



Give it a bash for kids

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MOTORING EDITOR

IT'S more than slightly surprising to learn that a bunch of business-based would-be adventurers trekking through the South Australian Outback in beat-up old cars can raise \$18 million. It's intriguing to also learn that those same people shell out up to \$40,000 a day while on the road in rural communities.

But that's precisely what the Variety Bash has done. Engines start for the 19th Bash in Mt Gambier next Saturday, with 73 cars – all made before 1970 – winding their way up to Medindie Lakes and then down through station country to the Barossa for the finish a week later at Tanunda. Vodafone and Adam Internet will be among competitors.

It is the first year Adam Internet has taken part in the Bash. Managing director Scott Hicks is keen to get behind the wheel of his Ford Fairlane Bash car.

While he'll be trading the keys of his yellow Monaro for the drive in the yellow Ford, he is confident he

will get through the outback adventure with ease.

"It's a bit of a break for us – a reward for all of our hard work," Mr Hicks says. "The car is a case of getting back to basics, but it's comfortable and should do the job."

That hard work Mr Hicks speaks of is the effort taken to raise about \$100,000 for children's charity Variety SA. Fellow telecommunications company Vodafone has commandeered a vintage fire engine and will

be calling on its association with TeamVodafone V8 drivers Craig Lowndes and Jamie Whincup, with the hope of getting a few pre-Bash tips for its third journey.

The team of four – general manager Declan O'Callaghan, Daniel Buberis, Anne Kellett and Stuart Wells – will don their firefighter gear and hit the road to celebrate the 365 days of fundraising with the other Bashers. Mr O'Callaghan says his team are excited about getting behind the iconic fundraising event

once again. "There's nothing better than helping to put a smile on a child's face," he says. "Variety SA does such a fantastic job to help children in need and by supporting them we can help crystallise our support for the community."

Stephen Boyd, chief executive of Variety SA, says it's the commitment of organisations like Adam Internet and Vodafone that make the annual Bash such a success.

Picture: CHRIS MANGAN

"Since 1989, the Bash has raised a record \$17.8 million net to inspire hope and enrich the lives of children in need in SA, which is just phenomenal, and we're hoping for a record amount this year," Mr Boyd says.

On Tuesday, city commuters should be on the lookout for some of the Bash cars parked in unique locations around Adelaide. To find out why the Bash cars are in those locations, listen to the brekkie crew on radio station Mix 102.3 on Tuesday morning.



GOING BUSH: Declan O'Callaghan, of Vodafone, Scott Hicks, of Adam Internet, and Stephen Boyd, of Variety SA