



variety
the children's charity

Impact Report

October 2020 – September 2021

Variety – the Children's Charity of Tasmania



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The Why

Last year I wrote here that we believe all children deserve a fair go in life, no matter their ability, location, or background. That statement holds true no matter the social, political, or economic climate we find ourselves in.

In a rapidly changing and evolving landscape, it is human nature and our protective instincts which cause us to turn our focus inward- to concentrate our effort and energy on caring for ourselves, our immediate family, and closest loved ones. In these times, it is easy to lose sight of and even turn away from the hardships that others in our broader community are facing. Through the strength of our community, our partners and our staff and Board, Variety Tasmania have not only maintained its' focus on supporting those most vulnerable, but we have been able to significantly expand our reach and output, ensuring that in these most difficult of times we are there to support as many Tasmanian child in need as we can.

Last year, we continued our focus on the Variety Creative Arts Program and promoting inclusive playgrounds – both important parts of our landscape. The generosity of our individual and corporate supporters has been amazing and allows us to dream big, challenging us to be aspirational in setting our goals year on year.

A great example of this community spirit and generosity was this year's Variety Federal Group TasBash. After a 29 'and-a-half-year' anniversary event during covid last year, we celebrated our proper 30th anniversary of TasBash this year. Despite borders remaining closed and keeping out our mainland compatriots, as well as a 3-day lockdown cutting us from six days down to only three, our TasBash family raised an impressive \$357,507 nett, making this year the highest fundraising TasBash year ever, by more than \$100,000!

On behalf of the Variety Tasmania Board, crew, and volunteers, it is timely to renew our commitment to our community of supporters. Driven by your passion and dedication to our cause, we will continue to dream big, while never losing focus on the individual in need. We will expand our reach and work hard every day to ensure that every Tasmanian child has the opportunity to live, laugh, and learn in an inclusive and nurturing environment.

Thank you for being part of our journey and standing side by side with us to make Tasmania a better place for all our children.

Daniel Hoult

Chief Barker, Variety – the Children's Charity Tasmania

What's Next

There is no doubt our community, especially our supporters, believe in our mission that no child should miss out because of circumstances beyond their control.

It is why we were able to substantially increase our grants this year to over \$207,000, reaching more than 1,200 kids, from Flinders Island in the north all the way to Dover in the south. But as we always say, numbers only tell a very small part of our story – it is the positive and lasting impact on those children and their families that really counts for us, and we are very proud of it.

Last year, we continued our focus on the Variety Creative Arts Program and promoting inclusive playgrounds – both important parts of our landscape. We are also keen to understand the physical and cultural barriers faced by children living with disability, within the education setting.

To that end we proudly instigated two major studies with the University of Tasmania's School of Business and Economics; the first, to explore inclusive design and the playground setting landscape in Tasmania and the second, to examine some of the challenges faced by children living with disability within their school environment. Through these studies we hope to increase our understanding and identify potential gaps that Variety can contribute to addressing, including

working with others to achieve the best outcomes possible for our next generation.

Further, we are working with likeminded organisations to break barriers that prevent our children from participating in sports. We want to see more children feel included regardless of their ability or location. Watch this space.

Reflecting on the last 12 months, has only given me more reason and inspiration to drive our organisation forward. To work harder and smarter to continue the incredible work we have been able to achieve in delivering on our mission and for our cause...the children of Tasmania!

Thank you for being part of our journey

Mohammad Aldergham

CEO, Variety – the Children's Charity Tasmania



The How

By delivering the elements of the
Variety Kids Support Framework:

INDIVIDUAL GRANTS

We grant a range of items to provide practical help for kids and through the Variety Freya Fund we grant relief cash gifts to families who are financially struggling



COMMUNITY GRANTS

We help educate and empower children through our Community and Schools grants.



SCHOLARSHIPS

We give scholarships to encourage the talents of Tasmanian kids.



PROGRAMS

We run a growing number of programs to help children who experience adverse life circumstances.



EXPERIENCES

We offer a number of inclusive experiences throughout the year so all kids can feel like they belong.



