



*Awakening the Unique Spirit of Men to Build Communities that Work for Everyone*

## **NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2010**

11 Edmonton Road  
Henderson  
Ph 835 0509  
[www.manalive.org.nz](http://www.manalive.org.nz)

Man Alive has begun 2010 with a sense of optimism as we consider new initiatives to support men and families in our community, and a sense of loss as we come to terms with the tragic passing of Brad Cameron, our Youth Counsellor, just before Xmas (see below).

Over the next few months we will be writing our new strategic plan. We invited the community to Man Alive three years ago when we wrote our last strategic plan, so we could hear your views. Those views fed directly into our final plan, which we bring to life each year through our reviews. I guess I'm saying that our strategic plan is not a piece of paper that just gets filed away! We value what our community has to say, we listen and we act. We have scheduled a forum on 22 April to do this again. All people interested in contributing to the vision of Man Alive are welcome to attend (RSVP to [Anihera.Castles@manalive.org.nz](mailto:Anihera.Castles@manalive.org.nz)).

When Man Alive transitioned to a Charitable Trust, provision was made to establish a group to be called Friends of Man Alive. The purpose of this group is to help maintain a solid relationship with our supporters. Friends will be invited to Annual Meetings, receive newsletters and be consulted in the preparation of strategic plans. They may be asked their views from time-to-time to provide a 'sounding board' for the Trustees on a variety of matters, such as proposed new initiatives or challenges the organisation is facing. Members may also be asked to provide specific expertise or volunteer support to the organisation. If you want further information about Friends of Man Alive, please email: [Anihera.Castles@manalive.org.nz](mailto:Anihera.Castles@manalive.org.nz).

In our last newsletter we announced collaboration discussions between ourselves, Waitakere Abuse and Trauma Counselling Service and Western Women's Refuge (Viviana). We have engaged a project manager, are in the process of developing a robust project plan and are entering into the consultation phase. I will keep you updated.

Chris Davidson  
**Chief Executive**

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### **Tribute to Brad Cameron**

Our Youth Counsellor and Facilitator, Brad Cameron, tragically lost his life in a hang-gliding accident on 18 December 2009. Brad joined Man Alive in 2006.

Brad was an integral part of the Man Alive Youth Team for the past 3 1/2 years and was a Facilitator for our Living Without Violence programme.

Brad had a genuine passion for the work and was particularly gifted working with male youth. He was a larger than life character, skilled therapist and is deeply missed by the Man Alive staff and the many men, families and youth he touched through his work.



## UPDATES



### Graduation

Congratulations go to two of our Counsellors, Rick Currie and John Burnett, who graduated from the New Zealand Institute of Professional Counselling with a Diploma of Professional Counselling.

Well done!



### Oxfam

Man Alive's Zeljka Strbac will be walking in the Oxfam Trailwalker Challenge in Taupo this coming April.

The event involves teams of four to complete 100km in 36 hours to raise money for Oxfam.

When not working at Man Alive or completing her studies in law, Zeljka is walking!

To support her, go to:

[http://www.oxfam.org.nz/events/teams.asp?a=show\\_team\\_pages&eventid=24&teamid=3886](http://www.oxfam.org.nz/events/teams.asp?a=show_team_pages&eventid=24&teamid=3886)

### Payroll Giving

You might be aware that starting this year, Inland Revenue has introduced the payroll giving scheme. This allows employees to have donations deducted from their payroll directly, giving them an immediate tax deduction and not having to collect receipts and claim at year end. For more information on how you could support Man Alive or any other donee organization, click on the following link:

<http://www.ocvs.govt.nz/work-programme/three-key-projects/payroll-giving.html>

### Research

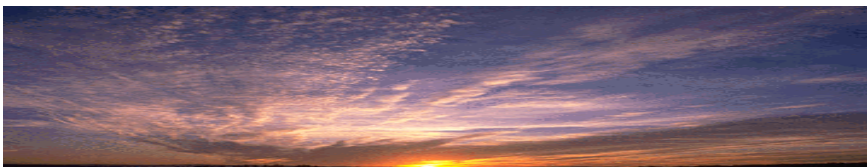
#### *Grant Thornton*

The Grant Thornton Not for Profit survey for 2009-10 has been released. It contains interesting information on the sector and can be viewed at:

