

Monaro Timber

NEWS

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The monthly newsletter from
Monaro Timber Pty Ltd

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Timber does move!

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Recently we were reminded of this fact. Well in our business we are regularly reminded of this and in fact regularly remind or advise our customers. However, the reason for this discussion is a particular benchtop we made which really broke the rules. We were asked to make a vanity top around 450mm wide. No problem. The customer also requested that a towel rail made from timber be fitted to the underside at one end. This is where the problem begins. The top was to free float off the wall, held up by a couple of steel bars extending from the wall. This allowed for a drop down edge along the front which was then to continue across the end to form a towel rail. Problem is that having a rail across the end meant the grain direction of the rail was at 90 degrees to that of the top. As the end rail was mitred to the front rail the whole thing was fixed rigidly. This was the clients wish. What we should have done was decline to build the top as requested and come up with another solution. Instead, we discussed for awhile then decided to proceed. We did so because we felt that as the width was narrow at 450mm and the top was going into a bathroom, which shouldn't get too dry, the risk of excessive shrinkage was minimal.

Bad call.

What we didn't know was the house has under slab heating and is kept at a constant 21 degrees. Further, the bathroom is also heated and apart from a few minutes a day is open to the rest of the house and is

also very hot. Not only hot but dry. The top has shrunk around 2mm and this was enough, with the rail fixing the end, to cause a split in the top. The other end, without rail, is going fine. Well we have had to tidy up a top which failed to perform properly because we broke some rules. While we justified our decision to build it at the time we were not fully aware of the site conditions and got caught out. The moral is don't break the rules, but if you do push the boundaries, be prepared for a problem. If you want a top with towel rail we now have a fantastic option for you which **won't** self destruct!

Wood Show.

The annual wood show is on again this weekend. If you get along you will find all sorts of tools, machines, demos and woody things. You will also find a number of people selling timber. Be aware that some of the timber, in particular slabs, may be high in moisture content. I say this because in previous years people have bought slabs at the show then asked us to machine them. No problem, but we have checked moisture contents and found some to be very high. The "merchants" who sold the slabs in many cases guaranteed the slabs were dry. It seems these claims were made based on the fact the trees had been dead a long time. We have seen timber cut from trees that have been dead 20 years or more and found the moisture content to be above 40%. Timber is not considered dry until it reaches 14%. Unfortunately some

traders are either ignorant or deceitful. Either way, it is a case of buyer beware. Your bargain may not be that great. To be sure, ask for a moisture content reading.

New Stock.

Baltic is back. It's been awhile since we had Baltic Pine but currently in stock is some 150 x 25. Other new stocks include 150 x 25 and 300 x 50 Brush Box. Jarrah stocks are in good shape as are our Tas Oak stocks. We have been selling lots of Tas Oak flooring at our keen rates but rest assured, there is plenty to go around. Other flooring to look out for is Rose Gum. This has been very popular over the past month in both 12 and 19mm thicknesses. The standard grades have been harder to get but we have managed it. Just have to know where to look!! Due in shortly is 50mm Tas Myrtle. We also have more Jarrah on order and numerous species of flooring. Our Silvertop Ash mill is running flooring next week and the Yellow Stringy mill has plenty of stock too.

Staff Changes.

Our regulars would have dealt with Stephen over the past couple of years. He has moved on to become a furniture maker and we wish him well. Josh is spending some more time in the office these days and is keen to meet you.

Til next month.

Shaun.

Feel free to copy this newsletter as many times as you like!!