

# VIC ANNUAL REVIEW 2016



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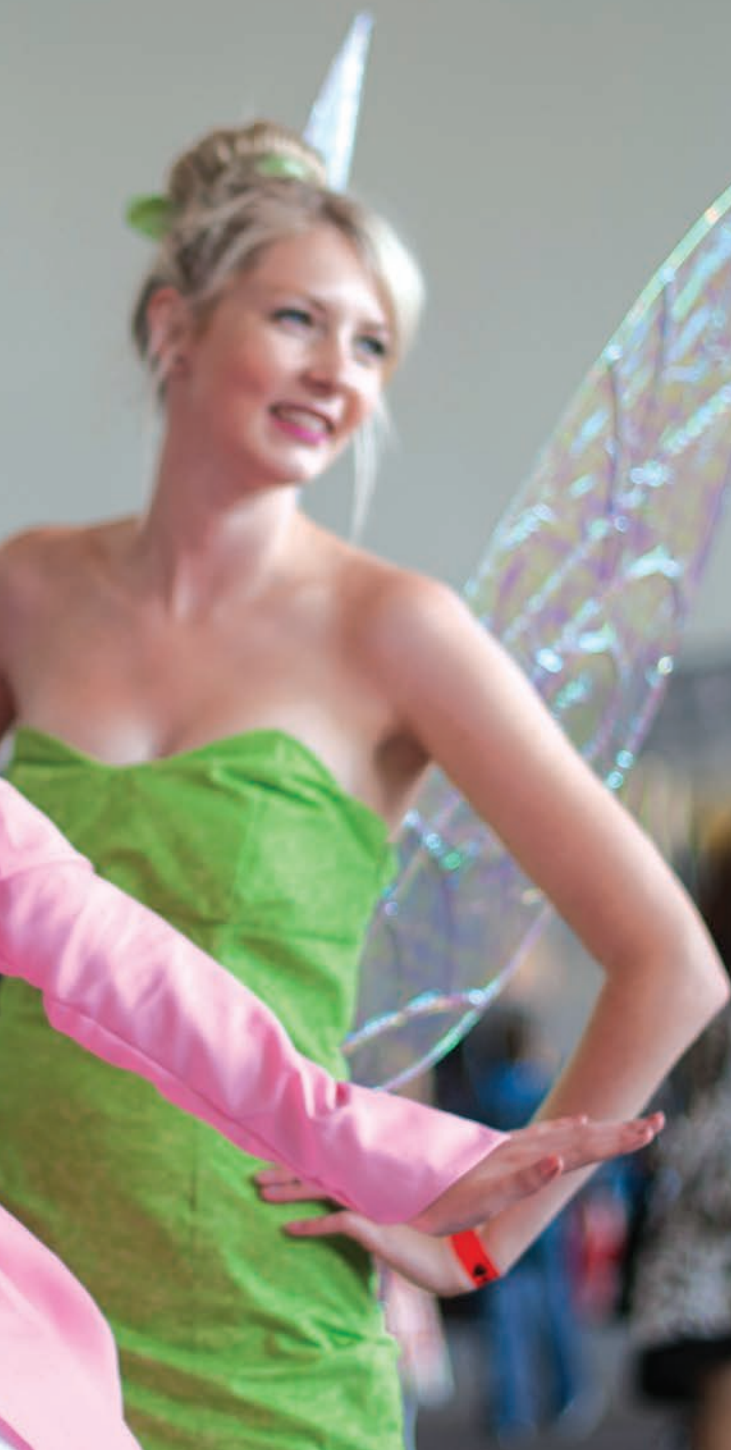
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# OUR YEAR

Looking back at the year that was,  
we reflect on what has been achieved  
and look ahead to focus on our future.





## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

# RICHARD SYMON

The pleasure of assisting those less fortunate than ourselves, particularly disadvantaged and disabled children, brings with it an innate compulsion to do more and do better. As my term as "Chief Barker" of Tent 77 (Victoria) draws to an end, I can't help thinking, could I have done more or done better?

Through 2016 the link between Board Members and staff has developed well, allowing cohesion in pursuing the strategic plan developed earlier this year.

