

Annual Review

Rainbow Club 2022/23



Our year

2022/2023 Has been the year of growth and expansion for Rainbow Club. Seeing Rainbow Club evolve with so many new clubs, staff, teachers, and volunteers across New South Wales and Queensland has been exciting.

We have opened our first club in Queensland thanks to our new partnership with Rackley Swimming and four new clubs across NSW.

We started the year with the return of our beloved ocean swim, the Murray Rose Malabar Magic, where over 1500 swimmers descended on Malabar Beach for the most inclusive swim on the circuit! Everyone on the beach felt the joy of the over 50 children with a disability taking part in, for some, their very first ocean swim. Thank you to the volunteers and committee for making the 2023 swim fun, safe and helping to raise over \$200,000 for Rainbow Club.

Now, we look to expand further into regional NSW with the record grant brought in with the help and support of Bob McCotter.

With this rapid growth, we have seen many changes and additions to our head office staff, allowing us to foster new relationships with pool operators, councils and supporters.

We said goodbye to our long-serving CEO, Catriona Barry, as she left Rainbow Club with a well-earned retirement. Then, we welcomed our new CEO, Phil Kinney, who is passionate about seeing how Rainbow Club can further evolve and grow in the coming years.

Thank you to everybody on the Rainbow Club team for always striving to help children with a disability enjoy swimming wherever they are in Australia.

Alexandra Finley President



Alexandra Finley



Check out
Rainbow Club
YouTubes

Search for 'Rainbow
Club Australia' at
YouTube.com



myrainbowclub.org.au

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

Rainbow Club Australia

PO Box 432
Brighton Le Sands NSW 2216

Company Limited by Guarantee
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 2022/23

In this year's review:

Our year	2
NSW & QLD Expansion	3
Social Participation	4
Mentoring Leaders	5
Building Capacity	6
Connecting with Community	8
Our Clubs	9
Our organisation	10
Member stories	11
Tribute to Bob McCotter	12



NSW and QLD Expansion



myrainbowclub.org.au



Four new QLD Clubs

Our partnership with Rackley Swimming has seen our expansion into Queensland start to take shape with the opening of our first club at North Lakes in September 2022. We are glad to see another three clubs open in Southeast Queensland thanks to our new Development Manager, Craig Tobin, and the addition of the Queensland Board. Watch this space for more clubs opening in 2023!

Welcome our new board members



As Rainbow Club rapidly expands across NSW and Queensland, we are thankful to our new regional and QLD boards that have volunteered their time to help with quality, support and expansion in these areas.

Newcastle

Allan Stace, Jess Collins, Emily Dowsell, Merv Lindsay, Jon Spencer, Kerry Walker.

Southern NSW

Karina Seyffir, Glenn Royall, Robyn Compton

Queensland

Stephanie Neergaard, Anthony Hillier, Ken Chandler, Mike Hume



Four new clubs in term one in NSW

Term 1 saw tremendous growth at Rainbow Club, with four new clubs opening in NSW! We welcomed Sans Souci, Seven Hills North, Mt Annan and Taree Rainbow Clubs. Opening these new clubs has allowed more than 50 children with a disability to get off the waitlist and into the pool to learn to be water-safe! We are growing very quickly as we work towards meeting the ongoing demand. There are already plans to open some clubs in some new exciting locations later this term. You can always see what's in store on our website locations page. We keep this up to date as we plan new club openings.

Record Regional Grant

Thanks to the Department of Regional NSW, Rainbow Club received the largest grant to date of \$685,000 to bring Rainbow Club to children with a disability in Regional NSW. We are working towards opening new hubs across Regional NSW.

The grant will help open new clubs and employ staff and teachers in these areas, providing much-needed support to children with a disability.



Social Participation



NEW Run For Rainbow Club

This year saw the addition of the Run for Rainbow Club to the events calendar. A chance for our Rainbow Club family and external supporters to run, walk or move and raise money online to support the growth of clubs across NSW. Two teams participated in the Blackmores Running Festival; it was a special day walking over the iconic Harbour Bridge and helping raise over \$1,000 in 2022. We will look to opportunities to Run for Rainbow Club by offering the City2Surf in 2023.



