



Our History

Rainbow Club was founded by Ron Siddons in 1969. Ron was working as a Life Guard with the Sutherland Shire and had spent a life in and around the water. Swimming, for him, was a big part of his life and that of his friends.

One day he met a father struggling to teach his child to swim. The task was made difficult by the child's disability, which meant that he could not participate in other swimming classes. Ron felt that this was unfair and offered to help this father teach his child to swim. Ron met the family at the local pool in Cronulla each week. Others came to join Ron – both families with children who wanted to learn to swim and instructors who wanted to help. And so Rainbow Club was born.

As the local Cronulla Rainbow Club grew, others came to hear of it and established local Rainbow Clubs in their areas. Rainbow Club Australia now has 16 Clubs in NSW and Victoria.

Ron could not have achieved this without the support of his wife, Lily. Lily was a member of the Board with Ron for many years and was instrumental in many successful fundraising balls over the years.

Our Mission

Rainbow Club Australia gives children with a disability the opportunity and confidence to extend their abilities through swimming.

Our Vision

In 2016, Rainbow Club Australia will be sustainable, replicable and operationally efficient. It will provide a club experience to ten per cent more children with a disability swimming with Rainbow Club on a weekly basis.

Our Patrons

Louise Sauvage: *"I learnt to swim at a very young age and I've competed in swimming, so I really relate to the kids who learn to swim with the Rainbow Club. I believe swimming is an essential skill to have in life. I love seeing kids find freedom and independence in the water, and ultimately realise their potential for a happy and healthy future".*

Mark Speakman: *"I believe Rainbow Club is important, not just for the children and parents who are part of the swimming program, but for the whole community".*

Our Ambassadors

James Pittar [Ambassador] and Ethan Harvey [Youth Ambassador]





Our Clubs

New South Wales

Bondi [Wairoa School/Cranbrook School]
Blacktown [Blacktown Aquatic Centre/
ASTA Seven Hills]
Buxton [Hart Aquatic Centre]
Campbelltown [Bradford Park Pool]
Cherrybrook [Carlisle Swimming Centre]
Cronulla [Taren Point Swim School]
Goulburn [Neate Swim School]
Lindfield [Cromehurst/Knox Grammar]
Liverpool [Michael Wenden Centre]
Orange [Orange Aquatic Centre]
Revesby [Broderick Gillawarna School]
Stanmore [Newington College]
Sutherland [Sutherland Leisure Centre]
Warringah [Warringah Council Pool]

Victoria

Point Cook
Geelong

An enormous thank you to all councils, clubs and schools for the generous use of your facilities and your ongoing support of Rainbow Club and our members. We couldn't do it without you!

Our Highlights of 2012/2013

AdHC funding to make Rainbow Club sustainable

In September, Andrew Constance, Minister for Aging and Disability Services, announced \$250,000 to promote Rainbow Club across NSW. This one off grant was championed by our Patron, Mark Speakman, the State Member for Cronulla and is being used by Rainbow Club to introduce a cloud based database to manage our waiting lists and to assist our club managers. It is also being used to recruit more instructors for existing clubs and promote new clubs.

Alexandra Finley, President of Rainbow Club accepted the grant and said: *"it will go a long way towards assisting us establishing clubs across the state over time, particularly in those areas where children don't have access to swimming lessons tailored for their needs"*. Ms Finley also recognised the importance of ongoing fundraising to ensure we continue to meet our day to day costs of our clubs.

Rainbow Club win AustSwim Award

Rainbow Club was awarded the 2013 Austswim award for the most significant contribution to water safety with a focus on an under represented group. Accepting the award, Rainbow Club Director, Jane Couchman said *"the speech that was given about why we won was so lovely and so many people came up to me with lovely things to say about our Rainbow Club"*.



Jane's fellow director John Taplin was also thrilled and said *"We know RCA provides a valuable service but it's great to be acknowledged in the wider community. What great news"*. To all of you in our clubs who make this happen, the award is for you. To all of you who support us financially, thank you for your support.

Rainbow Club hands over Clubs to YWCA

In June, Rainbow Club and the YWCA SwimAbility announced the end of their partnership in running the swim programs at Cook+Phillip Prk and the Ian Thorpe Aquatic Pool. Successful fundraising at a YWCA Swimathon allowed them to deliver the swimming program directly at both pools, and so enable Rainbow Club to continue their work in other centres. Everybody worked closely to make sure the transition was smooth for parents and children and the Board of Rainbow Club were delighted to have been instrumental in the introduction of swimming lessons for young people with a disability in both these pools and to see the legacy of their work continue in the good hands of the YWCA. We congratulate YWCA on their great fundraising and on their ongoing work for people with a disability in the inner city areas.

New Team

Catriona Barry

In January 2013, the Rainbow Club National President, Alexandra Finley announced a change in administration arrangements at Rainbow Club Australia and welcomed Catriona Barry to the role of General Manager working three days per week. Catriona was CEO of the Special Olympics Australia. At the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games she held the role of Manager, National Olympic Committee Assistants. Catriona is passionate about providing people with a disability the opportunity to get more out of life.

