

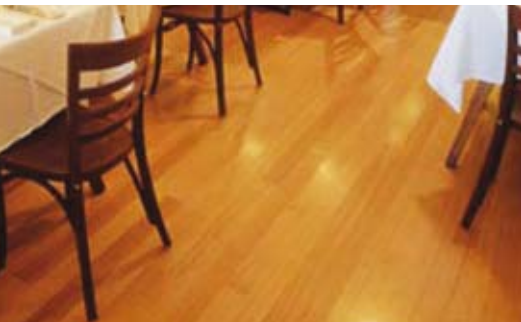
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Staff and Contributors

Editor
Lucy Perry
editor@atfa.com.au

Contributing writers
Jane Lawrence
Dave Hayward, ATFA
Malcolm Johnston, Boral Timber
Randy Flierman, ATFA
John Goss, Woodwise
Monica Stell, Woodwise

Advertising sales
Jane Lawrence
phone 02 9440 9999 | fax 02 9440 9066
jane@atfa.com.au

Production - Pure Graphics Pty Ltd
Graphic design - Adam Dipper
Print management - Bruce Perry

Publisher
atfa
Australian Timber Flooring Association
11 Oleander Ave Shelley Beach QLD 4551
ph 1300 361 693 | fax 1300 361 793
www.atfa.com.au | ABN 16 524 524 226

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Note from the CEO



Welcome to Issue 5 of Timber Floors. In this issue we look at the impact of climate change on our industry and discuss the environmental benefits of timber as a flooring material.

We continue to prepare for the major event of the year - the ATFA Convention, scheduled for October 9 and 10 at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre.

The size of the venue has enabled us to expand the conference, demonstrations and exhibition components that make up the event. This year will also see a grand annual industry dinner and awards presentation, featuring Kerry O'Keefe. Exhibition booths are starting to fill up so we recommend you contact us soon to reserve your space. ATFA is also now calling for entries for Timber Floor of the Year award. Please see page 18 for details on how to enter.

During March and April ATFA successfully conducted a further Floor Inspector course in Sydney and two successful US Installation and Finishing Schools in both Fundamentals and Intermediate, in Melbourne. New details for the next round of Installation and Finishing Schools will soon be available, while those interested in the Inspector course can complete an expression of interest form available on the ATFA website.

New training opportunities are on their way and include coatings, engineered flooring and adhesives, so keep an eye on this publication and the ATFA bulletin for announcements of times and locations.

We hope you enjoy this issue of Timber Floors!

Randy Flierman
CEO, Australian Timber Flooring Association

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Cover image
Cumberland State Forest.
Photography by Lucy Perry.

ATFA update

New developments for ATFA

On July 1 ATFA will commence operating its own timber accreditation program, taking over from the successful program formerly run by Timber Queensland Ltd. Interested manufacturers should contact ATFA. Research is also underway into new generation issues in timber flooring manufacture and installation, which may soon result in a national forum and the potential development of new guidelines to address these issues. This period has also witnessed the successful commencement of ATFA's Standing Committees in Training and Environment and Sustainability. There are still positions available on some committees.

Western Australia joins ATFA

For many years the Western Australia Timber Flooring Association has operated as the most successful state association in the country. As of 6 May 2008, the WA association ceased operation and integrated with ATFA. This was a proactive move by the WA association which has led the way in combining effort for the greater benefit of the industry.

WA will still be well represented by a committee of dedicated industry peers who will provide leadership on WA specific requirements and consider training and events for the state. ATFA services will continue to apply to members who retain their membership under the ATFA administration.

The decision for integration in WA was a unanimous one, though specific thanks must be given to the architects of this proactive move – the WATFA committee and in particular Sam Marafioti, David Watson and Paul Kiely, as well as to Hilary Peters who has served the WA association as secretariat for many loyal years.



Industry Champions: Paul Main, David Watson, Chris Bestall and Sam Marafioti celebrate a successful outcome.



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WA apprentice initiative

WA now has the timber flooring apprenticeship available to the industry, thanks to work by ATFA, the WATFA committee, the Light Manufacturing Industry Training Council, WA Department of Training and Swan TAFE. For more information on hiring an apprentice, see article on page 24.

Industry forum

ATFA is planning a forum for installers, manufacturers, suppliers and importers of solid and engineered flooring, aimed at providing better information into the market place. Those who are interested should email ATFA at admin@atfa.com.au

Benchmarks to help businesses

Businesses wondering how they stack up against the rest of the timber flooring industry could find a new tool developed by ATFA and the Australian Taxation Office useful – benchmarks for use as a guide for the amount of time and materials involved in an average job. This guide may also be used to assist in complying with tax obligations and when preparing and lodging tax returns and business activity statements. For more information visit the ATFA website at www.atfa.com.au or www.ato.gov.au/businesses and select ATO Industry Benchmarks. *f*

ATFA flooring school

ATFA held its second US-Australian Fundamental School in Melbourne from 10-12 April this year.


The 34 students who attended came from diverse backgrounds: both experienced and new installers, as well as sales people and manufacturers. Each was left impressed by the team of US instructors, who covered subjects ranging from customer expectation to board replacement.