Rainbow Squads Carnivals

Rainbow Squads launched the new Squads Carnival in July 2022 at Newington College. The new format of the squad's carnival was a massive success, with Indigo and Violet members competing in several strokes and relay races. 11 clubs across NSW participated in the day, Sutherland taking out the Rob Siddons Club Shield. Our squad members' social event will occur twice a year, summer and winter. The Summer Carnival, held again at Newington, drew a larger crowd with over 80 members and 14 clubs competing on the day. It was a fantastic show of skill and hard work from our squad members and teachers. Congratulations to Hurstville on winning the Club Shield.

Malabar Magic 2023

Malabar Magic is back in 2023, and what a great year it was! Perfect conditions saw over 1,500 competitors join us for an inclusive and fun event at beautiful Malabar Beach. Over 50 Rainbow Club children, teachers, and families from Rainbow Club across NSW came along and participated in the Splash, Dash or 1km swims. Special mention goes to our 1km Rainbow Club children: Akira, Olivia, Michael, Holly, Audrey, Andrew, Simon, Rafie, and Josiah. We thank all our sponsors and supporters who helped make this event possible. Randwick City Council and Mayor Dylan Parker, Randwick City Lifeguards, Macquarie Foundation, Ottomin Foundation, KPMG, 13Cabs, Wotton Kearney, Vaux Family Foundation, Pickles Foundation, Patti's Hire, Kirkwoods PR,



Billard Leece Partnership, Liftronic, Coogee Legions Club, Fugen, NG Farrah, Captain Cook Cruises, Australian Turf Club, DMC Fins, Swimlab, Coates Hire, Snap Norwest, Maroubra Lions Club, Speedo, Surf Rescue30, Maroubra Surf Club, South Maroubra Surf Club, Coogee Surf Club and all the more than 100 volunteers who gave up their time on the day. The Malabar Magic is the major fundraiser for Rainbow Club each year, facilitating growth into areas of need.

Mentoring Leaders



Lead teacher Connect mentoring our leaders in the front line of Rainbow Club



On 8 October 2022, we held Rainbow Leads Connect, bringing all our Lead and Assistant Lead teachers together to educate, equip and empower them to become better leaders. The day consisted of keynote speaker Robin Hawkes, a Coordinator at ASPECT Australia, speaking on the behaviour of children with Autism, especially in a sexualised context, what is acceptable and what isn't and ways to prevent or deter this behaviour.

Anna Castle-Burton from CB- Consulting, one of our contracted Occupational Therapists, spoke about her regular OT visits to clubs. Some common themes she was seeing around behaviour, physical disabilities and communication. She then further explained the use of the new and improved Visual Aids and Visual Supports provided to all clubs to enhance the member's learning experience.

We ended the day with Rainbow Club staff discussing ways to utilise our in-pool volunteers better, the benefits of our train-to-teach program and a round table discussion where our teachers got to answer questions and share knowledge from around the room.

The day was a great success, with 26% of attendees rating it as outstanding and 40% rating it as excellent!

Spotlight on Tegan & Taylor

As a teacher with Rainbow Club, I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children with a disability by being a part of their journey to learning new skills in the water whilst having fun. The Rainbow Club Train to Teach program has helped shape the teacher I am today through the opportunity to learn and work with incredibly knowledgeable and talented teachers. The program allowed me the opportunity to train to teach with several teachers, providing me with exposure to a diverse range of teaching styles. Through exposure to these varied teaching styles, I have had the opportunity to adapt to a flexible teaching style that can be adapted to suit the individual needs of each student. - Tegan

At Rainbow Club, we have a mentoring program that enables mentors to share their expertise and offer guidance, aiding mentees in effectively navigating their roles. Mentors are instrumental in guiding teachers through Swim the Rainbow, deepening their comprehension of the program and equipping them with strategies to adapt activities and customise teaching approaches for diverse abilities. - Taylor



What our teachers say

In our March 2023 Teacher Survey we asked our teachers if they would recommend working with Rainbow Club to other swim teachers?

129 out of 131 said yes.

