



MOTORING REPORT

2023-24 VARIETY - THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY
NSW/ACT



variety
the children's charity





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Our Vision

For all Australian children to reach their full potential, regardless of ability or background.



Our Mission

To empower Australian children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with a disability to live, laugh and learn.

A Message from the Motoring Team

Variety – the Children’s Charity NSW/ACT has enjoyed another year of successful Motoring Events, and we are incredibly thankful for everyone who has participated and supported our adventures on the road.

Some of our most inspiring moments occur when we have the privilege of showing our participants, firsthand, the impact their fundraising has on the regional communities we visit. Whether we’re granting a defibrillator for a lifesaving response, a grandstand that fosters community inclusion, or a new woodworking studio to promote well-rounded educational opportunities, the smile on the kids’ faces as we roll into town warms the hearts of all Bashers, Dashers, Riders and Adventurers.

Over the past year, our five major events have collectively raised an incredible \$3.4 million for kids in need!

We are privileged to have a passionate community who work tirelessly to fundraise year-round to support the children who need it most. Thank you for your commitment, dedication and fantastic fundraising efforts.

We will be hitting the road again in 2025 to create new memories, explore Australia with new mates, and, of course, spread joy in regional communities across the country.

On behalf of all of the kids and families your fundraising helps, and all of us at Variety, thank you!

See you next year.



Rob Vincent
Senior Motoring
Events Manager

Rebecca Rowe
Motoring Events
Manager



Janet Kilazoglou
Motoring Events
Manager

Vic Sheil
Senior Motoring
Events Manager





Our Impact

With your support, we unlock the potential of every child. We empower children, regardless of their ability or background, to live life to the fullest.

Our vital work opens doors to improved mobility, freedom and community, enabling children to thrive. Thanks to your generosity, we deliver transformative grants, programs and events that create lasting change for children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with a disability across NSW and the ACT.

Thanks to your support in 2023/24, we impacted:

