



## Our Mission

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

## Our Vision

An organisation that is sustainable, replicable and operating efficiently. Providing a club experience and 10% more children with a disability swimming each week.

## Our Clubs in 2015

Bondi, Byron Bay, Buxton (on hold), Campbelltown, Cherrybrook, Cronulla, Goulburn (ceased) Hornsby, Liverpool, Maroubra, Newington College, Orange, Revesby, Seven Hills, Sutherland, Warringah.

### Rainbow facts

470 children with a disability receive swimming lessons each week

90 qualified instructors

15 clubs

\$ affordable weekend activity

1 to 1 individualised lessons



Annual Report photographs by Amelia De Caires (cover) and Adam Taylor

## Welcome to our Annual Report

### From our President

The Rainbow Club Board has had another busy year, continuing the journey to deliver on our three year strategic direction. Faced with the imperative for change, the Board remains committed to creating a sustainable future for Rainbow Club and maintaining the key elements which make Rainbow Club unique.

The structure of our clubs, coupled with our improved database mean the Board has quality data on which to base its decisions. Major governance initiatives involved changes to our constitution and the introduction of many policies and procedures. This resulted in receiving Third Party Verification in February and Rainbow Club is proud to have achieved compliance with NSW Disability Standards.

During the year, we also saw an increase in those who donate and support the work of Rainbow Club. We were particularly encouraged by local Club parents who raised funds for the Malabar Magic, to allow us to deliver swimming lessons to 470 children each week.

Special thanks to my fellow Board Members each of whom is committed to a sustainable future for Rainbow Club. We were sad to see Jane Couchman step down from the Board during the year but very happy to welcome Ally Cox who was involved with our Buxton Rainbow Club for many years.

I would like to thank our staff and the instructors in all our clubs who bring so much passion and expertise to our clubs.



**Alexandra Finley**, President  
Rainbow Club Australia

### From our General Manager

There's a new look and feel in all our clubs as instructors wear their bright green rashies with pride. The pool signage ensures there is no mistake about who is providing this great service, and the Swim the Rainbow program has added structure and motivation to the weekly lessons. All of this makes for a better and brighter experience for the children when they arrive for their weekly lesson.

Our Clubs are run by committees of three and they do a great job with a minimum of fuss. I love my visits to our 15 clubs - the interaction with the committees and parents makes a nice change from the day to day governance, finance and database challenges which form part of my General Manager responsibilities.

I would like to thank Alex Finley and all Board Members who contribute so wholeheartedly, both collectively and individually, to the sustainability and future of Rainbow Club.



**Catriona Barry**, General Manager  
Rainbow Club Australia



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## Aqua Awards

Many individuals devote a lot of time and energy to ensuring Rainbow Club members reach their potential in the water.

For some, watching improvement or seeing enjoyment is its own reward but Rainbow Club feels that outstanding people should be recognised and was delighted to introduce the Rainbow Club Aqua Awards in 2014.



Congratulations to our inaugural Aqua Award winners!

### Instructor of the Year

**Bob Williamson**

Bondi Rainbow Club

### Volunteer of the Year

**Rod O'Donnell**

Campbelltown Rainbow Club



Bob Williamson



Rod O'Donnell

## Swim the Rainbow

The Swim the Rainbow program was in response to demand from clubs, parents and instructors to have structure and motivation that is unique to Rainbow Club.

Swim the Rainbow is seven sets of goals each matched to a colour of the rainbow. It is a toolkit for Rainbow Club instructors who work with children of differing abilities during the course of a club meeting, and guides them with lesson plans to implement.

No two children are the same and Swim the Rainbow has the flexibility to cater for all disabilities, both physical or intellectual.

Special thanks to Jamie Black who spent many hours developing the system and who helped with the roll out by visiting almost every club to support instructors and answer questions.

## Rainbow Connect

The second Rainbow Connect saw 65 Rainbow Club members gather at Ryde Eastwood Leagues Club in September 2014. All clubs were represented and eager to hear how Rainbow Club was delivering on all the ideas suggested at the previous year's Connect. The main focus was the launch of Swim the Rainbow as a pilot in Term 4, 2014. A toolkit to support the program was distributed and included a manual, wristbands and lime green rashies for instructors.