Teach with us



98.5%
yes





Building capacity

train
to teach

Train to Teach

In 2018, Rainbow Club introduced the Train to Teach program, which initially began as a small initiative, offered biannually, and now runs monthly across various locations within NSW. The program has successfully trained more than 215 individuals and has played a vital role in addressing the shortage of swim instructors in the industry. The program's main objective is to nurture dedicated and passionate educators who are committed to helping children with disabilities learn to swim.

Michelle Stendell and her daughter Mikayla completed the Train to Teach in March this year. Michelle, who comes from a role within disability support, heard about our initiative from one of her participants. Recognising the importance and need for all people to be water-safe and have the opportunity to learn to swim, she submitted her application to join right away.



Whilst initially feeling a little daunted about transitioning into a career in swim teaching, Michelle was supported by our experienced Lead Teachers and inspired by our incredible members. Teaching the children is "so much fun", and she is "loving every minute of it".

Michelle is currently a Lead Teacher across 3 of our Clubs and has turned swim teaching with Rainbow Club into her primary job. Michelle recommends the program to all of her friends, and whenever she sees a good swimmer at the pool, she always approaches them and encourages them to join.

With 60 new trainees completing the training, we will indeed have many more success stories in the making.

Read more about the program: <https://www.myrainbowclub.org.au/train-to-teach/>

A Family Affair - The Dobinson Family

Meet the incredible Dobinson family trio - sisters Shannon and Erin and their amazing mum Jodie! All three are dedicated teachers in the South West and are passionate about Rainbow Club and its members. They've helped in expanding their clubs and are always there to lend a helping hand and support our members at every event. Jodie's been a teacher since 2009 and is currently the locum teacher for the south-west. Shannon joined the team in 2022, teaches at Mt Annan, and is the Assistant Lead Teacher at Warwick Farm. Erin's been teaching since early 2021, is the Lead Teacher at Narellan and Mt Annan and the mentor for the south-west.

They are a fantastic team, and we're lucky to have them!

"We absolutely adore our work at Rainbow Club. No job has ever been this rewarding, fun, and exciting all at the same time! Watching our incredible students progress over the years has been so fulfilling, and we've loved meeting new people along the way. Whilst our passion for Rainbow Club is immense, it is only matched by our love for working with each other - definitely a family affair! Rainbow Club will always hold a special place in our hearts." Jodie, Shannon & Erin





Building capacity

In-Pool Volunteers

In-pool volunteers have always played an important role within our clubs. By helping our teachers deliver their lessons and being an extra set of hands in a busy club, we appreciate and value the time they dedicate to us.

Volunteers join Rainbow Club for various reasons, including helping them complete voluntary hours for their Duke of Edinburgh award, fulfilling work placement requirements of the university or just for the love of wanting to help like our longest-serving volunteer, Natesha Shalliker.

Read more about the program: <https://www.myrainbowclub.org.au/train-to-teach/>

Meet Natesha - our longest serving volunteer

Natesha first started in pool volunteering at our Cherrybrook Club in 2019, so she could complete her volunteer hours for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. On finishing school in 2020, Natesha decided to remain a volunteer as she 'loved it so much'.



Lini, Natesha's mum, explained that Natesha, who has a disability herself, has said that because she has needed much help in the past, volunteering with Rainbow Club is a way she can give back.

Natesha has been very busy since finishing High School, completing a hospitality course at TAFE, starting her own business, 'Natesha's Pantry', making jams and has recently begun a job at the food markets at Taronga Zoo. Natesha has shown up at the pool to volunteer every week without fail for the past 4 years, and we are fortunate to have her as part of our Cherrybrook team.

Lead Teacher Janet Willis says - "Natesha demonstrated kindness, attentiveness, and swim progression to students (assisting by demonstration). After these many years of giving her time and willingness to assist and learn new swim skills as a volunteer, she will be missed, 'A Shining Star', always bringing loads of fun, smiles and looking to assist. Thank You, Natesha!"

