

# Monaro Timber

# NEWS

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

The monthly newsletter from  
Monaro Timber Pty Ltd

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## Hot weather and timber.

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With the recent hot and dry weather timber has been stressing out all around us. We have noticed laminated tops in our workshop moving about more than normal but there are some steps you can take to limit the effects of the dry weather.

Seal up the end grain as quick as you can. Timber dries from the ends first so sealing up the ends can slow down the drying rate, thus minimising the stress placed on the boards. If we have cut boards to size but they are not ready to be polished we usually put cello tape on the ends to seal them. This can be easily removed later. If our tops are sized and if we are oiling we get on with it straight away.

Try and avoid leaving timber lying around the workshop with one face covered and the other breathing. This can cause an imbalance in the rate of moisture uptake or expulsion, resulting in cupping. If you do get cupping, turn the boards over and let them breathe from the other side for awhile. This usually results in the boards levelling out.

Don't forget, dry timber still moves. I covered that last month too. We can't stop it moving, we have to allow for it and manage it. Good luck.

### Bad Debts.

I don't know why it is but quite a few of our account customers have really started to drag the chain when it comes to paying their bills. We

have been very flexible to date but our cash flow has suffered as more take liberties. The result is we have started to insist on being paid on time and in some cases accounts have been closed. This is the most difficult part of our business, managing slow accounts, and puts us in an awkward position from time to time. Bottom line is we need to be paid on time so if you are having troubles please contact us before we start to chase you. It will be easier all round that way.

### Danta

This is an African species that landed in Australia a few years ago as a Brush Box substitute. It is not as dense as the box, glues more easily and has less cracking. It is generally more red in colour and has some fantastic swirls and ripples in the grain. This can make it a little difficult to machine and as such we usually finish through the sander when we are dressing it. Danta polishes extremely well whether you are using lacquer or oil. This timber is mid range in price making it excellent value for most projects.

### Yew

Remember seeing Robin Hood swinging through Sherwood Forest with a long bow strapped to his back? As no one is that old you may remember seeing Errol Flynn in the old movie. The bow was made from English Yew. A bough from the tree was split and the sap was placed at the front of the bow with the heartwood towards the

bowyer. This gave the bow much of its strength. As we can now hunt at Woolies, Yew tends to find its way into furniture these days. In fact it isn't very common but we do have a number of slabs that first came to Australia around fifteen years ago and until recently were in storage. This timber has some fantastic patterns, is quite hard, with a rich orange heartwood and lovely creamy sapwood. It makes wonderful table tops and polishes very well. When current stocks are sold we don't expect to see it again so if you are looking for something special check it out.

### New Stock.

We have had new 38mm Danta, Tassie Blackwood in several sizes, new stocks of Vic Ash and Tassie Oak. We are expecting more Tassie Oak and our flooring specials are continuing with this timber for awhile longer. Rose Gum flooring is also being offered at special prices currently due to an over supply at the mill. We have new Southern Myrtle in stock at 75mm thick and a pack of 75mm Rosewood that will find its way to the rack shortly.

Looking at building a deck? We have Iron Bark, Spotted Gum, Yellow Stringy and Cypress available. We can offer F27, Cypress or green hardwood for bearers and joists. We also have the oil to finish it off.

That's it for another month.

Cheers

Shaun

*Monaro Timber. We do almost anything in timber!*