

Media Release
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Ten surprising facts about Red Band Gumboots

- The first pair of Red Band Gumboots rolled off the production line on 21 October, 1958.
- Red Band Gumboots are still made the same way using the same rubber formulation today. The only change in 50 years is the inclusion of a sponge insole for added comfort.
- Red Band Gumboots are made from rubber grown in Vietnam which is mixed with carbon black processed from oil, chemicals to protect disintegration, clay and a blend of 15 to 20 curing ingredients.
- Each Red Band Gumboot is made from 19 separate parts.
- The boots spend 1 hour and 20 minutes cooking at 133 °C in a vulcanizer which makes the rubber hard but flexible. Gumboots need to be properly cooked or they perish quickly.
- The first pairs of Red Band Gumboots retailed for twenty five shillings and 11 pence.
- The Jiangsu factory in China can produce up to 1,000 pairs of Red Band Gumboots a day.
- Red Band Gumboots were New Zealand, and probably the world's first short gumboot.
- Red Band Gumboots are made by hand and hand rolled. Each piece of the boot is made by Skellerup.
- Red Band Gumboots are more popular in New Zealand because they have a wider fit that suits Kiwi's typically bigger feet (bigger than Australians anyway!)

- Ends -

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