

HEARTBEAT



New wheels mean more adventures!

Spending four and half hours on public transport with three children is no easy feat, especially when one of your children is in a wheelchair. But thanks to Variety – the Children's Charity of WA the Elmer-Gray family have a new set of wheels to help them get around easily.

Karter Elmer-Gray is an effervescent 4 year old boy who is living with cerebral palsy and global developmental delay. Due to the challenges of living with these conditions, Karter finds it difficult to walk long distances and now uses a self-propelled wheelchair at home and whilst out with his family.

The physical challenge of transporting a wheelchair is an additional and unfortunately necessary burden on families like the Elmer-Grays. Variety WA was able to help ease this load by funding vehicle modifications for the family van. This grant enabled Karter and his family improved access to the community, and they can now transport Karter safely to and from appointments, significantly reducing the physical strain on Karter's Mum, Dad and carers.



Karter loves the freedom that has come with the vehicle modification



Karter's mum, Kat explains the difference the vehicle modifications have made for her and her family.

"Karter has not had the easiest life and often that has meant his brothers have suffered, they have had to miss out on a lot while we have cared for Karts, and when we had to go 18 months without a car it was even harder. We would catch almost 4.5 hours of limited public transport each day to his appointments which meant very long days for us all, often starting before 7am and not returning home until 4 or 5pm with a wheelchair, a 6 year old and a small baby carried on my back. We were exhausted. Receiving our Variety WA grant not only gave Karter the freedom to access the community with ease, it gave his brothers who have sacrificed so much (without ever complaining) the ability to have a social life, play sports and visit their friends again. Our converted van has completely changed all of our lives. Thank you to Variety WA and everyone who helped us get here."

Message from Michael

With our wonderfully successful second Variety of Choice Home Lottery and Variety 'Diamonds and Pearls' Bash complete, we head into a very busy period of events and activities this Christmas.

We are grateful to Craig and Renee Gemmill for putting another Gemmill Ball for Variety, the launches of next year's Variety Bash and Variety 4WD have been conducted (register as soon as you can as they are going to be fantastic events) and of course our much loved Variety Kids Christmas Party takes place again this year on 4 December.

We are extremely excited to announce that for the first time in 72 years, the IGA Carols by Candlelight for Variety will be a free event for everyone to enjoy! The gates will be open at 1pm this year, with rides and entertainment for the kids, before Anthony Callea takes the stage to sing all your most loved carols.



Variety WA CEO
Michael Pailthorpe

Thank you again for taking the time to support Variety WA. Without our generous supporters we would not be able to help as many West Australian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs.

From everyone here at Variety WA, we wish you a happy and safe Christmas and look forward to your ongoing support in the New Year.

With thanks,
Michael,
CEO Variety WA

Thank you

I want to say how grateful we are to have received the assistance from Variety WA. Clare's walking and running is much faster and she is more stable on her feet since using the Walk Aid. On Saturday our Physio was commenting on her muscle definition in her legs! Early this year Clare was also doing iRehab at PMH to support her at school. This has also given her a boost with her education so we are having a much improved time at school. She has a great teacher and more aid time so we are feeling very grateful for all the support we have had. Thanks again Variety WA! **Nicky**

I am writing to say a massive thank you to Variety WA for approving our application for a trampoline for our little Rorie who has autism. You have no idea what a wonderful, life saving grant this is for us. Rorie is a very loved little boy who can become frustrated easily, and this trampoline means Rorie has a safe, therapeutic place to vent his hindrances and outbursts. Thank you Variety WA for giving us what will be a peaceful Christmas! **Robin**

Thank you very much for supporting Xavier with his piano playing. He has really blossomed over the years and by the looks of his grades he will continue to blossom into an amazing young man. Many thanks also to all those behind the scenes who have fundraised and supported Variety WA. We so appreciate all your help and support for Xavier! **Luisa**





What's On

IGA Carols by Candlelight for Variety

Join Variety - the Children's Charity of WA and thousands of other families as they get into the Christmas spirit at Perth's premier carols event.

For the first time in 72 years the IGA Carols by Candlelight for Variety will be a FREE event, giving all WA families the opportunity to participate in this iconic Perth Christmas tradition.

The day will start at the new time of 1pm meaning you can settle in, grab a spot and enjoy an afternoon of show rides, face painting, food stalls and pre carols onstage entertainment featuring Wasamba - Freo's Carnival Drummers and the Mighty Marvel Essence of Christmas Show followed by autographs and photos with Spiderman, Ironman and Mrs Claus.