Jen Crowley

As well as being Secretary to the Board of Rainbow Club, Jen coordinates the day to day financial activities for Rainbow Clubs. She liaises between the Rainbow Club Australia Board, the Clubs and accountants, to assist with financial reporting, manage cash flow and provide up to date financial information.

Special Thanks

Thank you to Clubs Grants NSW and especially St George Leagues Club, Sutherland United Services Club, Cronulla Sharkies, Revesby Workers Club, Ingleburn RSL, Orange Ex Servicemen's Club and Ashfield RSL.

Highlights continued

Murray Rose Malabar Magic Ocean Swim

The Board of Rainbow Club Australia renamed its annual fundraising Ocean Swim to commemorate its great supporter and former patron. The swim has been renamed Murray Rose's Malabar Magic Ocean Swim. The new name reflects the esteem with which Rainbow Club Australia held its former patron and one of the inaugural facilitators of the Ocean Swim.

Streamlining our Financial Reporting

Moving all Rainbow Club accounts to one bank was a major achievement and gives greater visibility across the assets of Rainbow Club. This improved financial management provides better transparency to our stakeholders and allows the Board to make decisions about the future sustainability of our organisation. Thank you to all the Club parents who helped make this happen.

Policy of Fees

In December the Board issued a policy on fees that streamlined the collection of fees and assists in the preparation of classes from term to term.

The basic points of the fee policy are:

- An increase in the fee for the 1st and 2nd terms of 2013 to \$75;
- Payment of fees in advance. Payment of fees before the end of the term are necessary to secure a place for the following term;
- All fees to be paid by direct credit to the local club account.





Fundraising

Christmas in July

Christmas in July at St George Leagues Club has become an important part of our fundraising calendar. Thank you to Danny Robinson, President of St George Leagues Club and all the Directors of the club for a great night.

UPS

UPS International provided Rainbow Club Australia with a funding grant of \$32,000 in late 2012. This very generous support from an international parcel company has allowed Rainbow Club to fund more instructors each week in 14 different pools across Sydney. Each week children with a disability come to their local club and with encouragement and instruction, they learn new skills and increase their confidence in the water. They build relationships with their instructors and have some very special one-on-one time.

President's Report on Work of Board

The Board met ten times during the last year which involved regular Board meetings and two strategic workshops to ensure the sustainability of Rainbow Club into the future. We identified that Rainbow Clubs need to operate efficiently with minimal overheads and that our model of operation should be easily replicable for those wishing to set up new clubs. While introducing an increase in the fees for a term was a necessity for our long term viability, swimming lessons remain heavily subsidised and the Board is very proud that Rainbow Club has never turned away a child due to their disability or their inability to pay.

Another great aspect of Rainbow Club is that we provide opportunities for children with disabilities to extend their abilities in the water. We focus on the ability of these young people. Rainbow Club currently has 14 local clubs operating in NSW.

Clubs are run by committees of dedicated volunteer parents. We were delighted to see two of our NSW clubs graduate to mainstream YWCA programs leaving us scope to establish new clubs. We also have 2 affiliate clubs in Victoria who have worked hard to become self sufficient, not relying on funding from Rainbow Club Australia. This is a tremendous achievement and frees up our valuable resources to be applied where they are most needed.

We all take for granted the chance to go swimming at the beach or in the pool. Being able to provide our Rainbow Club kids with this very important life skill is a special gift. But just as important is the confidence that comes from the children learning new skills and interacting with others. Achievements, big or small, are celebrated. For the families, Rainbow Club provides a support network for the parents and carers, a chance to get together with others in similar situations and to take a short break from the constant demands of caring for a child with disabilities – a sense of community.

Rainbow Club has approximately 400 children in swimming lessons each week and another 100 or so on waiting lists. Requests to establish new Rainbow Clubs are constant. Demand is growing and our need to raise funds is greater now than ever. As we look to the year ahead we are focussed on increasing capacity to reduce the number of kids on the waiting lists and establishing new clubs.



Alexandra Finley
President
Rainbow Club Australia



Fundraising Highlight

Murray Rose Malabar Magic Ocean Swim

Early on Sunday 17 February teams of dedicated volunteers descended on Malabar Beach. They all came together to make sure that a record number of ocean swimmers had a wonderful day.

Swimmers arrived from every corner of Sydney and beyond. Louise Sauvage and James Pittar (Rainbow Club's Patron and Ambassador) were there and very proud to be involved. They showed everybody that their disability does not mean inability.

About 1,000 swimmers took part in two swims: a 1km swim according to classification, followed by the 2.4km. Hundreds of spectators enjoyed the great atmosphere at this iconic event on a beautiful Sunday summer morning in Sydney. Our inaugural team event was a great success and congratulations to teams from Knight Frank, Charter Hall and Mirvac.

