



School: Santa Maria Del Monte Primary School

Date: 25/02/2010

Purpose: To launch Better Buddies in 2010

Activity: Buddy picnic



Building bonds to beat bullying

THE NAB and The Alannah and Madeline Foundation launched National Buddy Week on February 22, to highlight the importance of friendships and the need to prevent bullying in Australian communities.

As part of the initiative, famous Australian basketballer Andrew Gaze, visited Santa Maria del Monte Primary School in Strathfield for a Buddy Week Picnic last Thursday.

Gaze and fellow Buddy Week ambassador Robert

DiPierdomenico are on a national Buddy Week tour, visiting schools across Australia to promote the importance of positive and caring friendships at school.

"The prevention of bullying starts by building happy and caring school environments and we're really looking forward to discussing this with schools during National Buddy Week," Mr DiPierdomenico said.

Buddy Week features activities aimed at raising awareness and

funds to support The Alannah and Madeline Foundation in keeping children safe from violence.

The Foundation and the NAB are also encouraging Australians to show a buddy they care by buying a set of Buddy Week Friendship Bands from any NAB branch.

Funds raised from the sale of the bands will go to the Foundation's Better Buddies Framework, a school initiative designed to create safe and caring school communities.



Santa Maria del Monte Primary School hosted a special Buddy Week Picnic with Andrew Gaze, above, and mascot Buddy Bear, right. Photos: CRAIG WILSON