

# Monaro Timber

# NEWS

46 - 48 Townsville St Fyshwick ACT  
Ph 02 62806467 Fax 02 62806487

The monthly newsletter from  
Monaro Timber Pty Ltd

Volume 2, Issue 10

## Making the cut!

October 2003

I can't remember how many times I've been told "the timber must be quarter sawn". The fact is, it often isn't the most important consideration that should be made when selecting a board. First off, what is quartersawn and what is the opposite? Many people who insist they have boards cut one way or another often have no idea what they are actually asking for. To start with, we are talking about the way in which a board is cut from the tree. The best way to pick this is to look at the end of the board. We are looking for growth rings here. If they are vertical, that is they look like a series of lines running from one face to the other, then you have a quarter sawn board. The growth rings can be sloping up to fifteen degrees and the board will still be considered to be cut on the quarter. The opposite is when the growth rings are curved, looking a bit like a crescent moon. These boards are said to be crown or back sawn. On the face, crown sawn boards will display a swirling type figure whereas quartersawn boards will look very straight or stripy. If a timber has a prominent medullary ray, such as Silky Oak, then the quartersawn board will display this most effectively. Why choose one over the other? Quartersawn boards are less inclined to cup and are therefore useful when minimal movement is desirable. Drawer sides are a good example. For jobs such as table tops, I would look for boards that offer the most pleasing effect rather than stress about their cut. The actual timber species chosen often has as much to do with performance as the cut of the board. Other factors effecting performance include the even

application of coatings to both sides, the even removal of material when dressing and the environment in which the finished item will reside. Treat quartersawn boards poorly and they will give you as much grief as the rest of the pack.

Next time you are looking for a piece of timber for a job think about all of these factors and don't just rely on the cut to solve any problems. More thought at the selection end of the process can result in a more rewarding job. If you require any assistance here please ask our staff.

### Decking Season.

We are currently stocking up on decking boards. Species include Ironbark, Spotted Gum, Cypress Pine and Stringybark. The most common sizes are 64 x 19 and 88 x 19. We can source other sizes to order. What are you using for your bearers and joists? You should think about using F27. It is kiln dried and able to span much further than treated pine, the other commonly used material. A naturally durable hardwood is arguably more durable than a treated pine too. Don't forget to finish off with the Organoil Decking Oil. If you would like some help with these products please feel free to call and discuss your needs.

### Flooring.

We have had another busy month with stock movements. Flooring has been particularly active with the popular species including Spotted Gum, Blackbutt, Ash and Jarrah. We have

sold other timbers too but not in the same quantities as these. I would like to say that should you be requiring timber flooring in the next few months then it would be a good idea to order soon. We are coming up to Christmas and the mills are always under pressure at this time of year. We do our best to avoid problems but delays do happen. We would suggest you order early and take advantage of our free storage service.

### New Stock.

Furniture timbers have been moving well but our stocks are looking good with plenty of new arrivals. We have 25mm Southern Myrtle, 200 x 50 Karri, 300 x 38 Kauri Pine, 50mm Walnut, good stocks of Akwa, Silky Oak, Coachwood, Silver Ash, Qld Maple and 100mm Surian. We are also running a special on shorts in Blackwood and Tas Myrtle. The long Myrtle is excellent as is the Blackbutt.

We have also just taken delivery of some new Klieberit Poly glue. This one gives you around one hour work time. This would be especially useful with the warmer weather approaching. Don't forget we also have the D3 PVA available for those of you looking for a high strength general purpose wood glue. We use all our glues in our own workshop and would not be selling them if they were not performing. For a data sheet on any of these products please ask our staff.

That's about all for another month.

Regards

*Shaun.*