

2014 – 2015

Year in Review





2014 – 2015

1 OCTOBER 2014 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

Variety the Children's Charity enhances the lives of Tassie kids who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs. The support provided through gifting resources and tangible items allows our wonderful kids to live, laugh and learn.

During the past year Variety has continued to fortify its position as a leading Tasmanian charity, helping children who 'fall through the gaps' as our relationships build across business sectors and attract wider community support.

All of the money raised in Tasmania stays in Tasmania ensuring that local families with a few extra challenges can focus on what is most important - caring for their kids.

PATRON OF VARIETY TASMANIA

The Honourable Will Hodgman MP,
Premier of Tasmania

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chief Barker (Chairman) – Dave Flower
Vice-Chairmen – Jane Howlett & Dean Jones
Treasurer – Michael Denehey
Secretary – Sandra Rodman
Directors – Daniel Hoult, Mike Wisby,
Michael Griffin, Mark Stanton

LIFE MEMBER

Bob Thorpe OAM

ELDER STATESMEN

Variety Tasmania recognises the work undertaken by individuals who have a long history with the organisation by granting Elder Statesmanship;

Edward Best AM, Brendan Blomeley,
the late Doone Kennedy AO, Michael Kent AM,
Tony Pedder, Mike Speakman & Heinz Voss

PLATINUM SPONSOR

Federal Group

From the Chief Barker

What a year 2015 has been for Variety Tasmania!

I'd like to thank and acknowledge past Chief Barker, Anna Grant, for her tireless work in getting Variety Tasmania to where it is today.

This year marked the 25th year for the Variety Oasis TasBash and it was great to get on the road and see the huge effort the 25 crews, supporters and officials made in raising \$220,000. Congratulations to everyone who took part and I look forward to seeing you all next year.

2015 saw the first Variety Tasmania Monster Book Fair held at Wrest Point and what a success it was. Through the incredible generosity of Shiploads and Variety Tasmania's Platinum sponsor, Federal Group, this three-day event was a great opportunity for Variety to engage with the community and help raise much-needed funds for the children of Tasmania.

Other events throughout the year have yet again been well supported and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has generously donated their time and resources to support Variety in 2015.

Of course, a charity such as Variety Tasmania relies heavily on the people who make all these events happen. We are extremely fortunate to have a fantastic team lead by State Manager, Luke Doyle. This year we welcomed Nina Rivett and Ashlee McIntosh to the office, both of whom have taken to their roles with seriously impressive enthusiasm.



Stacey Moore has been the quiet achiever of the office in her various admin roles for the past few years. Stacey has scaled back her hours with the office to spend more time with her family. I'd like to thank Stacey for her efforts and wish her well.

A charity such as Variety can't survive without the volunteers who give so much of their time to ensure we continue to do what we do.

To the directors of the Board who meet monthly and greatly assist with networking and professional advice, a huge thanks to you all.

Patron of Variety Tasmania, The Honourable Will Hodgman MP, Premier of Tasmania, has, as always, been passionate in his support and is continually offering his time to help where needed.

2015 has been an exciting year for Variety Tasmania and 2016 is looking well established to continue this trend.

On behalf of the Board and staff I'd like to thank all the sponsors, volunteers, Bashers and friends of Variety for their continuing support.

Our Programs

Variety the Children's Charity works directly with individual families and organisations to empower Tasmanian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs to live, laugh and learn.

Funds are spent on goods and services through our three core programs:



Variety Freedom Program
is the gift of independence,
self-esteem, mobility and
communication.



Variety Future Kids Program
is the gift of education,
achievement, experiences
and play.



Variety Caring for Kids Program
is the gift of
support, survival
and recovery.

Every dollar raised in Tasmania stays in
Tasmania to assist Tassie kids in need.

Following Variety Tasmania's humble beginnings something that has remained constant over the past 25 years is the good hearted people the charity has attracted. This raft of passionate volunteers, corporate partners and supporters has enabled Variety to enhance the lives of thousands of Tasmanian children and their families, granting millions of dollars of equipment and services to those in need.

