

VARIETY THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY 2016-2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

TENT 78 TASMANIA INC.



2016–2017

1 OCTOBER 2016–30 SEPTEMBER 2017

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-Chairman – Mohammad Aldergham

Treasurer – Bruno Palermo

Secretary – Kim Backhouse

Directors – Daniel Hoult, Paul Graham, Bec Owens,

Tom McDevitt, Mark Stanton

Life Members

Bob Thorpe OAM & Mike Wisby

Elder Statesmen

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

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

Platinum Partner

Federal Group



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF BARKER

As another great year for Variety Tasmania comes to a close, 2017 saw a flurry of activity for the children's charity.

We started the year with our inaugural Variety of Gins event, staged in the grounds of Government House. The weather was perfect as people enjoyed strolling the magnificent gardens whilst enjoying gin cocktails generously donated and created by McHenry, Lark & Shene distilleries. Also of note is the fantastic efforts of the Variety volunteers. On behalf of Variety Tasmania, I would like to sincerely thank Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC for helping make this event such a success.

In May, the Chairman's Luncheon was a sell out as Federal Group's Henry Jones Art Hotel hosted another fantastic afternoon. We were lucky to have television legend, award winning author and now Cygnet local, Posie Graeme-Evans, give an insight into creating children's show Hi-5 and McLeod's Daughters. On top of that Posie donated a last-minute accommodation package for two nights at her Frenchman's River cottages.

The Monster Book Fairs in Launceston and Hobart continue to attract large numbers. This multi-day event wouldn't be possible without the tireless efforts of Ashley Wilson and his amazing team at Shiploads. Along with the Variety volunteers and staff, this event is a logistical masterpiece.

2017 HAS BEEN ANOTHER PROGRESSIVE AND POSITIVE YEAR FOR VARIETY TASMANIA.

Variety Vintage was staged for the second year and taking over the organisation of the 2017 extravaganza, were Variety Directors, Tom McDevitt and Kim Backhouse. Through Tom's management company, which runs the home of great events, PW1, the night was an outstanding success. From the theming to the catering, wine auctions and Navy Band – it was really a testament to what Variety does best – fun events whilst doing serious fundraising.

At the Variety of Vintage dinner, we took delivery of our brand-new Variety Tasmania support van. Without the generosity of the Costelloe family at Co-Op Toyota, the Allport and the Harcourts Foundation, this simply wouldn't have happened. The new van has already undertaken its first TasBash and survived with flying colours.

The 2017 Federal Group TasBash was a smaller, more boutique outing this year, but from all reports right up there as one of the best. Some new roads, great fun stops and lots of school visits – topped off with 8 days of perfect weather – made for an enjoyable, relaxed and engaging time for all involved. I would like to thank all the officials, sponsors, entrants and supporters for another huge team effort. It was damn good fun!

On a personal note, I will be stepping down at the end of 2017 as Chairman of the Board, but am already committed to remain a Board Director and alternate director for Variety Australia. I will also continue to support the TasBash in whatever capacity is required.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have helped, supported and encouraged me during my three-year term as Chairman of Variety Tasmania.

To the Variety Board, all of whom are volunteers, thank you for all you give, month in, month out.

Also, much gratitude to the volunteers, officials, supporters and administrative staff, especially Karen Wheeler.

Having the support of our platinum sponsor, Federal Group, has allowed Variety Tasmania to flourish and progress with financial backing and certainty and for that I thank them enormously.

And lastly, the two people I speak with every day about all things Variety. My understanding, supportive and loving partner Trish, who always helps with ideas, perspective and public speaking tuition.

And Luke Doyle, Variety Tasmania's State Manager. He is the force, the face and the leader behind everything we do. Tireless in dedication, passionate and focused, Luke is the epitome of Variety. Many thanks Luke for all you have done and will do in the future.

Have a great 2018 and I look forward to seeing you all at Variety events next year!

Dave Flower, Chief Barker



Variety Tasmania wins International Gold Heart Award

In May 2017, Variety the Children's Charity Tasmania were recognised as one of the top performing chapters around the globe, receiving a Gold Heart Award at the Variety World Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

This success is the product of sound planning and delivery of outcomes by a raft of motivated and engaged people. Thank you to all Board members, staff, volunteers and corporate partners who contributed to this milestone achievement.