Our Goals are to:

1. Source funds so we can make significant appeals;
2. Produce "Must Attend" events to drive our source of funds;
3. Build sustainable and diverse fundraising programs;
4. Develop new and innovative ideas;
5. Build a high profile name; and
6. Secure an efficient team of Volunteers, Staff and Board members to extend our reach and impact.

The aim is to work towards providing \$2,000,000 in grants per year, by the year 2020 and we are definitely heading in the right direction with \$1.2m granted in the 2016 year.



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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The development of the Variety Foundation is now bearing fruit aided by a number of direct donations and bequests.

Our aim with the Foundation is to have the returns from the investment portfolio covering the operating costs of the organisation, so that the grant ratio can move firmly towards 100%; meaning all revenue received, less the costs of hosting events, are granted to children in need.

The matrix of Board Member skills and experience is now diverse, covering many business requirements. We have also linked the skills of members of the Board with members of staff so that the initiatives of volunteer directors are progressed on a daily basis.

Areas such as fundraising, sponsorships, major donations and bequests, marketing and communications, events, the Foundation, finance, and grants, are overseen by directors working with staff within the office.

Under the CEO's watch, the relationship between the Board and the office has been harmonised and I am grateful to Janette Connolly and her team for adapting to this initiative.

Thank you for your support and efforts in contributing to another successful year.

Richard Symon, Chairman

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

## JANETTE CONNOLLY

The past 12 months has seen Variety – the Children's Charity achieve some fantastic fundraising results. Our 4WD Trek was the biggest ever with 22 cars travelling across our great country, raising \$145,000 for children in need and our iconic Variety Bash brought in an incredible \$1.3 million. We thank all of our passionate fundraisers for their unwavering dedication to our cause.

But what do these results really mean for children in need? They mean real change in children's lives.

For Jasper it was a standing frame, for Reilly an assistance dog, for Brodie a modified trike, for Jackson a Hi-Lo Bed.

Each one of these children received equipment that made their lives, and in turn the lives of their families, better.

These children's lives were changed because of our supporters, who opened their hearts and their wallets, allowing Variety to facilitate grants to over 300 children in the last 12 months.

On behalf of those children, I say thank you.

Some of our other great successes this year came in the form of our Variety International Award Winners. These awards are presented every year to individuals and organisations who have gone above and beyond to assist Variety Victoria.





## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

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This year, Variety – the Children’s Charity International’s highest honour - the Presidential Citation – was awarded to Sue and Hugh Ibbotson who have been involved with Variety for around 15 years as Bash entrants. Hugh and Sue are also dedicated volunteers at our events including the annual Variety Children’s Christmas Party.

Secondly, the Variety International Corporate Award was presented to Rod Stoller from Logistic Events Australia. Rod has been producing our annual Children’s Christmas Party for the past 15 years along with other events such as the Santa Fun Run and Grand Final Lunch. Rod also tries to ensure that any event his company is working on engages Variety as a charity partner.

And last but not least the Variety International Media Award was awarded to Porter Novelli who assisted us with our promotion of the Ilyasah Shabazz tour in October 2015.

This small snapshot of our year demonstrates some of the incredible accomplishments our supporters and our team have achieved for children who are sick, disadvantaged or who have special needs. I invite you to join us in one of our fundraising activities or events in the next 12 months so you too can be part of ongoing change in these incredible children’s lives.

I look forward to leading the Variety Victoria team into 2017 and facing the challenges that the year ahead will bring.

Janette Connolly, CEO



## OUR MISSION

To empower Victorian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs to live, laugh and learn.

## OUR VISION

For all Victorian children to attain their full potential regardless of ability or background.



## VARIETY PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

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### Variety Freedom Program

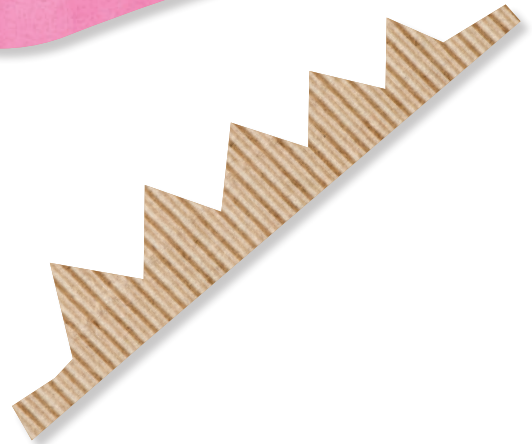
Through our Freedom Program, Variety helps children gain independence by providing financial support for mobility equipment, positioning and in-home care needs.

