



Loretta Bryce

The sight and smell of dirty Tarong workers are firmly entrenched in Lisa Sturwohld's head when she teamed up with friend Melinda Stevenson a year ago to develop a special range of skincare products.

Lisa, who grew up in Nanango, and business partner Melinda this month launched a range of chemical-free mens skincare products perfectly suited to the heavy-duty grime that mine workers are renowned for.

"Even though our mates wanted something to clean themselves up, there was no way any of them could have gone into a shop and bought a girly-looking skincare product - it just wasn't done back then in Nanango," Lisa said.

Lisa spent her childhood in Nanango, attending Nanango State and High School before moving to Brisbane.

"Now, years later, my husband is a tradesman and when he needed something industrial to clean and exfoliate his face, he couldn't get anything that looked like something a bloke would use," she said.

So Lisa teamed up with Melinda Stevenson to develop a product suited to mens skin, but free of chemicals.

Their brand, Stella and Marco (S&M) includes all-natural products such as facewash, industrial strength lip balm and exfoliants.

Workers at the new IGA supermarket site were treated to samples of the products on Monday and the response was positive. Mick Daley tried out the exfoliator and moisturiser and afterwards said his skin felt "a lot different...I'd probably use this a couple of times a week."

Earthmoving contractor Keith Driver tested the facewash and after-shave balm.

"It's good, it's light but you can still feel it in your skin," he said.

Lisa was working as a family day carer when she met Melinda and the idea of S&M took off.

"Melinda had started working on this idea and approached me to join her in the business," Lisa said.

"As soon as we got together the ideas just flowed.

"What sets us apart is the masculine style of the packaging, it's high-quality, natural and funky.

"Guys aren't just metrosexual or alpha males - guys can be blokes that take care of their skin and it's not feminine at all," she said.

S&M products are available at Lonsdale's Chemist in Kingaroy or online at www.stellaandmarco.com.

Testing out the S&M products are Trevor Peachey, Ian Howard, Keith Driver and Mick Daley. They are pictured with S&M directors Lisa Sturwohld and Melinda Stevenson.

Tough blokes get into S&M

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