In the past few years Variety Tasmania has gone through a period of focused change broadening our revenue streams through the establishment of new initiatives including the revamped Chairman's Luncheon, the Variety Cricket Bash, the Variety Santa Fun Run, the Variety Cruise and aligning with existing events such as the Mt Wellington Challenge.

This year has been no exception with Variety growing our Corporate Partnerships and Volunteering Program and launching a Scholarship Program, Work Place Giving with local businesses and the inaugural Variety Monster Book Fair.

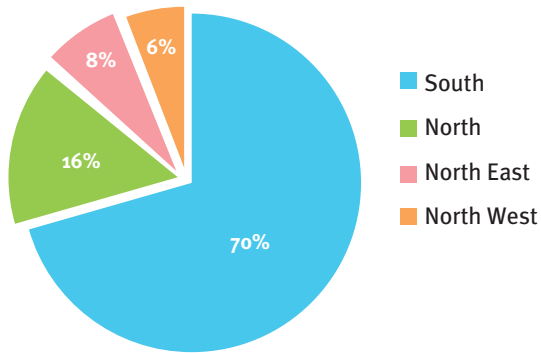
2015 also marked the 25th year of the Variety Oasis TasBash which saw a total of 25 vehicles take part in this iconic event.

By maintaining and building upon these networks Variety Tasmania continues to address the needs of children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs.

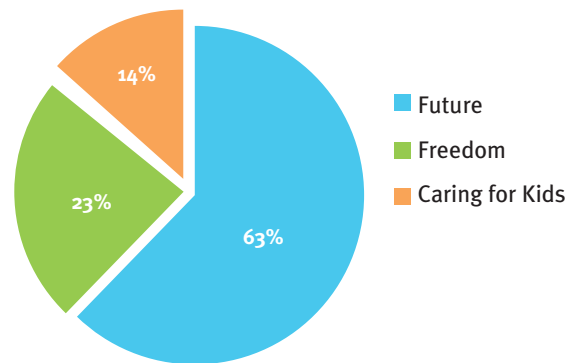
Grants

The Variety Grants Committee meets regularly to ensure the appropriate resources or tangible items find their way to Tasmanian kids in need. The committee comprises of health professionals including a speech pathologist, Megan Cavanagh, and physiotherapist, Leisl Wylie. This expertise contributes to informed decisions in allocating suitable equipment for specific needs.