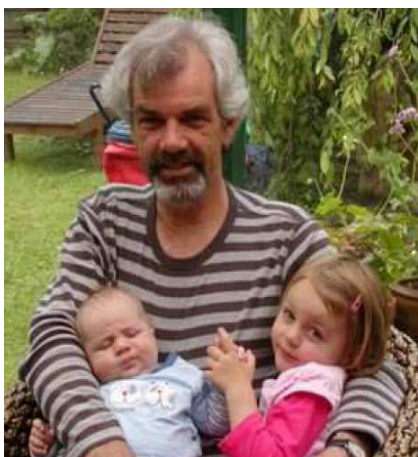
<http://www.grantthornton.co.nz/Assets/documents/pubSeminars/NFP-Survey-2009-2010.pdf>

#### *Families Commission*

The Families Commission is running a poll asking about the support Kiwi fathers need. The results will complement their ongoing research into fathering. If you are interested in participating the link to the poll is: <http://www.thecouch.org.nz/poll/takepoll/87>



## SPOTLIGHT



*In this issue we turn the spotlight onto Michiel van Boekhout, Man Alive Counsellor and Group Facilitator:*  
Hi there, my name is Michiel van Boekhout and I've been connected with Man Alive since February 2005 when I joined a group as a trainee participant while studying for a Diploma in Counselling. That now seems a long time ago, but I am still really excited to be doing this important work.

The experience of significant personal growth and witnessing men making changes in their lives gave me the determination to pursue my goal of becoming a LWV group facilitator. I consider it a privilege and its inevitable challenges are nicely balanced by some awesome outcomes for men that affect relationships, families and the wider community where these men become violence-free advocates.

I am also passionate about my relationship with my wife of 32 years, Margreet, with whom I immigrated to New Zealand from the Netherlands as a 21 year old. Margreet is a Social Worker whose studies at the time inspired me to make a midlife career change. We have two remarkable daughters, Melissa and Ilka, who both have taken on parenthood with their husbands and with no small amount of dedication and enthusiasm have gifted us five beautiful grandchildren.

## IN BRIEF

### **MAN ALIVE OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES**

#### **Living Without Violence and Te Ara Taumata Ora**

A unique approach to non-violence courses. Our programmes will not blame, shame or judge men, however they will be encouraged to take responsibility for their violence and understand there is no excuse for abuse.

#### **Individual Counselling**

All men have times when they 'hit the wall' ... we're here to help them move through it. Counselling for men by men and family and couple counselling.

#### **Youth programmes**

Boys Alive, an action packed group programme and one-on-one counselling. Helping youth understand and develop personal responsibility.

#### **Men in Relationships**

A 12 week course that could change your family and work life. A course designed to help you deal with stress and conflict. It will help you come closer to your family. Programmes in Manukau East and Waitakere.

#### **Mens Change and Support Group**

An open, easy-going group of ordinary guys who have had crisis and change in the past, helping men who are going through hard times now.

#### **Room Hire**

Man Alive is based in Cranwell House, situated in park like grounds in the central Henderson shopping area. There is extensive parking across the road and we are a two minute walk to Westcity, Westwave and the Henderson shops. We offer a range of room options at affordable rates to community groups, including our new 'Garden Room' which is separate to our main building.

***For further information on any of the above, please phone us on 835 0509 or email [info@manalive.org.nz](mailto:info@manalive.org.nz)***

**THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS!!!**

The great work our team has been doing has been made possible through the generous support of the community, including recent grants from:

ASB Community Trust  
COGS Waitakere  
Lottery Community  
Waitakere City Council

**DONATIONS**

Thanks for supporting Man Alive. Our programmes help many men and families in our community work through some of their toughest times. Please contact us for information on how to further help us in our work.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM MAN ALIVE, REPLY TO THIS EMAIL AND TYPE 'UNSUBSCRIBE' IN THE SUBJECT LINE