



Ready, Shrek, Go

MEGAN BAILEY

SIXTEEN adventurous Geraldton residents are about to take part in the 21st annual Variety Bash this year, making the epic journey from Adelaide to "The Rock", Uluru, in decked-out pre-1975 costumed cars.

Ian and Cathy Carpenter, with their friends David and Joanne Shea, will be riding in the green, horned "Shreks" car. It is the fifth time the couples have taken part in the Variety Bash.

Ian Carpenter said he signed up each year because of the work Variety WA did for the Geraldton community.

"Some of the projects Variety has worked on include the children's water feature at the Geraldton foreshore and the children's wards at both Geraldton Regional Hospital and St John of God Hospital," he said.

The cars are modified to withstand the gravel and dirt roads they travel.

Mr Carpenter said there was always a lot of mischief on tour.

"There is one car called the Vegemites and they always have heaps of jars of Vegemite.

"You'll get up in the morning and go to your car and there will be Vegemite on the door handle," he said.

"One day before we started someone got into someone else's car and filled it with beanbag beans, another year we Glad-wrapped someone's car.

"There's always a fair bit of fun."

Other cars from Geraldton are the Nemos, Flintstones, Teletubbies and Coke Truck.

Teams pay all their own expenses to participate in the Variety Bash. All of the money raised goes towards helping disabled children, not towards administration expenses.

The event will kick off on August 18, with 200 West Australian participants.



One of Geraldton's entries in last year's Variety Bash, "Shreks". Sixteen Geraldton residents are participating in the Variety WA Bash this year.