WHO WE HAVE HELPED



Meet Beau & Lee

Beau and Lee are 17 years of age and both have an intellectual disability. Both boys also love their football. In July of 2017, the AFL hosted a national Inclusion carnival aimed specifically at giving kids like Beau and Lee an opportunity to represent their state, gain life skills such as teamwork and leadership, and to experience life outside of their immediate community. Beau was selected for the Tassie team due to his demonstrated skills and commitment to participation. Lee was selected because he is a hard worker who excels in hands-on situations, and because it was felt that the AFL Inclusion program would boost his confidence and self-esteem immeasurably.

What an experience the boys had! The first day was a 7-game lightning carnival to select which group the teams would play off in. Tassie qualified for pool group B. In the four pool B games, Tassie defeated the Northern Territory and Western Australia, to qualify for the pool B Group Grand Final. This was played against South Australia with our boys being defeated by a very narrow four-point margin.

Meet Evelyn

Evelyn is a 4-year-old child who suffers from Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, which affects joint flexibility. Symptoms include dislocating joints, low muscle tone, fatigue and pain. Evelyn's major problem is continual dislocations of her knees. This causes pain, and results in anxiety that inhibits Evelyn from playing active games with her peers; she cannot safely run, jump or hop.

The use of a Dynamic Movement Orthosis suit (DMO) will make sitting for longer periods possible and will also provide support to the leg joints, and improve the stability in her shoulder girdle to allow for the development of writing skills. Now that Evelyn has her suit, she reports that "it makes my legs feel stronger and I don't feel as wobbly". Her mother reports that "the suit is helping her a lot. She is still very easily exhausted and can't walk for longer than 10 minutes, but she is so much better in the suit rather than out of it."



Meet Sam

Samuel is a 14-year-old boy with Asperger's and mild spastic cerebral palsy, who runs for UTAS Athletics club and trains twice per week. He is classed as a T38 competitor, which is in the cerebral palsy category. In late March 2017, Sam competed in 100m and 200m events at the Nationals, winning the gold medal for both events and breaking the under 16 Australian record in the 100m event, while being just short of the record in the 200m. Both times are world qualifying times, and as a result of his performance, Sam was selected to represent Australia in the World Para Athletics Junior Championships in Switzerland.

These were held in early August 2017, and Sam ran a blistering 12.19 (-0.3) seconds to be first across the line in Nottwil in the 200m event, taking a huge 0.28 seconds off his previous best of 12.48 seconds recorded at the Australian Championships in March. The 100m was a multi-class event (T35-38) event, with Sam awarded Bronze once final points were calculated.

Not only was Sam the fastest T38 athlete in the field, he is also the youngest, giving him an opportunity to go back and compete in the U18 Championships again in 2018.

Sam's next aim is to participate in the All Schools Championship in Canberra in December and then the Commonwealth Games Paralympics in April 2018.

More on this next year....



Meet Jayden

Jayden is a 9-year-old boy who is completely blind, non-verbal, has global delay and cerebral palsy and is wheelchair bound. He has recently undergone several surgical procedures to increase his mobility and is now wearing thigh to ankle splints.

Jayden's team of carers determined that an assistance dog is required for both companionship, assistance with everyday living, and to facilitate therapy for Jayden. It is envisaged that Jayden will be able to improve his fine and gross motor skills by undertaking activities such as grooming the dog and throwing the ball for the dog. The dog will assist Jayden by opening and closing cupboards, and helping to carry and retrieve items. It is also anticipated that the dog will wear a harness to assist Jayden with standing. In addition to this, the companionship of the dog will improve Jayden's confidence and independence.

An assistance dog is not an overnight gift. In Jayden's case, it will be close to 18 months from the time his grant was approved until he receives his smartpup.

Currently a litter of puppies is going through their basic training. Once they have achieved a 'pass', they will progress to advanced training. When they are 10-12 months old, their natural talents and abilities will begin to show.

It is at this time the trainers will be able to identify which dog is best suited to assist children with autism, undertaken seizure response, or take on mobility and medical alert assistance. From then on, their training will be directed specifically to their future role in life. Once the pup has successfully passed all their training modules, one will be selected and introduced to Jayden.

