

Heartbeat

2018 Summer Edition



Official newsletter of Variety – the Children's Charity of Western Australia

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The kids you help

Thomas

Meet Thomas, one of our Variety Heart Scholarship recipients for 2017 who was awarded a grant to pursue his passion for wheelchair basketball. Thomas received his first Variety Scholarship in 2016 and has already achieved so much - playing in the state league and ranking 16th best player nationally on an adult level. Now training with the Australian Paralympic Team, he intends to compete at an international level and has his sights set on the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics. The sky is the limit, Thomas!



Alice

Meet Variety grant recipient Alice who received a brand new modified tricycle. Alice lives with glycine encephalopathy, a rare metabolic disorder which affects independent movement, balance and coordination. Not only has the trike improved Alice's muscle strength and motor skills but it's also given her the freedom and independence to be involved in family bike rides and outings. There's no stopping her now!



Cayla

Meet 8 year old Cayla, our 2017 Variety Bash Ambassador. Cayla lives with cerebral palsy, affecting both her speech and motor skills and has been a participant at our Variety WA Motor Mouth Camp for two years now. Being involved with our Variety events and Variety Motor Mouth Camp has not only given her and her family the skills to use her AAC device to its full capacity but boosted her confidence to new heights. Cayla's Mum said, "Cayla absolutely loved being your Ambassador for the 2017 Variety WA Bash and meeting all the people, fun characters and seeing the cars!" It's been one amazing ride in 2017 with Cayla never failing to bring a smile to the face of hundreds of Variety supporters.



Tophams

Hayley, Scott and Jaimie Topham are three siblings living with muscular dystrophy and have been part of the Variety family for over six years. In April the Topham family received a brand new wheelchair accessible van, which has made such a difference to their everyday routine. Packing and unpacking three children and two wheelchairs into an unmodified van was a daily challenge for not only the kids, but mum Narelle. Narelle said, "This is such a blessing. Life in general will become so much easier with transport for Jaimie's electric chair, plus Hayley's chair." They truly are an inspiration and reflect everything we believe in here at Variety WA.



A Message from the Variety WA Team

2017 was another huge year for Variety WA, with our iconic Variety Bash and Variety of Choice Home Lottery raising an amazing amount for WA kids in need!

Thanks to Variety board member Jay Walter, JWH Group and Plunkett Homes, our third Variety of Choice Home Lottery is now complete. Not only has it raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the kids, it's also given us the opportunity to promote Variety WA to the wider community.

We're delighted to let you know that Thrifty have returned as a sponsor of Variety WA and we are looking forward to a great partnership with them.

July saw Elizabeth Quay turn into a Winter wonderland for the inaugural Skating At Elizabeth Quay for Variety, an exciting new fundraising partnership which included a very special session for our Variety families.

Of course the huge success all the launches of our 2018 motoring events – the Variety Creative Car Cruise, Variety 4WD Challenge and the 30th Anniversary Variety Bash. Registrations for all of these events are the highest we have seen for many years, so make sure that you sign up if you haven't already.

Finally, we are privileged to have incorporated Variety Charity Link into our Kid Support Program.



Variety Charity Link has already delivered thousands of toys and hampers to families over the Christmas period. We are currently gearing up to distribute essential school items to kids in need through the Back to School Appeal.

We have a big year planned for 2018 and can't thank you enough for your support of WA kids in need. We literally could not do what we do without you!

The Team at Variety WA

What's on in 2018!

FEBRUARY

Saturday 17 February
Auto Classic Variety Ball

MARCH

Thursday 14
– Sunday 18 March
Variety Creative Car Cruise

APRIL

Friday 13 April
Variety Heart Scholarships
Presentation Night

MAY

Sunday 27 May
– Sunday 3 June
Variety 4WD Challenge

AUGUST

Saturday 18
– Saturday 25 August
Variety WA Bash

OCTOBER

Thursday 4
– Sunday 7 October
Variety Motor Mouth Camp



Variety Bash

Bashing. Impossible to explain. An old car going places it wasn't designed to go. Good mates all dressed in silly outfits. Raising a tonne of money, then paying for the privilege to be there when some of it is handed out...?!?

When you're a Basher you'll get it. It gets in the blood and that's why we have Bashers with 10, 20 and even 25 years of Bashing experience and have raised many millions of dollars along the way. It's a passion and unlike any other addiction it is of real benefit to society.