### Variety Future Kids Program

Through our Future Kids Program, Variety helps children realise their potential by providing financial support for education and communication equipment. This also includes Variety's Scholarship Program, helping children achieve their academic, sports or arts potential.

### Variety Caring for Kids Program

Through our Caring for Kids Program, Variety helps care for sick children by providing medical items and equipment.



# OUR IMPACT

Variety aims to fill the gaps in support to ensure all children have the best possible opportunity to attain their full potential, regardless of ability or background. Let's review the impact we have had on children and families in VIC over the last year.







## OUR IMPACT - VARIETY AUSTRALIA

### OUR IMPACT

**\$9,959,010**

worth of grants approved across Australia in 2016

**100,519**

children directly  
impacted by  
Variety across  
Australia in 2016

Variety's programs ensure  
immediate needs are met  
for families doing it tough.

**1,134**

applications approved  
for individuals and  
organisations

Having their needs met opens up opportunities for new experiences leading to increased enjoyment and fun for children who might not otherwise have access to these experiences.

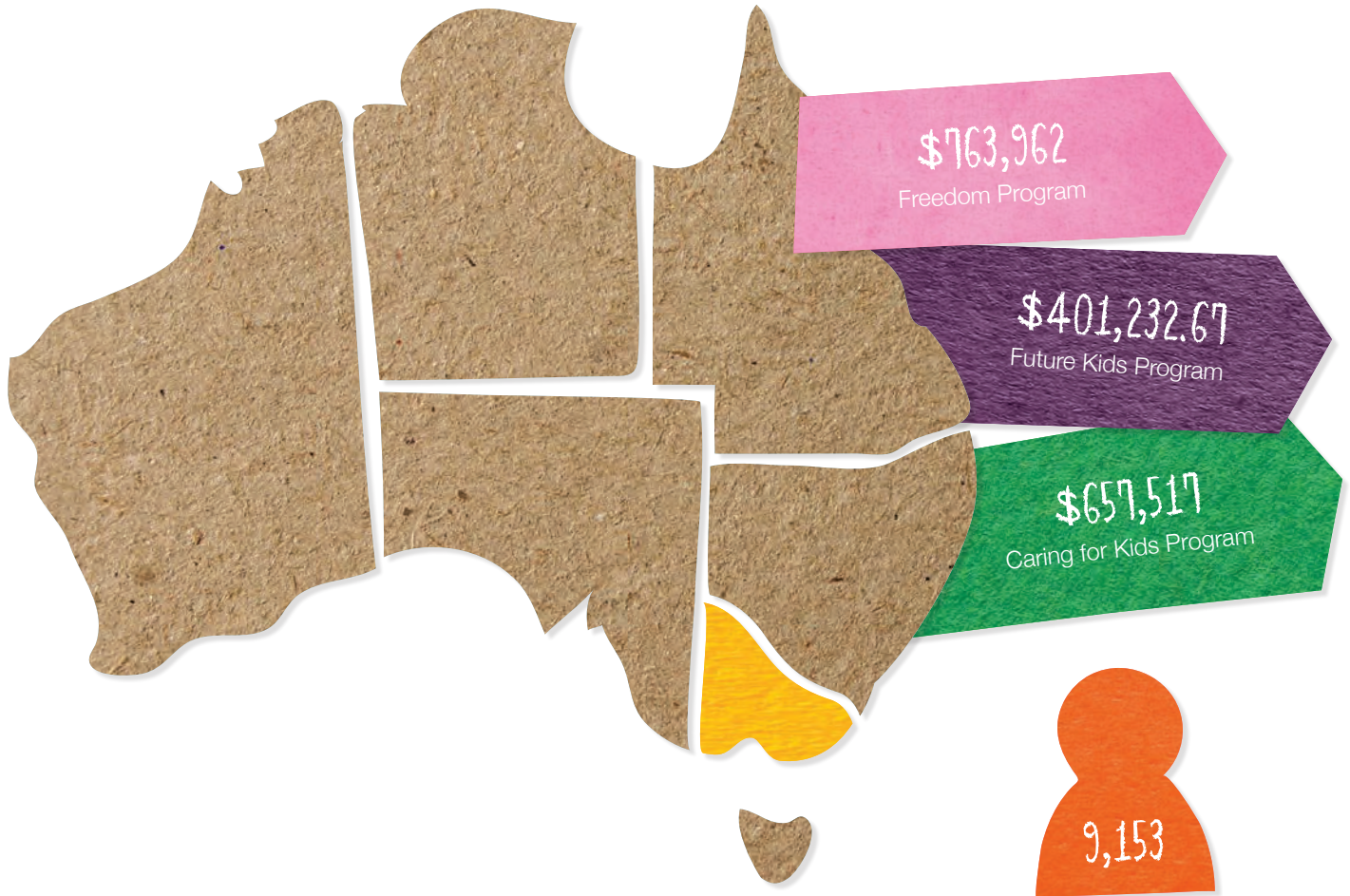
A child's ability to participate with their peers and family improves social connections, their feelings of inclusion and ultimate equality with their peers.