The Numbers

We supported:
26 Grants

We granted:
\$207,364

We impacted:
1,271 Kids



**A better life for the kids of Tasmania,
thanks to you.**

Kids' Stories

But numbers can only tell part of the story



Indoor therapy gym

We were able to grant an indoor therapy gym and soft fall tiles to an 8-year-old with a diagnosis of ASD, ADHD, anxiety and a lived experience of trauma.

The use of physical activity with an indoor therapy gym will help her to process the events of the day, self-regulate and help her emotions to de-escalate.

**Her mum says,
"I can't thank you enough!"**



Lilly

Lilly is a 15-year-old who loves watering her garden and going for drives, and who lives with severe Autism. She requires help with all daily activities and is non-verbal, communicating through gestures and vocalisations. She is learning to use pictures and a communication program on an iPad.

We granted Lilly an iPad, including a case with a keyboard, and a printer. Along with being able to print the pictures, the iPad will significantly assist Lilly in her communication, reducing the frustrations that she experiences when she cannot be understood.

While we work with many kids and their families throughout the year, naturally many prefer their stories to remain private.

Ride for Eddie

Eddie is a four year old living with Pontocerebellar Hypoplasia type 4, a rare neurodegenerative disorder - the only case in Tasmania.

Eddie is non-verbal, has motor impairments and will never walk, so a wheelchair is a big part of his life. As Eddie gets bigger, his mother will need a specifically modified vehicle with a wheelchair hoist to get Eddie in and out.

Eddie's grandfather started the 'Ride for Eddie' initiative – a group of passionate fundraisers riding around Tasmania in November 2021 on vespas to raise funds for a modified van for Eddie's family.

We partnered with 'Ride for Eddie' in order to assist this community fundraising effort and help give Eddie a Fair-Go.

At the end of October, the initiative are close to reaching their target.



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 provides a one-off relief payment of up to \$1,000 for Tasmanian families who care for a child with a disability and are experiencing emotional or financial distress. It is designed to be as flexible as possible to help relieve individual families, while respecting and upholding their dignity. The family is nominated by a professional who knows their needs and circumstances.



The Variety Freya Fund gift may be used for anything the family needs. Our recent grant recipients have bought school clothes, groceries, football boots and uniforms. This year, thanks to a recommendation by the Williamson family, the relief payments were increased from \$750 to \$1,000.

A Tassie mum of three young girls said "It truly feels like a dream as finding that kind of money to support my girls school clothing was impossible for me and especially coming into winter. I am truly grateful for you going above and beyond for my daughters."

For more information and nominations please visit variety.org.au/tas/grants/variety-freya-fund/



Working with Communities

Breakfast Club at Warrane Primary School

We all know the importance of breakfast - full little tummies mean students can be present in the classroom and have energy they need to learn and have fun!

With a \$4,000 grant from Variety, Warrane Primary School now offer their Breakfast Club five days a week – not only feeding kids but also engaging their parents with the school.

Teacher and Breakfast Club Co-Ordinator, Mrs Gearman said

“All students are welcome, it gives them a sense of belonging... parents are also invited to drop in for a cuppa... it’s a great opportunity for parents to connect with the school and each other.”



Clarendon Vale Primary School

We were delighted to coordinate and grant \$2,000 towards a gravel bike track for Clarendon Vale Primary School.

After lockdown in 2020, kids were struggling to engage in structured daily activities. The gravel track offers an additional outlet for kids at school and helps engage parents and integrate the school into the community.

The track was made possible thanks to the Variety network of supporters: machinery from Patten Excavation & Development Pty Ltd, volunteers from Clarence Sunrise Rotary and the very generous support and skilled team from Madden Builders.



“The bike track looks fantastic and the feedback from the students is a big thumbs up”- Caroline Murray, Principal, Clarendon Vale Primary School.



Hobart Women's Shelter

We granted the Hobart Women's Shelter \$4,000 to host Book Week and Halloween events to create some much-needed fun for the children staying at the Shelter who are experiencing challenges such as homelessness, family separation and family violence.

The events brought residents together, encouraged reading as a family activity, helped highlight the power of books and imagination and most importantly, injected some normality into the children's lives.

Starfish Nippers with Surf Life Saving Tasmania

Surf Life Saving's Starfish Nippers Program aims to increase social inclusion and participation levels in beach activities for children and young people living with intellectual impairment or physical disability, who find themselves capable but challenged by the requirements of mainstream junior beach programs.