I have the heavy load on my shoulders of being the Bash Boss in 2018 for the 30th Anniversary Bash. From the outside the Bash looks very much the same as it did back when it first began in 1989. Apart from some questionable hair styles and many a pair of large-framed brown-tinted glasses, the goal was the same: to reward your selfless fundraising with the best week in the bush with your mates, taking off your professional hat and putting on a silly one.

Much has changed in 30 years and we now find ourselves with various new challenges. There is a lot more competition for each charitable



dollar, corporations have tighter controls on their sponsorship requirements and our old cars are now worth a lot more than new ones! But we Bash on.

We are busily planning out the year ahead to find the best tracks, the best food, the best camping spots and with your help we will make this the best Bash ever! Register your car, raise your money and get on the Bash.

Travis Clark, Bash Boss



Variety Christmas Toy Appeal

We are truly overwhelmed by the success of the 2017 Variety Christmas Toy Appeal!

Thank you to the many generous businesses and schools that donated so many thoughtful gifts this holiday season. Because of you, thousands of WA kids in need enjoyed the surprise of opening a gift on Christmas morning.



Variety Kids Xmas Party



There was nothing but pure happiness at the Variety Kids Xmas Party in December, with over 800 Variety WA kids and families getting into the Christmas spirit for a fantastic day at Santa's Magical Kingdom! A big thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, donors, Lotterywest and The Stan Perron Charitable Trust for bringing so much joy to our Variety kids and families at this special time of year.

Variety Motor Mouth Camp

Back in 2010, I approached Variety WA with an idea. An intensive therapy based camp for families who have a child who uses a communication device. Long story short, the Variety Motor Mouth Camp was born!

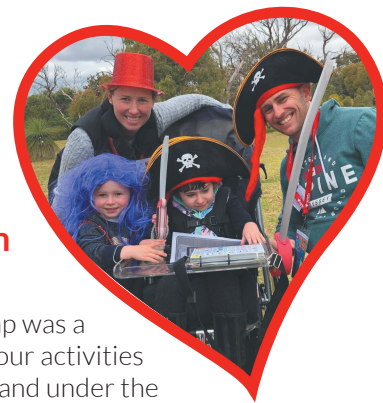
Families that apply to attend Variety Motor Mouth Camp have a school aged child who uses a communication device as their primary means of communication. This might be a tablet with communication apps and software, or a voice output device. The whole family stays for four fun filled days of activities and learning, all focused on developing communication skills through their devices.

Parents attend workshops to learn more about Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) so they can feel confident to support their child that communicates in this unique way. Parents also get to meet with other parents in a similar situation and share ideas, resources and stories. Children who use AAC get to learn to communicate via their device with new friends who communicate in the

same way as them. 2017's camp was a "Shipwrecked" theme so all of our activities were about pirates, mermaids and under the sea. The siblings also get to learn more about how their brother or sister communicates, and they get to participate in some cool recreational activities to have a break from their sibling carer role.

The families that attend Variety Motor Mouth Camp tell me they are so very grateful for the experience. It's so important that each family gets to have a break and focused time together to work on improving skills around their child's communication system. This is only possible through the generous donations from our sponsors, P&N Bank and Newman's Own Foundation, whom we thank deeply.

Kelly Savage, Variety Motor Mouth Camp Founder



Variety 4WD Challenge

If you've always wanted to take your 4WD off road and travel to some of Australia's most amazing and out-of-the-way locations, then the Variety 4WD Challenge is for you.

Originally conceptualized by an ex-Basher who thrived off the fun-filled nights and mateship of the Bash but felt the essential creature comforts were missing. With a passion for 4WDing and a desire to visit some spectacular locations in WA, he created the Variety 4WD Challenge. The event caters for both inexperienced and experienced 4WDers alike. We even had a professional, Aaron from 4WDing Australia come along for 2017 and here's what he had to say.



"Being backed up by a group of well organised and well trained 4WDers is a dream come true for those who haven't done much behind the wheel of a 4WD. Whether you're a seasoned 4WD owner or you've just hopped behind the wheel, you'll have a blast and make a massive difference in the process."

Now in its 20th year, the event is bigger and better than ever with the 2018 Challenge travelling from Kalgoorlie to Uluru, raising funds for kids right across WA. This is one not to miss!