Jen Crowley rolled out a swag of new policies and procedures which illustrated how serious Rainbow Club is about being NDIS ready and the afternoon's workshops focused on providing input into how to run our first Swim the Rainbow family carnival.

The day finished with some tips from guest speakers on interacting with hearing impaired children and how Cerebral Palsy Alliance promotes swimming for their members.



Jamie Black with rashie models



Sutherland Crew at Rainbow Connect

## Member Feedback

In November 2014 we surveyed 464 members and were pleased with a 32% response - thank you for your feedback! The results were analysed and used by the Board to inform its annual strategic planning session.

The survey clearly showed that the great benefits of Rainbow Club are:

- Subsidised cost of lessons make Rainbow Club an affordable weekend activity
- Individualised attention
- Dedicated and passionate instructors

## Maree Jackson RIP

It was with great sadness that the Board of Rainbow Club Australia learned of the passing of Maree Jackson on 11 June 2015. Maree's bravery in her battle with cancer was beyond courageous.

We will remember Maree for the way she gave so much of herself to everything she did with love, enthusiasm, fun, energy, kindness and compassion.

Maree had a tremendous heart for Rainbow Club and everyone involved. Even after her diagnosis and during her subsequent illness, Maree continued to volunteer for the Malabar Magic Ocean Swim Committee. She brought focus, direction and humour to the organisation of this major event. We will miss her greatly.

## New Club at Byron Bay

With Maroubra firmly established, it was time to go North to Byron Bay and in October 2014 the first children joined and were on TV that night! It's the only outdoor pool used in Rainbow Club and the club operated for two terms in the idyllic Byron sunshine. Very quickly the Club membership grew to 20 children and demand for places continued throughout the summer months. The Club also made great strides towards being financially self sustaining with grants from Fundability and many local donations.



## English Channel Swimmers

Congratulations to Anna Torok and Greg Shein, both great supporters of Rainbow Club, who swam the English Channel in August last year and in doing so raised considerable funds for Rainbow Club.

## ClubGrants

The NSW ClubGrants scheme is a vital source of funding for our local clubs. We are very grateful to the following licensed clubs who have supported their local Rainbow Club through the ClubGrants Scheme:

- Cronulla Sharkies [Cronulla]
- Club on East, Sutherland [Sutherland]
- Petersham RSL [Newington College, Stanmore]
- Sydney South Juniors [Maroubra]
- Dee Why RSL [Warringah]
- Ingleburn RSL [Campbelltown]
- Orange Ex-Services Club [Orange]
- St George Leagues Club [Rainbow Club Australia]



Byron Bay Rainbow Club



Louise Sauvage visits Sutherland

## Fundraising

Christmas in July at St George Leagues Club is always a good night out and a great fundraiser for Rainbow Club Australia.

Danny Robinson and the Board of Directors were present to hear our MC Martyn Downes interview sports personalities, Jim Maxwell, Joe Roff and Chris Fydler.

During the night, our patron Mark Speakman presented a Founders award to Ron and Lily Siddons without whom there would be no Rainbow Club.

Congratulations to Margaret Taplin who was made a Life Member of Rainbow Club Australia. Margaret's work in fundraising and running the Christmas in July function each year makes her a very worthy Life Member.



## Malabar Magic 2015

Murray Rose, the Australian Olympic Swimmer who was a co-founder of the Malabar Magic would have been very proud to see how the event has grown to be such a success and a major fundraiser for Rainbow Club.

On the 17 February 2015, the sun was shining and the ocean was calm as the 983 Ocean Swimmers descended on Malabar Beach for one of the best known ocean swims in the Fine Ocean Series.

The atmosphere was buoyant at dawn as the volunteers swung into action in the early hours of Sunday morning and according to Rob Lloyd who leads the organisation of the event *"the feel of the swim was very Rainbow Club"*.

For Rob the highlight of the 2015 swim was the involvement of the Sydney based Rainbow Clubs and the children who learn to swim in a pool each week. *"Their display at the Splash and throughout the day showed lots of winners"* said Rob who was proud that everybody could see what Rainbow Club is about.