When the sun goes down and the candles are lit, the stage will be illuminated with a carols spectacular hosted by Channel Nine's Louise Momber and Michael Thompson and headlined by top selling Australian artist, Anthony Callea. Other special guests will include Chris and Courtney Murphy, Robbie Anderson (The Voice Kids), the Variety Youth Choir and a host of other WA talent. The evening will finish with a bang - a fireworks spectacular over the Swan river.

The 2016 IGA Carols by Candlelight for Variety is presented by IGA and sponsored by The City of Perth, Lotterywest, Act Belong Commit, Splash City, Kleenheat, Nine Perth, The Sunday Times/Perth Now and Nova 93.7.



NOVEMBER
Sunday, 27 November
Midwest Santa Fun Run

DECEMBER
Sunday, 4 December
Variety Kids Christmas Party

Sunday, 18 December
Carols by Candlelight

FEBRUARY
Saturday, 11 February
The Enchanted Garden Variety Ball

MARCH
Thursday, 9 March
- Sunday, 12 March
Creative Car Cruise

APRIL
Friday, 21 April
Variety Scholarships presentation evening

MAY
Saturday, 20 May
- Saturday, 27 May
4WD Challenge

AUGUST
Sunday, 20 August
- Saturday, 26 August
Variety WA 'Long Way Round' Bash



The Dockers join the Bash!

The 2016 Variety WA 'Diamonds and Pearls' Bash concluded 1,600km of mateship and camaraderie on Saturday, 26 August in the picturesque pearling town of Broome.

29 cars left Kununurra six days earlier to embark on the trip of a lifetime and raised over \$720,000 for WA kids who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs. Amongst the cast and crew, Bash first timers Darren Clark, Adam Steel and Glenn Donaldson cemented themselves as a favourite car for adults and children alike in their Fremantle Dockers themed EH Holden with purpose built goal posts, a bundle of footballs, and enthusiasm to have a kick.

Darren, Adam and Glenn are long time mates who decided to have an adventure and make a difference. Here's our Q&A with them on their experience "bash-ing".

What brought you to Variety WA?

Two words: 'Variety Bash'

Why did you decide to Bash?

It was an opportunity to raise money for a great cause whilst experiencing an awesome part of Australia with mates.

How hard was it fundraising and putting a car together? Were there barriers that you did/didn't expect?

It was easier than we first thought, people were very receptive to the cause and the effort we made to get the car ready. I think when people see you putting time, money and energy into a cause they are more generous, and Variety is definitely a great cause. Our corporate sponsors were fantastic and were well aware of the event which really helped.

There were plenty of barriers with the car, but the time in the shed with the boys was very enjoyable. We just took our time and made it fun!

How did you come up with the theme for your car?

Kids enjoy sport, and it was an interactive theme we knew kids would relate to...that and the fact we are all die-hard Fremantle supporters made it an easy decision!

What was the highlight of the 2016 Bash?

Getting to be involved with the kids at the communities and schools was definitely the highlight. It was great to see the smiles and enjoyment that the children got out of it. It was a humbling experience with the added bonus of the sensational scenery and excitement that came with the Gibb River Road drive. Just an all-round awesome event!

What do you do in your real lives away from Bash-ing?

We work too much! I [Darren] am the General Manager of CADDIS Group, a major car sponsor, Adam is a Senior Design and Sales Consultant for Ross Squire homes (a major sponsor of car #29) and a diehard Dockers fan, and Glenn is in Marketing Strategy.

Thanks guys for a great Bash! We look forward to seeing you all in 2017 for the 'Long Way Round' Bash!

Bash 2017 Details

Get ready to take on the longest route from Perth to Freo with the 2017 Variety WA 'Long Way Round' Bash!

In 2017 the Variety Bash will take you on a trip of a lifetime from Perth to Fremantle – sans the usual Perth traffic (for the most part anyway!). Kicking off from Elizabeth Quay, the journey will take you through the iconic WA outback via Lake Ballard, the Goldfields and the Wheatbelt before finishing up in the stunning port city of Fremantle.

This will be a trip to remember, experiencing the fun and camaraderie that you will only find on the Variety Bash! So gather up your friends, get on board the ultimate bucket list adventure and help raise funds for Variety – the Children's Charity of WA. For more information or to register your crew, please contact Donna via motoring@varietywa.org.au.



Participants in the 2016 'Diamonds and Pearls Bash'

Goanna Park Fun

Motorbike riding, zip lining, rock-climbing... all in a day's work for our Goanna Park campers!

