

Ted's News

March 2023

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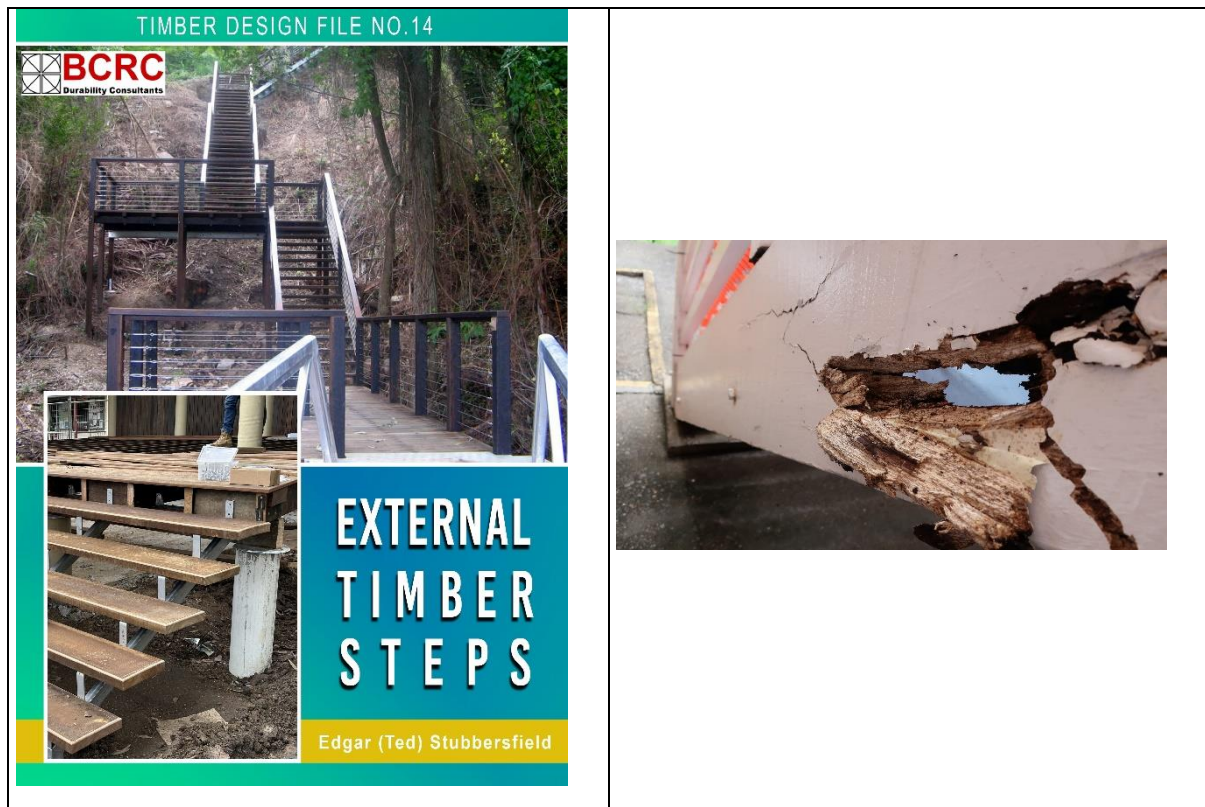
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[External Timber Steps](#)



I had planned to add a chapter to my book on [handrail](#) to cover steps but it is proving simpler just to write a new but shorter book. The image on the above right shows an in-ground durability class 3, KD F17 timber such as Victorian ash or Tasmanian oak used to make a set of external stairs. This is a classic case of confusing an F rating with durability. I really need a few more images. Can you help with images that show:

- Rusted steel stringer, especially at groundline
- Good and bad case histories
- Building a traditional set of steps, and
- Decay in pine steps
- Wedged underside of step tread
- Treads with end, say 150 mm, painted



By contrast, this set from Brisbane is 30 years old but made from tallowwood with the checkouts treated with the original formula Cuprinol i.e., 20% copper naphthenate caried in a spirit. Castrol had it right back then, [Oils ain't oils and wood ain't wood](#).

