardwood
- Understand the importance of selecting the right species
- Understand the importance of selecting the right part of the tree.
- Understand the importance of preservation
- Understand why natural feature must be limited

These are informative seminars with serious learning outcomes and, if required for CPD points, I can provide a test and a certificate. Call Stuart Madill on 0403 385 707 to arrange a free session and for paid add free talks call me on 0414770261 to arrange a convenient time for your "Ted talk".

Interstate readers - travel is no problem.

### Need a Timber Consultant or Expert Witness?

I have over 40 years' experience in the industry and can assist you with many of your timber needs.

**Inspection** – I can assess timber products on their performance, fitness for purpose or cause of failure. I also examine whether best practice was used in design and construction. I have recently completed inspections on boardwalks, bollards, support beams and external timber furniture.

**Grading** - Quite literally, I have written the book on the subject. Recent experience has shown that up to 30% of timber supplied may not be to grade.

**Design** - I can provide detailed technical drawings and advice. I can also review already prepared drawings.

**Reports** - I have authored many books on timber and can prepare a report providing recommendations and practical instructions on to how to rectify issues.

Please note as I am now employed a Senior Timber Consultant with the firm BCRC all large and complex consultancies and requirements for an expert witness will be handled in conjunction with them. Existing consulting arrangements remain unchanged and I am also available to assist on small projects. For more information see [www.bcrc.com.au](http://www.bcrc.com.au)



Edgar Stubbersfield

Mail: [edgarstubbersfield@gmail.com](mailto:edgarstubbersfield@gmail.com)

Web: [www.deckwood.com.au](http://www.deckwood.com.au)

Phone: 0414770261