

# Annual Review

Rainbow Club 2019/20



## WATCH US ONLINE

We've put together a great video about our 2019/20 statistics

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)

See how Rainbow Club teachers gained and learned during JobKeeper

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)

# Our year

At Rainbow Club it is important for us to honour the struggle and celebrate success. Like most, 2020 has given us the opportunity to do both. Rainbow Club joyfully celebrated our 50th Anniversary in October 2019 and opened three new Rainbow Clubs during October and January.

In February 2020 we were celebrating reaching the milestone of 1000+ swimming lessons provided each weekend for children with a disability.

However, in March 2020 it became clear Australia and the world was about to face challenges very few had predicted. As the COVID-19 pandemic escalated and public health restrictions were put in place we needed to protect our members, teachers, staff and volunteers.

We followed all government and health guidelines and closed our Clubs for the whole of Term 2, 2020. During Club closures, we put in place procedures to ensure our Clubs would be COVID-safe when re-opening was possible and worked diligently to ensure that we would return a stronger and more vibrant Rainbow Club ready to achieve all our strategic goals and able to meet the needs of members and waiting lists.

## Turning a crisis into opportunity

At the outset of COVID-19, the Board prioritised safety for members and support for teachers and staff. Three professional development sessions for teachers were hosted by our staff and the benefits of the Government's JobKeeper scheme were made available to eligible teachers.

We thank everyone for your understanding and support and look forward to a brighter and stronger year for Rainbow Club.

Alexandra Finley President  
Catriona Barry General Manager



Alexandra (L) and Catriona (R) at Rainbow Club's 50th Anniversary celebrations



[myrainbowclub.org.au](https://myrainbowclub.org.au)

- [rainbowclubaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/rainbowclubaustralia)
- [rainbowclubaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/rainbowclubaustralia)
- [RainbowClubAust](https://twitter.com/RainbowClubAust)
- [Rainbow Club Australia](https://www.youtube.com/RainbowClubAustralia)

## Rainbow Club Australia

PO Box 432  
Brighton Le Sands NSW 2216

Incorporated Association in NSW  
ABN 96 753 434 862

Registered NDIS Provider  
ID: 4-3LLM-647

Charitable Status:  
Rainbow Club is a not for profit organisation with tax exempt charity and deductible gift recipient status.  
Australian Taxation Office CFN 11011



Registered  
NDIS Provider



Vouchers  
accepted



Deductible gift  
recipient status

# Annual Review

Rainbow Club 2019/20

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Annual Review: Rainbow Club would like to thank our photographers: Emma Baldwin, Mitch Karadonovski, Dara Munnis



# Events this year

celebrating  
50 years



## rainbow connect

**October 2019** Rainbow Connect was a very special occasion acknowledging the success of 50 years of Rainbow Club. It was also a fitting occasion to recognise Alexandra Finley, President of Rainbow Club who was awarded Life Membership of Rainbow Club. The award was presented by Rainbow Club Patron Mark Speakman, NSW Attorney General and Member for Cronulla.



## family carnival

**December 2019** It was great to return to Newington College for our 5th Annual Family Carnival. 140 members from across our Clubs came to celebrate the end of a great year and show off their swimming ability. It was a great day! When not swimming in the pool, members and siblings enjoyed face painting and a terrific BBQ cooked by volunteers. At the end of the day, after all the medals had been handed out, Santa arrived with presents for everybody.



After careful planning, watching tides, adjusting timing, focussing on water safety, facilitating accessible matting for the beach and raising funds for Rainbow Club, sadly the Murray Rose Malabar Magic Ocean Swim Organising Committee had no option but to cancel the 2020 Malabar Magic due to recent bad weather and poor water quality. Stalwarts Rob Lloyd and Mark McCormack are well known for their mantra 'swimmers first' - so there was no question the event would be held when the safety of swimmers was at risk.

Cancelling an event is heartbreaking but it was made easier by the kindness of the many swimmers who had registered online and agreed to have their registration fee converted to a donation. A big thank you to **Macquarie, Randwick Council, Ottomin, Meriton, 13cabs** - we are especially grateful for the generosity of Malabar Magic sponsors who did not hesitate to convert their sponsorship to a Rainbow Club donation.

# Membership and Club developments

Across our Clubs, 1000+ children receive individualised swim lessons each weekend during school term

Parents tell us it is the individual attention that helps their child with a disability learn to swim. Therapists recommend Rainbow Club for this reason. By February 2020 we had increased our capacity to 1000+ lessons each weekend – an increase of 15% in 9 months!



