



# Monaro Timber News

The monthly newsletter for people who love timber

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## AST Roadshow

Just recently I had a visit from Australian Solar Timbers in Kempsey. AST are the largest solar only driers of timber in the world with a capacity of 750m<sup>3</sup> in their kilns at any one time. AST produce a range of Aussie hardwood flooring in 19 and 12mm strip as well as block parquetry. They have been travelling around doing a little bit of PR and spent two days with us visiting a number of builders and designers. We had a great time because it's so easy talking about products that are seriously good and produced in such an environmentally sensitive way. The benefits of the AST products was understood by those we spoke with as well. The feedback was very positive, in fact it's fair to say quite enthusiastic. Apart from the drying capacity, there are a number of other interesting facts about AST. They used to burn 100 tonne of wood waste per week a few years ago and now they burn none. All of their waste goes on to other businesses to be used for various things. The Nestle' factory in their area uses the saw dust to power their boilers which make Milo and other yummy stuff. AST are investing millions into electricity production and in a few years they expect to provide power for two thirds of the Macleay Valley. This will be genuine "green" energy and will further consolidate AST's position as one of Australia's most environmentally advanced companies. I haven't mentioned their resource. They use salvage logs which have historically been relegated to the wood chipper. Modern milling and drying techniques mean that these logs can now produce higher value flooring products which is a much better use of the resource. All AST timber comes certified under the Australian Forestry Standard Certification. This standard ensures the resource comes from sustainably managed forests. To achieve it requires a lot of work and mills are regularly audited to ensure they maintain compliance. During our two day tour around town we spoke to a couple of floor layers to gather feedback from the guys that have to produce a finished floor. In particular we wanted to know how the guys handled the 12mm Timberlay flooring. This product has a number of key benefits. At 12mm thick it raises floor heights less than traditional flooring yet it still has the same amount of material above the tongue. This means it has the same life expectancy as a 19mm floor. You can also direct stick to concrete thus reducing floor heights further. Fantastic for matching with tiles and other floor coverings. Timberlay

comes bundled in 17Lm packs and with a maximum length of 2.3m carrying it into the building is a piece of cake. Handling time is reduced dramatically. Further time savings can be made because Timberlay is now being dried to below 10% moisture content. For the Canberra area this is pretty much in the zone so Timberlay can in many cases be installed straight away, with little or no acclimatizing. Products such as Timberlay almost sell themselves. The people we showed it to recently understood the benefits very quickly. If you would like more info please drop into our office for an information pack.

## Newsletter changes.

This month we have tweaked the newsletter a little. Special thanks to Nigel, one our customers, for his suggestions.

## New stock

We have pretty good stocks of Tas Oak available at the moment with more due in shortly.

Jarrah stocks were topped up a week or two ago with the addition of fresh 100 x 50, 200 x 50 and 150 x 25.

Due to the ongoing work at the Canberra School of Music we have bought in more Euro Beech. Not all of it went to the project so we have some excellent stock on hand now in 25, 38 and 50mm thicknesses.

We have two packs of Tallowwood flooring at a reduced rate. One at 41.6m<sup>2</sup> and the other at 42m<sup>2</sup>. Buy one at \$81.64/m<sup>2</sup> or the pair at \$79.00/m<sup>2</sup>. This is a classic species not seen so much these days. Come and have a look and treat yourself to something special at a reduced rate.

Other new stocks recently include 50mm Qld Silver Ash, 25mm Baltic Pine, 25 and 38 Rock Maple, 38mm Sapele Mahogany and 25mm Tas Myrtle.

Need something? Call us. Cheers Shaun.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [shaun@monarotimber.com.au](mailto:shaun@monarotimber.com.au) or call 02 6280 6467

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