

Ted's News

June 2023

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[Case History: Wintjiri Wiru Drone Show at Uluru Needed Deckwood](#)

Asset owner: Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia

Show concept, design, and implementation: [Ramus](#)

Builder: [Fredbuild Projects](#)

Consultants: GHD, Andrew Schubert, Pulse White Noise, Paul Hinkly, DreamMedia,
Davis Consultants, Douglas Partners, Pixall

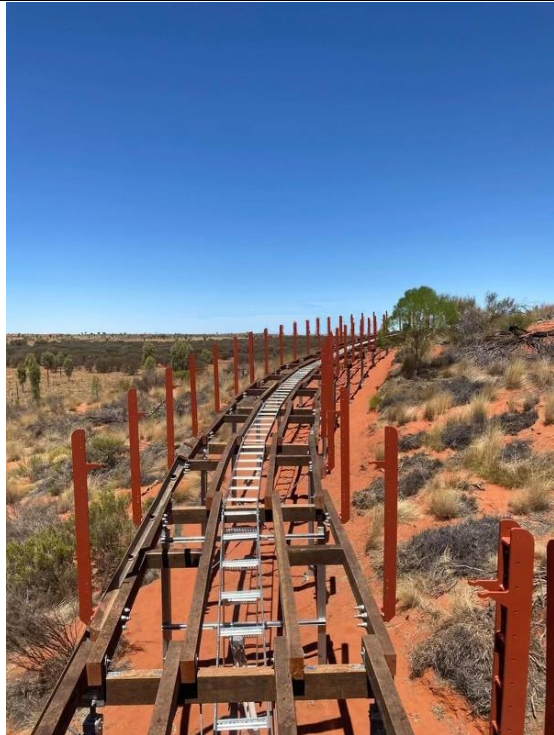
Timber Supply: [Outdoor Structures Australia](#)



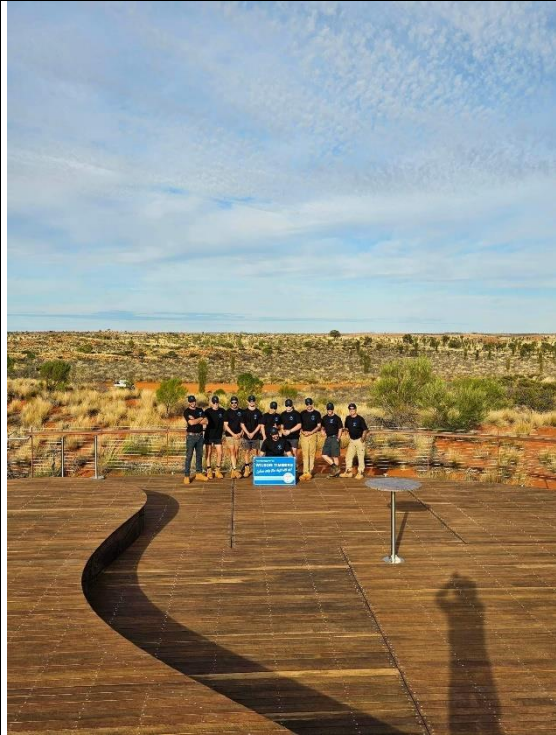
Photo by Getty Images for Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia. Acknowledgement - Anangu share the Mala story, from Kaltukatjara to Uluru, through a drone, sound and light show designed and produced by RAMUS.

Wintjiri Wiru is a \$10M fully-immersive light and sound experience with Uluru as its backdrop and, with over 1100 drones, it is the world's largest ongoing drone show. The complex imagery is supported by audio from a surround-sound system built into the platform where the audience

sits. [Deckwood](#) and [Joistwood](#) are a very important part of making this indigenous storytelling a success. Why is it so?



Boardwalk under construction (note lapped joists)



Observation deck (Note the designed joins)

First, ask, how do you have timber fail prematurely in a desert? You have to try really hard. The headrig at [Sons of Gwalia](#) mine in western Australia was 100 years old and built in Oregon yet about two-thirds of it was remaining when it was replaced. So how do you have timber fail quickly at Uluru? Yet it did. I did not inspect it so I can't comment on why. Plastic was then tried and you can just imagine what happened in that heat. When a large boardwalk and viewing deck as the venue for a drone show was being proposed, they turned to myself and Outdoor Structures Australia. The images above fail to show the scope of the project. Here is a very impressive video shot from a drone.

[Boardwalk under construction](#)

Here is a video showing the observation deck.

[Completed boardwalk](#)

I worked closely with Adam Warburton of Ramus. Given the previous disappointing performance of timber, they opted for the Deckwood and Joistwood to be supplied in ironbark. Spotted gum would have worked as well above ground but I can understand the caution. I also worked with Josh Flynn of Fredbuild Projects and Sean Davis of Davis Consultants. This was all part of the technical support at no cost when you specify Deckwood. [My Deckwood Selection Guide and Boardwalk Design Guide are free.](#)

“As custodians of the land, Anangu hold the Mala story from Kaltukatjara to Uluru. To share their story, RAMUS designed and produced an artistic platform using drones, light and sound to create an immersive storytelling experience.”

Never Specify "Sleepers"



Images from a recent grading of "sleepers"

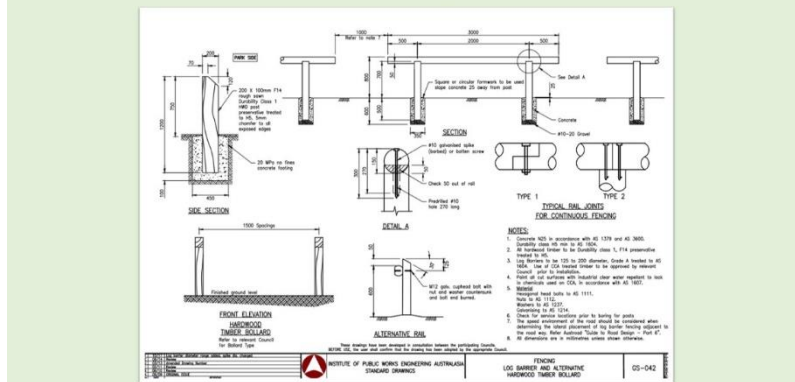
When I was a little boy, I said a word in my mother's earshot that I had no idea about its meaning. My dear mother washed my mouth out with soap. There is a term that, metaphorically at least, needs the soap treatment whenever a professional uses it. And that is using the word "sleeper". This is a product that has, on a good day, a specification of one reasonable face and one reasonable edge. A more accurate definition would be "If it does not break in two as we lift it, in the pack it goes". You need products with meaningful and appropriate specifications and my guides give that. You owe that to your client. The problem with sleepers is expanded upon in my guide, [The Seven Deadly Sins of External Timber Design](#)

The four images above were from three packs of sleepers I graded. My client needed timber urgently for a retaining wall that only had to last a couple of years. The only timber available off the shelf was landscaping sleepers. I graded them to F14, a very low-quality hardwood indeed. Still, one-third of these did not make any structural grade and that did not include large out-of-grade end splits that could be defect docked out.

Your only mention of sleepers should be "First-grade recycled railway sleepers".

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	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	

[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.

[Contact Me](#)



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Full-Day Courses

 <p>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:</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 timber and steel structures including bridges.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Contact Details Mobile: 0414 770 261 Email: edgarstubbersfield@gmail.com</p>	Footbridge Course	 <p>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:</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 timber and steel structures including decks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Contact Details Mobile: 0414 770 261 Email: edgarstubbersfield@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](#).

<u>Contact Me</u>	
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