



variety
the children's charity™

Impact Report

October 2019 – September 2020

Variety – the Children's Charity Tasmania



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The Why

We believe all children deserve a fair go in life, no matter their ability, location or background.

We also recognise the challenges some of our children face in finding their voice and in dreaming about their future – our future. That’s why, at Variety we work every day to ensure children, all children, have the right to live, laugh and learn in an inclusive and nurturing environment.

It might be a daunting task, but the alternative is terrifying, and will be devastating for all of us!

Our commitment to you, is that we will continue to provide direct support to children and their families through grants, experiences and scholarships. We will also continue to instigate initiatives and expand programs through building meaningful partnerships with governments, and Tasmania’s leading industry and corporate partners, who believe in our mission and share our values.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has proven that Tasmanians are a compassionate and responsible community, and it is those traits that will back our endeavours of creating a better today and a prosperous tomorrow for our children.

Thank you for being part of our journey!

Daniel Hoult

Chairman, Variety – the Children’s Charity Tasmania



The How

By delivering the elements of the
Variety Kids Support Framework:

GRANTS

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



SCHOLARSHIPS

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



PROGRAMS

The Variety Creative Arts Program aims to provide children who experience adverse life circumstances, with an opportunity to express themselves through arts therapy, in ways that promote healing and growth.



EXPERIENCES

The Variety Quiet Santa Sessions offer children with sensory challenges the chance to have some special one-on-one time with Santa in a peaceful and comfortable environment.



The Numbers

A better life for the kids of Tasmania



We supported:
19 Grants

We impacted:
662 Kids

Kid's Stories

But numbers can only tell a part of the story



Alice

Thanks to your support, Variety Tasmania was able to grant a C-Pen reader to 10-year-old Alice, who struggles to read due to dyslexia. This device will make the world of difference to Alice, as it will not only help her read, but in so doing will help reduce feelings of stress and anxiety. Her mum Jo says, "Alice is running around the house squealing with delight. She just said "now I can read!".

Douglas

Douglas is an 8-year-old who, like most children his age, loves being on his school trike and being out with his family. Douglas is also challenged with severe autism. He is non-verbal and has sensory issues and reduced mobility due to co-ordination and balance. With your support, Variety granted Douglas the gift of freedom with a trike of his own.



Isla



Isla has a very rare disease called Rasmussens Encephalitis. This disease impacts one hemisphere of the brain, where inflammation progressively destroys brain cells, resulting in multiple seizures, loss of vision, cognitive impairment, hemiparesis and if left untreated, the child could die. Variety, together with Parmic, Woolworths and Motors Tasmania, as well as many local businesses and community groups, raised more than \$95,000 to support Isla after her life-saving surgery.

"As a parent it's your job to turn the stones for your child, failing to do so out of fear or misery and heart break is only neglecting your child's best interests. And I can tell you, years down the track the misery and heart break from knowing you neglected your child will hit you twice as hard". James and Karissa, Isla's parents

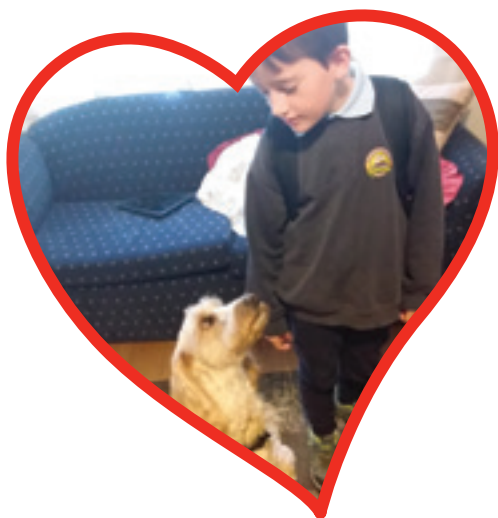
Giancarlo

Giancarlo is a 12-year-old boy, who loves to be outside. Variety Tasmania recently granted him the gift of joy and exercise with a swing set and trampoline. Not only will this assist with physical exercise, but it will also help to reduce anxiety associated with his autism diagnosis. Giancarlo says, "Variety people are angels".



Ryley

Variety Tasmania granted Ryley the gift of connection and support in the form of an iPad with protective case and WiFi / cell connectivity. This 8-year-old King Island resident has an ASD diagnosis and has been unable to attend school (prior to COVID-19) and being so remote, has been unable to access the support he needs. He has been feeling very isolated from friends and family. His mum Lisa says, "He is doing amazing. His iPad has helped so much with his virtual classroom and it will enable him to do his therapy from home. He has also downloaded some communication apps to stay in contact with family as we are so remote. Thank you for all your help and support this means the world to Ryley."



