



# CONTACT

The Timber Preservers' Association of Australia  
Conserve the forest – Protect the wood

August 2018 Issue

## Jack's rant



I am a Windows and Android user and whilst I acknowledge that Bill Gates and Paul Allen gave us mere mortals an entry into the wonderful world of computers, I sometimes . . . actually reasonably regularly, get exasperated with Microsoft. By the way this rant has nothing to

do with wood protection but I am reasonably confident that fellow Microsoft users will relate to the story I am about to relate.

My rant is . . . . *If it is not broken don't fix it!* Microsoft Office is an awesome suite of software and gives many of us superpowers when it comes to pushing words and numbers around a page. Sometimes we even manage to manipulate drawings and images.

Microsoft Office started life on November 19, 1990 as Office 1.0. Depending on how your interpretation, Office then morphed through 16 versions adding a heap of bells and whistles along the way. How many of you use the full power of everything that has been added on?

I like to think of myself as a reasonably early adopter of the flag carriers of the Microsoft Office collection. Many years ago I was perfectly happy with the (early) versions of MS Word, MS Excel, Powerpoint and Access. They worked just fine and gave me exactly what I wanted. Yet about every three years, a new version of Office has been released and I have had to relearn how to do stuff. The most exasperating thing is that even though you are not doing anything new, you have to learn a new way of doing the same thing!

I understand that even Microsoft needs to make a quid (now that shows my age) and do this by 'upgrading' something that works but I wish that

the boffins in Microsoft would leave things that work alone.

## Pics please

For some time now I have been thinking of putting a picture gallery on the TPAA web site. Over the years I have managed to collect quite a few images of wood in service or timber treatment plants but these are mostly images of failure in service, treatment failures, termite attack etc.

I have looked at Google images but these tend to be quite small and many of the 'good' ones are watermarked.

So if you have any images you are prepared to share, please send me a copy or a link and I will try to get them up on the web. The intent is that any images on the TPAA site will be free to all.

Hope you can help.

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## The new Australian National Centre for Timber Durability and Design Life

The following is an update on developments:

Firstly, it appears the authorities have found enough in Jeff's background to justify transportation to the Colonies. Jeff and his wife Patricia have just been granted Temporary Skill Shortage visas so they are on their way.

Now I know we are all jaded by mission and vision statements and lists of objectives, but they are useful to signal what an organization is about. The Centre's Vision is to be the primary authority in Australia and a global leader in research related to timber durability and design life. The following Objectives have been set to indicate how the Vision is to be achieved. The comments in italics are mine and are included to provide a wee bit more information.

**Objective 1.** Develop process-based predictive models for wood decay

**Objective 2.** Renewal of existing service life prediction model for the Australian built environment including assessment of climate forecast models on declared hazard zones.

*Objectives 1 & 2 are closely linked. When ever will build something, whether it is a multilevel apartment block or a retaining wall, one of the first considerations is "how long is the structure to last?" In Australia, a lot of effort has been put into developing these predictive models but the initiative has languished and these two objectives are intended to revitalise this area of work.*

**Objective 3** Leadership of moving timber preservation standards to a performance based framework based upon publicly available field data and contemporary scientific knowledge.

*Objective 3, as indicated in its wording, will be about contributing publicly available field and other scientifically sourced data for use in the Standards' process. One of the initiatives under this Objective will be to host workshops for wood treaters to identify actions and develop a pathway to address treated quality issues.*

**Objective 4.** Renewal and resourcing of the Australasian Wood Preservation Committee

*The Australasian Wood Preservation Committee or AWPC was established many years ago and is a group of non-commercial researchers who come together to compare, develop protocols and consider all matters wood protection – including those matters that may not have direct commercial application. Key players were CSIRO, State based wood protection researchers and SCION in New Zealand. With the demise of government funded research into wood protection, this group have struggled on but their activities have been severely restricted. The Centre is to become a member of the AWPC and provide administrative and other support to continue the Committee's activities.*

**Objective 5.** Development and management of an inclusive national/international database of field trial data used to refine and update service life predictions and limits, and establish new independent field trials to enhance those available from non-independent sources.