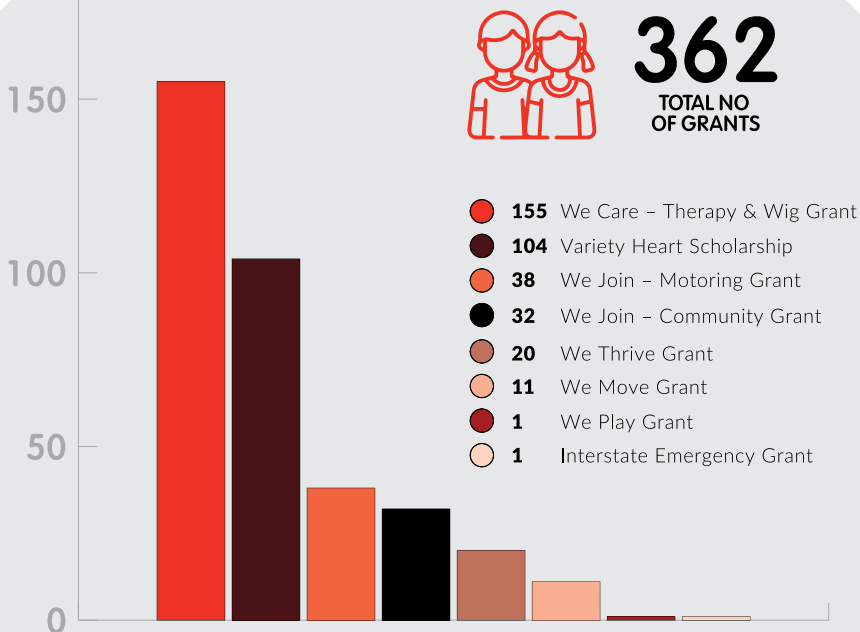


children across NSW/ACT



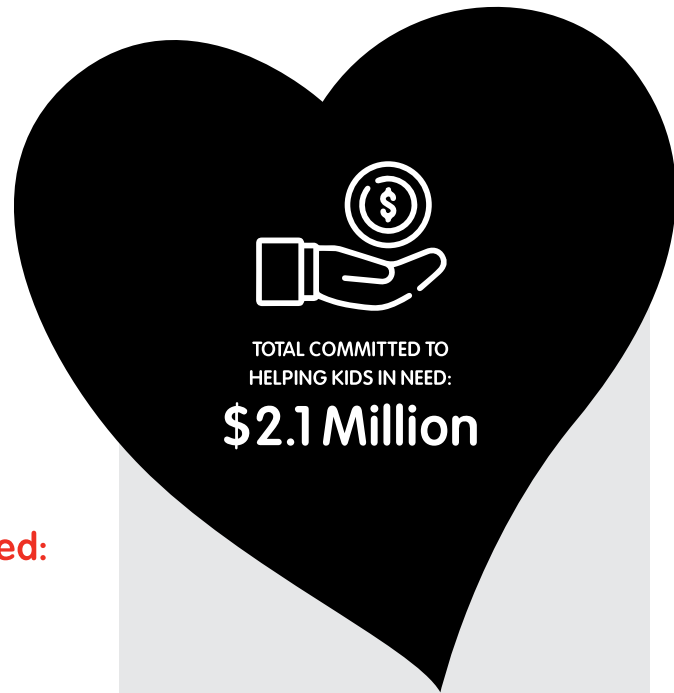
children across Australia

NUMBER OF GRANTS PROVIDED IN 2023/24



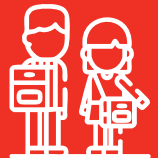
362
TOTAL NO OF GRANTS

- 155 We Care - Therapy & Wig Grant
- 104 Variety Heart Scholarship
- 38 We Join - Motoring Grant
- 32 We Join - Community Grant
- 20 We Thrive Grant
- 11 We Move Grant
- 1 We Play Grant
- 1 Interstate Emergency Grant



41,695
STUDENTS ATTENDED JUST LIKE YOU WORKSHOPS

171
SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED IN JUST LIKE YOU WORKSHOPS



1,372
CHILDREN ATTENDED XMAS PARTIES

21
CHILDREN ATTENDED FLYING START CLINICS





The 2023 Variety Postie Bike Dash was our biggest and best Dash to date, with the 10th anniversary ride raising an enormous \$379,800. This is the largest amount the Dash has raised in the 10 years it has been running.

Our 117 Dashers, 27 of whom joined for the first time, rode 1,130 kilometres, starting in Goulburn, venturing to Ulladulla, tracking down to Merimbula, before heading inland to the Snowy Mountains and circling back to Goulburn. Over the course of our epic six-day ride, we granted seven schools and one community group a total of \$32,664 to fund vital equipment such as sensory items, decodable readers and sports equipment.

During the Dash, we announced our very first Hall of Fame inductee, Lenny Muddle on Bike 10, for helping to bring the first Postie Bike Dash to life in 2014 and ensuring its continuing success over the past decade.

Congratulations to Matt Russell on Bike 94, who won the Spirit of the Dash by entertaining kids at every stop with his bike chalkboard. A huge thank you to our highest fundraisers, the Tamex Postie Dogs, as well as Sam Handley on Bike 110 who was our highest fundraising individual.



The 2023 Variety Postie Bike Dash would not have been possible without our 26 OVs and COMMS team who brought their highly valued skills, ensuring the event ran smoothly. Thank you to our amazing sponsors Tamex Transport, First National Real Estate and Australia Post for their continuing support of the Variety Postie Bike Dash.



Variety Mini Postie Bike Dash

In 2024, we held our Variety Mini Postie Bike Dash through the Upper Hunter which welcomed four new Dashers and 16 returning Dashers to our community. Thank you to Scone RSL for sponsoring the event and ensuring our entrants were well looked after during pre-event preparations.



skyhigh
2024

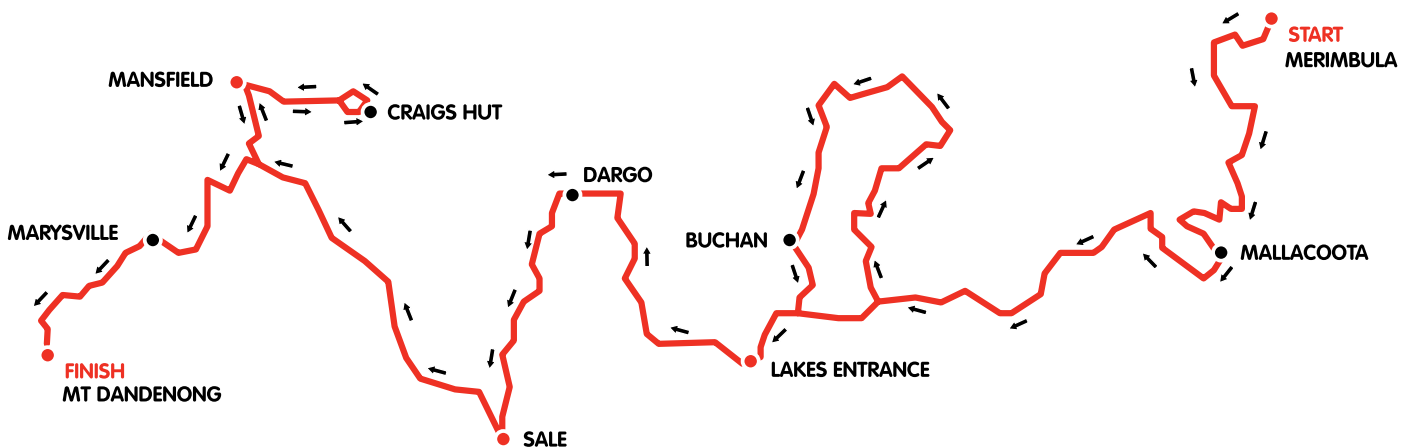
The 2024 Variety 4WD Adventure Sky High soared to epic heights with 72 Adventurers taking the journey through some of Australia's most breathtaking landscapes and raising over \$317,000 to support kids in need.