The Malabar Magic Committee is extremely grateful to the sponsors and supporters whose donations make this Ocean Swim such a success. Macquarie Foundation play a major role in supporting our ocean swim and the Ottomin Foundation team not only donate to the event but the staff swim and participate in the day's activities.

Randwick Council and North Bondi Surf Club have been instrumental in making the Malabar Magic Ocean Swim a safe event for all participants.



Magic 2015

983 ocean swimmers

2 swims (2.4km and 1km)

68 volunteers

23 prizes

4 great sponsors

\$83k net profit to support Rainbow Club activities

#top5 great family day out

swim the magic



MACQUARIE



Randwick City Council  
a sense of community



Ottomin Foundation



One of the Malabar Magic Ocean Swim line-ups



Enjoying Macquarie Foundations sponsorship

## Instructors

### Focus on Disability Qualification

Our instructors continued to be the backbone of Rainbow Club in 2014/15. Over 90 instructors were employed at different stages during the year.

Approximately 33% of all instructors employed by Rainbow Club have Access and Inclusion qualification from Austswim or the Swim Australia Teacher of Learners With Disability. Instructors with this specific accreditation are being rewarded with an increase in their hourly rate.

We are grateful to Austswim for their support in providing Access and Inclusion training and qualification free of charge for approx 20 instructors.



### Payroll

A pilot scheme involving outsourcing the payroll of instructors was introduced in last term of the financial year. The change means instructors are paid fortnightly and have more options regarding their tax obligations.

### Working with Children

All Instructors had NSW Working with Children Checks verified with the Office of Children. In October 2014 our employee records were the subject of an audit by this body.

## Swim the Rainbow Family Carnival



The inaugural Rainbow Club carnival was held at Ryde Aquatic Centre on 11 April. Eleven Clubs were represented and participated with enthusiasm and pride. Congratulations to everybody who participated.

One of the major highlights was the relay race. Eleven teams entered and each team consisted of a Rainbow Club child, A Rainbow Club instructor, a parent or sibling and one other. Congratulations to Carla Barnes and her team from Sutherland Rainbow Club who won by a narrow margin.

The Ron and Lily Siddons shield was won by Maroubra Rainbow Club. The shield was awarded for greatest participation by children, committee, instructors combined with the results on the day. Ron and Lily are the founders of Rainbow Club and were present on the day to make the presentation to Carla Andrews, Manager of the Maroubra Club.

Special thanks go to the Carnival Organising Committee led by David Brettell. Ally Cox, Anna Torok, Jason Xing and Arthur Cooke all volunteered their time to make this inaugural carnival such a great event.

RESULTS	First	Second	Third
Red	Isiah Twining, Revesby	Joe Jeremy, Revesby	Itta Shveibish, Maroubra
Orange	No activities held		
Yellow	Lawrence Nassar, Cherrybrook	Fletcher Laird, Hornsby	Joanne Vaz, Revesby
Green	Michael Barda, Revesby		
Blue	Wen J Huang, Liverpool	Gabrielle Lui, Seven Hills	Ryan Schacht, Revesby
Indigo	Andre Nassar, Cherrybrook	Matthew Trinh, Liverpool	Taylor Walker Lear, Bondi
Violet	William McHutchison, Hornsby	James Zhu, Newington	Nicholas Parker, Maroubra
Relay	Sutherland, Team led by Carla Barnes		
Shield	Maroubra, Rainbow Club of the Year 2015		



Jack Miller from Revesby Rainbow Club at the Carnival



Liverpool Club members at the Carnival

# Rainbow Club Australia

**Founders** Ron Siddons MBE OAM  
Lily Siddons

**Patrons** Louise Sauvage OAM  
Mark Speakman SC MP

**Ambassadors** James Pittar  
Ethan Harvey Youth  
Georgia Dore Member

**Board** Alexandra Finley President  
Philip Holt OAM Vice President  
Rob Lloyd Vice President  
Robert Beaven  
Ally Cox  
Mark McCormack  
Bob McCotter  
Suzanne Stanton  
John Taplin

