

a Year of Celebration

40 years of Variety in Australia

Record Bash Result on our 25th event



CELEBRATING
40
YEARS OF HELPING
AUSSIE KIDS BE KIDS

2015 Year in Review





Helping Aussie Kids Be Kids Since 1975

Richard Symon - Chief Barker

Patricia Burke - Secretary

Paul Manning - Treasurer

Crew Members

Gary Caddy

Rodney Collins APM

Craig Dent MBA, FAIM, MAICD

Steve Donnellon

Claire Heaney

Vito Interlandi

Gary Peck

Ken Pryor

Nicholas Pullen

Michael Randall OAM

Martin Stone

Geoff Street

2015 Year in Review

Chairman's Message

Richard Symon

Variety Victoria – the Children's Charity has had an active year supervising the many unique fund raising activities for which Variety is known.

This has enabled 9796 Victorian children to be directly assisted by the efforts and energy you and our supporters, sponsors and donors have allowed us to achieve through this 2015 Financial Year. I am delighted by the efforts of our Motoring Events committees, their supporters, volunteers and staff for a record result for this year's Bash.

The appointment of Janette Connolly as CEO for a two year term effective April this year has created stability in our office and reduced the full time equivalent staff level and consultant expenses enormously. Janette and her team have coordinated a number of new events through the year, including Eat Street, the Australian Motoring Festival and Variety Day at the Races.

I wish to thank all Directors for the commitment they provide Variety. It is often forgotten that these volunteers undertake significant responsibilities and donate a massive amount of their time and resources. The commencement of the Variety Foundation initiative needs mentioning: Bequests and donations are beginning to add up to provide an asset that will provide a significant income stream over time. Also to my predecessor, Vito Interlandi, who faced a number of difficulties over his Chief Barker (Chairman) tenure. I am grateful for his commitment to provide me with a sound financial footing from which Variety Victoria now benefits.

In particular I would like to congratulate Rod Collins APM for his amazing 16 years of Board responsibilities, including 3 years (2008 – 2010) as Chief Barker. Rod is a Life Member and has committed to continue to assist with our motoring events. Also leaving the Board are Patricia Burke, who will continue with the Grants Committee; Craig Dent, who has indicated his ongoing support; and Geoff Street, who will continue to offer his expertise to the Events Committee. I thank each of you for your contribution to Variety Victoria.

The appointment of Nicole Haack as Chair of Variety Australia has been inspiring and the recent appointment of Variety Australia CEO Stefanie Kessler has created a meaningful cooperation between the Tents (States) both at Board and CEO level and is now a growing provider of donations to each Variety Tent.

I thank you for your support this year and wish you, volunteers, staff, members and friends, season's greetings and a successful 2016 - for the sake of disabled and disadvantaged children so they can live, laugh and learn.

Richard Symon
Chief Barker



CEO's Message

Janette Connolly

Welcome to our Year in Review. 2015 has been a year of celebration and wonderful achievements where we succeeded in taking Variety Victoria to new heights.

In what was a very special year for Variety, we marked 40 years of helping Aussie kids in need in Australia, celebrated our 25th Variety Bash, and our 10th Brats Bash.

And celebrated we did, with a record result for the Bash - raising \$1.54 Million dollars to help children in need to live, laugh and learn.

Thank you to all the Bashers and their supporters for not only raising such an incredible figure but for continuing to create a community that reflects the camaraderie and passion that Variety is known for.

Our Variety AFL Great Grand Final Lunch surpassed all records with our largest attendance of 1200 and we celebrated our new Charity of Choice program with Eat Street at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins.

I'm extremely proud of our signature giving event, the Variety Children's Christmas Party which has hosted over 135,000 children since its inception. That's 135,000 children, many of whom would otherwise experience Christmas with no joy and no gifts without this celebration.

I'd like to acknowledge the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre who have donated their venue and staff time since 1996, equating to over \$4 million in support.

We now look forward to 2016 and ask you, our wonderful supporters, to continue to assist Variety in moving forward and raising much needed funds to empower Victorian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs.

With thanks,

Janette



Meet Blake

13 year old Blake lives with Cerebral Palsy. Variety assisted Blake last year and were thrilled to see his progress when he visited the Variety AFL Great Grand Final Lunch in 2015!

A Year of Giving

Variety - the Children's Charity is a national not-for-profit organisation committed to empowering Australian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs to live, laugh and learn. By giving practical equipment, programs and experiences, Variety helps children in need to overcome whatever obstacles they face and live life to the fullest – simply put, we help kids be kids.

Variety's mission is to help these children attain their full potential regardless of ability or background. Variety's work allows children to gain mobility and freedom, to get out and about in the community, be able to communicate, achieve independence and increase self-esteem, and where possible offers assistance to help them be integrated into mainstream school and activities.

