

TIMBER FLOORS

**Technical guide:
Recycled flooring**

ATFA convention wrap up

2012 Floor of the Year Awards



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Note from the CEO



The Australian Timber Flooring Association (ATFA) welcomes you to the twenty-second issue of Timber Floors Magazine.

July 2012 witnessed a significant series of events for our industry, with record numbers attending the four day expo and the ATFA Annual Awards Dinner. Approximately 13,000 attended the expo held in Melbourne, a record, and particularly notable

during what is a tough time financially for many.

The ATFA awards dinner was everything it promised to be – a celebration of our industry! Another record for attendance with 219 guests enjoying a festive occasion and the obligatory hug from the president. Importantly, the event recognised two more peers of the industry with honoured membership: Paul Kiely from Planet Timbers and Cameron Luke from Lagler Australia.

The exhibition and awards dinner highlighted many important aspects of our industry, most significantly that it's strong and resilient during tough times. More pleasing is the feedback that more members are starting to report an upswing in work. While only early days, this is nonetheless an improvement on the past economic slow down.

Hopefully, we will soon see a rise in building activity which would be the kick-start we all need to really show some improvement in the economy. For now though, we look forward to a busier second half of 2012 and the promise of more positive consumer sentiment.

Randy Flierman, CEO
Australian Timber Flooring Association

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Cover: Winner Floor of the Year Commercial Site Installed
Aquilina Timber Floors
Timber supplied by Hurford Hardwood

ATFA update

Much has happened in recent months, including our own very successful Flooring and Finishes with ATFA Expo.

By now you would have received your membership renewal packs, including the new informative technical data sheets.

We recently held a very successful Webinar on Understanding Acclimatisation, attended by members and non-members from around the world. There are two more webinars planned for this year, plenty of courses that you can still join and many social and trade events.

A training highlight is the Advanced Coatings course facilitated by coatings expert Phil Holgate. This workshop is a must if you want to increase your



knowledge in this highly technical area. Workshops are scheduled to run in Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland. Please refer to the ATFA calendar of events.

We are in the early stages of implementing a membership survey and we encourage all members to participate. The survey is designed to give you the opportunity to shape your

association. This will be emailed to members shortly.

Lastly, we encourage you to update your ATFA Member Accreditation. This is a great way to leverage your ATFA membership and convey to your customers just how fantastic you are! For other innovative ways to leverage your membership please email ATFA at lisa@atfa.com.au. 



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Tips to gain market share

Right now is the perfect time to market your business and differentiate yourself from your competition. Here are Lisa's tips on building market share.

- Reconnect with your contacts. During the busy times, it is easy to lose touch with past clients. Now is a great time to reconnect and strengthen your network. Go through your address book or mobile, sort that pile of business cards and enter them into your contacts database.
- Keep your network updated with your news. Consider emailing your network once a month, including three or four quick updates on your latest work. Keep your updates short and newsworthy and your network may share it.
- Invest in your online presence. Take advantage of the opportunity to update your website and think about engaging in social media. Can you target new markets, educate or build brand awareness through your online presence? ATFA can be part of your strategy too.
- Determine what moves your customer. Find out how consumers are redefining value and responding to the

current market. Trusted brands are especially valued and they can still launch new products successfully, while interest in new brands fades when markets are quiet.

- Maintain marketing spending. This is not the time to cut advertising. Brands that increase advertising during slow times, when competitors are cutting back, grow their market share and receive return on investment at lower cost than during good economic times.
- Adjust pricing. You do not necessarily have to cut list prices, but you may need to offer more temporary price promotions, reduce thresholds for quantity discounts and extend credit to long-standing customers.



FROM THE DESK OF

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Species feature: Hoop Pine

The Hoop Pine is a large tree capable of attaining a height of 50 metres and a diameter of 1.8 metres. It usually has a straight cylindrical trunk. The bark in mature trees is rough and dark brown to nearly black in colour, while in young trees it is smooth with a tendency to peel off around the stem circumference. The hoops are apparent when bark is stripped from the trunk.

The heartwood ranges from pale cream to light yellow-brown with little difference between heartwood and sapwood. The grain is very finely and evenly textured with growth rings usually visible but indistinct.

Immature plantation grown stems are almost entirely sapwood, which typically comprises more than 50% of the stem radius even in mature plantations. Sapwood readily accepts commercial preservation impregnation but the heartwood cannot be adequately treated using currently available commercial processes.

Hoop Pines naturally grow with a large number of branches in the lower sections, and the distance between branches increases significantly as they grow. They are generally pruned to reduce the number of knots in the butt log (this is part of what makes them expensive). The clear butt logs are ideal for manufacturing plywood face material, where any knots or blemishes are unacceptable.

In engineering and construction, preservative treated poles are used for frame construction and power poles. Seasoned dressed timber is used in general house framing and flooring, as well as lining and moulding. Hoop Pine is also used as structural plywood and particleboard.

