




## Victorian Annual Review 2019

"We're Evie-Rose & Sonny  
and Variety has supported  
our family!"





**We believe that  
all kids deserve  
a fair go in life**

A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a black and white t-shirt, is smiling and petting a large, light-colored dog. The dog is lying down, looking up at the boy with its mouth open and tongue out, appearing happy. A red arrow points from the dog's chest area towards the text below. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The entire image is framed by a large red semi-circle on the left side.

*"Dogs know how to  
keep me calm and  
make me smile!"*



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**We provide kids and families with access to life-changing equipment to help them achieve their full potential, regardless of ability or background**



## Message from the Chair



**Paul Manning,**  
Chair

## What a year!

We are very proud to say that 2019 has been yet another successful and prosperous year at Variety – the Children's Charity Victoria.

In 2019, we have hosted three major corporate fundraisers, three motoring events, and thanks to your incredible support, issued \$1,762,450 in grants, provided 28 scholarships and impacted the lives of 8,769 Victorian kids.

Once again, we kicked off the year with the Variety SHINE Intensive Program in January. We had the joy of providing aid and inspiration to over 100 kids who have language and learning difficulties, providing assistance to their families and teachers to work towards achieving their best outcomes.

We had another outstanding result for our Variety Bikes for Kids program, raising a total of \$80,957, enabling us to provide 329 children in need with brand new bikes. We would again like to say a big thank you to Life Member and Variety Ambassador Derryn Hinch, for his ongoing support of this initiative.

This year also saw a record-breaking Victorian Variety Bash, raising over \$1.88 million. This was a mammoth effort from our entrants, pulling out all the stops to break the previous record by over \$150,000. As part of the Variety Bash fundraising, we benefitted from a house auction, as well as many corner collections, sausage sizzles, community fundraisers and raffles. A huge thank you to our Variety Bash crews for an incredible effort, capped off by an unforgettable journey to Geraldton, WA.

As always, these achievements would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication from our volunteers, supporters, donors, sponsors and the broader Variety community. Your commitment to our cause is unwavering. Year on year, you donate your time, resources, money and skills to Variety, so that together we can help more kids in need, in more ways and in more places.

To all of our supporters, on behalf of the team at Variety and the kids who benefit from your generosity, we thank you. Without you, none of this could be possible. We can't wait to see what we will achieve together in 2020.

## **Our mission:**

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

## **Our vision:**

**For all Australian children to attain their full potential, regardless of ability or background.**

# Our values:



To create lasting  
impact  
throughout  
Australia

And a better  
life for the kids  
of Victoria

We impacted  
**85,309**  
kids in **Australia**  
this year





We impacted  
**8,769**  
kids in Victoria  
this year

We granted  
**\$1,762,450**  
to kids in Victoria  
this year

**We deliver support through:**  
Grants • Scholarships • Programs • Kids Events

# Grants

Grants are the very core of what we do. Individual grants give kids and families in need access to life-changing equipment and resources. From mobility equipment like wheelchairs and walkers, to communication devices that give kids a voice. Our grants increase accessibility and improve the lives of children and their families.

Community grants support schools, not-for-profits and community groups who provide assistance and services to disadvantaged kids. Grants can fund educational and learning resources, transport, programs, supplies and technology. These grants aim to enable and empower more organisations to improve and expand services they offer the kids in need in our community.

In 2019, we provided 52 Individual Grants and 32 Community Grants, amounting to a total of \$1,000,151.

# Grant Testimonials

## Nepean School

Nepean School is a government specialist school for students with physical disabilities and complex health conditions. Eighty percent of the students at Nepean School are unable to walk independently and rely on a wheelchair to get around.

Variety, alongside the Cassandra Gantner Foundation, granted a Smartseat Pro, a specialised seat valued at over \$11,000. This seat will allow students at Nepean School a break from their wheelchairs to relieve pain, reduce pressure sores and can recline when a student is experiencing a seizure. The chair is highly adaptable so it can be adjusted to support the individual needs of each student, whilst allowing them to remain upright and engage and participate at school.

One of the students at Nepean put the Smartseat to the test and said “the seat is really comfortable and supportive. I want to use it when I feel uncomfortable in my chair and need to change position”.





## Jan Juc Surf Life Saving Club

In partnership with the Honda Foundation, we had the joy of co-funding some very special equipment for the Jan Juc Surf Life Saving Club this year. Together we were able to provide two floating beach wheelchairs and matting that allows the chairs to get across the sand and into the water. This incredible equipment is valued at \$43,658. The chairs are being used as part of the club's life-changing program that allows children with disabilities to experience the ocean.

## Lexi

Lexi is a happy five-year-old girl who lives with Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita, a disability that affects the development of her musculoskeletal system. She is missing muscles in her shoulders, arms, hands and feet. Since birth, Lexi has been unable to use her arms with very limited mobility in her hands. Lexi is learning to use her feet as her primary limbs, which means basic schoolwork can be difficult. Lexi uses her foot to hold a pencil and write her name and, with the help of her occupational therapist, she is learning to type using her feet.

With Lexi starting school next year, she needed equipment to assist in developing her written communication. We granted Lexi a new iPad Pro, table mount and keyboard valued at almost \$3,000. Thanks to your support, Lexi will be able to use this equipment to increase her independence and express herself.