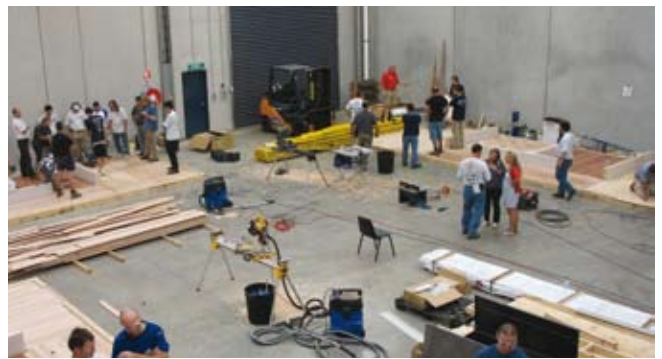
The instructors were Daniel Boone, Powernail Technical Training Director, Frank Kroupa, NWA Technical Advisor, John Goss from Woodwise, Justin Boone and Brett Revels, Everwood Floors and Joe Boone Sr, Boone Flooring.

"People often ask me how I run a course in Australia where things are different," says Daniel Boone. "The species may be different, but the fundamentals are the same. Wood moves the same, customers expect the same and most of the world is using the same sort of equipment," Daniel explains.

Following the Fundamentals School, the US team ran an Intermediate School where the focus was on installing inlays and borders, pictured below. The school also looked at a number of stains and examined how to sand different species of varying hardness.

"I was sceptical about the school," says one student. "I thought, 'What can these guys show me? I've been a flooring installer for 12 years! But so much of what they say makes sense and the improvement in my skills and knowledge has been fantastic. Anyone who thinks they know it all is kidding themselves! The other big thing I got from the school was the networking. The school promotes friendship to such a degree that people I once thought of as the opposition are now the ones I call if I need to run a technical question by someone. This is a great industry and this school has really opened my eyes to that."

The next ATFA US-Australian School is on in April 2009. 



Legends of the floor

ATFA was honoured to have not one, but three Boones at the ATFA Installation, Sand and Finish Schools held in Melbourne in April.

Daniel Boone was joined on his trip down under by his father Joe Boone Senior, and his son, Justin.

Daniel says his father has been his inspiration and each day he is guided by the lessons and values his father taught him.

Justin now works alongside Daniel in their own flooring company, Everwood Floors.

Timber flows through the veins of the three generations of hardwood flooring men in this family!



Member profile: Gunns Limited



Founded in 1875, Gunns Limited is one of Australia's oldest companies and is said to be Australia's largest, fully integrated hardwood forest company, owning some 270,000 hectares of freehold land and managing in excess of 180,000 hectares of plantation.

The publicly listed company currently employs over 1700 personnel and operates sawmilling and veneer plants in Tasmania, Western and South Australia as well as in Christchurch, New Zealand. The company is Australia's largest producer of Tasmanian Oak flooring.

Gunns Limited was the first organisation to gain certification to the Australian Forestry Standard (AS 4708). This followed an exhaustive three-year review and independent audit of forest management practices in relation to environmental, economic and social elements. Today, the majority of Tasmania's forests are certified.

The AFS has been developed to assess both native forest and plantation management. It consists of nine overarching criteria in which the forest manager must demonstrate compliance in order to achieve the required standard. Gunns' ongoing ability to meet these criteria is assessed by international certification body, Det Norske Veritas (DNV), accredited by Joint Accreditation Systems of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ).

The AFS is mutually recognised under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC), the world's largest sustainability recognition framework, ensuring transferability into the international marketplace.

Gunns Limited was the first organisation to gain certification to the Australian Forestry Standard (AS 4708).

Integration of the AFS within Gunns Limited builds on a solid framework, which already includes ISO 14001 Environmental Management System accreditation, the Tasmanian Forest Practices Act and the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement.

Gunns Limited was also the first company to achieve the Chain of Custody Standard (AS 4707), which is the national benchmark for independent verification, guaranteeing a trace back system from the finished product to the forest. This ensures that products from Gunns Limited originate from sustainably managed AFS and PEFC certified forests.

For further details on the AFS see page 15. *f*

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What grade is that?

The grading of flooring is an area that is often confusing to the market, as well as to many within the timber flooring industry itself. Here, David Hayward, ATFA Technical Manager discusses what the industry needs to know about grading.

There are Australian Standards relating to hardwoods and softwoods, and one specifically for Cypress. Grade names differ between the standards. In the hardwood standard there are grade descriptions for Select Grade, Medium Feature – Standard Grade and High Feature Grade. However, moisture content, machining tolerances and properties relating to product performance are the same, irrespective of grade. A grade with higher feature is no longer regarded to be of lower quality.

Manufacturers may also have their own grade descriptions, which are often similar to those in the Australian Standard but differ in certain ways, such as the number of borer holes permitted. In most instances they manufacture to the moisture contents and tolerances of the standards and can claim compliance to that part of the standard. In this case, manufacturers are to have the respective grade description available. If flooring of a particular grade name is ordered but the product sold has a different name, it may also be a different grade. Names such as utility grade and cover

grade generally refer to material that does not meet grade requirements and may not be structural.

Both consumers and those within the industry are often surprised by what is not covered by grading rules. For example, board colour and board length are not included, so it is important to clarify expectations with customers who may have preconceived ideas based on photographs or showroom samples.

Grading relies on the visual assessment of features in individual boards and the sorting of boards based on the number and size of those features. The intention is that an overall appearance will be achieved where features will dominate more in grades permitting higher feature. However, this may not always be the case. In one species gum veins may predominate in determining the grade, and therefore will have a dominant effect on floor appearance. In another species borer holes may predominate in determining the grade, influencing the appearance of the floor to a much lesser degree.

Therefore a Standard Grade floor of one species may visually look quite different from a Standard Grade floor in a different species. If suggesting an alternative species to a customer due to availability reasons, it is important to consider not only the colour, but also the grade. *f*

“Grading relies on the visual assessment of features in individual boards and sorting those boards based on the number and size of those features.”

