

# Ted's News

## August 2023

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### [Amazing Spotted Gum Deck in Japan](#)



Sometimes you see a project that is many times better than what we normally see. My friend Aki-san of Kurata Co in Japan sent me images of a 200 m2 fully prefabricated deck with a 33-metre-long fence they built for a large supermarket about 75k Southwest of Tokyo. the area was covered with rubber softfall which was deteriorating. After the removal of the softfall and careful measurements, the spotted gum deck was assembled in the Kurata workshop and delivered to the site. After the foundations were installed the timber work took a week. Congratulations Aki-san.





[Here is a link to a photographic account of the project](#) from start to completion. We could learn a lot from this methodology.

### Recommended Screw for Fixing Deckwood to Steel

Not a paid commercial





A few years ago, I heard a presentation at a Timber Queensland event by [Rothoblaas](#) and I realised That they were ahead of their competitors in a number of areas. I recently met up with Sebastian Jaimes their Queensland technical salesman and he had information about a screw that is relevant to anyone using heavy (up to 45 mm) decking on steel.

Most tek screws are not suitable for face fixing decking to steel. Tekes are made from brittle hardened steel meaning they can and do break when fastening decking to steel joists. This is a situation that needs the durability and ductility of stainless but stainless will not drill through steel. Up to this point, I have been recommending a galvanised truck floor screw out of necessity but it really should be stainless. Very good bi-metallic screws with a hardened tip welded onto the end of a stainless body have been available from Simpson Strong-Tie for a while but the sizes only suited 21mm LifePlus. Sebastian advised me that Rothoblaas now have a bi-metal screw suitable for 45 mm thick decking. The screw is 6.3 mm Dia. (14#) and 70 mm long. The code is SBSA28370. Refer to pages 342-3 of their guide [Screws and Connectors for Wood](#). Of course, fastening from underneath is better.

It is worth spending time [on their site](#). Their connectors are quite something to behold. If you purchase my [Guide to Timber Joints](#) you will see a case history on their premises in northern Italy made from CLT. Can't afford the book, [here is the case history](#). Sebastian's phone number 0466 623 237.



## A Broken Heart in One So Young

	
Post with "broken heart"	Closeup of Fault

A reader sent me an image of a problem child 200x200 that is relatively new. The heart is always included in Australian sawn timber of this size but as you can see it is "broken". 200x200 with included heart is a great product as it can be sawn from a very small log but it needs care. Misuse of heart in timber is number three of my [Seven Deadly Sins of External Timber design](#). The timber is splitting which is a result of the outside drying and the inside remaining moist. That is easily fixed with expansion joints but that defect which is more like a fracture than shelling out was likely visible at the time of construction. It should not have been used. Someone can get hurt by those very sharp edges.

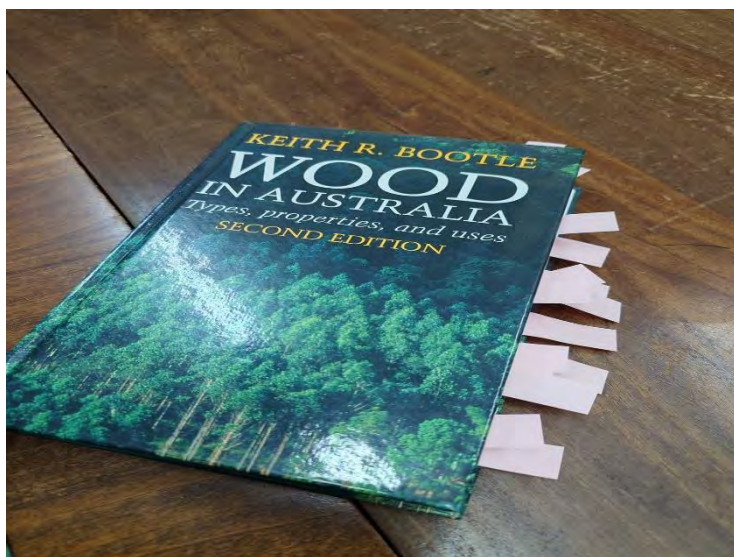
Problems with 200x200 led me to develop the [Pioneer Post](#) which fixes all of this. It is still available through Wilson Timbers, Call Stuart Madill 0403 385 707. Ask Stuart also about my CPD on the subject

## Order Your Free Copy Of My New Step Guide

	
Tread dropped out	Stringer hanging by a thread

I am not quite sure what to say about the images above. These steps are at least 60 years old and they only failed as they were not built with tie bolts. A few rusted nails and down it came. Had through bolts been installed and with a few suitably placed brackets they would have done another 20 years. So, I suppose overall it is a success but it does show that the consequence of incorrect building practices can come home to roost a lifetime afterwards. It also shows the need to do inspections. My dear dad probably supplied the timber. My guide on external steps is now available. Just ask Fiona at BCRC for a copy and get the handrail guide while you are at it. [Email her here](#).