Hoop Pine is considered a premier softwood species due

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF HOOP PINE

Scientific name	Araucaria cunninghamii
Family	Araucariaceae
Local names	Queensland Pine, colonial pine, Dorrigo Pine or Arakaria
Dry density	560kg/m ³ at 12% moisture content; approximately 1.7m ³ of seasoned sawn timber per tonne
Strength groups	S6 unseasoned; SD5 seasoned
Hardness	Soft (rated 5 on a 6 class scale)
Termites	Not resistant

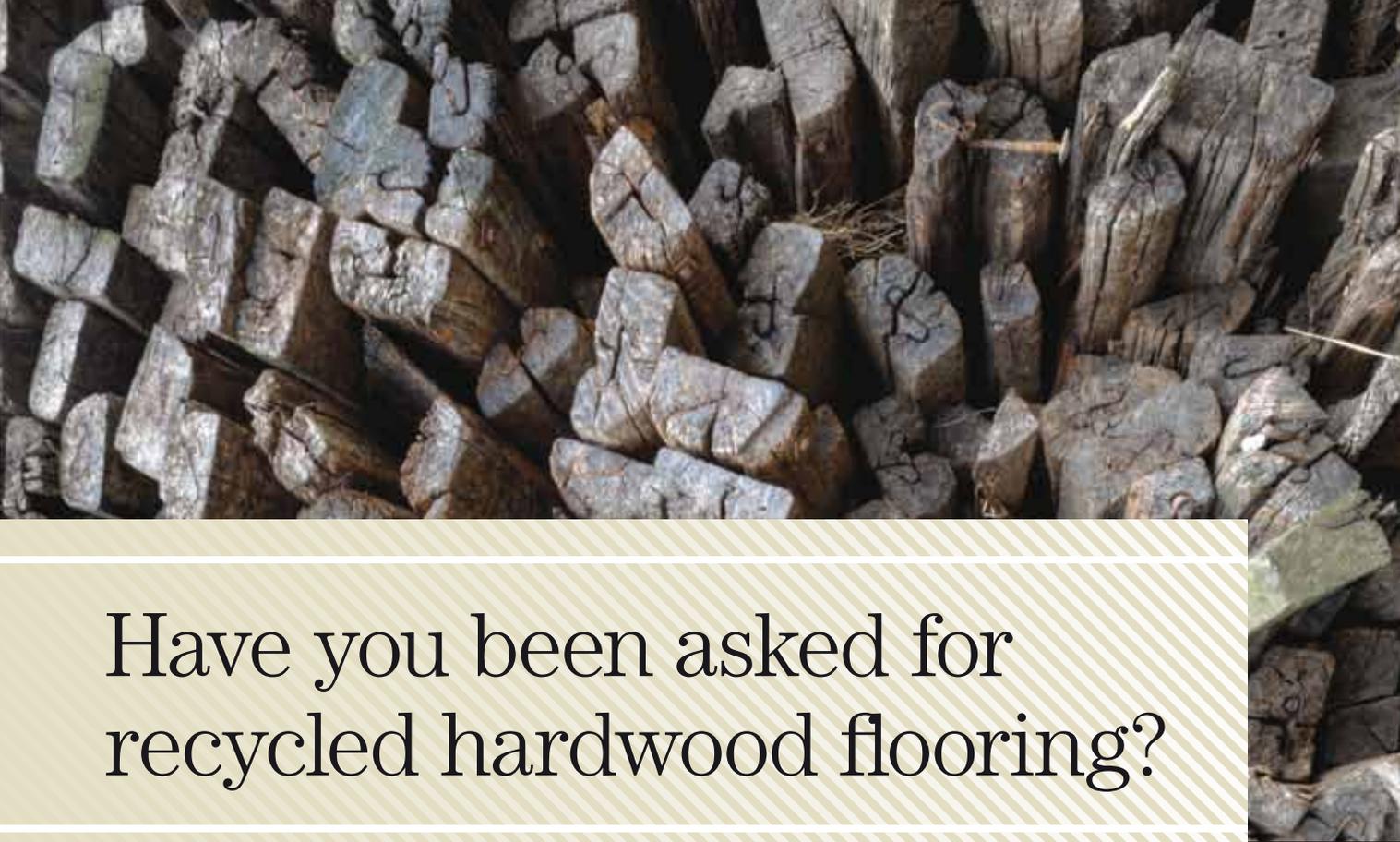
to its long clear sections and fine even grain. It is relatively more expensive than other local plantation species so is generally used in higher value applications.

Hoop Pine trees occur naturally in the drier rainforests from Hastings River, New South Wales, to far north Queensland and as far inland as 300km in some places.

Hoop Pine is the only native tropical timber grown in substantial quantities in plantations within Australia. Plantations have been established since the early 1920s, when attempts to source Hoop from naturally regenerated forests failed. There are around 45,000 hectares plantations, almost all in South East Queensland. Plantations were established by the government to replace the naturally occurring resource used extensively in the Queenslander style buildings for flooring and internal walls. **f**

With thanks to Rod McInnes, CEO Timber Queensland.





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QUALITY KILN DRIED TIMBER



Recycled, remilled, reclaimed

There has been a large market for recycled timber flooring in Australia for many years. It has always been a boutique offering, with interest mostly from architects and specifiers. The idea of giving an old piece of timber new life has wide appeal, but can this strong interest be translated into strong sales and how are some of the players in the recycled game faring in the current climate?