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Species feature: bamboo

Bamboo is a group of woody perennial evergreen plants in the grass family Poaceae, subfamily Bambusoideae, tribe Bambuseae. It is found in nearly every continent in the world, but grown primarily in Asia and South America. In fact, Bamboo can be grown in any moderate climate.

The fastest growing woody plant in the world, Bamboo grows up to four feet a day, thanks to its unique rhizome system. It reaches full size in the first or second year of its life; after which the plant only grows underground, producing offshoots and roots.

Bamboo is planted to prevent soil erosion and to help with the restoration of degraded soil. Because it is a species of grass, Bamboo regenerates without replanting so the soil is not destabilised by the harvesting process.

There are nearly a thousand species of bamboo. The species commonly used for flooring is "Moso" which is found in south east Asia.

Bamboo represents a highly credible, environmentally responsible option for flooring in both commercial and domestic applications as it is rapidly renewable. A 20 metre stand of



BT Bamboo supplied by Eco Flooring Systems Pty Ltd
BT Carbonated Amber Vertical Wide Board Commercial coating
See www.ecoflooring.com.au

bamboo can be harvested and regrown within three months!

It is termite, moisture and rot resistant, all ideal attributes for building in Australian conditions.

Like other species of flooring, it shows subtle variations in colour across the floor and is usually

manufactured as an engineered flooring product.

Other uses for Bamboo include fencing, blinds and furniture. It can even be refined into textiles used for clothing, towels and sheets. Part of the off-shoot is found in many Asian dishes and it is a well known panda food. **f**

BAMBOO MANUFACTURERS

Company	Brand	Construction	Top Layer	Width and Strip	Warranty	Contact
Clever Bamboo Australia	Clever Bamboo	Strand woven, vertical, horizontal and engineered	Solid 14mm, 15mm, 3 layer 3-4mm veneer and multi layer 3-4mm veneer	1850x122, 1850x130, 1830x96, 1830x160, 1840x192, 1830x127	15 year product	0419 399 476
Eco Flooring Systems	BT Bamboo, Style select and Style Lock	Horizontal, vertical and strand woven	Solid 15mm and solid 12mm	90mm, 96mm, 130mm, 152mm	10 and 25 year	02 9402 6050
Truflor	Truflor	Horizontal, vertical and strand woven	Solid	90x15x1.2	20 year	08 8447 1839
Harmony Timber Floors Pty	Harmony	Strand woven solid and engineered	Solid and 4mm on plywood base	96x1830x14mm and 96x1830x14mm	25 year surface wear	07 5520 6701
Topdeck	Topdeck	Strand woven, solid and engineered	15mm solid, 4mm floating and compressed	96mm and 150mm	10 year	02 9748 2288
Embelton Flooring	Embelton Bamboo	Multi layer	3.5mm wear layer	127x1830x15mm	25 year wear layer, lifetime structural	03 9533 4811
Style Plantation	Styleboard	Strandwoven	14mm	96 or 137mm	10 year structural board warranty and 5 year coating warranty	07 3279 1733



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ATFA Convention 2008

ATFA convention setting new standards in 2008

The 2008 ATFA Convention is going to be bigger and better than ever! Held at the Melbourne Convention Centre on 9 - 10 October, the convention has once again attracted a line-up of excellent local and international speakers and demonstrators.

Convention Chair, Cameron Luke was enthusiastic about the new level of professionalism the convention was bringing to the industry. "Who would have thought just a few years ago that the timber flooring industry in Australia would be putting together its own conference with leading speakers from across the globe?" he remarked.

Delegates will receive information and advice on how to do their jobs better. There will be specialist presentations on occupational health and safety, business management and quality customer service. The Taxation Office has also been invited to present on how the industry and the tax office can work effectively together.



The exhibition component, which will open around noon at the conclusion of the conference on both days, has attracted all the industry leaders as well as some emerging talent. Being involved will enable exhibitors to promote their products to a highly targeted market.

The demonstration program, one of the highlights of last year's convention in Sydney, will again be an important component of the convention.

"People in our business want to do more than just look at products, they want see how they work," says Cameron. "They also want to find out new and better ways to do their jobs. That's what the demonstration program is all about."

Another highlight of the convention will be the annual ATFA awards dinner featuring the presentation of the ATFA Awards for Excellence and after dinner speaker, former Australian Test Cricketer and ABC commentator, Kerry O'Keefe.

Are you one of Australia's leading timber flooring professionals?


"The timber flooring industry in Australia is becoming more and more professional," observed ATFA CEO Randy Flierman. "You only need to look at the quality of the national timber conference program, the range of exhibitors and the calibre of the demonstrations for the upcoming ATFA Convention to know that this industry has come a long way in a very short period of time."

It was ATFA's belief that their tradespeople are among the best in the world and deserve recognition that prompted the creation of the awards program. The awards enable outstanding work to be promoted to architects, specifiers and other customers throughout the country.

"ATFA is very proud of the way the industry is developing and we see the awards as a way of recognising the real achievers, as well as motivating people to do even better work," said Randy. "So I would encourage anyone in the industry who is proud of the work they do to make the effort to nominate for the awards."

The 2008 Awards will be presented at the ATFA Convention dinner on Friday, 10 October at the Melbourne Aquarium.

Full details of all categories and conditions of entry can be found on the ATFA Awards nomination brochure which can be downloaded from www.atfa.com.au or obtained by calling GEMS on 02 9744 5252.

Entries for the awards will close on 12 September 2008. 

The ATFA Awards for Excellence categories include

- Australian Timber Floor of the Year sponsored by Boral Timber Flooring (see page 18 for more details and an official entry form)
- Apprentice/Trainee of the Year sponsored by Woodwise
- Employee of the Year sponsored by Timbermate
- Contractor of the Year sponsored by Lagler Australia

Daniel Boone to star at convention!

