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## MACQUARIE PARK

### Sallymae just loves to roll up for Variety

Monique Cowper

SHE was spun upside down on her first attempt but 15 years later Sallymae Bailey is a tried and true member of the Variety Bash.

Ms Bailey, of Macquarie Park, has just been inducted into the Bash Hall of Fame as the fundraising adventure event marks its 30th year.

The Bash, which always travels from one town somewhere in Australia that starts with B, to another, involves teams in pre-1974 cars driving through rural towns to raise money for the children's charity Variety.

"I was a bit overwhelmed by the award," Ms Bailey said. "It is really recognition of all the people who have supported me and my car, the individuals and businesses. Anyone whose raised \$5 up to \$500."

It was back in 1999 that Ms Bailey was first involved in the Bash when her boss entered a car.



Sallymae Bailey and her team which has raised \$200,000 for Variety, the children's charity.

"I begged to go but I ended up just helping them fundraise."

In 2000 she entered a team herself and has done so every year since.

It was quite a baptism of fire when Ms Bailey rolled the car on her first trip.

"We were called the Pork Rollers after that," she laughs.

"We had ripped a tyre in a creek crossing and it just

blew on an 180-degree turn. We were up and going again 45 minutes later. I loved the fact that 60 cars stopped to help us."

Ms Bailey said it is that "Bash Family" who have kept her going - and the fundraising aspect.

"I guess, because I don't have kids, I do this to bless other people's," she said.

"I love the travel, the Bash Family and that safe and se-

cure way of seeing the out-back and places you wouldn't normally get to see."

She said the Bash was also so important because it invested in very remote rural communities.

"When kids say it was the best day of their life because we came and visited and you see the smile on their faces, I just love that."

In 15 years Ms Bailey and her team raised \$200,000.