Medical and therapeutic interventions improve a child's development, long-term health outcomes and overall wellbeing.



\$1,244,529

Total amount granted in 2016



Children in VIC  
directly impacted in 2016



## VIC FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

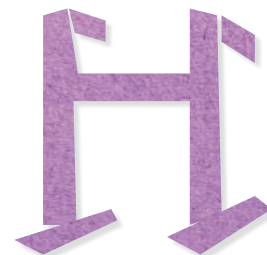
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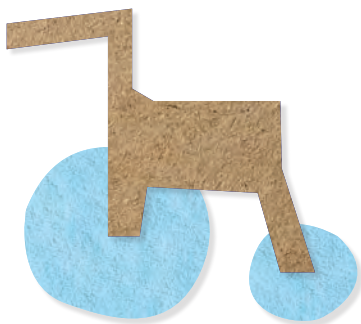
8 Scholarships



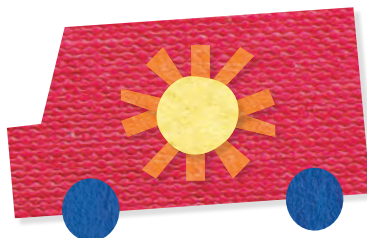
11 iPads



8 Standing Frames



8 Wheelchairs



4 Sunshine Coaches



11 Bikes and Trikes



4 Assistance Dogs









A young boy in a plaid cap and orange shirt is looking up at falling confetti. An adult's hand is visible behind him, and a red structure is in the background.

# OUR STORIES

Every child is unique with their own gifts and abilities — that's what makes them special. These are some of the children we have been lucky enough to meet this year.



## BENJAMIN

Diagnosed with a rare chromosome disorder and Cerebral Palsy, two year old Ben has a difficult time controlling his head and torso. Until Variety provided a Carrot Car Seat for Ben and his family, they were having a tough time getting him in and out of the car. Now, thanks to the swivel base on the car seat, Ben's carers can get him in and out of the car safely, making car trips and life a whole lot easier!











## FLEUR

Fleur lives with Rett Syndrome, characterised by a loss of fine motor skills. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, Variety was able to provide Fleur with a dynamic X-Panda chair, which helps hold her body upright while allowing her to explore a range of healthy movement. The chair can also be raised and lowered, which means Fleur can be correctly supported while enjoying cooking with her family or playing with toys on the floor.



# REILLY

Global Developmental Delay affects 10 year old Reilly in many ways. He is non-verbal and easily overwhelmed, becoming extremely anxious and agitated in situations that other children his age would find inconsequential. Since Variety funded an Assistance Dog for Reilly, his family have seen a marked improvement. Reilly now sleeps through the night, with Jason the lab by his side. As Reilly gets older and starts school, Jason will give him the independence he needs to take part in activities with other children his age, minimising his need for constant individualised support.