Variety provides grants to individuals and organisations for a great number of items such as special wheelchairs, vocal output speech devices, prosthetic limbs, special play equipment, Liberty Swings, Sunshine Coaches and much more.

The **Variety Freedom Program** provides funding for mobility equipment like wheelchairs, walking frames, customised tricycles and Sunshine Coaches so children can get out and about, gaining independence.

The **Variety Future Kids Program** provides children with intellectual or physical disability access to equipment to positively transform their classroom experience and academic performance. These grants range from computer software to our VICKIDS scholarships which support children with an existing talent, who are disadvantaged or living with a disability, to achieve their full potential and to follow their dreams.

Through Variety@Work, provide children with outings and experiences to assist them to participate in the community and enjoy life!

The **Variety Caring for Kids Program** helps parents care for their seriously ill children at home with nebulisers, insulin pumps, electric hospital beds and more. We also work in conjunction with hospitals and other children's health organisations to ensure as many children are assisted as possible.





6014
children impacted
\$474,507
Granted

2 x Adaptive Sports Programs
\$6,900
3 x Children's Camps
\$16,097
14 x VICKIDS Scholarships
\$38,000

Future Program



4 x Education Organisation Grants
\$54,648
Outings, Parties and Experiences \$1,470
13 x Technology Grants
\$23,438

7 x Sports Wheelchairs
\$24,155
Variety @ Work Experiences including the Variety Children's Christmas Party
\$309,799

1873

children impacted

\$390,692

Granted

7 x Modified Trikes

\$21,486

1 x Specialised Car Seat

\$5,285

2 x Trained Assistance Dogs

\$9,000

Freedom Program

1 x Playground

\$21,200

3 x Walking Assistance

\$5,625

5 x Positioning Systems

\$26,826

3 x Shower Chairs

\$8,510

4 x Sunshine Coaches

\$180,636

5x Strollers

\$33,717

2 x Strollers

\$8,450

10x Manual Wheelchairs

\$53,166

Meet Locky

Locky is a cheeky 6 year old who loves to play with his older brother and little sister. He is in grade one at his local primary school and - like most kids - hates the early mornings.

Locky was born with an intellectual disability and Hypotonic Cerebral Palsy which means he has low muscle tone which affects his strength. He also has severe expressive language delay and developmental dyspraxia.

With a full body Second Skin Splint Locky's posture, control, stability, along with his

core strength, will improve. Wearing the suit at school and during the day helps Locky increase control of his arms, improving his overall health and confidence.

One of Locky's favourite things to do is go horse riding on a Saturday morning with his favourite horse, Jimmy. Locky is fortunate to participate in the Peninsula Riding Develops Abilities group which provides animal therapy to children just like him. Variety is proud to support Locky and his family on his journey.



Meet Maddy

Six year old Maddy has Cri Du Chat Syndrome which means she suffers from mental and physical delays, anxiety, poor muscle tone and bad balance. She can often be aggressive and disengaged from her environment, and her sensory sensitivities tend to keep her and her family housebound.

With the help of her trained Assistance Dog, Hank, Maddy will be encouraged to walk and in turn increase her muscle tone. Assistance Dogs are trained to walk alongside a child providing support and balance, prevent a child from wandering off

(through a tethering system), reduce anxiety and provide comfort in times of stress or anxiety.

Since meeting Hank, Maddy has undergone some amazing changes. She can now walk for longer than 10 minutes, her balance has improved, she recognises colours and numbers and is learning important day to day life skills such as visiting the supermarket to buy food with her family.

Maddy and Hank together have shown us that anything is possible and worth a try!



1909

children impacted

\$35,361

Granted

Medical Assistance
\$2,950

Sensory Equipment
\$30,090

Seizure Alarms
\$785

Bedroom Equipment
\$1,536

Caring for Kids



Totals

9796

Total children impacted

\$900,830

Total Granted



Volunteers

We couldn't do what we do without people like you! Each year, our Variety volunteers give up countless hours of their time to help run the events that help us raise funds to help Victorian kids in need. So we want to say a huge "THANK YOU" to those who volunteer tirelessly to help Variety continue to succeed in their endeavours each and every year.

In 2014 - 2015 Variety engaged with over one thousand volunteers. Our diverse crew of helpers include large corporate teams who assist at events such as the Variety AFL Great Grand Final Lunch, entertainers, registration staff and set up crews who make huge projects like the Variety Children's Christmas Party possible. To our dedicated motoring events crews and committees, our Board and our incredible long term office volunteers - Helen, Ian, Rhonda and Pam, we're talking about you! Thank you.

In the last year Variety made a commitment to developing our volunteer programs, with staff training and policy development ensuring we are adhering to best practice in volunteer management as defined by the peak body for volunteering, Volunteering Australia. We look forward to continuing to grow and extend these programs.

Also this year one of our outstanding volunteers, Wayne Daisley, was honoured by Variety International with a Presidential Citation Award.

