

# Big Buddy Community News

## Who's new

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

**Mat Rankin**  
**John Sinclair**  
**Alan Simons**  
**Greg Shaw**  
**John Saunders**  
**Steve Ludford**  
**Ken Levinsohn**  
**Nalin Gupta**  
**Tony Darcy**  
**Simon Daniela**  
**Colin Coupe**  
**Andy Barrell**  
**Blair Loveridge**  
**Allan Johnson**  
**Terry Walton**  
**Michael Tolley**  
**Richard Carr**  
**Elton Drylie**  
**Chris Hannan**

## What's coming up

The next **Induction/Training Evening** for prospective Big Buddies will be *Tuesday 18th November* at Big Buddy, 40 Strid Rd, Te Atatu South and *Tuesday 11th November* at Big Buddy, 12 Brooklyn Rd, Wellington.

Next Big Buddy **'Monthly Meet'** dates, Mondays, *1 December*, 7pm at Grey Lynn Community Centre, 510 Richmond Rd Grey Lynn.

## Big Buddy Winter Day Out

We had a record turn out and a fine day a few weeks ago for our annual Winter day out with 60+ Big Buddies and boys joining the Big Buddy crew at Parakai Hot Pools.

We always start an event with a big circle where we talk about the day and do introductions. It was wonderful that some of the older Little Buddies (and some younger) had the confidence to introduce their Big Buddies as opposed to the traditional way that the Big Buddies take the lead. Good on ya boys! Big efforts from volunteers helped prepare the lunch and within an hour we had a feast of sausages, kebabs and salad laid out for the hordes of hungry mouths to devour. We even had the military police (complete with hat) on hand to distribute one kebab to each person, yes just one each boys!



There was a flurry of energy after lunch with water rugby commanding attention in the main pool. It seemed the boys wanted to take on the men but what I saw was a mass tackling of the person with the ball until they gave it up, and shouts of "hey old man, pass the ball", which got some laughs. Across the way a fierce game of cricket was in session and a determined bunch of other boys were climbing to the top of the hydro-slides for the 54th time! Time ran out and Big Buddies had to call in their boys to change and head for home with satisfied smiles all round.



As we welcome new men and boys to this event each year, the spirit of community grows as people remember each other from the last event, new connections are made and people feel welcome. The Big Buddy Day Out creates an opportunity for newer Little Buddies to meet others just like them who don't have a Dad around but who now have a man by their side, hanging out and having fun. And that's what it's all about it!

Steve

## Little Buddy - Top Body Boarder

Aran Naismith will be 18 in a few weeks time, and he has just won another trophy to add to his collection in this photo. Aran was matched when he was 12 with Big Buddy Mentor Bruce Walker, and their relationship has certainly stood the test of time, and distance. Bruce lived on the Shore and they met almost every weekend for 3 years, they had adventures in the Carter Holt Forests, walked the dogs and Aran also learned how to cook. Then Bruce had to move to Whangarei, and Aran made lots of trips up there in school holiday time, (he's good at trimming avocado trees now). Aran just loves water - he grew up on Great Barrier Island, and he has been into body boarding hard out for the last few years. Bruce has encouraged him a lot, surf's pretty good up North, and his mother Vicky has helped in all sorts of ways - the family car probably knows the way to Piha and Maori Bay all by itself. Aran is the Auckland Scholastics champ for the last 2 years, was 3rd in the nationals, and 2nd in the NZ Amateur mens this year. He got so good that he was part of the NZ team competing at the Australian Nationals at Port Macquarie recently, where he made the 3rd round. His latest success? - We have just learned that after doing well at the last competition in Gisborne, Aran is now the NZSBB Amateur Men's Tour Champion 2008. Next year he hopes to be hitting the beach at Sumner, when he starts a degree in engineering and planning at Lincoln, in Christchurch.. Well done Aran, congratulations from Big Buddy.



Martin

### Editorial

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Well spring has sprung on up and almost past us by the time this newsletter gets out. It's been good to feel the warmth coming back to the earth, whetting our appetites for a grand summer. Of course spring is the time for new growth, my garden is doing very well thank you, and likewise for our work at Big Buddy. We have had quite an influx of good men coming though as mentors, see the list over the page, it's the biggest we have ever reported. We have been advertising a lot, had a great spot in the Herald's TV page just above the crosswords, big ups to Matt from the Herald for getting us some good prices. We now have many more mentors who are very good at cryptic crosswords and sudoku, I think that's a good thing.