We spoke with Robyn Brodie at Australian Architectural Hardwoods in Kempsey NSW. AAH only deals with post consumer re-used timber and has been able to supply recycled timbers since 1993.

“Recycled timber flooring represents about 80% of our sales,” says Robyn. “Our customers range from architects, builders and home owners to large corporates.”

Timbers are sourced from demolition sites such as commercial buildings, factories, bridges, wool stores and army barracks. Salvaged timber is de-metaled and graded, then stored in weather-proof premises. Once an order is received from a customer, the timber is machined to specifications.

AAH has a range of species that are sourced relatively easily, including Spotted Gum, Blackbutt, Ironbark and Tallowwood. “We also have a list of clients who are on the lookout for species that are harder to find such as Mahogany and Turpentine. When we get those species in, orders are filled virtually as soon as the timber arrives at our yard,” Robyn says.

“Customers are paying a premium for recycled flooring, but they understand the premium is buying them a beautiful timber that is stable and with consistent colour. There is a real depth and character to recycled timbers. There is a story behind the grain and our customers love to hear the history of their timber order.”

Hurford Hardwood started out in the recycled market in 2011. According to National Sales and Marketing Manager Malcolm Johnston, “Everyone loves the recycled look and we get plenty of enquiries from architects, specifiers and flooring companies. We saw the potential to make the most of a resource that would otherwise have been wasted. It fits well with our environmentally responsible ethos as well.”

Not all salvaged timber is suitable for re-milling and Hurfords has a full-time employee with the job of sourcing and inspecting old timbers.

“Most of our timber comes from old railway lines. We moved from an old saw-mill to a new one a while back, so we now use the old mill for storing and re-milling the salvaged timber.”

According to Malcolm, there is a lot of work involved. “You can cut a one hundred year old railway sleeper and find that it’s still wet. We air dry timbers for up to six months, then cut and kiln-dry them. We make dowels from our Roasted timber line to plug holes in the timber.”

Flooring is the main game, but Hurfords have had enquiries from architects interested in using the timber for tables.

If you’re thinking of diversifying your business into recycled timber, the best place to start is with GECA32-2007 the Good Environmental Choice Australia Standard for Recycled and Reclaimed Timber. The standard sets out criteria for storage requirements, hazardous substances, fitness for purpose, safety compliance and record keeping requirements. **f**



KNOW YOUR TERMS

The timber industry terms below are as defined by the Good Environmental Choice Australia Standard for Recycled and Reclaimed Timber.

Reclaimed timber – collected timber that would have otherwise been disposed of as waste or used for energy recovery. Does not include logs left over from forestry and land-clearing operations.

Rural salvage – The practice of removing native trees that have been abandoned or felled as a result of other land uses, such as mining, forestry, agriculture and clearing outside metropolitan boundaries.

Urban salvage – The practice of removing timber from within metropolitan boundaries. May be a result of perceived risk from the tree or a change in land use.

Recycled timber – Timber that has been previously processed and used in a given application, then subsequently removed and made available for re-use in a similar or altered form.



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Member profile:

Nullarbor Sustainable Timber

Victoria-based Nullarbor Sustainable Timber joined ATFA in 2009. They supply premium flooring and boutique sustainable recycled timbers and are responsible for the salvage of several thousand cubic metres of recycled native timbers every year.

The Donchi family have been in the timber industry for five generations, according to owner operator Brendan Donchi. With a showroom in Williamstown Victoria and a processing facility in Moama NSW, Nullarbor Timber is a substantial operation, well placed to supply recycled timber nationally.

“One of our high profile projects was Federation Square in Melbourne”, says Brendan. “We supplied timbers that are scattered throughout the restaurants and hotels as flooring, tables and bench tops. It’s great to have such beautiful timbers on display to so many people and to know that we were responsible for salvaging them.”

“We also supplied some of the striking decorative flooring for Eureka Tower,” (Melbourne’s premier residential skyscraper). “If you ever go to the Skydeck 88 observation deck, look down at the flooring before you look out at the view.”



Nullarbor Timbers produces and supplies recycled and reclaimed solid timber flooring and decking, with widths up to 240mm. Species include Grey Ironbark, Spotted Gum, Sydney Blue Gum, Mountain Ash, Forest Red Gum, Jarrah, Stringy Bark and Black Butt. The mix of species varies over time in line with variations in the availability of timber sources.

“As well as flooring, we supply timbers for cladding, furniture, benchtops and all sorts of ambitious architectural projects,” says Brendan. “Australian demolition sites are our main source of salvaged timber. We demand careful salvage of these timbers so that we are maximising the potential for re-processing. We also educate the demolition industry to increase their understanding of the negative impact of outdated, destructive demolition practices.”

“When a customer is talking to us about their project, we try to steer them away from size and species specifics and encourage them to be open minded about the timbers they look at. Wherever possible, we want to limit the energy required for re-processing and keep the amount of waste to an absolute minimum. ”

Nullarbor acquire new timbers from accredited harvest sites, dealing only with contractors and mills that follow strict forest management practices. As well, Nullarbor acquire timbers from clearing salvage sources such as domestic tree felling and farmland clearing. This timber would normally be destined for wood chipping or even firewood. [f](#)

ATFA Convention wrap up

The 2012 Flooring and Finishes with ATFA exhibition was a winner! The Melbourne Exhibition Centre was an ideal venue and co-locating the exhibition with four other shows ensured a great mix of visitors.

