

Variety Club of Queensland

A Point of Difference

SCRIPT
Videotape Documentary

3rd AND FINAL Draft – 8th April 1997
Small revisions 10th April

VISION	NARRATION
<i>It's early morning on the Broadwater. A couple of joggers pound past. In the distance, a wheelchair athlete is exerting maximum effort on a training run. The camera is low to the ground, the wheelchair almost smashes into the camera. The athlete yells -</i>	ADAM ...” Look out..... ”

<p><i>The athlete thunders past, sending the camera into a mild spin. It does a quick pan across the sky and, a bit shaky still, picks the athlete up as he disappears into the distance.</i></p>	<p>ADAM</p>
<p><i>Cut to a different location, where the athlete finishes his training in a foreshore park. This time the camera firmly blocks his path and he heads straight for it..pulling up just in time.</i></p>	<p>ADAM</p>
<p><i>Cut to a close-up, after fitting athlete with a neck mike.</i></p> <p><i>He's still huffing and puffing, as he addresses the camera.</i></p>	<p>ADAM</p> <p>Hi - I'm Adam Shepphard. I was so busy training I forgot I had a date with you today.</p>
	<p>ADAM</p> <p>I've got to put on my serious voice now <i>(Gets serious, but can't stifle a grin or laugh. Thinks about it a second and then changes his mind)</i></p> <p>Come to think of it.....this is far from serious.</p>

*Cut to some of the most outrageous visions from the Bash series. They are quick edits, with appropriate fast music accompanying.
(VCR counter Tape 4 - 2m38sec)*



*(VCR counter Tape 4 -
10m28sec)*



*....."We've had a few
problems with wheel nuts
coming loose.....there's
nothing like having tight
nuts."*

*(VCR counter Tape 4 -
16m53sec)
Bulldust sequence for about
eight seconds*



*(VCR counter Tape 4 -
1hr 14m23sec)*



*...”We got in at half past one
this morning. We had a big
drive...It’s a long way
through there isn’t it?”*



*“.....les enfants...les
children.....(Reporter:
They’re predicting rain up
ahead”)
makes duck impression.*





*...”I ate two ton of dust.
When you’re standing there
and all that dust is in the
car, you wonder what are we
doing this for. It’s the
kids.....it’s good fun...it’s
great.”*

*(VCR counter Tape 4 -
0hr 08m50sec)*



*“This is Andrea she’s shy
obviously, but everybody,
how about three nice big
cheers for her.”*

<p><i>(VCR counter Tape 12-45m39sec)</i></p> 	<p>ADAM This is the Variety Club in Queensland, Australia, hard at work - if you can call this stuff work.</p>
<p><i>TAPE VISION</i></p>	<p>Every year, these otherwise sane people - lawyers and labourers, carpenters and carpet layers - take part in the now famous FOUR X Variety Bash, one of Australia's biggest charity motoring events.</p>
<p><i>(VCR counter Tape 4 - 0hr 17m2sec)</i></p> 	<p>People get caught up in this crazy convoy as it winds through some of the most forlorn and forgotten places on earth.</p>

TAPE VISION

***(VCR counter Tape 4 -
0hr 17m6sec)***



CAPTION TO ABOVE....

***Dr John Youngman
Deputy Director-General
of Health Services
Queensland. Government***



ADAM

On last year's Bash, they gave away more than a hundred thousand dollars worth of equipment, including a 34-thousand dollar bus for the Doomadgee Aboriginal Community.

"Sunshine Coaches are a very important thing for the Variety Club. They distribute these around the country. This is another community very much in need of such a vehicle in view of its isolation."

(VCR counter Tape 4 -
2hr 29m27sec)



(VCR counter Tape 4 -
0hr 23m54sec)



ADAM

But they never forget their mission. One thing they all have in common is an enormous heart.

“We’re here to entertain the children and raise their spirit out here in the outback. I’m sure the children here don’t see things like we have to offer very often.

“It gives us great pleasure to see the smiles on children’s faces and the response we get from the children gives us the drive to keep going and hope we will be here many more years ahead.”

“We’ve given away lots of things and the reception we’ve seen out here’s been great. The people here are absolutely wonderful and the Variety Club does lots for the kids of Australia...it’s good to see.”

