



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

NEWSLETTER OF BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NORTH CANTERBURY

SUMMER 2018



MATCH ACTIVITY IDEAS

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE



Join your mentee in this summer reading challenge where you can earn cool incentives along the way, go in the draw to win fantastic prizes and attend a fun and entertaining finale party. Registrations are open now and you have until 20th January to complete your challenges. For more details check out their website:

<https://www.libraries.waimakariri.govt.nz>

KAIAPOI ISLAND - It's all on your door step

Kaiapoi Island is a section of the Waimakariri Regional Park, it caters for a diverse range of recreation opportunities like: mountain biking, walking tracks, kayaking, swimming and fishing. Make the most of daylight savings and plan an outdoor adventure today .

<https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/living-here/regional-parks/waimakariri-river-regional-park/kaiapoi-island/>



Ellie Le Gros
Manager

In the Kauai Longitudinal Study, which started in 1954, researchers gathered information about what factors were necessary to raise a resilient child. One of the key findings which contributed to these children becoming successful, functioning adults was 'Emotional Support Outside of the Family'. Resilient people have at least one friend and a network of supportive people available when they encounter a crisis. For many children in the study, it was the presence of at least one caring, committed adult that made the difference – someone who provided the anchor that helped them weather life's adversities and taught them how to survive and thrive. At Big Brothers Big Sisters North Canterbury, we are proud to be part of the community that helps raise resilient children. Our mentors are the caring, committed adults that make a difference to the children they are matched with. It is them turning up over and over again that teaches these children that they are worth something, that they are worth making an effort for, that their mentors can be relied upon and trusted. To all our mentors both past and present who have changed the life of a child, I give you my sincerest thanks and I look forward to continuing this journey with you into 2019.

Have You Got Resources?

Have you got resources or an activity in mind that's safer in a group or just simply more fun! Jump onto our mentor support page and start networking today. Mentor Support - North Canterbury Big Brothers Big Sisters.



MAY THE ROAD RISE TO MEET YOU



With much gratitude we farewell Karen Shepherd from her position as treasurer on the board. Karen began her association with BBBS 10 years ago with her mentee Sandy and they were matched for 6 ½ years. Recently Karen attended Sandy's graduation as they remain good friends outside the programme. Not long after being matched, Karen was recruited to put her sharp administration and accounting skills to use in a role on the board. It's difficult to know how to thank someone who has put in the hard yards and at times bled for our cause, a volunteer who always went the extra mile. It's with sadness we accept her resignation as she embarks on a new journey in her life, thank you so much for the time you have given us.

A Word From The Board Chairman

The Board of BBBS North Canterbury has made significant progress this year. They are a committed group with expertise in various fields operating with a number of subcommittees who report to the monthly board meetings.

The board have upgraded the strategic plan and reviewed policies and overseen the operation of our core business.

Ellie and Tash our two employees do a wonderful job in delivering our services.

The board and I thank all of our Mentors who do an amazing job. They generously donate their time and attention in a way that improves the life of our young people now and in their adult lives. We welcome feedback and are always striving to improve how we make life better for our young people.



Malcom Garvin
Board Chairman



It's with the support of local businesses that we are able to do what we do. Glen at Health 2000 Rangiora signed up to our Sponsor A Match campaign back in 2014. This ongoing contribution shows that he understands just how valuable our organisation is to the children involved. We, and those we serve, sincerely appreciate his generosity.

THANKS GLEN



MATCH EVENTS

GIRLS DAY OUT 2018

They wanted adventure and they got it. Thanks to the support of Hanmer Springs Adventures and The Hanmer Springs Spa and Thermal Resort. Perfect weather for an awesome day.



MEASURING SUCCESS WITH SEAN THOMAS.

"My husband and I went to hear Sean Thomas speak the other evening and found what he had to say both inspirational and practical. His passion for mentoring was clearly evident and the dedication he showed with each of his matches admirable – one match extending right into the young person's adulthood.

