



Impact Report 2023/24

Variety – the children’s charity NT



variety
the children's charity[®]

Variety NT acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work. We pay respect to Elders – past, present and future – and acknowledge the important, ongoing role all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within Australia.



Top Hat Highest Fundraisers:
Bash Car 23, *The Hillbillies*

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The Why

In 2024, the Variety NT Board and the General Manager undertook a review to update our Strategic Directions, Policies and Finances in an increasingly competitive environment for support and funding. A significant change this year was the Starfish Swim program transitioning to self-funding and we wish them all the best for the future.

We are continually inspired by the dedication of the Variety NT family – our volunteers, supporters, sponsors, donors, members, staff and Board members – who roll up their sleeves and step in when needed most.

We have been fortunate to receive incredible support across our key events and programs, including the Australia Day Ute Run, Variety NT Bash, Santa Fun Run and the Variety Adventure Camp.

We deeply appreciate our business partners, government supporters and community members whose contributions are vital to our work in supporting children who are sick, disadvantaged and living with disabilities across the NT. We also acknowledge the dedication of our staff and extend our gratitude to our Board members who volunteer their time and expertise to steer Variety NT in the right direction. Special thanks to our Patron,

Daryl Manzie, and our Ambassadors, Sarah Passalick and Shalom Kaa, for their invaluable contributions.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Variety NT Adventure Camp and take part in the National Bash in South Australia. We remain focused on growing our programs, expanding our volunteer base and launching our new website to enhance our connection with the community.

Reflecting on our rich history and the bright future ahead, we remain committed to ensuring no child misses out on the experiences and support they deserve. None of this would be possible without the collective efforts of our Variety NT family.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone. And always remember, *“No one stands taller than when stooping to help a child.”*



Peter Duffy
Chief Barker



Tania Sellers
General Manager



variety
the children's charity

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

**So we help
kids with these
challenges:**



Sick



Disadvantaged



Disability





...by delivering the elements of the Variety Kids Support Framework:

GRANTS

We grant a range of things to provide practical help to kids and organisations in need.



Service Grants



Equipment Grants



Supplies Grants



Program Grants

SCHOLARSHIPS

We give scholarships to encourage the talents of kids in need.



KIDS' EVENTS

We hold events to engage & bring joy to kids in need & their families.

Variety NT Adventure Camp

Special Children's Christmas Party

...to create lasting impact around Australia



Number of kids
impacted by Variety
across Australia this year

172,411

**...and a better life for the kids
of the Northern Territory.**



We expended:

\$95,576
**to help NT kids
in need**

Plus provided:

**\$8,000 in
in-kind support**

We supported:

**around
30
different
conditions**

We impacted:

**2,133
kids in
the NT**

But numbers can only tell part of the story...



Eli Cook: Breathing Easier and Swinging into Joy

Eli is a 6-year-old boy living with Level 5 Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy, PPP3CA – a rare condition causing severe refractory epilepsy. The only child in Australia diagnosed with this condition, Eli also has global developmental delay and low muscle tone.

To keep Eli safe, suction machines are essential to help him breathe easily. But beyond the critical medical need, Eli also deserves to experience the simple joys of childhood.

When no funding was available for both his medical and play equipment, Variety NT stepped in to bridge the gap. Through Variety NT's support, Eli received the suction machines he needs to breathe safely – and a backyard swing to fill his days with joy.

“Eli is all smiles on the swing and we can rest a little easier as we can assist him to breathe, thanks for your help Variety NT.”
– Alison Cook Eli's mother.

Pine Creek School: Building Learning and Play

A small semi remote school 92 kilometres from Katherine and 200 from Darwin, Pine Creek School not only hosted the Variety NT Bash but also received a much-needed Bash Grant to support its students.

“Our children love the outdoors and we were hoping to get some lovely new resources to engage them and keep their focus on school and learning.” – Jo Moon, Principal

Thanks to the Bash Grant, Pine Creek School now has not one but two cubby houses – perfect for fostering outdoor play and creativity. In addition, the school received \$1,000 worth of Lego and other interactive toys, providing plenty of opportunities for the children to play, build and learn.



