



Upper Hunter pilgrims planted trees at Scone Cemetery as their contribution to Social Service Day.



Frank Callaghan supporting Brendan Quigley

An Extended Family Affair

Louise Byron of Blackbutt South shares highlights of her family's experience during Days in the Diocese...

It was an easy decision for my husband Martin and me to become involved in Days in the Diocese (DID). We saw it as a fantastic opportunity to experience universal church. We were thrilled to host a family of four from Villavicencio, Colombia and two pilgrims from the Colombian capital, Bogotá.

We were busy throughout DID greeting pilgrims as they arrived at the regional hub, St Pius X High School; accompanying pilgrims on their Social Service Activity at Blackbutt Reserve; celebrating the Regional Mass at the hub; participating in the pilgrimage of the Cross and Icon from St Therese's New Lambton to the Corroboree at the Foreshore and finally the Farewell Liturgy and Fiesta.

During the Corroboree, with the generous support of the diocese, we were able to provide a pie, lamington and cold drink for 35 pilgrims from Colombia who had been stranded without any Australian dollars. Having arrived late the previous day, the pilgrims had only US dollars and nowhere to exchange their money on a Saturday. We enjoyed a relaxed picnic with our new friends amongst many cries of "Muchos gracias!"

Martin's family, who moved from Sydney last year, saw DID as an opportunity to participate in the life of the diocese. Living in the City Region, they hosted four pilgrims from the Community of St Jean.

My parents co-ordinated the Social Service Day for their local community, St Philip's, Kotara. They also assisted with arrangements for the accommodation of pilgrims and other final preparations. My father, Dallas, St Vincent de Paul Disaster Recovery Co-ordinator for Eastlakes was busy transporting pilgrims and offering other assistance.

My sister and brother-in-law cooked and served at the Blackbutt regional barbecue. She was also one of the many volunteers in the home science kitchens busily preparing for the Fiesta. Another sister brought her two sons along to some of the events. She was in the right place at the right time to assist pilgrims stranded at Blackbutt and ensure they were on the correct bus 'home'.



Louise Byron and Valentine of Papua New Guinea, nephew of Fr Matthew Landu of Adamstown.

Sponsored by Catholic Church Insurances

Official Insurance Partner of World Youth Day Sydney 2008

1300 655 003
www.ccihsurances.com.au



Official Insurance Partner of World Youth Day Sydney 2008