



Impact Report 2022/23

Variety – the children's charity NT



Variety NT acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work.
We pay respect to Elders – past, present and future – and acknowledge the important, ongoing
role all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within Australia.



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The Why

2023 was a jam packed year for Variety NT. As I reflect back, my belief that Variety NT is blessed to have such an amazing family that roll their sleeves up and get stuck in, is strengthened.

We have had amazing support from a vast number of volunteers throughout events and programs such as the Australia Day Ute Run, Variety NT Bash, Santa Fun Run and Freedom Camp to mention a few.

We can't forget the amazing work that Donna and the Starfish Swim team do.

I would also like to thank the staff who do so much behind the scenes, Katrina Fong Lim, Lisa Edwards and the staff who have come and gone over the past twelve months. We also now have our new General Manager Tania Sellers who joined us at the start of December and has hit the ground running.

The Board members of Variety NT like all volunteers give their time and expertise freely and play a huge part in steering Variety NT in the right direction. This group of amazing individuals went above and beyond this year.

A very important part of what we do is the support we receive from businesses across the NT. Their financial and in kind support has

been integral in helping Variety NT provide the help to kids across our vast Territory. Many of their logos are blazened across our marketing of events and then there are many who fly under the radar.

We can't forget the support we receive from the NT Government who have provided grants throughout the year as well.

And of course there are all the families and individuals who attend our events to help make them successful. The families and individuals who donate to Variety NT and to the families and individuals who are members of Variety.

We are all part of a Charity that supports children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with a disability across our wide and vast NT community. We continue to do this only through the support of the community.

A huge Thank You to all.



Frank Schembri
Chief Barker



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

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



Sick



Disadvantaged



Disability





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.



Service Grants



Equipment Grants



Supplies Grants



Program 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 kids
impacted by Variety
in Australia this year

181,281

And a better life for the kids of the Northern Territory



We expended:

\$139,320
to help NT kids
in need

We supported:

**around
30
different
conditions**

We impacted:

1,559
kids in
the NT

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



Prabhroop

Prabhroop is 9 years old and has a diagnoses of Autism Spectrum Disorder. He has sensory processing difficulties, an expressive and receptive language delay and he only speaks in single words. Prabroop is not eligible for participation in the NDIS. His Speech Pathologist highly recommended the use of a speech generating device, specifically Accent 800 with Unity-60 Sequenced Vocabulary. The cost of \$7,923 exceeded the family's financial means. Variety NT provided a grant, enabling Prabroop to access the communication device and find his voice.

Sadie

Sadie is 7 years old with DDX3X syndrome and lives in Alice Springs. Sadie needed a very special Trike to help her join in the family activities.

"Our family is so grateful and thankful for the Huka Orthros tandem bike that Sadie received from Variety NT. Our family can adventure together at long last! Sadie loves the feeling of riding, and has been working on her balancing and pedalling. Her bike is a real conversation starter, and fosters inclusion for Sadie in our suburb, with everyone we pass saying "cool bike" "wow" "looks like fun".

"We feel really humbled to have been gifted the Huka, it brings Sadie so much joy, and we love how expressive and excited she is when riding and the concentration she uses to pedal and steer. The Huka will last us for years to come, it can sit two adults side by side. We look forward to hitting the pavement at every opportunity! We appreciate Variety and it's volunteers so much, the fundraising, events, bush bashers and admin team. Our thanks will never express how much you have changed Sadie's life." – Sadie's Mum



Isolated Children's Parents Association: Alice Springs Branch

"Geographically isolated children in Central Australia have been without access to early learning opportunities prior to school for more than a decade. Funding from Variety has allowed the Isolated Children's Parents Association in partnership with RAISEducation to deliver four early learning playgroups across Central Australia in 2023 at Harts Range, Ti Tree, Kulgera and Erldunda.

More than 50 children under 5 years of age and their families attend these playgroups which has allowed our community to build friendships and resilience by connecting with other rural families.

Providing early learning opportunities to geographically isolated children in Central Australia has meant these children have the opportunity to interact, build confidence, and learn important social and emotional skills which is the foundation for learning and succeeding once they enrol in primary school."