Wayne is a valued volunteer as well as a fundraiser and committee member for the motoring events he is so passionate about – the Variety 4WD Trek and the famous Variety Bash, which covered over 93,000 kilometres and has raised over \$18 million for children in Victoria.

Wayne has completed six Variety Bash events and an incredible fifteen 4WD Treks – twenty one motoring events in total, certainly something to celebrate!

His participation fuelled a passion to contribute further as a volunteer event official and committee member – helping survey, event manage and provide on-road support for the 4WD Trek as an official, Committee Member, Logistics Committee Member and Committee Chairman.

True to our history in the entertainment industry, Wayne works at a Melbourne TV station and has provided AV support every year without fail for our Variety AFL Great Grand Final Luncheon – our highest fundraising corporate event. He extends his passion to volunteer at many other events including the past Radiothon, Variety Children's Christmas Party and 4WD shows to continue to promote and raise funds for Variety.

Thank you Wayne and, once again, to all our valued volunteers.



Children's Christmas Party

The annual Variety Children's Christmas Party has been running for almost 30 years and in its time has welcomed over 135,000 children through its doors.

Each December, this incredible event opens its doors to thousands of disadvantaged Victorian children in need of a little Christmas cheer. These children may be from a low socio-economic background, be disabled or have a special need, and may otherwise go without a real Christmas.

The Christmas Party gives these special children the opportunity to experience something many of us take for granted – a Christmas Party that provides the children and their carers a break from the stresses and strains of everyday life. The children are afforded unconditional acceptance and a chance to play and make new friends. It is a day of celebration with the children enjoying live entertainment, activities, all-ability carnival rides and interactive displays.

Santa and his helpers ensure it's a Christmas to remember and that EVERY child receives a present and show bag to take home on the day! There is no cost to the children and their carers to attend this event.

The day would not be possible without the generous support of our major sponsors. Thank you to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC) who allow us to use their facility, City of Melbourne and Funtastic Toys.

Thanks to our long term event supporters Toy Network, Logistics Events Australia, Lombards, Patties Pies, DFO and our amazing exhibitors, performers and suppliers.

We would also like to thank the team of volunteers who give their time to make Christmas just that little bit more special for children in need.

Each year we receive hundreds of thank yous from children and families. We wish we could share them all with you! Here's just one message from a mother who attended the party with her daughter who has special needs.

I just wanted to take the time to personally thank you for inviting us to join in that special day yesterday. Elizabeth and I were truly blessed and it was the first time I had been out with her without feeling anxious or like we were being judged. Thank you so very very much. It was truly special. X X Shae (mum)

In 2014 we welcomed 4,533 children and 2,859 carers, family members and volunteers!

Since its inception 28 years ago the Variety Children's Christmas Party has been attended by over 135,000 children



3AW

Variety is thrilled to have 3AW as an official Media Partner.

Variety and 3AW have had a long relationship together spanning over 10 years and raising over \$2 Million through the Bikes for Kids Program.

3AW provide Variety with airtime and media advice and we have developed strong relationships with their staff and presenters.

Thank you 3AW for your incredible ongoing support.

Kennards

Each year throughout September and October through the Kennards for Kids initiative we are fortunate to receive \$2 from every hire. Variety is thrilled to be the lucky recipient of these funds in Victoria and South Australia.

Kennards is a family-owned business and is passionate about providing kids with the best start to life possible. A value that we both share. Thank you Kennards for your support of Variety over the years, for your support of the Variety Bash, and for always been on hand to help us with our events.

Variety House Ballarat

Because Home is Where the Heart is

Variety was approached by Michael Brooks, Director of award winning Dimension Homes, with the idea of building and auctioning a home to help raise money for children in need. The three bedroom 'Mandalay' is located in one of the up and coming suburbs of Ballarat. This house comes with everything you need to move in straight away or keep as a great investment property. With the help of the Variety community the house will be sold in the coming months with Variety pledging to invest funds back into the local Ballarat community. We aim to raise over \$150,000.

Variety would like thank the voluntary project committee that included long-term Variety supporters and Bash participants Michael Brooks, Graeme Donoghue, Glen Bromley and Variety Board Member Claire Heaney.