Courtesy of Leader Community News







## BRODIE

Cheeky young Brodie is completely dependent on his parents for all of his daily activities due to a number of physical and intellectual disabilities. When Variety provided Brodie with a modified trike, it enabled him to go on outings with his family. Brodie has recently started pedalling on his own, which his family were thrilled to see as it means mobility and independence are in reach for their son.





Under resourced, the school has not had new readers for almost ten years.

That's why we were thrilled to pay a visit during the 2016 Variety Bash to present the school with a grant allowing them to purchase 50 brand new readers plus a reading comprehension kit that targets literacy in children from Prep to Grade 3.



# MILDURA SPECIALIST SCHOOL



As the only specialist facility in the area, Mildura Specialist School is a major resource for all local students with an intellectual disability between the ages of five and eighteen years old. Students are taught in small groups by teaching staff, and supported by teacher assistants. Looking to brighten their play, Variety Bash entrants visited Mildura Specialist School to present them with a Magic Carpet – an interactive floor projection system which is portable and can be programmed to meet a range of needs in the school environment. It responds to touch and movement, encouraging and helping to develop motor control (and it's a whole lot of fun!)





# OUR PEOPLE

Variety has a strong community of people who make our work possible. Through the support of our staff, volunteers, fundraisers, committees and Board, Variety continues to grow and together we can make a difference in the lives of children and their families.







## VOLUNTEERS



We couldn't do what we do without our faithful troop of volunteers who give up countless hours to help us in the office, on the road and at events. From the team at Variety Victoria, we send our most heartfelt thanks to each and every one of our volunteers for being so generous with their time to help Aussie kids be kids.



600

Volunteers



4000

Volunteer hours given



## COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS



RENEE'S  
GOT BACK

26 year old Renee is all about giving back while she is on the road to her own recovery!

After a car accident 7 years ago, Renee was left with both a bulging and compressed disc in her lower back. Regular physiotherapy, clinical pilates and personal training kept her pretty well until recently when the injury returned.

While waiting for an appointment with a neurosurgeon to see if surgery was necessary, Renee decided it was time to re-build her strength. Variety was the inspiration she needed to start her own fundraising challenge.

Only allowed very light exercise her plan was to start walking a set number of kilometres per day for the next 6 weeks- starting at 1km per day for the first week and increasing it by a kilometre each week. At the end of the 6 weeks Renee would be walking 6km each day – a huge accomplishment considering her back injury - to raise money for the Variety Freedom program.

Sharing her story and challenge online with family, friends and her very supportive workplace, Renee was thrilled to raise \$1280 for kids in need.

READY FOR  
THE CHOP!



When Keith Jr. decided to cut his beautiful flowing locks he thought to himself – why not try and raise some money at the same time.

After growing his hair for 4 years and a target of \$1000 to reach before making the chop, Keith put out his idea to family and friends.

So far Keith has raised \$2,210.56 with donations still coming through.

Congratulations Keith on your amazing efforts!







A child in a blue t-shirt is holding a two-part sign. The sign has a teal top section with the title 'OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES' and a yellow bottom section with a paragraph of text. The child's shirt has a circular badge that says 'Variety Children's Christmas Party'. The background is a blurred crowd of people at an event.

## OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Variety knows how to host a good event! Through our signature events like the Bash, the Santa Fun Run and Variety AFL Great Grand Final Lunch, we come together with our community of supporters to raise money for Victorian children and their families.



## OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

# BASH

260 entrants

67 cars



4600km

The Variety Bash – Australia's favourite motoring event – allows you to experience the impact of your fundraising dollars at work as part of the journey! The 2016 Variety Bash started at the Queen Victoria Market, travelling North West to Mildura, visiting iconic Australian places such as Coober Pedy and Katherine en route to their final destination – Darwin.