The other shows – Decoration + Design, Furnitex, Hotel +Hospitality Furnishings and Lightsource – helped to draw in the architects

and designers, while there was a good turnout of flooring industry professionals, especially on the Thursday and Friday. This year, a large number of flooring businesses from Asia were in attendance.

Two weeks after the convention, Paul Cambasis from STAUF Adhesives (the oldest adhesives company on the planet, but new to the Australian

market) says they have been overwhelmed with the number of enquiries.

“We have been absolutely bombarded with calls and emails as a direct result of the show. The level of interest from across the country has been phenomenal and we are really pleased with the increase in brand awareness.” *f*

TIMBER FLOORS MAGAZINE BEST EXHIBITOR AWARDS 2012

The Timber Floors Magazine Best Exhibitor Award was chosen by Editor and Art Director Lucy Perry and Advertising Sales Director Tanya Seabrook.

Sika Australia was highly commended for their stand. It featured perspex floor tiles allowing visitors to see cross-sections of flooring and adhesives exactly as they would be used in a flooring job. The Sika guys also had some

fantastic give-aways, with the Sika logo emblazoned on everything from beanies to inflatable pool toys!

Market Timbers were also highly commended for their open and inviting stand. They had a neat arrangement of sample boards on shelving plus big expanses of their wide-board product on the floor. Also included was a demonstration area and a comfortable place for visitors to sit.

Also picking up a highly commended award was the team from **Wicanders/Ecologic Group**.

The team used their corner position to good effect, again with comfortable seating for visitors. They were able to simply and easily demonstrate the acoustic advantages of their cork flooring product with a counter-top device.

And the **WINNER** of Timber Floors Magazine Best Exhibitor award for 2012 was **Whittle Waxes!** Giles Whittle-Herbert was inspired by an expo he visited overseas and set up the only stand at the convention where you could literally hug a tree! The stand had a beautiful big forest backdrop with timber posts, showcasing the Whittle Waxes product range. Giles even had a sound track of forest birds tweeting to add to the experience. The overall effect was warm, engaging and tied in perfectly with the company's marketing materials and brand promise.

HIGHLY COMMENDED: SIKA



HIGHLY COMMENDED: ECOLOGIC



HIGHLY COMMENDED: MARKET TIMBERS



BEST EXHIBITOR: WHITTLE WAXES



Demonstration stage a huge success

Demonstrating continuously over the four days of the Flooring and Finishes convention in Melbourne, the ATFA team were kept very busy at the ATFA demonstration stage. A variety of techniques were demonstrated including installation, staining and finishing. Chris Stringer, Jim Hilston, Chris Hunter and David Meyer were among the ATFA members who kept the crowd of onlookers entertained. Thanks to all involved.



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ATFA Awards Dinner

The annual ATFA Awards dinner, held in the stunning Crown Towers River Room was a terrific night. Hosted by David Reyne, there was an atmosphere of real warmth and camaraderie as ATFA members took some time out from the hard work of the convention weekend to celebrate their successes. *f*



Ambassador and Vanguard Memberships

Ambassador certificates were presented to eight members who have achieved level 6 of the ATFA Accreditation System. Vanguard certificates were presented to twenty seven members who have achieved Level 7 of the system. Congratulations to all these members who each received a heartfelt, full body-contact bear hug from President Paul Kiely.



New Techniques Program

One instructor and five assistant instructors were recognised for their fine work on the ATFA New Techniques Program.



ATFA Awards for Excellence 2012

ATFA Apprentice of the year

Sponsored by Oakdale Industries

Robert Bullimore

John Hollis presented the Apprentice of the Year award to Robert Bullimore of Northern Suburbs Timber Flooring, Queensland. According to Robert's employer Robert Clague, "Customers request Robert work with them, as they know that the job will be done well."



Winner Robert Bullimore (right) pictured here with John Hollis from Oakdale

ATFA Employee of the year, sponsored

by TFIA Business Services

Ian Stringer

Mark Willis of TFIA Business Services presented the Employee of the Year award to Ian Stringer of Pro Sanding, Victoria. Ian has a can-do attitude and will work 12 hours a day if necessary, according to employer Chris Feldbauer of Pro Sanding.



Ian Stringer (right) with Mark Willis of TFIA Business Services

ATFA Sales Representative of the

Year, sponsored by Wonderful Floor

Jamie Boyd

Wanda Wu of Wonderful Floor presented the Sales Representative of the Year award to Jamie Boyd - Floorsanders Trade Supplies, NSW. His employer says, "Our business sales have increased by over 130% as a result of Jamie's hard work."



Jamie Boyd (right) with Wanda Wu of Wonderful Floor

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The provision of employment assistance services to people with disabilities is funded by the Australian Government under the Disability Employment Assistance Program.