Earlier in the year, 12 WA teenagers living with special needs headed north to the Top End for the Goanna Park Adventure Camp. Run by Variety Northern Territory, the annual program is filled with lots of activities designed to assist participants in gaining self-esteem and confidence, to step out of their comfort zones, develop life skills and promote friendships.

Here are some testimonials from the campers and their families:

Sending your kid off on a camp can be challenging for some parents- "a leap of faith" - trusting that they will be cared for, be safe, be fed, and have fun. When your child has Autism with limited verbal skills and some anxiety issues thrown in...it's rather daunting to take that leap of faith. However, the messages and photos that filtered back were mind blowing! He was cared for, safe, fed, and having fun. To say thank you doesn't seem enough, to say we are grateful is an understatement too. But, thank you Variety, we are so incredibly grateful for this opportunity of a lifetime that you gave our beautiful boy.

Clara Harris, mother of camper, Sam Harris

Going on the Goanna Park Adventure Camp was amazing. I liked meeting all the other campers and participating in all the activities. My favourite one was rock climbing.

Thomas Casey-Trinder, Goanna Park Camper

I met so many new people and made friends and had such a wonderful and enjoyable time that I didn't want to leave. It was an adventure of a life time! If I had the opportunity to go to the camp again I would definitely go. We went to the crocodile park and I held a baby crocodile for the first time, it felt weird and slimy, I got to see some in the water and watched them get fed chicken.

Angelica Pratt, Goanna Park Camper



Campers setting off for a week of fun thanks to Lotterywest

Variety Scholarship nominations open

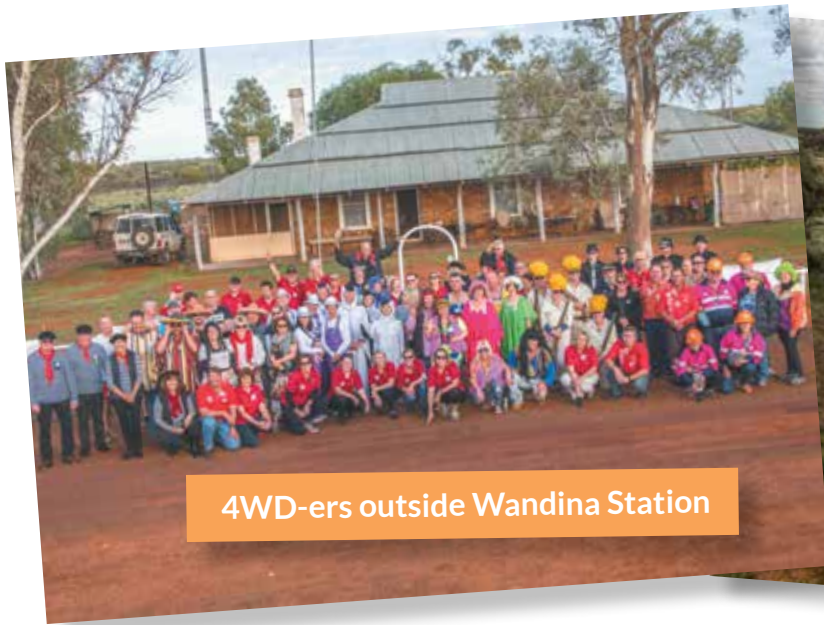
Do you know a talented young West Australian who is sick, disadvantaged or has special needs?

It takes more than talent to make dreams come true and nominations for the 2017 Variety Scholarships are now open!

Visit our website for more information: variety.org.au/WAscholarships

Lachie (right) has received several scholarships from Variety WA and is now attending the James Morrison Academy of Music





4WD-ers outside Wandina Station



Very varied Variety WA Midwest 4WD Getaway!

64 participants journeyed through the Midwest on an incredible 4WD adventure, raising \$116,000 along the way

Getaway-ers including 20 new-comers and 30 volunteers spent a beautiful weekend travelling through the Midwest, seeing crops of canola, amazing wildflowers and gorges and even discovering a new nature's window! After a full days travel on Friday including visits to Yuna Primary School and Yuna Playgroup, where several grants were presented, the group landed at Wandina Station Stay to spend the night at Dracula's Castle, which was everything that they had hoped for - dark, dingy but oh so delectable!

Saturday brought in the beautiful sights that Wandina had to offer, with some more merriment mischief of course, then a return to Wandina to attend the Var-Aria Awards, where Cher, Madonna, Skyhooks, and a special performance by Midnight Oil helped guests party the night away.