"It was the best experience with amazing people and places, I can't wait to go again next year"

\$1,300,000



## OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

51 entrants

24 Cars



3900km

4WD TREK

12 days

Twenty four vehicles lined up at Kalianna Specialist School in Bendigo for the start of the 2016 4WD Trek – "Crossing the Simpson Desert". We were delighted to present a new Sunshine Coach to Kalianna which will assist in creating more opportunities for school outings for their students.

\$145,000 raised





## BRATS BASH

14 cars

In 2016, the Variety Brats Bash, coined "Birdsville and Back", departed from Kilmore and travelled through rural towns in Victoria and New South Wales such as Jerilderie and Lake Cargelligo. The Brats were treated to a real outback station experience, where they headed to Trilby and Kilcowera Stations before driving into 'Burke & Wills' country en-route to Birdsville. After conquering Big Red, the Brats then embarked on a two day journey of the infamous Birdsville Track, before finishing up in Swan Hill.

28 children

48 entrants

3980km

"Trip notes in hand, 15kg of lollies and headed to Birdsville and the unknown – what a great family holiday."



## OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

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Each year, our volunteers don their top hats and take to the streets, manning intersections right across the state throughout February and March to raise money for Victorian kids in need. In 2016, our annual Top Hat Appeal raised over \$100,000, a record which we look forward to surpassing in 2017!







## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY




The annual Variety Children's Christmas Party gives children who have special needs, disabilities or who are from a low socio-economic background, the opportunity to experience all the wonders of Christmas – something their families may not necessarily have the means to provide. The Party brings together families from all walks of life in a safe, understanding and friendly environment, where they can be themselves without the fear of being judged.



Santa and his helpers are on hand to make the Party a memorable experience for everyone involved and to ensure that every single child receives a present to take home with them at the end of the day!







CHARITY OF  
CHOICE



## CHARITY OF CHOICE

In 2016, nationally the  
contestants raised  
\$270,000 to help  
Aussie kids  
be kids!



## MISS WORLD AUSTRALIA

Through the empowerment of the Beauty with a Purpose program, hundreds of millions of dollars have now been raised to benefit those most vulnerable in our society. The Miss World contestants have set up Beauty with a Purpose projects in more than 100 countries. This gives tens of thousands of young women every year, the opportunity to use their abilities to make a real and lasting contribution to the lives of those less fortunate.



CHARITY OF CHOICE

# EAT STREET



In 2016, Eat Street took us on a journey into a food and beverage wonderland, bringing together Melbourne's best chefs and Australia's top wine & beverage companies, such as Estelle, Captain Baxter, Tonka & Coda and No.35 at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins. Guests sampled unique entrée sized signature dishes from our finest local restaurants at their leisure as they enjoyed live entertainment throughout the venue.







The background of the page is a photograph of people in costumes. On the left, a person is wearing a bright orange costume. In the center, a hand is raised, wearing a pink glove. On the right, a person is wearing a dark, textured costume. The overall scene suggests a festive or theatrical event.

# OUR PARTNERS

Variety Victoria would like to thank all of our supporters for their generous contributions to assisting children who are sick, disadvantaged or who have special needs to live, laugh and learn.



# THE MELBOURNE MAGIC FESTIVAL

In 2016, a team of magical magicians from The Melbourne Magic Festival chose to raise funds for Variety while they set a new world record for the longest non-stop magic show in history. Staged at Dane Certificate's Magic Theatre in Brunswick, the show ran from 6.30am Friday June 10 to 7.30pm Monday June 13 — that's a whopping 85 hours straight!

Thanks to generous donations from their audience, the magicians raised over \$2600 for Variety during the show. Our thanks go to Dom Chambers and the team from The Melbourne Magic Festival for making magic and raising funds for Victorian kids in need.



## OUR PARTNERS

### SHEEN GROUP

Variety is fortunate to have the support of Sheen Group through Director, Martin Stone, who has been participating in the annual Variety Vic Bash since 1998. As a leading fundraiser, Martin has taken out the coveted Top Hat Award a number of times. Sheen Group supports community and charity groups that help improve the lives of people in the areas they serve and beyond. In addition to his involvement in the Bash, Martin regularly hosts Sheen staff at our corporate events, supplies us with auction and raffle prizes and supports us through our Top Hat Appeal.