Variety House Project Supporters

- ♥ Autex Insulation
- ♥ Ballarat and District Roller Doors
- ♥ Ballarat Associated Plasterers
- ♥ Ballarat Soil Test
- ♥ Ballarat Toyota
- ♥ Beaumont Tiles
- ♥ Bendigo Bank
- ♥ Body Corp Australia
- ♥ Bromleys Plumbing and Construction
- ♥ Brook's Trailer
- ♥ Dahlsens Building Supplies
- ♥ Delta Floor World
- ♥ DH Bricklaying

- ♥ Dimension Homes
- ♥ Energy Lab
- ♥ Eureka Concrete
- ♥ Glemgas
- ♥ GT Heating and Cooling
- ♥ Haymes Paints
- ♥ H Studios
- ♥ Kado Property Developments
- ♥ Laminex
- ♥ M.Q.Tiling
- ♥ MBAV
- ♥ Midway Garden & Concrete Supplies
- ♥ MTM Mindows
- ♥ Palmer Hire
- ♥ Plumbing Supplies Co Op
- ♥ PRD Ballarat
- ♥ Promax Services
- ♥ Reece Plumbing - Ballarat
- ♥ Rinnai Australia
- ♥ Robot Trading
- ♥ Schaefer Antennas
- ♥ Selkirk Bricks
- ♥ Shepheard Electrical
- ♥ Sita Environmental
- ♥ Sovereign Press
- ♥ Tim Clarke Bobcat Hire
- ♥ TJ Coutts Electrical
- ♥ Total Fleet Imaging
- ♥ V&G Roofing
- ♥ Valley Maintenance





We're a team!

Variety Victoria partners with other Variety Tents from across Australia to maximise our reach and to engage with national brands and companies.



National Partnerships

Variety - the Children's Charity is blessed with the support of many companies on both a National and State level. From small to large company sponsors - we are grateful to each and every one of you.

We would like to acknowledge the support of our National partners who support Variety through workplace giving, staff volunteering, event sponsorship, cause related joint marketing campaigns, fundraising and providing goods in kind.

Thank You

- ♥ Altis Consulting
- ♥ Aroona Springs Water
- ♥ Australian Traffic Network
- ♥ Charter Hall
- ♥ FGX
- ♥ Gloria Jeans
- ♥ Hipp
- ♥ Hoyts
- ♥ iSentia
- ♥ Kmart
- ♥ Seeley International
- ♥ Tyres 4 U
- ♥ Woolworths Australia



Meet Aian

Aian is a non-verbal 12 year old boy with Autism , developmental delay and intellectual disability.

Aian's iPad with specially installed software will assist him to communicate and participate at home and at school.



Variety Foundation

Variety Victoria is excited to have established its own Foundation that will help secure our long term sustainability. The Foundation offers the opportunity for donors to contribute to the Foundation whilst having the comfort that they are leaving a lasting legacy. We aim to have funds earned from the Foundation investments to be distributed through our funding programs.

Leaving a lasting legacy to Variety

Leaving a bequest is one of the most personal ways that you can support our work and, for some, it is an opportunity to make a gift that you may not otherwise be able to make during your lifetime.

Large or small, every gift is greatly appreciated and helps us make a real difference to children in need.

A bequest (also known as a legacy) is a gift of money or assets that you leave through your Will. A bequest will enable us to provide long-term support through our programs and it is through your generosity we can ensure our work will continue.

Variety would like to acknowledge the generosity of the Estate of The Late Mr Dudley Adams and of the Estate of The Late Ms Audrey Appleton.

Through their generosity Variety are able to help more children live, laugh and learn now and into the future.

Jeffery White House - 10 years on

Jeffery White was a long-time supporter of Variety, and was a regular guest at signature functions such as the Great Grand Final Lunch.

After Jeffery passed away, his business partner Hank Span and his solicitor Lewis O'Brien identified Jeffery's respect of Variety as an appropriate means of distributing funds left in his Estate.

In September 2006 this commitment became a reality when Hank and Lewis presented Variety a cheque on behalf of Jeffery's memory for \$925,000 to be used by Variety to buy the Variety Victoria headquarters in Port Melbourne.

This act of generosity will also fund an annual Grant to be presented in Jeffery's name each year at a signature function.

In 2015, The Jeffery White Grant was used to provide Kalianna School Bendigo and its 210 students aged between 5-18 years with a new Sunshine Coach.

Variety Awards

Each year Variety – the Children's Charity presents the Heart of Football Award to a person in the football fraternity who has displayed outstanding commitment to Australian children. In honour of long term Variety supporter Tom Hafey, the award was renamed as the Tom Hafey Variety Heart of Football Award in 2014.

The winner of the 2015 Tom Hafey Variety Heart of Football Award is Eddie Betts of the Adelaide Crows Football Club for his amazing work mentoring youth in South Australia.



The Variety Young Sports Achiever Award is presented each year to a special young person who has overcome adversity to achieve an outstanding level of success in the sporting arena.

This year Variety was proud to present the Young Sports Achiever Award to wheelchair basketballer, Amy Flintoff. Amy participates in a weekly wheelchair basketball competition in Geelong which provides a team sporting opportunity for everyone to play in a competitive environment.



Community Fundraising

Route 66 Tour

Variety Victoria is thrilled to have partnered with Route 66 Tours to offer a special customised Route 66 Tour in May 2017.