Spotlight on Trista



Trista is studying for a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy at the Australian Catholic University. "I am passionate about working with children/youth and those with a disability. I wish to give back to my community and promote inclusivity by creating a safe and supportive environment." She currently volunteers at Active Moves Caringbah. "I decided to volunteer at Rainbow Club because they encourage participation for all regardless of one's mental or physical capabilities. Their teachers have been so welcoming and kind to support me through this journey. I feel privileged to have been granted this opportunity and to work with such amazing people. Rainbow Club has built an inclusive community that feels like family. They have the best intentions and match the qualities that I strive towards." Rainbow Club is very flexible, allowing you to work whenever you are free. My hours here have been very memorable, and I hope to work again soon.

Connecting with Community

Rainbow Club continues to strengthen each year by partnering with the community and supporters to provide personalised swimming lessons to children with disabilities every week.

Rainbow Club has continued to evolve and grow, thanks to the assistance of local councils, pool operators and other supporters across NSW and QLD. We are grateful to the many sponsors, grantors and supporters who have helped us empower the disability community by providing them with essential water safety skills and boosting their confidence in the water.

Catriona Barry 10yrs of Service

CEO Catriona Barry retires after serving a distinguished ten-year term in the role. Rainbow Club President Alexandra Finley said, "Catriona has made an enormously valuable contribution to Rainbow Club as CEO and will leave the organisation in a strong and growing position. Under her leadership, membership capacity has grown fivefold from 400 to almost 2,000, and the number of Rainbow Clubs has grown from 16 to 50, expanding into regional NSW and Brisbane".

Catriona says she has loved her time with Rainbow Club and regularly has to remind herself that there are 2,000 young people with a disability learning to swim every weekend across 50 different locations.

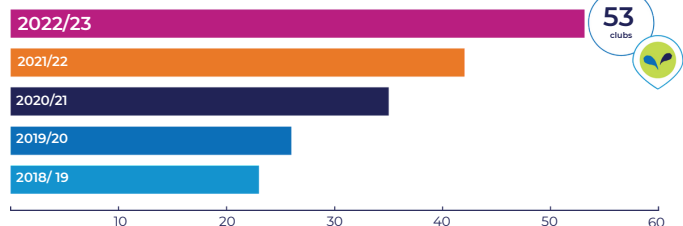
The Board and everyone at Rainbow Club wish Catriona all the very best in her retirement. She is highly respected and warmly regarded by all at Rainbow Club and will be sorely missed.



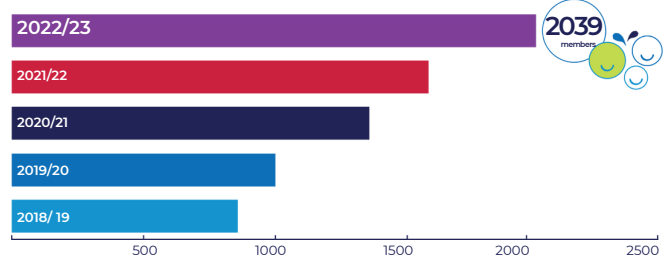
Our growth

As at 30 June 2023

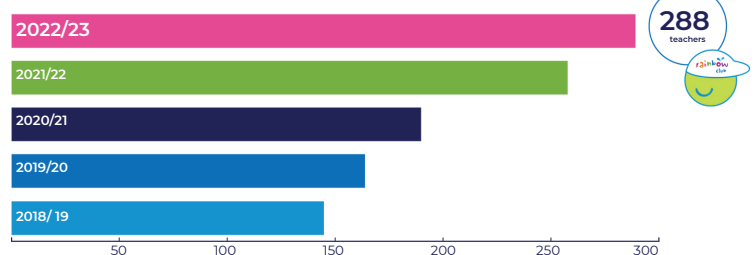
Clubs



Members



Teachers



Open Days Across Greater Sydney

We were thrilled to welcome local supporters, funders, and council members to see what we do at Rainbow Club. We celebrated successful Open Days in Bexley, Wollongong, Norwest and Castle Hill, and we couldn't have done it without the help of our grant providers and supporters. We thank you for joining us and assisting in growing our network within the local community.



