

Ted's News

October 2020

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[Another Timber Bridge to Replace Steel in Canada](#)

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My friends at WRD and TRS keep doing amazing work and I am happy to feature this bridge they are building in Canada.

A bridge of one kind or another has crossed the Wyse Road portion of the Musquodoboit River in central Nova Scotia, Canada since 1826. For nearly 100 years, a steel bridge crossed the river which connected many small communities but, since November 2019, the Dillman Bridge has been out of commission after suffering irreparable damage in a truck accident. Without it, an estimated 1,400 households in the region are forced to take lengthy detours.

Wood Research and Development (WRD) won the tender to design the new bridge, which has a 35-metre clear span and is 8.4m wide and incorporates 1.56-metre-deep girders. To prevent another accident like this happening again, WRD included a crash-proof rail system in their design. Timber Restoration Services (TRS) manufactured the bridge in their plant in Jefferson, Oregon, USA, and will truck it all the way up to Canada on the other side of the coast and will also do the install. This bridge represented about a US\$850k saving over concrete.

The image shows the bridge prior to disassembly and treatment. Stay tuned for more information when the project is complete!

[Here is an even longer \(40 metre\) timber bridge in Canada with a link to some impressive video of construction.](#)

[A Quick Look at Some Common Species](#)

I have been preparing a list of the properties of some common species for an upcoming book. [This page is not wide enough to show many columns so here is a link to a PDF that is more complete.](#) I have started the list off based on the bushfire resistant species. I will be adding more species such as cypress and robinia and perhaps even more columns though it is getting hard to fit it sideways on a page now.

Species	Percentage of harvest from Qld State forests[1]	Percentage of harvest from NSW State forests[2]	Fire resistance AS 3959-2009	Termite resistance AS5604-2005	Lyctus susceptible AS5604-2005	Interlocking grain	Dry weight kg/m ³	Tangential Shrinkage to 12% MC	Greasiness to touch
Spotted gum	68.81%	5.9%	Y	Y	Y	O	1010	6.1	Y
Broad-leaved red ironbark	7.02%	2.01% Includes grey,	Y	Y	N	O	1140	6.5	N
Narrow-leaved red ironbark	4.60%	mugga and broadleaf ironbark which are not resistant	Y	Y	N	Y	1090	5	N
Blackbutt (not New England)	4.58%	15.84%	Y	Y	N	N	930	7.3	N
Silvertop Ash	NSW/Vic/Tas	0.12%	Y	N	N	S	820	10	N
River red gum	Not common in Qld	5.41%	Y	Y	Y	Y	1130	8	N
Turpentine	0.11%	0.25%	Y	Y	N	O	930	13	N

Kwila	Imported		Y	Y	Yes	S	850	2.6	N
Tallowwood	0.92%	1.27%	N	Y	N	G	1010	6.1	Y
Fire resistant timbers, availability and other properties									

[1] Based on figures 2003 to 2013 from state forests and grazing leases and not expected to change in the short term. Seibuhr, Jane. *Pers. Com.* 12 Feb, 2015.

[2] Based on 2013-4 financial year and expected to be constant for 10 years. Grealy, Martin. *Pers. Com.* 13 July, 2015.

Another One of My Follies

Guest Contributor Shem Guthrie, Architect with [Deicke Richards](#)



Back in 1995, or perhaps even earlier, when I was still working at the family sawmill, I supplied the timber for a number of follies that were constructed at Kangaroo Point. I think they were made spotted gum. They have fared very well despite the inundation of 2011 but at the moment they could do with some TLC. [But rather than me waxing lyrical, here is a link to a brilliant article by Shem Guthrie on the follies which were designed by Spence Jamieson of project services with Landscape Architecture by Kim Briesse.](#) Shem is an Architect and Associate Director with Deicke Richards.

[My Next Project - Playground Timber?](#)



I am definitely weakening on the request to write a guide to playground timber. I would like to hear from you about what you need to see included in this guide, I have a fair idea. I also would like to see images of good and bad things you have seen. The image is of a "deck", actually, I don't know what you would call it but it is awfully clever. It is situated at Willoughby Public School and designed by Rolfe Crystal and Fiona Robbe with input from and supply by me. It had a very tight timber specification. You could help with pictures and stories.

Updated Version of the Cookbook

Last month I introduced my latest project. I had been editing a cookbook for our church. I have since added extra recipes including *Double Cooked Thai Style BBQ Pork Belly*, *Rae Maree Sponge Cake*, and *Coconut Slice*. Don't worry, there are also vegan recipes as well. [Click here to download](#). Warning - it is a church cookbook, so it won't suit everyone.



RECIPES FROM THE POTATO FIELD

TENTHILL BAPTIST CHURCH



We Can Soon Start CPD Courses Again



Did you know that Wilson Timbers/Outdoor Structures will have me come to your office, subject to the ever-changing regulations, and deliver one or two of my CPD sessions for free? These are serious training times with real learning outcomes. The only condition is that, with travel, we can do it in a day from Gatton in Queensland. Here are the nine courses available:

Topic 1: Timber Preservation

Topic 2: Hardwood Grading

Topic 3: Timber Decks - Designing for Durability

Topic 4: Utilising Small Diameter Hardwood

Topic 5: The Seven Deadly Sins of Timber Design

Topic 6: Timber Joints

Topic 7: Architectural Timber Battens

Topic 8: Timber 101 (Optimally Topics 8 & 9 to be presented together)

Topic 9: Boardwalk Design (Optimally Topics 8 & 9 to be presented together)

[To learn more about these courses visit my website.](#) [Contact Stuart Madill by email to arrange a time](#) or call his mobile 0403 385 707.

[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.

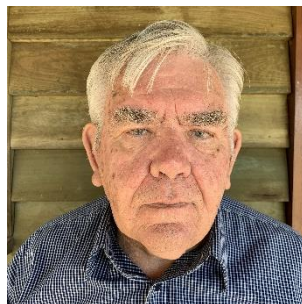
Inspection – I can assess timber products on their performance, fitness for purpose or cause of failure. I also examine whether best practice was used in design and construction. I have recently completed inspections on boardwalks, bollards, support beams and external timber furniture.

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



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