This incredible customised tour from Chicago to Las Vegas focuses on the best bits of historic Route 66, stopping at all the major highlights. Participants can see and experience the best that America has to offer in a fully guided road trip. The crew from Route 66 Tours will guide you every mile and every minute of your drive from hotel to hotel. This is not just a tour... it's a journey of a life time!

Spring Racing Premierships

Congratulations to James McDonald who was crowned the 2015 Premier Spring Jockey AND Young Jockey of the Spring Racing Carnival Premierships, helping Variety to secure a \$36,000 donation as part of the prize pool.

The Spring Racing Carnival Premierships promote and celebrate excellence at the elite level whilst rewarding the Carnival's leading jockeys and trainers – along with their charity of choice.

Variety would like to thank Racing Victoria and the following jockeys who were riding for Variety: Craig Williams who came second and was a great supporter, giving up his time to visit Nepean Special School, Blake Shinn, Linda Meech and Stephen Baster as well as trainers Leon Corstens-Troy from Corstens/Corstens Racing.

Top Hat Appeal

The Variety Top Hat Appeal ran hot this year with corner collections at a massive 25 intersections over eight weekends with over one hundred and fifty volunteers raising over \$77,000!

As always, Variety volunteers fundraised in style, decked out in our iconic Variety top hats. Thousands of Victorian drivers tipped their hats, tooted their horns and dropped a gold coin to help kids in need. Huge thanks goes to all the Motoring Event Entrants and volunteers for achieving this outstanding result.

Miss World Australia

Each year, Variety is lucky to benefit from the passionate work of Miss World Australia contestants. The Miss World – Beauty With a Purpose program was developed to enable the contestants to raise funds for Variety during their journey towards their ultimate goal – being crowned Miss World.

The contestants have held all kinds of events, from bake sales to barbeques, and with each passing year we see more fresh faces with fresh and innovative ideas – it's always a treat to speak to the girls and find out what kind of wonderful things they're planning.

This year, Miss World Australia contestants raised an incredible total of \$280,347 across the country.

25th Variety Bash

We've come a long way! Since the first Variety Vic Bash in 1992 we have travelled over 100,000 kilometres and raised over \$21.5 million for children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs.

The 2015 Variety Bash celebrated many milestones. It was the 25th event for Variety Victoria AND it raised a record \$1.54 million thanks to the efforts of over 300 entrants and officials.

The 25th anniversary Variety Bash departed from Craigieburn Sporting Club on a journey that would travel 4,600kms finishing in Port Douglas.

Commencing on 12 August, the event travelled to Wagga Wagga in NSW and then onto Coonabarabran. From there, the Bash crossed into Queensland to stay in St George and Charleville as well as a two night stopover to enjoy all that Longreach has to offer (a highlight being a night at the Stockman's Hall of Fame).

From Longreach the journey continued to Hughenden and on to the inland oasis of Cobbold Gorge, which many Bashers had the thrill of touring by boat or helicopter. The next destination was Cooktown - somewhere the Bash had never travelled to in it's twenty five year history - before finishing with a huge celebration in Port Douglas.

The majority of places we visited on the 2015 route are experiencing difficult times through the ongoing drought and the Variety Bash is always a welcome visitor. As we travel through, a substantial amount of money is injected into local communities who really need it. We pride ourselves on working with community groups and assisting their work and our Bash entrants give out books, toys and sporting equipment, as well as providing colour and entertainment to local communities.

We were delighted to honour three entrants who have made an outstanding contribution to this event - completing ALL twenty five Variety Vic Bash journeys! Congratulations to Head of Mobile Workshops – Rob 'Towball' McCorkell, MW – Peter Scott and Bash entrant veteran – Bill Redpath.

Congratulations to our overall 2015 Variety Bash 'winners' - presented to the team that epitomises the Variety Bash - Car 17 Sesame Street.

2015 Variety Bash Highest Fundraisers were Car 55, Car 44 and Car 977 with the highest fundraising Rookie Award going to Car 242, David Bloomfield.

In 2016 the Variety Bash will head from Melbourne to Darwin.

Thanks to our sponsors, Kennards, Budget, Sheen Group, Isuzu Trucks, WM Waste Management, Seeley, Ambulance Victoria, MFB and Ryco Filters.





Did you know? In total our motoring events travelled 10,144 kms in 2015!



10th Brats Bash

In 2015, the Brats Bash celebrated its 10th year, "A Decade of Brats". Since 2006, the Brats Bash has enabled sons, daughters and grandchildren the opportunity to experience the Bash alongside their parents and grandparents. This unique event encourages philanthropy in children and young people, teaching them to help those less fortunate than themselves.

Our tenth event kicked off in Bendigo and travelled into New South Wales, visiting the outback towns of Balranald, Ivanhoe and Broken Hill along the way. Moving into South Australia, the Brats left the dry desert via Peterborough and hit the coast, visiting the beach towns of Marion Bay, Tanunda and Rob, before crossing the border back into Victoria and finishing in the city of Warrnambool.

