For decades they have served as the unofficial shoes of Australia. But the humble Dunlop Volley is now the hottest sneaker in New York - with a price to match.

Struck by their comfortable simplicity, trendy downtown retailer Steven Alan is selling Australia’s unofficial national runner to New Yorkers for $US60 a pair ($66) - more than twice their Aussie price.

Mr Alan, who owns eight eclectic fashion boutiques in New York and LA, spotted construction workers on the Sydney Harbour Bridge wearing them during a trip to Australia last year. He was instantly drawn to the old canvas sandshoe, which launched as a $2.50 tennis shoe in 1939 and was famously worn by tennis legend Ken Rosewall.

"It's hard to get a sandshoe that is timeless and that you've never seen before but which still reads 'classic'," Mr Alan said. "Immediately people are drawn to it because it's a new classic." Mr Alan is selling three different colours - black, white and the ever-popular green and yellow striped version.

Retail assistant Ryan Black, 23, wears them because they are light, comfortable and relatively cheap in a city where unique sneakers can cost hundreds of dollars. Not that Mr Alan's customers are pinching pennies - last week, A-list star Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban were spotted in his Tribeca store in New York. Mr Alan has sold about 100 pairs since March under the Volley brand name.

The comfy shoes are already proving a popular alternative to running shoes among those working on New York film sets. Australian shoes have long been popular in New York, where RM Williams riding boots retail for hundreds of dollars a pair, and ugg boots are also commonly seen.
1. Describe the Dunlop Volley shoe. __________________________________________

2. Why do you think the word ‘unofficial’ is used in the opening sentence? _______ __________________________________________

3. Give the dictionary meaning of ‘eclectic’. ______________________________________

4. Explain the term “pinching pennies”. ______________________________________

5. How much does Mr. Alan sell the shoes for? $US2.50 $US60 $US66

6. How old is the Dunlop Volley? ______________________________________
   True False N/A

7. Mr. Alan owns eight fruit shops. ______________________________________

8. The shoes are made from canvas. ______________________________________

9. Steven Alan is Australian. ______________________________________

10. Ken Rosewall was a cricketer. ______________________________________

Find a word in the story that means (Circle each word in the text):
11. shoe ______________________________
12. two times ______________________________
13. shops ______________________________
14. Opposite of back ______________________________

Pronounce these words and add ‘ed’:
strip ________  hop ________  tap ________
strip ________  hop ________  tap ________

Describe your favourite shoes.
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
Across
6. Not having authority
7. One who works for remuneration
8. The sale of goods
9. Costly
11. Item valued for its age
13. You can’t teach an old dog ____ tricks (idiom)
15. As ____ as chips (simile)
17. To pull or to describe as unwell
21. Without shoes
22. The cost of a product or service
24. A particular tint or shade
27. Light, informal footwear
28. Belonging to a country

3. Another way of doing something
4. Someone who helps
5. Made up of a variety of sources or styles
10. Caught sight of
12. Keep it ______ your hat (idiom)
14. A twofold increase
15. Comfortable
16. A time of leaf growth or walking in protest
18. A sound or group of sounds that mean something
19. As ______ as a feather
20. She managed to feed her family on a shoe ______ budget
23. Used to describe the colour of a lake
25. Robust footwear
26. Putting the cat ______ the pigeons (idiom)

Down
1. Marked by modesty, not proud or arrogant
2. Special, the only one of its kind
Dunlop Volleys L1-L2 Crossword

Kindly contributed to www.skillsworkshop.org by Craig Sullivan

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