Variety Ability Unleashed Kids

In 2024, Disability Sports Australia delivered 9 Ability Unleashed Kids days across the NT for children aged 5-18 years with sensory, physical or intellectual disabilities. The kids get to try different adapted sports in a fun, safe and inclusive environment. In 2024, thanks to a grant from Variety NT, the program was extended to kids outside the Darwin Urban areas with 9 events including Tiwi Islands and Ngukurr.

“Thank you Variety NT for an incredible 2023/24. Your continued support and enthusiasm brought so many smiles to the participants’ faces.” – Sam

Scholarship – Friends of School Sport

Variety NT Helping NT Track and Field Stars of Tomorrow!

In late November, three students from the NT travelled to Launceston to compete in the School Sport Australia Track and Field Championships. Mia Dempsey, Riak Yolo and Rooki Worthington competed against the best of Australia's athletes with a disability in the 10-12 year age group.

Competing at the highest level for the first time was an amazing experience for all three and, in some cases, the first time they had direct competition with students with the same disability classification. All three competed with distinction, setting a number of personal bests in their events. A highlight for the team was Mia Dempsey, who achieved the first medal for the whole NT team. Mia won a Bronze medal in the 4 x 100m multiclass relay competing with 3 students from other states. This was a huge thrill not only for Mia but for the whole team.



Scholarship – Blake Cook

Blake is a determined 10-year-old who lives with his parents and older brother at Bauhinia Downs Station. His family lease this property and make a living off feral buffalo and cattle. Blake and his brother attend School of the Air, balancing their education with life in the outback.

Thanks to a Variety NT Scholarship, Blake enjoyed an incredible opportunity to represent Australia at the Junior World Titles in Saddle Bronc in Las Vegas. This life-changing experience allowed Blake to showcase his talent on the world stage while proudly representing his community and country.

Variety Adventure Camp at Goanna Park: 24 Years of Inclusion and Joy

During the June–July school holidays, Variety NT hosted its 24th annual Adventure Camp at Goanna Park. This week-long camp is designed for teenagers with disabilities aged 13 to 18, offering them an incredible opportunity to build confidence, try new activities and create lifelong memories.

Each camper is paired with a Junior Police Ranger in a buddy system that fosters inclusion, friendship and support. With the help of our amazing volunteers, the camp provided a safe and welcoming environment for everyone to thrive.

From fishing and basketball games to talent night performances and splashing around at the Wave Pool, the campers had no shortage of fun activities. While there were countless highlights, the friendships made during the camp were the most treasured moments of all.

This free camp not only benefits the teenagers but also gives families a much-needed break. It's truly inspiring to see the positive impact this experience has on both the campers and the volunteers, making it a highlight of the year for everyone involved.



How you helped

2024 Variety Bash

The Variety NT Bash Top End Trek 2024 was a roaring success; corrugated roads were navigated, azure, blue waters were admired, tyres were changed, bonnets went up and down, games were played and laughs galore were had.

This year's journey took us on an epic trek through the heart of the Northern Territory, from Crab Claw Resort to Lake Bennett via Nhulunbuy, Katherine and Jabiru. We made a real impact by delivering grants and resources directly to children in remote communities. It couldn't have been more fun, challenging, and rewarding—true Variety Bash style!

A huge thank you to all the Bash teams, their sponsors and supporters for fundraising throughout the year and our Bash officials and volunteers. A special shout-out to the Car 23 "The Hillbillies" for breaking their fundraising record, raising an incredible \$106,000! Your efforts, along with those of every team, made a massive difference.

21 Bash Cars, 8 Official support vehicles, 73 participants, 3000km and over \$286,400k raised for the kids!

We can't wait to see what next Variety NT Bash brings as we gear up for the "Vines to Mines" National Bash in South Australia.

Variety NT Bash

Top End Trek Award winners!

