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BASH BULLETIN – December

Dear Bashers,

As 2011 draws to a close it is interesting to reflect on a year of contrasts and one which saw Variety achieve its best financial result in our 21 year history.

So much has occurred in the last year with, Christchurch suffering a further devastating earthquake in February, the disastrous Japanese tsunami hitting while we travelled the country on the Variety Bash (and witnessed the resulting ocean surge in Northland), right through to the national triumph of the Rugby World Cup - an event that seem to inspire even the most stoic Kiwis into "backing black".

With Christmas on our doorstep, these events seem a while ago however the challenges for many families and children, particularly in Christchurch, continue. It is wonderful to see the money raised for them (including the 2011 Bash fundraising) going to those who need it the most, with a steady stream of grants approved to help families often with the most basic of needs.

We were also excited about returning to Kaiapoi and Christchurch in November with the Bikes for Kids Tour, this time with 108 bikes. The allocation of bikes was filled long before the nominations closed and the stories behind the requests were both heartwarming and heart rending. The need was definitely there and it was great to be able to make a positive difference for so many children.

This year also saw the launch of our new Variety website. The result is a fresh, vibrant site where we can highlight the heart-warming child stories behind the fundraising, and further inspire our supporters in their efforts to help even more Kiwi kids! If you haven't yet had a look, make sure you check it out at www.variety.org.nz and sign up for our monthly V-News updates.

Also you can stay up to date with Variety News via our Facebook page – click [HERE](#) to join if you haven't already! Follow us on [Twitter](#) and join our new business network via [LinkedIn](#)

Please read on for more information about the 2012 Variety Bash, other upcoming events and acknowledgements.



Variety Bash 2012

The 22nd annual Variety Bash will run from Sunday 11 – Saturday 17 March 2012 (with Bash briefing on Saturday 10 March).

Bash Route

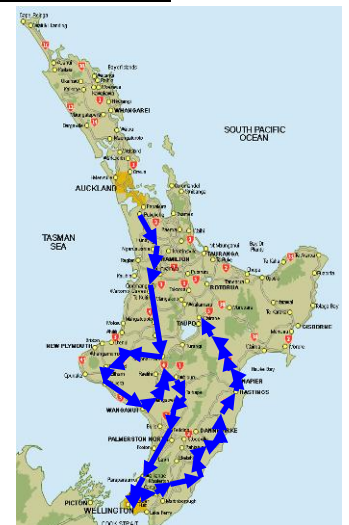
The route will carry the teams through the centre of the North Island, travelling out to South Taranaki, through Manawatu to Wellington and back up the Wairarapa to Hawkes Bay before finishing back in the centre of the island in Taupo.

Date	From	Via	To
Saturday 10 March	Registration Auckland CBD		
Sunday 11 March	South of Auckland - TBC	Otorohanga	National Park
Monday 12 March	National Park	Whangamomona	Hawera
Tuesday 13 March	Hawera	Wanganui	Ohakune
Wednesday March	Ohakune	Feilding	Wellington
Thursday 15 March	Wellington	Wairarapa	Castle Point
Friday 16 March	Castle Point		Napier
Saturday 17 March	Napier		Taupo

The Bash route is approximately 1,500km and will mix big city environments with smaller rural towns, school visits, funstops, community projects, community events and some fantastic Bash team hospitality along the way.

The North Island route is packed with unique Kiwi destinations; think carrots, gumboots, fishing, films, hot lattes, cold vino, the sunny East Coast, the rugged West Coast, cold lakes and thermal pools - the Variety Bash will experience them all. Some places will be new, some a long-awaited return and some tried and true, but all will provide for a fantastic week of fun and *fun*-raising.

Teams: keep an eye out for more specific details on the Bash route and night functions in the Bash Pack going out in January 2012.



Who will Benefit from the Bash?

Money raised from the 2012 Variety Bash will support Variety's Future Kiwi Kids programme.