This story to be continued...



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 distributed through our three core programs:

Variety Freedom Program

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

The Freedom Program aims to assist children gain mobility and independence through the provision of equipment such as wheelchairs, positioning systems and postural splints. The ultimate outcome is to enable everyday activities such as moving safely while playing and not expending too much energy on just remaining upright. In the broader context it also enables children to join in family and community activities such as going for a walk, cycling and going to the beach.

Variety Future Kids Program

is the gift of education achievement, experiences and play.

The Future Program aims to ensure children have a positive, inter-active classroom experience through the provision of computerised communication and learning systems. The challenges and frustrations for a child when they are unable to just simply communicate are immense. A specific aspect of the Future Kids Program is the provision of scholarships to assist children achieve their full potential in the areas of the arts, music and sports.

Variety Caring for Kids Program

is the gift of support, survival and recovery.

The Caring for Kids Program is about supporting children's health and wellbeing through the provision of medical equipment such as insulin pumps and nebulisers. This equipment enables the child to be cared for in their own home, minimising the need for hospital admissions, disruptions to family life, as well as alleviating some of the financial burden associated with managing chronic and rare conditions.

EVERY DOLLAR RAISED IN TASMANIA
STAYS IN TASMANIA TO
ASSIST TASSIE KIDS IN NEED.

In 2016 –2017 all our grants were either in the Future or Freedom programs, with Freedom program grants claiming 53% of all grants approved. Of the Future program grants, 57% were for scholarships to assist Tassie kids be the best they can be in their areas of expertise.

In conjunction with Variety NSW, Variety Tasmania also supports the Smile Program, which offers financial and practical assistance to children living with a rare disease, and the Hair for Heart Program that provides specialised wigs for children who have lost their hair.

2016–2017

Statistics/Information

- In 2015–2016 Variety Tasmania approved funding requests for resources and equipment that will benefit 685 Tassie kids.
- The kids assisted by Variety Tasmania experience a range of conditions including but not limited to: postural abnormalities, Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, intellectual disability, blindness, low muscle tone, autism, hearing loss, and global development delay.
- The age of the children assisted ranged from 4 years to 17 years of age.
- Some of the granted resources and equipment will benefit a child for one year, while others will still be providing a benefit for the next ten years.

Benefits achieved from the granted resources and equipment include:

- The ability to be active without the risk of joint instability
- Life skills in teamwork and leadership
- The opportunity to engage and communicate with peers
- Enhanced learning opportunities
- Improved gross motor skills
- Growth in confidence and ability
- Expanded horizons; seeing a world beyond the local community
- The opportunity to be the best they can be



VARIETY VOLUNTEERS

Nothing is as strong as the heart of a volunteer!

Variety Tasmania is lucky to receive help from a wonderful range of people who willingly donate their time and energy.

Our volunteers contribute towards the successful outcomes, maximising our support to Tasmanian children who are sick, disadvantaged or who have additional needs.

Volunteers throughout 2017 have found themselves sorting books, watching guard at Government House (reducing the risk of guests falling in the Pond), selling raffle tickets, manning the BBQ, cashier operations and much more. Without this much-needed support, our workload would be significantly greater and Variety Tasmania wouldn't be able to deliver on the outcomes it currently achieves.

Variety Tasmania would like to thank every volunteer who contributed throughout 2017.

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

Variety Cruise

The fourth annual Variety Cruise took place on Friday 18 November 2016 departing from Brooke Street Pier. The three-hour sailing was made possible by event partners; Peppermint Bay Pty Ltd, Fresh Cut, Huon Aquaculture, Cascade, and Vantage Group.

Guests were treated to local beverages and food expertly prepared by Oli Mellers and his team at Landscape Restaurant.

An exquisite night on the River Derwent, enjoyed by all.

Variety Visionstream Cycle

Cycling time trials on the tarmac of Hobart International Airport doesn't happen everyday! Sunday, September 24 2017 saw over 50 riders support this fundraising event,

travelling 60kms or 100kms on the route constructed by Ross McPherson and Craig Rogerson. Afterwards all participants enjoyed a fundraising bbq at the Variety office.

Thank you to event partner Visionstream for sponsoring this event, also encouraging their team of staff to sign up, some even flying down from Melbourne!