The 38 returning Adventurers and 34 new Adventurers embarked from the picturesque beaches of Merimbula before driving through the East Gippsland region and the Victorian High Country, with a special stop at Craig's Hut.

While on the road, we stopped at East Gippsland Specialist School, Buchan Primary School, Jamieson Primary School and Licola Wilderness Village who received Variety We Join Motoring Grants for sporting equipment, including basketball hoops and specialist trikes.

Michael Mitchell, a PE Teacher at East Gippsland Specialist School said, "The balance bikes have already helped some students progress from riding tricycles to two wheelers in just a few weeks." Michael explained how granting bike education lessons has contributed to students being more road aware, improving safety throughout their community.

Congratulations to Car 61, driven by Don and Trish Ekert, for winning the coveted Spirit of the Adventure award. A big thank



you to Sharon White and Christine Scott from Car 24 for being our highest fundraisers on the event.

We are so grateful to the 10 OV's who lent their time and expertise to ensure the event ran smoothly. A big shoutout to Linda Friend, and Rosanne and Richard Stott for providing and hosting Friends Musical Bingo Night, and to Cheryl Randall for being our raffle queen.

Lastly, an enormous congratulations to Rachel O'Sullivan and Marty Perry for your surprise engagement at the final arch! We look forward to celebrating the anniversary of your engagement on the Variety 4WD Adventure every year.

