

## Shaking it up for Downs

Multiple world record holder Alastair Galpin has joined forces with management consultant Don Purdon to attempt to break the existing Guinness World Record™ for the longest continuous handshake, in the name of charity.

Both Alastair and Don have been invited to join the world record attempt being held at **Father Duffy Square in Times Square, New York on Friday 14th January 2011.**



That's probably because in 2006, Alastair thought of handshaking his way to a world record and was the first to succeed at the title. Never did he imagine his humble charity event back then would inspire an international occasion to open his second decade of record-breaking.

This event has been organised by two students at Claremont McKenna College in California (Jason Soll and John-Clark Levin) and will see various international teams competing to break the existing world record of 15 hours and 30 minutes and 45 seconds (achieved by Matthew Rosen and Joe Ackerman at The O2 Centre, Finchley, London, UK, on 21 November 2009), in the name of charity. The charity chosen by Alastair and Don is the Auckland Down Syndrome Association, which is based in their home town of Auckland, New Zealand.

The event will be streamed live over the internet via the event website - [www.shakinghistory.com](http://www.shakinghistory.com), providing supporters with the ability to sponsor participants. Many of the participants (including Alastair Galpin and California's John-Clark Levin) have previously held this same Guinness World Record™ and are keen to regain their titles.



Any team could take home the world record glory, proving their endurance ability and commitment to charity. Whether or not Alastair and Don win, the Auckland Down Syndrome Association will receive 100% of the gross proceeds/winnings distributed to this team from the event management. The Auckland Down Syndrome Association already has the anticipated money earmarked for work and events to brighten the lives of those with Down Syndrome in New Zealand's biggest city.

Alastair Galpin is perhaps best known officially as the second biggest Guinness World Record™ breaker of the decade (2000-2009). His website, [www.WorldRecordChase.com](http://www.WorldRecordChase.com) reflects his dedication to breaking world records, with stories of his numerous record breaking attempts. Alastair's previous world records include that for the Furthest Distance to Blow a Malteser with a straw (11 metres 29.5cm) and the Loudest Clap (an amazing 113 dbA), which has been used as a public challenge at Dubai's Guinness World Records™ Pavilion for years. His clap remains unbeaten. Among his other world record engagements is the Largest Bottle Cap Sculpture (19,205 bottle caps) which was unveiled to the public on 18th November 2010 and is awaiting ratification.

His partner in this world record attempt will be Don Purdon of Purdon & Associates, who is a management consultant by day and an endurance athlete by night. Don hopes that his experience as a sports psychologist and guitarist will help enable him to continue shaking hands for 24 hours or longer!

The Auckland Down Syndrome Association is supporting Alastair and Don with dedication in this world record attempt. The organisation hopes the event will not only help raise funds, but also awareness for their charity and all those with Down Syndrome. They are also working with Alastair to complete another challenge to raise their profile - that of breaking the Guinness World Record™ for the world's fastest furniture, using a motorised bedstead which has been fully designed and partially built.

Notes to Editors:

*This world record attempt is subject to ratification by Guinness World Records™.*

*Alastair Galpin is the second biggest Guinness World Records™ breaker of the decade 2000-2009. The stories behind all of his world records can be found on his website, [www.WorldRecordChase.com](http://www.WorldRecordChase.com).*

*The Guinness World Record™ for the fastest furniture is currently held by "Fast Food", a dining set, which achieved a speed of 183.14 km/h (113.8 mph) driven by Perry Watkins (UK) at the Santa Pod Raceway, Bedfordshire, UK, on 5th September 2010.*

*Pictures are available for licensing from [www.WorldRecordChase.com](http://www.WorldRecordChase.com)*