



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

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Building materials business expands

Local construction boom encourages larger town premises for family business

by Dave Fawcner

Having observed the construction of the new Nimbin Building Materials outlet over several years, I was delighted to find it finally open at the end of July.

Situated opposite the servo at the bottom of Sibley Street, fires, floods and epidemics have delayed its completion since the father and sons' team of Ralph, Ruben and Felix Mack first envisaged it in 2017.

The Macks believe the building will offer locals far better access and customer service than the previous site at the former Walker brothers' mill in Gungah Road.

"Apart from difficulty with parking and safe access to materials, the business had outgrown the old site in terms of what we could stock," Felix said.

Along with previously stocked goods, the expansion now has hand tools, safety gear, work clothes, boots, etc.

The upstairs section includes a full range of paints and wood oil, along with accessories such as preparation materials, brushes and a colour mixing machine.

The new site has drive-through access with 17 parking spaces, including several disabled spots.

There's also plenty of room for larger vehicles to load materials such as plywood, cement sheeting and plasterboard, along with RHS and construction steel, directly from the racks.

The sand, gravel and roadbase bays are far more accessible, while the extensive range of windows and doors now has its own showroom.



Narelle Draisma in the nursery

Local tradesmen and materials were used wherever possible throughout the construction.

The poles used in the framing were plantation grown between Nimbin and Blue Knob, while the timber framing and cladding – also plantation grown – were milled locally.

The aged clip-lock cladding used on much of the exterior was recycled from a building demolition in Coolangatta.

One thing customers may notice is the water retention basin near the nursery.

This was required by council in order to slow and filter run-off from the site.

The system has been enhanced with plantings of native reeds and grasses by Nerelle who runs the Green Thumb Nursery on site.

Nerelle's focus is on food, flowers and natives, and she can offer advice on plants to suit local

conditions.

All her seedlings and mature plants are sourced within 50 kilometres of Nimbin.

Opposite the nursery you'll find an undercover area holding a large selection of bagged products ranging from cement and concrete, fertilisers, compost and pet foods.

Felix said that despite not being fully set up, they'd already noticed a definite increase in trade in the new location.

The business currently employs nine locals, but may be taking on more in the future.

The new location for Nimbin Building Materials is 35A Sibley Street, with a broad range of construction, landscaping and gardening products in stock at competitive rates.

They have the same phone number, (02) 6689-1206 and website: www.nimbinbuildingmaterials.com



Ruben Mack at the counter

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