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**NATURAL ROUNDS—PUSH-BUTTON AGE
COUNTRY RECREATION GRANT**





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Front cover

Pine shelter, Como beach. Timber is one of nature's most versatile materials. Add man's technology in the form of timber preservation and it takes on a new dimension—unlimited durability. It becomes immune to attack by termites, borers and decay.

(Brian Stevenson)

Back cover

See Forestscapes, page 15.



NATURAL ROUNDS— here to stay

The chances are that the last oyster you ate—or that cultured pearl you sometimes wear—was grown with the aid of multi-salt treated pine poles.

In the comparatively short time they have been available, preservative treated round pine poles and posts have come to stay. This is not altogether a play on words based on their durability.

They have come to stay in both the decor and durability senses. With the increasing pressure of modern living there is now a corresponding awakening to the natural elements in life. Among these natural elements, which also gives the required “made to last a lifetime” durability, is the multi-salts treated pine pole.

It is no coincidence that the name coming into vogue for them is “natural rounds”, as most people—consciously or otherwise—associate them with the growing trees.

Their pleasant shape offers some counter to the sterility which is so much a part of today's urban scene.

Natural rounds are to be seen in all kinds of settings from the pearl farms' rafts to embankment walls in park and garden settings, steps, pergolas, fences, carports and adventure shapes for children to climb on and exercise their imaginations and limbs.

Preservative treatment

The outstanding ability of radiata and pinaster pine to retain preservatives which prevent them from rotting or being attacked by termites or marine pests, has made possible the production of virtually a new type of timber.

Untreated softwood placed in the ground would, of course, not last very long under our conditions.

However, multi-salt treated pine becomes immune to the attack of termites, rot and fungus.

The copper-chrome-arsenate (CCA) treatment is carried out in large cylinders in which is created firstly a vacuum to remove air from the wood cells, and then high pressure (usually 200 p.s.i.) to replace this air space with preservative.

Although initially soluble in water, these multi-salts unite chemically with wood during pressure impregnation, becoming “fixed” and extremely difficult to remove by leaching.

In other states where it has been available for a longer period, treated pine timber finds a wide variety of uses—farm buildings and fence posts, industrial buildings, wharves, jetties and other structures exposed to marine life, fences, garden borders, outdoor furniture and many uses in house construction. In fact, wherever timber is exposed to weather or timber pests, treated pine is used for long life.

Long life— no maintenance

After treatment the timber is an attractive pastel green colour, which weathers to a light grey-green. This colour results from small amounts of preservative salts remaining on the timber's surface.

If this is removed by dressing or sanding, the colour revealed is a light olive-grey. When exposed unprotected to rain and sunshine this darkens slowly to a warm ruddy brown shade.

◀ *Children exercising their imaginations and limbs on the natural rounds at the Forests Department's Royal Show display. The outdoor area proved as popular with the children as the indoor area was with the adults.*





These colours are attractive and their distinctive appearance and the fact that no painting or clear finishing is needed if not desired often causes them to be used for decorative and external cladding purposes.

Treated pine at Show

For the first time, the Forests Department mounted a display at the Perth Royal Show, in 1972.

◀ *Adventure playground equipment at Jolimont. This type of rugged, treated pine equipment is to be seen all over the Metropolitan area.*

Featured at this display was a Bunnings transportable house, sheathed in CCA treated radiata pine, together with treated pine verandah and pergola. Treated natural rounds were also a feature of the display, and included a beach shelter, children's playground equipment, low pole fencing and flag poles.

Bunning Bros. and Hicksons Timber Impregnation Co. (Picton), two of the three suppliers of treated pine, also had displays at the show. The third company treating pine is Barmell Pty. Ltd.

▲ *A safe log-pile shape for the young and very young, at Manning. Young Clinton, engrossed in his own thoughts, is four years old.*

Numerous other pine products supported the outdoor display section, while internally the house featured a range of tinted pine panelled and plywood walls with three types of flooring—strip jarrah, pine chipboard and pine aquatite plywood. The reconstituted pine flooring by Westralian Plywoods Hearn Industries, is a waterproof and preservative treated product.