The Brats Bash visited several schools along the journey. These visits give the local communities an opportunity to meet the Brats and likewise for the Brats to meet school children from rural backgrounds. At times there can be more Brats than local school children!

In celebrating ten years of the Brats, we recognise Julie Arnott, Cherry Ridout and Johnny "Cowboy" Paydon, who also celebrated their tenth Brats Bash events. The 2016 Brats Bash to "Birdsville and Back" leaves from Melbourne on the 29th of March, crossing four States before finishing in Swan Hill.

4WD Trek

The 2015 4WD Trek was another terrific motoring event on the Variety calendar, featuring four days of beach driving on Fraser Island. The Trek began in Wodonga at the Belvoir Special School where Trekkers entertained children with their nautically themed attire and 4WDs. The theme was also embraced by Belvoir, with many children wearing pirate costumes to cheer on the presentation of a Variety grant.

From Wodonga, the Trek entered NSW, affected by particularly severe weather, before crossing into Queensland, where the weather warmed up and we ventured onto some fantastic tracks snaking from Christmas Creek up to Noosa. Excitement grew in preparation for the ferry trip to Fraser Island, and four days of sand driving paradise - a highlight of the trip. Departing the island the Trek dropped into the Gympie Special School for some games before finishing the 2015 Variety 4WD Trek in Maleny, overlooking the spectacular Glasshouse Mountains. Along the way our fun loving entrants delighted children across the country and raised much needed funds for Variety.

Thank you again to all involved, especially our volunteer 4WD Trek Committee and sponsors Roof Extenda and Prestige Off-Road. We're looking forward to another great event in 2016, as we visit four states and cross the stunning Simpson Desert from the 16th to 28th of May.



Eat Street

Variety was thrilled to be the chosen charity for this year's Eat Street event which is held annually at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins.

Eat Street 2015 brought together some of Melbourne's best chefs and Australia's top wine and beverage companies for a delicious high profile charity event. Over 1,000 guests enjoyed entrée sized dishes from forty top chefs and drinks from over twenty five of our best wine and beverage companies.

The theme for the evening of food, wine, fun and fundraising was 'Around The World In Forty Dishes' to co-incide with the 40-year celebration of Variety in Australia. The event was held over three event spaces, each themed to reflect different regions of the world – the Grand Ballroom referenced the USA and Australia, the LaTrobe Ballroom had an Asian theme, while Sofi's Lounge was a postcard of Europe.

Eat Street would not be possible without the ongoing support from Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, Audio Visual Dynamics and Action Event Theming. Save the date for Eat Street 2016 – Tuesday, 24th May

Grand Final Lunch

The 2015 Variety AFL Great Grand Final Lunch welcomed a record 1,200 guests to Crown Palladium to celebrate the football season. We would like to thank those who attended, including all of our special guests, volunteers and of course our brilliant Variety children who all helped to make this year's Variety AFL Great Grand Final Lunch such a success!

Our special guests Nathan Buckley, Brenton Sanderson, Lenny Hayes, Eddie Betts and Kane Cornes were interviewed by 3AW's Tony Jones and MC Craig Willis, entertaining attendees with their football insights. A highlight of the lunch was having some of the special children Variety has supported and their families join us at the event. Variety Ambassador Pete Lazer introduced each of the children on stage and spoke with 16-year old Zoe who has multiple mobility issues as well as speech and vision impairment. The generosity of the families extending the time to present on stage demonstrated the true impact of Variety on children's lives to our guests and greatly assisted in fundraising on the day.

Our Celebrity Ambassadors Peter Lazer, Mike Larkan, Derryn Hinch, Wendy Stapleton, Lisa Edwards, Jack Levi and Mike Brady - thank you for your continued support. A big thank you also goes to our trusty auctioneer Simon Bones and our long-time photographers Frank Amato and Darren Pocock.



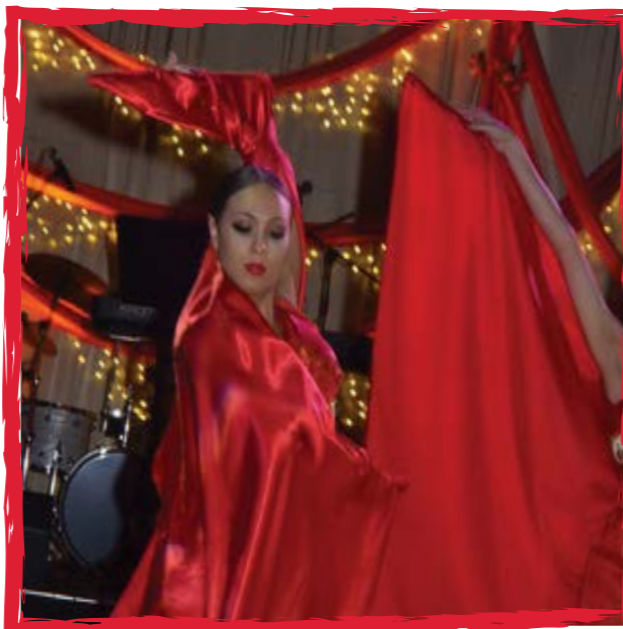
Santa Fun Run

Albert Park was a sea of red and white as hundreds of aspiring Variety Santas made their way around Melbourne's most famous lake for the Variety Santa Fun Run - the jolliest fun run in town!

