

# Big Buddy Community News

## What's coming up

The upcoming **Induction/Training Evenings** for prospective Big Buddies will be **Monday 16 November** at Barnados House, 85 Ghuznee St, Wellington.

Next Big Buddy **Mentor Meeting** dates are **Monday 7 December, 7.15pm** at Grey Lynn Community Centre, 510 Richmond Rd Grey Lynn and **Thursday 26 November** 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:

**Posenai Tafa**  
**Allan Hickey**  
**Bevan Verryt**  
**Roger King**  
**Gerry Hamilton**  
**Al Tan**  
**Tom Toma**  
**Andrew Marshall**  
**Don Abbott**  
**George Lammie**  
**Luke Jackson**

## Funding Update

Well, we went through a scary patch when it looked like our funding was going to become a little lean, but we got through this tight spot – with a little help from our friends. A huge “thank you” goes to the very generous support from our Big Buddy community who gave us some very generous donations.

The Fathers Day promotion provided some quick support just when it was needed and we now have our first monthly automatic payment donations rolling in. If you are able to donate this way please see our web site or PTO for details.

Over the last few months we have also received grants from the following funders: Southern Trust, Waitakere City Council Wellbeing Fund, Lotteries National, NZ Community Trust and Pub Charity, plus a generous amount from the government and Paula Bennett's - Community Response Fund (an emergency fund for non profit organisations hit by the recession). NZ Post through their community post initiative donated 5000 Free-post envelopes.

Our grateful thanks to all of you for your support.  
*Tony*

## Spring scorcher for our Big Buddy Day Out

The weather leading up to the Big Buddy Spring Day Out was terrible. Cold, wet and windy - then the Gods smiled on us and our October 11 event was bathed in sunshine and warmth. More than 70 Big and Little Buddies gathered in the beautiful surroundings of Cornwall Park, under the big old Algerian oak and a flat wide open space ready for having fun, and we had that by the bucket load.

For this event, Big and Little Buddies had done some planning, and brought along activities and games to share, so there was soccer, touch rugby, peg ball, frisbee, softball, even a pair of stilts to try (now being repaired by Brent). While that was happening, a good team of helpers prepared lunch. Soon enough we were tucking into a feast with not a leftover to be seen.



*A 20 a side game of softball to complete a great day*

Special thanks go to our sponsors of the meal, the Aussie Butcher Group. We picked up the sausages, bread and sauce from their Henderson branch, but they have outlets all around Auckland and we thoroughly recommend them for their beef sausages – Thanks to Adam Little, Stuart and the team. Also thanks to Bronco at Spit Roasted Feasts for the free BBQ hire.

Maybe we should have cooked the eggs that a Big Buddy brought along, but then we wouldn't have had the fun of seeing them hurtling through the air between man and boy. It is surprising how long that lasted and how far they can be thrown, with the winners ending up about 15-20 metres apart!



*Nic, Roydon and Cyril cooking the 150+ sausages*



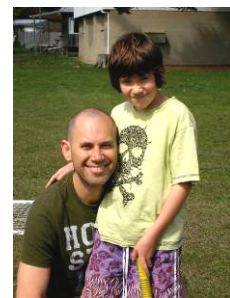
*The highly competitive eggstatic egg throwing contest!*

The quick dash was well contested, with divisions for under 9's and 10 and over, with some prizes kindly donated by Big Buddy Brent. Maybe next time we could have a quick dash or maybe a fast trot, for the Big Buddies. We'll need to run both an under and over 50's, but maybe have St Johns on standby..

It was good to see everyone again, relationships developing and boys growing and we were rewarded at the end by overhearing one boy say that it was the best day he had had, and that he didn't think becoming a Little Buddy was going to be so good. Worth it all really, eh.  
*Martin*

## Buddies for life

Hi, I'm Luke. I was 8 when I first met my Big Buddy Chris and now I'm 10. Being with Chris has made me much happier because my mum isn't into boy stuff. Chris and I do a lot of cool stuff like mini golf, going to the cinema and playing cricket in the park. We usually play cricket and Chris is a mean bowler but I'm better! To me, he's like one of my best friends and we will be friends forever. It's really fun when we have a Big Buddy Day Out event because I get to meet other boys and Big Buddies. It's so much fun having Chris as a Big Buddy and he has changed my life.



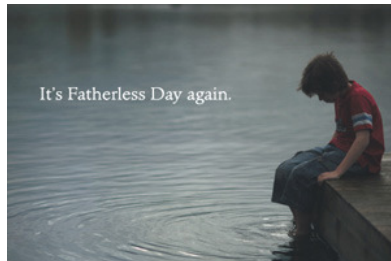
*Chris & Luke playing cricket*

### Editorial

I am so glad spring is gracing us with its tentative sun, its occasional warmth and the promise of growth. It's been a hard winter for Big Buddy - surviving the cruel winds of the recession has been, well, a character building experience to say the least. We have pulled through however, thanks in no small part to our friends, and now the future is looking brighter.