*Narellan Rainbow Club opened in January 2020*

## Three new Clubs

Welcome to Mount Pritchard, Northmead and Narellan Rainbow Clubs who opened during the year and facilitated children on our waiting lists getting access to individualised swimming lessons in their local community.

Thank you to **Australian Turf Club** for your support with growing our Clubs

Australian Turf Club®

## Summer Clubs

In January we held two Summer Clubs at Liverpool and Lane Cove. As one parent said: "Rainbow Summer Club was such a positive experience. So lovely to see a child with difficulties succeed and feel so valued!"

At our 2019/20 Summer Clubs, 33 children received the opportunity to start their Swim the Rainbow journey with 9 lessons over 3 weeks. The Summer Club format of more lessons per week over a shorter time period enables more children with a disability to experience Rainbow Club and helps address our waiting list.

Thank you **Westpac** for your support for our Summer Clubs

**Westpac**



*Serina in action encouraging a Rainbow Club member*

## Special Olympics Junior National Games

Eleven children and seven teachers were ready to attend a Training Camp to select our team to attend the Special Olympics Junior National Games in Launceston. Unfortunately, the games were postponed and so was our planning and training.

Serina Karadinovski had been appointed the Head of our Delegation and she is looking forward to reassembling the team and moving forward with the planning just as soon as a new date is announced.





# A year of innovations

## Upgrades for a better Rainbow Club

During 2019/20, our Board committed to investing in technology to ensure that Rainbow Club can operate with efficient systems to support it.

[myrainbowclub.org.au](https://myrainbowclub.org.au)

### New technologies

In August 2019 we reached a new dimension with the launch of iPads into 10 Clubs, online schedules enabling parents to sign-in online, a new portal called Teacher Central to provide important information to teachers at the same time as digitalising their timesheets.



Little did we realise then how important it would be for us to have up to date sign-in technology to meet contact tracing obligations when re-opening Clubs after Covid-19 restrictions eased.

We also upgraded to a new payroll system and launched a bright brand new website – the result was a very busy staff pulling together and extending beyond their comfort zone to ensure that timelines were met and Clubs, volunteers and teachers were supported.



### Visual aids to enhance learning

A set of specially designed Swim the Rainbow visual aid cards was provided for each teacher to enhance their teaching and communication with children with a disability.

The release of the visual aids was followed up with online professional development training for using the cards and information on a range of topics that our teachers face each week in our Clubs. The online training allowed for real time feedback and interaction that all our teachers enjoyed.

Thank you to the **Primary Club of Australia** for your support in the production of our Swim the Rainbow visual aids.



# Quality enhanced ✓

Enhanced quality, culture, collaboration, training and resources make Rainbow Club even better



## Strengthening our Club Committees

Volunteer Committees with committed teachers are the cornerstone of a great culture in a great Club. It's when all three work together that their vibe permeates throughout the Club and the children in that Club learn, have fun and participate at their best.

This year we focussed on supporting and building our Committees and providing ongoing training for our teachers. Rainbow Connect and the 50th celebrations in October set the scene with cake, balloons and gifts for Committee members and teachers and it continued with Zoom meetings to share information, exchange ideas and get feedback.

When Rainbow Club re-opened post Covid-19 we had redefined Committee roles, filled vacant positions and now see empowered volunteers making our Clubs safe and happy places for children to learn to swim.



## train to teach

### More qualified teachers

We trained six family and friends of Rainbow Club to become accredited swim teachers and with restrictions easing in NSW, we will continue to support 16 more who have started on their teaching journey. The impact they are having in helping children with a disability learn to swim is seen every week in the pool.

Thank you to **Bondi Icebergs** for supporting our Train to Teach program



## NDIS re-registration

There was a lot of planning and hard work involved in preparing for the mandatory audit of our policies, procedures and documentation in order to maintain our NDIS Provider status. The audit, which took place in November 2019, was comprehensive and we were delighted to receive confirmation of our re-registration in three NDIS categories.

Our Registered NDIS Provider ID: 4-3LLM-647



Registered  
NDIS Provider



## AUSTSWIM Conference

Five teachers represented Rainbow Club at the AUSTSWIM 40th Conference in Queensland in October 2019. The teachers who accompanied our Nicola Davies-Cooke to the conference were Jackie Cole (Cherrybrook) Cherly Dorry (Penrith), Rooman Aishath (Liverpool) and Ana Clara Viola (Lane Cove). Our conference delegates shared their new knowledge and latest industry happenings with other Lead Teachers at their Rainbow Club Teachers Annual Dinner in October.

## safety week

### Safety Week

Helping children to be safe around water is a key part of Rainbow Club's mission, so in August 2019 we introduced Safety Week.