## OUR PARTNERS

### ASPECT PERSONNEL

Now in its fourth year, the PACE Survey has become the most comprehensive research into Victorian Planning, Architecture, Construction, Engineering and Surveying industries.

The Survey is run and managed by the team at Aspect Personnel and this year, the survey raised over \$11,500 for Variety programs.

"We were thrilled for the opportunity to collaborate with Variety and use our annual PACE Survey to raise money for this awesome cause. Being able to provide tangible, life-changing items for the children that Variety works with has been such a rewarding experience for all of us at Aspect. We're looking forward to continuing this relationship and helping Victoria's children lead the lives they deserve."

Matthew Sampson  
Managing Director of Aspect Personnel



## MAJOR PARTNERS



## MEDIA PARTNERS





## 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.

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

Future Generation Investment  
Company (FGX)

iSentia

Aroona Springs Water

Gloria Jeans Coffee

Miss World Australia

Australian Traffic Network

Hipp

Seeley International

Charter Hall

Hoyts

Tyres 4 U

Club Clipsal

Woolworths Australia



## SUPPORTERS

Anytime Fitness Port Melbourne

AP Eagers

Aspect Personnel

Australian Toy Association

Bee's knee's Australia

Caltex Kalkallo

Camberwell Electrics

Cocobird

Entertainment Book

Flinders Wharf

Grill'd South Melbourne

Hoyts

Huntingdale Sound & Lighting

Jack Rabbit Vineyard

LeasePlan

Lombard

Melbourne Storm

Moore Stephens

Moss Creek Moonshine

Mr Motto

NAB Corporate Volunteering

Nexia Melbourne

Otherside Productions

Rebel Sport

Runners World Magazine

State Trustees Victoria

The Fundraising Centre

Total Fleet Imaging

Valley Maintenance Services

Victoria Police

Water Rat Hotel  
South Melbourne

Wheelton Group

## MOTORING EVENT SUPPORTERS

Ambulance Victoria

Budget

Isuzu Trucks

Joch Motors

Kennards Hire

Metropolitan Fire and Emergency  
Services Board (MFB)

Patterson Cheney Dandenong  
Service Department

Prestige Off-Road

Resto My Ride

Roof Extenda

Ryco Filters

Seeley International

Sheen Group

Trans Gears & Diffs

WM Waste Management Services



## VARIETY VICTORIA BOARD MEMBERS

Richard Symon

*Chief Barker*

Paul Manning

*Treasurer*

Vito Interlandi

*Secretary*

Gary Caddy

*Crew Member*

Steve Donnellon

*Crew Member*

Claire Heaney

*Crew Member*

Peter Kent

*Crew Member*

Gary Peck

*Crew Member*

Ken Pryor

*Crew Member*

Nicholas Pullen

*Crew Member*

Michael Randall

*OAM Crew Member*

Martin Stone

*Crew Member*

## A HEARTFELT THANKS TO...

Alexis Daish

Angela Pippas

Brodie Young

Craig Willis

Cripps Family

Darren Pocock

David Mann OAM

Derryn Hinch

Dylan Alcott OAM

Emily Pennington

Frank Amato

Greg Fisher

Helen and Ian Cornish

John "Cowboy" Paydon

Jose Dimenstein

Mike Brady

Mike Larkan

Norm Gibbs aka  
Zodo the Clown

Pam Shephard

Paul Wheelton

Pete Lazer

Rod Stoller

The Dent Family

Wendy Stapleton

Wilbur Wilde



## GRANTS COMMITTEE

Associate Professor  
Noel Cranswick  
Ken Pryor

## MOTORING EVENTS COMMITTEE

Gary Caddy  
Rod Collins APM OAM  
Paul Dibb  
Murray Dunkinson  
Lachie Pitman  
Ken Pryor  
Martin Stone

## 4WD TREK COMMITTEE

Wayne Daisley  
Corinne Dunkinson  
Murray Dunkinson  
Margaret Wolstencroft  
Alun Bull

## BRATS BASH COMMITTEE

Jason Mckenzie  
John "Cowboy" Paydon  
Danny Morrison  
Courtney Lowry  
Madison Dibb







THANK YOU!





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