

# IN THE MEN'S ROOM

WITH NICK CARPENTER



**A**s an instrument maker, Nick Carpenter is on his feet all day. After wearing the same pair of shoes for almost ten years, a self-confessed “frugal shopper” he went on a hunt for a new pair of quality work shoes. Stumbling across Roadhouse by accident, Nick found exactly what he was looking for – a pair of Mack work boots.

**RM: How did you find the Roadhouse store?**

NC: It was just by chance, I was looking through the DFO for a pair of work boots and pretty much stumbled across the Roadhouse store in Essendon. They had the exact pair of shoes that I had been looking for.

**RM: Were you after a specific style or brand of shoes?**

NC: I was after a pair of work boots, however I didn't know which brand would be best for my work. I just had a look at the range that Roadhouse stocked and there was quite a large selection on offer - this made it easier.

**RM: Had you worn the Mack boots before?**

NC: No, I hadn't. I tried on quite a few pairs of shoes in the shop and for me the Macks were by far the most comfortable and I thought they suited me as well.

**RM: Are you usually a big shopper?**

NC: No, I can't say that I am – I'm a pretty frugal shopper. That last pair of boots I bought was probably about ten years ago. I wanted a pair that were good quality and are going to last me a long time.

**RM: Were you happy with service at Roadhouse?**

NC: Yes, they were really

knowledgeable and I got some really good advice on the brands that were available. I never felt that the staff were pressuring me into buying anything, they really just wanted to make sure that I got a pair of shoes that were comfortable and would serve their purpose.

**RM: How did they hold up the first day on the job?**

NC: They were great. I am on my feet the whole day really, so I was after something that was comfortable and well cushioned. To make instruments properly, you need to be standing. So far the boots have stood up really well.

**RM: What does your work involve?**

NC: I'm an instrument maker and make a range of musical instruments. Mainly I specialise in acoustic travel instruments such as travel guitars, mandolins, dulcimers, fiddles, xylophones, and I also make a range of percussion instruments as well.

**RM: Is this your own business?**

NC: Yes, it's called Wildwood Instruments. The business has been going for ten years now and I sort of did it as a hobby for ten years before that.

**RM: When did Wildwood Instruments progress into a full-time career?**

NC: I always knew I wanted to be an instrument maker and it was just a matter of time to build up the business to that level. At first, it was part-time jobs to subsidise it and I slowly cut those down to take on more of the instrument business. It wasn't too long before it grew into a full-time job.

**RM: What is your favourite part about your work?**

NC: I go to a lot of music festivals to sell them, which is

great fun. Meeting the public and getting a great response to the instruments I've made is extremely rewarding, and at the same time I am seeing some good music as well.

**RM: What is the most challenging part about your job?**

NC: I don't know... it's all challenging really. Certainly the fact that it is a business, I have to constantly remember that doing the accounts and the bookwork is just as important as making the instruments. This is probably the part I am least enthused about.

**RM: Do you play any instruments yourself?**

NC: Yes, I began playing the guitar, I still do, and that is what led me into making the instruments. I do play a wide range of instruments now – you have to be able to show people the instruments you've made and how they work.

**RM: What do you like doing in your spare time?**

NC: Whatever spare time there is... ironically I enjoy playing music and playing the guitar. I also enjoy watching movies and reading books, just living life really.

Wildwood Instruments  
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Open Fridays and Saturdays  
10am-5pm

## FACT FILE

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