

YOUR FEET WILL THANK YOU



SIMON SHORLAND

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Simon Shorland has been with Daviesway/DASCO for 20 of the 35 years he has spent in merchandise sales. He is on the road for Daviesway's customers every day, covering NSW and Victoria.

"Quite a lot of people aren't sure what the different gumboots are designed for, and it makes a huge difference to their working days if they get good information, and make the right decision for their feet."

– Simon Shorland

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Get real, get rubber.

Choosing gumboots is an important decision, given that dairy farmers spend most of their days on their feet in them – usually on concrete.

Yet, it is often a decision made quickly as they run quickly through their local merchant store with their arms full of a hundred other things.

Daviesway's Simon Shorland has been working in the dairy service industry for 35 years – almost 20 of them with Daviesway. He has a deep knowledge of gumboots with the Australian-owned family business, and can cover 3000 kilometres in a week helping farmers with their buying decisions.

BEWARE THE ILL-INFORMED BUY

And, while some may think a gumboot is "just a gumboot", Simon politely disagrees.

"It always amazes me that people don't mind spending more than \$500 on a well-known brand of boots that they might wear half a dozen times – which aren't that comfortable," Simon said.

"But they don't want to spend around \$160 on a pair of quality gumboots, that they're in every day for long hours.

"For how much dairy farmers are on their feet and the conditions they work in, I think their gumboot choice is really important."

Gumboots are a subject close to Simon's heart, and he is passionate about the choices in the Skellerup range, which are manufactured by the New Zealand company.

Handmade from 100% natural rubber, Skellerup's team has designed a range that is dedicated to the Australasian dairy industry. Choices include designs that have specific applications for specific uses. Getting the right advice is a conversation worth having, he said.

The premium all-round gumboot for dairying is undoubtedly the Quatro. Simon said once dairy farmers push their feet into the "Rolls Royce of the gumboot world", they rarely want any other gumboot.

The Quatro has been made for comfort and performance, featuring thermal properties – among other qualities – with a unique ankle-locking feature that negates heel slip.

VICTORIAN DAIRYMAN'S DREAM BOOT

Victorian dairyman Dean Malcolm always struggled to wear gumboots. With little natural padding on his feet, he said before finding the Quatro he'd never had a gumboot he could cope with wearing for long periods.

"My feet aren't great, and Quatros are the best gumboots I've ever worn. Without question," Dean said. *"Normally I can't spend more than a couple of hours in gumboots, but I could happily wear these for most of the day. The cushioning is phenomenal."*

"For me, they aren't heavy, and if you walk in mud, they don't come off your feet. They fit really snugly, but not tight; it's a great hold."

"But the big thing is the cushioning, the comfort, and the fact that I can wear them doing whatever I'm doing – because they're not just a gumboot for the dairy."

Would he ever change from the Quatro to another model or brand?

"Never."

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SKELLERUP

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QUATRO

BEST USED FOR – ALL JOBS

This is for the most discerning shopper. For warmth and comfort, the knee-height gumbot includes an insulated lining, just under 1/6 inch (4 millimetres) thick, and is ergonomically designed to give additional support around the foot and heel.

This gumbot is much lighter than its photo suggests and is also highly abrasion-resistant, having a cupped rubber outsole with tapered mud-release cleats. Its moulded sole (which is pre-moulded before it goes on to the uncured boot) gives a better level of wear resistance, particularly if the wearer is standing on concrete all day.

The slight push to get into this gumbot is worth it for the ankle support, heel hold (giving great grip in the mud) and sublime comfort. It also features a signature rubber ribbing across the top of the foot and a hardened toe for extra protection. It has a podiatrist-inspired removable inner sole, with built-in arch and heel support, a soft cushioned rubber midsole, and a custom-fitted elasticised top bind.

This range comes in a 16-inch (406mm) thermal length, and a cool version for summer that has a cooling polyester inner leg lining instead of thermal. There is a 13-inch (330mm) shorter version of both.



CLUTHA

BEST USED FOR – IRRIGATORS OR FOR Paddock WORK

The Clutha is extremely popular with dairy farmers for its light-weight design and natural rubber and cotton properties. However, Simon said if you are spending all day in them on concrete in the dairy, you are not truly making the most of this gumbot.

The 100% rubber boot features a 100% cotton canvas lining and in-built foam cushion innersole. It also has a kick-off lug and non-clog cleated sole. The Clutha is one of Skellerup's biggest sellers.

"They were designed for use in the irrigation industry," Simon said.

"When the rice industry was big, that was basically the only gumbot they'd buy, because it's lighter and you don't sweat in them because of the cotton lining and the rubber.

"The mud doesn't cling to the bottom of the tread, because it's designed that way. And, they often get used in the dairy because they're light – but I don't believe this is the best recommendation for this boot.

"They have a lighter sole than other gumboots in the range and they wear quickly on concrete floors once the tread wears. People who understand them, buy them because of the quality and comfort."



PERTH

BEST USED FOR – HEAVIER, WET COUNTRY

Built to Skellerup's specifications for more than 55 years, this timeless gumbot has multiple layers of rubber, bonded to hard-wearing 100% cotton canvas lining.

It also includes a 1/5 inch (5mm) thick genuine rubber sponge insole for additional comfort, rear kick-off lugs, a rubber toe cap, a non-clog cleated sole for grip and a built-in foam cushion innersole.

"People who buy the Perth gumboots, love them," Simon said.

"I'd recommend them for heavy, wet country. They have an extra layer of rubber on them, giving them three layers."



4 x 4

BEST USED FOR – FARM BIKES

This rubber boot features 100% cotton canvas lining. A feature is the rubber ribbed band across the top of the foot, which is also around the ankle for additional protection and wear resistance on the farm bike.

It is knee-high with a heavy-duty, removable, cushioned polyurethane inner sole with built-in arch support, and a moulded and thicker tractor-tread outsole for additional grip in the field and (again) superior wear on concrete surfaces.



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