An update on Levi

During these unprecedented and challenging times, especially with social distancing, it helps to have a close companion that can keep you company, provide support and keep you safe. In Levi's case, Smart Pups Assistance Dogs Sheriff, a gorgeous Labradoodle, will be doing more than that. Sheriff has been fully trained and certified to look after Levi, who has an ASD diagnosis, to keep Levi safe, and track him should he wonder off or get lost. Although it has taken a few years from grant approval to Sheriff arriving, Levi's mum Bettina says, "I feel very privileged to have an assistance dog for Levi, he now has a close companion to accompany him wherever he goes."

Variety Freya Fund

The Variety Freya Fund is the legacy of Freya Williamson. The Williamson family, who loved and cared for Freya for 21 years have been inspired by their own lived experiences, to provide assistance for families who have children with severe disabilities. The Fund is designed to be as flexible as possible to help relieve individual families at a time of need or financial distress and when experiencing additional emotional and physical challenges, while respecting and upholding the dignity of those families. Families cannot apply for the fund themselves but are nominated by a professional who knows the family.



"It will help us greatly to provide needed items for Cody and assist with medication costs. It's wonderful to know there is still help out there during such difficult times. Thank you for the amazing work Variety does to assist people and families, it is very up lifting for us to receive this and we can't thank you enough." Mel

Leo

Leo is a 7-year-old boy with a diagnosis of Smith Magenis Syndrome and a severe intellectual disability. His family was nominated for a financial gift from the Variety Freya Fund which his mum Jade used to purchase a more suitable bed for Leo. Jade says, “Thanks to you we will wake up feeling better and stronger each day. We greatly appreciate it knowing there are warm-hearted people out there who are reaching out to disadvantaged people like us.”



An update on Playgroup Tasmania

Variety Tasmania granted Playgroup Tasmania much needed resource kits that they can use in their PlayConnect groups. PlayConnect provides opportunities, and the space, for families going through similar experiences to connect with each other in a supported, safe environment. The kits for these groups will include a range of toys, sensory equipment and calming equipment, benefiting numerous disadvantaged children around the state.



Bikes4Kids

A huge thank you to the Lumina 9 girls at Fahan School who raised money for our Bikes4Kids program. With their generous support, Variety was able to help 17-year-old Mason to buy a Dual Rider bike. This bike allows Mason to join in on family outings and be included in activities and in the community. Mason's family says, "Mason loves his bike so much that he often requests rides multiple times a day."

Variety Quiet Santa

Variety Tasmania is proud to partner with Vicinity Centres (Eastlands and Northgate) and volunteers from the Department of Education's Disability Program in running the Quiet Santa Program. These sensory friendly Santa sessions offer children with sensory challenges the chance to have some special one-on-one time with Santa in a peaceful and comfortable environment. Sessions are held outside of key trading hours, with the mall lights dimmed, and music lowered, to ensure a calm environment.



"I feel 5 different "happies" because I love doing art and doing jobs and being with my friends"

"The sand reminds me of the beach where I feel safe and calm. I love the feel of it in my hands, it's calming"



Variety Creative Arts Program

The Variety Creative Arts Program is delivered as small-group workshops within a safe and welcoming environment, facilitated by a qualified creative arts therapist. These workshops, delivered in schools, offer children with adverse life experiences, an opportunity to express themselves in ways that promote healing and growth and help to strengthen emotional literacy, self-awareness and positive self-identity.

'I liked mixing the paint together and making the canvas together. Can you bring it back next week?'

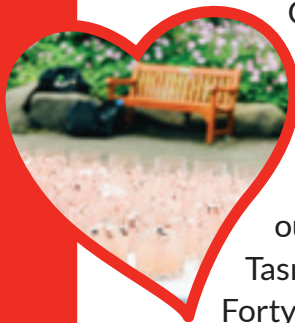
"This has made a huge difference to her day, she was very sad at recess and she didn't want to come in, but now she is smiling, warming up and is very engaged in the process"
– Teachers Assistant

"I feel calm and peaceful because when I do art, especially nature art, I feel very calm"

How you've helped

Variety of Gins

We hosted our fourth Variety of Gins at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in March 2020. Variety of Gins is a guided Gin Tasting Experience, tasting delicious gin cocktails while we amble through the beautiful gardens at sunset. A huge thank you to our event partners The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Forty Spotted Gins, McHenry Distillery, Summerleas Distillery and the Tasmanian Tonic Company.



Hair with Heart

The Hair with Heart Program managed to raise over \$1.6m nationally through both fundraising and the sale of donated hair. We are very grateful for the Tasmanian community who have gotten behind this program, creating almost 60 fundraising pages in 2019/2020!



Monster's Mini Book Fair

We might not have been able to host the Monster Book Fair this year, but thanks for our Key Partner Shiploads, we were able to host Monster's Mini Book Fair at Shiploads Lower Deck in Cambridge Park for the whole month of September.



Tassal Christmas in July Toy Drive

We are so grateful to have the ongoing support of our business community! Tassal Tasmanian Salmon held a Christmas in July Toy Drive and the lovely Tess delivered the wonderful toys. There are going to be many happy children when they receive these! A huge thank you to Tassal!