*This Objective is closely tied to the modelling efforts in Objectives 1 & 2 as well as Objective 7. There is already an effort within the*

*International Research Group on Wood Protection to develop an accessible database on durability tests. The Centre will initially work within the existing database framework to minimize duplication of effort and will work with those who manage Australian field test sites to encourage their participation. The Centre will also establish field trials as needed to fill in previously identified data gaps.*

**Objective 6.** Evaluate durability and durability enhancement of Australian commercial species (both those grown in country as well as those imported), new timber building products and proposed applications in the Australian environment.

*While there is a lot of data on the durability of various Australian wood species and these data have been used, in part, to predict expected service life under Objectives 1 and 2, a variety of new materials have become available in Australia. These include dimensionally stabilized wood, thermally modified wood, wood/plastic composites, and wood treated with new preservative systems. In addition, a variety of composite materials are being used in Australia. Also, while testing a wood-based material is important, it will be increasingly important to evaluate the performance of building elements.*

**Objective 7.** Provide management and coordinate services for field exposure sites within Australia.

*Australia is fortunate to have a lot of field test sites that provide a wide range of hazards. Although many sites are in Queensland, there are several sites in New South Wales and Victoria. Some of these sites are privately operated while others are hosted by either legacy CSIRO agreements or through the Qld. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. This Objective suggests that the Centre will take over all of the Australian sites, but that would be both over-reaching and not a good use of Centre resources. However, the Centre will play a role as a neutral party in a number of ways such as seeking common data (formats) from all sites and providing standard material for comparative use.*

**Objective 8.** Develop and deliver undergraduate courses in wood durability and protection.

*This objective is looking to the future to ensure Australia has appropriately trained and qualified researchers to underpin the durability industry.*

**Objective 9.** Implement a program of short-term scientific visits.

*A part of revitalizing the research enterprise will involve bringing internationally recognized scientists for short term visits to Centre. This will increase Australia 's profile internationally and establish important linkages across the world. As well as these short-term visits, the Centre will also encourage connections with researchers who are active in Australia through adjunct appointments and visiting fellowships.*

**Objective 10.** Host the International Research Group on Wood Protection meeting

*The IRG/WP is the premier global organization dealing with wood durability. This objective is also directed towards maintaining our international linkages and Jeff has applied to host the 2023 meeting in Australia. This was the earliest available meeting.*

**Objective 11.** Host a Session at the World Conference on Timber Engineering (WCTE) in Chile in 2020.

*The WCTE is the premier (another one) global conference related to timber engineering. As a major focus of the Centre is to improve engagement with the engineering and architectural community the WCTE offers an excellent opportunity for the Centre to raise its global profile.*

**Objective 12.** Communicate best practice approaches to building design, specification, and maintenance via wood solutions design guides targeting consumer and building professionals

*This objective is an add-on to the funded aspects of the Centre and will involve cooperation with Wood Solutions and other groups requiring expertise in wood durability. The Centre will not replace existing expertise, but hopes to use its core of graduate students, visiting scientists and staff to enhance these activities and raise the overall visibility of the field in Australia.*

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**Disposal of treated timber waste (in Queensland)**

The Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES) is responsible for waste disposal in the State.

Along with Mick Stephens, the CEO of Timber Queensland, I have been talking to DES to establish suitable processes for the disposal of timber wastes, some of which may contain wood preservative chemicals.

The most recent activity in this area, involves the establishment of a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) with the purpose of developing an End of Waste protocol for timber and timber products. The TAP comes under the authority, (if that is the right word) of the Compliance group within DES.

There is also a Policy group in DES and I have been educating these guys about treated timber. It is my understanding that the Policy group will submit policy (funny that) to their bosses which if accepted, will be enshrined in legislation for implementation by the Compliance Group.

