

Termites, the Lorne Story?

In last month's article a comment was made about Lorne and the fact that it is not a registered termite infestation zone. I received a bit of feedback about this statement as it generated a bit of confusion (my fault, sorry). Hopefully this month's submission will clear things up.

Registration of Termite-infested Areas is managed by local councils and the Surf Coast Shire has not yet recognised this *entire* region as being at risk. However certain locations within the shire are treated as being high risk; for example Fairhaven, Bellbrae and any similarly wooded areas. Thankfully our Council takes an active role in providing information to home owners and builders who intend upon building in these riskier locations.

As any Pest Controller who works in our area can tell you; actual day-to-day contact with the termite problem shows that this pest is clearly a serious problem (regardless of any official status).

In the last six months we have performed a fairly significant number of Timber Pest Inspections, both within Lorne and the surrounding area. During this time the amount of Termite Affected homes we discovered has been quite high, as were the homes found to be under threat.

Here's a few boring old statistics about the Homes we inspected, for those so inclined;

Termites active within Home	31%
Termites located on Property	38%
Home at risk of termite attack	25%
No risk/activity detected.	6%

So the break-down is this; 94% of the properties we visit within Lorne are at risk from termites and almost a third of these are actually under attack.

We know by experience that if a home:

1. is more than 25 years old
2. has Eucalypts in the garden
3. has not had regular Timber Pest Inspection reports

then we will find active termites – in or around the home. Even if your home is less than 25 years old the risk is still very high if the other two conditions exist.

Interestingly almost all of the happy 6% (with no risk/activity) have previously undertaken Timber Pest Inspection Reports – which again reinforces the value of these annual inspections.

Ray Lakeman – Manager, TermiteWatch.

