

Variety Bash Enquiry Kit



Why the Variety Bash?

Australia's largest and longest running charity motoring event – much imitated, never bettered!

The Variety Bash is not a race or a rally, it's a fun and social event, or in the words of the originator Dick Smith, 'A drive in the outback with a few mates' in cars that are at least 30 years old (with an awesome theme!).

So much more than a bucket list experience, it is a chance to visit regional parts of Australia you may never see on main roads, all for Variety - the Children's Charity and the kids they support.

The Variety Bash visits local towns, stopping into schools and organisations to visit the kids. Entrants can see the direct impact of their fundraising efforts along the way, with a range of educational and mobility equipment provided to local schools and organisations along the route.



The History of the Bash

A Drive In The Outback With A Few Mates

1985

The Variety Bash started in 1985, when entrepreneur and adventurer Dick Smith took a group of intrepid motorists from Bourke NSW to Bourketown Queensland in old cars, raising \$250,000 for charity along the way.

Dick had friends from all walks of life – from multi-millionaires to battlers – and the event was his idea of a great equalizer. Touted as “a drive in the outback with a few mates”, Dick made sure everyone was on a level playing field – all cars had to be over 30 years old and non performance modified, a sentiment the Variety Bash retains today.

TODAY

Since that first event, over 123,100 kms have been travelled on the Variety Vic Bash and over \$31 million has been raised, changing the lives of thousands of children across Australia



imitated, never bettered



Helping kids in need

Joining the Variety Bash is such a rewarding way to help kids in need. You'll experience first-hand the joy of making a big difference to a child's life. Our charity event is RUN by the charity, ensuring funds go where they are needed.



On road support

The Variety Bash Mobile Workshops are ready to help you and your crew take on the outback! In the lead up to the event our team will advise and assist you in preparing your car before our Mobile Workshop Weekends. We have an enviable safety record.



Fundraising

From the Variety Raffle to the Top Hat Appeal corner collections, Variety are here to help you get to your fundraising goal (\$7,000 or \$5,000 for first timers)! With 4 in a crew that's just \$1250 each! [Download our fundraising guide](#) for loads of ideas to kick off your fundraising, and don't forget we're here to support you along the way!

imitated, never bettered



Fun stops

There's so much fun along the way! The Variety Bash is famous for its impromptu fun stops run by entrants on roadsides across Australia! Nothing like the sight of a Smurf playing cricket in the desert, watergun fights or enjoying a prawn on the barbie with fun and games in unique locations



Bash Cars to go!

There's those of us who love building Bash cars from the ground up and those of us who just want to theme up, jump in and go! Need a Bash Car? **Restore your own 30 year classic or check out our Bash cars for sale online!**



A real community

Join us at one of our monthly Motoring Events Pub Night get together in Melbourne to meet your fellow crews and share tips and stories along the way!

Get Started

2023 Melbourne to Gold Coast



How Do I Get Involved?

There are **three** main steps to getting on the road for the trip of a lifetime!

1. **Register to enter** – you can sign up online or talk to one of our friendly motoring event crew on (03) 8698 3900 or motoringevents@varietyvic.org.au
2. **Buy a Bash car** - we have a list of past Bash cars available for sale) or preparing a 30 year old plus car to Bash specs if you're up for a bit of a tinker. We can support and advise you along the way.
3. **Fundraise to change the lives of Aussie kids** - We have raffles and tin rattling days to help you on your way and provide advice and support on fundraising and sponsorship of your car by local businesses. The entry fee is \$660 for the car and first time Bash entrants have a fundraising goal of \$5000 for kids in need. Very do-able when you have up to 4 mates in the car to help out.

And we don't mind saying it again
– we're here to help!



FAQs

Do I Need to Know About Cars?

Nope! You can buy a pre-loved Bash car from our past entrants (we have a list on our website). We also provide a full vehicle checklist, advice, a pre-event workshop to check your car is Bash ready AND we have mobile workshops crews to help you on the road. If your car breaks down the workshops assist you to repair your Bash car along the side of the road. We aim to keep you moving and get you to the finish.

What Kind of Car Can I Take?

In keeping with the spirit of the event, your Variety Bash Car must be 30 years or older. The Variety Bash is definitely not a race but an endurance rally so high performance models will not be accepted. And of course, all vehicles must have current registration covering the period of the Variety Bash event.

How Many Crew Members Can I Take?

The minimum number to make up a Bash crew is two – a driver and a navigator - and the maximum is the legal capacity of the vehicle. Bear in mind the size of your Bash car, and the amount of luggage you have on board when picking the size of your crew!



FAQs

Where and When Are We Going in 2023?

The 2023 Variety Bash is leaving Melbourne and heading to the Gold Coast. As always, we go the long way round! Expect mid blowing scenery as well as the dirt tracks everyone loves. The Variety Bash leaves in August each year.

Where Do I Stay and What Do I Eat?

We let you know the best places to stay in town as soon as the overnight stops on our itinerary are announced. Accommodation options provided in each location will generally include hotel/motel, cabins, caravans, and campgrounds for those that choose to camp. Bed and Breakfasts and Air B&B properties may also be available in the area

As far as food goes, our trusty Motoring Events Manager arranges for a range local organisations and businesses to cater for our entrants. You will be well fed along the way and all meals and entertainment (including our legendary final night party) are covered by your provisions levy (note, this is separate to your entry fee). Dietary requirements will be catered for, just let us know your requirements when you fill out your Crew form before the event kicks off.



FAQs

What does the Variety Bash Cost?

Costs are divided between fundraising and event costs.

With 2 – 4 people per car, it's easy to fundraise and we're here to help! All donations go to Variety – the Children's Charity – the Variety Bash is run by the charity FOR the charity.

First time entrants (Rookies) are required to fund raise a minimum of \$5000 per car and returning entrants, \$7000.

Each vehicle has the following fees:

- \$800 entry fee
- \$50 public liability insurance contribution
- Meal costs, and a merchandise pack are covered under a Provisions Levy. The levy amount is advised one month prior to the event and is approximately \$950 – \$1,250 per person inc. GST, dependent on years route and destination.

How Do I Find Out More?

We've signed you up to the Variety Bash email to receive all the latest updates. A Rookie's Day Out is held early in the year and is designed to familiarise you with the event. We encourage you to follow us on [facebook.com/varietyvicbash](https://www.facebook.com/varietyvicbash) and join us at one of our monthly Motoring Events Pub Nights where you can meet our Bash crews and staff. Don't forget we're only a phone call or email away!



FAQs

We're Here to Support You

Here at Variety – the Children's Charity we are extremely grateful to each and every one of our Bash Family who tirelessly raise funds throughout the year to assist Victorian children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs. That is why we endeavor to support you along your fundraising journey by providing information, advice and suggestions about everything 'VicBash'.

How YOU Help Kids in Need

As the only motoring event in Australia that supports kids in need on the road, you get to see your fundraising dollars at work! Each year we visit schools and organisations along the way so you can meet some of the kids you are assisting. Funds raised from the Variety Bash continue to assist kids throughout the year – with \$1.9M raised in 2022!

Our work allows children to gain mobility and freedom, to get out and about in the community, to communicate, achieve independence and increase self-esteem, and where possible, assistance to help them integrate into mainstream school and activities.



The Variety Bash...

2023 Melbourne Gold Coast

Welcome to the Variety Bash! We look forward to being with you every step of the journey! Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.



Variety – the Children's Charity Victoria

motoringevents@varietyvic.org.au

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