Thanks to a Variety Community Grant of \$15,000, Surf Life Saving Tasmania will be rolling out this exciting program in eight clubs around the state. The grant was used to purchase start-up kits to run Starfish Nippers throughout summer, ensuring more kids will safely enjoy our beautiful beaches.



Tassie Mums

Tassie Mums provide essential baby and children's items to social service organisations that work with vulnerable and at-risk children.

We're proud to partner with Tassie Mums to allow them to increase their weekly operational hours at their headquarters – where they sort and pack donations of quality clothes, toys and other items for babies and children.

This \$10,000 grant enabled Tassie Mums to reach an additional 200 vulnerable and at-risk children throughout 2021.

Let's go surfing!

In March, the Disabled Surfers Association of Tasmania held its inaugural event at Clifton Beach. The day is designed to give all kids and people living with disability the opportunity to experience the freedom of riding a wave.

30 children participated, looked after by more than 100 volunteers, who formed safe and supportive corridors for each surfer.

We're a proud supporter and can't wait to be in the water again in 2022.



Scholarships

In November 2020 we launched the Variety Riding for the Disabled Association of Tasmania (RDA Tasmania) Scholarship to provide equestrian activities to children living with disability.

The scholarship is to support children who qualify for RDA Tasmania horse riding programs but are ineligible or underfunded under the NDIS, through no fault of their own.

Ongoing the scholarship will help fund a minimum of 250 riding sessions each year.



Our Programs



Financial Counselling for Families

Our new national service offering financial counselling to families of children who are sick, disadvantaged or living with disability - at no cost.

This program is run by accredited counsellors at Variety Queensland who assist with managing debt, household budgets, negotiating with creditors, Centrelink guidance, accessing utility grants, or understanding financial rights and responsibilities.

The program has already had some amazing outcomes – most recently the counsellors negotiated on behalf of a Tasmanian mother who has two children living with disabilities, to have more than \$25,000 worth of personal debt waived.

**For a confidential consultation
or to learn more, call Rod and
Tony on 1300 012 164**



This is Rod



This is Tony

When she learned of the debt being waived, she said “You cannot even begin to know the difference this is going to make...I can’t wait to tell the kids”.

"Prior to the program, these students would be very emotional and doubt their abilities completing tasks. They are more willing to have a go and make mistakes along the way"
– Teacher Assistant, Triabunna District School



variety
creative
ARTS

Our program is delivered as small-group workshops within a safe and welcoming environment, facilitated by a qualified creative arts therapist.

The workshops give kids 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.

Learn more at variety.org.au/tas/programs/variety-creative-arts-program/

"I can do this at home, I feel very calm, and I never feel calm"

"I came in feeling sad today, but making a place for the turtle made me feel better"

"I feel safe here"

Variety State of Play National Survey

Play is the right of every child. It's the way they learn, make sense of themselves, their relationships with others and their world. Many Tassie kids don't have this opportunity as their local playspace is built without considering what is required for them to be able to play.

Launched in October, the State of Play National Survey is designed to understand who plays, where they play and most importantly, why they play.

The Survey took place in lieu of the planned state-wide Inclusive Play Community workshops which were unable to go ahead as

border closures prevented Variety's National Inclusive Play team travelling into the state.

The results of this survey, to be released in early 2022, will help Variety Tasmania inform decision makers in the play landscape around building inclusive playgrounds that are welcoming to children and their families of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.



Kids' Experiences

Variety Day at The Zoo

This year we hosted 147 kids and their families, for an inclusive day out at Zoodoo in Richmond with kids getting up close and personal, even feeding the animals.

Zoodoo was closed due to COVID shutdowns, so those kids who needed too were able to tour from the comfort of their bus – an interactive safari adventure, accessible to all!

We hosted children from the Southern Support School, the Association for Children with Disability Tas and Risdon Vale Neighbourhood House.

A fantastic day, with many thanks to the generous team at Zoodoo Richmond.



Variety Quiet Santa

For more than seven years, we have been delivering Quiet Santa photo sessions in partnership with Vicinity Centres and Eastlands.

