



Impact Report 2019/20

Variety – the children's charity NT





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The Why

Our grant recipients and their families are the why of Variety NT. They are the reason we exist and the centre of all we do. NT Kids like Darcy Roe who is living with multiple conditions. Darcy's story is amongst other great stories captured in this report.

As far as years go, it has been challenging in many ways. Our year started sadly, when Chief Barker Foster Stavridis passed away. Foster was passionate about supporting NT Kids. He joined the Board on 17 December 2012 and served as Public Officer; Vice Chairman and Chief Barker. He also served on the Board of Variety Australia and Variety International. Foster will be remembered by this organisation with the establishment of the Foster Stavridis Scholarship to send two NT Kids to Inclusive Sports Camps.

As with many organisations in the charity sector, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on our fundraising events and our programs. Sadly the Variety Bash, Variety of Chefs and Freedom Camp @ Goanna Park were all cancelled in 2020. Our staff immediately offered to work part-time to reduce costs and ensure that the organisation could remain opened. We ensured we were still productive and planning for the future.

During the crisis we were able to develop a Community Engagement Plan which was funded by the NT Government Business Growth Program. This will guide us as we continue to partner and collaborate with communities and community

organisations. We also received a grant from the City of Darwin to hold a Santa Fun Run in July, one of the only places in Australia that continue to hold such events at that time.

The 2021 Australia Day UTE run will be the final year of Community Benefit Fund Community Events Grant and so we will need to secure more sponsorship for this unique event.

The NT Major Events Company helped us develop a strategic event plan for the 30th Bash which was to be held in 2021; but will now be celebrated in 2022.

The most important priority for Variety NT has been to continue to support NT Kids. We have ensured that we were still able to provide grants helping NT Kids reach their full potential which is the why for us!

Thank you to all our members, Ambassadors, sponsors, fundraisers, volunteers and staff for your efforts this year, we look forward to achieving more together in the year ahead.



Liza Houghton
Chief Barker



Katrina Fong Lim
General Manager



**We believe that
all kids deserve
a fair go in life.**

**So we help
kids with these
challenges:**



Sick



Disadvantaged



Special Needs





By delivering the elements of the Variety Kids Support Framework:

GRANTS

We grant a range of things to provide practical help to kids and organisations in need.



Equipment Grants



Therapy Grants



Service Grants



Program Grants



Supplies Grants



Sunshine Coach Grants

SCHOLARSHIPS

We give scholarships to encourage the talents of kids in need.



KIDS' EVENTS

We hold events to engage & bring joy to kids in need & their families.

**Freedom
Camp @
Goanna
Park**

**Special
Children's
Christmas
Party**

To create lasting impact around Australia



Number of Aussie kids
impacted by Variety
this year

81,244

And a better life for the kids of the Northern Territory



We granted:

\$71,477
to help kids
in need

We supported:

around
30
different
conditions

We impacted:

2,769
kids in
NT

But numbers can only tell part of the story...

Eliza

Eliza is 6 years old and has severe arthritis in both knees. She needed a walker to get around and help relieve pressure on her joints.

"Eliza is going great! Her joint pain has decreased and her general mobility has improved lots. She uses the walker at school every day to get around, it's given her independence and ability to keep up with all the other kids. Her general well-being has also improved."

Eliza's Mum



Darcy

Darcy is 2 years old and has a medical diagnosis of Hypotonic Cerebral Palsy; Gross Motor Functional Scale Level 5; Global Development Delay and Epilepsy. Darcy needed an Upsee which is a mobility device that would help him stand and move with the help of a loved one. It provides him with the ability to weight bear through his lower legs, promote active assisted movements so that he can stand and step with minimum assistance. He can play and interact in his environment because his hands are free. Darcy has discovered his legs.

"Darcy got a grant for an Upsee which helps him with his walking therapy. Darcy loves walking around with his Dad Luke. Darcy has Cerebral Palsy and Global Development Delay and just loves walking to the Wiggles."

Darcy's Mum



Central Australian Community Toy Library

The Central Australian Community Toy Library is a community organisation currently serving 400 families in the Alice Springs Region. As the only Toy Library within Central Australia they cater for 1,000 children aged under 12 yo. With many families who are disadvantaged and who have kids with special needs, the library wanted to purchase some Ezyroller Classic Cars, that would assist in improving gross motor skills. Our very own Variety Bash team the Corkettes got to present the cars to some very excited members of the Library.

"The Ezyroller Classic car is a great way to exercise and build gross motor skills... children will enjoy the unique experience of riding the Ezyroller cars and will be able to build strength in their gross motor skills."

Librarian Matthew Brodie



Clyde Fenton School

Clyde Fenton School is one of the first schools established in Katherine. A high proportion of students come from 4 surrounding indigenous communities. They deal with a wide range of conditions including Cerebral Palsy, Autism spectrum disorder and Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. They needed help establishing a play based learning program with some special pieces of equipment.

"I applied for a grant through Variety to get some play based learning equipment. Play based learning is very important for the kids, it develops their oral language and their motor and social skills, they probably don't know they are learning but they truly are."

Lynelle Rankine, Teacher

Milingimbi School

Milingimbi School is located in remote Arnhem Land. With a school population of around 400 students, hearing impairment (sensory) is the most dominant type of disability with almost 100% of enrolled students suffering from middle ear infections.

Variety NT provided a grant to assist with the purchase of a whole of school soundfield system. The speakers are mounted around the room and the teachers and students use microphones to ensure the large number of students with hearing difficulties don't miss out on any words or sounds.



Pine Creek School

Pine Creek school is the NT's oldest operating school servicing 3 small communities south of Darwin. Their enrolment is 48 and 41 have been identified as having special needs. The school needed play based and role play equipment to help with the development of literacy and numeracy skills. And the kids needed to have some fun.

