

# Timber Talk

## Tunncliffe's

### June 2006

Tunncliffe Timber Company Limited - 37 Kowhai Ave, PO Box 54, Edgecumbe - Ph: 07 304 9811 - Fax: 07 304 8208 - Toll Free 0800 657 934 - info@tunncliffes.co.nz

## New Shareholder

We introduced Daan Olthuis in our Timbertalk back in June 2005. Daan started with us that month as General Manager on a contract basis. We are pleased to announce that Daan has become part and parcel of the company for the long term, taking up shareholding and co-directorship with Derek Slabber as from the 1st April this year.



Daan Olthuis



## About Our Glue

Gluing timber together plays a very important part in producing a quality Tunncliffe product. As the glue is "holding everything together" we have to make sure that we are using the right product for the applications our products are used for, which in general is for non-structural interior and exterior use.

Our glue of choice is a product from

Franklin International, Multibond® X-016, which is a highly waterproof, 2-part cross linking polyvinyl acetate emulsion adhesive. This top of the line glue is of the latest technology, meeting the most stringent European (DIN EN240 D4) and USA (ASTM D-5572) industry standards. Our glue is D4 rated under the European Standard, which relates to a class in durability performance. To give you an idea as to what the glue has to endure to fall under this classification we sum up the 4 different scenarios under which it has been strength tested:

- after 7 days of curing, dry, test.
- as above, then soaking timber and glue in water for 4 days, test.
- after 7 days of curing then boiling

timber and glue in water for 6 hours, then soaking in cold water for 2 hours, test.

- as above, then re-dried for 7 days, test.

This should give our customers some piece of mind when working with our product. This quality glue is used for our whole range of interior and exterior fingerjointed and laminated products.

You can find out more on the Franklin International website:  
<http://www.franklinglobal.com/>

To picture where the D4 rating sits in relation to what is required for various applications you can refer to the table below.

## Burn Branding

As you may have noticed we started burn-branding our Tanalised® Ecwood™ blanks and profiles to help identifying the product amongst all others and emphasize the fact that it treated to the level of H3.2.



Durability Class	Examples of Climatic Conditions and Fields of Application
01	Interior, in which the temperature only occasionally exceeds 50 degrees Celsius for a short time and the moisture content of the wood is 15% maximum.
02	Interior with occasional short-term exposure to running or condensed water and/or to occasional high humidity provided the moisture content of the wood does not exceed 18%.
03	Interior with frequent short-term exposure to running or condensed water and/or to heavy exposure to high humidity. Exterior not exposed to weather.
04	Interior with frequent long-term exposure to running or condensed water. Exterior exposed to weather but with adequate protection by a surface coating.



# About Blanks

Fingerjointing is Tunncliffe's core business, we buy in rough sawn kiln dried timber in all shapes and sizes from various sawmills. We then "cross-cut" out all defects resulting in sections of clearwood blocks, or "shooks" as we call them. Apart from clearwood shook we produce a variety of other cut to length components and some knotty shooks for particular end products. The name of our game is to add value, aiming for high recovery and quality product. All untreated waste from defecting is sold as firewood.

The shooks are fingerjointed back together which is a process of cutting 3mm micro "fingers" on each end of the blocks, adding glue, join the fingers and press the blocks together again. This results in a full length product we call a "blank".

The majority of our blanks are run into profiles but it is also the first re-manufactured product we sell from our factory, going to joiners and interior door manufacturers who are turning the blanks into custom made profiles, treated and untreated.

It is very handy to have a few blanks in the rack, they offer flexibility. What we need to be careful of with though, is that we are tempted to stock a few larger sizes giving us the option to cut them back in size. This may seem a smart way of doing things, limiting stock but there is a serious downside to this.

Timber is a natural product. It is part of a tree, a living organism with a round shape. Once "killed", by human beings, we try to make it square and straight, undergoing a whole array of processing stages; cutting, grading, drying, possibly treating and drying again, cutting again, dressing, fingerjointing etc. To deliver a quality product all processes have to be done well. The square timber section we end up with comes as close as possible to what we consider a quality timber product. However that original round shaped organism is still within that square piece of timber, it has certain stress properties (cupping/bowing). As soon as its dimension changes drastically there is the potential for the timber to unleash its tensions and we are finding the product

not straight anymore.

The blank is made up of shooks. All of these individual pieces of timber have their own character including certain stress properties. The blank in its dimension, as it has been produced, is a relatively "stable" product, all stresses of the individual shooks are averaged out against each other. Once you start ripping the blank into smaller sections, tensions are released. This can cause problems, immediately but also at a later stage in the final product, which can cause some serious headaches.

So, think twice before cutting up a 200x50mm blank in two 100x50mm or in even smaller sections. You are better off getting two blanks of 100x50mm. A basic principal in the joinery trade which unfortunately is sometimes forgotten...

Below is a list of all our blank sizes.

150 x 25mm	75 x 50mm
200 x 25mm	100 x 50mm
100 x 40mm	125 x 50mm
150 x 40mm	150 x 50mm
200 x 40mm	200 x 50mm

## A Snippet From the Past

The original Tunncliffe Timber Company used to own several sawmills in the Eastern Bay of Plenty milling native timber. In the late 1950ties early 60ties it became increasingly hard to source native logs and by this time Tunncliffe's had only one mill left at Edgecumbe. This mill was bought from Fletcher's and was originally established by the Kauri Timber Company.

Early in 1974 discussions started between the general manager of Tunncliffe's, Mr Vic Tunncliffe, and the general manager of Morris, Walsh and Gatfield (MWG), Mr Ken Gatfield. The two companies merged on the 1st of July that year. The sawmill was closed in March 1976,

dismantled and donated to the Whakatane Museum. Its historical interest lies in that it was one of the last steam-run mills in New Zealand. Part of the steam engine can still be seen today as it forms part of the "shop-window" of the Whakatane Museum.

