

Issue 18, Winter 2009

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What's coming up

The upcoming **Induction/Training Evenings** for prospective Big Buddies will be *Wednesday 9 September* at Big Buddy, 40 Strid Rd, Te Atatu South.

Next Big Buddy **Mentor Meeting** dates are *Monday 7 September and 5 October*, 7.15pm at Grey Lynn Community Centre, 510 Richmond Rd Grey Lynn and *Thursday 27 August* for a 7pm start at Barnados House, 85 Ghuznee St, Wellington.

Who's new

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

Stephen Young
Laurie Ingham
Phil Hewetson
Michael Beale
Subramaniam Aiyer
Jonathon Reid
Don Watherston
Grant Smith
Steen Videbeck
Tony Hiles
Cameron Farquhar
Mark Woodward
Bern Green
Kris Charlton
Kevin McRae
Mike Kelleher
Bruce Lovett

Funding Update

In recent months we have received grants from: Lion Foundation, Four Winds Foundation, United Way, The Masonic Lodge in Wellington, The Wellington City Council and CYFs. We have also been blown away lately by some wonderfully generous donations from several Big Buddies and friends. There is no doubt its tough getting funding in a recession and we know this year will be tight but we will get through and be stronger for it. Thanks to all for your support.

Tony

Big Buddy Community News

Taraia - tearing it up!

I'm Taraia, and my Big Buddy is Hans. We usually hang out on a Saturday together and do cool stuff. We've been to MOTAT, the museum, and quad biking. Recently we went to a building site and I drove a digger. One of the builders showed me how to drive it and then let me drive!

There are two levers you move with your feet and your hands, which controlled the tracks so I could go forward and back and turn on the spot. There were three other levers that I used, controlling the grader blade, the end of the arm and bucket and the third controlled the start of the arm and spun the cab around.

I dug up some dirt, moved it around and accidentally knocked down a profile (a stick to mark a boundary or building), whoops! The builders thought it was funny and put it back up. They asked Hans if I had ever driven a digger before because they thought I drove it really well.

After that we checked out the building site and a half-built house. Inside we could see the wires, pink bats and pipes, and there was no ceiling. Then we climbed the scaffolding of a three story house and from the top I could see over the roof. Here's me driving the digger – it was really cool fun.



These Buddies are cookin'

Hi, I'm Sebastian. I'm 11 and in Year 6 at Hillsborough Primary. I really, really, really wanted a Big Buddy because I don't have a Dad. My Gran, that I live with is cool-as but she isn't into rugby and sports and stuff that I like. I got my wish five weeks ago. Matthew is cool, great, fantastic, AWESOME! And he's a good cook. We do stuff together every Sunday: the museum, checking out the Rocknasium, baking muffins with cheese and onions, swimming at the wave pools, walking, watching rugby practice, shopping for groceries and making a yummy lasagne.



I can't wait to find out what we're going to do again this weekend. Matthew said to me to think about what else to cook, so I'm thinking about that now...

Our guys - support from the inside

Recently we sent a letter to our Big Buddies asking for help because as an organisation, we're wanting to maintain and eventually expand our programme so that every fatherless boy in New Zealand has the opportunity to have a Big Buddy. We've been overwhelmed by the generosity of donations, and offers of time and resources to raise funds.

We appreciate the great work all you Big Buddy's do and the time and care you give to your Little Buddy, which for us is enough, so we are blown away by the continued offer of support.

So a big thank you from us. You have gone above and beyond the call of duty as we continue to forge ahead and create a sustainable future for Big Buddy.