Variety is focused on Kiwi kids reaching their full potential by helping them to overcome challenges. The Future Kiwi Kids programme includes support for Variety's Gold Heart scholarships, the *Variety Voices* Youth Choir, the Future Kiwi Kids Fund and various educational and technology initiatives. You will meet some of our fantastic Gold Heart Scholars on the Bash, check out who they are [here](#).



Bash Entry Fee Structure

Many of you may be aware the fee structure of the Variety Bash has undergone a recent review.

We acknowledge that many teams are finding it increasingly difficult to raise the funds to participate in the Bash, in particular the smaller teams who have less team members to draw upon. Of equal concern is the fact that the success of this event as Variety's most significant annual fundraiser relies greatly on this component of income. The less we raise, the less we have to distribute to Kiwi kids in need.

We understand that change needs to be considered to gain some forward momentum and ensure commitment and support of this event can continue in tight economic times. Therefore a number of fee scenerios were reviewed and discussed by a Bash Advisory Group, the Variety Finance Committee and the Variety Board and staff. As a result the following changes have been endorsed.

Fee and Donation Structure:

Fee/Donation Type	Previous Structure	Revised Structure
Bash Entry Fee – per vehicle (unchanged)	\$500 (incl GST)	\$500 (incl GST)
Bash Donation – per vehicle	\$7000	nil
Bash Donation - per person	nil	\$2000 (capped at \$7000 per Bash team)
Meal & Entertainment Fee – per person (unchanged)	\$500 (incl GST)	\$500 (incl GST)

Note there will be no change in the total fee/donation for teams of four members or more.

Change by team size (**NOT** including meal and entertainment fee):

Team Size	Previous Structure	Revised Structure	Per Person (if split over team)	% change
2	\$7,500	\$4,500	\$2,250	40.35%
3	\$7,500	\$6,500	\$2,167	13.45%
4	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$1,875	0.00%
6	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$1,250	0.00%
8	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$937.50	0.00%
10	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$750	0.00%

New teams and Australian teams will still have their donation component capped at \$4000. There is also a saving incentive for existing teams who introduce new teams. If you want to know more please contact jodi@variety.org.nz.

Please remember: The Variety Bash is a fundraiser, we would love teams to fundraise beyond the minimum entry to enable us to help even more Kiwi kids in need!!



Bash Entry

All entry forms can be downloaded from www.variety.org.nz or email jodi@variety.org.nz for a copy.
See entry deadlines below:

DEADLINES

Bash Entry Form & \$500 Entry Fee:
Bash Pack Sent from:
Bash Pack Due:
Bash Donation Due:
Meal & Entertainment Fees Due:

DATES

Friday 30 December 2011
Monday 16 January 2012
Friday 17 February 2012
Friday 24 February 2012
Friday 2 March 2012

Accommodation

For an accommodation listing please email Fundraising & Events Co-ordinator, Meghan Dalton on meghan@variety.org.nz

Bash Mechanical Support

Regrettably we will not have the RNZAF on board to provide mechanical support for the Variety Bash in 2012. The New Zealand Defence Force is undergoing significant changes and while they are keen to continue their support of Variety unfortunately their resources are not available to attend next year's event.

We are working on an alternative support service to work alongside the AA for 2012 and will advise what form this will take once confirmed.

Please note any alternative service is unlikely to fully replicate the extensive mechanical resources that the Air Force had access to, so please use the months ahead to prepare your vehicles as best you can.

Call for Bash Grants!



We are still looking for grant applications to be submitted from areas on the Bash route.

If you know of any children or child-based organisations that might need a piece of equipment or some special resources please direct them to our website for details on the application criteria and the Application Form or contact Denise Burke on denise@variety.org.nz, Ph 09 520 4111.

The application deadline is 31st December.



Upcoming Events

Bloom Family Festival



Next year the BLOOM Family Festival will be held in New Zealand for the first time from January 20-22 at Matakana Country Park. Variety is proud to be the official charity partner.

