

Ted's News

February 2024

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[Don't Span your Battens too Far](#)



Recently, my daughter was visiting Canterbury in the UK and sent me this picture of a carpark clad with timber battens. The effect is impressive but while obviously they are working and the battens remain straight, they would not do so in Australia's climate. Without a centre tie, they would be unsightly. The tops would need a weathering cut as well. Don't attempt timber battens without reading my guide *Architectural Timber Battens* which I believe is the best book on the subject, come to think of it, it is the only book on the subject. [Order here \\$44.](#) [Table of contents](#)

[Feedback from Recognising Well-Treated Sleepers](#)



Image courtesy Karl Baker, [Dyna Group](#).

Last month's newsletter had a section on how to recognise well-treated pine sleepers. The images of the ends of packs where only the darker coloured portions are treated spoke for themselves. [I reminded my readers that, above H2, it is very hard to receive well-treated pine in Australia.](#) I recommended incised sleepers as the solution.

Feedback from Jeffrey Morrell, formerly Director of the *National Centre for Timber Durability & Design Life at the University of the Sunshine Coast* was. "Liked your incising note- just for reference- I have 35-year-old incised CCA treated Douglas-fir heartwood sleepers as retaining walls- while there are a few failing- 90 % are in perfect shape. The role of an intact barrier on performance cannot be overlooked," Some people have earned the right to have their opinion heeded.

Give me a call if you have any concerns about your sleepers. It is all in my timber preservation guide [Order here](#) - cost \$55 [Here is the index](#).

[Tanacoat or Tanacare, which is Best?](#)



For years I have been recommending *Tanacoat* and Wilson Timbers has been selling it, but not any longer. Instead, they now sell an oil called *Tanacare*. For lovers of *Tanacoat*, the world has not come to an end. It is simply a rebranding. Dynagroup has purchased the rights to the name *Tanacoat* and exactly the same product is also put in the *Tanacare* tins.

[Click here for the story of Tanacoat/Tanacare and why you should consider using it.](#)
[Click here to understand where to use Tanacoat/Tanacare. CN Oil and CN Emulsion.](#)

[A Creative Footing Solution](#)



Image courtesy of [Timber Decking and Cladding Association](#)

Sometimes you see an image and you realise something is not quite right but you can't put your finger on it. Then the penny drops. Some of my readers are builders and they would not be reading my newsletters if they did not want to excel and would be appalled by such a lack of

professionalism. If you are a designer accepting the lowest quote, quite often there is a reason why they are the cheapest. You must have a comprehensive system of inspections. Of course, myself and the team at [BCRC](#) can help. My new CPD course on domestic decks will teach you what to look for.

Level 2 Bridge Course March 3-5



The image is of Dr. Dan Tingley and myself taken at a Level 1 bridge Inspection course he ran over 10 years ago now. I know personally the solid content and usefulness of his courses.

If you want to be serious about timber structures and timber bridges you need to attend the Level 2 Timber Structure Certification Course being run by my good friend Dr Tingley of Wood Research and Development. The course covers Inspection, maintenance, and retrofitting. If your council is wants to save large amounts of money, you should enroll now. The theory is online and there is a practical section at Deception bay from the 12th to the 15th. [Here is a link to the flyer.](#)

New CPD Course - Domestic Decks

Three Very Different Decking Applications



Weather exposed and potential for slipping



Fully covered and low likelihood of slipping

This is one of the opening slides to my new CPD course, Domestic Decks. The observant among you will notice that there are two images, yet I talk of three main different deck types. The third is on the next slide, decks close to or in the ground. This course covers:

- Resources needed

- Factors affecting deck specification including
- Factors affecting joist specification
- Alternate joist material
- Deck Construction
- Finishing
- Decks close to the ground

If you are in Brisbane or surrounds, book your free seminar through Outdoor Structures Australia/Wilson Timber. Contact Stuart Madill 0403 385 707. Interstate or further afield, contact Fiona at BCRC the durability specialists at 0416 326 366 to obtain a quote.

[Index to Past Issues](#)

If you are a new reader or just want to find details on a particular topic such as 150x150 mm posts, here is a link to an [index of articles back to 2015](#).

[Signup for One of my Twelve 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	eClassroom link
Topic 6	Timber Joints	eClassroom link
Topic 7	Architectural Timber Battens	eClassroom link
Topic 8	Timber 101	eClassroom link
Topic 9	Boardwalk Design (recommend delivered with Timber 101)	
Topic 10	Timber Handrail Design	

Topic 11	Timber Bollards	
Topic 12	Domestic Timber Decks	

[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

 <p>The Footbridge Purchasing and Inspection Course run by Edgar (Ted) Stubbsfield is intended for those responsible for the specification, purchasing and ongoing maintenance of footbridges. The course will enable participants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Contact Details Mobile: 0414 770 261 Email: edgarstubbsfield@gmail.com</p>	Footbridge Course	 <p>The Coastal Deck Design Course run by Edgar (Ted) Stubbsfield 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 decks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Contact Details Mobile: 0414 770 261 Email: edgarstubbsfield@gmail.com</p>
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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](#).

Contact Me



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