

Variety Bash Welcome Kit



Why the Variety Bash?

Australia's largest and longest running charity motoring event – much imitated, never bettered!

The Variety Bash is not a race or a rally, it's a fun and social event, or in the words of the originator Dick Smith, 'A drive in the outback with a few mates' in cars that are at least 30 years old (with an awesome theme!).

The Bash is a once in a lifetime chance to experience remote and regional parts of Australia that you might otherwise not see, all in support of Variety – the Children's Charity.

Throughout the Bash, participants visit local towns, stopping into schools and organisations to visit the kids. Bashers get to see the direct impact of their fundraising efforts along the way, with a range of educational, health and mobility equipment provided to local schools and organisations en route.

The event is all about having fun in support of Aussie kids. There are always festivities along the way, from theme nights to entertainment and other activities and games on the road.



The History of the Bash

A Drive In The Outback With A Few Mates

1985

The Variety Bash started in 1985, when entrepreneur and adventurer Dick Smith took a group of intrepid motorists from Bourke NSW to Bourketown Queensland in old cars, raising \$250,000 for charity along the way.

Dick had friends from all walks of life – from multi-millionaires to battlers – and the event was his idea of a great equalizer. Touted as “a drive in the outback with a few mates”, Dick made sure everyone was on a level playing field – all cars had to be over 30 years old and non performance modified, a sentiment the Variety Bash retains today.

TODAY

Since that first event, over 108,000 kms have been travelled on the Variety Vic Bash and over \$23 million has been raised, changing the lives of thousands of children across Australia



Why the Variety Bash?

Often imitated, never bettered

The Variety Bash is the ORIGINAL and the best! Here's a few reasons why you should take part in the journey of a lifetime!



Helping kids in need

Joining the Variety Bash is such a rewarding way to help kids in need. You'll experience first-hand the joy of making a big difference to a child's life. Our charity event is RUN by the charity, ensuring funds go where they are needed.



On road support

The Variety Bash Mobile Workshops are ready to help you and your crew take on the outback! In the lead up to the event our team will advise and assist you in preparing your car before our Mobile Workshop Weekends. Our safety record is 100% – we never leave anyone behind!



Fundraising

From the Variety Raffle to the Top Hat Appeal corner collections, Variety are here to help you get to your fundraising goal (\$7000 or \$5000 for first timers)! With 4 in a crew that's just \$1250 each! [Download our fundraising guide](#) for loads of ideas to kick off your fundraising, and don't forget we're here to support you along the way!

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Fun stops

There's so much fun along the way! The Variety Bash is famous for its impromptu fun stops run by entrants on roadsides across outback Australia! Nothing like the sight of a Smurf playing cricket in the desert, watergun fights or enjoying a prawn on the barbie and fun and games incredibly remote and beautiful places!



Bash Cars to go!

There's those of us who love building Bash cars from the ground up and those of us who just want to theme up, jump in and go!

Need a Bash Car? **Restore your own 30 year+ classic or [check out our Bash Cars for sale!](#)**



A real community

Join us at one of our monthly Bash get togethers in Melbourne to meet your 2017 Variety Bash fellow crews and share tips and stories along the way!

What they're saying...

"Well, we did it! The Variety Vic Bash in support of Variety - the Children's Charity Victoria....Melbourne to Fraser Island. We arrived home yesterday and Car 73 will soon be freighted back to Melbourne having left it in Brisbane for the flight home. What an incredible trip. We saw parts of Australia you would never get to see. We laughed our way across 3 states. We met some amazing people. We had dinner with the Governor General. We had a beer in pop up pubs in the middle of nowhere. We drove through remote and stunning areas. We've seen enough dust, dirt roads and logging tracks that would break most cars! Most importantly - and thanks to the brilliant support of many friends and colleagues we raised just over \$17,300. We saw many of the communities, schools and kids that do or will benefit from this charity, and it is amazing. This is a remarkable event. If you have ever thought about doing a Bash, we urge you to do so. There is a vast network of people and support to get you going - and it is worth it. To all of our friends, please consider pulling a crew together. Next year the Bash heads to Townsville - and we will be there. Til then.....thank you for all the support"

Millie, Tim and Mark, Car 73 Facebook, 29 August 2017
First time entrants



Get Started

2018 Melbourne to Townsville
The Long Way Round



How Do I Get Involved?

There are **three** main steps to getting on the road for the trip of a lifetime!

