

Formal thanks

Year 12 students from flood-affected areas of northern NSW have been given formal outfits for their night of nights.

STORY KEN EASTWOOD

More than 90 senior high school students from flood-affected areas of northern NSW have been kitted out for their year 12 formals in stylish outfits, including R.M.Williams boots for the boys, thanks to a support program delivered by charity Thread Together, in partnership with fashion companies.

Christopher Randle, executive principal of The Rivers Secondary College in Lismore, says Thread Together has been very helpful to communities that were devastated and traumatised by the severe flooding events in 2022, particularly in helping disadvantaged year 12 students get to their formal events in good style. “Our young people can now experience that milestone without the fear of being disadvantaged,” he says. “It’s their first post-school event and they want to wear something that reflects who they are. All of our boys are really proud to strut their stuff in a pair of R.M.Williams boots. We would like to express our gratitude to R.M.Williams for their generous shoe donation. These shoes will provide students

with a lifetime of memories.”

During the floods, one of the campuses of the college, Richmond River High, was completely flooded out and students had to move to a new campus on the grounds of Southern Cross University. Almost 2 years later, the fate of the now empty original campus is still not known.

Communications manager of Thread Together, Adam Worling, who organised the formal outfit program, says he grew up in Lismore “so it’s a place that’s very dear to my heart”. At the end of 2022, 38 year 12 students were given outfits, and in 2023, 91 students from 6 high schools in the area were assisted. “We just wanted them to have their night of nights looking fantastic,” he says. As well as R.M.Williams, other contributing fashion labels included MJ Bale, Van Heusen and Bec + Bridge.

“When it comes to a natural disaster, we know that many people have lost everything overnight, and often these are people who do not know how to ask for help,” Adam says.



Year 12 students Kane Williams and Quinn McDougall sporting their formal clobber.

R.M.Williams has an ongoing partnership with Thread Together, working with the organisation in multiple ways, including having staff regularly work with the Thread Together team.

Thread Together
threadtogether.org