

Timber With Ted

April 2024

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Repairing Broken Timber

Not too long ago I was contacted by Andrew Chau, Managing Director of [Miraplex Group](#) in Western Australia. Andrew wanted Miraplex to be the go-to people in the west for timber structure remediation and asked for help From [BCRC](#) to progress this I advised him that his first course of action should be to attend the Level 2 Timber Structures Course being run by Wood Research and Development. This was a combined online and practical Course. The skills that I can bring through BCRC are different and both are essential. Andrew took my advice and completed the course. He rang me suggesting we meet when he came up to Brisbane for the practical part.



Andrew Chau and I at QUT Research Engineering Facility at Banyo



Testing the capacity of a repaired beam

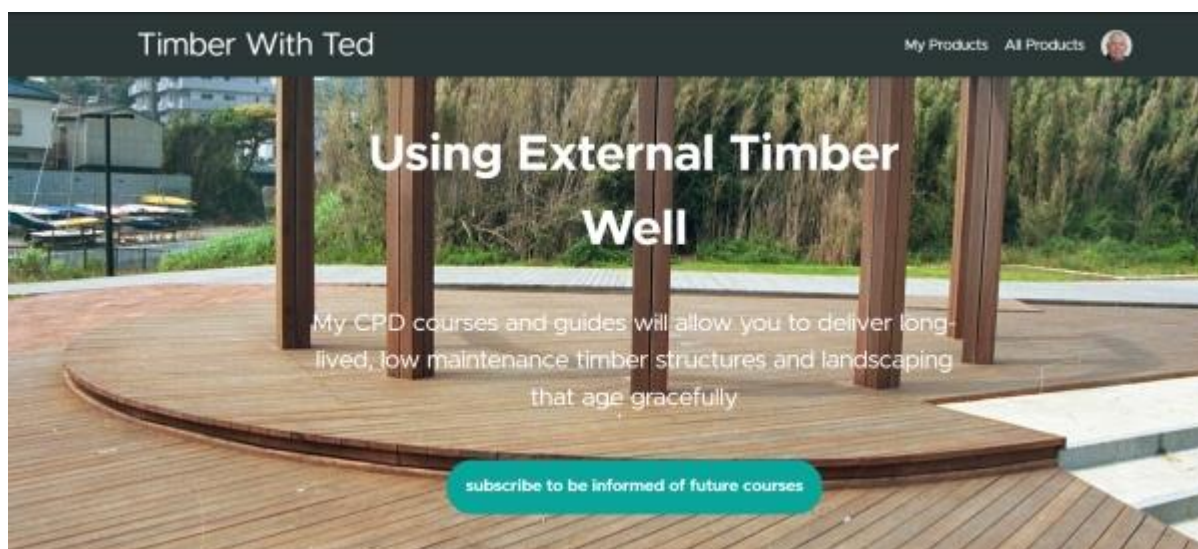


Plastic deformation in Andrew's repaired beam

I found Andrew testing a repair he had done to a laminated beam that he had broken the afternoon before. After Kevlar was glued to the underside of the now straightened beam in the evening, and cured overnight, it was again loaded to failure. The results were remarkable as shown by the plastic deformation of the top laminate. Remember, this beam had already been broken.

I look forward to hearing good things from Andrew about Miraplex and timber. You can contact Andrew on [1300 432 628](tel:1300432628) or [email him](#).

[Online CPD Courses](#)



I have recently made my continuing professional development courses available via the teachable platform with my new site www.timberwithted.com.au

The courses available are:

- Architectural Timber Battens
- Designing Commercial Decks for Durability
- External Timber 101
- Boardwalk design
- The Seven Deadly Sins of External Timber Design

A number of my technical guides are also available for purchase as digital downloads from the site.

Sometimes Timber is a Poor Choice



I looked at this image and wondered, "What were they thinking?" It shows a boardwalk built so close to the ground that there is no airflow to talk about. I have been involved in enough consultancies relating to decks close to the ground to know that if there is only minimal airflow, forget it. It is not that it can't be done. Timber Queensland has an excellent guide on [decks close to the ground](#) however too many planets have to be in alignment for it to be a success and we can't get ordinary decks right. If you want to use timber you will have to provide very detailed drawings, notes and specifications and have very close monitoring of construction by the lowest-priced tenderer.



As much as it pains me to say so, there are some situations where timber is a poor choice and you should be using an alternative such as the case above. Timber would be hopeless. The aluminium framing system is [ClickDeck](#) sold by Wilson Timbers. The decking must be a very good composite such as Trex composite decking as it can be installed as close to the ground as 38mm without suffering distortion. The latest Trex Transcend Lineage decking board offering also has a P5 slip rating and is cooler under foot than its competitors, Stuart Madill can help you with both of these at 0403 385 707. Some composites are truly dreadful.

[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](#)



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. Learn from my four decades of experience with these CPD training sessions,

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
Topic 6	Timber Joints
Topic 7	Architectural Timber Battens
Topic 8	Timber 101
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](#)

[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 steel structures including bridges.</p> <p>With over 40 years experience of supplying timber and timber and steel products, I have supplied some outstanding low maintenance footbridges. Conversely I have also witnessed many structures that simply should never have been purchased.</p> <p>This course is centred on a checklist that can be used as a specification and also a confirmation that common shortcuts that affect longevity have been addressed. Through hundreds of images the importance of each line of the check list is explained. Participants will recognise what good practice is and how important it is to ensure it is used.</p> <p>Contact Details Mobile: 0414 770 261 Email: edgarstlubersfield@gmail.com</p>	<h2>Footbridge Course</h2>	 <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 steel structures including decks.</p> <p>With over 40 years experience of supplying timber and timber and steel products, I have supplied some outstanding low maintenance decks and boardwalks. Conversely I have also witnessed many structures that simply should never have been purchased.</p> <p>This course is centred on a checklist that can be used as a specification and also a confirmation that common shortcuts that affect longevity have been addressed. Through hundreds of images the importance of each line of the check list is explained. Participants will recognise what good practice is and how important it is to ensure it is used.</p> <p>Contact Details Mobile: 0414 770 261 Email: edgarstlubersfield@gmail.com</p>	<h2>Coastal Deck Course</h2>
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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](#).

<h3>Contact Me</h3>	
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