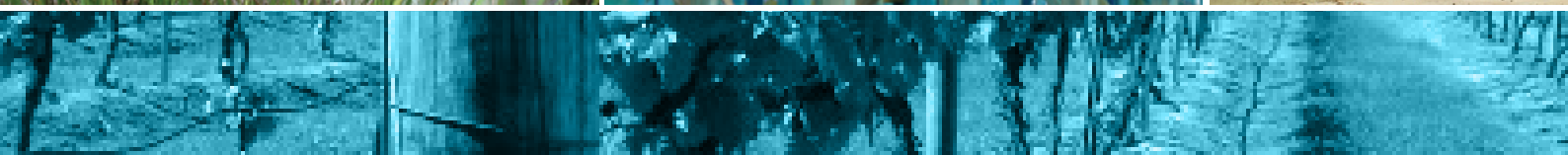
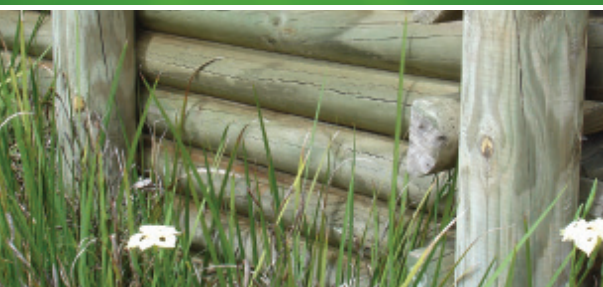





InSIGHT

Keeping you informed of the latest Koppers Performance Chemicals and Industry News.



Issue 4 - March 2018

Welcome to the first edition of the KPC Newsletter, Insight for 2018.

It has certainly been an interesting start to 2018 for the timber industry with the most pressing issue being the shortage of wood fibre across the market and the impact this is having on the supply chain through to the end user. The potential is there for this shortage to have a large influence on the timber market for years to come. We understand that the shortage of timber framing has certainly opened the door for greater market penetration of steel framing, especially in the Sydney market.

At the same time many companies are looking to establish new timber supply lines from overseas sources, introducing new suppliers of wood into the Australian market.

From a Koppers Performance Chemicals point of view, our focus is centred on continuing to provide our customers with high quality timber preservative products accompanied by industry leading technical, engineering and marketing support.

We plan on launching some new products during 2018 and we will advise our customers and the greater industry of our plans at the appropriate time.

You will also see in the newsletter that after 25 years with Koppers Performance Chemicals, Diane Hanel retired at the end February. Diane would be familiar to all of our customers as the primary contact for taking orders and organising deliveries. We will miss Diane and wish her a happy and exciting retirement.

Helen Ferguson joined KPC at the beginning of 2018 and will be taking on the role performed by Diane. I am sure that Helen will work with all of our customers in providing the high level of customer service as Diane has done for so many years.

Elias



Farewelling Diane.

In the following story, Diane reminisces about her time with Koppers.



Main Image: KPC FAREWELL DINNER
 Standing L to R, Chris Tzioutziouklaris, John Lord, Bill Leggate, Elias Akle, Dan Dowdell, Paul Downey, Reece Pitkowsky, Helen Ferguson
 Front row, L to R, Ben Anderson, Diane, Dave Gauldie, Nick Livanes

I started with the Koppers in Mount Gambier in February 1993 and I was really excited when I was the successful applicant for the position.

I remember doing a trial run to find the Site before my interview, which was just as well as I got lost a couple of times. When I first drove into the gate I wouldn't have dreamt that I would still be with the company 25 years later.

During my time in Mount Gambier I have seen staff get married and start families, I have also re-married and my own children have grown up, become adults and moved away.

I have been fortunate to work with a very dedicated and professional team throughout my working career; most of the Staff in Mount Gambier have been here for 10 years and more. It has been a pleasure turning up to work each day and I will miss our Quiz sessions in the kitchen which helped foster a camaraderie within the Staff. When doing the Newspaper Quiz we were a force to be reckoned with, as each had certain strengths, and this of course carries over into the work place. Some genuinely funny conversations took place in the kitchen during these times.

One highlight for me was the visit by Leroy Ball our CEO not long after we became part of Koppers. I found him very approachable and down to earth and the fact that he was happy to sit in our kitchen eating pies and sausage rolls spoke volumes about his ability to interact with all Staff from Senior Management down.

