



# Monaro Timber News

The monthly newsletter from Monaro Timber Pty Ltd

August 2007

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## Let us solve some sanding problems for you.

I mentioned a few months back that we had up graded our wide belt sander. So what can it do for you? The old one was a mere 900mm wide. The new one is a monstrous 1300mm wide. This means we can sand tops and panels up to 1300mm in width in one go. No more making two pieces, sanding then re-joining them. The new sander is a twin belt model so we can calibrate thickness with a course belt on the first head and finish off with a finer belt on the second. Jobs run faster with this set up. This machine also has the capability to sand veneered board. So far the veneer jobs we have put through have been very good. Previously we would sand veneer panels on the stroke sander. This was very time consuming, hard on the arms for the operator and the risk of a sand through was higher. Our new sander is much more effective on veneer.

We make a lot of laminated panels which we sand. However, we also do a lot of sanding for people who have glued up their own panels. If you have timber you need sanded feel free to call in and discuss. We can also sand individual boards. This can be particularly useful when you have timbers with cranky grain such as Blackwood. The sander copes very well with cranky or variable grain direction. We often sand our machining jobs after planing to give our customers a better result. We did a large volume of edges for one joinery some time back and the sanding of the timber saved them about a weeks work. It was very cost effective and more accurate than hand sanding. No one really enjoys sanding ( do they? ) so anything that makes it faster and easier has got to be good.

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## New Stock.

This month we have seen all sorts of new material arrive. On the exotic front we took delivery of fresh American Walnut in 25, 38 and 50mm thick boards. Some was for an order and the rest for stock. We have also just taken delivery of Walnut flooring for a special job in Acton. This is the first time we have run this species for flooring. Other imported species to arrive include 25mm Anegre, Danta and Rock Maple. On the home grown front we have seen new Jarrah, Blackwood, Blue Gum and Tas Oak. Silver Top Ash flooring is currently available in quantity at a very good rate and our 140 x 25 Spotted Gum decking looks fantastic.

That's all for another month.

Regards *Shaun*

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [shaun@monarotimber.com.au](mailto:shaun@monarotimber.com.au) or call 02 62806467  
Drop in at 46-52 Townsville St Fyshwick. Open 8.00—4.30 weekdays.  
8.00—12 noon Saturdays

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### Step treads.

Recently we have done a number of jobs involving the manufacture of step treads. A common feature in two story dwellings these days are stairs with steel stringers or a central spine and timber treads. If you have stairs with steel stringers and an open rise ( open between each tread ) a thick tread of say 42mm or more is usually required. We have built treads up to 70mm thick, both rectangular and curved in shape. If you have a central steel spine and treads sitting on a metal plate, it is important the plate be almost the full width of the tread. This is because the tread needs support across the grain to prevent shearing either on a join or fracture in the grain. The plates need not be the full length of the treads because timber is very strong along the grain. If you need to discuss some options for treads, landings and other stair components, please call us.

### Acclimatising timber.

Last month I wrote about timber acclimatisation and how it is important to check your material before deciding a course of action. We recently supplied to Suthern Timber Floors a pack of special order Rock Maple flooring. It came in at 8% which is nice and low and for a Canberra job pretty well spot on. However, the job is actually at Bawley Point, right on the beach. It is a repair job and the existing flooring is sitting at 14%. In this case, instead of waiting for the timber to come down in moisture content, which is usually the case, we need it to rise. I can't stress enough the importance of checking your flooring upon delivery. Happy floor laying!