Sunday saw exhausted but very happy getaway-ers when the Getaway committee were able to announce that well over \$116,000 for had been raised to help Midwest kids in need.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers, participants, local businesses, branch sponsors, major event sponsors and all who were involved in putting this wonderful event together and making it the success it was!

- Jan, Variety WA Midwest branch



Q&A with the Busso Bike Ride



Since 2011, a group of mates have raised \$150,000 for Variety WA by organising an annual 240km cycle from Perth to Busselton. Simon Amos, Chair of the volunteer Busso Bike Ride committee, tells us more about it.

How did the Perth to Busselton Bike Ride begin?

It literally began as banter over a few beers. A group of us were at dinner and someone bet the other that they couldn't ride to Busselton. The challenge was accepted and soon a few of us had been roped in for the adventure. We actually didn't make the first event a fundraiser because we weren't even sure we'd finish!

What's been the highlight of the Perth to Busselton Bike Ride so far?

The ride has and will always be a social ride – we intentionally keep numbers to a small group – so the main highlight has been enjoying the team camaraderie over the weekend, and the friendships that have formed over the years. To have met some of the children and families that Variety support, and see where our fundraising goes is also really memorable for us all.

What would you say to anyone else wanting to fundraise for Variety?

Do it! Don't be afraid to have a big idea, and get a few other people on board to help. We are very lucky to have an active volunteer committee who take on various roles to help coordinate the event, without the committee and all our riders, it really is a team effort.

For more information on becoming a community fundraiser for Variety, please contact Laura on 9355 3655 or laura.benson@varietywa.org.au.

Leave a gift in your will

Leaving a bequest is one of the most personal ways that you can support Variety - the Children's Charity. 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 WA kids in need. If you would like to discuss this important decision, please call Katie on 9355 3655.



Variety of Chefs 2016

On the 29th of July the Crown Perth Grand Ballroom transformed into Perth's best restaurant for one of Variety WA's favourite fundraising events – the Variety of Chefs Ball.

My Kitchen Rules star Colin Fassnidge and a host of award winning WA chefs took to the stage to share their culinary secrets and immerse diners in an unforgettable 5-course degustation experience.

We would like to extend a big thank you to Variety grant recipient, Addison, and the Read family for sharing their story with us. An incredible family and the real heroes of the night. The event would not have been possible without the generosity of our chefs, together with the outstanding support of Crown Perth, Linneys, Ferngrove Wines and many more.

Save the date for the 2017 Variety of Chefs – Friday the 21st of July and stay tuned for our headline chefs to be announced!



Addison and Narelle Read



Oyster shucker extraordinaire Jerry Fraser, Peter Manifis of Passion Meets Purveyor, Sean Marco of Crown Towers & Conventions, Hadleigh Troy of Restaurant Amuse, Colin Fassnidge of 4Fourteen, Stephen Clarke of Clarke's North Beach

Variety of Choice Home Lottery – the kids were the big winners!

27 year old university student, Robbie Hobson from Baldvis was the lucky Grand Prize winner in our second Variety of Choice Home Lottery. What a choice he had between \$1 MILLION to spend with Plunkett Homes or \$800,000 cash - a fantastic start in life for him and his family. Here's what Robbie had to say about his win:

"In just one phone call my life completely changed, all debts are gone, it's such a surreal experience. I cannot say thank you enough to Variety for such an amazing prize, it's truly life changing. I was happy just buying tickets to support such a great cause, I never expected anything out of it. But hey, as they say, you've got to be in it to win it!"

We would also like to congratulate our 2,500 other lucky prize winners and thank all of our Variety supporters who purchased a ticket.

The Variety of Choice Home Lottery has become one of our largest fundraisers and we couldn't have done it without your support.

Thank you to our major sponsor Plunkett Homes for their continued support and our prize partners; Linneys, Coleman, Ferngrove, Retravision, Toyota, Keturah Day Spa and Holiday Planet.

Register your interest for the 2017 lottery today at varietylottery.com.au





Judy Paioff, Rosie Batty and Michael Pailthorpe

Variety Toy Bank

The highlight of the 2016 Variety Toy Bank calendar was a very special guest speaker at the Variety Toy Bank Jewels of Fashion Luncheon in September. 2015 Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty gave a powerful and inspirational speech, explaining how she has risen above her personal tragedy and great loss to put domestic violence on the national agenda.

Guests were also treated to a fashion parade from Frame Boutique and an appearance from the star of *The Sound of Music*, Australia's own Cameron Daddo.

Over 300 toys were donated to the Women's Council all of which will be distributed to women's refuges and shelters around the state and given to children taken from domestic violence situations. Funds raised on the day also help support the Promoting Safety and Respect Program – a program that delivers violence prevention education to high schools in Western Australia.