- 1) Register to enter** – you can sign up online or talk to one of our friendly motoring event crew on (03) 8698 3900 or motoringevents@varietyvic.org.au
- 2) Buy a Bash car** - we have a list of past Bash cars available for sale) or preparing a 30 year old plus car to Bash specs if you're up for a bit of a tinker. We can support and advise you along the way.
- 3) Fundraise to change the lives of Aussie kids** - We have raffles and tin rattling days to help you on your way and provide advice and support on fundraising and sponsorship of your car by local businesses. The entry fee is \$660 for the car and first time Bash entrants have a fundraising goal of \$5000 for kids in need. Very do-able when you have up to 4 mates in the car to help out.

**And we don't mind saying it again
– we're here to help!**



FAQs

Do I Need to Know About Cars?

Nope! You can buy a pre-loved Bash car from our past entrants (we have a list on our website). We also provide a full vehicle checklist, advice, a pre-event workshop to check your car is Bash ready AND we have mobile workshops crews to help you on the road. If your car breaks down the workshops assist you to repair your Bash car along the side of the road. We aim to keep you moving and get you to the finish.

What Kind of Car Can I Take?

In keeping with the spirit of the event, your Variety Bash Car must be 30 years or older (although occasionally some run-on models will be accepted subject to approval by Variety). The Variety Bash is not a race or a rally so high performance models will not be accepted. And of course, all vehicles must have current registration covering the period of the Variety Bash event.

How Many Crew Members Can I Take?

The minimum number to make up a Bash crew is two – a driver and a navigator - and the maximum is the legal capacity of the vehicle. Bear in mind the size of your Bash car, and the amount of luggage you have on board when picking the size of your crew!



FAQs

Where and When Are We Going in 2018?

The 2018 Variety Bash is leaving Melbourne and heading to Townsville. As always, we go the long way round! Expect outback scenery and plenty of dirt tracks on the 2018 journey. The Variety Bash leaves in August each year. Full details of the 2018 trip will be launched soon.

Where Do I Stay and What Do I Eat?

We let you know the best places to stay in town as soon as the overnight stops on our itinerary are announced. Accommodation in each location can vary from hotel/motel, bed & breakfast, cabins, caravans, hostels and camp grounds.

As far as food goes, our trusty Bash Event Manager arranges for local organisations to cater for our awesome entrants. You will be well fed along the way and meals and entertainment are also included on our legendary on our final night party – as covered by your provisions fee. Special requirements can be catered for, just let us know when you fill out your medical form before the event kicks off.



FAQs

What does the Variety Bash Cost?

The Variety Bash entry is made up of:

- ♥ A \$660 entry fee (including GST)
- ♥ \$7000 of donations or \$5000 for “rookie” or first time Bash crews. With 2 – 4 people per car, it’s easy to fundraise and we’re here to help!) All donations go to Variety – the Children’s Charity – the Variety Bash is run by the charity FOR the charity.
- ♥ Meal monies (approximately \$950 – \$1150 per person incl. GST, dependant on destination and duration of the Variety Bash.
- ♥ Public Liability Insurance \$45 per car incl. GST.

How Do I Find Out More?

We’ve signed you up to the Variety Bash email list so you’ll receive all the latest updates. A Rookie’s Day Out is held early in the year and is designed to familiarise you with the event. We also encourage you to follow us on facebook.com/varietyvicbash and join us at one of our monthly Bash Pub Nights so you can meet our Bash crews and staff who are more than happy to answer any questions (and they also have some pretty ace yarns from the road!). And don’t forget we’re only a phone call or email away!



FAQs

We're Here to Support You

Here at Variety – the Children's Charity we are extremely grateful to each and every one of our Bashers who tirelessly raise funds throughout the year to assist Victorian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs. That is why we endeavour to support you along your fundraising journey by providing information, advice and suggestions about 'everything 'VicBash'.

How YOU Help Kids in Need

As the only motoring event in Australia that supports kids in need on the road, you get to see your fundraising dollars at work! In 2017 we gave away over \$160,000 on the road and in 2018 we'll be visiting schools and organisations in Western Victoria. Funds raised from the Variety Bash continue to assist kids throughout the year – with \$1.25M raised in 2017 alone.

Our work allows children to gain mobility and freedom, to get out and about in the community, to communicate, achieve independence and increase self-esteem, and where possible, assistance to help them integrate into mainstream school and activities.



The Variety Bash... Ya Gotta Do It!

2018 Melbourne to Townsville
The Long Way Round

Welcome to the Variety Bash! We look forward to
being with you every step of the journey!



Variety – the Children's Charity Victoria

motoringevents@varietyvic.org.au

variety.org.au/bash | Follow Us @varietyvicbash