These sessions offer kids with sensory challenges and their families, the chance to have a family portrait with Santa.

Sessions are held outside of key trading hours, with the mall lights dimmed, and music lowered, to ensure a calm environment.

These photo sessions wouldn't be possible without our amazing volunteers - with a wide range of professional experience in disability education and allied health, they ensure children are comfortable in the space and ready for their family photo with Santa.

We are pleased to partner with Meadows Mews Plaza to also deliver this experience in Kings Meadow during the festive season in 2021.



How you've helped

Our heartfelt thanks to all those who supported our events through the year. Your generosity ensures we reach more Tassie kids in need.

Variety of Gins

After selling out Variety of Gins in Hobart for several years, this year we took the popular event on the road!

Hosting our first evening at Launceston's Country Club in February, followed by the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in March – each saw guests ambling through beautiful gardens and grounds, making their way from guided gin tasting experience to experience, all to the sounds of the fantastic Tasmanian Army Band.



Variety of Chefs

Our Gala Ball – and what a gala it was! A decadent menu crafted by four excellent Tasmanian chefs, matched with delicious beverages, a range of musical entertainment to meet all tastes and hilarious live crossings to the kitchen with The Chef and The Showman.

A fantastic night filled with fun, friends and most importantly, fundraising. The generosity of our guests enabled us to reach a further 100 kids through the Variety Creative Arts Program.



Variety Federal Group TasBash

The Variety Federal Group TasBash saw an incredible record fundraising year, with \$356,507 raised.

Due to southern Tasmania's snap lockdown, this year's TasBash was cut short but 56 passionate fundraisers, went on a three-day adventure.

Starting in Bicheno, the colourful parade of cars and themed participants took in St Mary's, Longford and the West Tamar before finishing in Launceston.

TasBash is not a race or a rally, but a scenic drive with a group of mates. A huge thank you to the TasBash participants who fundraise all year round.

This year's record-breaking total means we're able to create more for Tassie kids who would otherwise miss out.



Monsters Book Fair

It was a wet and wild weekend but this year's Monster Book Fair at PW1 put a smile on many young faces.

And Monster it was, with 26 pallets worth of donated books available for sale!

With books sold by the car boot load, roving musicians, animals from the Sorell School Animal Nursery and the social circus, it made for a colourful three days of fun and fundraising.



House of Hope

The House of Hope was sold in early June, raising a whopping total of \$313,000!

The funds raised were split between Variety and the Rachel & Jye Fund which provides financial assistance to Tasmanian families when a child has a cancer diagnosis or relapse.

We are very grateful for the unwavering support of three very generous Tasmanian families; Craig and Janet Rogerson, Andrew and Lee-Anne Lyden and Andrew and Georgie Clifford who committed their funds and businesses to deliver this project and raise funds for Tasmanian children who would otherwise fall through the gaps.



Hair with Heart

This year the Hair with Heart Program, saw metres of hair donated and \$8,000 raised in Tassie through both fundraising and the sale of the donated hair.

We are particularly grateful to our brave hair donors – Payton (pictured) our youngest at just five years old! – and all those who supported them.

Payton alone raised \$1,800 in support of Variety Tasmania's work.



Bequests

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

By including a gift to Variety in your Will, you can make a huge impact on the lives of children in need, now and into the future.

It changes lives. Your gift will play a crucial role in ensuring Variety can continue to support Tasmanian families when they turn to us for help.

It creates a legacy. Leaving a gift in your Will is one of the most effective and long-lasting ways you can impact a cause that is close to your heart. You will make a difference.

It's easy. It doesn't take long to make a difference — a simple Will can take as little as one hour to do.

It doesn't affect your lifestyle today. Making a decision to include a gift to Variety in your Will enables you to consider a gift that you might not be able to afford today but would love to make if you could.

Please contact Variety Tas CEO Mohammad Aldgerham if you would like further information about Bequests ceo@varietytas.org.au or call 03 6248 4888



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.