A Finance Broker that Helped Me

Not a paid advertisement

If you are not smarting with the latest round of interest rate rises you are blessed, but the odds are some of my readers are. Our broker came to my wife's and my rescue by arranging a better rate. I am happy to give Tim and Deborah Rombouts of [Blue Sky Home Loans and Equipment Finance](#) a grateful mention here. Their contact details are email: tim@blueskyhome.com.au and the mobile is 0427 466 414. They have helped my readers in the past.



Glad to help a Young Engineer



Recently I had to travel to the southern highlands of NSW for [BCRC](#) to grade timber in a heritage-listed building from 1899. It was a pleasant surprise to meet Olivia Britt, a structural engineer - heritage with TTW Engineers. Last year, Olivia contacted BCRC for help with her research study of in-situ timber inspection/assessment methodology for heritage structures. It was part of her degree of Master of Heritage Conservation at The University of Sydney. I was glad to help and would like

to think that I could take a small part of the credit for her high distinction. But really it is all down to her hard work. Congratulations Olivia and I look forward to working with you again.

The timber was mostly Douglas fir (we know it better as Oregon pine) and could be visually graded to F11 using *2858-2008 Timber - Softwood - Visually stress-graded for structural purposes*. In the image, Olivia and I are considering how an otherwise sound piece of timber could fracture when all surrounding pieces are in excellent condition.

Something for Lovers of Concrete



While I love timber, I know that some of my readers can be equally excited by steel and concrete. This was my first time working with part of the team as the project needed assessments of masonry, steel, concrete as well as timber. [BCRC](#) is one of the few practices that can do all four in-house. Pictured are [Saeed Ali](#) on

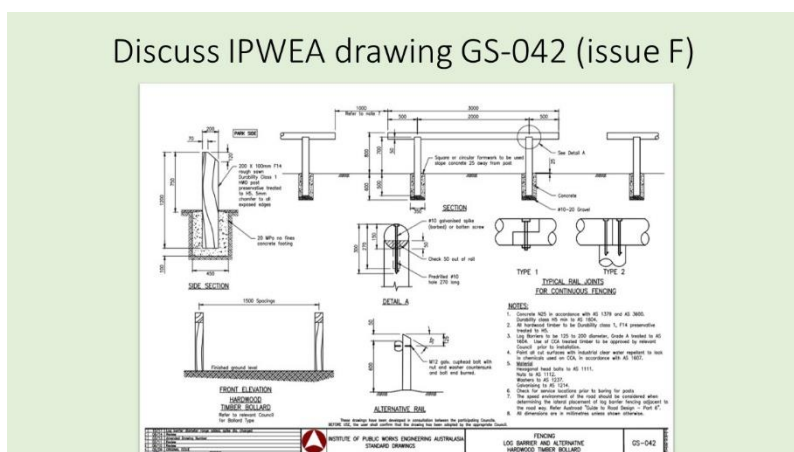
the left, next to him is [Michael Rutkai](#), who is my protege, and on the far right is [Sukanta Shill](#).

In this image, Saeed is working on the iPad logging the scan details into BCRC's SMART Inspect software while Sukanta is using a Proceq CPR Live scanner. Sukanta has had many articles on concrete published and he wanted to share part of his Ph.D. research with you. It is entitled [Resistance of fly ash-based geopolymers mortar to both chemicals and high thermal cycles simultaneously](#) and deals with how to use third-generation concrete in challenging situations where Portland cement has issues.



[New CPD Course - Timber Bollards](#)

Discuss IPWEA drawing GS-042 (issue F)



I am putting the finishing touches to a new CPD course, *Timber Bollards*. The course will look at bollards in general and then look at issues with the Institute of Public Works drawing which does not follow industry guidelines such as Wood Solutions' excellent publication on bollards. Ring Stuart Madill for a booking on

0403 385 707. Outside of Queensland contact BCRC.

[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	eClassroom link
Topic 6	Timber Joints	
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	

[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 timber and steel structures including bridges.

Contact Details
Mobile: 0414 770 261
Email: 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](#).

<u>Contact Me</u>	
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