## How we help (continued)

### Footscray Primary School

Alongside the Cassandra Gantner Foundation, we were able to fund a new sensory room for Footscray Primary School, that caters to 450 students in inner-west Melbourne. Valued at \$34,000, the new sensory room contains a range of therapeutic equipment for students who require sensory input to help them keep calm and focused on learning, as well as equip them with skills to better interact with their peers.

As well as providing students with disabilities and complex needs a break from the standard classroom or schoolyard, the room also allows for sensory exploration. The therapeutic and play equipment installed in the room enables students to address a range of sensory issues from sound to movement, balance, position in space and processing stimuli.

The room also performs an important symbolic function within the school community. Prominently located in the main school building, the sensory room sends a message to students that their differences are to be celebrated, supported and welcomed. The installation of the new room means that Footscray Primary School can better meet the individual needs of their students, both in the classroom and while socialising at play.



### Jessica

Jessica is an 11-year-old girl who has Autism and needs a little extra support to develop social relationships. Jessica was facing delays in her language skills, meaning that her ability to communicate was being impacted. She also has difficulty regulating her emotions, which causes stress and anxiety that leads to challenging behaviour, particularly at home.

Thanks to our supporters, we were able to fund a \$29,000 assistance dog for Jessica. After months of training, Jessica got to meet her new best mate, Quincy.

Quincy joining the family will help Jessica to regulate her emotions and anxiety, help her function outside the home, increase her social interactions and give her the companionship and confidence she's been missing out on.

Jessica's mum said "you made a dream come true for our little girl. We can't thank you guys enough. We are so grateful for Quincy, she is a miracle we never even thought would become a reality even in our dreams. But it has, and we will be forever grateful for your support. Without it, it would not have been possible."



A group of young children in blue school uniforms are jumping on a blue safety mat over a black trampoline. They are holding red balloons. In the background, there is a black metal fence and a playground with colorful equipment. A handwritten-style quote is in the top left, and a red arrow points from it to the balloons.

"We love our  
new trampoline!"

## Portland Bay School

This year, Variety presented Portland Bay School a very special grant to go alongside their new building that caters to 47 students who have a range of intellectual, physical, sensory and behavioural disabilities.

A new in-ground trampoline valued at over \$15,000 was unveiled at the new campus. Trampolines are an excellent tool for kids with special needs and can also be used to assist with physical therapy whilst improving overall health and fitness. Trampolines help to build stronger bones through light resistance and low impact rebound force, improve balance and posture and are a great sensory stimulator...plus they're loads of fun!



## Scholarships

Variety Heart Scholarships help kids in need to follow their dreams! Whether their ambition is to excel in sport, the arts or at school, we nurture their existing talents so they can reach their full potential. Scholarships awarded are up to the value of \$5,000 and cover expenses like travel, accommodation, equipment, coaching, competition fees and much more.

Thanks to our supporters, in 2019, we were able to fund 7 sporting scholarships, 7 arts scholarships and 14 education scholarships for kids in need.

## Scholarship Testimonials

### Jack

Variety Heart Scholarship recipient, Jack, is a star on the track, in the pool and on the bike. Jack is 15 years old and was born with Symbrachydactyly, a congenital absence of the left hand. He has competed in high level sports since age 10 and is the youngest para-triathlete to ever be categorised as an elite athlete by the AIS and Triathlon Australia.

Earlier this year, Jack placed 2nd overall in the Victorian 2XU Triathlon Series in his age group, competing against high-performance athletes. He also achieved a top ten average in National Triathlon competitions as well as a number of gold medals and podium places in Victorian triathlons, swimming and cross country competitions. All of this was achieved whilst Jack was still recovering from a broken wrist on his right hand.

We also had the honour of awarding Jack with the coveted Variety Young Sports Achiever Award, at the 2019 Variety Toyota AFL Grand Final Lunch. Jack joins the ranks of nine-time Grand Slam Winner Dylan Alcott OAM and Paralympians Heath Davidson, Samuel Rizzo and Nicholas Hum.





## Ciana

Passionate Irish dancer Ciana, received a Variety Heart Scholarship this year to help her follow her dreams. The physical requirements of Irish dance are challenging. They demand a high level of aerobic stamina, flexibility and a continuous training regime to master the coordination of the technical intricacies. Although Ciana is often confronted by challenges in her health, she regularly overcomes any mental or physical barrier in order to participate, pursue her personal dancing goals and foster her love of dance.

Ciana took on the United States to compete in the the Big Apple Fies & Fleadh in NYC and the Irish Dance World Championships held in North Carolina. Winning a dance and finishing fifth overall was an incredible achievement and we were honoured to help her get there. Congratulations and well done Ciana!



# Programs

The Variety SHINE Intensive Program is our core Variety Victoria Program. This year, Variety SHINE supported a total of 106 kids from 51 different schools over a three-week program in January. This year, the first school-based Variety SHINE Intensive Program was also offered at Sandringham Primary School. Teachers nominated 37 children to participate in the initiative.

Variety SHINE is an education program that ensures all kids get an opportunity to overcome language and learning problems to keep up with their mates in the classroom. The program is an opportunity for children to access high-quality multi-disciplinary team services at no cost. The initiative provides assessments, therapy and support for children ages 4-14.

For many of our participants, Variety SHINE is where they receive a first diagnosis for a range of learning difficulties. Identifying these issues has a monumental impact on our Variety SHINE kids and allows them to maximise their academic potential well into the future.