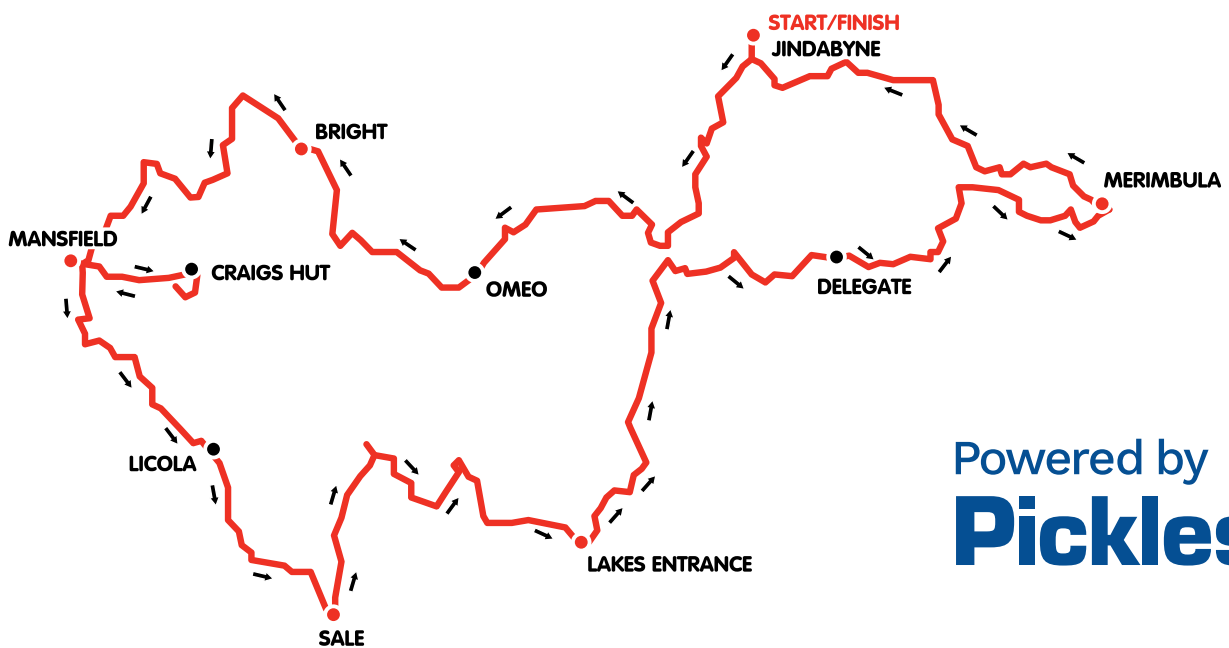


2024 marked the fifth annual Variety Adventure Ride, seeing 20 riders, including 11 new Riders, raise over \$130,600 to support kids who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with disability.

Our passionate Riders travelled through the Victorian High Country, stopping at the iconic Craig's Hut and riding over MacKillops Bridge, before returning through Merimbula and back to Lake Jindabyne.

Along the route we stopped to deliver grants to three communities in need, totalling over \$17,000. Porepunkah Primary School received a grant of \$4,374 to develop a woodworking program for students who are at risk of disengagement due to disability, anxiety or low levels of literacy. We granted \$6,054 to Mansfield Junior Football Club for sporting equipment to help maintain continued community engagement. The last grant was to Delegate Public School, where we funded grandstands worth \$6,670 that will provide seating for students, families and other community members. These were put to good use when Riders and students played a fun game of handball!

Congratulations to Darren King on Bike 17 for winning the Spirit of the Ride award, and to Nick Johnson on Bike 4 for being championed as the highest individual fundraiser.



Powered by
Pickles

We are so grateful to our 20 OVS and COMMS team who helped us out on the event – thank you for giving up your time, experience and professionalism to ensure the 2024 Variety Adventure Ride was a tremendous success.

A huge thank you to Pickles, our fantastic event sponsor and long-time Variety supporter, for providing the power to make the Adventure Ride possible.



