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RAINBOW CLUB TEACHING KIDS WITH DISABILITIES NEW SUMMERTIME SWIM SKILLS

Children with a disability in Armidale and Muswellbrook will have their chance to make a splash this summer at [Rainbow Club's](#) Swim the Rainbow program, boosted by a \$60,000 grant from Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation.

Individualised, one-to-one lessons are set to start from 16 October and will be held at The Armidale School Sport and Swim Centre, and Muswellbrook Aquatic Centre. The new clubs will be running Sunday sessions from 10:30am to 2:30pm.

With summer right around the corner, Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation Chair Jennifer Leslie said the expansion of Rainbow Club is much needed.

"Swimming skills are critical to water safety and enjoyment and we believe all children should have the opportunity to learn to swim and feel confident in the water," Ms Leslie said.

"Rainbow Club employs qualified swim teachers and gives each child individual attention to help them overcome their personal difficulty in learning to swim.

"With around 1,700 children in Rainbow Club lessons each week across almost 50 clubs, the existing clubs in NSW are so popular that families with children with a disability are joining waiting lists in the hope of getting a place.

"We are delighted to support the expansion of Rainbow Club's footprint, opening up the opportunity to little ones in Armidale and Muswellbrook."

Northern NSW Development Manager Jarrod Anthony said the partnership with Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation has enabled Rainbow Club to expand its reach to hundreds more children.

"Grant funding from Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation will allow the Rainbow Club to operate on a weekly basis during the school term and assists in covering critical costs such as equipment, pool hire and wages," Mr Anthony said.

"The Rainbow Club creates a friendly atmosphere for children with a disability to participate in a social and recreational activity while building their water confidence and safety skills.

"Not only does this make them safer in the water but it gives children and their families a great opportunity to come together and connect with the community. It supports self-confidence and a sense of personal achievement, plus has all the health benefits of exercise.

"Therapists and support coordinators recommend Rainbow Club because of the personalised nature of our program, along with the club atmosphere and the opportunity to participate in social activities organised by the club.

Media release

"We are so grateful to The Armidale School and Muswellbrook Council for allowing us to use their pools on Sundays, as well as for the ongoing support of our valuable partner Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation."

Rainbow Club is currently welcoming expressions of interest for staff, volunteers and of course children for the new Armidale and Muswellbrook clubs at www.myrainbowclub.org.au

About Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation

Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation distributes approximately \$1.5 million in grants each year to facilitate charitable projects that address disadvantage, marginalisation, and isolation in local communities throughout the Hunter, Central West, Central Coast, New England, Mid North Coast and Northern Rivers regions of NSW. Since its establishment in 2003 as a gift to the community as part of Newcastle Permanent's 100th anniversary, the Charitable Foundation has provided almost \$25 million to more than 530 community initiatives.

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