– ICPA Board Member



Riding for the Disabled

In 2023, we maintained our commitment to supporting Riding for the Disabled Assoc. Top End by contributing to the purchase of a size-appropriate horse. This addition became necessary due to the tragic loss of a previous horse. We are pleased to welcome Duckie, (Pegasus Park Princess), a 6-year-old Welsh Pony. Duckie now joins a stable of horse friends dedicated to facilitating safe, healthy, and stimulating therapeutic horse-related activities, benefiting up to 50 children annually.



Friends of School Sport Scholarship

The Friends of School Sport NT Foundation (FOSS) was established with the aim of enabling all children to participate in sports. This year, in collaboration with FOSS, the Variety NT School Sport Scholarship was introduced. It is to assist children residing in remote areas to attend the NT School Track and Field Championships, specifically in the multi-class events.

Dhunggala Ganambarr from East Arnhem region is our first scholarship winner. Dhunggala has a hearing impairment and travelled from his remote community with a guide to support him in the competition. Dhunggala not only participated with determination but also won many medals, and his smile says it all.



Variety Starfish Swim Group

The Starfish Swim Group was formed in 2005 when Donna Rousham recognised the need to assist children with special needs to learn to swim and be safe in the water with one-on-one self pace-based instruction. The aim is to provide an opportunity for families who have children with a disability to access a free learn to swim skills program.

Now, the Variety NT Starfish Swim Group with the principal sponsor and dedicated supporter, Variety NT, has seen the program successfully continue to grow this vital community service. Variety NT dedicates the fundraising from the Variety NT Santa Fun Run for this specific cause. The major sponsors are Mimik-ga-Centre and Henbury School, who provide their pools and maintenance at no cost.

Programs run from 1pm – 6.30pm Monday to Friday every week for 6 years to 12 years. The 13 to 18 years attend lessons on Monday and Tuesdays from 2.30pm – 6pm. The weekly program also includes a “Mums and Bubs” program, 6 months to 5 years, on a Saturday morning.

The programs are coordinated every week by Variety Life Member Donna Rousham who now has over 80 participants.



Freedom Camp @ Goanna Park

Twenty (20) teenagers aged between 13 to 18 years, enjoyed Freedom Camp, an adventure camp for teenagers with a mild to moderate disability. The group not only enjoyed the rock climbing and abseiling at Adventure Bound, they also experienced some programs new to the camp. Shooting hoops with Hoops 4 Health, STEM activities in Casuarina Library and Theatre skills with Corrugated Iron Youth Theatre all joined the jam packed program that ensures the campers have maximum fun and learnt a few things too.

The success of Freedom Camp includes the dedication of the many volunteers who assist, the Junior Police Rangers who participate as camper buddies and our sponsors.



How you helped

Wowzers, what a Bash!

And just like that, we're all done and dusted once again. It was truly Desert to Dunes, we went from red dust, through amazing Flinders Ranges, past green and gold pastures to finish on the pristine white dunes and blue beach and boy did we have some fun doing it!

There were 19 amazing Bash Teams and 7 teams of Officials, that Bashed their way Down South over 8 days. We had birthday cakes by the desert, espresso martinis and homemade pancakes overlooking the Ranges, and Hillbilly jerky and hooch by the sea.

Surprise visitors and OG Bashers came along to celebrate with us as we finished on Wallaroo's North Beach yesterday, thanks to Kerry Lee and Miss Lizzy Izzett for flagging us in.

We are so proud to announce that this NT Bash has raised a total of \$271,356.40 for Variety - the Children's Charity NT!

Thanks to all of our Bashers, Officials, Supporters, overnight stay venues, Sponsors (with a huge shout out to Christian of Darwin Container Services for the effort with the Baggage Truck! and Damian Gray for carting our gear around).

See you next year for the Top End Trek... stay tuned!

We bet you want to know the Award Winners.... let's get to it!