Hunter Disability Expo

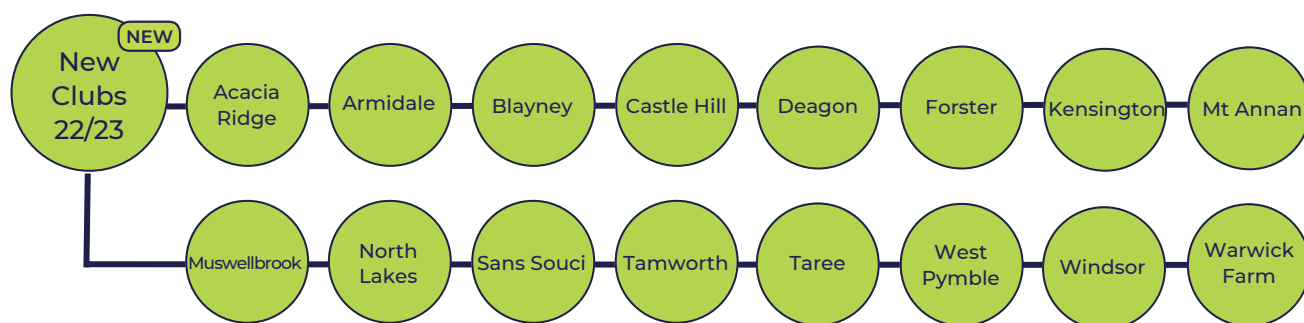
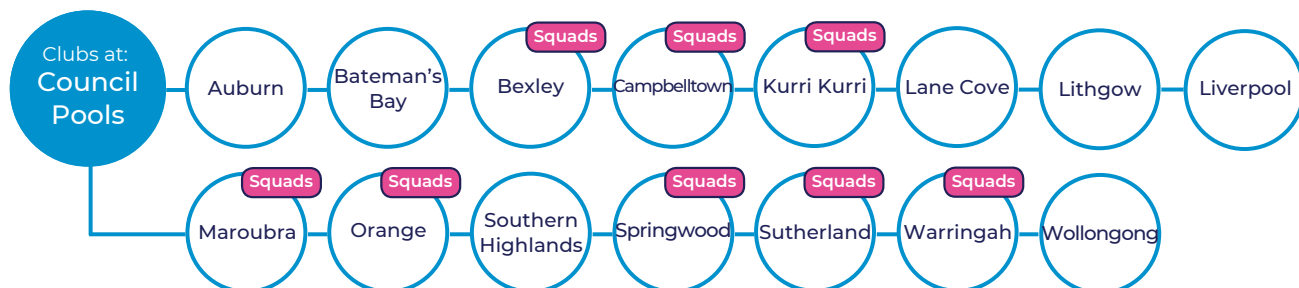
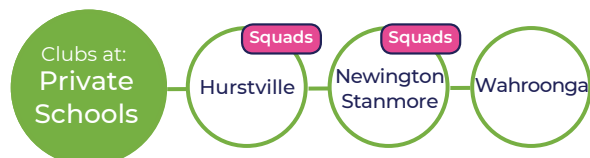
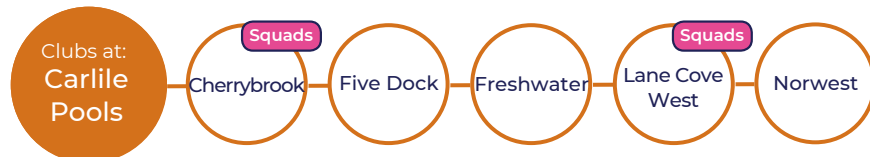
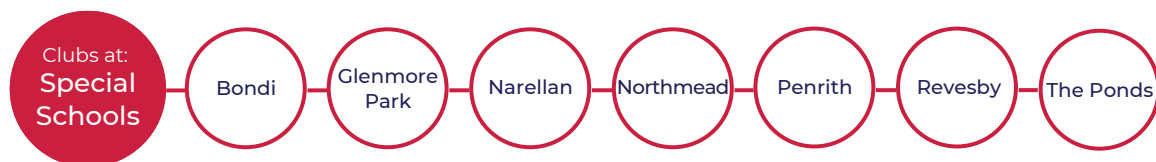
In May, Rainbow Club Australia took the opportunity to take part in its first Disability Expo in the Hunter Region.