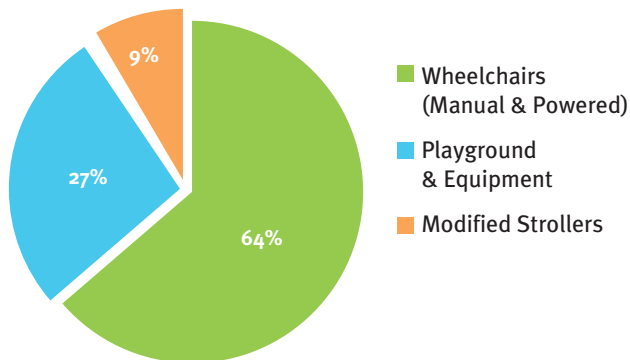
ORIGIN OF GRANTS RECEIVED



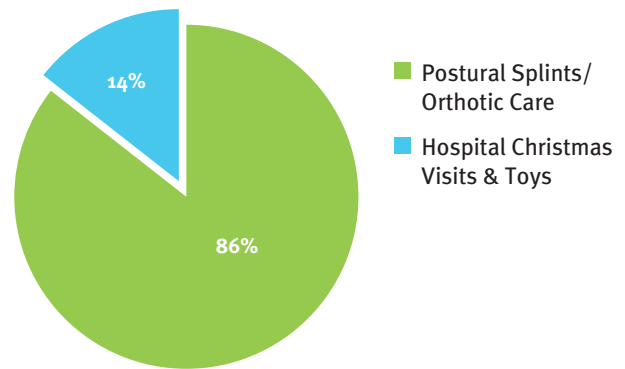
GRANTS BY PROGRAM AREA



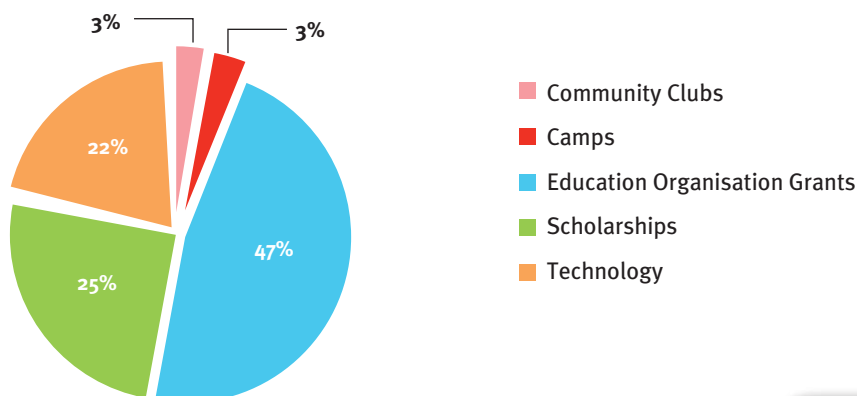
VARIETY FREEDOM GRANTS



VARIETY CARING FOR KIDS GRANTS



VARIETY FUTURE GRANTS



Who We Have Helped

Variety Tasmania is privileged to be able to share some of the stories of those we have helped.

Meet Mabel

Mabel is a four-year-old boy who recently moved to Tasmania with his family from a refugee camp in Sudan. Mabel suffers from Transverse Myelitis which has resulted in motor strength and control loss from his arms and legs. Mabel is also at high risk of scoliosis and requires postural support.

Through funds raised by Variety Tasmania and with much-valued assistance from philanthropist group, Foundation 33, Mabel

has now been provided with a lateral stability splint, commonly known as a 'second skin.' This ingenious equipment not only supports his trunk to prevent scoliosis but also enables him to make some movements.

Given that Mabel constantly strives to be an active little chap, he is now thoroughly enjoying brand new opportunities associated with spending time outside with his brothers and sisters.

Who We Have Helped

Meet Noah

Noah is a four-year-old boy who has been diagnosed with autism. He is largely non-verbal and only able to articulate a few single words. He also experiences delays with fine motor and pre-writing skills.

Noah's family reached out to Variety Tasmania after seeing the outcome of a trial with him using an iPad as a communication device. His teachers noted fantastic results and their recommendation was that the use of this in his everyday life would prove to be a huge motivating factor in his development.

Thanks to the wonderful support from shoppers at Eastlands Shopping Centre, who donated money to Variety Tasmania while participating in an in-centre school holiday program, we have been able to supply Noah with an iPad and the specialist communication software he needs.

Not only will he now be able to convey to his family simple things like being tired, thirsty or hungry, he will also be able to progress on his educational path.



Who We Have Helped

Meet Logan

Logan is an 18-month-old little boy who lights up the room with his smile and eagerness to be part of the action. Logan was diagnosed with a rare genetic condition called Pitt Hopkins syndrome (PHS).

As a result, he has low muscle tone which impairs his ability to control his head and neck and capacity to sit unsupported. He also suffers from intermittent changes to his breathing patterns, which without good positioning may lead to light headedness, fainting, numbness and tingling in his hands and feet and abdominal discomfort.

For some months Logan was using an 'off the shelf' stroller that was modified for his condition. However this was deemed to be unsuitable for his needs. After trialling a

Kimba Neo Stroller, Logan was able to sustain appropriate positioning for over 30 minutes. There was also an increase in the use of his arms and legs.