So policy development is happening the same time as the End of Waste process.

At this stage, AND IT MAY CHANGE, the policy people do not consider treated timber to be a regulated waste. This means that timber containing wood preservative chemicals may be disposed as normal industrial waste. Shavings and sawdust from processing treated timber however, may be deemed to be regulated waste and this will mean special handling will be involved.

DES is trying to push recycling and reprocessing or all waste material and the End of Waste protocol is intended to set rules around wood, sawdust and shaving discards (I won't call them wastes because the intent is to reuse/recycle them) that contain wood preservative.

From where I am sitting, the most affected will be CCA treated poles and truss and frame offcuts.

I have been given the task of drafting an End of Waste protocol for treated wood and will be working with the TAP which includes Mick Stephens of TQ and Prof Bill Clarke from UQ. I will keep you informed

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## Movers and shakers

### Ron Eddy, Managing Director, Timtechchem International, New Zealand



**City of Residence:** Auckland, New Zealand

**Inhabitants at my residence:** My wife Lyn, to whom I've been happily married for over 45 years and Sophie, our 9 year old little dog. A mixture of Sydney Silky, Maltese Poodle and Shi tzu.

**Start date and current position with TimTechChem International**

**Limited:** I am the New Zealand Managing Director. TimTechChem was formed in August 2013 when Chemcolour Industries (NZ) Ltd and Mike Henry Trustees acquired the staff, business and assets of TimTech

Chemicals Ltd, a company I founded in 2001.

**What I like best about working for TimTechChem:** I enjoy the interaction with my excellent team, some of whom I've had the pleasure of working with for over 25 years. We have a lot of fun together. I also enjoy liaising with our loyal clients, who are more like good friends than customers.

**Best job:** When I was the General Manager at Hickson's Timber Protection, South Africa. We were a young management team who worked hard but played hard too!

**Worst job:** Being a lab technician manufacturing the "pill" at a pharmaceutical company. I resigned after two days.

**Favourite place to live:** Auckland, New Zealand

**Motto or Personal Mantra:** Keep your feet on the ground and reach for the stars

**I'm happiest when:** I'm with Lyn, our two girls and four grandkids on holiday in Fiji.

**What I fear most:** Retirement! I enjoy working.

**I'm proudest of:** Having had the guts to emigrate from South Africa in 1986 with Lyn and my two girls who were only 4 and 6 years old at the time. We arrived in NZ with no money, no friends and no family.

**Favourite sports or pastimes:** I've enjoy making music. (I played guitar in bands for about 17 years). I'm an avid reader and enjoy TV/Movies, especially the History channel.

**The Top 3 Highlights of my Life:**

1. Discovering at university that I wasn't as stupid as my school teachers told me I was;
2. Marrying Lyn in 1973 and having two lovely daughters;
3. Forming TimTech Chemicals Limited in 2001

**People would be surprised to know:** That in 1996 while doing a Master of Management degree I was selected by the University of Auckland's Business School to present a paper on "My Recipe for Success" at the World International Strategy Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. Here I met some of the world's leading strategy gurus.

**If I could do it all over again, I would:** Have formed TimTech Chemicals when I was at least 10 years younger.

**Favourite Memory:** A lovely holiday Lyn and I had in the Seychelles in the early 80's

**Pet peeves:** When someone says, "To be honest". Does that mean everything else is a lie? Also People I love who say Somethink, Nothink & Everythingthink

**Favourite song, movie, book, or comedian:**

**Movie:** Forrest Gump

**Books:** The Ken Follett Century Trilogy

**Comedian:** Fawlty Towers series

**Best Song:** A Whiter Shade of Pale by Procol Harem

**Favourite Vehicle:** I'm not a petrol head, but I do like a car with all the "bells and whistles"

**Before I die, I would like to:** Win Lotto's big prize as well as seeing the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

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