Variety Toy Bank

We have an amazing committee of ladies who work tirelessly to present three exciting and fun functions a year to raise funds and toys for children who arrive at refuges. We have supported programs such as the Promoting Respect Program through the Women's Council of Family and Domestic Violence to help try and break the cycle of domestic violence and assist with larger toys. The toys we collect at each function are eagerly awaited for by the refugees to fulfill what is becoming an ever increasing need.

It is a truly unique charity as our guests not only pay for tickets to attend the functions, but also bring along some of the most amazing toys. We are also unique in the fact that we have more than one function a year and successfully bring together an amazing group of guests who have supported our charity for a very long time. The buzz at each of our functions is what sets us apart from other charity functions – our guests are there for a good time but are also very passionate about our cause as it is very close to a lot of people's hearts.

We have had amazing speakers at our functions over the years, ranging from popular and well known presenters such as Julie Bishop and Fiona Wood, to victims of domestic violence whose stories have brought tears to everyone's eyes.

It is a privilege and an honour to work on the committee and assist those children in need, and as a mother it is very close to my heart.

Nadine Georgiades
Vice Chairperson, Variety Toy Bank Committee



Variety of Chefs

Variety of Chefs is a unique six course food and wine degustation event with all fundraising going to WA kids in need. Every year we highlight the talents of six Australian chefs, with 2017's line up including Colin Fassnidge of My Kitchen Rules and local star Stephen Clarke from Clarke's of North Beach.

In 2017 the Variety Motor Mouth Program was our selected fundraising focus and together we were able to raise a huge amount for WA kids living with complex communication needs.

This event was successful due to support from Crown Perth, Thermomix and Linneys Jewellers. From the auction items that were all donated by very generous people and businesses and the amazing Beach family who told their story on the wonderful work that's carried out at Variety Motor Mouth Camp.

Our wonderful team came together to put on the best Variety of Chefs event and I thank them all. I would also like to thank everyone that attended and supported this event. We are grateful to you all and we look forward to welcoming you all to our next exciting dinner.

Judy Paioff, 2017 Variety of Chefs Committee

Variety Creative Car Cruise

The 2017 Variety Creative Car Cruise was another huge event, cruising the black top for WA kids in need. Long time participant Murray Warton shared with us how he became involved with Variety and why the event is so special to him.

"My first introduction to Variety was in the 2005 Variety Bash with the Vegemite's car from Victor Harbour to Perth.

From there I bought my own car in the theme of a shark and completed three Bashes with three other mates. A few years later a mate from Bunbury invited me along to the very first Variety Creative Car Cruise in his Falcon and I was immediately

hooked! The following year Fran the Fairlane was purchased and I've been cruising ever since with the crew from Dalyellup football team. Over the years, I have had the joy of fundraising with many generous people within the Dalyellup community. The Cruise is loved by a variety of people, some with an interests in cars and some who would be at home on the set of Driving Miss Daisy, but all have enjoyed the comradery of the event. My advice to people assessing whether Variety is the charity to support would be: raise the money, grab a car and get ready for a well organised trip with a difference".





Variety Heart Scholarships

Congratulations to the 34 inspirational scholarship recipients of 2017. These young individuals were recognised for their incredible talents and awarded scholarships to help them reach their full potential. We can't wait to see you go far!



Variety Goanna Park Adventure Camp

Variety Goanna Park Adventure Camp is aimed at providing kids with disability or disadvantage a unique experience away from their day to day routines, in a safe and secure environment.

Held in the Northern Territory over two weeks, campers participate in various activities, helping their self-esteem and confidence, and challenging their comfort zones. Jan from the Variety Midwest Branch tells us why Variety Goanna Park Adventure Camp is so important and how it has shaped her life.

"The campers get to experience so many opportunities like riding a Harley motorbike, watching crocodiles jump out of the water, swimming in a wave pool and rock climbing. They are taken out of their comfort zone from under the watchful eyes of their parents, asked to sleep in a tent, be independent, responsible, and punctual - skills that most of them definitely didn't have when they arrived, but went home with."

"It was one of the most amazing things in my life to have been a part of. They are patient, kind and forgiving kids. What you see in these campers at the end of an action-filled week was as rewarding as it was physically and



mentally exhausting. Something we all should stop to think about – see the person, see the ability and not the disability".

We're very proud of our 2017 campers and hope you had the time of your lives! A special thank you to Lotterywest and individual donors for their generous support in making Goanna Park Adventure Camp possible.



