



Monaro Timber News

The monthly newsletter from Monaro Timber Pty Ltd

January 2006

We are back!

We weren't really gone for long but Monaro Timber is now back in business for the 2006 calendar year. Speaking personally Lianne and I had a very nice break spending a few days in the Eden area. Special thanks to Simon from Blue Ridge Hardwoods in Eden for putting us onto a fantastic camp site. When you are heading off camping a bit of local knowledge can really help. Blue Ridge supply to us all of our Yellow Stringybark, Silvertop Ash and Blue Leaf flooring. They also help us out with green sawn hardwood and other bits and pieces.

We spent some time in the local forests as well as on the beach. It's a great part of the world, produces some really good timber and fantastic fish. What more could you want? !!

Timber tip.

Have you had problems with timber cracking on the ends? With the extremely dry weather we are seeing a lot more of this. I look at the pores in hardwoods as if they are a bunch of straws running the length of the boards. You will find timber dries from the ends first as if the water has poured out the straws. As a result, the ends of the boards shrink before the middle sections. This can produce great stresses in a board or worse, in a table top. To counter this, the ends should be sealed. On works in progress this can be done by waxing or painting the ends or sealing with cello tape.

New Stock.

As January is generally much quieter than the other months we always try and limit overstocking in December. It's a problem we face every year and like most other years we still seem to end up buying in lots more than we want. As a result, stock levels are pretty good at present. Jarrah, Blackwood, Myrtle, Rock Maple, Tas Oak and Brush Box are all in fairly good supply. We have several packs from our store heading to the racks too. These include some excellent Red Stringybark in 25mm and 38mm. Some of the 38mm have natural edges and will make wonderful table tops. In December we put up some new racks and now have a good selection of F27 and F17 structural material, in racks, easily accessible. Timber species include Silvertop Ash, Yellow Stringybark, Victorian Ash and Blackbutt. Much of this timber has good appearance so can be used for much more than bearers, joists and rafters. You can use it for a range of outdoor furniture projects, hand rails and steps. Some will be suitable for fine furniture.

We also stock now a range of veneered board and plywood. Most veneered board is kept on 17mm MDF but other thicknesses and substrates are available. We can cut to size and edge if you are not equipped to do this. We can supply anything from a single sheet to full packs. This year we have plans to introduce many more products suitable for everyone from builders and cabinetmakers to hobby woodworkers. Stay tuned.

That's all for another month.

Regards *Shaun*

Volume 5, Issue 1

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This is not a permanent solution and the timber should be finished as soon as possible after machining. Whether you are using oils or lacquers it is important to coat the timber all round paying special attention to the ends. If you do this you will minimise the risk of end splitting and excessive timber movement. Unfortunately, as timber is a natural product, we cannot completely control it. We can only control the environment in which we place it and direct its movement when the timber decides to move. The few pointers I have just given should help.

Apprenticeship available

Currently we are looking for an enthusiastic person to join the team as a first year cabinetmaking apprentice. The successful person will need the ability to learn on the job, problem solve, possess good basic maths and a desire to work with wood. If this sounds like you then email a resume to the following address .

New email:

shaun@monarotimber.com.au