



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **2009 Variety Splash a huge success**

Hailed a huge success by participants for its 'fun factor' alone, the 2009 Variety Splash raised over \$150,000 to help improve the lives of Victoria's sick and disadvantaged children.

Around 200 people onboard a fleet of around 25 power and sail boats – among them, Sydney to Hobart maxi yacht *Skandia Wild Thing* – last week travelled a three-day course from Docklands to Mornington, across the bay to Geelong and back up the coast to Waterfront City – with plenty of irreverent fun along the way!

With similar ethos to the hugely successful road-based fundraising event the Variety Bash, the Variety Splash also has a serious side – its primary objective to raise money for the provision of life-changing equipment and experiences to Special Needs Children.

Variety Victoria CEO Norm Hutton said he was pleased the event had grown had grown from last year's inaugural event, which raised around \$130,000.

"While the economic climate has changed significantly from 12 months ago, it's fantastic to see the community is still willing to dig deep to raise money for those less fortunate – as we've seen with the awesome national effort in response to our recent natural disasters," Mr Hutton said.

"In that light, all money raised during the 2009 Variety Splash is being added to the tally of more than \$150,000 that Variety has raised over the past two weeks to help provide essential equipment and services to schools and communities devastated by the bushfires."

Top fundraisers in the 2009 Variety Splash were Team Clairabella, which entered four boats in the event and raised around \$50,000, and Team Anchorage which raised around \$28,000.

"Whether you raise \$10 or \$10,000, the fact is you're pitching in to help – and every cent is appreciated," Mr Hutton said.

"We've a big year ahead us in 2009, which I'm sure will seem to go very quickly and the Variety Splash will come around again – to the delight of participants and with many thanks from the children Variety supports."

#### **Further information:**

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