Platinum Partner



Key Partners



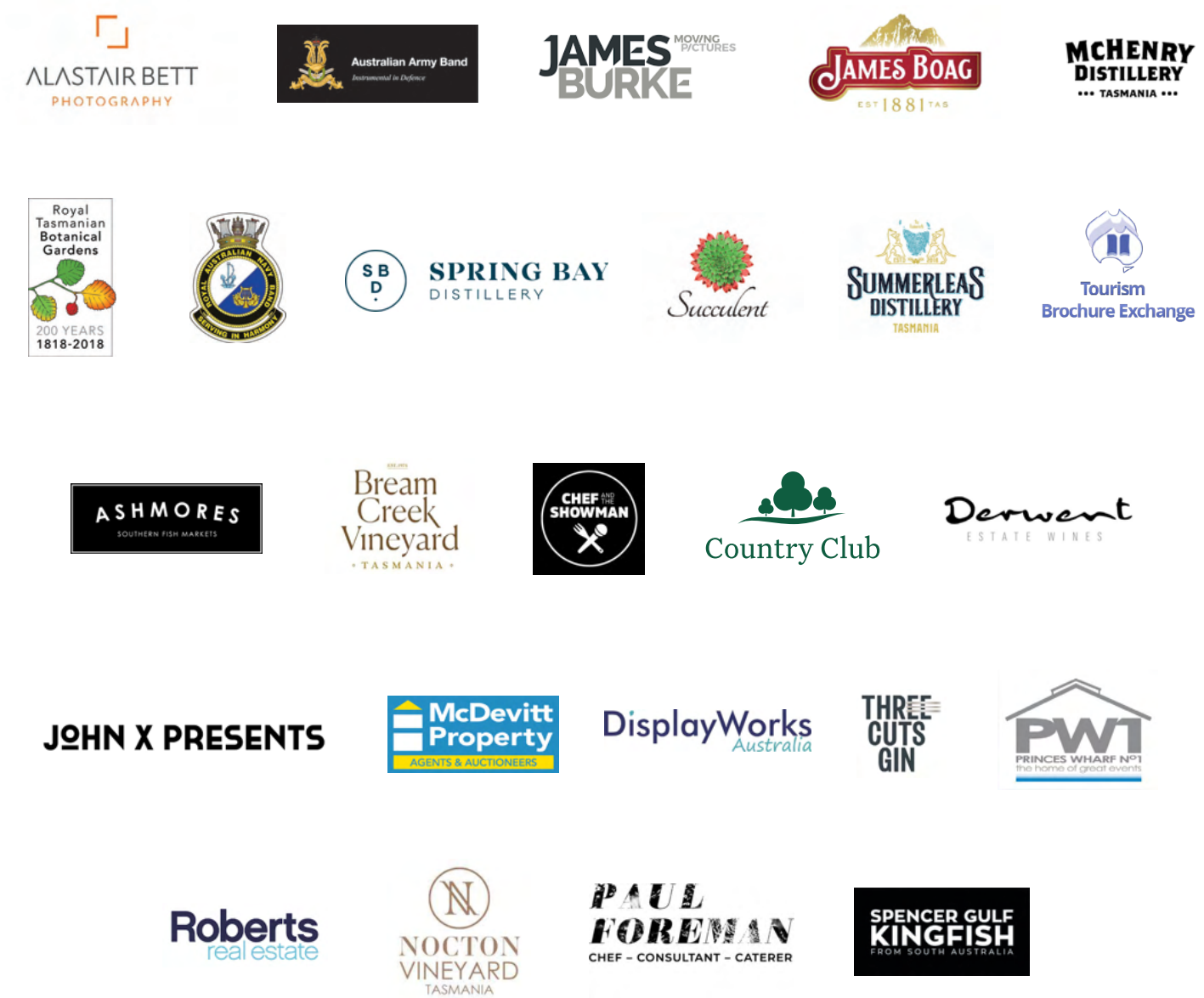
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House of Hope Project



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Thank you to our Volunteers

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Jan Gul
Jeanette & Ray Ware
Kevin Rawling
Neil Davis

Quiet Santa

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Celeste Harback
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Saga Hassinen
Sandra Oakley
Scott Batchellor
Tracey Clark
Travis Morris

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

Agrarian Kitchen
Alderman Danny Gibson
Ally Wood Pottery
Andre Kropp
Ashley Wilson
Back Track Buggys
Black Heart Wood
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Bunnings
Coast Rider Surf Academy
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Tree to Sea
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