Staff, teachers, volunteers, and Newcastle Board helped spread the message of Rainbow Club to the Hunter Disability community. It was a successful day connecting with support workers, families and potential teachers. We look forward to expanding into expos in other regions in 2023.



Our Clubs

as at 30 June 2023



Our organisation



Welcome to our new CEO

Philip Kinney was recently appointed as our new CEO and will assume the position in early July 2023. Phil has a wealth of experience working in senior roles within government and not-for-profit organisations. He said, "I am passionate about making a difference in the lives of others, particularly children, and feel privileged to join an organisation with a proud 50-year history."

Financial result

At Rainbow Club, our talented team works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that our clubs are secure, enjoyable, financially stable, and compliant with all regulations. You can find our fully audited financials online.

Rainbow Club Financial Statement

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

SEE
REPORT

[myrainbowclub.org.au/
annual-report](http://myrainbowclub.org.au/annual-report)

Statement of Profit or Loss	2023 \$	2022 \$
Revenue from members	2,336,922	1,189,010
Government grants & subsidies	82,931	307,869
income Fundraising & events income	272,449	319,763
Grants & donations & other income	358,856	155,004
Service provision expenses	(2,748,282)	(1,731,026)
Technology expenses	(109,857)	(80,755)
Fundraising & event expenses	(34,826)	(45,579)
Staff training & development	(11,425)	(44,253)
expenses Other expenses	(150,126)	(186,176)
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	(234,129)	(116,143)

Assets and Liabilities	2023 \$	2022 \$
Statement Assets		
Total Current Assets	1,887,550	1,347,605
Total Non-Current Assets	81,726	43,786
Total Assets	1,969,275	1,391,391
Liabilities		
Total Current Liabilities	(1,206,091)	(545,009)
Total Non-Current Liabilities	(14,273)	(11,110)
Total Liabilities	(1,220,364)	(556,119)
Net Assets [Total Equity]	748,911	835,272

Rainbow Club Australia Incorporated ABN 96 753 434 862. This is a summary of audited statements to 30 June 2023. Accountants: SGB Partners, Chartered Accountants, Sydney Auditors: Thompsons Australia

Our people

Founders

Ron Siddons (d 2017) MBE OAM,
Lily Siddons

Patrons

Hon Margaret Beazley AC KC
and Mr Wilson

Ambassadors James Pittar, Louise
Sauvage OAM, Mark Speakman SC MP

Life Members

Gary Bradshaw (2006), Philip Holt
OAM (2006), Malcolm Kerr AM (2006),
Tony Williams (2006), Suzanne Stanton
(2013), Margaret Taplin (2015), Rob Lloyd
OAM (2018), Alexandra Finley (2019), Bob
McCotter (2021)

Board

Alexandra Finley (President), Rob
Lloyd (Vice President), Bob McCotter
(Secretary), Steve Langan-Stark
(Treasurer), Ernie Cirignano, Dipen
Dhruv, Mathew Harper, Mark
McCormack, Tracey Raso, John Taplin OAM

Staff

Catriona Barry (CEO), Phil Kinney (CEO)
Michelle Tonge, Michelle Houghton,
Heather Nadillo, Emma Baldwin, Carla
Barnes, Robyn Bayliss, Nic Davies-Cooke,
Natalie Dillenbeck, Sidra Khan, Lauren
Marler, Juanita Mullane, Min Strauss, My
Haong, Craig Tobin, Amelia Stanislas, Mark
Bull, Wilson Leung

Northern NSW Board

Allan Stace, Jess Collins, Emily Dowsell,
Merv Lindsay, Jon Spencer, Kerry Walker

Southern NSW Board

Karina Seyffir, Glenn Royall, Robyn
Compton

Queensland Board

Stephanie Neergaard, Anthony Hillier, Ken
Chandler, Mike Hume

Malabar Magic Committee

Rob Lloyd, Mark McCormack, Peter
Appleyard, Riya Das, Eddie Moore, Anna
Torok, Emily Waddington, Randy Wong,
Sophie Poidevin, Emma Baldwin

Rainbow Club expands with four new clubs in NSW and entrance into Queensland!