As our Factory is situated on the outskirts of town, we can look out of the windows and see cattle grazing. There is a pair of Falcons who make their nest and raise their young ones every year high in the steel rafters of the loading bay. We have had the odd stray Wallaby visit us, as well as a few unwelcome guests (snakes, and BIG spiders) The Huntsman spiders were more of a problem in the past and you would get a bit of a fright picking up a clipboard in the factory to find one on the back of it. We used to keep the clipboard hanging on a nail and I was in the habit of bashing it with a broom handle before taking it off the nail (if you heard a crunch you knew there was a spider on the clipboard) I thought the broom was a good Occupational Health and Safety resolution to the problem.

I have also enjoyed the interaction with our customers, building up some good relationships over the duration, and will no doubt miss that contact. I feel as though my contribution has been valued and that makes it easy to turn up to work each day and do your best.

So on to the next phase, which is heading out in the Caravan to see a lot more of Australia. I will be one of the "Gray Nomads" so if you are behind a Caravan and cursing the driver, it might just be Greg and I on our Big Adventure!

Diane

Retaining Wall Design

Timber retaining walls can be both aesthetically pleasing and cost effective, however, if they are poorly specified or built, they can have a short life and lead to an unhappy user or customer.

One of the most important considerations in retaining wall design is whether the wall is a "garden wall" or a structural retaining wall. Generally, a wall up to 1m in height that is not supporting a structure such as a part of a house or pool is seen to be a garden wall by most local councils and will not need an approval or engineers design and certification. This type of wall may utilise wood treated to Hazard Class H4 or better.

A wall over 1m in height or a wall of any height supporting a structure will need approval and certification. Additionally, this type of wall may need to use structurally graded timber members and in the case of treated timber, the use of Hazard Class H5 treated timber members.

A lot of timber garden retaining walls fail because of inadequate member sizes or poor construction and it is false economy to, for example, specify a smaller post size for a cantilever retaining wall or use inadequate embedment into the ground. Either way, the wall will move and eventually fail because it is either in danger of collapse or has moved to the point that the wall is unacceptably distorted.

Fortunately, there are now several excellent guides available which can be linked on your websites and made available to your customers and designers alike. Timber Queensland has 2 Technical Data Sheets that cover Garden Walls as well as structural residential retaining walls up to 2.4m in height:

TDS 8 Timber Garden Walls (Retaining Walls up to 1m High)

And

TDS 9 Timber Retaining Walls for Residential Applications

These are attached to this Newsletter for your information.

In addition, Wood Solutions has produced Design Guide 41 "Timber Garden Retaining Walls" also prepared by Timber Queensland which is available on their website.

Retaining walls tend to be one of the more visible uses of treated timber in Australia, encouraging good practice helps ensure their long life and continued use.

Always consult with local building authorities for regulations in your area.

Australian Forest Industries Future Vision

"Tonight, I am pleased to announce I am requesting (Assistant Minister) Anne Ruston to help us develop a new Government Plan that will underpin growth in the renewable timber and wood-fibre industry and work with a new government plan to give you the vision and certainty you need.

We are committed to developing this industry as a growth engine for regional Australia."

So said the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull at the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) industry dinner held at Parliament House in September last year. Of course this statement followed a lot of discussions with AFPA and its CEO, Ross Hampton over a long period of time and a realisation of the importance of the industry and the need to reset policies in relation to forests and the forest industries. AFPA has produced its suggestions for the Government Plan entitled "Towards a National Forest Industries Plan – Key Industry Asks and it contains the following 5 broad strategies:

1. Deliver more plantation trees
2. Ensure a sustainable native forest
3. Unleash a biofutures revolution
4. Renew research capability
5. Fast track Infrastructure and cut red tape

Want to learn more about these initiatives, comment or get involved?.

See ausfpa.com.au for more information and contacts.

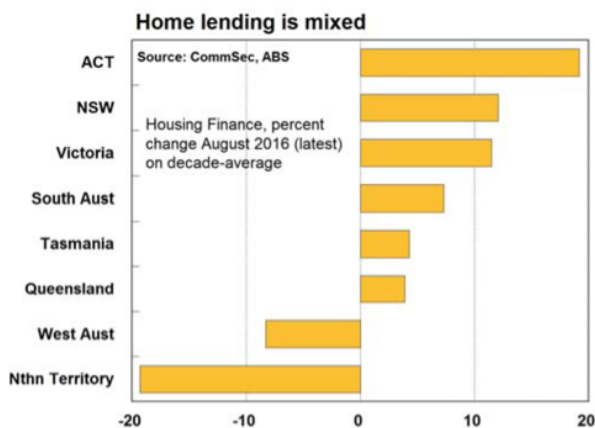
State of the Market

Australia timber market continues to be a polarised by regional economies as well as international events. In broad terms, markets in Western Australia, North Queensland and Northern Territory have been affected by the mining investment downturn however, raw material prices have firmed in recent times and these economies may be looking at improved conditions moving forward. East Coast timber markets are generally strong and in many cases there are shortages of timber products including structural framing with less framing being imported because of strong conditions in North America and Europe.