Variety BASH

NSW 2024

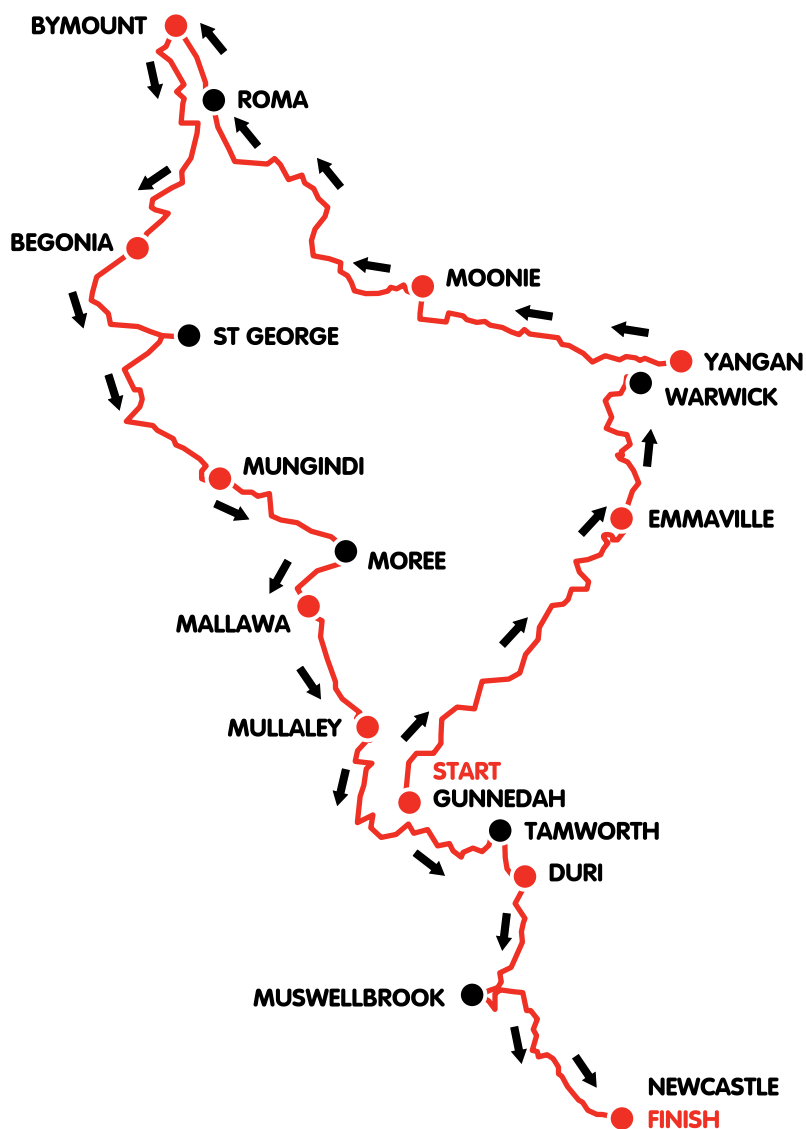


The 2024 Variety NSW Bash was an unforgettable seven-day journey that welcomed 84 first-time Bashers in 16 new cars, alongside 175 returning Bashers in 80 cars, together raising over \$1.2 million for kids in need.

With a remote start in Gunnedah, our Bashers crossed the New South Wales and Queensland border to spend three days exploring Southern Queensland. Over the 2,340 kilometre drive, we granted more than \$60,000 worth of equipment and resources to eleven regional schools and one community group along the route. These grants ranged from marquees and readers to workbooks and musical instruments, all promoting inclusion and engagement in schools for all students – regardless of their ability or background.

The 2024 Variety NSW Bash ended with an unforgettable Variety Family Fun Day at the Newcastle Foreshore, where families celebrated the arrival of our colourful and wonderful characters in their Bash Cars. The event included rides, a petting zoo and amazing performances. Thank you to our Variety Family Fun Day presenting partner, Orica, for helping make the event possible.

OV Kevin Leahy OAM achieved an enormous feat on the 2024 Variety NSW Bash, celebrating his hundredth Variety motoring event! Thank you Kevin, for all the hard work that you have put in over your years of involvement at Variety.



Congratulations to Tracey Stephens and Jamie Price who were inducted into the Variety NSW Bash Hall of Fame for their dedication over many years of Bashing and fundraising.

Well done to Team Scooby who won the Spirit of the Bash award, Hunter City Motor Group for being awarded highest fundraising team and Daracon for being the highest individual fundraiser.

An enormous thank you to our major sponsors, Regional Australia Bank, for their ongoing support of Variety. We are so grateful for the support from Woolworths, Daracon, Australian Hotels Association Newcastle Hunter and Hunter City Motor Group.

Variety Mini Bash

Our 2024 Variety Mini Bash attracted 22 cars and 59 participants, including 19 newcomers and 10 children. The Mini Bash is an awesome opportunity to get your tyres warm, meet seasoned Bashers, and get a taste for what our other Bashes are like throughout the year. Thank you to the eight dedicated Official Volunteers who helped ensure this weekend was a success.



The 2024 Variety B to B Bash was one for the history books, celebrating the 40th anniversary of this iconic event. Driving along the original 1985 Basher's tracks, 230 Bashers drove from Bash's Billabong in Dubbo to Bombira, raising an epic \$1.4 million for children who are sick, experiencing disadvantage or living with disability.

Over the 6,078 kilometre route, we stopped at 11 schools and granted more than \$74,000 for vital equipment and resources in regional communities. One of our memorable stops was at Toomelah Public School, a small school of 45 students positioned in the heart of the Aboriginal community of Toomelah along the Macintyre River. Here we delivered a huge surprise, where every student at the school was given their very own bike, along with a custom-made name plate and a helmet. This grant allows for every student at Toomelah Public School to participate on their own terms, providing equal opportunity and access to their community.

The 2024 Variety B to B Bash route wouldn't have been complete without a special guest appearance from Bash legend, Dick Smith, in Birdsville, one of the original 1985 Bash stops. Thanks Dick, for stopping by to show your continuing support.



Congratulations to the Bashful Bees, driven by Sonya Link and Mandy Parker, for winning the coveted Spirit of the Bash. The Bees are always in costume, dancing and bringing a smile. Sonya and Mandy were unanimously voted by their peers as the 2024 winners.

A celebration is in order for our four Hall of Fame inductees on the 2024 Variety B to B Bash. A big well done to Reg Varley, Allan White, Drew McLean and Victor Sheil.

Thank you, Toyota Material Handling, for being the 2024 Variety B to B Bash highest corporate fundraisers, Shoalhaven Bash Group for being the highest fundraising team, and Star Wars 888 & 999 for being the highest fundraising car.



OUR THANKS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2024

PARTNERS



Thank you to our OV's!

To our wonderful OV's – it is thanks to you that all our incredible events can be a reality. We are so grateful to you for volunteering your time to help us create fun, safe and unforgettable events all year round. We can't wait to see you again next year!