**ATFA Showroom of the Year,
sponsored by Loba Australia
Tait Flooring**

Brett Scarpella of Loba Australia presented the ATFA Showroom of the Year award to Tait Flooring (for the second year running). Tony Pepper accepted the award. Tait's showroom is a centre of excellence in Melbourne covering over 1200m².



Tony Pepper (right) from Tait Flooring with Brett Scarpella of Loba Australia

**ATFA Distributor of the Year,
sponsored by Selleys Australia
Marques Flooring**

Ian Clark of Selleys presented the ATFA Distributor of the Year award to Marques Flooring (also for the second year running). Josh Marques accepted the award. Marques Flooring has a strong reputation, specialist staff and quality service.



Josh Marques (right) with Ian Clark from Selleys

**ATFA Contractor of the Year,
sponsored by Lagler Australia
Great Southern Floors**

Cameron Luke of Lagler Australia presented the award to Great Southern Floors, NSW. Shane Jones accepted the award. The business blends old-fashioned craftsmanship with the latest green technology to create timeless timber floors.



Shane Jones (right) from Great Southern Floors with Cameron Luke from Lagler

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Floor of the Year awards 2012 sponsored by Boral Timber



Manufacturer, Factory Finished

WINNER!



Clinton Skeoch from Boral presented the award for Manufacturer, Factory Finished to SE Timber Floors. Zac Refai accepted the award.

The runner up was Floormaniamia.

RUNNER UP



Commercial – Site Installed

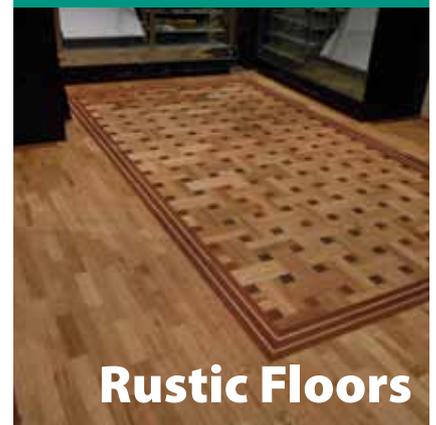
WINNER!



Clinton Skeoch from Boral presented the award for Commercial Site Installed to Aquilina Timber Floors. Anthony Aquilina accepted the award.

The runner up was Rustic Floors.

RUNNER UP



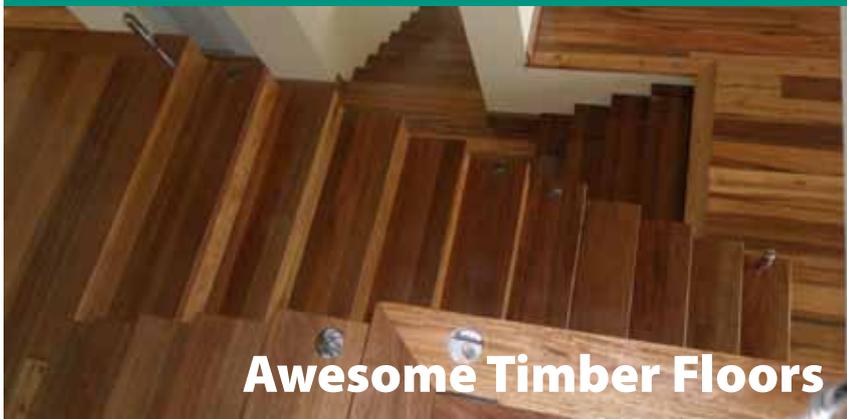
Residential – Site Installed

Clinton Skeoch from Boral presented the award for Residential Site Installed to B&C Timber Flooring in Western Australia. Brad Marston accepted the award. The runner up was Awesome Timber Floors.

WINNER!



RUNNER UP



Brad Marston of B&C Timber Flooring said "It means a lot to our business. We are updating our website to mention the award because it really does help to sell our service and also shows what we can achieve with timber. The trophy is in a prominent spot in our showroom and we take great pride in telling our customers about it."

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ATFA Fellow Awards



At the end of the Awards ceremony, ATFA CEO Randy Flierman took to the podium to recognise the exceptional contribution of several ATFA members. The following members were recipients of ATFA Fellow Awards:

Lyn Marafioti
Phil Holgate
Chris Stringer
David Stringer
Sam Marafioti
Chris Hunter
Barry Olszak

ATFA Honoured Members

Randy Flierman was very proud to award two members with Honoured Member certificates. This level of membership is rare. In fact, these were the second and third ever nominations for Honoured Member.



Cameron Luke, owner of Lagler Australia, was one of the inaugural ATFA three, responsible for the establishment of the organisation. He is still on the board and oversees the finances of the organisation. Cameron is a steady, guiding hand, overseeing the day to day activities of ATFA.



Paul Kiely has been with ATFA since the transition from TFAA to ATFA and has contributed more in time and finances than any other member or member company. Sadly, Paul is leaving the role of President in October. Big shoes to fill!



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Product road test: Hy-Prime Sealer and Hy-Traffic Finish

Peter Czapnik of Born Again Floors in Melbourne tried out Peerless Jal's Hy-Prime sealer and Hy-Traffic finish, a combination he hoped would provide a winning result for a meticulous client.

