

Ask and you shall receive....! Since Days in the Diocese and World Youth Day Week, there has been a flood of *Aurora* contributions. Even this bumper edition can't include all photos and articles but we have done our best! Please visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wydhunter/> to see more photos. You may like to alert your homestay pilgrims to this site. For extra copies of *Aurora* to send to pilgrims, please contact me. THANK YOU to all who answered the call for DID and WYDSYD contributions! You have certainly received the power!

Tracey Edstein

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Photographs are always welcome to be considered for *Aurora*. Digital photos can be sent on disc or emailed, but they must be of high resolution (300dpi). If you have any queries regarding photographs please contact the Editor. Annual subscriptions are available at \$25.00 for 10 editions to cover postage. Contact the Editor to subscribe. Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or Publisher. Acceptance of advertisements does not necessarily indicate endorsement of the product or service. The contents of this publication may not be reproduced in any form without prior written consent from the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. *Aurora* is a member of the Australasian Catholic Press Association and the Australasian Religious Press Association.

SPIRITS LIFTED BY WYD08

Reminders were everywhere – from the visual countdowns on the F3 to the harried looks on the faces of staff in Newcastle: World Youth Day was rapidly approaching!

One of the few members of staff who remained confident and relatively calm was our World Youth Day Co-ordinator, Luke Edwards. While most of us were ready to fall on our swords, Luke would quietly chuckle and declare how wonderful it would be.

And he was absolutely right!

Luke consulted, persuaded, negotiated, cajoled, enthused and encouraged to obtain extraordinary results. Admittedly he was very ably assisted by an enormous army of volunteers and staff, but his co-ordination was an immense effort.

I think few of us were prepared for the wonderful impact of our visiting pilgrims on our diocesan community. From the moment of their arrival we were caught up by their youthful exuberance, their joy filled presence, their deep, living faith.

From the quietly spoken French to the demonstrative young people of Colombia and Mexico, to the brilliant smiles and infectious fun of the Cook Islanders and Tokelauans – all made a great impact on us.

These young people charmed the hardest hearts. Their laughter, music and song lifted our spirits. Their pride in their home countries, symbolised in their flags, brought a lump to the throat.

One host-father muttered to me at the Mass on the day the pilgrims left for Sydney:



Brazilian pilgrims Roberson Da Silva (left) and Claude Da Silva with Bishop Michael at Corroboree08.

"It's nice to have our house back, but it was just a delight to have them." He and his wife had hosted seven!

Lord Mayor John Tate was particularly taken with the Cook Islanders. At a civic reception to honour the pilgrims, the Cook Islanders sang and danced their way into his heart. They presented him with a straw hat and tiny flag which he wore to Corroboree 08 at the Foreshore. If he ever plans a trip to Rarotonga he will be feted as an uncrowned king!

Sydney was soon abuzz with the young people making their mark on its citizens as surely as they made their mark on us.

Cynics will complain about street closures, the use of taxpayers' funds, the inconvenience of a Catholic event, traffic jams and the like. But even they were forced to smile at the gaiety, the music, the spontaneous dancing and singing of these indefatigable young people.

+ Michael Malone

Bishop Michael's Diary

AUGUST

TUE	5	Catholic Schools Board Meeting Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting
WED	6	Diocesan Finance Council Meeting
THU	7	Liturgy to acknowledge Papal apology to victims of abuse by the Church – Sacred Heart Cathedral, 7.00pm
FRI	8	Confirmation & Visitation: Raymond Terrace Parish, 8-10 Mass for 10th Anniv of the Permanent Diaconate – SHC
TUE	12	Heads of Church meeting Diocesan Pastoral Council Executive Meeting
WED	13	Jubilarians Mass - Sacred Heart Cathedral, 9.15am Clergy Conference Churches Media Association Meeting
THU	14	Council of Priests Meeting – Myall Deanery

FRI	15	Confirmation & Visitation: Wallsend-Shortland Parish, 15-17
MON	18	Live in Clergy Conference, - Kincumber 18-22
WED	20	Diocesan Finance Council Meeting
FRI	22	Bishops Commission for Church Ministry Meeting
THU	28	Maitland Clergy Central Fund Meeting
SAT	30	Bishops Commission for Church Ministry Meeting, 28-29 Sisters of St Joseph, Lochinvar, Mass of Thanksgiving celebrating 125 years – Sacred Heart Cathedral, 11.30am

SEPTEMBER

TUE	2	Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting
WED	3	Bishops Commission for Church Ministry Meeting
FRI	5	Visitation & Confirmation: Bulahdelah, 5-7.

● NEXT DEADLINE 15 AUGUST ●

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