Thank you to all our sponsors - Linneys, Kavanagh Lawyers, Crown Perth, and the incredible committee behind the event.

"From all of us here at the Women's Council and the Executive Committee, we once again extend a huge thank you for all your hard work in 2016 and we look forward, with excitement, to another year of brightening up the lives of the women and children experiencing domestic and family violence around Western Australia." - Angela Hartwig, Chief Executive Officer WCDFVS (WA)

Variety Motor Mouth – exciting events added in 2016!

The Variety Motor Mouth Camp community experienced quite a different format this year with the introduction of new initiatives such as bowling events, the opportunity for parents to attend the AGOSCI National Tour Workshop and the very unique opportunity to take part in a FunFlight!

Variety Motor Mouth Camp focusses on providing children who use an Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) device with the skills and confidence to communicate with family and friends. The camp will be running again in 2017 together with the continuation of other social events. The Motor Mouth program is continuing to focus on creating a supportive AAC community in order for parents and children to access training, support and networking opportunities.

Here are some quotes from our wonderful Motor Mouth families.

Thanks to Phil, Kelly and all the others that made this happen, and of course the support of Variety. Despite being a little unwell and tired Lachy enjoyed using 'push' and 'crash' on his talker ... and of course the food. See ya at the next event! - Dale Bastin

Thanks guys what a great idea. I think Violet had visual overload. We all had a fantastic time bowling and it was extra special to catch up with the lovely Variety and ILC peeps that we haven't seen for ages. Best morning. - Janet Jonas-Oliver

Variety Motor Mouth Camp is made possible thanks to the generous support of P&N Bank, and our Variety WA donors.

Variety WA would also like to thank our Camp Coordinator, Kelly Savage, and the extraordinary Motor Mouth Committee for another fantastic year.



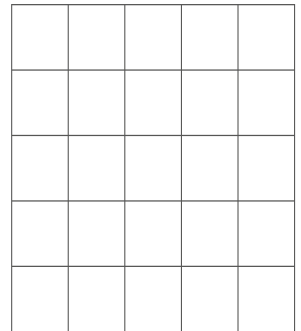
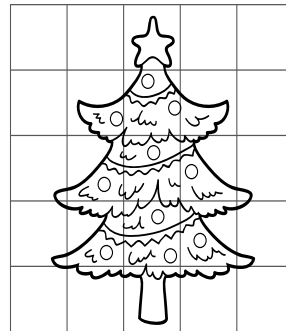
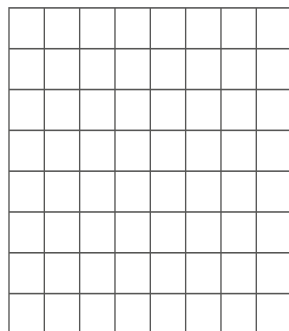
Kids Corner

Get in the Christmas spirit with fun activities and colouring in!



Copy Santa Claus

Copy the Christmas tree



GENERAL DONATION



\$20 donation

\$20 can help a child with special needs to learn with assistive software to positively transform not only their academic performance but also their classroom experience



\$100 donation

\$100 can enable a child to breathe easier with a nebuliser. Variety caring for Kids Program helps provide a wide range of equipment ranging from incubators to monitors.



\$500 donation

\$500 can help bring independence to a child living with disability by contributing towards a specialised wheelchair

REGULAR DONATION



\$16 per month

The gift of JOY. Give a child the opportunity to be a part of activities and events that due to disability or financial hardship could otherwise not experience.



\$29 per month

The gift of SUPPORT. By supporting Variety's Caring for Kids Program your gift will provide vital care to seriously ill children.



\$50 per month

The gift of EDUCATION. Help a child to fulfil their potential by contributing to a scholarship in an area they are passionate about.

MAJOR SPONSORS



Stan Peron Charitable Trust

EVENT SPONSORS



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Sunday Times perthnow.com.au



Please give a little bit and help Variety give a lot... Thank You

I would like to donate \$

- I have enclosed a cheque/money order for this amount
- Please debit my credit card for this amount
- Amex Diners Visa Mastercard

Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

I would like to give my gift:

- Monthly Quarterly Annually Once only

Name _____

Daytime Contact Number _____

Address _____

Email _____

Please make cheques / money orders payable to Variety WA. An official tax deductible receipt will be issued for all donations \$2.00 and above. Thank you for your generous support. Please return this form to Variety WA.

OR donate online at variety.org.au/WA



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