Variety Monster Book Fair Hobart celebrated its third year, with Launceston achieving its second year – both a success!

Book collections throughout May in all Shiploads stores saw 35 pallets of books donated this year!

Then came the task of sorting all the donated items! Special thanks to all volunteers donating their time to do this, including staff from Hydro Tasmania.

June 24 & 25 were the days of the Launceston Variety Monster Book Fair, held at Country Club Casino. A busy two days selling many books, dvds, cds and games – making the front page of *The Examiner* certainly added a boost in attendance to this event!

August 11 to 13 saw the Hobart Monster Book Fair held at Wrest Point Casino, a massive three days of sales, engaging volunteers from Hutchins and Fahan Schools in the pack-up post event.

The Variety Monster Book Fairs are the biggest book fairs within Tasmania, and their success is made possible by the support from Shiploads, Federal Group, The Country Club, Wrest Point, Radcliffe Two-Way Taxi Trucks, Tox Free Solutions, CRE Solutions, and Hydro Tasmania, plus support from 7HOFM, WIN TV and TDT.

Thank you to each volunteer who contributed their time and energy to these events, and to all who contributed with donations or made a purchase!



Variety of Gins

Variety of Gins held at Government House on Friday 17 February 2017, showcased three Tasmanian gin distillers; Shene Estate & Distillery, Lark Distillery with their Forty Spotted Gin and McHenry Distillery providing a gin cocktail for guests to enjoy. The drinks were complemented by the sensational canapes prepared by Government House chef, Ainstie Wagner and staff.

Guests toured the gardens of the exquisite Government House on this refined evening for two hours, finishing up with a fundraising auction hosted by auctioneer, Ben Harrison.



Variety Vintage

Wine...Food...Atmosphere!

A spectacular tasting experience of Tasmanian wines, plus a delectable three-course meal produced by refined North Hobart restaurants, Pancho Villa and Capital, was held in the exquisite surrounds of PW1.

Held on Friday 28 July, selling out at full capacity, 200 guests enjoyed this spectacular event! Entertainment provided by the Australian Royal Navy Band was complemented by a silent and live fundraising auction, wine wall and Francesca Jewellery gift shop.

Guests were treated to wines from across the state including Bream Creek Wines, Nocton Vineyard, Cool Wines, Chartley Estate, and Gala Estate.

Grant recipient, Sam Walker, 14, spoke about the opportunities Variety Tasmania was providing to him,

including representing Australia in the T38 competitor cerebral palsy category at the World Para Athletics Junior Championships in Switzerland. Sam also hopes to qualify for the Commonwealth Games in April 2018.





Variety Federal Group TasBash

This was eight days on the road, 12 months of planning and eight Bash cars, with plenty of heart raising funds and promoting awareness of Variety Tasmania.

Departing from the Longford Village Green on Saturday 21 October and arriving at the Hobart Show on Saturday 28 October, TasBash travelled over 1800kms, visited five schools and many communities, and utilised the services of Tasmanian businesses throughout this spectacular motoring event.

The 2017 TasBash was extra special for Ian 'Johno' Johnson; celebrating his milestone of 25 years on TasBash, with Jan Simpson, Denise Burns and Jim Percival all reaching their 15 year milestones, and Lynne Coleman hitting a decade with TasBash!

This year, Bashers were tasked with several activities, such as a selfie competition, Brand your Basher (face painting), Variety of Bongos (composing a theme song for the Bash Car), and car racing fuelled by balloon and air, plus much more!

The 2017 Variety Federal Group TasBash was represented by:

The Croc Hunters Dennis Fuller, Amanda Burleigh, Deb Edmundson, Brooklyn Hazelwood, and Sandy Oakley.

The Beach Boys Craig Rogerson, Janet Rogerson, Ross McPherson, and Cher Branch.

Groovy Hippies Kim Doyle, Andrew Clark, Leah Carter, and James Crawford.

Champettes Bev Balmforth, Maree Damon, and Karen Stevens.

Puff the Magic Dragon John Simpson, Jan Simpson, Denise Burns, Jim Percival, and Lynne Coleman.

Where's Wally Travis & Alanna Morris, and Michelle

McLean.

Blinky Bill & Friends Jan Gul and Ian Johnson.

