

## Issue 7, Spring 2006

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### What's coming up

The next **Induction/Training Evening** for prospective Big Buddies is Tuesday 14th November at Big Buddy, 40 Strid Rd, Te Atatu South.

Next Big Buddy **'Monthly Meet'** dates, 6 November and 11 December, 7pm at the Grey Lynn Community Centre, 510 Richmond Road, Grey Lynn.

### What's happened

#### **Big Buddy in the news since Vodafone NZ Foundation award:**

Since the announcement of Richard being a recipient of the World of Difference programme award, he has been mentioned on NewstalkZB on 12 October. An article also appeared in the Western Leader on 17 October featuring a story on Richard's award and Big Buddy's expansion.

Again this exposure plus more recent newspaper advertising has brought more enquiries from men wanting to become Big Buddies. Great stuff!

### Who's new

In this issue we welcome the following new Big Buddies to the programme:

**Simon Savage**  
**Crossley Gates**  
**Dallas Tipau**  
**Scott Taylor**  
**Paul Hurrell**

### Who do you know

If you know of a good man out there who would make a fitting 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.

*\*If you have a work e-newsletter that has a community focus section or an area in your workplace or somewhere else for displaying Big Buddy material please call us for brochures, display stands and promotional material.*

# Big Buddy Community News

## Vodafone NZ Foundation Award

We have won another award, this one comes with some serious money as well, even better!

The Vodafone NZ Foundation through its annual World of Difference programme gave out 5 awards this year. The Vodafone NZ Foundation funds a unique programme that covers the salaries and expenses of up to six people for a year. Richard gained, on behalf of Big Buddy, the opportunity to begin the expansion of Big Buddy out of Auckland to the rest of New Zealand, starting with the North Island. The award ceremony blew us all away. Vodafone do this stuff really well, a classy show starting with a pōwhiri, great waiata, speeches, large screen videos, a high energy hip hop dance performance and of course a huge applause from the 100 people present when Richard stepped up to accept the award. We were quite chuffed really.



(left to right...Award winners Paul Fong, Richard Aston, Maree Burns, Neil Porteous (Vodafone Foundation Chairman), Deborah Morris-Travers, Billie Paea)

Thanks again to the Vodafone NZ Foundation for giving Big Buddy this opportunity to take the programme to other communities around the country.

## Editorial from Richard

Spring is upon us with lashings of cold rain and wintery blasts from the South, good for the ski fields I guess, but me, I'm hanging out for that summer sun. So too are the Buddies in our community with increasing calls about when the Big Buddy Boats will be ready to book, and the quick answer is this month (Oct). Spring brings with it new growth and for us ideas of growth mean we've decided to expand Big Buddy outside of Auckland, the recent Vodafone New Zealand Foundation Award gave us the inspiration to make the move. Planning is under way right now, but, in short, we will be opening up Big Buddy offices in several North Island cities, starting with Hamilton. By the end of 2007 we hope to have at least 4 offices set up, but hey, who knows, it may be more or less, we will take it one step at a time. We will not, of course, take our eyes off Auckland and want to do all we can to find Big Buddies in Auckland to match the many boys on our waiting lists.

In this season we introduce a new Big Buddy staff member, Tony Holloway, (see over) and will be looking for one more Coordinator (part time) for Auckland.

Lots to do, and we are looking forward to a bountiful summer to come. Every day I come to work feels like a privilege, working as we do with the basic human values of caring and happiness....Go well friend.

## ***Little Buddy Great Story Competition***

We're giving away "Men in Black" by Ron Palenski, Neville McMillan, and Rod Chester. It's a 900+ page atlas of everything about the history of the world famous All Blacks and a 2006/07 All Black calendar with all your favourite players.



