



Wednesday 24 March 2010

MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Big wave surfing champ thanks Aussie kids for their fundraising for Padang**

On Thursday, 25 March 2010, Billabong big wave surf champion Dylan Longbottom will visit kids at Beaumaris North Primary School in Victoria in recognition of their amazing fundraising efforts to support children affected by the September 2009 earthquakes off the coast of West Sumatra, Indonesia.

Year five and six students at Beaumaris North independently planned and held a mini-fete and unanimously voted to donate the funds to SchoolAid's Asia-Pacific Emergency Appeal after being touched by news of the tragic earthquake that devastated the lives of kids in Indonesia. 185 Schools registered with SchoolAid for the Asia-Pacific Emergency Appeal. Beaumaris North was the top fundraising school out of this group. A total of \$90,000 was raised by Australian kids around the country to support various projects throughout Indonesia and Samoa as a result of the disaster in the region in late 2009.

**About SchoolAid**

SchoolAid enables and empowers primary school kids to make a tangible difference to the lives of other children – *kids helping kids* – through commitment and action. By participating in our programs, kids develop a sense of personal and social responsibility towards the needs of others, and learn how the power of their actions makes a difference.

It is clear that the kids of Beaumaris North have gained as much from raising and distributing the funds as the funds have provided benefit for the kids of Padang.

***“It has made us feel really proud that we are making a difference to the lives of others in need after such a traumatic event. Now the students of these areas can continue their education.”***

The students of class 6M, Beaumaris North.

**About SurfAid**

The primary recipient of funds was the charity SurfAid, which is running the Tampek Mangadu program in Padang, one of the hardest hit areas in West Sumatra, Indonesia.

Tampek Mangadu means “a shoulder to lean on” and the program provides psychosocial support for children who have been affected by grief and trauma through counselling, artwork, cultural expression and community support. Due to the outstanding success of SchoolAid's Asia Pacific Emergency Appeal, the program has been extended for several months, providing kids with more support and opportunity to heal and return their lives to normal.

***“The support from Australian schoolchildren that was harnessed through SchoolAid has enabled SurfAid to deliver a high-impact, child-focused program. The smiles on the faces of the many traumatised children we have helped, and continue to reach through our psychosocial program, are a true reflection of the beauty of global citizens helping others in time of need.”***

SurfAid founder Dr Dave Jenkins.

## **About Dylan Longbottom**

One of the most highly regarded professional free-surfers in Australia, Dylan is known for his amazing big wave antics. Originally a NSW South Coast inhabitant, and now living on the Gold Coast, Dylan is a committed family man who has recently been grabbing headlines for one reason - big waves. In 2005, Dylan was the only Aussie to be nominated for Billabong XXL awards, taking out the 'Monster Tube Award' in recognition of his efforts for taking on Shipsterns Bluff earlier in the year. He accepted the award via phone before taking on Tahiti's legendary Teahupo'o break.

Dylan is now a successful board shaper whose boards have been ridden by some of the world's top surfers.

## **Photo and interview opportunities**

There will be an opportunity for a short interview with Dylan Longbottom and photo opportunities with Dylan and the students who took part in the Asia-Pacific Appeal immediately prior to or following the presentation at Beaumaris North PS. **Please contact Kirk Willcox from SurfAid on 0407 063 829 to arrange.**

SchoolAid founder Sean Gordon is available for interviews. **Please contact Jess Barr from SchoolAid on 0404 159 763 to arrange.**

High-res images available on request:

1. Children in Parak Buruak playing a traditional game where a kerupok (large cracker) is tied to a string. The child holds their hands behind their backs and whoever eats the cracker the fastest, wins.
2. A class of children in Padang holding up a "Thank You SchoolAid" banner in English and Bahasa Indonesian.
3. Beautiful images of Indonesian kids taking part in a relaxation session as part of their psychosocial therapy.

For further information, please contact:

**Jessica Barr**  
**Campaign Manager**  
**SchoolAid Australia**  
  
**02 8904 0566**  
**0404 159 763**  
**jess@schoolaid.org.au**

**Kirk Willcox**  
**International Communications Director**  
**SurfAid International**  
  
**02 9965 7325**  
**0407 063 829**  
**kirk@surfaidinternational.org**