

These boots were made for



# Splashing

**RAINWEAR** | Rubber boots today do more than just protect you from our wet weather. They're all about being stylish while keeping you dry

BY LUCY HYSLOP

The name may be a beautiful maelstrom of cultures, but the newly opened GumDrops store is all about the Rainy

for Australian Shanda Jerrett — finally born in Victoria, although her family emigrated Down Under afterwards — the name is a combination of gumboots (their word for rubber boots) and rain drops (and you might think it was just a reference to the fashionably candy?).

stands for a lighthearted approach to the weather, Jerrett explains: "It's about getting rainy-day frowns upside down." Well, if anything helps to bring you through this downpour, it's a store that takes candy nostalgia through a

kaleidoscope of vibrant colours and designs. Choose boots adorned with rock-inspired skulls, guitars and roses, for example, or plain smiling skulls, or daisies or cupcakes — and that's just for the adults.

Children's footwear includes ones with cows, dogs, bears, frogs, and the rest of the store has everything else

you need for wet weather (jackets, toy dog coats, bags and laptop cases — and umbrellas, of course).

Prices for the boots start from about \$55 to \$170 in adult sizes and in children's from \$35 to \$50; GumDrops sources its goods countrywide as well as from Europe, California and New York City, among a few.

"For five years we were in a drizzle in Australia," Jerrett, who lives in a tiny outpost called Termeil, five hours outside of Sydney. "We couldn't get our cars, or water our gardens — people would even report you if you got water when you shouldn't have it. You guys in Vancouver are absolutely blessed — you have nothing to worry about with the rain."

Okay, okay, okay, but even this cautious 27-year-old concedes that Vancouver's perma-drizzle can get tiring every once in a while — although her upbeat philosophy is never off-

for long. "If you can't beat it, join it, states. "And what better way to deal with that with cool products?"

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