

bretts bugle

MARCH 2009

WELCOME TO 2009



All you have to do to register is visit the Trade Counter at www.bretts.com.au by 31 March and you'll automatically go in the draw to win the \$1,000 account credit. It's so easy — check out the instructions on page 4.

And once you have registered you'll immediately have access to the special services we provide to our account customers.

For a start, you will be able to access pricing any time of the day or night. You can search by item number or description, or drill down by product groups using the black navigation menu.

Just click on the "Product / Price Search" function (in the grey Trade Counter menu, underneath the black navigation menu) to start your search.

While you're visiting, make sure you take the time to add or update your free business listing in the 2009 Bretts Trade Services Directory. This directory is a trade service search facility for consumers that is currently available online and will also be available in store in a printed format. To add your details, just click on the "My Details" menu option (in the grey Trade Counter menu on the left) and complete the online form.

Finally, check out the "Resources" section, and watch for future updates to the Bretts website as we prepare to offer even more online functionality!

\$1,000 just for logging on:

register at the "trade counter" on the new bretts website and you could win a \$1,000 credit on your bretts account!

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message from the md

Well we are now well into what is likely to be a very interesting 2009. The devastating Victorian bush fires and North Queensland floods have tested the resolve of the unfortunates living in those regions, but have at least managed to take the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) away from the headlines.

In spite of the constant doom and gloom we read and hear of in the press, the Queensland economy remains remarkably resilient (read the Australian Construction Council article for more detail). Unemployment, whilst on the increase is still at very manageable levels and the recent interest rate cuts make the cost of building or renovating a house the most reasonable it has been in years. In fact, there are very few signs that the Brisbane renovation market has suffered any downturn whatsoever.

I have heard many stories of householders deciding to build or renovate this year as they believe "it will be easier to find a builder now and the cost of funding is not likely to be this cheap again". It's a familiar story with many builders I speak to who also explain "jobs that have been deferred or cancelled have been replaced by other enquiries".

Thank goodness we all live in Queensland.

Bill Nutting Jr

Bill Nutting Jr
MANAGING DIRECTOR

economic and construction forecast report:

courtesy of "TABMAtalk", the timber & building materials association newsletter

On Wednesday 4th February 2009, TABMA Queensland hosted a breakfast to present information on the economic forecast for the construction industry. Mr Peter Barda from the Australian Construction Council presented information relating to macro driving factors and three major industry sectors; residential, non-residential and engineering. In summary;

NEGATIVES

residential

- Credit crisis constrained growth in lending.
- Market activity slowed due to uncertainty.

non-residential

- Investment down, especially in retail segment. Growth over next 2 years unlikely.
- Office buildings and industrial sites with approvals not commencing due to financial difficulties and vacancy rates increasing.

engineering

- Mining sector boom driven by growth in demand for manufacturing by China & India. Their markets reliant on demand from USA and Europe currently in recession.

macro factors

- GDP (key indicator of construction demand) expected to decrease in upcoming year.
- Increased unemployment rate.

POSITIVES

residential

- Net migration and population levels continue to grow, strongest in QLD.
- Unmet housing demand remains.
- Alterations and additions market stable & growing.

non-residential

- Government stimulus package investment in primary education facilities & health - areas of potential growth.

engineering

- Australian Government investment in areas such as water and electricity are driven by population and drought demands so should remain constant.

macro factors

- Falling inflation and reduced interest rates reducing cash rate.
- Market conditions make construction projects appealing for those who are cashed up.

Substantial increase in new housing activity should occur in 2010, multi-dwelling activity a few months later

Additionally, Australia's economy is healthier than other nations and will therefore bounce back easier and quicker than others. Lowering interest rates, the first home owner's grant extensions and the infrastructure proposals in the Government stimulus package all combine to brighten the horizon.

If you would like to access the raw data and forecasts published by the Construction Forecast Council, as well as graphs from Peter's presentation, this information is available for free on their website, www.cfc.qcif.com.au.

On March 27th 2009 a mid-term forecast revision will be posted on this website combining recent figures.



New to Bretts Doors & Windows: high quality security screens and doors.

what's new at brett's?

bretts continues to expand our product range to offer even more stylish and innovative building solutions

screening and security

Bretts Doors & Windows now manufactures a range of high quality screening products, including security screens, security doors and fly screens, at our Hamilton factory.

Bretts stainless steel security screens and doors are manufactured using the SCRENGUARD® stainless steel woven mesh security systems, which are designed to "protect your view".

SCRENGUARD® systems have been put to the test and pass the latest rigid Australian Standards AS5039-2003. These Australian Standard tests simulate an intense attack using force to gain entry through your security screen door or window.

These Screens are manufactured from 316 grade corrosion resistant stainless steel, coated using advanced processes with a UV resistant attractive finish. SCRENGUARD® aluminium frames are leading the way by using T6 grade, high tensile extruded aluminium, ensuring frame strength and quality.

All frames can be supplied in a wide range of colours including an attractive wood grain finish. And SCRENGUARD® systems come with a 10 year manufacturer's product warranty.

In addition to the stainless steel security mesh, Bretts can supply traditional security grilles and doors using "diamond" and other decorative security grill patterns, as well as fly screens.

