

# Ted's News

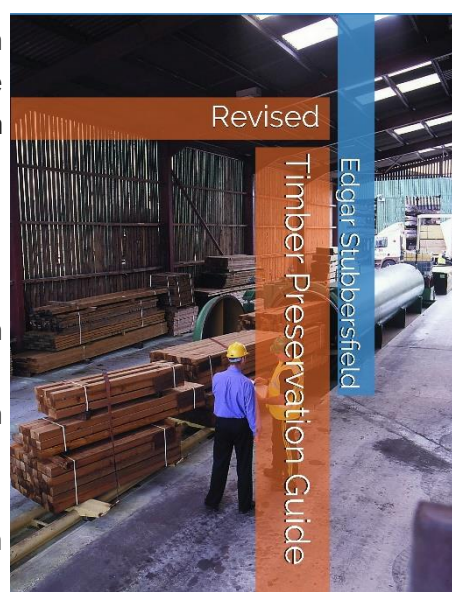
## January 2021

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I have completed the revision of my Timber Preservation Guide. The first edition of this book was written when the 2010 version of AS 1604.1 was current. This 2020 edition was needed to comment on:

- Increased use of spraying and dipping
- Addition of H2F
- Increased use of glueline preservatives in engineered wood
- Codemarked timber selling alongside of Australian Standard timber
- Need for documentation of treated timber
- Recognition of the need to do due diligence when purchasing.



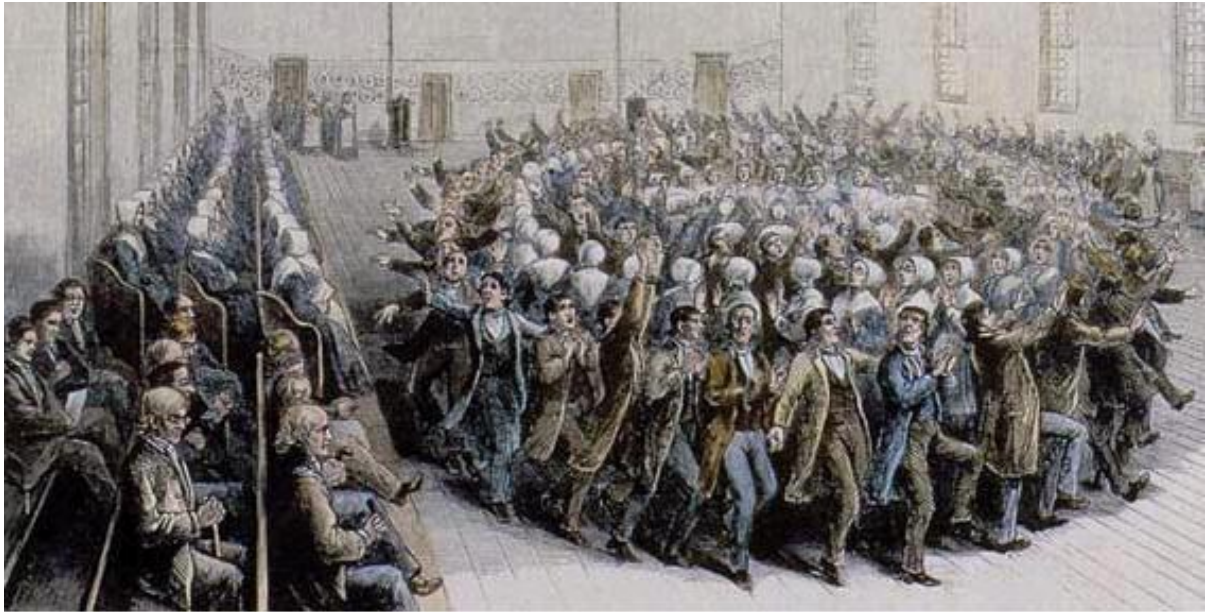
If you have purchased a copy of the earlier edition I will gladly send you a PDF of the revised edition. [Just email me.](#) Otherwise you can purchase a copy for \$55. It is worth every cent as it cuts through the hype and tells you what treatment can do and what it can't do.

