



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

Rainbow Club Australia Mission Statement

Our Vision

Any child with a disability will be able to learn to swim and to enjoy the atmosphere of a well managed Rainbow Club.

Through individualised swimming lessons we will see more children becoming safe and improving their swimming skills year on year.

By providing a best practice service, we will maintain sustainability and viability in a world where the National Disability Insurance Scheme will provide choice and control to people with significant and permanent disability.

Rainbow Club values its charitable profile and status and will continue to develop diversified streams of income to raise funds at all levels of the organisation.

Our President

On behalf of the Board, I am pleased to present our Annual Review for 2013/14. A highlight was the 2013 Rainbow Connect Day. This was a great opportunity to meet so many from our clubs, to listen and understand what is needed from us as a Board.

The feedback from this day was instrumental in informing and confirming our strategic direction. The Board and the wider organisation continues to be faced with the imperative for change and we are committed to making those changes and developing our programs to best serve the needs of our members as we closely monitor the impact of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Board is focused on creating a sustainable future for Rainbow Club and maintaining the key elements that make Rainbow Club unique.

I would like to acknowledge our patrons and ambassadors and thank my colleagues on the Board who work tirelessly to ensure the organisation is performing at its optimum having regard to the needs of all our stakeholders – from our Rainbow Club children and families, instructors and pool operators, our supporters and sponsors, local communities, government and regulators. We will continue to work hard to deliver the best possible outcomes for clubs and Rainbow Club children whilst keeping our overheads low. I would like to acknowledge Catriona Barry and Jen Crowley for their dedication to our mission.

Our mission remains unchanged - to provide opportunities for children with disabilities to extend their abilities in the water. Our vision is challenging, but we think it is important to set challenging goals in the same way our Rainbow Club children challenge themselves each week in the pool.

Finally, I would like to quote Maya Angelou, the African American writer who died recently, *"The thing to do is be a rainbow in somebody else's cloud"*. As a Board our challenge is to be that Rainbow in somebody else's cloud. We invite you to share that dream.



Alexandra Finley, President
Rainbow Club Australia



L to R: Danny Robinson, St George Leagues Club
Alexandra Finley, Rainbow Club Australia
Hon John Ajaka, Minister for Disabilities

Malabar Magic

Rain did not deter more than 900 swimmers who descended on Malabar Beach in February to swim in the Murray Rose Malabar Magic Ocean Swim. They participated in either 1km or 2.4km swim in the protected bay at Malabar. The atmosphere on the beach was relaxed as everybody was there for the Ocean Swim.

Organisers had arranged plenty of fruit and energy drinks and Sydney Water were present with great 'tap' water. The running commentary from the beach kept everybody informed and the live entertainment, coffee van, bbq and lots of prizes all made this a great day where over \$80,000 was raised for Rainbow Club.

Reaching for the Rainbow

Our major goal in Reaching for our Rainbow during 2013/14 was to create a sustainable future for Rainbow Club and the introduction of RCAMS was a major element of this goal. Introducing structure and some benchmarks for our clubs also contributes to our structure in the future and our Club Operations Manual is fast becoming our "go to" document for volunteers, instructors and staff.

Other goals were also advanced as we support our clubs to offer a best practice service to our members and their families. All our instructors have basic Austswim or ASCTA qualifications and we are working towards 2015 when a qualification that specialises in teaching children with a disability will be the norm. We also supported our clubs with the very important role of collecting fees each term and are pleased to report that the amount of subsidies to clubs has reduced, allowing us to open new clubs.

I would like to thank our President, Alexandra Finley, for her guidance and support. She and the Board work tirelessly at both a strategic and operational level for Rainbow Club. I am also very proud and privileged to meet with our Club Committees without whom we would have no Rainbow Club.



Catriona Barry, General Manager
Rainbow Club Australia



Rainbow Connect

In October 2013 the inaugural Rainbow Connect took place at the Cronulla Sharks Leagues Club. Board Members, Club Committee Members and instructors gathered to get to know each other, to reflect on the past, consider the present and provide input into the future.