Variety Federal Group TasBash

The Variety Federal Group TasBash – East Coast Special Edition set off from Triabunna Village on the East Coast on the 13th November. Due to COVID, this year's TasBash featured 10 teams of passionate fundraisers going on a 3-day adventure, all while social distancing, hand sanitising, and having fun.

This year we explored the East Coast, winding our way around roads less travelled in a colourful parade of cars and themed participants.

The TasBash is not a race or a rally, but more a scenic drive in the countryside with a group of mates. A huge thank you to the TasBash participants who fundraise all year round, not an easy feat during a year marked by a pandemic.

Your hard work raised \$85,151 to help us empower Tassie kids!

Our grateful thanks to the Federal Group for their ongoing support of TasBash, and to Saffire for the remarkable lunch the TasBash teams had on the 15th November!



House of Hope

Variety Tasmania and the Cancer Council's Rachel & Jye Fund are the proud beneficiary partners of House of Hope 2020 project! This stylish 3 bedroom home, with two bathrooms (one is an en suite) and a powder room, is positioned in the beautiful Glebe Hill. We are very grateful to the trust put on us by the unwavering support of three very generous Tasmanian businessmen; Mr. Craig Rogerson, Mr. Andrew Lyden and Mr. Andrew Clifford who have committed their funds and businesses to deliver this project and support Tasmanian children who would otherwise fall through the gaps of the system.

For more information and updates on the House of Hope, please visit:
www.variety.org.au/tas/get-involved/house-of-hope/



How you've helped

Bequests

A gift to Variety in your Will can change a child's future

Variety Tasmania received a Bequest from the Estate of William Andrew Guesdon who died in 1891 in London. In his handwritten Will, Mr Guesdon requested his English Executors to apply his Residuary Estate at their discretion for philanthropic and charitable purposes in England, Wales, Scotland and Tasmania (where Mr Guesdon previously lived). The Will makes for incredible reading (It was written over 130 years ago), but what is more incredible is that Mr Guesdon's legacy is changing the lives of Tasmanian children today!

Leaving a Gift in your Will is as generous a gift as you can give. It's a powerful and enduring pledge and is part of your legacy. Please contact us if you would like further information about Bequests.



Montagu Bay Crazy Hair Day

It is incredibly heart-warming when children do their bit to support other children. A huge thank you to the students at Montagu Bay Primary and the Montagu Bay community for taking part in a Crazy Hair Day and for your generous donations to Variety Tas! A huge thank you to the adults who helped with the hairstyles as well!



Thank you

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

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TRIABUNNA VILLAGE



House of Hope Project



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Volunteers

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Lions Club of Mersey-Devonport
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The Fairy Godmothers

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Jeanette and Ray Ware
Kevin Rawling
Mark West
Neil Davis
Ray Ware
Rory Grinham

Quiet Santa

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Celeste Harback
Jessica Marriott
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Katie Newman
Marnie McNicol
Megan Cavanagh
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Prue Webster
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Scott Batchelor
Travis Morris



And thank you to the individual members of our community who give so charitably to Variety

Beaupre Cottage
Bendigo Bank – Community Sector Banking
Cars, Bikes and Bands
Chau Nominees Pty Ltd and
Creese Property Consultants Pty Ltd
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Montagu Bay Primary
Northgate
OfCourseTV
Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel
Paul Foreman
Pennicott Wilderness Journeys
Peppermint Bay Hotel and Cruise

State Cinema
Tassal
Terra Creations Jewellery
The Bad Dad Orchestra
The Embers
The Farmhouse Kitchen
The Henry Jones Art Hotel
The Prickly Grapes



What's next

For 30 years, we have been thriving through empowering Tasmanian children who are at risk of falling through the gaps of the system due to being sick, disadvantaged or have additional needs, but have nowhere to turn for help.

Thanks to your commitment and support, Variety impacted 662 Tasmanian children through grants, programs, and experiences in this report period.

In the last year, we launched the Variety Creative Arts Program allowing children to find their voice and empower them to dare to explore their own challenges in ways were not available to them before.

We also opened wide conversations with governments, community organisations, schools, and the private sector about the importance of shifting conversations from accessibility to inclusion and the significant role playgrounds play in nurturing a cohesive and proud communities. We believe, designing our open spaces for children of all abilities, is guaranteed to be inclusive for everyone, regardless of age, background or which neighbourhood they live in - It just makes sense!

We want to see the Creative Arts Program delivered in many more schools across Tasmania, and we want to have Tasmania's first Inclusive Playgrounds Guidelines to inform and guide the way we design and think about our playgrounds.

Please reach out if you want to be part of our journey!

Mohammad Aldergham

CEO, Variety – the Children's Charity of Tasmania

Variety Tasmania recognises the contribution and dedication of ...

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