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6-FOOT SURF AT RALC “for the Ryde of your life”

Work on the new open-air surf simulator at the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre (RALC) has begun with the first “ground breaking” ceremony this week.

The \$3.5 million surf attraction project is expected to be operational by May 2014 and will make the RALC the first community aquatic centre in New South Wales to offer the thrill of riding a surfboard all year.

RALC Manager, Paul Hartmann, said: “This is an exciting and dynamic attraction that will greatly enhance the RALCs’ appeal.

“The surf simulator can accommodate up to 48 riders an hour and will give riders an adrenaline rush like no other.

“Regardless of age or skill levels, the thrill of surfing a wave can be experienced by teenagers, children as young as seven and parents, in a self-contained and safe environment.

From a 6-foot tube to a 2-foot roller, first-time riders can safely ride the surf simulator without fear of wipeout. Seconds later, a rider with many years surfing experience, can feel the same size and power of a 6 foot barrel.

The Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre was built for the Sydney Olympics and is one of a handful of council-owned pools to operate at a surplus for the community.

The surf attraction will be situated on underutilised land at the Victoria Road side of the aquatic centre. It will be open-air but undercover for year-round surfing, enhanced by landscaped surrounds.