Variety of Choice Home Lottery

We'd been involved with Variety for a few years, already having taken part in a number of motoring events. For us, we'd found fundraising rewarding but also hard work as you're trying to fundraise as much as you can to help the kids. It was the idea of a lottery that came to mind, which could generate more funds for the kids with similar effort involved, and something we could build on each year. Now in its third year, it's been amazing to see it grow and know that more money is being raised to help the kids of WA. It's definitely still challenging, but the lottery has created a way for more people to learn about what Variety does and why it's so powerful – whilst hopefully winning a prize or two along the way. Our involvement through one of our housing brands, Plunkett Homes, has meant we can also deliver a prize that provides considerable value to the winner through home ownership and a chance to experience part of the great Australian dream. We're proud of what we build at Plunkett Homes and it's great to see so many people wanting to experience a build through Plunkett Homes too.

Jay Walter, General Manager,
JWH Group & Variety Board Member

Thrifty Spotlight

We're very excited about our new major partnership with Thrifty WA!

Thrifty WA General Manager Andrew Kamphaug officially handed over the keys to a brand new Mitsubishi Pajero Sport in October to Variety WA and grant recipient, Josh. The vehicle will be used on events such as the iconic Variety Bash and day-to-day corporate travel. The partnership also includes additional vehicle hire for events Andrew said the vehicle rental company is proud to be a major partner of Variety.

"Thrifty WA and the franchise business owner Keith Bedell have been long-time supporters of the charity, providing valuable support vehicles for events, as well as participating in the iconic Variety Bash for many, many years.

We've seen the incredible work the charity does and wanted to increase our contribution to help them achieve so much more and take our partnership to the next level by becoming a Major Partner," he said.

Bequest

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 Western Australian kids in need. If you would like to discuss this important decision, please call Katie at Variety WA on 9355 3655.



Variety Ball



Over 500 guests filled Perth Arena, Saturday 11 February for our annual Variety Ball.

The week prior to the Variety Ball the committee made the decision to change the venue due to the weather forecast. In doing so, we made history by being the first Gala Ball Perth Arena has ever hosted. From start to finish, guests enjoyed themselves in the 'enchanted garden' with amazing food and entertainment, all whilst raising an incredible amount for WA kids in need. Thank you to the committee and our sponsors, none of this would be possible without your efforts.

Join us this year on February 17 at the Mounts Bay Sailing Club for the 2018 Auto Classic Variety Ball 10th Anniversary. Enjoy a magical night of delicious food, fine wine and fabulous entertainment as we raise funds for WA kids who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs. This is a sell-out event so be sure to get your ticket early!

You can also help support WA kids by purchasing a ticket to WIN a MINI Ray 5 donated by Auto Classic! There are only 3,000 tickets available so get in quick. The raffle will be drawn on the night at the 2018 Variety Ball.

For more information or to secure your tickets visit our website or contact Carol Wallbank at carol.wallbank@varietywa.org.au



Variety Goldfields

It's been another huge year for the Variety WA Goldfields Branch, hosting some of the most amazing fundraising events in the West.

It's safe to say the team do things a little differently in the Goldfields, but sure know how to have fun and raise a huge amount of money. The Geoff Kemp Memorial Golf Day saw over 100 keen golfers come together for a raucous round of golf in the desert, together raising an incredible \$60,000. The annual Variety KBS Bonfire night went off with a bang, with the Kalgoorlie Bonfire Society putting on another event to remember. The day was full of entertainment, camping, a spectacular fireworks show, traditional elders and of course the epic bonfire!

Variety Midwest's Motown on Moresby

Variety WA Midwest Branch held their biennial Moresby Dinner on Saturday 19 August, with the theme for the night "Motown on Moresby".

It was a truly wonderful night with over 200 guests attending. This event is a true fine dining experience, where we take a piece of dirt on the top of a hill in a paddock and turn it into a five star restaurant, with style and class.

Pete Manifis and the Geraldton TAFE students created an amazing menu, incorporating local produce; we thank them for the use of their facilities. The incredibly talented Detachment of The Royal Australian Navy Band had our guests up and dancing from the first song. The event is a credit to the volunteers that work tirelessly to make it a success. Their attention to detail is second to none!

To finish off this unique experience, we raised \$75,000 for WA kids in need! Congratulations to the Variety Midwest WA Branch on running another successful Moresby Dinner.

