

Welcome to Tent City at Kilaben Bay!

August 2008 3



(l-r) Lui Lafou, teacher, and Mgr Patrick O'Connor of Tokelau stayed at Kilaben Bay.



Welcome to Tent City!

Mexican pilgrim Miriam Romo, was one of the first pilgrims to arrive at Kilaben Bay's St Joseph's school and Conference Centre. This was the location of the diocese's Global Village and the welcome and registration point for most of the 3300 pilgrims visiting the area for Days in the Diocese.

Miriam is a 27 year old software consultant who is fluent in both Spanish and English. "We look forward to the events, we love being here, everyone has been so nice," she said, before the official start of Days in the Diocese on 10 July.

The Global Village included everything from accommodation in dormitories and tents to computer and Internet facilities. "We use this to talk to our friends, tell them about Australia and say hi to our family," Miriam said.

There was a kitchen with enough food to feed an army and a dining area complete with board games. The camp even had a concierge desk - or at least a tent with a desk for check-in and check-out.

A feature of Tent City was the assistance provided by members of parish, diocesan and wider communities. Rural Fire Service, police, Scouts, St John Ambulance and numerous individuals and families contributed time, energy and good humour in spades.

It was clear that Tent City, and Australia, quickly made an impression on the pilgrims. As a sudden sun shower scattered over the surrounding bushland Miriam and friend Mayra Pedroza exclaim, "How beautiful!"

Jessie Brown



Pilgrims exploring their distinctive WYD backpacks.



(l-r) Clifford Fitness, Helen and Geoffrey See of the Rural Fire Service assisted at Kilaben Bay.

Douglas Smith of Year 6, St Joseph's Kilaben Bay, was on site to lend a hand.



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To purchase one of these tents, please P Catholic Development Fund 4979 1163.



Mariah Kennedy of Maitland was charmed when she visited Kilaben Bay.



Tokelauan dancers participated at Mass at Kilaben Bay.



Scouts from Maryland-Shortland, Warners Bay and Lake Macquarie Rovers assisted with erecting tents.

**Life is a search for the true, the good and the beautiful.
Pope Benedict XVI.**



Tokelauan and American pilgrims in harmony at Tent City.

**Do not be afraid to say "yes" to Jesus.
Pope Benedict XVI.**