BLOOM is the perfect setting for fun activities for the whole family.

As part of the festival, Variety will be holding *Variety's Got Talent!*, a talent quest for kids. If you have a talented kid who might like to take part please check the details on www.variety.org.nz

We will also be hosting Variety @ 5, an hour of entertainment on the main stage on Saturday. We are thrilled to have performances from Variety Ambassador Elizabeth Marvelly, new talent Massad, singer /songwriter Abbey Lee and Bronwyn Turei's gorgeous band Katie Scott & The Miss T's, all of whom are supporting Variety!

Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers to help with our fundraising activities over this weekend. If you are available to pitch in for any of the days listed below please email jodi@variety.org.nz

Friday 20 January 12pm - 8pm

Saturday 21 January 8am – 8pm

Sunday 22 January 8am – 4pm

Note we will split shifts and tasks during the day, but given the location would prefer if you can stay the full day, rather than part of a day.

Great Wall of China Trek 2012

Experience the trip of a lifetime and help create brighter futures for Kiwi kids.

Variety and World Expeditions have teamed up to bring you the Variety Great Wall of China Challenge, hosted by well-known Kiwi actress Robyn Malcolm.



Make no mistake – it will be a challenge, trekking to remote areas of China, off the main tourist track and spending some nights camping, all with the added benefit of raising funds for Variety. See www.variety.org.nz/whats-on for more details.

Thanks!

Full Throttle

Thanks to Ford, Bernies Buddies, LAPD and STIHL the Wallies, for flying the Variety flag at the Full Throttle motoring event on 24 October. It was a fairly quiet day, with most people still recovering from the anxiety of the Rugby World Cup final the night before. The teams worked hard and raised around \$600.



Bikes for Kids 2011



The 2011 Bikes for Kids Tour in November was a fantastic 10 days, starting with presentations in Kaiapoi and Christchurch before travelling around the North Island following the 2012 Bash route.

Thanks to my small but efficient team of volunteers who joined me on the road for a week, Barry Evans, John Day, Grahame Knight and Mark Hellyer. We also had plenty of help from Bash teams along the way, so thanks also to Bryan & Bobby, Bernie's Buddies and the AA in Auckland, Team Cambridge, Mooloo Croo and NZ Post in Cambridge, Paula Williams, Carol Lewis and Mark Prujean in Taupo, the Veggies in National Park, Pete Dunn (Mooloo) in Wellington, Doogz and Margaret and David Drake in Christchurch, and all the other non-Bashers who also helped. Solid Gold also did a fantastic job providing MCs throughout the country. Thank you!

Dear Varsity club,
Thank-you for giving me my Bike I
have had a Lovely trip on my Bike I
have fall of quite a lot But it is fun.

The sponsors make this amazing programme happen, so thanks also to The Warehouse, Avanti Plus, Solid Gold, TR Group, Ford and Tasty Pot.

Variety Playground at Long Bay Opening



Stage one of a brand new all-inclusive Variety playground in Long Bay opened on 26 November, thanks to those who attended and to Bernies Buddies who took along their fire engine and added to the fun.

Thanks to long time Variety supporters, Trillian Trust who contributed to this playground along with the Glenn Family Foundation, Wilson Home Trust and the David Levene Foundation.

We can't wait for the completion of stage two next year!

RNZAF Christmas Party

A group of Bash teams helped entertain children of the RNZAF and Waitakere Police at their Whenuapai Base Christmas Party. Thanks to LAPD (3 cars!), Bernies Buddies, Tiki Tour Girls and Todd and Karen Gemmill with their Kenworth truck and chevy for giving up a day and adding colour and fun to the festivities.

See you soon...

On behalf of the team at Variety I wish you all safe travels and happy holidays and look forward to catching up in the New Year!

Take care

Jodi Preston-Thomas
Fundraising and Event Manager

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