### Someone Listened to my Advice to Buy the Timber "Bible"



Last month, I reminded my readers how consulting Bootle's *Wood in Australia* should be the very first thing you do when undertaking your due diligence on a timber project. My guides should be the second. This advice generally goes on deaf ears. However, one of my readers sent me an image of her copy. Sadly, this is not from Australia but Japan. Thank you Aki-san and that care and by not making any assumptions is why your projects are so good.

My first expert witness report was on some very expensive glued tallowwood furniture that started to fall apart after two weeks in the weather. Had the architect, who was being sued for the second time (American white oak failed too) consulted the "Bible" he or she would have learned that it was a problem species to glue due to the greasy nature of the timber.

When you are planning to mention a species in your specification, refer to the "Bible" first. it may just save you a lot of heartache.

### Signup for One of my Eleven CPD Courses



Learn from my four decades of experience with these CPD training sessions, some of which are available in eClassroom.



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	<a href="#">eClassroom link</a>
Topic 6	Timber Joints	<a href="#">eClassroom link</a>
Topic 7	Architectural Timber Battens	<a href="#">eClassroom link</a>
Topic 8	Timber 101	<a href="#">eClassroom link</a>
Topic 9	Boardwalk Design (recommend delivered with Timber 101)	
Topic 10	Timber Handrail Design	
Topic 11	Timber Bollards	

[Click here to learn more about these courses](#)

Are you aware that [Wilson Timbers/Outdoor Structures](#), who I am affiliated with and are suppliers of quality timber, will have me come to your office (in person or remotely) and deliver one or two of my CPD sessions for free? The only condition for in-person presentations is that, with travel, we can do it in a day from Brisbane in Queensland. [Contact Stuart Madill by email to arrange a time](#) or call his mobile 0403 385 707.

## Full-Day Courses



**The Footbridge Purchasing and Inspection Course** run by Edgar (Ted) Stubbersfield is intended for those responsible for the specification, purchasing and ongoing maintenance of footbridges. The course will enable participants to:

- Prepare an appropriate specification
- Assess suitable product to purchase
- Recognise where corners are cut
- Ensure value in purchasing
- Know quickly where to inspect
- Recognise suitable timber for bridges

I can offer valuable assistance to your organisation by empowering your people to recognise an appropriate low maintenance footbridge from one that requires expensive rectification over a shorter life span.

On retiring from Outdoor Structures Australia, a company I founded in 1997, I have been concentrating on publishing guides on external timber and steel use and educating professionals in that field. You can now take advantage of my experience gained building low maintenance steel and timber bridges.

I have extensive expertise in exposed timber applications. This knowledge was developed initially through a number of formal research projects followed by years of observation. I acquired a deep of understanding of the issues relating to designing, supplying and constructing fully weather exposed timber and steel structures including bridges.

**Contact Details**  
Mobile: 0414 770 261  
Email: [edgarstubbersfield@gmail.com](mailto:edgarstubbersfield@gmail.com)

Footbridge Course



**The Coastal Deck Design Course** run by Edgar (Ted) Stubbersfield is intended for those responsible for the specification, purchasing and ongoing maintenance of boardwalks and decks with emphasis given to the more difficult coastal environment. The course will enable participants to:

- Prepare an appropriate specification
- Assess suitable product to purchase
- Recognise where corners are cut
- Ensure value in purchasing
- Know quickly where to inspect
- Recognise suitable timber for decks

I can offer valuable assistance to your organisation by empowering your people to recognise an appropriate low maintenance deck or boardwalk from one that requires expensive rectification over a shorter life span.

On retiring from Outdoor Structures Australia, a company I founded in 1997, I have been concentrating on publishing guides on external timber and steel use and educating professionals in that field. You can now take advantage of my experience gained building low maintenance steel and timber bridges.

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Coastal Deck Course

Don't embark on any major footbridge or coastal deck project before you do my full-day courses. These are serious courses run through [BCRC](#), the durability experts, that are unmatched in the value you will extract from them by delivering expensive infrastructure that ages gracefully and with little maintenance. They both start by going through a design checklist and explaining, line by line, why you must attend to that point. They then look at a number of case studies, showing good and bad practice.

[Click here for the footbridge course brochure](#)

[Click here for the coastal decks brochure](#)

Call me to discuss your training needs. These courses, which are eligible for CPD points, will give you an incredible understanding of good timber use. Call 0414 770 261 or [email me](#).

<a href="#"><u>Contact Me</u></a>	
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