The Variety Santa Fun Run invited all members of the community, including four legged family members, to run or walk 2km, 5km or 10km in their official Variety Santa suit.

Participants were encouraged to fundraise for their entry in the event to raise money for children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs. This year the proceeds supported children who require assistance dogs. The dogs, which cost \$30,000 each to train, provide children with special needs much needed mobility, confidence and self-esteem.

The Variety Santa Fun Run is a family-friendly national event promoting healthy lifestyle decisions and encourages inclusive participation from everyone.



a Monetary Affair

The Peninsula Ballroom looked spectacular as the doors opened to The Financial Services Foundation Monetary Affair Ball. With 'A Touch of the Orient' scattered across the room, and entertainment from our beautiful oriental dancers and ninjas, the guests were in awe.

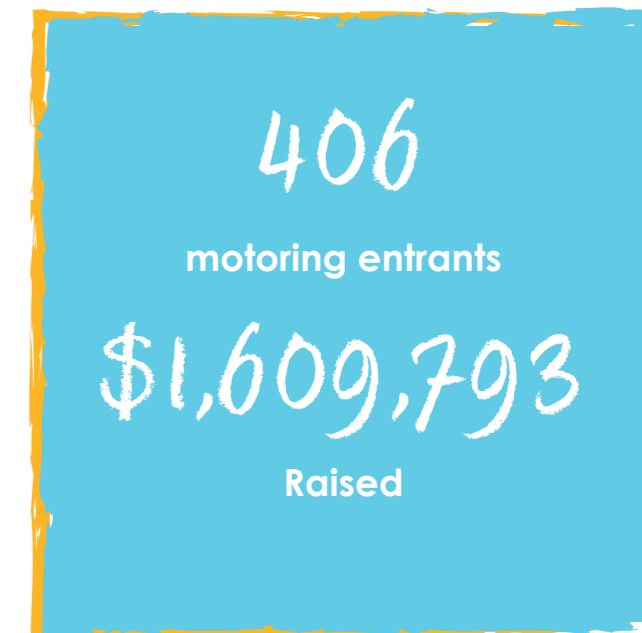
Thank you to those of you who attended and for your kind donations which were shared between Cottage by the Sea Queenscliff, Life Education, Bluearth Foundation and Variety.

We would also like to acknowledge our sponsors, James Boag's, Dromana Estate and Pro Light & Sound.

Thank you to the Financial Services Foundation Committee Members Richard Symon, Michael Randall OAM, Gavin Powell, John McDonough, Gary Suckling, Joe Galvez and Adam Reberia.



Our Events at a Glance



Thank You

- ♥ Brodie Young
- ♥ Craig Willis
- ♥ Cripps Family
- ♥ Darren James
- ♥ Darren Pocock
- ♥ David Mann OAM
- ♥ Derryn Hinch
- ♥ Dylan Alcott OAM
- ♥ Emily Pennington
- ♥ Frank Amato
- ♥ Gooding Foundation
- ♥ Greg Fisher
- ♥ Helen and Ian Cornish
- ♥ John "Cowboy" Paydon
- ♥ Dr. Ken Loughman AO
- ♥ Lisa Edwards
- ♥ Martin Stone
- ♥ Mike Brady
- ♥ Mike Larkan
- ♥ Norm Gibbs aka Zodo the Clown
- ♥ Pam Shephard
- ♥ Paul Herbert
- ♥ Paul Wheelton
- ♥ Peter Lazer
- ♥ Phill Dent
- ♥ Rhonda Hopper
- ♥ Scott Yeoman
- ♥ Simon Jones
- ♥ Tony Jones
- ♥ Wilbur Wilde

Personal Thanks To

Grants Committee

- ♥ Patricia Bourke
- ♥ Paul Herbert
- ♥ Craig Dent
- ♥ Associate Professor Noel Cranswick

Motoring Events Committee

- ♥ Gary Caddy
- ♥ Rod Collins
- ♥ Paul Dibb
- ♥ Murray Dunkinson
- ♥ Paul Herbert
- ♥ Kerry Nette
- ♥ Lachie Pitman
- ♥ Ken Pryor
- ♥ Martin Stone

4WD Trek Committee

- ♥ Wayne Daisley
- ♥ Corinne Dunkinson
- ♥ Murray Dunkinson
- ♥ Margaret Wolstencroft