Peter mostly takes on residential flooring jobs with the occasional commercial project. The job he chose for his road test involved replacing the floors in a palatial residence in Melbourne. 45 square metres of old floor had to be removed and replaced with new flooring, which Peter then sealed and finished.

"In the upstairs part of the house, we cut out a chipboard subfloor and braced around the area before we even contemplated laying the new Tasmanian Oak flooring," Peter says. "The kitchen was a bit of a nightmare, with the chipboard to cut out and loads of electrical cables to navigate around. Downstairs, the house was carpet on concrete. We

pulled up the carpet then did overlay flooring onto the slab by firstly installing a moisture barrier, then ply, then the Tassie Oak."



Once the floor was installed, Peter set to work with Peerless Jal's Hy-Prime sealer. He found that it went down liberally and he got "very cost effective" coverage of about 40 square metres per litre. "Being water based, it's pretty easy on the nose, with really low VOC and low odour," said Peter. "It goes down

pretty smoothly – like water actually - and there was no issue at all with overlap lines. Boards are sometimes a bit hungry with water-based products, but this product performed really efficiently."



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Peter went on to say, "The Hy-Prime made the grain in the timber rise slightly (as all sealers do), but there is no need to cut it back at this point. Drying time was really quick, with the floor ready for the next coat after two hours."

The next step was to apply Hy-Traffic finish. This is a water based polyurethane finish, marketed as having very high resistance to wear and scratching. Again, Peter found it very easy to apply.

Once the finish was down, Peter allowed it to dry thoroughly overnight. The recommended drying time is between four and six hours.

Peter continues: "I cut back the floor by giving it a light buff with a PV25 Polivac Polisher fitted with a 150 grit screen disc. Then it was just a case of vacuuming thoroughly before the next coat."

Peter applied a second coat of Hi-Traffic sealer to finish the job.



"I've used lots of other sealers and finishes over the years," Peter says, "but I like this brand because of the support from Peerless Jal and the high quality performance. It was simple to apply and it was nice to be able to tell the client about how safe it is health-wise. My client is very happy with the finished product and I've advised them to keep it really simple with their maintenance. Those floors won't need much in the way of cleaning product, just basic dusting and a light mop." *f*



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Technical feature: Floorbusters!

Gorgeous new timber flooring is on its way, but first the tired old floor has got to go! There's an art to removing old flooring safely. With powerful equipment and heavy-lifting involved, it's time to call the professionals.

If you're a timber flooring contractor thinking of adding this service to your offering, you'll need to consider how to quote on this type of work, the cutting and grinding equipment needed, safety considerations and waste disposal. Of course, once old flooring is removed, sub-floor renovation is often needed before new flooring can be put down.

ATFA members, RENOPrep in Western Australia, are in the floor removal business and find that most of their jobs are residential renovations. "We get lots of new work from our website and some through our referral network of timber floor layers," says RENOPrep's Jonathan Blackburn. "We've worked hard on our professionalism - being on time, working weekends when needed. Customers notice that. The website yields lots of one-off customers, with an average of ten quick contacts per week from the site. It's a lot of work, but we're really proud of the website."

Once you have the job, how do you go about costing a floor removal job? It depends largely on the type of floor - tile, carpet, vinyl or timber - all take varying amounts of time and effort to pull up. Clients need to understand up-front why the price varies. Setting expectations is important.

RENOPrep has developed a classification system for removing old timber flooring, which really helps when it comes to quoting. The system is based on three 'classes' of

timber. Variations in cost occur within these classes due to labour intensity, concrete grinding and/or the application of vapour barriers.

Class 1 - Floating timber floors. These are generally easy to remove. Many floating floor coverings are click and stick systems on a thin foam underlay. If underlays are glued to the sub-floor, extra machining is required.

Class 2 - Cork flooring and parquetry. Generally adhered to the sub-floor; however, fewer machining processes are involved in removing this flooring.

Class 3 - Plank on ply and direct stick. The most difficult timber floors to remove. These floors require lots of labour to separate timber from concrete. Surfaces are generally made of hardwood and adhered with highly advanced rubber or expanding foam glues. Multiple saw cuts are needed to relieve pressure on individual planks to allow for removal, without damaging the concrete sub-floor. Additional grinding is often needed. This classification is a high risk, high cost process mainly due to blade wear and tear.

Removing a direct stick timber floor requires multiple saw cuts across the grain with a 150 to 160ml wide cut.

RENOPrep goes through a large number of disposable saw blades. On a 50 square metre job, they might use four or five blades, representing a cost of \$125 to \$140.



Jack hammers are likely to be required for jobs involving the removal of adhered flooring systems. Different types are available, offering varying power and speed ratings.

For concrete subfloors, grinders, edgers, diamond discs and self-levelling compounds are on the shopping list. RENOPrep use a Satellite 480 – one of the biggest single-phase grinders available. They also have a Traxx walk-behind edger for high spots and edges.

Vacuums need to be robust and powerful. Dust shrouds are a must and can be attached to most grinding machines.

It's important to be aware of all the OH+S considerations. Check with the safety body in your state or territory (for example, Work Safe in Victoria), or contact a company such as Advanced Safety Systems Australia (ASSA). There are plenty of standards and legislation that apply in this line of work and ASSA (or equivalent) can provide advice and manuals.