**Staff** Catriona Barry General Manager  
Jen Crowley Finance Officer  
Min Strauss Membership Officer

## Honour Roll

**Life Members** Gary Bradshaw  
Tony Williams  
Philip Holt OAM  
Malcolm Kerr  
Suzanne Stanton  
Margaret Taplin

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Registered NSW Disability Service  
NDIS Provider No: 71384861  
Rainbow Club Australia is an incorporated  
Association in NSW with Deductible Gift  
Recipient Status. Fundraising Licence CFN11011  
Accountants: SGB Partners Chartered  
Accountants Sydney

# Financial Information

## Statement of Profit or Loss

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Revenue	410,163	349,328
Administration Expenses	(173,027)	(113,773)
Advertising and Promotion Expenses	(4160)	(1,650)
Service Provision Expenses	(162,499)	(160,619)
<b>Operating Surplus before income tax</b>	<b>70,476</b>	<b>73,286</b>

## Assets and Liabilities Statement

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>		
Total Current Assets	467,852	461,604
Total Non-Current Assets	14,819	13,341
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>482,671</b>	<b>474,945</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Total Current Liabilities	71,759	134,509
Total Non-Current Liabilities	-	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>71,759</b>	<b>134,509</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>410,912</b>	<b>340,436</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>410,912</b>	<b>340,436</b>

Rainbow Club Australia Incorporated ABN 96 753 434 862. This is a summary of audited financial statements to 30 June 2015 Full accounts are available on our website at [rainbowclubaust.com.au](http://rainbowclubaust.com.au)



Louise Sauvage visits Revesby



Noodle races were popular at Family Carnival

## Meet Nicholas

Nicholas is a child who has a lot of energy. If not kept busy the energy turns aggressive and becomes difficult. When Nicholas started with Rainbow Club he needed to learn how to save himself, how to swim and how to deal with his energy. His zero level of fear meant safety was a priority.

Arthur is his swimming instructor. He took Nicholas under his wing and taught him so much. When they decided to swim the Malabar Magic their training increased and began swimming laps.

On the day of the swim Arthur told me that he would take care of Nicholas and he definitely came good. He did not let Nicholas out of his sight the whole time.

It was incredible for Nicholas to have successfully completed the swim, as it has been such a hard slog to get to this point. The first thing Nicholas said after he crossed the line was *"I did it! Mum, I really did it! It was very exciting."*

Carla Andrews, Nicholas's mum



Nicholas with his instructor Arthur

## Meet Josh

### Water safety turned into a life-long love of swimming for Josh

Josh Strauss is 10 years old and has Autism Spectrum Disorder. He has verbal dyspraxia and sensory processing issues that go along with his diagnosis. He has also been a proud member of the Sutherland Rainbow Club for the last six years.

Having a backyard pool at home meant that teaching Josh about water safety was extremely important. However, finding a swim school that would accommodate Josh and his needs proved extremely difficult. That is, until his Mum across Rainbow Club...

*"In the beginning, we anticipated a period of adjustment on Josh's part in getting used to being in the water and having to listen to his instructors".*

Each week for up to four months, Josh would scream and cry as soon as he got into the pool, adamant that he was not going to have his head dunked under water. And each week, the dedicated instructors would patiently yet firmly manage to cajole him into making progress in the pool!

Over the years, what started out as a need to ensure Josh was "water safe", has turned into a life-long love affair with swimming for him. Josh has been swimming all year round since and always looks forward to his Saturday lessons, even giving his instructors some cheek at times!

Last year, Josh managed to compete at his school swimming carnival for the first time! Earlier this year, Josh competed in the Malabar Magic 1km Ocean Swim to help fundraise for Rainbow Club. The big joyous smile on his face after completing both events simply says it all to us!

*"Never in all this time could I have anticipated such proud moments of swimming achievements in Josh's life! As a very thankful parent, I can only say that if it had not been for Rainbow Club Sutherland, none of this would have been possible."*

Min Strauss, Joshua's mum



Josh Strauss with his instructor Carla