### This year:



3 children were identified as having major problems with their vision and referred to specialists. An additional 4 kids were referred to Optometrists for further assessment and consideration of glasses.



9 children were identified with major hearing difficulties and referred to specialists. 5 others were referred on for further assessment due to suspected difficulties.



11 children were identified as having sensory issues that required a need for a sensory program.



4 children who had a fine motor skills assessment had a program established for them.



12 children had writing assessments that resulted in recommendations for further improvement.



5 children were identified as having major mental health issues.



At least 79 children from the program received moderate to excellent outcomes from the program.

# Program Testimonials

"I was amazed by the differences I saw in the kids from first walking in the door on Monday to the latter half of the week and it was a pleasure to be involved. I heard many children say it was the best week of their lives and they had so much fun."



"The Variety SHINE Intensive Program provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop new skills, create friendships and expand their horizons."



"The kids love it. These children, who often struggle, don't get the time or attention they need in class. In the Variety SHINE Program, they get one on one interaction, appraisal and affirmation of their skill set as they progress across the course of the week. Not only do they get their goals targeted in a variety of activities they truly enjoy (cooking, dance, art...), they also get to interact with other children who have similar difficulties, join in group therapy and feel valued as a member of the Variety SHINE community."



"Our son Angus loved his time at the Variety SHINE program, and we believe that he made great progress during his week there. A first achievement was keeping Angus interested in returning day after day, and keeping him interested and excited about the activities throughout a full day. Angus had a great start to the new year at school following completion of the program. Angus has struggled over time with emotional regulation, and we find that he has been more accommodating of challenges during the new year. He has thought a lot more about how to react in challenging situations and made better choices. He is better at not being as distracted by kids 'not following the rules' and keeping more focused on what he is doing himself."

We loved that the leaders of his group noticed his positive qualities and kindness to the other kids in the report to us - it made us very proud. Angus has demonstrated some of the skills he learned in the playground, including working as a team, respect for others, and turn-taking. Thank you so much for giving Angus the opportunity to participate in the SHINE program, and teaching him so much in a fun environment."



"I would like to say what a wonderful program the SHINE program was and my son had an amazing week. He enjoyed himself so much that he wants to come again next year! I never thought I would hear him say that about anything do with education. Thank you for making him smile."



"We were very thankful our son had the opportunity to attend such a great social skills group."



"Thanks for the opportunity! Endless smiles & chatter filled with excitement & positive learning without feeling they were at school (boring/classroom environment) definitely made the week well worth it."





## How we help (continued)

### Kids Events

Over the course of the year, we had a number of opportunities for our Variety Kids to get access to exclusive events and experiences, at no cost to their families.

This year, thanks to the help of generous event partners and sponsors, we sent grant recipients and their families to sports matches, Disney On Ice, the Royal Melbourne Show, family fun days, and up in the air for FunFlights across Victoria.

### Kids Event Testimonials

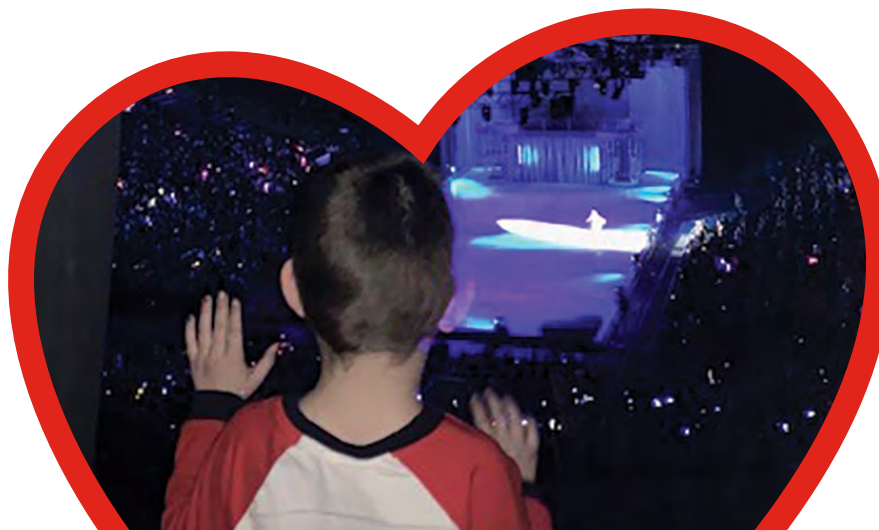
#### Max

Earlier in the year, Variety took some very special kids to see Disney On Ice at Rod Laver Arena, thanks to our friends at Melbourne & Olympic Parks.

One of those kids, Max, is nonverbal and has Autism Spectrum Disorder. Max, like many kids his age, loves Toy Story. Wearing his Woody T-shirt and accompanied by his mum, Bridie, for only the second time in his life - Max spoke. As Woody skated away at the end of the show, Max said "see you, bye" as he farewelled his favourite cowboy.

The first time Max spoke, was two years ago at the Variety Bikes for Kids day in Geelong. One of their volunteers had dressed up as Woody. Max couldn't believe his eyes. When he got home, sitting on his brand-new bike that he received on the day and full of excitement, Max said "open door".