Based upon this compelling story of hope in enhancing Logan's circumstances Variety Tasmania sourced a Kimba Neo Stroller commissioned especially for him. Within a week of delivery, Logan and his family were experiencing a whole new world of outdoor activities. Logan's mum said his particular favourite was his first visit to a zoo to see the wallabies and feed them their food from the stroller's tray.

Who We Have Helped

GOANNA PARK

The aim of the camp is to provide children who are disadvantaged or with a special need with a camping experience in a secure environment to develop friendships, increase self-esteem and independence while participating in a week of organised activities and opportunities, without the everyday routine that a teenager experiences at home or within the confines of an education setting. All who attend Goanna Park walk away with their own personal experiences and stories as campers, carers and volunteers as the camp is an opportunity for all involved to work as a team and develop resilience and empathy for everyone there and to impart their experiences throughout their community.

This year Variety Tasmania was able to send Cameron and his carer, Tash. Although it was the first time Cameron had been on an aeroplane and travelled so far afield he thrived at the camp and returned with lifelong memories and new found skills.



Variety Volunteers



Variety Tasmania is extremely fortunate to have a wonderful group of volunteers who assist in the successful delivery of events. During the last year we have welcomed several new supporters from many walks of life who have rolled up their sleeves and helped us to implement even more initiatives on the Variety Tasmania calendar.

From sorting books for the Monster Book Fair, imparting information about Variety to those who want to find out more at expos and fetes, through to dressing up in the Variety Monster costume; the roles Variety Tasmania volunteers undertake are both diverse and hugely rewarding.

To quote one of our newest volunteer recruits, “Helping Variety Tasmania is a great way to feel connected to something which has real value in assisting children in need across the State. You can join with like-minded people, have some fun and do some things that ordinarily you may never think of doing. It doesn’t matter how much time you have available, every little goes a long way for an organisation such as Variety and it’s good to feel that you are making a difference.”

Variety Tasmania would like to thank each and every one of our volunteers for the great contribution they have made over the year.



Corporate Partnerships and Volunteering

In January 2015 Variety Tasmania partnered with the Vodafone Foundation to deliver core outcomes for Tasmanian children while engaging Vodafone employees to volunteer their time and make a difference. Over the past year Vodafone staff have volunteered at Variety Tasmania events including: Christmas gift wrapping, Carols by Candlelight, Variety's 25th Anniversary Celebration, Variety Monster Book Fair and a tailored volunteering day at the Southern Support School.

“Corporate Partnerships and Volunteering connects corporate groups directly to the cause by putting them at the coalface of the work we do. This relationship improves job satisfaction and morale by providing staff with an invaluable opportunity to engage with the kids and make a real difference.”

Variety State Manager, Luke Doyle



Events and Fundraising

Variety continues to grow and develop an extensive events calendar with the support of corporate sponsors, local businesses and volunteers. With this assistance, Variety continues to put the 'fun' into fundraising when assisting children to live, laugh and learn.



Events and Fundraising

VARIETY PRE-CHRISTMAS CRUISE

The second annual Variety Pre-Christmas Cruise took place on the 13th of November 2014 aboard the luxurious *Peppermint Bay II*. This three-hour event was made possible through the generous sponsorship of Peppermint Bay Pty Ltd, Cascade, Huon Aquaculture, Treasury Wines and Willie Smith's Organic Cider.

Guests were treated to local beverages and food expertly prepared by Oli Mellars and his team at Blundstone Arena. A fine night on the River Derwent was enjoyed by all as the Christmas cheer flowed freely.



VARIETY SANTA FUN RUN

The second annual Variety Santa Fun Run took place on Sunday the 30th of November 2014 welcoming over 350 aspiring Santas into the picturesque grounds of Government House.

All entrants became a 'Claus for a Cause' as they walked, rolled and ran around the gardens of Government House and enjoyed entertainment installations from barracking cheerleaders, dancing Santas, musicians, face painters and the SeaFM mobile radio station.



All were encouraged to enjoy a picnic in the grounds following the completion of the event.