In my last editorial I do admit to having a bit of moan about the level of government funding we receive, too little. Well it's cheering that since then CYFs have increased our current funding contract and a new government initiative looks likely to progressively fund us to serious levels over the next 3 yrs (see funding update). All is forgiven!

With our Rodney and Wellington branches well under way we are now looking towards Christchurch. Steve Sobota has been doing all the initial groundwork to check if we are needed there, lining up office space and a possible coordinator for the garden city.

Tony is very busy working on funding to kick it all off and all going well, we could be starting up in Christchurch by April next year. Another focus for us next year will be South Auckland, our friends at Youthline have offered us space in their new office in Papatoetoe and a well known sportsman has offered to help us get established there. Sorry I cannot say his name until we have confirmed arrangements, watch this space for updates.

I write this 2 weeks before polling day so I have to pay some mention to the Elections. The thing I love about MMP is it's like Forrest Gump said, "life is like a box of chocolates - you never know what your gonna get". With the polls going up and down like Wall St it doesn't seem at all certain what the make-up of the new government is going to be, but its looking like it will be at least multi-coloured. I reckon the more the merrier, the more real discussion, the more debate, the more collaboration and less wild lurches of policy. I'm old enough to remember the Muldoon and Roger Douglas years where life-changing decisions affecting lots of us were made by a very small handful of people. The thing is - I reckon all the parties have got some good stuff to offer and of course some crazy stuff. In my view - in the heat of a well balanced debate the good stuff cooks down well and the crazy stuff evaporates. There ya go, Richard's politics-as-stew metaphor, chew on that. As Forrest Gump also as said "That's all I have to say about that."

I hope the upcoming summer warms your hearts and bodies, I wish for you all a warm and connected Christmas. In the middle of a world financial crisis I wish for you a solid place in family, friends and community - all of which has been with us humans well before money - let alone credit - was invented.

*Go well friend, Richard.*

### Wellington's first match!

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There's popular saying down here in the capital, "You can't beat Wellington on a good day". And with spring finally in full force down here, there are more and more good days for us to thoroughly enjoy. But just recently, there was one particular day that was a whole lot more special than most. On that day, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, Big Buddy completed our first Wellington match. It was a great feeling and the result of a lot of hard work by all the Big Buddy team. From the initial idea of a Wellington office, right through to the recruitment and training of little ol' me, the coordinator, to this; a good man and a boy who needs him coming together. It is a humbling experience and one I will treasure for a long time to come.



So to Little Buddy Jamie and Big Buddy Michael, a hearty welcome aboard and congratulations from the entire Big Buddy community. We hope you have plenty of fun and adventure in the months ahead. Jamie and Michael

live within walking distance of each other but, as they are both keen runners, I don't expect there to be much walking going on! Jamie is also a soccer fanatic so I reckon Michael will soon be having the Phoenix scouts checking him out! All the best you guys, hope you have a blast!

*Scott*

### Funding Update

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We received a \$5000 donation from one individual who - I think - prefers to remain anonymous. We were blown away by such a generous gift from one person. The Tindall Foundation have come on board to support us with a generous donation. They are very careful in who they donate to and are quite rightly cautious around an organization's sustainability. We take that as a vote of confidence in us and look forward to working them into the future. Our contract funding from CYFs has increased by 30% lifting their contribution to 7% of our budget. Big Buddy is also part of the Pathways to Partnership programme announced by the Prime Minister Helen Clark in Feb this year. Under this programme we are now officially considered an essential service with a promise to receive 100% funding from government by 2012, progressively phased in over that time. It seems too much to hope for but if we get at least 50% govt funding it will have a profound effect on our ability to expand the Big Buddy service around New Zealand. Finally as always a big thank you to all our funders and to those individuals who regularly donate to us.

*Tony*

### BP Petrol Vouchers

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BP Oil gave us petrol vouchers worth \$350. Big ups to our Wellington man, Scott Savidge for organizing this. This was not enough to spread evenly around so we did draw of 7 Big Buddies who each received \$50 of petrol vouchers. It all helps.

Interesting to note, a quarter of our Big Buddies opted out of the draw to give the other guys a better chance. Next year we shall ask BP for more vouchers hopefully enough to share equally to all Big Buddies.