

2024 Variety WA Inc (Tent 74) Board Candidate bios



Chief Barker

Jay Wakefield

It has been my privilege to serve as Chief Barker for the last year, assisting the staff, board and volunteers in whatever way I can to create better lives for sick and disadvantaged kids. I look forward to continuing to deliver on the foundation that has been established to ensure the charities success. Prior to becoming Chief Barker, I served as Treasurer for two years.

My involvement with Variety commenced in 2015, providing support for the home lottery, working closely to help make the lottery a success. In 2017, I had the opportunity to participate in the Variety Bash and being an avid car enthusiast, I jumped at the chance and was hooked. My wife and I are now regular participants in the Creative Car Cruise, Motorbike run and Bash.

As a Chartered and Certified Practising accountant, I have operated my own accounting firm for the last 20 years. During that period, I have had the privilege to be involved in many not-for-profit organisations in various roles such as CFO, board member or external consultant providing me with a great base of experience and knowledge which I believe can benefit the charity.

Deputy Chairperson

Geoff Robb

I have re-nominated to serve on the board as Deputy Chair.

I have been a board member since 2022, and I believe I have the necessary experience to contribute with my experience in governance, financial matters, logistics and management of people.

I am a proud father of two adult children and the Managing Director of RM Surveys, a multi-disciplined Surveying company employing over 80 staff throughout the state of WA. RM Surveys has been a proud supporter of Variety WA for over 10 years.

I completed my first Bash in 2000 and since have been a participant or OV with my wife Gillian in over 35 events including the Bash, 4WD Adventure, Creative Car Cruise, Ruby Road Trip and the Motor Bike Run.

I currently am a sitting Board member, member of the Finance and Risks Committee, 4WD and Creative Car Cruise Committees and involved with the planning and survey of destinations of these events with Gillian.

The work of Variety WA and the results that we see and the difference that we can make to the children that are far less fortunate than our own is extremely rewarding. I have huge admiration for all people involved in the Charity.

Treasurer

Roy Mellon

Roy Mellon's profound impact on the Australian payroll and workforce management sector is anchored in a deep passion cultivated during his military service. In 2009, he founded RDM Consulting, later acquired by activpayroll, where he served as the Managing Director of Australia. Acquiring activpayroll's Australian operations in 2013, Roy established Proactiv Payroll as a significant player.

Recognising the need for an integrated and modern technology solution, Roy pioneered Definitiv in 2016, a global force in payroll and workforce management software. The Access Group's acquisition in August 2021 allowed Roy to retire as Chief Executive in 2023, overseeing over \$5 billion in annual transactions. Committed to community enrichment, he balances his time between the family farm and philanthropy.

Since 2020, Roy has been an active Variety board member, making substantial contributions to fundraising. Enthusiastically participating in events like the 4WD Adventure, Creative Car Cruise, and the Bash, his passion for cars and vibrant energy makes him integral to Variety. Currently serving on the Finance and Risk Committee, Roy's dedication extends beyond business, leaving a legacy of innovation, leadership, and a steadfast commitment to positive transformation.

Secretary

Chris Rimmer

Chris was co-opted on to the Board in December 2019 and elected to the board in November 2021.

Chris is a partner at Sparke Helmore, a national law firm with and specialises in insurance litigation. Prior to joining Sparke Helmore Chris was a partner at Jarman McKenna, a boutique insurance litigation firm which he and 3 colleague grew from a 20 person business in 2003 up to approximately 90 people in 2015 and, in doing so, gained valuable and significant operational experience in areas such as managing growth, finance, people management, business development and IT – all of which is helpful as the Charity looks to grow its funding sources and grants and strengthen its connection to the community.

In his time on the Board Chris' legal skills have been put to use in drafting and reviewing the Charity's policies and procedures and undertaking a detailed review of the Rules of Association and drafting the new rules. Chris is a member of the Finance and Risk committee.

Chris is excited at the prospect of remaining on the Board and continuing to help the Charity do what it does best – helping kids in need.

Ordinary Board Member candidates

Anthony Begley

I have been involved with Variety for 28 years and first joined the Board in 2010 – serving six years as an elected Board member until 2016, two years in a co-opted position, then another two years elected. I am now seeking re-election once more.

As well as being a Life Member, I completed four years as Bash Boss, served as a member and/or Chair of numerous committees and was a committee member of the Bashers' Club for seven years (including 2 years as President).

I am currently the Executive Chairman and owner of 89's The Garage Door Specialists - a residential and commercial garage door and shutter business, with branches in Perth, Mandurah and Broome. I also have a Commercial Rollashutter business called Force Rollashutters.

An obsessive car enthusiast (I am a qualified Australian Group 1 Drag racer), my involvement with Variety stretches back some 22 years; including a total of 21 Bashes as a participant and official, 3 four-wheel drive events, 2 Bike Run and 11 Creative Car Cruises (an event which I personally created and continue to lead for Variety).