Bridie said "this kind of excitement Variety offers Max is where he obviously feels most safe and happy, then bingo, we have words! Seriously, without the events Variety has offered Max, we would not know he can actually speak - his voice box works!!! I can't tell you what that means other than hope to us and of course so encouraging to help us be motivated with his daily therapy".





## Darcy

Thanks to the AFL, Variety Grant recipient, and footy-fan, Darcy was tasked with a very important job at the AFLX earlier this year. Variety was the Charity of Choice for AFLX's Bolts Team Captain, Patrick Dangerfield from the Geelong Cats, so we sent Darcy along to select the Captain's pick game ball! Not only did Darcy get to catch up with Dangerfield before the game, he also got to rub shoulders and have his photo taken with footy legends Eddie Betts, Jack Riewoldt and Nat Fyfe. To top it all off, Darcy got to take home the match winning ball!



## Variety Kids Xmas Party

The annual Variety Kids Xmas Party is our largest kid's event of the year! In December 2018, 3,205 kids and 2,047 carers came along to join in the fun. The event is a sea of carnival rides, attractions, clowns, costumes, food, games and gifts that takes place every year. Around 500 volunteers help us bring this event to life at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. For many of our families, Christmas is a very stressful time. We make sure no kid has to miss out on the joy of Christmas, with every child receiving a brand-new toy of their own to take home, and a day jam-packed with fun and inclusive activities!

### What our families and organisations had to say about the Variety Kids Xmas Party in 2018:

"My nephew hasn't wiped the smile off his face! He was nervous attending, but that changed once he saw all the rides."

"Wonderful exciting day out of the norm. We are so grateful to have an event like this because we can't afford to give something like this to the kids. Thank you Variety."

"This is the only time of the year that I have a stress-free activity and enjoyment with my children. Thank you."

"We really enjoy our day out and has become a day that we look forward to each year."

"I attended the Christmas party for the first time today and it blew me away with the magic you have created and offered to the children. Thank you so much for the efforts in making this a free and magical event for the kids."

"I would like to say thank you so much for inviting our school to the Variety Kids Xmas Party!! The kids had an amazing time!! Even the parents!! It was great seeing our refugee families giving the rides a go!! One of our autistic kids ran into some friends from his school and it was awesome seeing him open up!!"

# Variety Bikes for Kids

- 329 bikes donated
- Over 100hrs of bike assembly
- 40 volunteer assemblers
- 258 individual donors
- 2 special modified bikes



Thanks to our donors, in 2019 the Variety Bikes for Kids appeal raised a whopping \$80,957. This meant that we could fund 329 brand new bikes for disadvantaged kids. Across the two presentations in Melbourne and Bendigo, we were joined by donors and volunteers, who had the chance to see firsthand the impact of their generosity. There were smiles and tears of joy all round, with two extra special modified bikes also being presented on the day.

One of these modified bikes went to Riyan. Riyan is a happy 9-year-old who has Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy. He has never been able to ride a regular two-wheel bicycle. For Riyan, a specialised tricycle

means as he grows, he can maximise his leg strength, keep his legs flexible and slow down the development of secondary complications, including scoliosis, respiratory and cardiac dysfunction. Our donors presented Riyan with a MOMO tricycle valued at \$6,939 that will help improve his physical and mental wellbeing for many years to come.

The second modified bike went to 9-year-old Darcy. Darcy has Childhood Apraxia of Speech, a severe language disorder and an intellectual disability. This means that motor learning and balance can be difficult and riding a standard two-wheel bike is not possible. With a need for extra stability and safety, we're

honoured to have funded a specialised bike valued at \$2,578 that will empower Darcy to get out and about in the community with his family and friends and improve his overall health and lifestyle in the long term.

There was something truly special about witnessing the bikes being handed over directly by the donors themselves. With grins from kids as far as the eye could see, and happy tears from parents and donors, our Variety Bikes for Kids presentations were unforgettable.





"I love my new specialised bike!"

3291

bikes donated  
an increase of 15%

## Fundraising

# Another fruitful year!

**You may already be familiar with Variety's various motoring and corporate events that take place each year, but the fundraising doesn't end there!**

**We have a number of initiatives that you can get involved in, and thanks to our Variety community, these fundraising streams have had another very fruitful year, meaning more kids got more help!**

## Appeals

### Variety Christmas Appeal

At the end of 2018, we focused our annual Christmas Appeal on funding the Variety SHINE Intensive Program in January 2019. We reached out to our Variety supporters to 'Give a Child a Chance to SHINE!'. Christmas can be a tough time for fundraising, and thanks to the generosity of our donors, more kids in need were able to complete the Variety SHINE Intensive Program.

Read more about the incredible impact of the Variety SHINE Intensive Program on page 14.

## Community Fundraising

### DIY Fundraising

Across the state, generous individuals and businesses in our community go above and beyond to raise funds for Variety. From birthday fundraisers, community events, office morning teas and competitions to fundraising for our cause in marathons and sporting events, they do it all! Thank you to all of our supporters for raising money and spreading the word in Victoria!

### Testimonials

We had a number of birthday legends this year, who instead of asking for gifts, requested their loved ones donate to Variety instead! Dianne marked the big 3-0 by smashing her \$200 goal, 5 times over, raising over \$1,000. Aadisha celebrated her 5th birthday forgoing gifts in lieu of donations. Facing challenges with Down Syndrome, Aadisha and her family wanted to raise money for other kids in need and managed to raise over \$400 for Variety in their efforts! Six year old Giselle also made her birthday extra special, when she invited her entire prep class to her birthday, and without telling her mum, asked they all bring a gold coin donation to put in the collection jar that she made to pass on to Variety. Giselle was inspired when we helped out her family with a grant for her big sister Jasmine and has been a passionate advocate for us ever since! Great work legends!