Top Hat – Highest Fundraiser:

Car 23 The Hillbillies

2nd Highest Fundraisers:

Car 95 Lightning McQueen

3rd Highest Fundraisers:

Car 1961 Driftin' Dreamers

Spirit of the Bash: Car 23 The Hillbillies

Show 'n Shine: Car 23 The Hillbillies

Bashers Choice: Car 1001 On Air & Car 23 The Hillbillies

Daly Waters Virgin Basher of the Year: Car 309 Bait Tank

Best Red Faces Act: Car 84 Bollywood Belles

Bigge\$t Ba\$h Buck\$ Haul: Car 309 Bait Tank

Officially Legends: Papparazzi, Sophie Charles
Dreamedia Creative

Pist'n Broke: Car 23 The Hillbillies

Broken Compass: Car 84 Bollywood Belles

Best Ultimate Scam: Car 10W Team Tow



How you helped

Hot 100 Australia Day UTE Run

The Australia Day Ute Run continues to be the best fun on 4 wheels! This year, with assistance from the National Australia Day Council we celebrated all things Australian including First Nations First Ute. Fun was the name of the day with over 400 vehicles joining the parade. More than 10,000 people lined the streets to cheer on the convoy from Hidden Valley Raceway to the Noonamah Tavern. Our thanks to our major event sponsors Hot100, Noonamah Rodeo and Tavern, and the National Australia Day Council.



National Reconciliation Week Trivia

The National Reconciliation Week Trivia night, which we organise with our partners the Miriam Rose Foundation, at the Trailer Boat Club continues to grow slowly. Every round had a specific reconciliation question to test the punter's knowledge of this important topic. Miriam Rose Foundation provided some awesome prizes for the raffle. We made just over \$4K and some more friends.

Santa Fun Run

The 2022, Santa Fun Run returned to the Waterfront and an earlier route that ended near the lagoon. With 310 Santas participating, the 2 km run was quite a sight with everyone dressed in Santa costumes, despite the hot and steamy conditions. Ending at the lagoon, everyone was invited to buy a snag, a raffle ticket, enjoy the free jumping castle or just jump in the lagoon to cool off. All the registered Santas were also in the Draw for airfares for two Darwin to Cairns with Airnorth.

The Santa Fun Run continues to raise money for the Variety Starfish Swim Group.



Third Party Events Delivered!

Variety NT continues to receive support from events that choose us as their Charity of Choice. This year we celebrate contributions from:

- Clubs Week
- Super Cars V8
- Italian Festival
- Darwin River Tavern Family Fun Day
- 000 Ball
- City of Darwin Carols by Candlelight Grill'd
- Gay Bingo
- Special Children's Christmas Party

Major Partners

We take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful sponsors, businesses and organisations who provide ongoing support, sponsorship and donations to assist us to enhance the lives of NT children in need.



SIGNIFICANT EVENT SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



Thank you to all our sponsors

Adventure Bound	Humpty Doo Primary School
Allora Gardens	Junior Police Rangers
Argus Hotel Darwin	Justin Quinter
Banyan Farm Tourist Park	Kate Worden MLA
Betta Meats	Kevin's Mobile Disco
Big 4 Howard Springs Holiday Park	Lions Club
Burson Auto Parts Winnellie	Mindil Beach Casino
Casuarina Sports Club	Natasha Fyles MLA
Curby's NT	Nemarluk School
Daly Waters Pub	NT Major Events
Darwin Convention Centre	NT Police Traffic Division
Darwin Ice Skating Centre	Open Garden NT
Darwin River Tavern	Primal Bar & Grill
Darwin Runners & Walkers Club	Pauls Iced Coffee
Darwin Tickets	Rotary Club of Darwin
Darwin Trailer Boat Club	Shorelands Group
Darwin Waterfront Corporation	Slappa's Thongs
Darwin Wave Lagoon	Spirit of Darwin Sunset Cruise
Girl Guides	The Precinct
Good Shepherd School	Top End Zumba
Hidden Valley Raceway	Total Tools
Hilton Darwin	Wisdom Bar & Café

A Heart Felt Thankyou to our Variety Volunteers

To each and every one of our wonderful Volunteers, thank you for all your support, dedication and hard work throughout the year. We could not do it without you.



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