Jan Ajduk, Variety Midwest Branch



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Silence the CEO

Kim Radalj, business manager at P&N Bank, is one of the recent participants of our inaugural fundraising initiative Silence the CEO.

Kim was tasked with giving up his voice for a day to raise awareness for kids living with complex communication needs.

He experimented with a text-to-speech i-Phone app using the voice of Siri to help him communicate, as well as touch typing on a keyboard to help him get through the day. Kim took his challenge very seriously, and although many tried to catch him out, he was bound to a pledge of silence.

In Kim's own words, "I am so grateful I got the opportunity to participate. Not only did I raise \$2,000 for a great cause, it also gave me a chance to reflect and learn a lot about myself".



Hair with Heart

Ten year old Charlotte Pilgrim-Byrne recently took part in the craze sweeping the nation, Variety Hair with Heart. Charlotte had been growing her locks for over five years when she decided to make a difference by chopping them off and donating it to Variety. She is proud to know that her very own hair will be made into a specialised wig, offering freedom and better self-confidence to a child living with hair loss. Charlotte took a step further and set up a fundraising page and raised almost \$1,800.



Born to Sing

The Born to Sing Choir really has Christmas wrapped up. Under the musical direction of Martin Meader, the choir belted out festive favourites at their sold out Christmas in July concert and raised \$3,000 for WA kids in need.



Variety Youth Choir

Singing around Perth in bands led me to pursue a recording career that took me over east and overseas where my band "Living Daylights" achieved number one in Japan and top ten in Australia. I returned to Perth in the late 90's where I was keen to work with young acts looking to help develop their musical careers.

Keith Potger from the Seekers was Patron of Variety WA at the time and asked me if I would work with a group of young Variety Scholarship recipients and that was the beginning of what is now The Variety Youth Choir – now in its 21st year.

The Variety Youth Choir is an all inclusive group enabling young people with musical talent to develop in a supportive and fun environment. The mix of all abilities is what makes it so special for all the members. The choir performs at many corporate and community events throughout the year helping to promote Variety and to raise money for WA kids in need.

The choir performed almost 20 shows in 2017 with shows booked well into this year.

Denise DeMarchi, Musical Director, Variety Youth Choir

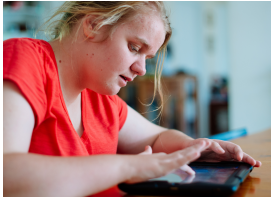


Kids Word Search

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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 give a disadvantaged child and their siblings the gift of joy with the experience of the Variety Kids Christmas Party.



\$440 donation

\$440 can purchase a life saving nebulizer for a child living with cystic fibrosis



\$500 donation

\$500 can help bring independence to a disabled child by contributing towards a specialised wheelchair.

REGULAR DONATION



\$16 per month

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



\$50 per month

The gift of EDUCATION. Help one child to fulfill their potential by providing them with a one year scholarship in an area they are passionate about.

MAJOR SPONSORS



EVENT SPONSORS



LINNEYS



KEY SUPPORTERS



Stan Peron Charitable Trust

MEDIA PARTNERS



Sunday Times
perthnow.com.au



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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

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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/Donate/



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Heartfelt thanks from our Variety families

"The choir has helped Jaimie meet amazing friends and has given her the opportunity to perform at some very incredible events. Jaimie would not have been given the same opportunities at any other choir group. What this choir gives to kids with disabilities is beyond words. Jaimie's confidence and singing skills have improved so much. The singing and breathing exercises she does has also improved her health."

Narelle

"Variety WA have been like extended family for 7 years now. I think this relationship will continue long after my sons have aged out of being grant recipients, as I hope to continue giving back to the charity that has helped us every time we asked."

Neeva

"Variety has been such an inspiration to my daughter as she has alopecia and they have helped her grow into the young lady she has become today - glowing with confidence. I can't thank Variety enough for all that they do."

Arlene



"Thank you so much for helping to support our family, and so many other families like ours. Many of us are unable to return to work due to the around-the-clock care needs of our children. Your assistance eases the financial burden of car modifications, allowing us to focus on other important parts in our child's daily life."

Renae



"My family and I would love to thank Variety and your wonderful staff for the generous gift of a simple piece of equipment - but to our son and family it is a life changing instrument. The iPad has had a magical impact on my son and to hear him giggle has brought both him and us much joy to our hearts."