We lost significant funding due to the recession and a part of our response to this challenge was to launch our first ever public appeal for funds. We came up with a strong image linked to father's day - 'It's Fatherless Day again'. We got this into newspapers - big thanks to David Kemeys Editor in Chief, Suburban Newspapers for the free advert spaces. On the web, thanks to the guys from M2 Mag. I also emailed a small poster version out to you, our supporters and wow you did us proud. The poster popped up all over the place including John Key's desk. You certainly got the message out there. The Herald's Simon Collins wrote a story on us that moved many people - thanks to Big Buddies Stephen & Grant, Little Buddies Matthew & Michael and their mum Janine for having the courage to share a little of their life in public and be part of this story. Hey we even got on the telly! Campbell Live on TV3 ran a story just before Fathers Day - featuring Big Buddy Alan Johnson & Little Buddy Nathan doing what they normally do - hanging out, doing stuff with Nathan's mum, Nikki O'Regan commenting on what Big Buddy has meant for her. Thanks to Alan, Nathan and Nikki for showing people how simple and real Big Buddy is. I thanked the reporter, Richard Langston, for his sensitive work and he said "A pleasure Richard. I loved filming and telling that story - what a good man Allan Johnson is, and Nathan is thriving in his company - a joy to see". Finally I need to get a plug in for my daughter Sia Aston who pitched the idea to John Campbell in the first place, thanks Sia.

Our creative friends at The Pond did a lot of work on the ad and the media side so our thanks goes out to members of The Pond collective - Clinton Ulyatt, Leighton Howl, Sue Worthington, Jonathan Blake, Richard McCoy, Donald Holder and Phil Parsonage. Many thanks to the photographer, Paul Jones, from matchphotographers.com, for his sensitive portrayal of a fatherless boy.



The appeal certainly got our name and our story out there; we have had a lot of very positive feedback from a big range of people. And yes we did receive donations and ongoing pledges of support that warmed our winter weary hearts very much, thank you.

Prior to this appeal our community of mentors and caregivers did their bit to help connect us to support from the wider community resulting in many offers of support - money, volunteering and resources. I found it surprisingly difficult to ask for, and receive help but I was humbled by the generosity of so many people including a Little Buddy now giving us \$5 per month. I talked before in this column about the value of caring that characterizes our humanness but to be on the receiving end of that caring was a deeply moving and very human experience.

So, as spring opens our skies to more sun, our earth to warmth and growth I hope your life opens to the great possibilities - to give, to receive, to be human. It's a wonderful time to be alive.

*Go well friend, Richard*

### New Sponsor - Direct OPD

A special thank you goes to Big Buddy Don Cotter for his offer of a free stationery deal from his company, Direct Office Products Depot in Avondale, [www.opd.co.nz](http://www.opd.co.nz) Ph 09 968 6600 or email [tanya@directopd.co.nz](mailto:tanya@directopd.co.nz). Check them out!



### Big Buddy Wellington - update

Greetings all! It's been a time for celebration down here in the capital as three of our first-ever matches reach their 12-month anniversary. So warm congratulations go out to Allan & Nathan, Jon & Mackay and Jason & Elihu. Well done guys and great to hear that you're all committed to the relationship with your Little Buddies into the future!

In other news, we're about to launch a fresh recruiting drive for Big Buddies in Wellington with ads in a number of papers over the next couple of weeks. So keep your eyes peeled and don't be afraid to tap the shoulder of a man you think would make a great Big Buddy. We especially need men in Lower/Upper Hutt area as there are a growing number of Little Buddies on our waiting list in those areas.

Exciting news for Little Buddy Matt Gadsby who, with great help from his well-connected Big Buddy, John Dow, will be lining up as a ball-boy for the All Whites World Cup qualifier against Bahrain on November 12th. I'll be there and so will North Shore/Rodney Coordinator Martin Hosking. Should be a cracking game.

So as the end of the year approaches and the time for reflection is upon us, I'd like to say that it's been another great year for Big Buddy in Welly. Our warmest thanks to all those Big Buddies who stepped up to mentor the capital's fatherless boys and to all the people and organisations who have supported us since we opened in mid 2008.

*Kia kaha, Scott*

### Donate to Big Buddy

Donations to support the work of Big Buddy are much needed and very welcome.

Ways to donate to us:

- See our website, [www.bigbuddy.org.nz](http://www.bigbuddy.org.nz) to donate online with a credit card.
- Download an automatic payment form from our website and become a Big Buddy monthly donor supporter.
- Simply send us a cheque, (write your name and address on the back so we can send a receipt).
- 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).

All donations go towards the work of screening, matching and supporting Big Buddy relationships and expanding our outreach to the many fatherless boys in the community.