Brats Bash Committee

- ♥ Julie Arnott
- ♥ Paul Herbert
- ♥ Ross Mackintosh
- ♥ Jason McKenzie
- ♥ John 'Cowboy' Paydon
- ♥ Cherry Ridout
- ♥ Steve Smith

Key Partners

- ♥ AFL
- ♥ Are You Selling
- ♥ Australian Motoring Festival
- ♥ Beloka Water
- ♥ Charter Hall
- ♥ City of Melbourne
- ♥ Craigieburn Sporting Club
- ♥ Crown
- ♥ DFO
- ♥ Dimension Homes
- ♥ Dromana Cellars
- ♥ Etihad Airways
- ♥ Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
- ♥ The McEwen Foundation
- ♥ Future Generation Investment Company (FGX)
- ♥ Gloria Jeans
- ♥ hiPP
- ♥ iSentia Media
- ♥ Kilmore Racing Club
- ♥ Kmart
- ♥ Miss World Australia
- ♥ Pro Light and Sound
- ♥ Racing Victoria
- ♥ Route 66 Tours
- ♥ Royal Tivoli Jewellers
- ♥ Ryco Filters
- ♥ Sheen Panel Service
- ♥ Sofitel Melbourne on Collins
- ♥ Tyres 4 U
- ♥ DLA Piper
- ♥ Woolworths Australia

Supporters

- ♥ Australian Traffic Network
- ♥ Altis Consulting
- ♥ Anytime Fitness
- ♥ AP EAgers
- ♥ Aroona Springs Water
- ♥ Australian Pipers Association
- ♥ Australian Toy Association
- ♥ Bee's Knee's Australia
- ♥ Caltex Kalkallo
- ♥ Cassandra Gantner Foundation

- ♥ CharityBid
- ♥ City Kids Early Learning Center
- ♥ Cocobird
- ♥ Dynamic Tyres
- ♥ Entertainment Book
- ♥ Flinders Wharf
- ♥ Funde
- ♥ Grill'd South Melbourne
- ♥ Hayes Knight
- ♥ Haymes Paint
- ♥ Hoyts
- ♥ Huntingdale Sound & Lighting
- ♥ HWL Ebsworth Lawyers
- ♥ Joch Motors
- ♥ LeasePlan
- ♥ Logistic Events Australia
- ♥ NAB Corporate Volunteering
- ♥ Rebel Sport
- ♥ Runners World Magazine
- ♥ State Trustees Victoria
- ♥ The Fundraising Center
- ♥ Tied Together
- ♥ Total Fleet Imaging
- ♥ Trans Gears & Diffs
- ♥ Valley Maintenance Services
- ♥ Victoria Police
- ♥ W&P Truck Services
- ♥ Wheelton Group



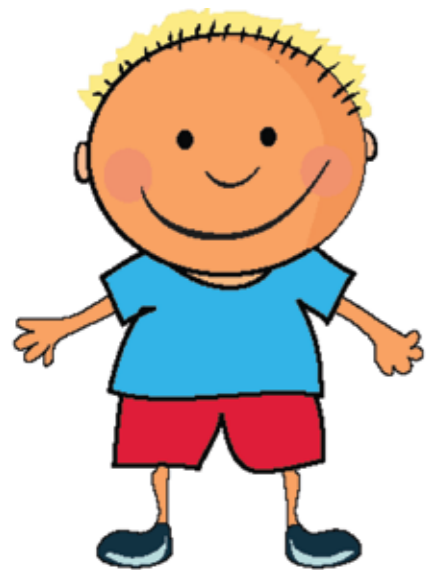
Motoring Event Supporters

- ♥ Kennards Hire
- ♥ Budget
- ♥ Isuzu Trucks
- ♥ Ambulance Victoria
- ♥ Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFB)
- ♥ Sheen Panel Services
- ♥ Seeley International
- ♥ Ryco Filters
- ♥ WM Waste Management Services
- ♥ Roof Extenda
- ♥ Prestige Off-Road

Special thanks to all of the companies that contributed to the fit out of Variety's Official Event Vehicle, OV1.

- ♥ Airflow
- ♥ Ashdown Ingram
- ♥ Autosafe
- ♥ Blackmans
- ♥ Burg
- ♥ CRS
- ♥ ECB Bullbars
- ♥ Eclipse
- ♥ Exide
- ♥ Fyrlt
- ♥ Ironman
- ♥ Melbourne City Toyota
- ♥ Patterson Cheney Toyota
- ♥ Piranha
- ♥ Powertech
- ♥ Prestige Offroad
- ♥ Rideprod
- ♥ Signwave Campbellfield
- ♥ Tanami Drawer Systems
- ♥ TC Cheapest Tyres
- ♥ Total Fleet Imaging
- ♥ Tradesman
- ♥ Uniden
- ♥ Warn

Thank you!



Major Supporters



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