Cherrybrook Rainbow Club 100 Members

On Sunday, 13 November 2022, Cherrybrook Rainbow Club celebrated becoming the first to reach 100 Members!

There was a lovely celebration with all the children, teachers and volunteers, past and present. Children each received a cupcake, and current Lead Teacher Janet Willis was presented with flowers for all her hard work helping to manage and grow the club. Cherrybrook committee members Michelle Greening and Jason Zing and previous Lead Teacher Jackie Cole came to share in this milestone event.

Meet Bella

Isabella's participation in the annual Malabar Magic Ocean Swim was a remarkable testament to her determination and power of support. Initially, she was overcome with fear and hesitation, almost choosing not to participate. However, it was the combined encouragement from us and her wonderful teacher, Caitlin, that ultimately gave her the confidence to take the plunge. As Isabella completed the swim, it was evident that she couldn't quite believe her own accomplishment. The transformation in her confidence unfolding that day was deeply emotional for us. Isabella proved to herself that she had the strength and resilience to overcome her fears and achieve something truly remarkable.

Her weekly involvement with Rainbow Club has been a tremendous blessing. We are immensely grateful for its positive impact on her swimming journey and self-development.



Meet Lily from QLD



North Lakes Rainbow Club opened at the North Lakes Aquatic Centre in September 2022 our first Queensland Club, where Lily attends. She was recently diagnosed with Angelman Syndrome. She has always loved being around the water. It is very important to her parents that she learn water safety. Until now they hadn't been able to find a suitable program or teacher who takes the time to understand Lily. "Rainbow club was recommended to us, and I am so appreciative of this club." – Lily's mum



Tribute to Bob McCotter

Bob - Business Man, Volunteer, Board Member, Grant Writer, Race Starter, Mr Red Pen, Friend, Colleague and Family Man.

It is with great sadness that we farewell a valued member of the Rainbow Club family, Bob McCotter. Bob was suddenly taken from us on August 19 2023. Bob was introduced through his friendship with former board member Phil Holt. He started as a volunteer and then formally joined the board in 2014.

During his time on the board, Bob wore many hats, volunteering at events like Malabar Magic, and he was never without his whistle as he became the known starter at the Family Carnival and then the Squads Carnival, most recently held in July 2023. He was infamous for being fastidious with grammar and verse, earning his name as Mr. Red Pen! This went hand in hand with the insurmountable grant writing work for Rainbow Club. He tirelessly searched for grants to help support clubs, new equipment, staff, teacher training and club expansion. Bob gained the most extensive grant for Rainbow Club to date of \$685,000 to bring Rainbow Club to children with a disability in Regional NSW. Bob led an extraordinary life with more achievements than one person could hope for.

He is remembered fondly by all who came into contact with him as a full-of-life character with a huge smile and laugh. He enjoyed speaking to anyone and mentored many of the Rainbow Club family. In 2021, Bob became a Life Member for his dedication and service to Rainbow Club and children with a disability. Still today, we are waiting on the Grants that Bob had applied for, so he will give them to Rainbow Club even after he has gone.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob's family, and we thank Bob and his family for their sacrifice and dedication to us all. We know his legend will live on at Rainbow Club for all future children.



"Bob was a giant for the Rainbow Club family. His influence and impact was immense. Put simply, we would not be the organisation we are today, making a difference in the lives of so many kids with disabilities and their families without Bob. Bob brought humour, curiosity, intellect, attention to detail and his fabulous character to every board and committee meeting. He was tireless in serving at every event. He was a true friend to me and many others. He was caring, compassionate, energetic and cheeky. We will all miss him terribly but will honour him for his work and will remember him for so many McCotterisms he blessed us with. Personally, I will cherish the memories of laughter, road trips to Newcastle, standing around so many pool decks at Carnivals, debating around board tables, celebrating success at dinners and functions and many phone calls of support. He was an inspiration and continues to be so. Thanks, Bob McCotter, for everything. With sadness, gratitude and love."

Alex Finley - Rainbow Club President