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Save the Date in 2025



Taking part in a Variety event is a fun and feel-good way to raise funds for kids in need, so make sure to hit the road with us on two or four wheels in 2025! Visit variety.org.au/nsw/events to find out more.



Variety 4WD Adventure A

1 – 8 March 2025

Variety 4WD Adventure B

22 – 29 March 2025



Variety NSW Bash

18 – 24 May 2025



Variety B to B Bash

3 – 13 August 2025



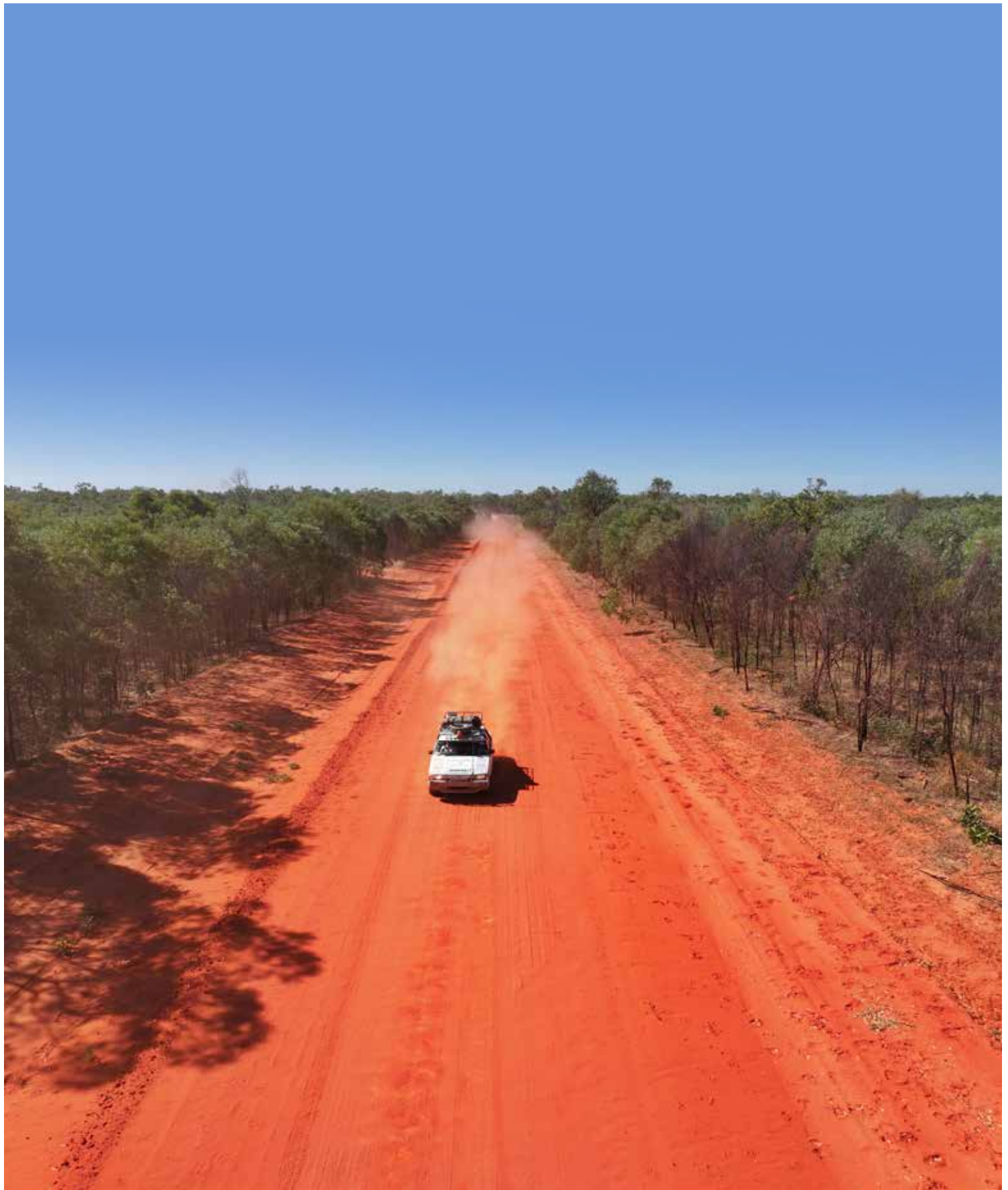
Variety Adventure Ride

14 – 19 September 2025



Variety Postie Bike Dash

2 – 7 November 2025



Stay in Touch

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