### Miss World Australia

As part of Miss World Australia, contestants engage in the Beauty with a Purpose program. The initiative has contributed over \$1 billion USD to organisations who assist disadvantaged children since it began in 1972. Representatives fundraise alongside their participation in the competition, hosting fundraising events, sausage sizzles, shaking tins and rallying for online donations.

Miss World Australia's Beauty with a Purpose initiative raised \$19,679 for kids in need in 2019. Congratulations to the contestants on this outstanding result.



## Hair with Heart

Variety Hair with Heart is a nationwide fundraising initiative. Supporters can choose to fundraise and donate their hair, or simply just take the chop! Their hair is given a second life and made into a wig for a child who has lost their hair due to a long-term medical condition like alopecia or cancer. Hair with Heart is our largest community fundraiser.

## Testimonials

Every week, we receive lots of photos from brave and selfless donors who have taken the chop for kids in need. Check out the smiles and new do's on just a few of our magnificent supporters from the year!



### In 2019:

- 1,833 ponytails were donated in Victoria
- 9,085 donated their hair across the country
- \$204,890 was raised to help Victorian kids have a fair go
- 6 wigs were granted to kids in need in Victoria



## Fundraising (continued)

### Community Fundraising (continued)

#### Play for Purpose

Play for Purpose is an online not-for-profit raffle from the 50/50 Foundation. Each draw has over 750 prizes on offer, ranging from gold bullion and cars, to holidays and vouchers. From every \$10 ticket sold, \$5 goes towards a charity or sporting club of the ticket buyer's choice. Since December 2018, Variety Vic have had the privilege to be one of Play for Purpose's 130 selected charities. Over the last 12 months, 4,196 ticket purchases and \$5,953 has gone toward helping kids in need from this initiative.

#### Regular Giving – Variety Hero with Heart

Our Variety Heroes with Heart went above and beyond for kids in need in 2019. Our passionate community believe in our shared vision of a future where every Aussie kid has a fair go. Our regular givers provide a steady and ongoing funding source, and thanks to their support we can forward plan and say “yes” to more families who need help now and in the future.

#### Major Donors – Variety Big Hearts

Each year, a number of big hearted Victorians choose to make large contributions to Variety. Some choose to make regular donations, and others might opt for a lump sum each year. Their selfless gifts go a long way in allowing us to fund programs, grants, events and scholarships for kids in need. They contribute to a number of our fundraising initiatives, donate directly to the charity regularly and often rally other supporters to fund our cause. To all the companies and individuals with Big Hearts, we thank you.

**You can make a difference.**  
**Visit [variety.org.au/vic](https://variety.org.au/vic) today!**

#### Bequests – Variety Forever Hearts

Making a decision to include a gift to Variety in a Will enables supporters to consider a gift they might not otherwise be able to afford. Supporters can leave a residual legacy, specific amount of money or items of value to further our mission to empower Aussie kids who are facing challenges with sickness, disadvantage or living with a disability to reach their full potential. We would like to thank the families and donors who chose to be a part of our Forever Hearts program in 2019.

#### Trusts and Foundations

The support that Variety receives from charitable trusts and foundations is vital for the development and growth of our programs. We work closely with our philanthropic supporters to report on the impact of their grants and to ensure that we can improve the lives of as many kids as possible across Victoria.

The following is a list of our current Trusts and Foundations:

- Andrew Dean Fildes Foundation
- Cassandra Gantner Foundation
- CMV Group Foundation
- Commonwealth Bank Community Grants
- Honda Foundation
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
- O'Brien Real Estate
- Perpetual Impact Funding
- Pratt Foundation
- Randall Foundation
- Transurban Community Grant