Top Hat Highest Fundraiser:

The Hillbillies

2nd Highest Fundraisers:

Mario Broz

3rd Highest Fundraisers:

2 Kool 4 Skool

Spirit of the Bash Overall Winner: 2 Kool 4 Skool

Show & Shine (Best presented car and crew):

2 Kool 4 Skool

Daly Waters 'Virgin' Basher:

Jordi Thomson - SpongeBob SquarePants

Best hosted function: Bollywood Belles

Officially Legend: OV2 Mechanics

Ultimate Best Scam: Bollywood Belles

Pist'n Broke: The Hillbillies

Broken Compass: SpongeBob SquarePants

Best Red Faces Act: 2 Kool 4 Skool

Bash Bucks Haul: Bollywood Belles



How you helped

Hot 100 Australia Day UTE Run

This year's Australia Day Ute Run was a true celebration of Aussie spirit, with over 350 decorated vehicles and more than 10,000 spectators lining the route from Hidden Valley Raceway to Noonamah Tavern. The First Nations First Ute was a standout, honouring Australia's cultural heritage. Thanks to our major sponsors Hot 100, Noonamah Rodeo and Tavern, Trafficwerx and the National Australia Day Council. The event was a huge success, bringing the community together in a day of fun and celebration.



National Reconciliation Week Trivia

In partnership with the Miriam Rose Foundation, the National Reconciliation Week Trivia Night at Darwin Trailer Boat Club brought businesses and the community together for a fun-filled evening. Laughter, teamwork and friendly competition helped raise over \$4,000 while strengthening community connections.

Santa Fun Run & Walk

The Santa Fun Run & Walk turned Darwin into a festive sea of red as families and friends dressed as Santa to spread cheer and raise funds for children in need. Despite the heat, participants embraced the fun, cooling off with plenty of water and ice baths. Top End Zumba kicked things off with a lively warm-up, setting the tone for a joyful event. A huge thank you to everyone who took part.



Third Party Events Delivered!

Variety NT continues to receive support from events that choose us as their Charity of Choice. This year we celebrate contributions from:

- Clubs Week = Community Week
- Super Cars V8
- Eden Festival - Darwin River Tavern Family Fun Day
- Noonamah Tavern: Melbourne Cup Frog Races
- City of Darwin Carols by Candlelight
- Grill'd
- Drag Queen Bingo
- Special Children's Christmas Party

Major Partners

We take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful sponsors, businesses and organisations who provide ongoing support, sponsorship and donations to assist us to enhance the lives of NT children in need.



SIGNIFICANT EVENT SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



Nightcliff Community Bank®
Branch



Thank you to all our sponsors and supporters

Abbott Cleaning Services

Lions Club

Casuarina Sports Club

Lizards Bar and Restaurant

Crab Claw Island Resort

MGA Whittles

Curby's NT

Mick's Whips

Energy Resources of Australia Ltd

Mindil Beach Casino

Daly Waters Pub

Nemarluk School

Darwin Convention Centre

Nhulunbuy Corporation

Darwin Ice Skating Centre

Northern Land Council

Darwin River Tavern

Northern Territory Government

Darwin Runners & Walkers Club

NT Major Events

Darwin Trailer Boat Club

NT Police Traffic Division

Darwin Waterfront Corporation

Rotary Club of Darwin

Darwin Wave Lagoon

Slappa's Thongs

Girl Guides Darwin

Top End Zumba

Hidden Valley Raceway

Total Tools

Humpty Doo Primary School

Totally Work Wear

Intensity

William Carroll Photography

Junior Police Rangers

106.9 Gove FM

Justin Quinter

Zip Print

Kevin's Mobile Disco

A Heart Felt Thank you to our Variety Volunteers

To each and every one of our wonderful Volunteers, thank you for all your support, dedication and hard work throughout the year. We could not do it without you.

Variety NT Patron and Ambassadors

A heartfelt thank you to our Patron, Daryl Manzie, and our Ambassadors, Sarah Passalick and Shalom Kaa, for their invaluable support throughout the year.



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