The Variety Santa Fun Run is open to all participants, young and old, and encourages individuals, families and community groups of all abilities to participate. This is a fun-filled event for everyone, bringing the community together in support of children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs.

Events and Fundraising

HOBART CITY COUNCIL'S, CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



City of HOBART

Carols by Candlelight was held at historic St David's Park over two nights on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December 2014. Both nights were well attended and provided a wonderful way to celebrate the beginning of the festive season with family and friends.

Variety, as charity partner for the eighth year, sold carols merchandise including everything from traditional wax candles to Santa hats and gloware, with a host of volunteers manning the three entry points into the grounds.

Hobart City Council hosted the joyous event with an Australian line-up of performers including James Bourke, Bonnie Cashion, Gemma Lee, Martine Holliday and Tobias Miller, together with the Taroona High School Senior Concert Band and Santa Claus himself for a Christmas spectacular.



Events and Fundraising

VARIETY TASMANIA 2015 CRICKET BASH

In January 2015 members of the Hutchins Old Boys and the local cricket community donned their whites to raise funds for Variety Tasmania.

In what proved to be a summer sporting spectacle, friends, colleagues and 'rivals' battled it out over eighty overs during the course of the fun-filled afternoon. With cricket prowess and bragging rights in strong contention, the Variety Tasmania

Cricket Bash delivered its fair share of thrills before taking a more relaxed tone as all involved enjoyed a sumptuous cricket tea prepared by the mothers of Hutchins students past and present.

Our thanks go to the team at The Hutchins School for making the event possible, the ladies who assisted with the wonderful catering and last but not least, the players!



Events and Fundraising

VARIETY TASMANIA MONSTER BOOK FAIR

In April this year Variety Tasmania, with outstanding support from Shiploads, embarked on a five-month project which resulted in the hosting of a three-day Monster Book Fair in Hobart for the very first time.

This began with a campaign to encourage people from across the state to donate quality pre-loved books, games, puzzles, CDs and DVDs for the fair at any one of eleven Shiploads outlets or at the Variety Tasmania office. The response was immense and it is estimated that over 15,000 items were collated and transported to a central location. From single book donations to the delivery of three wonderfully curated private libraries, public support for this initiative was both overwhelming and truly heart-warming.

From the middle of June to the beginning of August over 500 volunteer hours were spent categorising books, sorting through games and packing CDs and DVDs for the fair within a warehouse facility at the Shiploads head office. The dedicated people who undertook this challenging but hugely rewarding task included Variety Tasmania volunteers, Shiploads staff and a number of Vodafone personnel engaged through the Variety Tasmania Corporate Partnership and Volunteering program.

By mid-August, the stage, which encompassed both the Wellington Room and Boardwalk Gallery at Wrest Point, was set thanks to the help of Variety Tasmania and Shiploads staff, a raft of volunteers and students from Fahan School and The Hutchins School.

On opening day, crowds lined up to be first to enter the veritable 'Aladdin's Cave' and during the following two days, thousands of people came to look for their favourite authors, choose new titles and even indulge in some early Christmas shopping at bargain prices.

Such was the success of the event, the Variety Tasmania Monster Book Fair is already ranked as the second highest fundraising initiative for Variety Tasmania. However this would not have been possible without wonderful help from the following organisations: Shiploads, Federal Group, Radcliffe Two-Way Taxi Trucks, Tox Free Solutions Ltd and McInerney Marketing Group. Thank you to each and every one of you, to our volunteers, to those who donated items and to those who became valued customers during the Fair.



Events and Fundraising



MT WELLINGTON CHALLENGE

On the 1st of March cyclists took part in the Mt Wellington Challenge time trial by undertaking an incredible ride spanning 21.3 kilometres and ascending 1,167 metres in order to raise funds to assist Tasmanian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs.