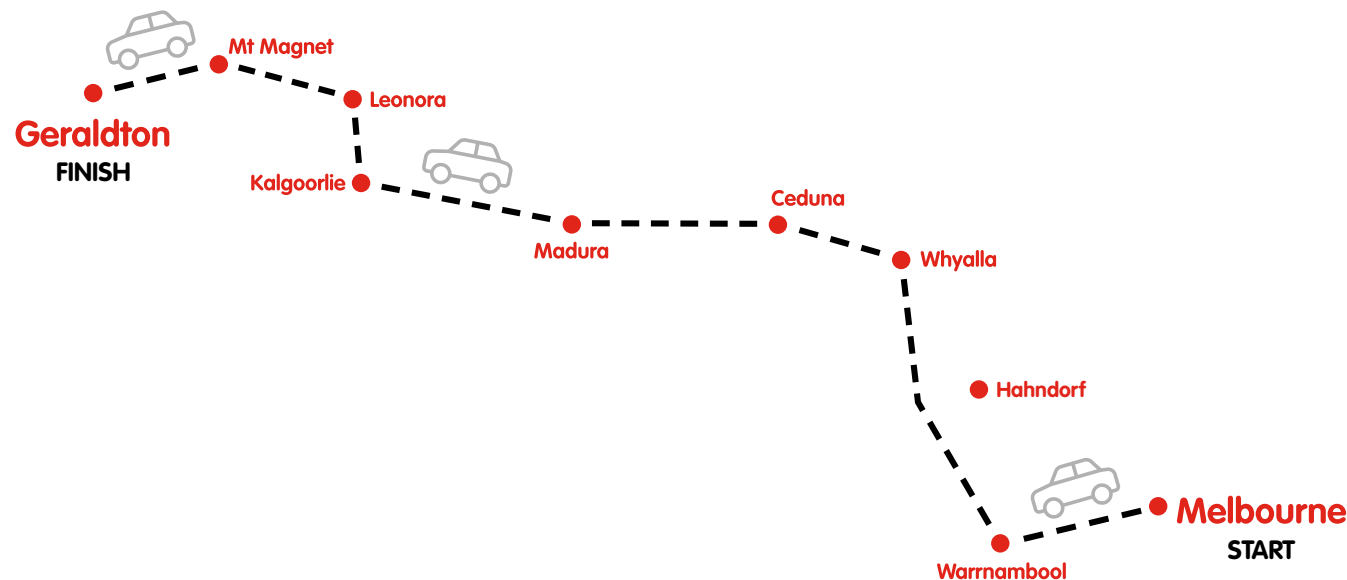




## Fundraising highlight

# Variety Bash

- \$50,000 in grants
- 306 entrants
- 39 officials
- 94 cars
- 20 official vehicles
- 20 rookie crews
- 5,102 kms travelled
- \$1,884,539 raised  
(record breaking figure)



The Variety Bash truly is an event like no other. This year, the Variety Vic Bash travelled from Melbourne to Geraldton, crossing the Nullarbor, venturing through three states and seeing some of Australia's most remote and beautiful locations. We were showered with kindness and support from locals along the way, and we're incredibly proud to have issued grants to Aussie kids in some of Australia's most remote communities.

In 2019, grants presented on the Variety Bash included an assistance dog, speech and safety

enabling devices, equipment for a blind gymnastics program, learning resources, upgrades to an outdoor learning area, educational and sports equipment, and contributing to a dedicated reading area to support special and sensory needs students.

In 2019, our entrants smashed the previous fundraising record by \$162,854!

Congratulations to our Variety Bash crews, officials and supporters on another remarkable journey and an outstanding result!

## Top Fundraisers

### 1. Sheen Panel Service, Car 50

Martin Stone, David Morgan, Mark Salvadori, Charles Camilleri, Kerry Smith, David Whitehead, Jake Pantas, Ben Stone & Simon Ross

### 2. Land Monkeys, Car 3005/3006

Harvey Carretero, Daniel Smith, Brad Papworth, Gerrard Ellis, Dean Wells, Anthony Braunthal, Paul Wolff & Andre Collette

### 3. Mario Brothers, Car 97

Patrick & Carlo Simonelli





"Thanks for  
coming to visit  
our school!"

**\$1.88**  
million raised  
an increase of 28%



# On the road



### Variety 4WD Adventure

Having raised over \$1.3 million since its beginning, the Variety 4WD Adventure is an iconic motoring event that takes our explorers to some of the country's most remote and beautiful locations.

This year, our Variety 4WD Adventurers tackled the surf, sand and snow across Victoria's best 4WD tracks, dunes and deserts. The ten day journey took our crew to areas of the state normally reserved for the most intrepid travellers, including the Portland Dunes, Little Desert and Victoria's High Country. Kicking off in Airey's Inlet and taking in sites along the Great Ocean Road, they crossed the South Australian border into Naracoorte before travelling back through the heart of Victoria, stopping at schools and towns along the way.

- \$49,168 in grants
- 32 entrants
- 6 officials
- 13 cars
- 3 official vehicles
- 3 Rookie crews
- 2,580 kms travelled
- \$106,770 raised



## Variety Brats Bash

Based on the famous Variety Bash, the Variety Brats Bash sees kids helping kids as our colourful costume-clad families go on a unique journey exploring Australia to raise money for children in need.

Our Brats Bash departed Yarra Glen in late March and headed north to Byron Bay! It was a very dry, dusty trip to the final destination – with lots of camping stops and educational visits along the route. Highlights included the sheep shearing demonstration, chocolate making and surfing in Byron Bay!

- 75 entrants
- 8 officials
- 20 cars
- 4 official vehicles
- 5 Rookie crews
- 2,200 kms travelled
- \$41,429 raised



“We love to help!”





## Corporate Events

Variety Corporate Events have a long history as some of Melbourne's most exciting celebrations. Always a culmination of food, frivolity and fundraising, our three corporate events attract people from all walks of life every year to indulge, celebrate and come together for kids in need. Thanks to the sponsors, supporters, speakers, entertainers, volunteers and guests who made these events possible in 2019.

- 2,483 guests attended Variety corporate events in 2019
- Corporate events raised a total of \$204,921 this year

## Women of Melbourne

On Friday 22 March, we were joined by 239 guests, alongside speakers Effie Zahos, Alex Fevola and Kirsten Tibbals for Women of Melbourne 2019. The revised format of our former Women with Heart Lunch was a day of networking, designed to connect and inspire like-minded women from all walks of life. Against the beautiful backdrop of Crown Aviary's magnificent rooftop, women came together to raise funds and awareness for Variety. We look forward to building this event and growing our network of passionate women in the years to come!