*"Last published in 2000, Men in Black is the definitive record of All Black test rugby since 1903, when New Zealand played its first full-scale international against Australia in Sydney. Compiled by three of New Zealand's most respected rugby historians and writers, this the new edition is by far one of the largest books ever published in New Zealand. An addition of approximately 140 pages brings the total extent to a sensational 850 pages, and 48 pages of colour photographs complete this unique, unrivalled record of our national team at the highest level".*

These prizes have been kindly donated by Big Buddy John and Little Buddy Conner. What you need to do is write a story of up to 200 words about the best outing/activity/experience you've had with your Big Buddy Mentor and what it's meant to you. The winning story will receive the prize and your story will be published in the summer edition of the Big Buddy Community News. So get your pens going or your computers tapping and send in your story by Friday 10th November. The winner will be notified by the following Friday 17th November. Send email copies to [steve@bigbuddy.org.nz](mailto:steve@bigbuddy.org.nz). Go for it!

## ***You...***

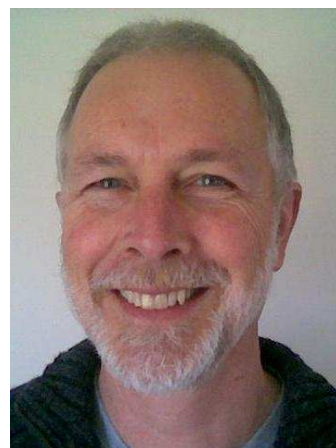
Yes we would like to hear from you! Send us an email, letter, or phone call if you have something to contribute to this news letter, or suggestions of what you would like to read here.

## ***Big Buddy Bursar Begins***

A big welcome to Tony Holloway who recently joined us part time in the position of Bursar. Bursar is latin for "keeper of the purse" so Tony will look after all our accounting needs, keeping the money flowing and will be actively involved in fundraising work. Tony is also an experienced boater so he is taking responsibility for all to do with our boat and kayaks so they get good use over the coming summer.

*"I live in Titirangi with my partner Rae and son Sam (17). I've come from a mostly commercial work background and was semi-retired and getting a bit bored when this opportunity came up. Knowing Richard and the work he did with Big Buddy, we talked about a way to "take some of the weight off him" in regard to the general office work, accounting and fund raising. I jumped at the chance to be a part of an organisation that was putting so much into the community in such a practical way. Our kids are the future of this country (and the world). They deserve the best start they can get, and Big Buddy helps to provide that.*

*I have enjoyed extensive travelling, camping, and messing about in boats most of my life. My partner and I recently acquired a 7m camper bus and we are now enjoying extended road trips taking in the beauty and variety of NZ's countryside and coast.*



## ***Big Buddies getting together***

Our monthly Big Buddy meetings are really humming with lots of great ideas about how to grow our community and keep connected. At a recent meeting we decided to put out a regular email to those Big Buddies interested in doing an activity with other Buddies. The format will be to send me (Steve Sobota) an email if you want other Buddies to join you with details of what, when and where you're doing your activity - maybe a bush walk, fishing, soccer game or kayaking. I'll then email it to those interested. I'll also add any free events or activities happening in the city over that coming week that may be of interest.

Look out for an email from me soon with further details, or email me if you're interested being on the e-list: [steve@bigbuddy.org.nz](mailto:steve@bigbuddy.org.nz)

## ***Cool stuff to do***

In this column we highlight a few interesting and low cost things Buddies can do together:

Check out NZLive.com for events happening near you. You can search under different categories. Some free events coming up soon are:

- **Grey Lynn Park Festival** - Williamson Ave, Grey Lynn, Saturday 18 November, 9.30am-5.30pm. Stalls, rides, music and community spirit. Check out [www.greylynnparkfestival.org](http://www.greylynnparkfestival.org) for more info.
- A free lunchtime concert featuring ensemble players of the **Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra**. Sunday 26 November 1:00pm - 2:00pm at the Pumphouse Takapuna.
- New Zealand's biggest streetball event, the **Boost Mobile Streetball Tour**. Streetballers will have a chance to show their skills and their hottest moves in a celebration of street culture. Saturday 2nd December, 10am at Aotea Square. See [www.boostmobile.co.nz](http://www.boostmobile.co.nz) for more info.