"We were so lucky to get a grant from Variety and were able to buy some equipment for the children to play with, things to engage them with their inside and outside learning. So, thank you Variety!"

Cheryl Glasgow
Teaching Principal

Shalom Kaa – Variety NT Ambassador

This year we welcomed Shalom Kaa as a Variety NT Ambassador.

Shalom Kaa is a multi-talented artist who has always had music and singing in his life. He grew up as part of a large Maori family of musicians. He performed in Sydney and Melbourne as a soloist and in the band “RS”.

Relocating to Darwin in 2015, Shalom made a smooth transition to musical theatre as both performer and artistic director.

In 2018 he wrote, directed and had a cameo role in *Voices of Remembrance: A Territory Story of War and Peace*. This was his first time writing script and directing dramatic actors with a cast of 65. Shalom interwove his own Maori history with the Darwin World War 1 story to present a moving tribute to our ANZACs which was well received by the military.

Shalom’s repertoire also includes dramatic acting as John Hale in *The Crucible* (2018); and Harold Gorringer in *Black Comedy* (2018). Shalom debuted his solo cabaret *Purple Plastic Maori* at the Darwin Fringe Festival selling out the entire season at Browns Mart Theatre. The show took home the awards for People’s Choice Award and Best Producer.

A gifted public speaker, Shalom has hosted a number of key events in Darwin including the Queen’s Baton Relay 2018, Fiesta Latina, and Cancel Council’s 50 Shades of Pink.



Shalom is also the host of the show *The Seen NT*, a local arts and entertainment series.

Since 2018 he has been the Artistic Director and Co-Music Director for Darwin’s LGBTQIA+ choir, *True Colours Chorus Darwin* (TCCD).

In 2019, Shalom started performing stand up comedy as part of the *Top End Comedy* program.

Since his appointment Shalom has embraced his role as Variety NT Ambassador using his considerable influence to promote events such as the *Santa Fun Run* and *Mad Hair May*.

How you helped

Hot 100 Australia Day UTE Run

The 2020 Hot 100 Australia Day UTE Run was loud, raucous and fun. Rumbling through the streets from Hidden Valley Raceway to the Noonamah Tavern over 200 utes thrilled spectators along the route. Ending with an after party of thong throwing and live music, \$26,869 was raised to help NT Kids. Thanks to sponsors Hot 100, Noonamah Tavern, Australia Day Council NT, NT Major Events Company, Shannon and Slappa Thongs.



Santa Fun Runs

We might have been restricted, by COVID -19 but that did not stop us, or Santa having a jolly time across the NT for the Santa Fun Runs. The Santas made their appearance at the Annual Sunday Territorian Santa Fun Run in Darwin in November 2019. We followed this up with Santa Fun Runs in Alice Springs, Jabiru and Darwin in July and August 2020. This was the first year that we partnered with Kakadu Deadly Runners and Red Lily Health Board to host the first ever Santa Fun Run in Arnhem Land! Our thanks to our partners, supporters and importantly, those Santas for making these events possible.



SPECIAL NOTE: Variety Bash, Variety of Chefs and Freedom Camp @ Goanna Park were all cancelled this year due to the Pandemic. They will be back bigger and better for our 30th birthday next year.

How you helped

Variety Bash

While the Variety Bash was sadly cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our awesome Bash participants continued to fundraise when they could. On-line Raffles; Merchandise Sales, Individual Donations and Corporate Sponsorships all contributed to a total raised of \$110,441. We recognised Bash Car Surfing Safari, a virgin last year, for their outstanding total of \$23,555 with the 2020 Top Hat Award.

Our engines are revving and we are all set for Noonamah to Nhulunbuy (Take 2) in August 2021.



Variety Volunteers

Although some of our major events were cancelled, Variety Volunteers continued to support the organisation as best they could. It should be recognised that all our Board members are volunteers and throughout this rather turbulent year they have plotted a steady course through crisis to recovery. Volunteers helped at the Santa Fun Runs, the Australia Day UTE Run, and the Special Children's Christmas Party. They sold sausages at Bunnings and raffle tickets at shopping centres. They lent a hand (and ear) in the office and kept us current in the digital world. We don't know what we would do without our Variety Volunteers! Thank you



Thank you to our major partners

MAJOR PARTNERS



SIGNIFICANT EVENT SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



Thank you to all our supporters

Alice Springs Runners and Walkers	Kakadu Deadly Runners
Alice Springs Town Council	Karen Murrell Enterprises
Amy Hetherington	Kennards Hire
Beta meats	Kevins Mobile Disco
Bridge Auto Toyota	Kingpin Bowling
Bunnings	Kleenheat Gas
Burson Winnellie	McDonalds
Corroboree Park Tavern	Mindil Beach Sunset Markets
Croc Candy	NT News
Darwin Convention Centre	NT Police Traffic Division
Darwin Ice Skating Centre	Outer Edge Photography
Darwin Runners & Walkers Club	Parap Fine Foods
Darwin Waterfront Corp	Rebel Sports
Darwin Wave Lagoon	Red Lily Health Board
Double Tree Hilton	Rotary Club
Entertainment Book	SBA Office National
Fernwood Gym	SRA Information Technology
Flip Out Darwin	Storm Cell TV
Grill'd	The Precinct
Guides NT	Tim Story Top Shelf Wines
Hidden Valley Auto Centre	Top End Zumba
Hidden Valley Raceway	Total Tools
Il Lido	TrolleySaf
Junior Police Rangers	Vibe Hotel
Justin Quinter	Wisdom Bar and Café

Variety Starfish Swim Program

Splish Splash they were having a bash until COVID forced them to close.

The special one on one learn to swim lessons for kids with a disability will be back a-splishing and a-splashing as soon as they can.



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