



Variety, the Children's Charity (NSW)  
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ROZELLE NSW 2039



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At Cromehurst we measure our achievements in very small steps but every day there is something to celebrate.

Music is a very important part of the Cromehurst program. Music speaks a common language experienced through all our senses and accessible to all. Over the years, Variety has supported the music program by donating a piano and a keyboard and this year an amazing sound system has been purchased and installed in the school hall through The Scholarship Program.

I would like to introduce the Scholarship recipients, George and Neil. George Mahadevan is 18 years old and is in year 12 and Neil Doland is 16 years old and is now in year 10.

These two outstanding young men love music, and love to dance and sing. Both George and Neil have autism and experience severe communication difficulties with both their receptive and expressive language.

Music is a way in which they can experience the world fully and a way in which they can express themselves fully.

George and Neil represent all the students of Cromehurst and all the children who have benefited from the hard work of Variety.

Ms Rita Geddes  
A teacher at Cromehurst specialising in art & music.



Hi, I'm Maddison and I'm five years old. I love singing, swimming and playing fairy hide and seek. I was born with Cerebral Palsy and for me this means my legs aren't as strong as yours. To get around I use my quad sticks (Jack and Jill) and my walker (Suzie).

When I get tired I have to squash in my pram and be pushed around. It's not good for a few reasons; it's uncomfortable, I feel like a baby and I have to fight my three year old brother for it.

Luckily, Variety has come to my rescue. They have given me a beautiful (purple and pink) wheelchair. I call her Harmony and she is awesome. Harmony and I do lots of things together that I wouldn't be able to do before. We've explored the Zoo for hours, wrestled with the crowds at the Easter Show and even endured a two hour koala spotting adventure whilst on holidays.

Thank you Variety for thinking of me and being so generous. You've made my life a lot easier and loads more fun.

Love and kisses  
Maddison Neves Whereat



## THE STORY OF VARIETY

Variety started in Australia in 1975 with Paul Hogan as our first Chief Barker (Chairman) and has separate representation in each State.

Variety has been operating for over 70 years.

It all started in 1927 in Pittsburgh USA when a group of 11 vaudeville showmen formed a social club called 'Variety'. On Christmas Eve in 1928 at a party at Sheridan Theatre, Pittsburgh, a member of the group found a baby girl abandoned in the stalls at the theatre. Attached to the blanket in which the child was wrapped was a note that read, "Please take care of my baby. Her name is Catherine. I can no longer take care of her as I have eight others" ..... signed, a Heartbroken Mother.

The group decided to foster the child and named her Catherine Variety Sheridan. Her story became an inspiration to help children everywhere and since those early beginnings Variety has become an international organisation helping special children worldwide.

Variety is now spread throughout 14 countries. Variety operates across Australia each year approving millions of dollars in grants for equipment and services for children with special needs.



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