

Issue 13, Autumn 2008

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What's coming up

The next **Induction/Training Evening** for prospective Big Buddies will be **Tuesday 27th May** at Big Buddy, 40 Strid Rd, Te Atatu South.

Next Big Buddy **'Monthly Meet'** dates, **Mon 5 May, 9 June**, 7pm at Grey Lynn Community Centre, 510 Richmond Rd Grey Lynn.

Who's new

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

John Salisbury
Paul Evans
Robert Brennan
Steven Gottipalli
John Adams

Cool stuff to do

Here's a great bunch things that you guys are doing and were noted by those who attended the recent Big Buddy monthly meeting. Thanks guys!

- Wave pool in Henderson
- Visitor Centre in the Waitakeres and going for a walk from there
- Piha Beach or another out west
- Gannet Colony at Muriwai
- Pukekohe race track, testing day (free)
- Art Gallery on Sunday mornings
- Bike riding-Ambury Park track and farm
- Rocket making at the Stardome
- Using a bait catcher
- MOTAT trams
- Glenbrook train ride
- Making things in the workshop
- Waipuna park remote control boats
- Model world/Monterey park
- Garage sales
- Markets

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 somewhere for displaying Big Buddy material please call us for brochures, display stands and promotional material.*

Big Buddy Community News

Big Buddy Day Out

They came from here, there and everywhere.....

No doubt about it, the BBDO was a great success this year, with over 70 of us gathering together on the eastern shores of Motuihe Island on a warm Sunday morning to recognise and celebrate our growing community and, of course, to have some fun together. The Big Buddy team were pretty well organised (although no one has taken responsibility yet for leaving the gas bottle for the barbeque behind!) and we were well supported by men supplying boats for transport and water activities. We had an initial welcome with getting to know who was who and then had a chance for a look around our patch. Then with the big D.O.C



barbeque as a backup, it was time to cook the zillions of sausages and butter the multitudes of bread (or so it might have seemed initially to those willing helpers!) but with their good spirit and lots of chat they soon made short work of it. And they must have done it very well as it all got very rapidly consumed!

The afternoon was punctuated with the sounds of 'howzat' from the cricket pitch; the roar of another jetski taking off (to the delighted "yee ha's" of those enjoying the thrill of it, including me); plus the more placid sounds of the revving of the Big Buddy fizz boat doing sea biscuit rides and the quiet hum of conversations on the sea shore. It must have been a good day as the yacht decided to stay stuck in the tide and enjoy the whole afternoon, while the rest of us cruised back! Nothing like starting the day at the helm of a 78ft yacht or finishing the day steering a 45ft launch on the flying bridge, as several lucky boys would agree. Sincere thanks to all those who helped in so many ways - bring on summer 2009!



Editorial

The beautifully long warm summer has finally packed it's bags and departed. Autumn swirls around us now with its icy promise of winter to come. I love these great rhythms that hold us all, reminding us that we are part of something much bigger than we can imagine at times. Another rhythm is upon us this year - elections. And yes the swilling winds of electioneering have started to whip up small flurries of debate and talk. The outcome seems more uncertain this time around - I sense it will be a truly MMP-type result with so much depending on who can work with who. I kinda like that and am looking forward to being surprised by the mix that eventually emerges.

Continued over...

Editorial continued...

Lets all hope it will be the best result for ordinary New Zealanders. In all the hubbub of election year, and what the new government may or may not do, I am also reminded that ordinary Kiwis are doing a lot for each other regardless of what government is in power. I was talking to a grandfather today who had read the news stories about kids not getting breakfast. He decided to check out his own grandkids and discovered that they indeed did not get breakfast. Their hardworking parents started work early and left the kids to get their own breakfast but neglected to ensure the right food was in the cupboards. This grandfather gave his children a fiery ticking off and then followed up by visiting his grandkids in the morning to help sort breakfast out. No government agency or programme was involved, just an ordinary Kiwi taking the time to ensure that at least his family was okay. I'm not saying there isn't a need for social programmes or government intervention, but I think we forget it's pretty simple sometimes. It's people caring about people - that's the business we are in and we are very proud to be too.

As you will see from the rest of this newsletter, we at Big Buddy have been busy! Opening our new branches in Wellington and North Auckland-Rodney while also looking toward the next towns where we are needed. It's been a lot of work to get to this point but it feels like we are on a roll now and it can only get easier from now on. We have been getting fantastic support from funders old and new without which it would not be possible. I am working hard to get some serious government support - we get very little at the moment - and it's looking promising, I will keep you posted on progress.

Here's hoping the autumn treats you well and as it gets colder you have someone else to huddle with - by the fire. Go well.

NEW North Auckland-Rodney office



This is the new home of Big Buddy North Auckland-Rodney at 99B Hurstmere Rd, Takapuna. It's where Martin Hosking will be based while expanding the Big Buddy programme further north. Good stuff!

Welcome to Wellington Manager

In this issue we welcome our new Big Buddy Wellington Manager, Scott Savidge, who will be responsible for introducing Big Buddy to Wellington City, Lower and Upper Hutt - our first programme outside the Auckland region.

Before joining us Scott ran a digital imaging business with his partner Linda while also working as a writer and editor - most recently for a book on Antarctica and the Arctic. He also has a background in adventure tourism, having worked in the ski industry in Colorado for five years and as a guide on our very own Milford Track. Scott has also worked as a counsellor with at-risk youth and it was the rewards of this experience that moved him to join us here at Big Buddy.



Scott went through the same process as our Big Buddies during the interview process and is currently undergoing training in Wellington and Auckland with Steve Sobota and the rest of the team. Scott and Steve have recently added the finishing touches to the Wellington office at the bottom of Brooklyn Hill near the CBD and will soon be ready to start matching the good men of the capital with Little Buddies.

We hope you will join us in welcoming him to the team.

Funding Update

Our regular funders have been very supportive over the last few months and we have received some good sized grants from sources less common for us.

The ASB Community Trust have continued their ongoing and solid support and its looks likely this will continue next year. The two West Auckland trusts (Portage and Waitakere) have repeated their support for us this year.

A big thank you to the Lion and Perry Foundations for their substantial grants and to the Lottery Grants Board for a huge kick start for the new North Auckland - Rodney office.

We especially want to thank the AMP Foundation for their fantastic grant. We are now one of AMP's foundation partners and are confident this will be an on-going relationship. They have also offered other resources that may help the Big Buddy community - more on these in later newsletters.

All our funders are on the Big Buddy website now.

The opening of our new offices in Wellington and Rodney is great news for funding. Big Buddy is now seen as a national organisation, opening us up to grants from funding sources previously not available.

Finally our gratitude to the individuals who donate smaller, but significant, amounts to us via the Big Buddy web site. Your generosity constantly reminds us - Kiwis are a generous and caring people.