



Sweet way of getting kids to smile

SEFTON'S Joseph and Janet Mullaly are gearing up for the NSW Variety Bash drive and will depart Sydney on Sunday in their 1967 250SE Mercedes.

The couple will embark on a nine-day road trip to Byron Bay in a bid to raise money for children with special needs.

They will make regular pitstops at different schools throughout their trip and learn where the money they raise for the students eventually goes.

Mr and Mrs Mullaly have raised

more than \$350,000 for the children's charity Variety since their first bash drive 19 years ago.

Mr Mullaly, 76, said he was looking forward to the event and would embrace this year's colour theme of wearing white.

"It's about giving something back to the community and it's very rewarding," he said.

"We get such a buzz out of seeing these kids appreciate the smallest things in life. We visited a school in Cobar one time and we were handing out Minties when

one of the children asked me if he could have one for his brother.

"Another time we were in South Australia and one child asked me if he could get some extra lollies so that he could save it for Christmas because he never got lollies. It shows how children who get nothing appreciate just the smallest things in life, and for me it's extremely rewarding to see them smile."

The couple has so far raised \$10,000 and aims to collect \$30,000. To donate, call 0425 252 101.



Joseph and Janet Mullaly's journey will take them from Cobar to Byron Bay.

Picture: NICK BLOUKOS



Into the desert three pigs will fly

LAURA TRIESTE

YIH-FYE Freeman will grab her pink wig and her sense of adventure when she and her friends set out on the NSW Variety Bash on August 22.

The Glenhaven local decided to give the bash a go with her friends Sallymae Bailey and Helen Lavery who are putting the finishing touches on their 1966 HR Holden. "I thought it would be something quite challenging and interesting to do," Ms Freeman said.

The bash is not a race or rally but rather a drive to unseen parts of the outback from Sydney markets to Byron Bay, covering 3557km over eight days to raise money for children's charity Variety.

Blatant cheating and bribery are not only allowed but encouraged and bashers must be in a pre-1974 vehicle, decorated as weird

and wonderfully as possible.

Ms Freeman and her team have called themselves the Three Little Pigs and will wear pink wigs to match their car which has been decorated with pink pigs and flags.

"I'm going for fun and to fundraise for a very worthwhile cause," she said.

Ms Freeman said she was thankful her friends were brave enough to have her on their team given she is clueless about cars.

"I might worry them a bit with my sense of direction but they will have to get used to it," she said.

The Three Little Pigs have already raised more than \$16,000 through raffles, trivia nights and hosting a wine tour.

To donate to the Three Little Pigs contact 9887 4744 or sallymae.bailey@gmail.com.



Yih-Fye Freeman is ready to take off for the NSW Variety Bash.

Picture:
JOE MURPHY



A long time to go, in a Galaxie far away

HERE are some more of our entrants:

■ Rowan McKay, of Carlingford, is just one of the 13 members of the Team Sheriff, which is officially the largest Bash team in Australia. He originally developed a passion for Bashing through his wife Liana's involvement in the event. Mr McKay now owns his own 1971 LTD Galaxie that has a history of its own, belonging first to his grandfather and then later was the car he learned to drive in. This year is his fourth Bash, having been hooked since his first in 2006. He is known by his teammates as the Bandit.

Mr McKay and his team have raised more than \$170,000 over the years to support Variety and are still counting.

"The Variety Bash is not only a good way to

raise some money and get involved in charity but also to meet amazing people and lifelong friends once you do it your hooked," he said.

■ Brian Hoare, of Glenhaven, will take off for his 20th time. This staggering Bash record has seen him and his fellow teammates, Charles Stuart and Brian Burden, inducted into the Bash's Hall of fame. The Benz Boys are putting the final touches on their 1972 Mercedes 280SE.

Last year Mr Hoare's team raised more than \$100,000 and are aiming even higher this year.

"I decided to join Variety to do what I could to provide assistance both monetary and voluntary to make a difference to children less fortunate than my own," he said.



Sonya off on working bee

WHILE driving around NSW in a 1966 Holden is a typically male activity, Sonya Link and her all-girl team, The Bashful Bees, will spend eight days this month driving 3500km to raise money for Variety.

“There’s actually a few all-girl teams on the bash,” Sonya said. “None of us are mechanically minded, but it’s OK because it’s not about the race, it’s about charity.”

Last year, the Variety Bash raised more than \$2.1 million for

rural communities, with grants presented to communities as the fleet passed through. Since its inception by Dick Smith in 1985, the Bash has raised more than \$107 million for kids in need, and is now the main fundraiser for Variety, the children’s charity.

This will be Sonya’s fifth consecutive year on the bash, competing in a car decorated as a Bee.

“I got into it through work, but when you go through and see 12 months of fundraised money

working first-hand, it’s slightly addictive.”

The Bashful Bees, consisting of Helen Costi, Fiona Gordon, Megan Reed and Sonya have raised more than \$17,000 this year, doubling their efforts from last year.

■ The convoy of bash cars, all pre-1974 Holdens, will leave Sydney at 8.30am on Sunday, finishing 3557km later at Byron Bay on August 30.

*By work experience student
 Tim Clarke*



Sonya Link, with the Bash car she will drive around NSW for charity with friends. Megan Read and Fiona Gordon are also going.

Picture: ANNIKA ENDERBORG
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ear to the ground

A persistent rumour circulating around Byron Bay that **Sunnybrand Chickens** was closing at Christmas and moving to Casino has been knocked on the head by the company's CEO, Bob Hansen. He's heard the rumour and is not quite sure where it came from. Bob says Sunnybrand is staying right where it is 'for the medium term – five to 10 years'.

In just over two weeks, cars taking part in the big **Variety Club Bash** come to Byron Bay and to mark the occasion there will be a benefit night on Tuesday, August 31, at **The Brewery** which will feature a performance by **John Paul Young**. The benefit starts at 7pm and tickets are \$40 each which will be donated to Variety. The Brewery is donating all the food for the event and there will be two free drinks per person. You can buy your tickets from The Brewery. JPY is competing in the Bash with Byron Bay's Bruce Maxwell.

Spring is coming. The Scout heard his first **koel** singing its (very) early morning song on Monday. And such a welcoming, optimistic call it is too.

It was more than 20 years ago that The Scout last saw the **Parramatta Eels** play in the flesh, so to speak, when he took Son of Scout to Tweed Heads

to watch them play the then Gold Coast team. They got flogged that night. Last Friday night, history re-

with **the Scout**

peated itself. Same stretch of coast, different ground, different team, same result. It was a long, quiet (apart from a couple of tired and emotional Titans supporters) bus ride back to the Bay. Why, why, why, why? Why do they do it to The Scout? Siiiiiiiiigh.

Byron Bay and District Garden Club is holding its annual spring garden competition, with garden week starting on Wednesday, September 1, and culminating with judging on Tuesday, September 7, and the following day. This year, **all retailers** in the CBD are invited and encouraged to participate by entering the best shop-front garden and best floral window display categories. Of course, there will be the usual home garden, school and institutional sections. Entry forms are available from Anne on 6685 4941 or Carmel on 6685 6644.

If you lose track of what day it is for any reason, there's a good way of telling it's Sunday morning in Byron Bay. How? Just check out the number of **'borrowed' pushbikes** dumped in the oddest of places. Must have been a taxi shortage in the Bay.