

## Issue 8, Summer 2007

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# Big Buddy Community News

### What's coming up

The next **Induction/Training Evening** for prospective Big Buddies will be at the end of April at Big Buddy, 40 Strid Rd, Te Atatu South.

Next Big Buddy **'Monthly Meet'** dates, **5 April and 7 May**, 7pm at the Grey Lynn Community Centre, 510 Richmond Road, Grey Lynn.

### Who's new

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

**Rex Boyd**  
**Robin Johansen**  
**Bob Gillies**  
**Doug Dallimore**  
**Eldon Crombie**  
**Erin Beale**  
**Garry Samuel**  
**Steve Hay**  
**Chris Thompson**

### What's happened

A story in the North Shore Times just prior to Christmas brought a good amount of inquiries from men on the North Shore wanting to become Big Buddies. Two of those men are now matched to a Little Buddy and four others are currently in the application process. It seems the heart stories that are told connect with those men out there who have some time and want to give something back to the community. Great stuff!

### 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 Day Out

So, I've finally experienced it, a Big Buddy Summer Day Out. After the disappointing cancellation of last years outing due to weather this has been



one worth waiting for. On a sunny Saturday morning a couple of weeks ago 40 odd boys and men made their way to Motuihe Island courtesy of the Kawau Kat, Eddie's launch and Richard's high speed solo in the Big Buddy fizz boat. Many men

commented on the growing sense of community emerging within Big Buddy. A year of our Big Buddy Monthly Meets means many Big Buddies are no longer strangers. It was a privilege to watch men introduce 'their boys' to other Big Buddies creating a lovely atmosphere of group mentoring and connection.

Highlights for us here included... The

Little Buddy 'hands on' skipper training. High speed cricket



with no less than 4 balls at one time. Jet ski riding, many thanks to Tony and Mal for donating their time and fuel. Ski biscuiting on the end of the fizz boat, (thanks to Steve, I was sore for days afterwards). A BBQ feast with our self appointed Little Buddy chef Roydon. Endless swimming in the ocean (I'm sure



some boys only left the water to eat). It was a lovely experience of laughter, play, feasting and sun. Thanks to all for coming, hanging out and being who you are. *Stephen Bell*

### Editorial from Richard

Summer is still with us as I write this although I thought we'd lost it. As part of our expansion plans we are currently recruiting for our man in Wellington. It's proving harder than I expected to find the right person, but I guess we are a little fussy. It has been interesting to reflect on the qualities and skills this work of Big Buddy requires of our coordinators. Aside from sharp organisational and communications skills it needs EQ, the new buzzword meaning emotional intelligence. Not something that pops up on CVs that much. While our adverts in Wellington have generated lots of interest we are still looking, so if you know of a man in Wellington you think could do this work get him to contact us, and yes we are clear the work needs to be held by a man, each boy we meet sees the coordinator initially as the archetypal big buddy. The thing I love about this work though is I can be thinking through national organisational issues, political nuances one day and the next I'm mucking around in the water at our Big Buddy Day Out with a bunch of boys intent on showering me with water. Staying close to what we are really about keeps my feet firmly on the ground. I just want that ground to stay dry just a little longer now, all I ask for is a wee bit more summer, a little more warm sun, water and clear blue skies to warm the cockles of our hearts...Go well friend.

## ***John Key visits Big Buddy***

Richard has been busy over the last year trying to get Big Buddy above the radar of politicians. The thinking is that good political support may help our case to get better financial support from government.

The National list MP Paula Bennett has shown a great interest in our work, some may remember she came to our house warming last year. This year she brought her boss John Key to visit us. He spent an hour and a half with us asking lots of questions about our work. He seemed genuine in wanting to know what is happening in the non-profit world having also talked to others like Barnardos, Salvation Army etc. Big Buddy was mentioned in his state of the nation speech in Christchurch and it seems he and Paula Bennett are keen to promote the work of Big Buddy in Government circles.

As an organisation we do not take political sides. It was heart warming to have two politicians who seemed genuine in wanting to hear our story and showed enthusiasm for the work of Big Buddy.

Richard's off to meet Labour MP Chris Carter this week and we shall report back on progress in our next newsletter.



Photo courtesy of Western Leader - Photographer Fiona Goodall

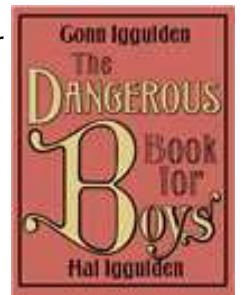
## ***Funding Update***

Big Buddy is getting fantastic support from our funders. We want to especially mention ASB Community Trust for their ongoing and solid support. The two West Auckland trusts Portage and Waitakere for their tireless support and big ups to Century Foundation and the Lotteries Commission for their help. All our funders are on the Big Buddy website now.

While we run Big Buddy professionally I think our success in fundraising is really due to people "getting" what Big Buddy is about i.e. people simply caring for others. When I tell funders we have many men stepping up as volunteers they are blown away and become very enthusiastic. It affirms our Big Buddy mentors are held in high esteem by many in the broader community.

## ***A book on cool stuff to do***

Big Buddy recently came across the book, "*The Dangerous Book for Boys*". It's written by Conn Iggulden and his brother Hal as a celebration of the long summers of their youth and as a compendium of information so vital to men of all ages. *Chapters include:* The Seven Ancient Wonders of the World, Laws of Football, Dinosaurs, Fishing, Juggling, Timers and Tripwires, Spies, Making Crystals, Insects and Spiders, Astronomy, Girls, The Golden Age of Piracy, Secret Inks, Skimming Stones, Dog Tricks, Making a Periscope, Coin Tricks, Marbles, Artillery, The Origin of Words, The Solar System, Making a Bow and Arrow, Making a Go-cart, First Aide, Navigation, Building a Workbench, Cloud Formations, The Game of Chess, Growing Sunflowers, Role Playing Games, Building a Treehouse, Making a Battery and many many more interesting things that will keep Buddies busy for ages!



The book is available at your local library so go check it out, get a project happening or discover something new together.....and have fun!

## ***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.

## ***Little Buddy Great Story Competition - We have a winner!***

You may remember in our last issue we ran a competition for Little Buddies to write a story of up to 200 words about the best outing/activity/experience they've had with their Big Buddy Mentor and what it's meant to them....well we have a winner and Zane's story is below along with him and his prizes. Well done Zane!

Hi, my name is Zane. I am a Little Buddy and my Big Buddy is Eddie. My most favourite outing is going to Pukekohe. Eddie picks me up from my house, it takes about 40 minutes to get there. I like to watch Eddie race cars and other people that are in Eddie's team. I also like to buy hot chips for me and Eddie.

He also likes to have a diet coke after his race, I like to get him one and sometimes one for me. Sometimes it gets really cold and one time when I was there it was like ice.

It means a lot to me that I get to help Eddie work on the car and use the stopwatch to time him. Eddie is a very nice person to have as a Big Buddy.

Zane Sharp (10)