Safety week is dedicated to providing families and children with tips and techniques to reach safety and stay water safe should they find themselves in a risky situation.

The inaugural Safety Week was an exciting challenge with training sessions for teachers to implement in their Clubs. A lot was learned and when we repeated Safety Week in February 2020 it was a streamlined and enjoyable session with lots of family and teacher participation at each Club.

## New programs coming soon!



Jackie Cole, our new Aquatics Manager, joined the Rainbow Club Management team in December and actively began setting up two new programs.

Just as we were about to launch, Covid-19 restrictions put a stop to both programs. Watch out for news on both these programs in 2020-2021.

### Occupational Therapists

This program, providing Occupational Therapy (OT) support for teachers, had been canvassed and scoped and recruitment was underway.

Thank you to the **Jenour Foundation** for your funding to engage OT support for our teachers

### Jenour Foundation

### My Active Rainbow

My Active Rainbow will be for young adults who have learned to swim and no longer need individualised lessons but want to stay physically and mentally fit and part of the Rainbow Club family.

Thank you to **Holt Group (1861)** for supporting My Active Rainbow

**THE HOLT ESTATE** 1861





# Our Club communities

More than just a place for children with a disability to learn to swim - each Rainbow Club is its own community, part of the local community and also part of a greater network.

Great support means the world to our members. Thank you to the pool owners and hirers who host our Rainbow Clubs. Your support for Rainbow Club is critical to helping children with a disability learn to swim and be safe around water.

Thank you also to the organisations who support Rainbow Clubs in their community. Supporter and ClubGrants funding has meant our Clubs have been able to continue to operate and subsidise those who most need your support. A very big thank you to **St George Leagues Club** for your ongoing support for all our Clubs.



## Our Rainbow Clubs

### At special schools

#### Bondi

- 👤 Wairoa School
- 👤 Reka Donath

#### Narellan

NEW!

- 👤 Yandelora School
- 👤 Dean Taylor

#### Northmead

NEW!

- 👤 The Hills School
- 👤 Liam Ellis-Gannell

#### Tamworth

- 👤 Bullimbal School
- 👤 Jo-Anne Abra

#### Penrith

- 👤 Kurrambee School
- 👤 Cheryl Dorry
- 💰 Commonwealth Bank Penrith Panthers



#### The Ponds

- 👤 The Ponds School
- 👤 Kevin Alvares

#### Club

- 👤 Location
- 👤 Lead Teacher
- 💰 Supported by

### At private schools

#### Hornsby

- 👤 Knox Grammar School
- 👤 Louise Colnan
- 💰 Hornsby RSL Magpies Waitara



#### Hurstville

- 👤 Danebank School for Girls
- 👤 Taylor Dawson

#### Newington/Stanmore

- 👤 Newington College
- 👤 James Smith
- 💰 Petersham RSL





# Our Rainbow Clubs

**36**  
weeks

4 terms of 9 weeks per year

**26**  
clubs

Rainbow Clubs in NSW

**1000+**  
members

children with a disability

**500**  
waiting

children on waiting list

## At swim schools

### Cherrybrook

- ✓ Carlie Swimming
- ✓ Claudia Seal
- \$ Commonwealth Bank West Pennant Hills Sports Club

**WPH SPORTS CLUB**  
West Pennant Hills



### Cronulla/Miranda

- ✓ Starting Blocks
- ✓ Gavin Cooper
- \$ Sharks Leagues Club

**SHARKS LEAGUES CLUB**

### Mount Pritchard **NEW!**

- ✓ Mounties Ignite Gym
- ✓ Ashley Roberts
- \$ Mounties

**mounties**

### Seven Hills

- ✓ Aquatic Safety Training Academy (ASTA)
- ✓ Nicola Yee
- \$ Commonwealth Bank



### Warriewood

- ✓ Brooke Wither Swim School
- ✓ Jan Evans

## At local council pools

### Bexley

- ✓ Bayside Council and Bluefit
- ✓ James Smith

### Byron Bay

- ✓ Byron Shire Council
- ✓ Ian Riley
- \$ Byron Bay Winter Whales



### Campbelltown

- ✓ Campbelltown City Council
- ✓ Kelly Charleton
- \$ Commonwealth Bank



### Lane Cove

- ✓ Lane Cove Council and BlueFit
- ✓ Ana Clara Viola

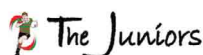
### Liverpool

- ✓ Liverpool City Council and Belgravia Leisure
- ✓ Rooman Aishath
- \$ Commonwealth Bank Liverpool Catholic Club