Daniel Boone, Powernail Technical Training Director, will be one of the keynote speakers at the ATFA Conference in October and will be one of the main demonstrators at the Timber Flooring Exhibition.

Daniel was one of the key presenters at the 2007 ATFA Convention held in Sydney. With more than thirty years experience in the timber flooring industry he is highly skilled in manufacture, installation and finishing.

Daniel also has extensive qualifications in the technical aspects of product development including specification, design and product testing. He is recognised throughout the US timber flooring industry for the implementation of the Installation Contractor and Sand and Finish Contractor certifications.

"I was thrilled to be at the convention in Sydney last year and the feedback was fantastic," Daniel said. "These events attract people who are planning a real future in the industry, which is excellent."



keep your nails a secret

The secret is out. Wide boards can be secret nailed and Boral Timber has developed the installation method.

There has been a strong shift towards wide timber boards in recent years with 108mm and 130mm boards in demand for both domestic and commercial projects. However, architects, interior designers and consumers expect wide boards to be secret nailed in order to avoid the perceived unsightliness of top nailing. For this reason, Boral Timber Flooring has developed an installation method that allows wide boards to be secret nailed to a solid sheet subfloor such as plywood or particleboard. Now you can offer your customers wide boards with a beautiful finish.

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ATFA Convention 2008 schedule

Conference sessions

Thursday, 9 October

- 8.00 am Tea and coffee on arrival
- 8.25 am Introduction and welcome
Robert Clague, President, Australian Timber Flooring Association
- 8.30 am AFTA Update - Randy Flierman,
Chief Executive Officer, Australian Timber Flooring Association

Keynote presentation

- 8.40 am Owning your timber floor
Daniel Boone
President, Everwood Floors Inc, USA
- 9.25 am V.O.C, What does it mean to me?
Daniel Bennett
Senior Development Chemist, Orica Woodcare
- 10.10 am Morning Tea
- 10.25 am Demonstrating awareness, use of certified products - Mark Edwards
Executive Officer, Australian Forestry Standards
- 11.10 am Latest flooring research from the Forest and Wood Products Association - Dave Hayward
Technical Manager, Australian Timber Flooring Association
- 11.50 noon Close of conference sessions, exhibition opens

Friday, 10 October

- 8.00 am Tea and coffee on arrival
- 8.25 am Welcome to day two
- 8.30 am Building or renovating: Is it a dream or a nightmare? How does the service you provide impact this?
Catherine Sultana
Director, MYM Timber and Hardware
- 9.15 am Exposure of timber floor finishing workers to chemicals, wood dust, noise, and vibration
Peter McGarry
Principal Adviser, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland
- 10.00 am Morning Tea
- 10.15 am Taxation issues for small business
Shane Reardon
Deputy Commissioner of GST, Australian Taxation Office
- 11.00 Success secrets
Jim Penman
Owner, Jim's Mowing and The Jim's Group
- 11.50 Thanks and close



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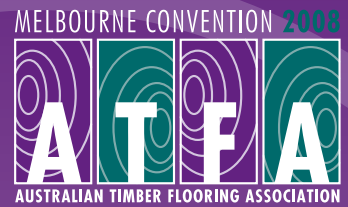


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Sustainability of timber flooring: an important story to tell

The 21st century has ushered in a new era of environmental consciousness. With consumers driving demand for products with good environmental credentials, flooring contractors should familiarise themselves with the story behind forestry and timber production so that they can promote the benefits of timber to their customers.

How do timber flooring products rate when it comes to climate change, embodied energy, pollution and the use of the world's natural resources?

For a start, timber is the world's only truly renewable building material. It is natural, sustainable, renewable and recyclable. Arguably, no other floor covering boasts all four of these qualities.

Unfortunately, misinformed consumers may think that cutting down trees is a bad thing for the environment. In fact, sustainably managed harvesting and replanting of trees is

actually a solution to climate change. If every floor covering that went into a new building in Australia was a timber floor from sustainably managed forests, there would be a positive impact on climate change.

This is a big statement to make but is explained by the carbon cycle.

One of the major causes of climate change is carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere, which raises the temperature of the earth and contributes to global warming. Carbon is produced by burning plant matter, including fossil fuels. It is also produced by all 6.6 billion of us breathing every day and there is not a lot that can be done about that!

Forests play a critical role in the carbon cycle. They act as a natural air filter by taking the carbon out of carbon dioxide and releasing life-giving oxygen back into the air we breath.

In Australia alone, forests convert over 38 million tonnes



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Promoting Sustainable Forest Management



Timber is the world's only truly renewable building material. It is natural, sustainable, renewable and recyclable. Arguably, no other floor covering boasts all four of these qualities.

of CO₂ each year and currently store over 10 billion tonnes of carbon. In fact, Australian production forests and tree plantations absorb the equivalent amount of carbon as taking nine million cars off the road every year would achieve in carbon reduction.

Trees that are harvested and turned into products such as flooring store this carbon away for decades. Only when that timber eventually biodegrades or is burned will the carbon be re-released into the atmosphere.

Sustainably managed younger trees absorb carbon much faster than mature trees. So technically speaking, aging steady-state forests will have a lower impact on climate change than sustainably managed re-growth forests with younger trees. Therefore, new, young, rapidly growing forests are better, faster air filters and carbon reservoirs.

It is also important to point out to your customers that only 1% of forests in Australia are plantations that are used for harvesting. In addition, less than 1% of native forestry is harvested each year in Australia and overall, forest coverage is growing at a faster rate than harvesting.