## Eat Street Melbourne

For the fourth year in a row, Variety had the pleasure of being Sofitel Melbourne On Collins' Charity of Choice for foodie fundraiser, Eat Street Melbourne. In the 20th year of the event, 50 of Melbourne's top restaurants, wineries and breweries came together to provide guests with 4 hours of all-you-can-devour hawker style food and drinks. With roving entertainers, endless food, desserts, drinks and surprises around every corner, Eat Street Melbourne was a feast for the senses!



## Variety Toyota AFL Grand Final Lunch

Football's favourite fundraiser returned in 2019 for our biggest event yet! With record attendance, and a legendary line up of entertainment from Alex Rance, Billy Brownless, Jason Dunstall, Stevie J, Craig Willis, Mike Brady AM, Kate Meade and J Duo, this was one for the record books. With live and silent auctions, a wine wall, a car up for grabs in our VIP Raffle and door prizes galore, the 2019 Variety Toyota AFL Grand Final Lunch ensured nobody went home empty handed. The packed-out Palladium at Crown was the perfect place for a party to pre-empt the biggest day in September, thanks to all those who joined in the fun!

# Volunteers

**Our Variety community is made up of lots of people from all walks of life who give their time, resources and skills to help us help kids in need. We couldn't do what we do without them. Their big hearts and hard work bring everything we do together, and we cannot commend them enough. To everyone who gave us a helping hand this year, we thank you for bringing light and laughter to the kids who need it most.**

### Mike Larkan



Mike Larkan is a household name in Melbourne. The Network Ten weather presenter is famous for rattling off dad jokes and hilarious puns throughout his weather segments, much to the chagrin of his colleagues and loyal viewers. What Mike is less well-known for, however, is his long-term support of Variety – the Children's Charity. Mike has been providing media support to Variety for over 20 years, and throughout that time, he really has done it all. Despite his busy schedule and many media commitments, Variety can always rely on Mike to attend our events with his trusty camera man to film his weather segment. Whether it's at our annual Variety Toyota AFL Grand Final Lunch, or at the official start of the Variety Bash, he's always there and willing to help spread the word about Variety and the incredible work that we do. For that, we are delighted to recognise Mike with a Variety International Media Award.

### Andrew Richards



Andrew 'Roo' Richards has been a long-time supporter of Variety – the Children's Charity for over 30 years. Spearheading our radio communications on the Variety Vic Bash each year, Andrew plays a vital role in keeping the essential communication lines between officials open and accessible, even under some very trying circumstances in remote regions of the country. Andrew's support reaches beyond the Bash each year too. With year-round maintenance of all Variety's radio and communications equipment, and the essential assistance in the preparation and safety planning for all of our Motoring Events, we are very proud to award Andrew with a Variety International Presidential Citation.



## Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB)



Variety is extremely fortunate to have had the support of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade since 2003. As a sponsor and supporter of our Variety Vic Bash, the MFB called for expressions of interest from their staff to participate as voluntary event crews to make up part of the mechanical support provided to our entrants on the road. This fantastic initiative has continued and up to four mechanics and auto electricians from the MFB participate in the Variety Vic Bash each year. We are honoured to award them with a Variety International Corporate Award for their outstanding commitment to our charity and supporters.

## Martin Stone AM



This year, Martin Stone AM of Sheen Panel Service was acknowledged with a Life Membership of Variety – the Children’s Charity Victoria. A Variety Life Membership is the highest award available to recognise the exceptional contribution of individuals to kids in need and is only awarded in exceptional circumstances.

The honour is fitting, as Martin’s contribution to our cause has been nothing short of exceptional over the years. With a long service to the Variety Victoria Board, alongside over two decades of fundraising, volunteering and supporting children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs, the Board of Variety – the Children’s Charity Victoria were delighted to honour Martin with this distinguished award.

Martin has completed 20 Variety Bash events in his Sheen Panel Service car and in total has contributed an incredible \$4 million in donations and fundraising activities to Variety.

Martin joins current Variety Life Membership awardees, Derryn Hinch, Maureen Hafey, the late Ian Johnson, Clair Marsh OAM, Rodney Collins APM OAM MStJ, Doug Christie and Mike Brady. The prestigious award was last presented in 2010.

In addition to being honoured with Variety’s highest acclaim, Martin also received the Dick Smith Award that goes to the National Highest Bash Fundraisers each year. This was Martin’s 7th win, taking out the title in 2012 and 2013, and each year from 2015 - 2019.

We wish Martin our sincerest congratulations and thank him for his momentous contribution to kids in need.

## Gary Rohan



Every year, at the Variety Toyota AFL Grand Final Lunch, we recognise an AFL Player who has inspired us through his or her selfless actions and dedication to children. Presented by Maureen Hafey, the *Tom Hafey Variety Heart of Football Award* recognised Gary Rohan from the Geelong Football Club for his outstanding work and advocacy in 2019. Gary has been closely involved with the Sensory Zone at GMHBA Stadium, Barwon Health University Hospital and Run4Kids assisting the Barwon Health Foundation. Gary joins an impressive list of previous award winners including teammates Scott Selwood and Harry Taylor as well as the likes of Eddie Betts, Robert Harvey, Luke Power, Nick Maxwell, Jack Hombsch and Luke Ball.



Our supporters

# Thank you for all your support for 2019

Variety - the Children's Charity is blessed with the support of many companies on both a national and state level. From individuals to small and 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.