Louise Sauvage opened the day with a call for instructors to become more involved in the planning for the future and to join her in participating in the great Malabar Magic Ocean Swim while raising funds for Rainbow Club.

The new Rainbow Club Australia Management System was launched and there was a series of workshops where the participants gave input into improvements that would make Rainbow Club a better place for children with a disability.

Three inspirational guest speakers gave an insight into how disability has changed their lives. Rainbow Connect has now become an integral part of our annual calendar.

Developing a sustainable future

Rainbow Club Australia Management System (RCAMS)

Funding from the NSW State Government allowed the development of RCAMS, an online database to manage the membership of our clubs. It also gives an overview of waiting lists so that they can be easily managed. A salesforce.com system was chosen and Phase One of the tailoring of the system to our needs was implemented. This included online registration for new members with each club having access to membership application details as well as contact details for the management of membership. A major element of the system is the management of information on our workforce, both volunteer and paid instructors.

The initial launch at Rainbow Connect involved the migration of membership data from 10 clubs with the remaining clubs coming online as the year progressed. By the end of the June 2014 all clubs were using the system and the data available from the system on membership and waiting lists is reported on regularly and constantly to the Rainbow Club Board.

Diversified Streams of Income

A sustainable future involves diversified streams of income. A more structured and consistent approach to gathering fees at club level was enforced throughout the year. In addition, through the work of our Fundraising Committee (FundCo), Rainbow Club was able to structure our calendar of fundraising events, review our grant application process and issue calls for donations. These four main streams of income will be developed into the future with the aim of making each club financially independent and allowing expansion in the number of clubs in the Rainbow Club network.



Welcome Maroubra

In May we were delighted to see the launch of Maroubra Rainbow Club at the Des Renford Leisure Centre in Maroubra.

Using the structure outlined in our Club Manual, a Committee of three parents formed and with assistance from experienced instructors at our Newington Rainbow Club, a small team of instructors entered the pool and got to know a whole new membership of children with a disability.

The club membership is growing steadily and despite limitations of pool access and depth, is set to reach the goal of 40 lessons per week in its first year of operation.

Club structures that can be replicated

A major goal for Rainbow Club is to meet the demand for places in our existing clubs because our main purpose is to see children with a disability expand their confidence and skills through swimming. In addition to setting an ambitious goal of 40 lessons per week in each of our clubs, we also aim to open two new clubs each year as part of a controlled and managed growth plan.

Club Charter

To achieve this goal we introduced some formalities and structures into our clubs to help them plan for the future and to create expectations from future members of the need to be part of a local community. Our Club Charter was drafted and introduced as the official document which outlines and formalises the relationship between Rainbow Club Australia and its constituent clubs.



Club Manual

The first edition of the Rainbow Club Operations Manual was distributed in Term 2 of 2014 and it outlines the structure and operating procedures that each club is expected to follow. It is a guideline for existing clubs and an important bible to ensure that all clubs understand and practice compliance with legislation and offer a quality service to all our members.



Instructors' Commitment

Ten instructors from across our clubs volunteered to form a Working Group and came together in Term 2, 2014.

The agenda was challenging but enthusiasm and professionalism triumphed and the group quickly advanced to recommendations on long awaited Goals and Pathways program for teaching children with a disability to learn to swim.



The Swim the Rainbow program was developed and shared by Jamie Black from Revesby Rainbow Club and welcomed enthusiastically by instructors.

The idea put forward at Rainbow Connect for an interclub carnival gained traction and our instructors agreed to assist with the setting of the program.

A culture that is compliant, supportive and efficient

Rainbow Wrap keeping members up to date

On the last Friday of each month the latest news, fundraising ideas, plans and information to members, parents and instructors is circulated. As RCAMS developed throughout the year the circulation for Rainbow Wrap increased and by the end of the year, this low cost yet informative newsletter was reaching 700+ stakeholders each month. During the year we recorded the story of three members and their families as they embarked on their Learn to Swim journey with Rainbow Club. You can view the stories of Will, Emily and Christopher on our website.

Developing policies for a quality service

As part of our aim to provide a quality service for our members we embarked on an ambitious program of policy development which is aligned to the National Disability Standards. These policies, and the procedures which support them, will be the subject of a Third Party Verification early next year.

