

# Timber Talk

## Tunncliffe's

### December 2017

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## It's Been a Tough Year



It has been a tough year for Tunncliffe's. One of our toughest ever, despite the building boom we are experiencing. The Edgumbe flood disaster in April this year has been severely disruptive. Although we are now fully back up and running again we may still hamper in a few areas, for which we would like to apologise. At the same time we wish to thank all our customers and suppliers for their compassion, patients and overwhelming support we have been receiving.



With the sudden passing of Ken Monk in September our joinery industry lost a corner stone. We would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution to the Master Joiners and BCITO organisations he has made during his busy life and wish his family strength during these difficult times.

After a wet and windy winter, spring brought us a change of government. The New Zealand housing shortage was a big feature

during the election campaigns, so we probably will see the building boom holding on for a little while yet. Our joinery customers have been keeping busy with a consistent flow of work. When there is a building boom on we don't see the traditional slow-down period over winter. And what never seems to change is the end-of-year Christmas rush, which we are experiencing at the moment.

Beehive boxes have become a significant part of our business, from humble beginnings in 2002. The bees have been busy too this year, but they had to work hard to make ends meet. Last summer season brought the beekeeping industry the poorest honey harvest on record for many. Our current spring is again not flash either for most areas in New Zealand. Here in the Bay of Plenty the season is at least one month behind to what we are used to in the last few decades. Some say that this is a sign that our climate is changing.

As a result we have seen our beehive box sales slow down significantly this year. This is also caused by the industry waiting for the final scientific definition of what Manuka honey actually is. The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) is taking care of this process. This liquid gold needs to be defined to avoid finding more Manuka honey from New Zealand on the world market than there ever

### Christmas Break

At Tunncliffe's we finish the year on Thursday 21 December 2017 and will be back in full swing on Monday 15 January 2018. We will have a small team back on Monday 8 January that can help with stock item orders.

We would like to thank all our customers for their business this year and wish everyone a Happy Christmas Break and safe start to the New Year.



can be produced. Until then, honeys that are on the fringe of being able to be labelled Manuka are not being traded. This results in a lower cash flow for many businesses and as a result less gear being bought.

The enormous expansion of the New Zealand beekeeping industry may have come to an end. According to the NZ Apiary Register hive numbers increased from just over 376,000 in 2010 to 820,000 in 2017. The industry group Apiculture NZ reports that approximately 250,000 hives are located in the South Island and 600,000 in the North Island.

Not surprisingly the main cause of the run on

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## It's Been a Tough Year continued...

beehives in the last decade is the increased value of honey. According to Statistics New Zealand's Food Price Index (FPI), the price of clover honey has almost tripled in the last nine years. We all know about Manuka honey and how it can reach near astronomical prices, when it is of high medicinal quality. Manuka honey is a New Zealand exclusive product. While there is a high demand for this honey overseas it seems that other, more common, New Zealand honeys piggybacking on that success, fetching relatively high prices as

well. A New Zealand Beekeeper manages to get about three times as much for clover honey as his Canadian counterpart offering a very similar product.

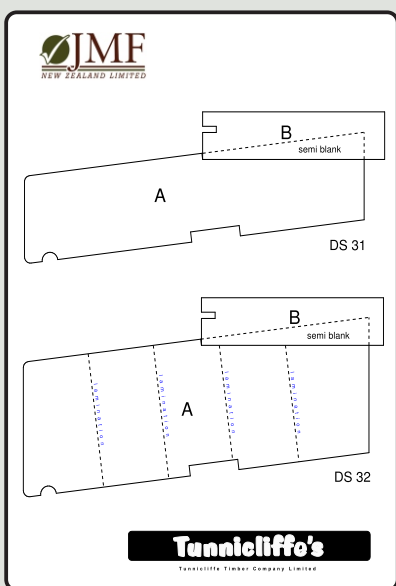
In the past beekeepers could go anywhere with their hives donating a few kilos of honey to the land owner each season. Times have changed. Landowners are now shopping around, treating the beekeepers as contractors turning the nectar from their bush and paddocks into honey. Properties that were once marginal scrub land have turned into a new profitable resources.



### JMF 4211 Door Sills In a Semi-Blank

Due to demand we now cater to run JMF 4211 door sills in a "semi-blank" format. The current sills DS 31 and DS 32, as pictured, have a pre-set location for the plant-on "threshold", part B. This profile design caters for most situations, however there are variations possible. With the "semi-blank" version of the sill the joiner can machine the bevel for part B at any required location.

Drawings can be downloaded from: <http://www.tunncliffes.co.nz/joiners-product-list.html>. (4211 Affiliated Master Joiners members can request drawings showing the dimensions)



### ThermoWood Update

In exterior timber joinery sills are bearing most of the brunt from the elements, especially direct sunlight and moisture. Our harsh New Zealand sun is 'beating' the sills with her UV-rich rays, perpendicular to the surface, heating them up in the middle of the day. And when it rains all the water comes down on them.

Under these harsh conditions with the frequent changes in temperature and moisture content the timber moves.

Larger sills often end up being made from laminated timber. The movement of the timber puts extreme pressure on the lamination joints. We carry several H3.2 Tanalised® Ecowood™ laminated sill products such as the popular 'Bungalow Sill' CS 05.

We have seen some problems over the years, especially when the timing and or quality of the painting is lacking. Since ThermoWood®230 is

twice as stable as Radiata pine and also possessing improved paint-ability properties, it simply performs better under these tough conditions. So ThermoWood®230 has become the preferred option nowadays for window sills.



### Meet the New Guys



We would like to introduce three new staff members who joined our management team this year.

From left to right are Murray Brown, General Manager. Murray came to the Eastern Bay of

Plenty from Upper Hutt where he had similar roles in the Plastics Supply Industry; "I am learning about timber but the factory processes and customer service are very similar to what I have been dealing with for 35 years. I am enjoying the change of scenery".

Shanley Pepper who is now ruling our office and accounts comes from Rotorua where she learned the ropes at a steel construction company. She is our 'iron lady', keeping us in check.

Bruce Murray, our new production manager comes from "The Chiefs" country and is a qualified joiner and timber machinist. Before Bruce gained his timber machinist qualifications at Tunncliffe's he worked for joiners and ran his own building business for several years. So welcome Murray, Shanley and Bruce, let the good times begin.

**Please Remember - If you are emailing your orders, please forward them to [orders@tunncliffes.co.nz](mailto:orders@tunncliffes.co.nz). This address is monitored constantly and is our preferred line of communication. Emailing orders to individual team members can incur delays due to absence or travel. But you can still fax at any time and phone your orders through during our business hours; Monday to Thursday - 7:30am to 5:00pm & Fridays 7:30am to 3:00pm.**