

Variety is the spice of life

Car lovers bash about the bush to give needy kids a hand

By DIGBY HILDRETH

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THE Variety NSW Bash cavalcade hit Byron Bay in full festive mode yesterday – sirens and horns blaring, music playing, voices raised in greeting.

Many bystanders waved a welcome; others looked non-plussed at the bizarre spectacle.

It was the climax of an epic 3557 kilometre journey to raise money for special needs children – or ‘a drive in the Outback with a few mates’, as it’s modestly marketed.

After a drive like that, you might expect the drivers and their passengers to look a little road weary and bedraggled, but not a bit of it.

The Blues Brothers, Keystone Kops, Little Piggies and Flintstones were just a few of the colourful crews powering the 117 cars that left Sydney two Sundays ago.

Nearly all of them got to Byron Bay – 383 people in all.

Last night, they and several dozen supporters were going to celebrate the trip – and the raising of more than \$1.6 million – with a dinner and presentation at the Entertainment Centre.

The Variety Bash is not a contest or a race of any sort, but each year a winner who epitomises the spirit of the occasion is declared, said motoring events manager Stuart Telfer.

This year it was The Hip-



V FOR VICTORY: Lindsay Curry (above), one of ‘The Hippies’ in their 1970 Ford Fairlane who were declared the winners of the 26th annual Variety NSW B Shed to Byron Bay Bash, which ended in Byron Bay yesterday.

IT HELPS TO BE MAD: Loraine Barnett (Laverne), Tracy Wood, Sandra Lewis (Shirley) and Sallymae Bailey enjoying themselves on the finishing line for the 2010 Variety NSW Bash in Byron Bay yesterday.



The Flintstones, alias Warren Jones (Barney), Robert Crabb (Betty), Max Squires (Wilma) and Keith Stanshall (Fred), enjoyed competing in this year’s Variety NSW Bash.



One of the more unusual cars that took part in this year’s Variety NSW Bash event.

pies – Alan Pearce, Philip Wearne and Lindsay Curry – in their era-appropriate 1970 Ford Fairlane.

This morning, the Bashers will breakfast at the Byron Early Intervention Centre, then visit North Ocean Shores Public School, which it has supported with six special laptop computers.

Tonight there is a benefit at The Brewery, where people can meet Bash entrants and check out the cars. There will be raffles and auctions, with all proceeds going to Variety.