



Ballan Church

TIMBER SPECIFICATIONS

Glulam: GL13 Radiata Pine

WE WORKED WITH

Architect: Tony Lyon

THIS PROJECT WAS LOCATED IN

Ballan

THIS PROJECT TOOK PLACE IN

2010

WE USED THESE PRODUCTS

[GL13 Radiata Pine Glulam](#)

[Bolted Roof Truss](#)

[Fabrication](#)



BOLTED TRUSSES REBUILT

On April 8, 2009 St Brigids Catholic Church in Ballan, Victoria was destroyed by fire caused by an electrical fault. The interior of the church was gutted, though the original trusses were burnt but intact. This is one of benefits of using timber in the event of a fire. Because timber chars slowly, engineers are able to calculate the burn time of timber before it becomes structurally unsound.

There were no plans of the original building, so the architect Tony Lyon worked off old photographs and memories to redraw the building keeping with its 97-year-old heritage.

Vicbeam were contacted to rebuild the trusses to as close as the original design as possible. The steel plates made by a blacksmith were salvaged from the wreckage and reused. Given that the steel was almost a 100 years old and handcrafted, however, there were a few peculiarities in each of the plates, they were not all identical. We had to adjust and manipulate each truss to suit.

Using GL13 Radiata Pine Glulam beams, we manufactured the timber and assembled the 4 trusses. The trusses included intricately carved timber that had to be precision made and then installed. Twenty Months after the fire, the church was reopened in time for Christmas 2010.

The rebuild was estimated to have cost 1.3 million dollars

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