We can site measure and will arrange installation of all products to ensure a hassle free job. So ask your representative for a quote or contact Rob Campbell at Bretts Doors & Windows on (07) 3623 0118 or email rcampbell@bretts.com.au



At Bretts, we understand the importance of being on top of design trends and technical developments. We are always on the lookout for ways to enhance our product offering — and therefore, your building solution.



New to Bretts: beautiful Cypress, as seen in the Bretts Architectural showroom.

stylish cypress

Come into the new architectural showroom and see how we have innovatively used Cypress screening to add some dimension and flair.

Traditionally Cypress has only been used structurally for its tremendous strength to weight ratio as well as its natural durability (Class 1) and resistance to termite attack.

In practical terms, that means you get all the qualities of hardwood at a softwood price and without any toxic chemical treatment.

All Cypress from Bretts comes from our own mill at Inglewood in South West Queensland, which has been cutting Cypress Pine since before the second World War.

We are now into our second and sometimes third cut forests, proving the sustainability of the species utilising our world class harvesting techniques.

To reinforce that point, we have recently secured Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) certification ensuring the product is responsibly harvested from sustainable managed forests.

So not only do you get a great looking serviceable product, you also meet the "greenest" standards in the country.

Don't forget to have a look in the hardware store at the great new range of laminated Cypress products, which is to include posts, handrails, balusters and stair treads.



just
for
fun

replacement windows

Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with that expensive double-pane, energy-efficient kind, and today, I got a call from the contractor who installed them. He was complaining that the work had been completed a whole year ago and I still hadn't paid for them.

Hellloooo. Just because I'm blonde doesn't mean that I am automatically stupid.

So, I told him just what his fast talking sales guy had told me last year, that in ONE YEAR these windows would pay for themselves!

Helllooooo? It's been a year! I told him. There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally just hung up. He never called back. Guess I won that argument. I bet he felt like an idiot!



diy nuns

Two nuns are ordered to paint a room in the convent which is being renovated, and the last instruction of the Mother Superior is that they must not get even a single drop of paint on their habits.

After conferring about this for a while, the two nuns decide to lock the door of the room, strip off their habits, and paint in the nude.

In the middle of the project, there comes a knock at the door. "Who is it?" calls one of the nuns.

"Blind man," replies a voice from the other side of the door.

The two nuns look at each other, shrug, and decide that no harm can come from letting a blind man into the room.

They open the door, and the man enters.

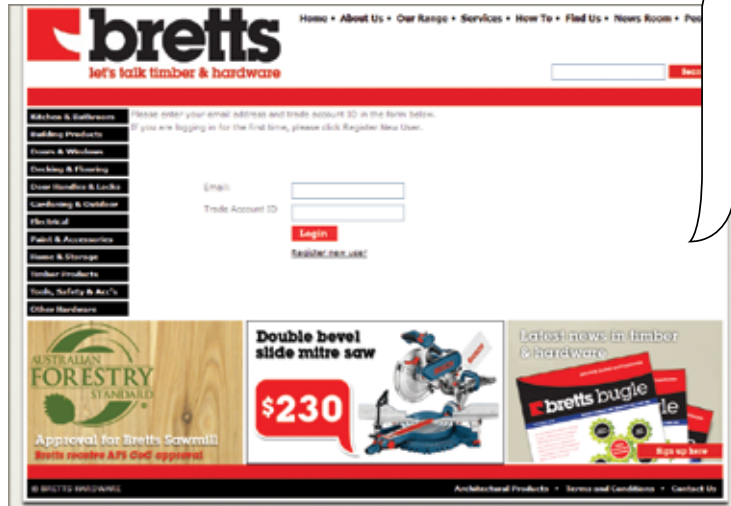
"Nice boobs, sister," says the man. "Where do you want these blinds?"

how to register at the bretts online trade counter:

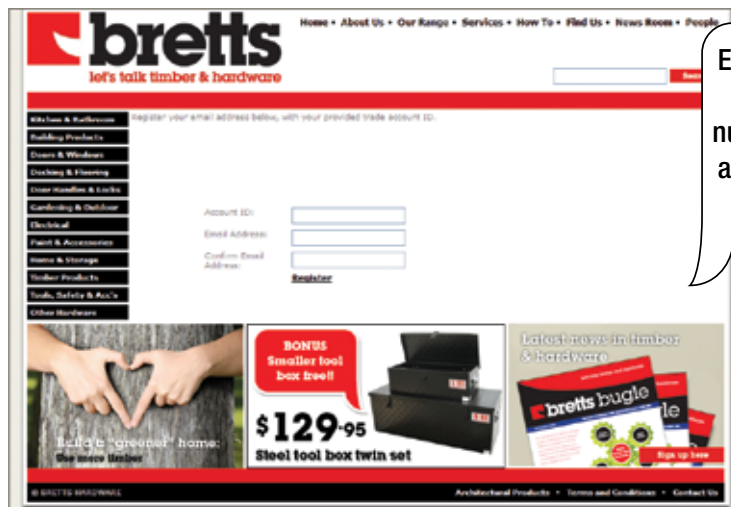
it's as easy as 1-2-3...



Start by clicking anywhere on the "Trade Counter" cell.



Next click on "Register new user".



Enter your 6 digit Bretts account number and email address. Click on "Register".



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