[A Philosophical Question Prompted by Kortney and Dave](#)



that has formed my approach to timber use.

Yes indeed, a philosophical question prompted by Kortney, would you believe! Time for a confession, I am a closet lover of Masters of Flip. In almost every episode when discussing the kitchen she says "Shaker cabinets" and poor old Dave meekly says "Yes Dear." But the story behind "Shaker cabinets" raises a philosophical question



The Shakers were a religious sect that broke away from the Quakers in the 1700's and were known as the "shaking Quakers" because of the ecstatic nature of their worship which came to include "precisely choreographed dances and orderly marches accompanied by symbolic gestures." Being celibate, it is not surprising the group no longer exists.

However their furniture is highly sought after and original pieces are very expensive. It is simple and highly functional and above all extremely well built which is what you would expect from a craftsman who considered the performance of his trade an act of worship. What sets this furniture apart from other well made items is that the areas that are not seen, such as the back of cupboards and draws, are finished with the same care as the front as the Almighty sees that too. No wonder their furniture is sought after.

I have to admit that I have taken a different path. My belief is that our resource needs to be used wisely and that while a piece of timber has to be as good as is necessary to perform to expectation, it does not need to be any better than it has to be. Let me explain how that works in practice from a recent consultancy.







Kiln dried timber for barbecue table tops in a variety of lengths and widths were required and, very wisely, I was requested by the asset owner to ensure the timber was fit for purpose. The timber supplier purchased 145x45 F27 kiln dried spotted gum house framing from a major Queensland sawmill for the tops. The framing was to grade and perfectly suitable for framing. The reseller knew that it would need regrading to be suitable for a higher specification use and this could be achieved through trimming off edge knots, trimming to length around defects and very importantly, presenting a select top surface to the weather and placing defects down. You can see from the images above how I have marked up the timber. Everything was completely in order, and as it should be, providing the fabricator looks at both sides of the board which can be an ask. The material is not perfect but it is used carefully and with consideration to minimising any waste and maximising service life.

Where this falls down is when there is only one size and one length. Say the barbecue tables needed 200 pieces of 145x45 at 2.0m long. Unless you are purchasing your timber from a specialised architectural timber supplier and he knows what the end use is, you would be very disappointed if you just purchased 100/4.2 m lengths of F22 KD from a timber yard. It probably needs to be 130 pieces! When there are different lengths it is always wise (and considerate) to order against a cut list so the supplier can use his short lengths.

## Timber in Playgrounds



Image Fiona Robbe, of Fiona Robbe Landscape Architects

When my friend Fiona Robbe asked if I would write a guide to playground timber I really had no good reason not to as I had finally finished the [church cookbook](#) and my [magnum opus](#). Again, it is different to house framing. I will only sell ten copies but in reality every landscape architect should have a full set of my guides. The star check in the tight knot shown above would not be an issue in a powerpole but will slice a child's foot open. If that knot had been placed on the underside there would have been no issues. I am being given incredible assistance by Ralph Bailey, a very respected and experienced architect and a founding director of Guymor Bailey Architects as well as Greg Thomas of Greenedge Design. I am looking for images and good case histories - can you help? [See the proposed structure of the guide.](#)



Councils are increasingly wanting to avoid timber playgrounds seeing them as maintenance nightmares, and some certainly have been but only when you don't do your homework and do silly things. And, dare I say, some very silly things have been done. Fortunately, it is not hard to deliver a long-lasting low maintenance timber playground such as the one shown on the right on the Broadwater in Southport. It is now ten years old and in great shape and I have been informed that the only real maintenance has been reapplying oil. Great work by Contrast Constructions, and of course, supply by me. The Project Manager, Jeremy Hall, then with the Gold Coast City Council is delighted with it.



### [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 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)

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