Invest in plenty of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – vapour dust masks, goggles, gloves and boots.

Jonathan says, "Always wear your PPE to protect your eyes, ears, feet and lungs. Isolate the work area to reduce exposure to the various dusts involved - tape doors and use plastic drop sheets on large openings. Finally, don't place commercial fans on site. This will not only reduce clean up times, it will keep neighbouring properties cleaner and their residents happier."

The final consideration is waste disposal, with a choice between buying or hiring a tipper trailer or hiring skips. Most discarded timber is in very short lengths and is tipped. *f*

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
Type	Floating timber	Cork Parquetry	Direct stick Plank on ply
Composition	Soft / hard woods Laminate / vinyl	Soft / hard woods	Soft / hard woods
Mass of waste	Light weight	Medium weight	Medium weight
Bonding agent	None	Rubber based epoxy resins	Rubber based epoxy resins
Labour intensity			
Type	Low	Medium	High
Use	Low	Medium / high	High / very high
Duration	Approx 0.5hr per 50m ²	Approx 5hrs per 50m ²	5hrs+ per 50m ²
Concrete condition			
Adhesive bonds	None	Rubber based epoxy resins	Rubber based epoxy resins

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Uneven surfaces and moisture levels can only be assessed after floor removal. Grinding may be required depending on the proposed new flooring.

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Technical feature: Floor renovation

Timber floors are often the number one choice of renovators, with many people aiming to extend an existing timber floor area into the addition. Or perhaps a multitude of flooring surfaces have been used and the desire is to have a new timber floor that flows seamlessly from one end of the dwelling to the other. This all sounds easy but as David Hayward explains, you must still dot the Is and cross the Ts to ensure optimal floor performance.

As the saying goes a building is only as good as its foundations and the same sorts of principles apply with renovation work. If conditions beneath the new floor are not correct these can severely influence the floor's performance.

Often, existing floor surfaces are old and not particularly flat but with carpet or similar, the degree of flatness (undulations) or how level the floor is (slope) has gone unnoticed. So the first rule is to pay attention to what your new timber floor is going over. It's advisable to spend time

and money to level joists and bearers or concrete slabs. Time to remove problems such as squeaks in existing timber or sheet subfloors is time well spent as is time to check the integrity of timber floor framing or old concrete slabs.

The second rule relates to the dryness of the subfloor. People say 'Well, it looked dry' or, 'The slab has been here for years', only to find that a lack of attention in this area has resulted in floor failure. A moisture survey of all subfloor surfaces and check of subfloor space ventilation is a necessity. If an existing timber floor is present then its moisture content will provide a good guide to the moisture content of the new floor. Also ensure that an extension to the dwelling does not create any new dead air spaces beneath the floor or reduce the ventilation. The addition of a new patio, for example can cause this.

Another common error is to assume that because a concrete slab has been down say 15 years it is going to be dry. This does not take permeability into account.

Old slabs can still be moist slabs and you need to check this. Finally, when extensions are to have timber subfloors, always ensure that the new joists and bearers are from seasoned products, as unseasoned timber framing, even though it has been used in the original dwelling, will shrink and result in future problems.

When it comes to installing the timber floor, both industry and manufacturer recommendations need to be followed. This would appear to be common sense, but due to unevenness of the existing dwelling or existing floors at slightly different levels, there can be a temptation to compromise. For example, one area of the floor may be laid with thinner plywood or battens than that recommended. Also take care to ensure the fixings are strong enough throughout the whole installation including the likes of particleboard to joists, which may have been fixed many years prior.

Matching a new floor to an old floor may be part of the renovation. Some additional care is needed here, as simply choosing the same species can provide a different look and



A new Blackbutt floor in a renovated Queenslander

can result in disappointment.

Flooring cut at different times and from different localities generally has a different look. Old floors with old coatings can also darken considerably with age and therefore look quite different even if the timber is closely matched. Some species and species mixes will blend better than others but in other instances new flooring of the same species can look quite different. Take time and particular care in this area. Perhaps there is a case for the new floor not to closely match the existing or be of a different style, such as use of parquetry.

Also consider the condition and life remaining in the existing floor that you may be trying to match. It could well be that when the budget permits that you will decide to replace the old floor and therefore this should have less influence on the selection of the new floor. *f*



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The exhibitors

1. Bob Turnball and Chris Richards of Integrain Enviropro
2. Patrick Atherton and Cameron Luke from Lagler
3. Tony Kellman from Synteko, on his ride on.
4. Jacob Eldridge, Paul Kiely (ATFA President) and Mal Johnston of Hurfords
5. Bruce Gascoigne and Andrew Small from Bostik



ATFA calendar

Trade Event, NSW
26 September, 2012 (evening)

Assessing Timber Floors, WA
11-12 September, 2012

Trade Event, VIC
19 September, 2012 (evening)

Assessing Timber Floors, VIC
18-19 September, 2012

Technical Webinar, Online
9 October, 2012

AGM and Golf Day, NSW
12 October, 2012

ir talk with Emma Watt

HOW TO DO A JOB SAFETY ANALYSIS

Preparing a Job Safety Analysis or JSA is not a difficult job to do but it could be life-saving. All you need to do is sit down with your employees and brainstorm about what you do to get the job done.