Editorial

Well, what a winter it's been, freezing cold, cutting winds, I'm talking about the icy blasts of the recession here, while the real weather has been not too bad - great snow falls for skiers and some spectacular storms. Actually the recession is a gift in many ways; it is teaching us to look carefully at who we are, what we do and how we support our work in the world. I have banged on in the past about hard times calling on people to reach out and draw together and we are taking our own advice, especially in reaching out for help, in looking for our community of friends. To this end we are working on plans to reach out to the wider community and ask for support - I'm mainly talking financial support here. Our funding has always come from charitable trusts, foundations and a tiny bit from Government, but now we need to reach out further to business and especially everyday kiwis who may want to support our work and the values behind it. We have never really asked for money in the past - I have been very reluctant to - so to ask the public has been a big decision to make and frankly we have no idea how good the response will be, but I have faith that - if the work of mentoring fatherless boys is valued by the broader community then the money will come. To help us in this new endeavour we have partnered up with an advertising agency, yeah I know that sounds a bit flash, but our new friends from The Pond (see separate story), are not the flash-Harry's we feared, they are great people who love what we do and are gladly giving us their time free to help us get our message out to the world. So a new initiative starts for Big Buddy and with it lots of work and planning, a project that will put broader and therefore stronger financial foundations under our work in the world. If you, our reader, feel you want to help, with direct financial support, ideas, or other resources please contact us or check out our web site. There, I did it, I asked you for help - that wasn't too hard.

And while all this is happening we continue to see record numbers of men volunteering to front up as mentors and of course the many fine caregivers who approach us for help with their boys. It is easy in hard economic times to focus so much on money we forget to look at the really important stuff happening in the world. In our part of the world the many mentoring relationships continue to flourish and grow. We continue to be warmed by the many stories of basic human caring we hear. Last month our coordinator Stephen Bell was talking to a Big Buddy matched with a challenging boy. He told him he could not underestimate the positive affect he may have on the boy's life and the boy may not realise this until his 20s. Our Big Buddy's response... "I'll be there". It was a wonderful reminder of the core of what we do - we'll be there, no matter what. So with respect for our man's unassuming and pragmatic statement, "I'll be there", the very least I can do is to be sure that Big Buddy as an organisation will be there when that boy turns 20.

So, as the cold winds pass and the sun shines more, I hope you emerge from this winter alive, head up and sniffing for the scent of spring with its promise of fresh hope, growth and joy. It's a great world and a great time to be human.

Go well friend, Richard

The Pond

A big welcome from us to our new partners, The Pond - an advertising agency with a difference. They are a collective of 40+ senior creative's from various specialties who work with agencies on a consultancy basis. Most of the members choose this way of working to have a work/life balance. Check them out online, www.thepond.co.nz.



We have spent quite a few hours talking and planning with them and we like the cut of their jib! They are honest, realistic and above all very human. They like what Big Buddy is about and we're very grateful that they are giving their time for free! Thanks guys.

So what are they doing? Well, they are working with us to get a bit more creative on how we promote and present ourselves and they are currently working on some ideas for a fundraising campaign. Watch this space!

Big Buddy Wellington - update

Kia ora,

Well it's been nose to the grindstone here in Welly as the wild weather whips us through winter. We have seven new matches and a couple of great new supporters: Radioworks (who own eight radio stations in Welly) have offered a generous sponsorship deal that will allow us to get our message out in the capital as well as a heap of other support. Thanks heaps to Trevor and Rebecca at Radioworks for their passion for BB and we look forward to a great year on the air!! Also lending their support and enthusiasm are The Breeze DJ Steve Joll and the guys from www.blokeswhobake.co.nz who are, ahem, cooking up some ideas of how to lend a hand. So a big shout out to Steve and friends for doing good deeds for the boys. And finally, thanks to those who have given so generously to help us through these tough financial times - especially the Karori Lions Club and the men from the Hinemoa Lodge Charitable Trust. That's it from me, Kia kaha.

Scott

Donate to Big Buddy

There are a few ways to donate to us: See our website www.bigbuddy.org.nz/support/donate.aspx to donate online with a credit card; simply send us a cheque, (write your name and address on the back so we can send you a receipt). Become a Big Buddy monthly donor supporter by calling us for an automatic payment form to set this up through your bank. Or make a donation direct into our bank account: 12-3039-0172153-54 (Please put your name in the reference box and email us your address details so we can send a receipt).