Starting bright and early, participants pedalled along Huon Road towards the pinnacle of Mount Wellington. With stunning scenery and fresh air to spur them on, they were welcomed at the top by officials eager to share with them their finishing times. For many riders it was not about being crowned King or Queen of the Mountain, but simply about testing themselves or attempting to beat personal bests from previous attempts at tackling the climb.

Now in its 12th year, the Mt Wellington Challenge has become an iconic event on the cycling calendar and over eighty riders took to the road for this 2015 event. Our sincere thanks go to organisers, Jonathan Elliot of Collins SBA, David Buckingham and their dedicated team of event officials.

To be the chosen charitable partner of the Mt Wellington Challenge provides a wonderful opportunity for us to assist even more Tasmanian children in need. We are also extremely grateful to all of the riders who were willing to take part in this exciting cycling time trial in the knowledge that they made a valuable contribution to Variety Tasmania's fundraising goals.

Events and Fundraising

VARIETY OASIS TASBASH



In October the Variety Oasis TasBash took to the road for the 25th time. During an epic adventure spanning eight days, 25 vehicles travelled over 1,800 kilometres, visited over 20 regional communities and donated \$26,000 worth of equipment to schools.

This very special anniversary year saw 10 vehicles join the fleet for the first time and Bash cars travelled from five states including Tasmania, Queensland, Northern Territory, South Australia and Victoria to be part of this colourful carnival on wheels. With over 90 Bashers and additional support personnel, the contingent for 2015 was one of the largest ever in our state.

The route traversed some of the most spectacular roads and tracks in Tasmania, starting in Launceston and bearing north before heading down the west coast to Strahan. A cross country route then followed to reach the east coast and the beautiful drive down to the Tasman Peninsula. The final arrival of the TasBash convoy into Hobart was greeted by The Honourable Will Hodgman MP, Premier of Tasmania and Patron of Variety Tasmania and this year's event was brought to a fitting close with a dinner attended by special guest and founder of the Bash, Mr Dick Smith.

Throughout our time on the road we saw some wonderful examples of the interaction of TasBashers with the communities we visited and particularly the children touched by the occasion. From fantastic costume appearances by the Crocodile, Wags the Dog and Variety Monster, children's morning tea parties with the Apex Clowns, dancing with the Groovy Hippies, to the firing of a rocket from the NASA car at each school visit, the essence of the TasBash was brought to life. Judging by the smiles on people's faces, the welcome from Tasmanians throughout the State and the number of children who presented pictures following our invitation to draw how they thought a Bash car would look in 25 years from now, the 2015 Variety Oasis TasBash will remain one to remember for some time to come.

Variety Tasmania thanks the raft of Bashers and volunteers who made this event possible and we look forward to seeing you all next year!





Highest Fundraisers – Car 1/2
The Beach Boys

Events and Fundraising

VARIETY 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On the 17th of July became a momentous date on Variety Tasmania's calendar when 198 guests celebrated the 25th anniversary of the charity at Wrest Point. During the evening guests journeyed through time and explored their own inner child; enjoying sights, sounds and tastes that proved to both surprise and delight.

The culinary excellence of Wrest Point's Executive Chef, Andre Kropp was demonstrated as he brought Variety Tasmania's history to life through the dramatic interpretation of food. Supporters heard the

courageous story of a charming little boy who, only this year, was helped by Variety Tasmania and the evening was complemented by live entertainment, an auction and a raffle kindly managed by volunteers from the Vodafone Foundation.

This event, which was a great success in raising funds and awareness for Tasmanian children in need, was commissioned thanks to much-appreciated support from Federal Group, Wrest Point, Cascade Brewery Co, Treasury Wines, Foodbank Tasmania and the Vodafone Foundation.



CHAIRMAN'S LUNCHEON

Eminent guests and long-standing supporters of Variety Tasmania met in May for the annual Chairman's Luncheon at The Henry Jones Art Hotel.