Timber should always be sourced from certified forests, preferably from suppliers who have gained Chain of Custody (CoC) certification. The Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) certifies over 90% of certified forestry in Australia and is the only certification to be acknowledged with an Australian Standard (AS4708-2007).

Timber has the lowest embodied energy of all building products, using low levels of energy in the production, transportation and distribution of products such as flooring. Australian native hardwoods have even better credentials when compared with imported species as they are harvested and then manufactured locally, requiring less shipping and therefore less fossil fuel resources to move them.

Timber is a recyclable material and can be remanufactured into new products. Some of the most beautiful timber flooring has been remanufactured from the timber retrieved

from old wool stores, piers, factories and bridges.

Timber flooring is also biodegradable and does not pose pollution concerns on disposal in landfills, for example.

In conclusion, timber flooring professionals can rest easy that they are working with a product that contributes in a positive way to offsetting the effects of global warming and therefore climate change. This will become increasingly apparent as communication efforts in this regard ramp up within the industry. It is the job of the contractor or timber flooring sales consultant to understand and to communicate the positive environmental story that timber has to tell. **f**

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Using certified timber or wood-based products demonstrates environmental leadership and product stewardship.

With the increasing uptake of chain of custody (CoC) certification by primary and secondary timber processors in Australia, access to and demand for certified timber and wood-based products in the supply chain is on the rise. Mark Edwards, Executive Office of Australian Forestry Standard Limited reports on CoC certification.

With almost eight million hectares of forests certified under the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) of the Australian Forest Certification Scheme, of which a substantial majority are native forests, the raw materials required for timber flooring are ready to be converted into a certified product by processors with CoC certification.

A number of primary processors have taken up the challenge of CoC certification under Australian Standard 4707—2006 Chain of custody for certified wood and forest products. These include Gunns, ITC for their Tasmanian operations and Australian Solar Timbers. Many other processors are in the process of aligning their operations to seek certification which is undertaken by independent, third-party, accredited certification bodies.

Whilst direct consumer access to certified products is now being realised, lack of knowledge in regard to delivering a certified product to a customer has been addressed by a series of CoC guides produced by Forest and Wood Products Australia. These guides provide sector-specific information which outlines the general background for CoC certification, what the requirements are for certification and FAQs to cover the two forest certification schemes operating in Australia. To access these guides visit www.fwprdc.org.au.

Flooring industry professionals who would like to demonstrate environmental leadership and product stewardship should seek out certified products with AFS or PEFC (European equivalent to AFS) certification, which will be an assurance that the timber or wood-based product can be tracked to a sustainably managed forest.

ITC gets CoC

ITC Timber, a division of ITC Limited, and manufacturers of GoodWood flooring, has successfully secured Chain of Custody Certification for its Tasmanian operations, under the Australian Forestry Standard.

ITC Timber General Manager, Guy Mycroft, said the certification was a significant achievement for the Company, providing enhanced assurance to customers that products from ITC Timber are sourced from forests managed in an environmentally responsible manner.

“The Chain of Custody Certification now allows ITC Timber’s GoodWood products processed in Tasmania to be tracked from origin to end-use, meaning our customers can be certain that these products are sustainably produced,” Mr Mycroft said.

This achievement is part of a broader process to obtain certification for all the operations of ITC Timber. ITC is presently working towards certification for its Victorian mill operations. The company is confident this process will be completed in the first half of 2008.

The GoodWood flooring range is available in Victorian Ash, Tasmanian Oak and Messmate. Victorian Ash and Tasmanian Oak are natural raw materials that are smooth and warm underfoot, visually appealing, strong and durable. Re-growth Messmate is a premium quality dense hardwood with beautiful, warm tones.

GoodWood flooring offers strength and durability and is quarter sawn for dimensional stability and flexibility with a range of applications.

For more information about GoodWood flooring visit www.itclimited.com.au or call 13WOOD (13 96 63).



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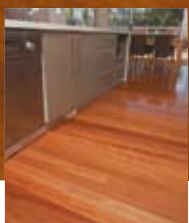
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'A Pidcock Family Enterprise'

Floor of the year: entries open

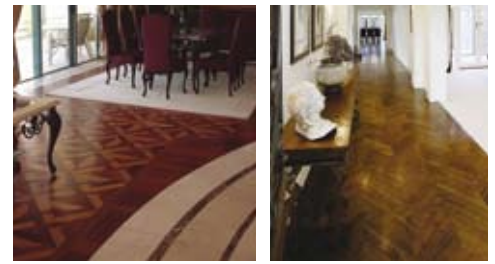
The Australian Timber Floor of the Year competition will be held in conjunction with the 2008 ATFA Convention.

The competition rewards tradespeople within the timber flooring industry, by providing them with an opportunity to present their workmanship to the entire Australian timber flooring industry, and in turn receive recognition for that work. The competition will be open to all tradespeople within the timber flooring industry who have completed either a

commercial or domestic timber floor during between August 2007 and September 2008.

The winner in each category will receive a trophy, framed certificate and a \$500 cash prize as well as prominent industry media coverage.

All visitors to the ATFA Convention will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite floor. The floor with the most votes in each category will be awarded the title of Australian Floor of the Year. Only visitors to the expo will be eligible to vote in the competition. *f*



Pictured here, winners from the 2007 Australian Timber Floor of the Year Awards.