### Maroubra

- ✓ Randwick City Council
- ✓ Peter O'Donnell
- \$ Souths Juniors



### Orange

- ✓ Orange City Council
- ✓ Graham Strudwick
- \$ Orange ExServices Club



### Revesby

- ✓ Canterbury Bankstown Council
- ✓ Jasmin Jungo
- \$ Commonwealth Bank Revesby Workers Club

revesbyworkers'



### Southern Highlands

- ✓ Wingecarribee Shire Council and Bluefit
- ✓ Maria Letteri
- \$ Moss Vale RSL



### Sutherland

- ✓ Sutherland Shire Council
- ✓ Ashleigh Gibson
- \$ GyMEA Tradies



### Villawood

- ✓ Canterbury Bankstown Council
- ✓ Carol Tomkinson

### Warringah

- ✓ Northern Beaches Council
- ✓ Catherine Bray
- \$ Dee Why RSL



# Our resilience

## Thank you to all our people

Rainbow Club wouldn't be where it is today without all the people who collectively work behind the scenes to keep our members swimming and safe in the water, who organise our social participation events and keep our operations running smoothly.

With Covid-19, it hasn't been the easiest of years, so we do genuinely appreciate all your efforts to keep Rainbow Club resilient and ready for action when it became possible to re-open. A big shout out to the children with a disability who are our Rainbow Club members. To their families and our Club Committees, teachers, volunteers, fundraisers, partners and supporters – whether past or present, thank you.

## Financial result

The financial impact of the pandemic can be seen in the end of year financial results for the organisation. The prudent approach of our Board, meant we had sufficient reserves to carry us through these challenging times and allow us to recover quickly and reopen Clubs. The many lessons from this year are already being applied to the way we will manage Rainbow Club over the next 12–24 months with an emphasis on safety, sustainability and agility.

See the full 2019/20 audited financial results online [CLICK HERE](#)

## Rainbow Club Financial Statement

1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

Statement of Profit or Loss	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue	1,001,088	1,255,978
Other Income (Interest)	12,006	8,927
Government subsidies	417,800	
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	(51,924)	(14,073)
Rental expenses	(5,773)	(4,691)
Staff/Teacher training and development	(113,025)	(91,227)
Audit, legal and consultancy fees	(11,793)	(2,786)
Service provision	(1,368,788)	(885,921)
Fundraising expenses	(55,425)	(71,554)
	(175,834)	194,653
Assets and Liabilities Statement	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
Total Current Assets	1,022,557	999,179
Total Non-Current Assets	104,096	120,367
Total Assets	1,126,653	1,119,546
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Total Current Liabilities	(318,075)	(135,134)
<b>Net Assets (Total Equity)</b>	<b>808,578</b>	<b>984,412</b>

Rainbow Club Australia Incorporated ABN 96 753 434 862. This is a summary of audited statements to 30 June 2020. For full report see [myrainbowclub.org.au/annual-report](http://myrainbowclub.org.au/annual-report)  
Accountants: SGB Partners, Chartered Accountants, Sydney

## Our people

### Founders:

Ron Siddons MBE OAM,  
Lily Siddons

### Patrons:

Mark Speakman SC MP,  
Louise Sauvage OAM

**Ambassador:** James Pittar

### Life Members:

Gary Bradshaw (2006), Philip Holt OAM (2006), Malcolm Kerr AM (2006), Tony Williams (2006), Suzanne Stanton (2013), Margaret Taplin (2015), Rob Lloyd (2018), Alexandra Finley (2019)

### Board:

Alexandra Finley (President), Philip Holt OAM (Vice President), Rob Lloyd (Vice President), Ernie Cirignano, Dipen Dhruv, Steve Langan-Stark, Matt Levy, Mark McCormack, Bob McCotter, Tracy Raso, John Taplin OAM

Finance Committee (not on Board): Toulia Panagiotou, Michael Scott

### Staff:

Catriona Barry (General Manager), Emma Baldwin (Events Officer), Robyn Bayliss (Western Development Coordinator), Jackie Cole (Aquatics Manager), Nicola Davies-Cooke (Swimming Officer), Natalie Dillenbeck (Support Coordinator), Eliza Kelleher (Accounts Officer), Heather Nadilo (IT & Communications Manager), Sarah Simon (Accounts Officer), Min Strauss (Membership Manager)

### Malabar Magic Committee:

Peter Appleyard, Catriona Barry, Ally Cox, Rob Lloyd, Mark McCormack, Neil McLennan, Eddie Moore, Anna Torok

### Family Carnival Committee:

Arthur Cooke, Nicola Davies-Cooke, James Smith, Anna Torok, Jason Xing

# Member stories

With over 1000 members, each of Rainbow Club's members has a unique story to share. Here are a couple from 2019/20:



## So much more than swimming lessons

Ethan and Isaac are brothers and both have complex disabilities including Cerebral Palsy, Hydrocephalus and both have Autism and a Global Developmental Delay. The result is the boys are heavy and activity is difficult for them.