GIM Report on work of organisation

It was a great privilege to join Rainbow Club in January this year. I was fortunate to follow in the footsteps of Maree Jackson who was so helpful at the same time as doing a terrific job as a volunteer with the Murray Rose Malabar Magic Ocean Swim.

My tour of Rainbow Clubs continues but to all who made me welcome and took the time out to explain their clubs, a big thank you. I would also like to acknowledge and pay tribute to the Board of Rainbow Club who are passionate and dedicated to governing the organisation and raising funds so that our Rainbow Clubs can deliver swimming lessons each week of each term across our 16 Rainbow Clubs. My colleague Jen Crowley is always cheerful, supportive and patient and all our treasurers will have appreciated her patience and guidance in the last year.

One of my first projects is getting a new management system for all Rainbow Clubs so that I and the Board can have oversight of our clubs and the children, parents and instructors who gather weekly to learn to swim. This oversight will allow us to ensure that the hard work of raising funds is utilised wisely and that we make decisions based on factual information. The cloud based system will be developed and rolled out in phases and work commenced prior to the end of this financial year.

I have also been delighted to set up regular connection with Clubs through Rainbow Wrap. Friday morning is Rainbow Wrap morning with one edition each month keeping members in touch with Rainbow Central and the Rainbow Board. While our circulation is limited because of our database, this will have much wider distribution as our new systems are implemented.

I look forward to working with all the stakeholders of Rainbow Club to deliver leadership and support which will make Rainbow Club Australia sustainable, replicable and operationally efficient and so increase the number of children with a disability who can learn to swim.



Catriona Barry
General Manager
Rainbow Club Australia



Suzanne Stanton, Philip Holt,
Ron Siddons and John Taplin

Rainbow Club Australia

Founder Ron Siddons

Patrons Louise Sauvage
Mark Speakman

Ambassadors James Pittar
Ethan Harvey

Board Alexandra Finley President
Phillip Holt Vice President
Rob Lloyd Vice President
Jane Couchman
Martyn Downs
Keith Kneebone
Mark McCormack
Suzanne Stanton
John Taplin

Staff Catriona Barry General Manager
Jen Crowley Bookkeeper

Honour Roll

Life Members Gary Bradshaw
Tony Williams
Philip Holt
Malcolm Kerr

Financial Information

Income and Expenditure Statement

	2013	2012
Fundraising Income	\$	\$
Fundraising Revenue	118,013	99,619
Less: Fundraising Expenses	33,839	50,951
Gross Profit Fundraising	84,174	48,668
Other Income		
Donations Received	110,220	27,548
Grants Received	133,333	142,934
Student Fees	8,225	4,840
Interest Received	6,588	9,963
Total Other Income	258,366	185,285
	342,540	233,953
Expenses		
Total Operating Expenses	249,522	181,327
Operating Surplus before income tax	93,018	52,626

Assets and Liabilities Statement

	2013	2012
Assets	\$	\$
Total Current Assets	496,470	175,758
Total Non-Current Assets	17,642	249
Total Assets	514,112	176,007
Liabilities		
Total Current Liabilities	163,628	1,875
Total Non-Current Liabilities	83,334	-
Total Current Liabilities	246,962	1,875
Net Assets	267,150	174,132
Total Members' Funds	267,150	174,132

Rainbow Club Australia Incorporated ABN 96 753 434 862

This financial information is for the year ended 30 June 2013 and is subject to audit.

The complete audited financial statements are available on our website at rainbowclubaust.com.au



helping children with disability learn to swim



Meet two Rainbow Club instructors

Serina Karadinovski, Sutherland



Serina has been an instructor with Rainbow Club for the last six years, and has been teaching swimming for around twenty years. Serina describes being a Rainbow Club instructor as her “love” job and looks forward to seeing children that are normally wheelchair bound swimming free in the water: *“It’s their half hour in the week when they can float around and be weightless and free from the chair”.*

Tom Beynon, Stanmore



Tom shows up for Rainbow Club every Saturday in the beautiful grounds of Newington College. Tom ran in the City to Surf and raised \$1k for Rainbow Club and he calls on other instructors to join him next year and create a Rainbow Club presence at this iconic event and showcase the fitness of our instructors.

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Rainbow Club Australia is an incorporated Association in NSW with Deductible Gift Recipient Status. Fundraising Licence CFN11011
Accountants: SGB Partners Chartered Accountants Sydney

Booklet photography: Rob Annesley, Nick Ellis

Our Instructors

The backbone of Rainbow Club

Rainbow club would not be possible without our terrific instructors who regularly and enthusiastically show up to teach the children of Rainbow Club how to swim. Thank you for your dedication and commitment!



Rainbow Club is the recipient of the 2013 AustSwim Award for the “most significant contribution to water safety with a focus on an under represented group”.

For more information about Rainbow Club or to participate in coming events including fundraisers email info@rainbowclubaust.com.au visit our website rainbowclubaust.com.au



helping children with disability learn to swim