Entry form

Select category

- Residential Floor of the Year - Site Installed
- Residential Floor of the Year - Pre Finished
- Commercial/Industrial Floor of the Year - Site Installed
- Commercial/Industrial Floor of the Year - Pre Finished

Entrant details

Your name _____
 Company name _____
 Company address _____
 _____ PC _____
 Phone _____
 Fax _____
 Mobile _____
 Email _____

Floor details

Architect/Designer or person who designed floor (if any) and contact details _____

 Installation company and contact details _____

 Sand and finish company and contact details _____

 Flooring manufacturer and contact details _____

Finish manufacturer

Other (please specify) _____

Type of finish

- Wax finish Acid-cured Acrylic impregnated
- Moisture-cured Water-based
- Other (please specify) Oil-based

Species of wood

Species of wood used _____
 Type of pattern _____
 Square metre measurement of floor _____

Terms and conditions are available at www.atfaconvention.com.au. I certify that I have read the conditions of entry of this contest and that this entry conforms to those conditions of entry. I authorise ATFA to duplicate and/or publish the photos and information accompanying this entry in Timber Floors and any other publications or media at its discretion.

Signature _____

Print name _____

Date _____ Phone _____

Please send your completed entry form, along with one 8"x12" colour photograph of the entered floor, and one colour jpeg copy of the photograph (minimum 300dpi) on CD to GEMS Pty Ltd no later than 12 September 2008. Late entries will not be considered.

Australian Timber Floor of the Year Competition
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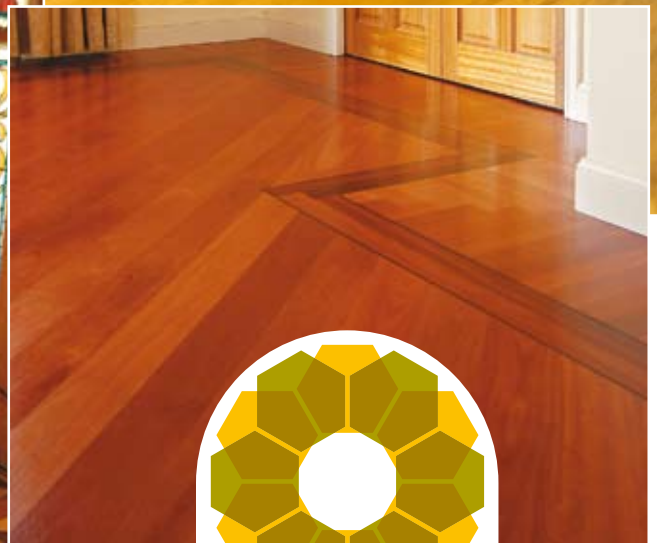
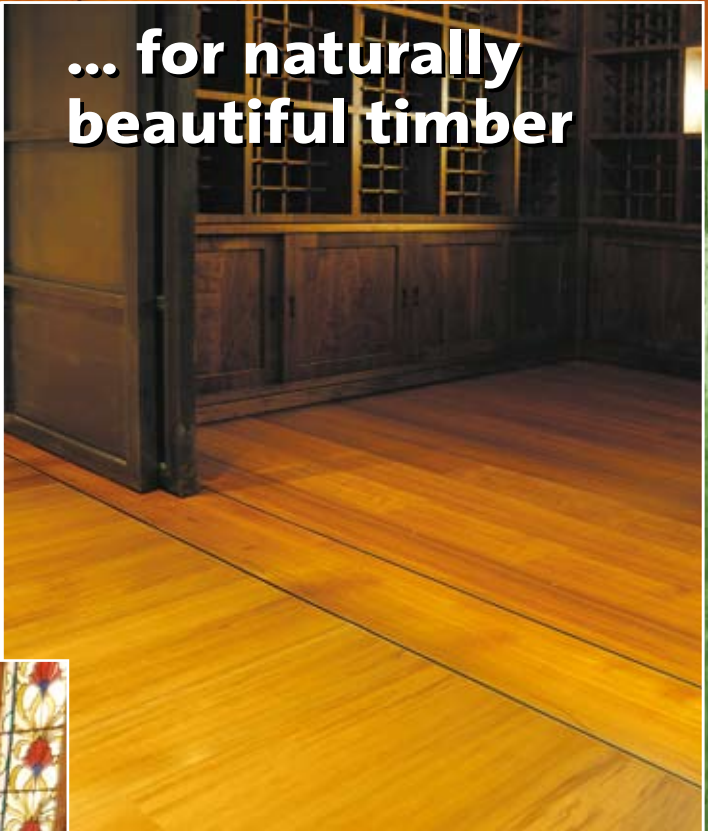
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The story of Eugen Lägler (1925-2007)



Eugen Lägler was the founder of Eugen Lägler GmbH, and inventor of the world's first belt-sander. Nicknamed, "The father of the HUMMEL," Eugen Lägler was a great pioneer in floor sanding technology.

He began his career in floorsanding machinery in the early 1960s, developing the ELF (Eugen Lägler, Frauenzimmern) drum sander in 1964, which set the foundation for the present-day company.

In 1968 he became the first to integrate belt design into his floor sanders. Lägler's new design earned the name HUMMEL (Bumble Bee), because of its characteristic humming noise. Together with the RANDMEISTER, exports began in earnest in the early 70s, first to Europe, and the USA, and later to Australia and the Pacific.

In the early 1980s, when medical research began to uncover the connections between fine dust and certain cancers and nasal conditions, Lägler was the first to develop higher levels of dust extraction and containment through working with well-known technical institutes.

Another milestone came in 1993 when Lägler created the TRIO three disc sanding machine. It was the first machine of its kind to be tested and approved by Euro authorities and certified "holzstaubgeprüft" - below 0.2mg per cubic metre of dust resulting from its superior, sensor monitored extraction.

Eugen was a practical man, a master-engineer and an ethical businessman. The name Lägler remains synonymous with innovation and the highest quality.

