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Bryan beats odds to join Rotto swim

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Six years ago, Bryan Williams was an outside chance of competing in the HBF Rottnest Channel Swim.

But the Coogee father of two has been beating the odds all his life.

At just 12 months old, Mr Williams was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma of the bladder and given a 30 per cent chance of living.

After two years of intensive radiotherapy and chemotherapy, the toddler survived.

However, as he got older, the heavy doses of radiation started to take their toll. At age 9, Mr Williams began to have trouble with one of his hips, resulting in 12 operations through his teenage years.

At 21, he was diagnosed with heart failure which he battled for more than a decade.

"I couldn't really walk from one part of the house to the other," Mr Williams said. "Just taking a couple of steps was beyond me."

But in 2005, Mr Williams' luck changed when he received a life-saving heart transplant.

Since then the environmental

engineer has made extraordinary strides despite a recent hip replacement.

This year, the 38-year-old conquered the HBF Rottnest Channel Swim as part of a team and next year he will take his place in a two-man team.

He will aim to complete the crossing solo in 2013.

Mr Williams will be one of 2300 swimmers to take to the water for the 2012 challenge on February 25.



Challenge: Bryan Williams in training at Cottesloe.

Picture: Mogens Johansen