"Rainbow Club gives my boys so much more than just swimming lessons. It's exercise and a chance to mix with other children and families from similar backgrounds and in an environment free of judgement." – Leanne, mother of Ethan and Isaac

They had been on the wait list since last July and had their first Rainbow Club experience at Campbelltown Summer Club over the school holidays and were excited to start at Narellan Rainbow Club when it opened in 2020.

Go online to read more stories from our members:  
[myrainbowclub.org.au/member-stories](https://myrainbowclub.org.au/member-stories)

## Return to Rainbow Club after Covid-19

After so many months away from Rainbow Club there is no doubt that it is an adjustment for children to come back to the routine of swimming each week at their Rainbow Club. Zane and Myles had a very positive return to swimming at Cherrybrook Rainbow Club – which you could see instantly by their smiling faces. Each of the boys required a different approach, as their mother Anjana explains:

"We were conscious the boys would have some hesitation getting back in. The week leading up to swimming recommencing, Kevin and I started talking about how swimming will be back on again on Sunday (just casually mentioning it to Zane). We knew he would be a little reluctant, but telling him a week in advance was enough time for him to accept we will be back in the pool on Sunday. On the Friday night before swimming, we showed Zane the social story so he could understand some of the changes post Covid-19.

With Myles, we didn't say anything till the morning of swimming, as his language skills are not there yet. We know if we tell him something in advance, he assumes it means right away. On Sunday morning (a few hours before swimming), we said we will be swimming today after lunch and he will see Denise his teacher again. He actually repeated the words swimming and Denise!

Sometimes just before the lesson starts, I also like to show the boys pictures of them swimming at Rainbow Club to remind them of how much fun they have. This really helps calm both of the boys' anxiety."







Rainbow Club's Swim the Rainbow is a specialised program that provides motivation for children to learn to be safe in the water, have fun and learn to swim within their capability. It recognises the children as they progress through the colours of the rainbow and achieve goals. We love our Swim the Rainbow program and how it is both a toolkit for teachers as well as a motivator for children and families.



[myrainbowclub.org.au](http://myrainbowclub.org.au)



Registered  
NDIS Provider



Vouchers  
accepted



Deductible gift  
recipient status

**Red**  
1:1

## Water Confidence

- 1 Safe entry
- 2 Monkeys
- 3 Get face wet
- 4 Floating on back, assisted
- 5 Leg movement
- 6 Assisted fall-in and-save technique (humpty dumpty)

**Orange**  
1:1

## Safety Basics

- 1 Submerging face
- 2 Floating on front and back, assisted
- 3 Dog paddle, assisted
- 4 Treading water, assisted
- 5 Kicking with board

**Yellow**  
1:1

## Resistance and Buoyancy

- 1 Takes instructions
- 2 Independent recovery and control
- 3 Floating on back, front and flip
- 4 Submerging and bubbles, assisted
- 5 Sculling, assisted
- 6 Confident vertical and horizontal

**Green**  
2:2

## Towards Independence and Shared Lessons

- 1 Interaction with other children
- 2 Confident body control in and under water
- 3 Independent floating
- 4 Backstroke survival skills
- 5 Assisted streamlines
- 6 Independent kicking

**Violet**  
2+:1

## Swim the Rainbow

- 1 Side stroke
- 2 Dolphin kicking
- 3 Butterfly 15m
- 4 Freestyle 25m+
- 5 Backstroke 15m+
- 6 Breaststroke 25m+

**Indigo**  
2+:1

## Swimming Safely

- 1 Side breathing with arms
- 2 Breaststroke kick
- 3 Freestyle 15m
- 4 Backstroke 15m
- 5 Breaststroke 15m
- 6 Survival backstroke

**Blue**  
2+:1

## Transition to Swim Strokes

- 1 Sustained flutter kicking 5m (front and back)
- 2 Sustained streamlines 5m
- 3 Freestyle arms
- 4 Breaststroke arms
- 5 Backstroke arms

## Safety

The Lead Teacher decides on when a child moves to the next colour – always ensuring that safety is not compromised.



Green may be the pinnacle of achievement for children with severe physical and intellectual issues. When reaching Green Goals, a child should have an understanding of the fundamentals of being 'water safe', be able to recover a safe position (float) if they fall in water and have some form of propulsion when on their back with whatever body movements are required (whether arms/legs or whole body).