Eugen Lägler died on 1 December 2007, aged 82. *f*

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Development of procedure to secret fix wide flooring

In response to increasing demand, Boral Timber has developed an installation method for secret fixing wide boards.

There has been a trend in recent years towards wide timber boards, with 108mm and 130mm boards in increasing demand for both domestic and commercial projects. However, architects, interior designers and consumers generally dislike the appearance of top nailed boards, prompting Boral Timber to develop a procedure to secret nail wide boards.

The installation method developed by the team at Boral Timber uses a combination of flooring cleats and full

trowel adhesive to attach hardwood flooring to a solid sheet subfloor.

This process should not be undertaken by novice floor installers, but requires skilled tradespeople who are fully aware of the potential hazards of incorrect installation and understand the relationship between timber and its surrounding environment.

This method of fixing is detailed in the Boral Timber Flooring installation guidelines brochure which is available to flooring contractors, architects and any other flooring or building professionals. For ATFA members, a copy of the brochure has been included in this issue.



For further copies visit www.boraltimberflooring.com.au or email timberspec@boral.com.au.

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Technical feature: choosing the best wood filler



Choosing the correct wood filler for your job is vital to the success of the project. Virtually every hardwood floor requires some type of wood filler; without it, the job is incomplete. John Goss and Monica Stell from Woodwise cover how to choose the right filler for the job.

There are some important factors to consider when choosing the best wood filler for the specific flooring job. The first consideration should be the type of project you are working on.

A site-finished floor (installed, sanded and finished) should be filled during the sanding process. It may be necessary to spot-fill between coats.

A prefinished (factory-finished) floor will have holes from top nailing that will need to be filled. There will also be end-butts that aren't perfect or other fine cracks and imperfections.

When resanding an existing floor treat the job just as you would a site-finished floor using a wood patch or a trowel filler.

When recoating an existing floor, it is recommended that you use the same filler as you would for a prefinished or factory-finished floor.

The second consideration should be the species of wood and colour you are installing or refinishing. Choosing the right colour is imperative when filling the floor and there are a few key factors that need to be taken into consideration.

Firstly, it is important to think about what the flooring will do in the future. For example, if the timber is likely to darken over time, consider using a filler that is a shade darker than the unfinished wood.

Another factor to consider is the coating you are going to apply to the floor, as this will influence whether you should opt for a darker or lighter filler. In general oil-modified and moisture-cured urethane finishers will tend to darken the flooring, while waterborne finishes will leave the floor with a lighter look.

There are a number of other products available to meet the varied needs of today's hardwood flooring professional.

Fillers for prefinished (factory-finished) floors are designed specifically for factory-finished floors and can be used to fill nail holes, imperfections, cracks or gaps that may have occurred in the floor. They can also be used in between coats or at the end of a site-finished floor.

Trowel filler is regularly used by hardwood flooring professionals who trowel-fill nearly all of the time on site-finished floors. This does a thorough job of filling cracks, nail holes, gouges and broken edges, as well as uneven grain. Parquetry floors should be trowel-filled every time.

Wood patch is ideal for spot-filling imperfections such as nail holes, gouges and broken edges.

Epoxy wood patch is useful when an exceptional bond is needed, for example, stair nosings or an area where you will need to screw or drill into the floor.

Knot or large void filler can be used on floors with large voids. For example, when you have rustic floor with a lot of knots, use a filler that won't shrink and is made for filling large voids. Many wood fillers say they won't shrink, but most will shrink considerably in large voids. Choose a product made specifically for this.

Do your research and choose your wood filler at the beginning of the job while still in the planning stage. If you have questions on any wood filler products, consult the manufacturer. f

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Taking on a timber flooring apprentice

Hiring an apprentice is a great opportunity to grow your business while putting skills back into the industry. ATFA CEO Randy Flierman discusses the process involved in taking on a timber flooring apprentice.

When an employer takes on an apprentice, it is their task to find the right person, although assistance is available through Group Training Companies and School Based Apprentices, as well as employment agencies.

Once a candidate has been found, the employer should contact an Australian Apprentice Centre (ACC), for assistance with signing up the apprentice, organising the subsidies and allocating the Registered Training Organisation (RTO). There are currently 12 providers registered in Australia covering both the public and private sectors.

Apprentices can undertake either a Certificate III in



Flooring Technology or a Certificate II in Flooring Technology.

Certificate III or Apprentice is a full trade qualification; the contract of training is traditionally four years but some states have reduced this to address skills shortages. The Certificate II or Trainee is a Production Worker qualification; the contract of training is usually one year.

The structured training (often referred to as off the job training) in both the apprenticeship and traineeship, varies from state to state. While it is a national system, each state is responsible for funding. The system has enough flexibility to allow for the structured training to occur either at TAFE, with a private RTO, or through on the job assessment. Recognition of prior learning is also an option for apprentices who may already have some skills.

As well as gaining a new employee, there are financial benefits in taking on an apprentice. For each apprentice, an employee can expect to receive approximately \$4000 split into three payments.

For a trainee, an employer can expect to receive approximately \$1250. The same incentive applies to the employment of a school-based apprentice as long as the employer retains them on completion of their training. Other incentives exist for mature age, disability, business skills vouchers, rural and regional locations and tools of the trade.

Some employers are reluctant to employ an apprentice for fear that they will be poached by another company once they have been trained. For this reason, all companies need to play their part in developing the industry and by being careful not to drive wages up by not employing apprentices.

For further information about taking on an apprentice visit www.atfa.com.au

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Tips from the trade

Peter King from Floorcraft Victoria, writes to Timber Floors Magazine about the importance of letting customers make an informed decision when selecting a coating for their timber floor.