Child Protection and compliance with NSW Working With Children legislation

A major development in our record keeping and legislative compliance during the year was the centralisation of our instructor employment information onto RCAMS. This focus on ensuring all our instructors are qualified and are verified by the NSW Office of Children as approved to be engaged in a paid role that involves working with children is another example of Rainbow Club's increased commitment to compliance in all its operations. Thank you to all our Club Management Committees and Instructors for their cooperation in the roll out of the new procedures.



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
Mark McCormack
Bob McCotter
Suzanne Stanton
John Taplin

Staff Catriona Barry General Manager
Jen Crowley Bookkeeper

Honour Roll

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

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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

Financial Information

Statement of Profit or Loss

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
Revenue	349,328	376,379
Administration Expenses	[113,773]	[93,982]
Advertising and Promotion Expenses	[1,650]	[940]
Service Provision Expenses	[160,619]	[188,439]
Operating Surplus before income tax	73,286	93,018

Assets and Liabilities Statement

	2014	2013
Assets	\$	\$
Total Current Assets	461,604	496,470
Total Non-Current Assets	13,341	17,642
Total Assets	474,945	514,112
Liabilities		
Total Current Liabilities	134,509	163,628
Total Non-Current Liabilities	-	83,334
Total Current Liabilities	134,509	246,962
Net Assets	340,436	267,150
Total Equity	340,436	267,150

Rainbow Club Australia Incorporated ABN 96 753 434 862. This is a summary of audited financial statements to 30 June 2014. Full accounts are available on our website at rainbowclubaust.com.au



Visit our website rainbowclubaust.com.au or follow us [f /rainbowclubaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/rainbowclubaustralia)



Karl Keller

Karl Keller was a Rainbow Club member when he learned to swim. He won the support of four instructors from Sutherland Rainbow Club and Carla, Monique, Caitlin and Serina were his companions on the day of the 2014 Malabar Magic. For weeks after it was difficult to know who got the most out of the adventure!

Serina Karadinovski reported the instructors were still on a high a week later and were already planning for next year.

Karl's mother, Leanne, said *"Karl and I had a fantastic time and it still seems so surreal. He and our family were very touched by how kind and considerate everyone was with Karls special needs. I would like to say a big thank you again for everything that was done for Karl on the day. It is a special experience I share with Karl and wont be forgotten. We will soon be starting up again with Karl's trainer for the 2015 race"*.

Meet Georgia Dore

My name is Georgia Dore. I am 15 years old. When I was 8 months old I was diagnosed with Stage 4 Neuroblastoma which is cancer. I had 18 months of treatment, which involved chemotherapy, an operation to remove the tumor, total body radiation and a stem cell transplant. I suffered a number of side effects which include cataracts on both my eyes, hearing impairment, screws in both my hips and four years ago I developed Epilepsy.

I absolutely love swimming and in late October 2013 I was put forward to be the first student of Rainbow Club to swim in the 'Murray Rose Malabar Magic Ocean Swim'.

I went to the local pool twice a week and gradually worked up to the 1 kilometre in the pool. I also had my weekly Rainbow Club lesson. Many times while doing laps I would have a seizure, but I was determined not to let the epilepsy stop me from doing this.

The two weekends prior to the swim, I went to Malabar with my companion swimmer Grant Cox to practice swimming in the ocean, because I actually had not done this before. The weekend before the swim, I had a seizure while out in the ocean. I waited the seizure out and finished the 1 kilometre.

On the 16th of February, I did the 1 km ocean swim at Malabar, with my companion swimmer Grant Cox. This day was so amazing, cameras followed me around all day and there were thousands of people on the beach. It was an absolute honour to meet Mrs Rose on the day and to be there for the unveiling of the Murray Rose seat at Malabar Beach. I raised \$3600 for Rainbow Club.

Rainbow Club is a fantastic organisation that allows children with a disability the opportunity to participate in one-on-one swimming lessons. I know for a fact if there was no Rainbow Club I wouldn't have had the opportunity to discover the world of ocean swimming.