<p><i>TAPE VISION</i></p>	<p>ADAM The Variety Club does everything that the world has come to expect from an active Club – but they take it thousands of kilometres further.</p>
<p><i>TAPE VISION</i></p>	<p>ADAM I mean....we’re talking about a state which is five times bigger than California.</p>
<p><i>TAPE VISION</i></p>	<p>ADAM Queensland Variety has given away FIFTEEN million dollars since it started in 1980. Last year, it gave away equipment and services worth almost NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND dollars to more than 140 deserving cases. and, they get an astounding five hundred requests for help every year – that’s more than one a day.</p>
<p><i>ADAM to camera. He starts moving off at speed and his words fade away as he says “- I’ve got to dash”. As he disappears the shot is low along the ground to enable the next shot to make sense.</i></p>	<p>ADAMthat’s enough of the Bash - and the cash - now I’ve got to dash.</p>

<p><i>A low angle shot again, this time across a floor and Adam comes screaming around the corner., The camera angle changes to show he is coming down the aisle of a supermarket. He comes up to the camera at a point on the shelf where the Variety Club product is displayed, within Adam's easy reach.</i></p>	<p>ADAM I'm in Franklin's supermarketand guess what, I found the Variety Dash - a fiery little number marketed nationally by the Queensland Variety Club. As far as we know, this is the first time an Australian charity has gone into food retailing. (beckons to the camera to move closer).....it sells <u>very</u> well.....</p>
<p><i>TAPE VISION</i></p>	<p>ADAM What I like about Queensland Variety is that they look after the little people ... but then they try to look at the bigger picture. How can they make life better for all children? It's like they're approaching charity from both ends of the scale – and doing it very successfully, I reckon</p>
<p><i>TAPE VISION</i></p>	<p>ADAM Take their Youth Foundation - started last year to help the homeless, sick and disadvantaged. The Foundation will raise a quarter of a million dollars by the turn of the century.</p>

<p><i>C/U of the Variety gift - the miniature brief case.. We can't tell that it's small. It's sitting in Adam's hands. Camera pulls back to reveal that it's a miniature. Adam is trying to be serious (probably failing, but it doesn't matter) . He ceremoniously opens the little briefcase as if revealing important documents inside. We need a transition from the inside the briefcase to the next shot - hopefully some file footage of the handover. If not , we'll be taking some new footage at the hospital.</i></p>	<p>ADAM now for the big one. Queensland Variety Club in 1997 handed over the first instalment of one hundred thousand dollars to the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation in Brisbane to co-fund the appointment of the very first - wait for it - Royal Children's Hospital Foundation <u>VARIETY</u> Professor of Paediatrics. We think this is a first for Variety.</p>
<p>HOSPITAL VISION</p>	<p>ADAM This is the biggest grant ever made by the Variety Club of Queensland.</p>

<p><i>PIECE TO CAMERA AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF LITTLE CHILDREN IN HOSPITAL. IT WILL BE AN APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THIS.</i></p>	<p><i>“This grant of half a million dollars over five years by the Variety Club in Queensland is one of the most far reaching steps in advancing the health and well being of children in Queensland.</i></p> <p><i>The work we can now do, may well change – for the better – the lives of children around the world.</i></p> <p><i>The faces of these children – smiling and laughing even in the face of a lifetime of illness is what motivates Variety. They really do wear their hearts on their sleeve.”</i></p>
<p><i>Adam live.....closes the little briefcase with a flourish and puts it away.</i></p>	<p>(ADAM)</p> <p><i>....so you can see, we <u>do</u> do things very differently in Queensland.</i></p>
<p><i>Adam live</i></p>	<p>ADAM</p> <p><i>It’s a big place - and I think their hearts are bigger, and their visions are bigger.</i></p>
<p><i>Adam live, but follow the action as he points to his racing bike colours.</i></p>	<p>ADAM</p> <p><i>Even <u>I</u> do things differently - have you noticed the colour of my racing wheelchair - it’s pink.....these Variety people <u>do</u> have a strange sense of humour.</i></p>

<p><i>Adam live, camera pulls back as Adam delivers his closing line - finishes with a thumbs up, then spins his wheelchair and races off. We dissolve to a race start, featuring Adam.</i></p>	<p>But speaking on behalf of all those who's lives have been touched - and changed - by Queensland Variety.....keep on having fun - you're an inspiration to all of us.</p>
<p><u>TAKE TWO FOR CLOSING</u></p> <p><u>AMERICAN VERSION</u></p>	<p>But speaking on behalf of Variety Club Chairman, Michael O'Brien and all those whose lives have been touched – and changed – by Queensland Varietykeep on having fun – you're an inspiration to us all.</p>
<p><i>CLOSING TITLES:</i> <i>A wheelchair race starts. Riders jockey for position,. There's one athlete in a pink wheelchair in the centre.. The picture freezes on him. The titles scroll.</i></p> <p><i>The Narrator was Adam Sheppard, now aged 15 and already holder of seven Australian records in swimming and athletics. With his special (pink) racing wheelchair, provided by Queensland Variety Club, Adam's hopes are on the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney.</i></p>	

<p><i>Produced for next to nothing for Queensland Variety Club by Newton's Corporate Communicators, Australian Video Post and Pro-Shot Video - with a lot of help from file footage shot by other Variety supporters and sponsors, including WIN Television.</i></p>	
<p>VARIETY CLUB LOGO</p>	