"I have been involved in the timber flooring industry for over twenty years, having owned my own business since the early 1980s, and have often learnt the hard way both what to say and what not to say when dealing with customers.

"No longer is the only finish of choice two pack polyurethane; the industry has grown considerably in recent years and consumers are fortunate now to be faced with a plethora of coating choices.

"When I discuss coating options with my clients, I believe their decision should be an informed one. Of course they may have preconceived ideas about what they want, but I still offer them the chance to consider all options.

"I have found one of the best ways to demonstrate this is to apply both water and solvent based finishes to prefinished panels of the timber of their choice. I separately coat each half with both types of finish, which produces a different result on most species. After discussing the benefits of each finish, the customer takes as much time as they need to consider their decision, confident they have enough information to make the right one.

"Of course, many readers will already be doing this, but for those who aren't, it may be worth considering this approach so your customers can make a decision based on the information you present as a true flooring professional."

For sending in this letter, Peter will receive a free pair of Hard Yakka Legends Workwear pants with kneepads. See below for details on how you can win too.

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WIN!

We'd like our readers to provide the content for this page. So send in your pearls of wisdom, tips from the trade or questions for our "Ask the Experts" column and you could win!

The best letter received each issue will win a pair of Hard Yakka Legends Workwear pants with kneepads. The best contribution for 2008 will win a Pownail 445 nail gun worth \$1100!

Just email your timber flooring-related question or tips and tricks to us at editor@atfa.com.au or fax 02 9440 9066 and include your contact details.



ATFA calendar

9 - 10 October 2008
ATFA Conference and Convention, Melbourne

17 - 20 January 2009
Domotex Hannover - www.domotex.de

2 - 5 February 2009
Surfaces Las Vegas - www.surfaces.com

24 - 26 March 2009
Domotex Asia Chinafloor - www.domotexasiachinafloor.com

28 April - 1 May 2009
NWFA Hardwood Flooring Convention, Long Beach
www.nwfa.org

ir talk

Does a medical certificate provide foolproof protection for employees? Industrial Relations expert Emma Watt examines a situation where it didn't and offers advice for employers.

An employee of a large corporation applied for a medical certificate so he could fly interstate to watch a football game.

The employee attended the game and the next day presented a medical certificate to his employer who did not accept that this employee was unfit for work and terminated his employment.

The case was taken to court, with the magistrate concluding that although a medical certificate from a qualified medical practitioner within the practitioner's area of expertise is prima facie to be accepted, this case was an

exceptional situation. He believed that it was open to him to apply his own judgement and common sense, and concluded that the absence was not due to illness or injury, and consequently, the termination was not for a prohibited reason.

As a general rule, a medical certificate should not be challenged unless there is incontrovertible evidence that it is false. Production of a medical certificate would normally protect an employee from termination of their employment where the absence is temporary.

In an exceptional situation, as it was in this case, judgement and common sense could be applied. As every case is different, it would be a good idea to discuss the matter with a professional adviser.

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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Email emma@emmawatt.com.au

websites

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Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) provides research and development for the Australian forest and wood products industry. Visit this website for free PDF downloads on a number of reports relevant to timber flooring.



www.gbca.org.au

The Green Building Council of Australia website is a good resource for sustainable building practices.



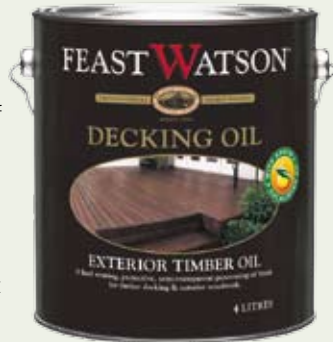
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For further details on Polycure's AQUACARE or a list of distributors in your state visit www.polycure.com.au



Tramex multi-purpose moisture meter kit

Tramex has developed a multi-purpose moisture and humidity measurement kit that allows greater flexibility in the moisture and humidity measuring needs of the timber flooring industry. The kit incorporates three modes of operation; a digital non-destructive meter for measuring moisture content in concrete floors and other floor screeds,

a plug-in wood probe to give accurate moisture readings in wood from 7% to 40% and a plug-in humidity probe for relative humidity temperature, dew-point and mixing ratio readings.

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Project feature: hall of fame

This intricate, hand cut parquetry floor in the hallway of a home in California was inspired by the design of a marble floor in an Italian cathedral. The design was sketched, translated to timber and installed by Jack Campbell of Campbell and Co Hardwood Floors in the United States.



The species used in this timber floor design were North American and African species, Wenge, Sapele, Birds Eye Maple, Maple and White Oak.

A clever combination of quartersawn and flat sawn timbers and many hours at the drafting table went into perfecting the 3D design that gives such depth to this beautiful piece of craftsmanship. The species were carefully selected for their colour contrast and grain effects to emphasise the geometric design.

"This design could easily be translated to Australian hardwood species," says master craftsman Jack Campbell. "As long as the species used are those that provide a good contrast and will maintain their colour over time, this design will work well in Australian species. I also used a water-based finish with UV protection that would prevent the colours from discolouring over time and perhaps losing their impact."

The design was drafted and then an MDF template was cut. MDF is very stable so there would not be any problems with the template shrinking or expanding during cutting. The timber was milled to 8mm thick for a glue down installation and was not laser cut but was rather cut by hand on a simple jig in Jack's workshop.

Each rectangle was assembled and taped together before installation with the two long border strips being installed first and the geometric centre piece fitting perfectly between the two bold borders.

From the grand inspiration of a Renaissance cathedral, Jack has produced a hardwood timber floor so beautiful that no one looks at the paintings on the wall! *f*

**“There’s really
only one tool
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