Gwilym Conran

Gwilym brings extensive corporate management experience across Australia's oil and gas, construction, and government sectors, including a focus on change management in Government. Currently, he is the Commercial Manager of a large geospatial group of companies with a national focus. Gwilym also serves as President of the Cornelia de Lange Association Australasia and has led the charity through a transformative phase of growth. His commitment to the disability community is evident through his roles on the Disability Advisory Committee in the NT, the Disability and Inclusion Reference Group for the City of Wanneroo, and as a board member at Joondalup Education Support Centre School.

In addition to his professional expertise, Gwilym's personal experience as a parent to a disabled son who has received services from Variety in the past, in the NT and more recently at Motormouth camp in WA, provides him with a deep understanding of the organization's impact on children, families and the community. His combined lived experience and corporate insight drive his dedication to fostering meaningful change and inclusivity in the community.

Glenn Cornish

I first became involved with Variety WA in 2010, and since doing so I have completed 14 bash events and have sat on the bash organising committee for the last 5 years.

I have operated a successful retail business for the last 25 years, and during that time I have been a member of the Lotterywest Retailers Consultative Panel for 3 years and was a Director and subsequently Chairman of the Western Australian Newsagents Association for approximately 12 years. I am familiar with all aspects of running a small business and interacting with various stake holders to achieve desired outcomes.

Variety WA is a cause I am passionate about, and I am committed to doing all I can to ensure Variety WA can continue to support the multitude of needy families in our community. Witnessing firsthand the difference our efforts make to families less fortunate drives that commitment, and I look forward to having the opportunity to contribute further to the cause.

Simone de Been

I am the CEO of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc (KBCCI) and have held this position for over 7 years. I have a wealth of experience in local government, project management and business enterprise knowledge. I have managed many events connecting the business community and community in general.

I have been on the Variety WA Board for 12 months and also work closely with the Goldfields Variety team in my role as the CEO, assisting with their administration and event management. KBCCI get more involved with Variety every year, organising their Golf and Race days and assisting with the Variety WA grants, which is very rewarding.

I have been the Secretary/Treasurer of the Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry WA (RCCIWA) Executive Committee from 2020 to April 2022, then appointed to President of the RCCIWA, which I continue to do.

My husband and I also own a local engineering business in the Goldfields. I am passionate about the community and assisting people in need through the generosity of Variety WA. My family and I took part in the Central Park Plunge raising over \$9,300 for Variety WA. I love Variety WA it is such a worthwhile charity.

Craig Hollins

I joined the Variety family in 2002 by taking part in my first bike run. Since then I've completed 10 bike runs, seven Bashes, a 4WD and the Ruby in 2020. My involvement with Variety has also taken me to every corner of Western Australia and given me the confidence and skills to explore this land off the beaten track. I have also used my contacts in rural shires to assist with planning Bashes for both Variety WA and Variety VIC. Prior to Variety I had a 12 year stint with the service club Apex.

On top of this I've volunteered to assist with various Variety projects over the years. My IT Support company has provided professional support and management to Variety WA free of charge for several years now. We also provide similar management services to Variety in Victoria.

I previously served two terms on the board totalling four years before stepping off for personal reasons about 10 years ago. My children are now in their 20s so I find myself with refreshed and new ideas to contribute to the charity's development and brand. With your support I would like to offer my experience to the board once again.

Berry Johnston

Berry Johnston is an Occupational Therapist, who graduated from Curtin University in 2002, with a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy. Berry is currently completing her PhD at Curtin University investigating the efficacy of the Peggy Lego handwriting program and runs Lil' Peeps Occupational Therapy for Kids, an assessment and intervention services providing support within schools.

Berry is the Deputy Chair of the Kids Support Committee for Variety WA, and has vast experience in both public and private paediatric setting working in the roles of therapist, clinical specialist, manager and project manager. This professional experience greatly assists her in the important work that the Variety Kids Support Committee do to help our West Aussie kids. Berry holds professional associations with the Developmental Occupational Therapy Association of WA and is also the OT representative on the Professional Advisory Board of ADHD WA.

Berry is also a mum to four daughters and enjoys spending time with her family exploring all that West Australia has to offer. Berry is passionate about making sure all kids have the same opportunities to thrive and that is why she is drawn to the amazing work that Variety does to support our community.

Jenny Rachmat

As Strategic Financial Planner at Shaw and Partners my role involves helping clients manage their wealth through guidance and education. My clients also include a number of not-for-profit organisations and the insights to these organisations has been invaluable to understand the efficiencies, challenges and opportunities across the sector.

In addition to my role at Variety WA, I have also held a board position with Spinnaker Health and Research Foundation. In 2019, I also founded a financial literacy program I called 'YOLA - Young Once, Learning Always' targeted at underrepresented high school students to equip them with money management fundamentals ready for the next chapter in life.

Recently, I extended my professional experience and completed the Company Directors Course to further enhance my duties and obligations as a board director.

The collective experience I continue to accumulate through my work and philanthropic roles has equipped me with the skillset to contribute as a board director of Variety WA and most importantly, to increase the assistance provided to WA children and their families.