The Convicts/OV Sweep Mark Mason and Tracey Riley.

OV1 – Director Dave Flower and John Flower

OV3 – Scout Ray Ware and Jeanette Ware

OV6 – Medics Gary Linnell, Rolf Barnes, and Frank Coulson.

OV7 – Variety Luke Doyle and Kate Birch.

Special thanks to Craig Rogerson, Dave Flower, Janet Rogerson, and Trish Lewis on their contribution and work to build the 2017 TasBash route! Some amazing roads travelled, adventures held and memories to keep!





Variety Tasmania Cricket Bash

Variety Cricket Bash, sponsored by Valhalla Ice Cream, was held on Valentine's Day at Blundstone Arena on February 14, 2017.

Participants paid to play on Tasmania's own world-class cricket wicket along with celebrity status players; Damien Wright, George Bailey, Xavier Doherty and Alex Doolan in an exclusive match held purely to raise funds for Tasmanian children who are sick, disadvantaged or who have additional needs.

In the true spirit of a charity cricket match, the winning team was hard to call, however a brilliant and sunny day out on the field was enjoyed by those attending to watch, followed by a wonderful function afterwards at Blundstone Arena with a quiz night hosted by Tubs Taylor!

Variety Chairman's Luncheon

On Friday 26 May, Dave Flower, Chairman of Variety Tasmania, welcomed 100 attendees and special guest, Posie Graeme-Evans, for the annual Chairman's Luncheon. Guests also saw firsthand the impact of the scholarship program with a video presentation of music compositions by 12-year-old Rhys, who is totally non-verbal, and who has been able to find expression following 12 months of music tuition funded by Variety Tasmania.

A fine dining experience was held at The Henry Jones Art Hotel during an afternoon of networking and raising funds for Tasmanian children in need.



THANK YOU ❤️

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

PLATINUM PARTNER



MAJOR CORPORATE & EVENT SUPPORTERS



AND WITH PARTICULAR THANKS TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY WHO GIVE SO CHARITABLY TO VARIETY.

Megan Cavanagh	Barnbougleship that Never Was	Spicers Paper
Bec Oliver	Abt Railway	HOFM
Huon Aquaculture	Motel Strahan	TDT & WIN Television
Collins SBA	Villa Howden	The Mercury
Eastlands	Navy Band	Supagas
Willie Smith Organic Cider	Ian South	Climb Media
Fresh Cut	Top Drawer	CRE Solutions
Reliance Petroleum	Hog’s Breath Café	Par Avion
George Bailey	D’Angelos	Posie Graeme-Evans
Radcliffe Two-Way Taxi Trucks	Bejos	Port Arthur Ghost Tours
West Coast Wilderness Tours	Channel Men’s Shed	Stewarts Bay Lodge
Alastair Bett	Gloria Jeans	Dr Karen Marlowe
Foundation 33	Oli Mellers	Tas Wheelie Bins
Commonwealth Bank-Staff Community Fund	The Hutchins School	Veolia
Callan Paske	Fahan School	Andy Taylor
Damien Wright	Government House Tasmania	Customs House Hotel
Alex Doolan	The Honourable Jacquie Petrusma MP	Ratho Farm
Tahune Airwalk	The Honourable Elise Archer MP	John X
Clennetts Mitre 10	RACT	Greg Ramsay
Cool Wine	Pennicott Wilderness Journeys	Oceana
San Churros	Salters Hire	Old Woolstore
Adam’s Hair	Blue Line Laundry	RAW Challenge Tasmania
Gay Flowers	Vantage Group	Mondolez
Haylson Hair Products	Joe McDevitt	Lenna of Hobart
Tassie Settlement Hampers	Tox Free Solutions	Army Band
Marti Zucco	Xavier Doherty	Harcourts Foundation
Hadleys Hotel	Allport Bequest (Dobson, Mitchell, Allport)	Bump Event Styling
Michael Webb Photography	Claudia’s Jewelry	PFD
Francesca Collections Jewellery		



Tent 78 Tasmania Inc.

Cambridge Park, Tasmania

(PO Box 789, Rosny Park 7018)

Ph: 03 6248 4888 Fax: 03 9011 9706

Email: info@varietytas.org.au

Website: www.variety.org.au/tas