Not only did the occasion signify a convergence of like-minded guests, but it also provided the perfect time to launch a Variety Tasmania iPad Appeal. Through Variety's Future Kids program, children with intellectual or physical disabilities are provided with access to iPads in order to positively transform their life experiences. For some children with autism and other learning difficulties, for example, specialist iPad and

software packages can help a child speak their first word, or write down their own thoughts independently. As a result of the numerous donations to this appeal, enough money was raised to provide 14 eligible children with iPads and other grant recipients benefited from funds raised by the hosting of a highly interactive auction.

The Chairman's Luncheon was made possible through generous sponsorship from Federal Group. A special thanks also goes to Tony Kennedy, our MC for the day and Joe McDevitt, our auctioneer.

Events and Fundraising

THE VARIETY ROLLING DISCUSSIONS

The Variety Rolling Discussions Cycling Group continues to gain momentum as new riders join the cycling enthusiasts. The monthly rides switched to Saturday mornings in 2015, attracting a range of sponsors to support the initiative.

Riding to Live, Laugh and Learn, this group includes businessmen and women from all areas coming together through their love of cycling and their commitment to assist Tasmanian children in need.

The Variety Rolling Discussion Group is always welcoming new members, so if you like staying fit, networking and assisting kids in need then contact the Variety office today!



HOSPITAL VISITS

The festive season brings a welcome distraction for teenage patients.

In the week leading up to Christmas 2014, Variety Tasmania, through its Variety @ Work Program gifted the Paediatric Unit at the Royal Hobart Hospital some much-needed entertainment and play equipment.

Recognising that patients aged 13-17 years have different needs to younger children, items were selected by play specialists at the hospital including board games, skill testing games and the latest release DVDs. These long-term, functional gifts will not only entertain patients unlucky enough to be in hospital during the festive season but also those children and families who visit the wards all year round.



Thank You

Variety Tasmania takes this opportunity to thank the wonderful corporate partners, businesses and organisations who provide ongoing support, sponsorship and donations to assist us in enhancing the lives of Tasmanian children in need.

PLATINUM SPONSOR



MAJOR CORPORATE & EVENT SUPPORTERS



Peppermint Bay



And with particular thanks to the supporters of our individual Tasbash participants, the generous sponsors of our raffles and promotions and the individual members of our community who give so charitably to Variety.

Thank You

**The Honourable,
Will Hodgman MP**

Megan Cavanagh

Leisl Wylie

New Print

Visionstream

Andrew Lyden

APEX

St Lukes Health

Foundation 33

Elizabeth Taylor

Huon Aquaculture

Southern Cross Austereo

Trikemia Adventure Tours

Mures Tasmania

The Running Edge

Tyres4U

Devil Athletic

Eyespy Signs

UCI

Collins SBA

The Annie Danks Trust

**Commonwealth Bank
– Staff Community Fund**

Reliance Petroleum

Jonathan Elliot

David Buckingham

Tony Kennedy

Joe McDevitt

Vantage Hotel Group

Wrest Point

Roseanne McCann

Steve McCann

Royal Lifesaving Tasmania

ToxFree Solutions Ltd

Radcliffe Two-Way Taxi Trucks

Eyelines Hobart

Cascade Brewery Co

Foodbank Tasmania

Ed Gauden

Peter Beharkis

Vodafone Foundation

Kmart

Gloria Jeans

Oasis Network Gaming

Ambulance Private

Westpac Foundation

Peppermint Bay Pty Ltd

Willie Smith's Organic Cider

Blundstone Arena – Oli Mellars

Treasury Wines

Endota Spa

Shiploads

Harcourts Foundation

Exit Left Productions

Hobart City Council

The Lions Club

All Aerobics

Tassie Cycles

Hype TV

The Hutchins School

St Virgils School

Fahan School

Coates Hire

Government House Tasmania

George Bailey

Tim Scott

Barry Irons

Callan Paske

Samuel Shelley

**Quadro Nostro Pty Ltd
– Tom Miller**

Just Frames – Andrew Peters

McInerney Marketing Group

Farm Gate Market



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