Sean mentioned keeping a written record of the times he had spent with each child. These fun memories recorded served to draw them closer and in one case proved to be about the only childhood memories one lad from a particularly rough home, managed to retain. He spoke about the need to quantify success in small increments and shared a particularly tough experience during which 'success' meant managing to get more than three words out of the lad over the period of one meeting! The 'take home lesson' for me was this –

'Measuring success in mentoring must be focused on, how we the mentor are going with faithfully keeping our word to be there week by week, how we are modelling healthy interaction and creating ample opportunities for friendship. And much as it's tempting to do so, attempting to measure our mentoring success based primarily upon whether improvement in a young person's behaviour, attitude or maturity is observed, is often unrealistic.'

Written By Vania Farrow

HANGING OUT WITH THE CHCH TEAM

Back in August the North Canterbury matches were included in a Christchurch event at Clip 'n' Climb. I asked one of our mentors about the value in attending events, here's how John replied.



When we first got to Clip'n'Climb there was a definite cut-off point (around 2 ½ times his height) where Tristan was showing nerves and wasn't happy climbing further, preferring to launch off into a slow-descend. However by about the 4th climbing wall I could see Tristan was pushing his own boundaries. The clincher came when I asked others over to look at his progress and then Tristan really went for it – nearly four times his height! And very very quick with it. When it came to those green pillar things, Tristan had literally jumped up them all, like a mountain goat, before I could even select 'camera' on my phone. I think Tristan's confidence exploded; it was fabulous to watch and I felt very proud of him.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS



Another HUGE thanks goes out to Tania Barnes and her awesome mentee Lima for running the Ashley Forest Rally Sprint fundraiser. They made a whopping \$477 with their delicious bacon butties and snags on the BBQ . We are really grateful to have had this opportunity for more exposure in our community.



I AM WOMAN HEAR ME ROAR! We were super lucky to be the benefactors of a Quiz Night hosted by the North Canterbury Women's Institute Federation . The event was held at Five Stags Rangiora and was very well attended, we had such a fun night and raised over \$800!



oh Christmas tree oh Christmas tree

The Annual Christmas Tree Festival is a wonderful event celebrating the magic of Christmas in a way that involves the whole community, while also fundraising for two very worthy causes. The Council Foyer on High Street, Rangiora is filled with over 30 Christmas Trees.

A BIG thanks to Williams McKenzie Lawyers who have sponsored the BBBS tree once again. Don't miss your chance to get into the festive season and vote for us. Gold coin donation for entry, open weekdays from 9-4:30pm.

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

From time to time we are contacted by clubs or individuals saying that they have just held an event and would like to make us the benefactors. Such generosity from our community keeps the cogs turning and we are so very grateful to the following groups/individuals for their financial assistance.

The North Canterbury Women's Institute Federation and Richard Heal

SPONSORS OF BBBS NTH CANTY



WELCOME

3 new matches



Jack & Tony



Poppy & Margaret



Azaria & Lisa

WALL OF FAME

CLOSED MATCHES

Matches close for a variety of reasons but there's much to be celebrated. We enjoy meeting up with our mentors and mentees to reflect on personal growth over their mentoring season and to recap on the memories. While we are always sad for matches to close we love watching friendships grow.



Peter & Jordon



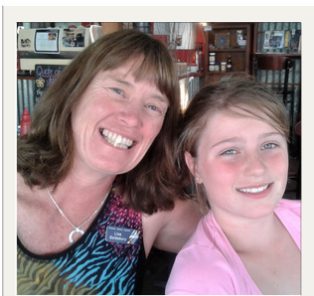
Steve & Ben



Tony & Jayden



Lilly & Lee



Kailin & Lisa

did you know?

The average match retention rate for smaller BBBS agencies is currently around 65% but here in North Canterbury we just hit a whopping 85%.

85%

CURRENTLY RECRUITING

We are looking to make new matches in 2019 and are recruiting now. It could be a neighbour, work college or friend. If you see mentor potential in someone around you, don't delay in recommending us to them.



COMING UP

By postponing our end of year event we are hoping to have more in attendance. could you book this in your diary today and help make the event happen?

START



Saturday Feb 16th 10-3ish



That's a wrap from us, thank you for supporting our organisation. Have a safe and happy Christmas from the staff and board of Big Brothers Big Sisters North Canterbury.