"Thanks for our new  
best friend, Venus!"



## Key Partners

Sheen Group

ACE Radio Network

WM Waste Management

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

## Supporters

AFLX

AMEROPA Australia

Australian Toy Association

Barry Plant

Bee's Knee's Australia

Benson Property Group

Big Balloon

Budget

Dromana Estate

Famous Insurance

Ford Motor Company Australia

FunFlight

Geelong Revival

Gradi Group

Hasbro Australia

Ivy Street Advertising

Jack Rabbit Vineyard

Jubilee Wyndham Vale

KIA Australia

Lease Plan

Lotus Living

Luxury Escape

Melbourne Flower Image

MRP Wired Solutions

NAB

Oliver Hume Real Estate

Patties Pies

Play For Purpose/50-50 Foundation

Porter Davis

Red Spice Road

Reece Group

Sandringham Yacht Club

Taylormade Memorabilia Good 360

Tivoli Jewellers

Toy Networkx

Turner & Townsend

Victoria Police

Water Rat Hotel South Melbourne

Wheelton Group

# Event Supporters

### Variety Kids Xmas Party 2018

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Channel 9 Cares

Clifton Productions

Bakers Delights

Borthwick Foods

Breadwinner

Chefs Pantry

Chilli Zone

Colbee Jump

DFO South Wharf

Egans

Event Power Solutions

Gloria Jeans

Hasbro Australia

IKON Services

Instant Shade

JBJ Audio

Komatsu

Lactalis Australia

Logistic Events Australia

Lombards

Mars Foods

Medical Edge

Melbourne City Football Club

Microhire ANZ

Motorola

Munch

No Fuss

Rapid Relief Team

Secure Events

The Staging Company

Toy Biz

Wilsons Parking

### Volunteer Groups:

501st Legion

Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

Broad Spectrum

Department of Education & Training

Design Worldwide Partnership

Freemasons Victoria

Insurance Australian Group

Lion Dairy & Drinks

Medibank

Melbourne Costume Group

MYOB

NAB

Optus

Sage

Shelford Grammar School

State Revenue Office

Telstra

### Women of Melbourne 2019

Crown Melbourne

Bauer Media Group

Swag for Wags/The Township

Runway Room

Mr & Mrs Booth



### **Eat Street Melbourne 2019**

Sofitel Melbourne on Collins

Action Events

Sheen Group

Audio Visual Dynamics

First Samuel

### **Variety Bikes for Kids 2019**

Melbourne & Olympic Parks Trust

Anaconda

Emily Pennington Photography

### **Variety Toyota AFL Grand Final Lunch 2019**

Crown Melbourne

AFL

Furphy

Jack Rabbit Vineyard

Encore Event Technologies

McKenzie Ross Insurance Brokers

Wheelton Group / Budget Car Rental

## **Motoring Event Supporters**

WM Waste Management Services

ACE Radio Network

Seeley International

Sheen Group

Roof Extenda

TJM Burwood

NEP Broadcasting

Ambulance Victoria

Budget

Chep Palaeon Solutions

Chris's Body Works

Huntingdale Sound & Lighting

IOR Fuel

Isuzu Trucks

Joch Motors

Knorr-Bremse Australia

Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFB)

Patterson Cheney Dandenong

Trans Gears & Diffs

Volksrepair



## Our supporters (continued)

### National Partnerships

Aroona Springs Water
Dentavision
Discovery Holiday Parks
John Sands
Miss World Australia
Turner & Townsend
Tyres 4U

### Motoring Event Committees

#### Motoring Events Support Group

Gary Caddy, Sam Martin, Darren Hoggan, Howie Barber, Geoff Handberg
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#### Operations and Logistics Group

Rod Collins OAM APM, Mick Kelly, Andrew Richards, Wayne Daisley,
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#### Variety 4WD Adventure

Corrine Dunkinson, Wayne Daisley, Murray Dunkinson, Alun Bull, Ben Lewis
--

#### Variety Brats Bash

Jason McKenzie, Danny Morrison, Courtney Lowry, Maddison Dibb, Cam Bradley, Christina Skora, John 'Cowboy' Paydon
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### Individual Supporters

Andrew Richards
Anna Gints
Annabelle Eve and Band
Chi Han
Craig Willis
Derryn Hinch
Dom Chambers
Fiona Byrne
Frank Amato Photographer
Ian & Helen Cornish
John McKeown Family
Jon Vertigan
Kate Meade
Lord Mayor Sally Capp
Marina Prior
Maureen Hafey
Mike Brady AM
Mike Larkan
Nick Kay
Pete Lazer
Phil Bowler
Phileas Fogg Trio
Sally 'Dr Feelgood' Cockburn
Sloan Peterson
Wayne Cornish



# Board Members

**The Board would like to thank all those who have supported Variety - the Children's Charity Victoria throughout the year.**

Paul Manning, Chief Barker

Caroline Mulcahy, Deputy Chief Barker

Meg Dalling, Secretary

Gary Caddy, Crew Member

Kirsty Turner, Treasurer

Jon Burfurd, Crew Member

Ken Pryor, Crew Member

Martin Stone AM, Crew Member

Melissa Williams, Crew Member

Michael Randall OAM, Crew Member

Samantha Martin, Crew Member



[variety.org.au/vic](http://variety.org.au/vic)

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*Contact us*

