

Issue 4, Summer 2005

Phone: 09 838 4448
E-mail: info@bigbuddy.org.nz
11 Edmonton Rd
Henderson
PO Box 21 963 Henderson
www.bigbuddy.org.nz

Big Buddy Community News

What's coming up

More summer still!

Big Buddy Day Out is on 8th April and in keeping with tradition (can you have a one-year-old tradition?) it will be a sailing/boating/island adventure. We have a new Big Buddy offer of a large launch and have secured the option of a 50 foot sail boat.

Next **Training evening** for Big Buddies is 6th March and is another full group.

What's happened

Big Buddy in the news:

Richard was on the telly again - TV1 and TV3 - making comments about the crazy Air NZ and Qantas policies of not sitting unaccompanied children next to men. I felt really passionate about it; the assumption that all men alone are a risk to children is an affront to what we represent and the values we hold and someone had to say something! The issue is currently with the Human Rights Commission, so I'll keep you posted.

We got a mention in the *NZ Herald* (2nd Mar) in a story on youth crime prevention.

Our major fund raising event - Troy's March - got mentioned in the *Western Leader* (15th Dec) and the *NZ Herald* (10th Dec)

See story for more on *Troy's March*.

New Mentors

The stream of men volunteering to become mentors continues more slowly now, so if you know of a good man out there who would make a Big Buddy now's the time to tap him on the shoulder. Person to person is always the best way to promote what we do.

Editorial from Richard New coordinator joins us

Hey, what a great summer it has been so far! We have all had a good break and come back to work suntanned and relaxed. And a good job too because we have much to do and many changes to work with. A new coordinator, Stephen Bell, started in Feb (see separate story) and we have been looking for a new office, as we are bursting out of our current space at Man Alive and are working hard to expand Big Buddy services across Auckland. On top of this, we won an award (see story) and the Vodafone Foundation asked us to apply for funds. It's all go but we are enjoying the work, enjoying the weather and more importantly, Steve Sobota and Stephen Bell are making some really great coffee lately. The Big Buddy Baristas are on fire!

Go well, friend.

Web site update

Hey not only do we have a flash new web site, we now can accept donations on the web site via credit card. The donations side is in partnership with FundraiseOnline - an organisation supporting sports-type fundraising events. They are also hosting our Troy's March fundraiser. Check it out www.bigbuddy.org.nz.

Or Troy's March
www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/troysmarch

Once again many thanks to Cam from Phosphor Essence for his donated work on our web site.

This quote is for all the Big Buddies out there..

"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."

Kahil Gibran



A big welcome to our new West Auckland Co-ordinator, Stephen Bell. Stephen has a background in group facilitation, counselling and social work. He has been a facilitator for the

non-violence programmes at Man Alive for the past 7 years and has recently left a position at Auckland City Mission working with homeless people. Stephen lives in the Titirangi area with his partner, Jane, and his two young sons, Joseph and Samuel. Stephen went through exactly the same interviews all Big Buddies go through, a great introduction to our work and a good way for us to get to know him better. On board now for two weeks, he already feels like part of the Big Buddy family. Steve Sobota is very busy training Stephen who once over his learning curve, will be fully responsible for Big Buddy work in all of West Auckland up to Helensville and also some of South Auckland.

Who's new

In this issue we welcome the following Big Buddies who have been matched with a little buddy:

Peter Girven
Zephyr Brown
Gerry Swift
Trevor McCoid
James Scarr
Tua Schuster
Grant McAneaney
Mark Pearce
Graeme Thorpe
Alan Watkins
Cam Stewart
Alan Watkins

Troy's March



You'll remember last newsletter's story on Troy and his twin sons; well his mates, Pete Kendall, Sam McCready and David Joyce are now into a full-on fundraiser for Big Buddy called Troy's March. They have committed

themselves joining an extreme global endurance event with 30 three-person teams in a foot race across the Gobi Desert near Urumqi in Western China. They are doing it for their mate, Troy, and to raise funds and awareness for Big Buddy. The grueling race will cover 250 kms and run over six days from May 28-June 3, traversing rivers, high plains, a mountain, valleys and sand dunes. Competitors will carry all their food, gear and clothing while navigating through about 30 checkpoints. Chinese locals have dubbed the event "The Race of No Return" because it is so grueling but Pete, Sam, David and sub Scott (a stand in if anyone falls over) aren't daunted by the challenge. They know they're amateurs up against lots of professional extreme sportsmen and they're not expecting to win, but in true Kiwi style, they'll give the race their all. They say it's a way of celebrating Troy's amazing life (captured in his due to be published biography *Shadow Dancing*. Copies are available through Travis Field [travis@nztc.co.nz] from \$30-\$50, depending on demand) while raising money for a cause really close to his heart. "It's just what friends should do," says Pete. "We can't save Troy but we can save some kids from not having a father figure in their lives. We can do that." Their by-line is "How far would you go for a mate?" and part of their warm up training has been a quick, two-day jog around Mt Ruapehu! I tell you, these guys are crazy but



Great mates, Sam, Dave and Pete

hey, what great mates to have. We will be putting something up on our web site soon but you can find out more on www.adventureproject.co.nz. Their public fundraising site is www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/troysmarch where you can get also blog updates. Donations from businesses are already flowing in steadily and a big thank you goes out to Pearce Brothers Ltd, Wheels on Wairau, Hyundai and Professional Building Consultants Ltd.

Cool stuff to do

All the guys are too busy doing cool stuff to tell us about it, so on another angle we came across a list of movies that in some way feature a mentor in the storyline. Interesting no?

About a Boy (2002)

Back to the Future - Complete Trilogy

Dead Poets Society (1989)

Finding Forrester (2000)

Good Will Hunting (1997)

Hearts in Atlantis (2001)

Lean on Me (1989)

Mr. Holland's Opus (1996)

Scent of a Woman (1992)

Searching for Bobby Fischer (1993)

Star Wars - Episode I & Episode II

The Hurricane (2000)

The Karate Kid (1984)

The Legend of Bagger Vance (2000)

The Matrix (1999)

To Sir, With Love (1967)

Tuesdays with Morrie (1999)

Wonder Boys (2000)

Funding update

ASB Trusts have agreed to help fund an expansion of Big Buddy across the Auckland region. We are still working on the details but we are very pleased to name ASB Trusts as one of our key funding partners. Vodafone Foundation have made a substantial contribution towards expanding Big Buddy in South Auckland and we had a nice-sized donation from lawyer Sandi Anderson - thanks Sandi.

On a different funding note, the Lou and Iris Fisher Charitable Trust have made a generous grant towards the purchase of kayaks and supporting equipment. Buddies will now have the resources to get out and have some serious fun on the water. I can hear the boys now saying "coool".

We won an award!



That's Steve and I picking up our category award in the Infratil - Waitakere City community awards. We were well chuffed! Thanks to Bob Harvey, Waitakere City and of course, Infratil.

A Big Buddy gets us a new photocopier

One of our new Big Buddies, Grant McAneaney, was instrumental in getting us a great photocopier/laser printer for zero cost. Grant works in the photocopier and printer business and managed to secure us an almost new machine. It photocopies and is hooked up to our network as a printer. We love it! A big thank you to Grant.