List all the tasks required onsite. This might include: unload equipment from van or truck, set equipment up, sand floor, seal floor, pack up equipment.

Identify hazards that might be present at each stage. For example, unloading equipment may have some manual handling issues associated with it. Sanding the floor would involve manual handling issues and dust hazard. The fumes from the sealant might be hazardous.

Describe how you can remove or mitigate each of the hazards. For example, you might have a

ramp for the van, to help with the manual handling problem of getting heavy equipment in and out. It might be your policy to have the dust extraction on the sander serviced regularly to avoid dust getting into the atmosphere and causing respiratory problems

Your state or territory safety body has information about this. JSA/ Safe Work Method Statement templates are available in the member section of the ATFA website.

You and your employees know best what your work requires, what the hazards are and how to mitigate them. Putting together a JSA helps you as a team to identify hazards and put in place controls to ensure everyone goes home safely to their families at the end of the day. *f*

Emma Watt specialises in advising small to medium sized businesses in the timber and furnishing industries. She offers ATFA members two free telephone calls per annum for help on IR/HR issues.

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websites

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A comprehensive site, covering everything associated with asbestos removal in Australia. The perfect place to start if you or your client encounters asbestos on site.



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Aimed at homeowners and renovators, this site provides advice, design ideas and product descriptions. Check out the articles on flooring and decking.



Product snap shots

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AIR-LAC AUSTRALIA, importers of ER-LAC premium furniture lacquers have introduced ER-LAC FLOORING FINISHES to Australia and NZ. The range has two-pack solvent-borne coatings, water-borne single and two-pack coatings complemented with a range of stains and timber fillers. They provide a hard, flexible finish resistant to abrasions and scratches and are available in gloss, satin and matt. Available in gloss and satin, ER-LAC water-borne floor finishes have strong adhesion, yet maintain their flexibility because their base is pure polyurethane. AIR-LAC AUSTRALIA is seeking distributors throughout Australia and New Zealand. Visit airlac.com.au or email AIR-LAC at sales@airlac.com.au



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Australia's alternative coatings specialists, Whittle Waxes have a new warehouse in Ringwood at the Canterbury Road, East Link Junction. A broader range of products is on offer, including traditional paste buffing wax, 100% VOC free coatings, two brands of Hardwax oil, both single and 2 pack Hardwax oil and maintenance products. The range includes a unique system where colours can be mixed on site, giving in excess of 100 colour choices for clients. Whittle Waxes can advise on coatings, from Green Start VOC requirements, through to commercial applications. Products are carbon neutral, safe for use on toys, safe in



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of mind that, not only is your health and well-being safe with the HUMMEL, it's #1 in every sense! Visit lagler.com.au for more details.

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Eddie and Sons Parquetry
New South Wales



Pictured here, the team from Eddie and Sons Parquetry (left to right) Ping Wang, Alen Delic, Eddie Delic, Damir Hajdarevic, Adnan Delic.

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Australian timber flooring association

A naturally beautiful renovation

A young Sydney couple with some big ideas recently completed a major addition to their turn of the last century home. They added a kitchen, dining room, living area, laundry and entertaining deck. The renovation had to be sympathetic to the original home, built in 1906.

The original floorboards are wide kauri pine and the owners wanted something similar, without needing an absolutely perfect match. They chose Blackbutt from Boral's 'Select' range because of the colour tone and subtle grain. Importantly, it gave them an extremely hard wearing floor. With four young children this was a high priority and they knew from experience that the kauri pine was too soft to meet the challenge.

The wide-board blackbutt flooring was stored on site to acclimatize for four weeks before being top-nailed into place.

The team from Mister Stain Floor Sanding had the job of sanding and finishing. The owner, Hugo Erich says, "I showed the client how the finished floor would look by testing on a small area first. My team then sanded the floor to 400 grit, which is three times finer than some floors are sanded. Next, we applied Hard Burnishing Oil from Organ Oil. It's a 100% natural product with a citrus smell that clients love. No more

than two coats are needed, with a wet sand, buff and burnish between the coats. This product is so fast to use. It's safe and there's practically no smell."

Based on tung nut oil, Hard Burnishing Oil is a penetrative, clear oil finish which relies on a prescribed 'burnishing technique'. This involves sanding (burnishing) the oil approximately twenty minutes after the second coat, using the same wet & dry sandpaper used for the initial dry sanding. The oil and sawdust forms a slurry which is worked to fill the pore structure of the timber. Further sanding with finer discs can be carried out to obtain a higher lustre.

The end result is a natural, matte finish, which Hugo says can perform well for ten or fifteen years. "I've had clients with floors treated this way who have asked for a simple buff and polish after ten years. The whole repeat-sanding procedure just isn't necessary. It's also very repairable, so if there's a small area that needs a touch-up, there's no problem. I advise clients to clean the floors with a mix of metho, vinegar and water."

The owners really like the end result and are finding it to be incredibly durable. It has been interesting for them to watch the colour caramelize slightly since the oil was applied. **f**



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