



Monaro Timber News

The monthly newsletter from Monaro Timber Pty Ltd

January 2007

Great start to the New Year.

As I write this newsletter we are still on our Christmas break. We return for 2007 on Monday 8th of January. On New Years Eve we had a bit of excitement at home. Some of you may know that I live out of town on a rural block. We've been here for fifteen years now and think we will stay a few more yet. Just after we moved in, all those years ago, on NYE, our power pole near the house was struck by lightening and blew up the transformer. Four hours later we had a new one installed. Great service. This year, on NYE, it happened again!! We were in the middle of an almighty thunder storm when BANG, the lightning struck and the power was gone again. Country Energy were out a few ours later, confirmed the transformer was dead but couldn't replace it until the next morning. We saw in NYE under candle light and when the new transformer arrived it was two and half times bigger than the old one at no extra cost. Santa made an extra visit to our house!! I know many parts of Canberra and the surrounding area were damaged by the storms. I hope none of you were affected too severely. It was great to see the rain, my dam is nearly full and so are the water tanks but the drive way has been washed away and the garden is looking a bit sad. All this on top of a Christmas frost that murdered half the veggie garden. With any luck the weather will settle down this year.

Which blade to use?

A few weeks ago we were doing a job in the workshop and needed to cross cut some solid timber on the panel saw. It was a small job so we didn't bother changing the

blade from the triple chip that was in the saw. The resulting cut was better than the finish we usually get from our cross cut blades. Many people struggle with proper blade selection or simply don't even think about it. This can be dangerous. Here are a few simple things to remember.

Crosscut blades have lots of teeth, around 70 or so for a 300mm blade. They are designed to slice off the ends of wood fibres and generally produce a fine finish. This can vary though depending on the tooth shape, number and size. Radial arm saws should have a crosscut blade with negative rake to minimise the pulling forward effect when cutting.

Rip blades have far fewer teeth with deep gullets between them to cool the blade and clear waste. They also tend to have a square top to the teeth instead of the angled shape on the crosscut. They will produce a rough finish when crosscutting though can give a smoother finish on most timbers when ripping.

Triple chip blades are designed for cutting man made board, especially melamine and veneer board. They are also used in conjunction with a scribe blade. Usually every second tooth has the top corners bevelled off. Blades can have around eighty teeth, but this will vary depending on the exact type and manufacturer.

If you use crosscut blades for ripping you can create excessive heat and potential kick back. Rip blades don't generally produce a really fine finish. Never use a saw without a riving knife. These words are intended purely to get you thinking. Talk to Fitch Sharpening in Whyalla St for detailed info.

New Stock.

We tried to keep a lid on purchases during December because we have two short months on the trot. We also find our cash flow is restricted at this time of year due to some our customers believing Christmas is a reasonable excuse not to pay their bills!! Having said that, we saw new stocks of Jarrah, Blue Gum, Myrtle, Tas Oak, Blackwood, Danta and Spotted Gum. For this month we expect to see a good load of Tas Oak to replenish some sizes, more Jarrah, Spotted Gum Decking and Belian Decking in 70 x 19. I hope to also see some 50mm Oregon kiln dried clears which is a product we haven't had for awhile. If you are looking for something in particular let us know and if it's not a stock item we will try and chase it up.

That's all for another month.

Regards *Shaun*

Questions or comments? E-mail us at shaun@monarotimber.com.au or call 02 62806467
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8.00—12 noon Saturdays