Anecdotally, timber shortages and lack of prefabrication capacity has led to inroads of steel framing particularly in the NSW market. The concern is that the residual level of steel framing will be significantly higher when the market inevitably cools.

The recently released Commonwealth Bank quarterly "State of the States" report available on the www.commsec.com.au gives a State by State snapshot of the economic pulse of each State and is worthwhile reading.

A couple of graphs illustrate the performance of the States with home lending measured against the decade average still showing very strong performance on the East Coast with Tasmania performing well on the back of interstate migration. Dwelling starts illustrate the result of pent-up demand for housing and strong migration and resultant population growth being a significant driver.



Bill Leggate joins Koppers Performance Chemicals

Koppers Performance Chemicals Australia is pleased to welcome Bill Leggate as its new Product Development Manager. Bill is no stranger to the timber preservation industry. He has held both business and technical manager positions and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience. Before joining Koppers Performance Chemicals, Bill held the position of Principal Scientist, Forest Products Innovation, at Queensland Department of Agriculture Forest and Fisheries where he was responsible for development and management of research in forest products processing and providing market driven scientific and information based solutions to support government and industry.



Bill, in his role as Product Development Manager will continue Koppers Performance Chemical's success in providing the Australian timber industry with innovative timber treatment technologies and processes. These innovations will help timber better compete with alternate building products and materials and open-up new opportunities for timber products in areas where timber has not been widely used. Bill will also be an important resource for Koppers Performance Chemicals customers to assist in providing technical service and support.

Elias Akle, General Manager Koppers PC Australia welcomed Bill saying "We are very pleased to welcome Bill and believe his research and technology experience will strengthen and complement our company's ability to provide timber preservative solutions for our customers and the wider industry. His experience and character fits in with our culture of innovation and exceptional service and we are very fortunate to be able to find someone of Bill's calibre to fill this role. I am confident that Bill will play a key role in providing and implementing high quality solutions for our customers."



SA Pine Installs New Preservative Treatment Plant

SA Pine has started LOSP production at its upgraded Monarto South preservative treatment facility.

This is an exciting development for the South Australian business with Ian Robinson, SA Pine General Manager explaining "SA Pine needed to provide the treated market with an environmentally friendly product as an alternative to CCA. In conjunction with our exclusive distributor, ITI, LOSP was chosen as the preservative treatment to take us forward"

SA Pine embarked on an investigation of the plant options and with the help of Koppers Performance Chemicals, many options were considered including converting the current CCA plant to LOSP. It was decided to continue to offer CCA as a treatment process and install a new LOSP plant. "Bror Moldrup from Moldrup-IWT was commissioned to supply the new plant and after a few teething problems we are very happy with the end result" Ian said

SA Pine Pty Ltd was formed in September 2012 when Garry Tucker, the owner of Recut Industries, joined forces with Greg Boulton the part owner of SA Sawmilling Pty Ltd. SA Pine consists of a sawmill based at Kuitpo in the Adelaide Hills and a drymill based at Monarto in the Murray Lands 63km east-southeast of Adelaide. SA Pine has a license with Forestry SA to source 75,000 cubic metres

of pine sawlog coming solely from the Mt Lofty Ranges. SA Pine targets a 70% recovery into treated product and supplies material for both the building and renovation and addition markets

The new plant is a "state of the art" facility for speed and efficiency and is controlled using the latest Koppers Performance Chemicals PCS control system. The plant has a unique automated pack loading system which minimises the changeovers to a few minutes, thereby maximising product throughput. The Koppers PCS has a simple computer controlled interface in which the operator can easily and reliably operate the plant. Currently the plant is capable of treating around 80m³ on a single shift which gives a capacity on a 2-shift operation to contract/custom treat of around 1,500m³ per month.

Ian said that "The plant was installed and commissioned in collaboration with SA Pine, Moldrup-IWT and Koppers PC and I thank our own staff and our suppliers for their great work in completing the plant, in particular I would like to thank Koppers who managed the process from ordering to commissioning".

SA Pine is now ready to offer custom treating for both CCA H3 and H4 and LOSP H3 and will also be able to offer H2F blue in the near future.

Koppers Performance Chemicals Australia Pty Ltd

Level 5 53 Walker Street North Sydney NSW 2060

Telephone 1800 088 809

www.kopperspc.com.au



KOPPERS
Performance
Chemicals