

G'day

The 23rd World Youth Day (WYD) from 15-20 July will bring 185,000 international and domestic visitors to Sydney. Together with the tens of thousands of Sydneysiders taking part, this will be one of the biggest events in Australia's history.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved in the celebrations, which run from 15 July to 20 July, 2008, so get ready to have the time of your eternal life.

News and Events

The time of your eternal life

World Youth Day 2008 organisers are encouraging Sydneysiders to take part in the July event through an advertising campaign featuring the tagline: *World Youth Day - The time of your eternal life*.

"We know that many Sydneysiders are keen to be involved in the largest celebration Sydney has ever hosted and this campaign aims to tap into this goodwill," WYD08 chief operating officer Danny Casey said.

"Catholics are the largest religious grouping in Sydney but many are not regular churchgoers; we want to make sure all are welcome."

The campaign includes metropolitan and suburban print advertisements, FM radio, online, outdoor and television media. The campaign includes door-drops to half a million Sydney homes, inviting them to volunteer, become a HomeStay host or attend events during the WYD08 week.



36 extra flights

Strong demand for airline seats into Australia for WYD08 has led to at least 36 extra flights being scheduled next month.

Sydney Airport Corporation has confirmed that 35 new airline flights and one dedicated charter have been booked to bring passengers into Sydney in the lead-up to WYD08.

Tourism and Transport Forum managing director Christopher Brown said WYD08 will provide a significant economic boost for the NSW economy.

"Like all major events, World Youth Day is likely to pass on significant flow-on benefits to airlines, restaurants, hotels, attractions and retailers," Mr. Brown said.

"Every dollar spent on the event will pay dividends for NSW and will be re-directed into local businesses. Regional communities are also likely to benefit, with pilgrims expected to take a few side trips before or after the event."

Food for thought

Feeding the masses during WYD08 will be no small task, but organisers are keen to ensure pilgrims get a taste of Australia.

Breakfast will be served at more than 400 venues, lunch at 250 catechesis sites and evening meals in the central city. A total of 3.5 million meals will be served during the entire event, said Director of Pilgrim Services, Geoff Morris.

"We want to provide pilgrims with 'a good feed' and a little bit of an Australian taste. We have tried to do that by including some of our more iconic items such as Tim Tams, Weet-Bix crunch, vegemite, lamingtons and good old baked beans!"

Cadbury will provide 425,000 chocolate bars, produced at the Claremont plant in Tasmania.

Mrs Macs has supplied over 200,000 traditional Big Aussie Beef Pies for the event. Once a small operation in Perth, Mrs Macs now employs over 450 people and distributes throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Sanitarium will supply more than 300,000 servings of Weet-Bix crunch. The company buys 40,000 tonnes of traditional wheat grain for Weet-Bix crunch and its other cereals from Australian farmers each year.

The Aussie food theme will continue with a massive barbeque, dubbed the WYD Big Aussie BBQ scheduled for Wednesday 16 July, with over 120,000 pilgrims expected to take part in around 200 locations. Tip Top will supply over 220,000 slices of bread for the WYD Big Aussie BBQ, and 4,800 litres of Fountain tomato sauce will be on hand throughout the event.

Sydney gets dressed

Around 2,500 banners will decorate Sydney during WYD08. The banners will cover the city from Sydney Airport to Darling Harbour's foreshore, across the CBD and around Randwick Racecourse.

"Just like every other major event, we want Sydneysiders to be part of the celebration.

"The look and feel of World Youth Day Sydney 2008 will make it clear that Sydney is ready to welcome our visitors for this very special celebration," said WYD08 coordinator Bishop Anthony Fisher OP.

The four main colours used on the WYD08 banners are red, orange, yellow and blue.

"The colours of red, orange and yellow flowing throughout symbolise the trinity and unity of God," said Bishop Anthony.

"They also bring to mind the colours of the Australian outback.

"The blue represents the waters of baptism, the sea of humanity and Mary full of grace. They also represent the oceans that surround Australia, and the magnificent Sydney harbour, the location of this great event," he said.

Target launches clothing range

Target stores across Australia have launched an exclusive WYD clothing range, created by Australian company Kid Crew Express. The women's WYD08 range includes funky hoodies, caps and short and long sleeve t-shirts. The men's range features hoodies and t-shirts.

Guy Sebastian heads all-star cast

ARIA-award winners and Australian Idols Guy Sebastian (pictured) and Damien Leith, together with Paulini, the Tap Dogs, teen opera sensation Tempus and singer/songwriter Gary Pinto head up an all-star cast for WYD08.



This crew will perform a special concert on Tuesday 15 July at Barangaroo following the Opening Mass.

The Sydney Symphony Orchestra's chief conductor, Maestro Gianluigi Gelmetti, will present Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* at the Sydney Opera House on Friday 18 July, with a second public performance on Saturday 19 July.

Visiting pilgrims on Facebook

Tourism Australia has launched a page on the popular global social networking site, Facebook, to assist pilgrims planning their visit to Australia for World Youth Day 2008.

The Facebook 'Australia' page has attracted more than 2,500 fans from around the world, with visitors posting hundreds of comments about their impending travels to Australia for WYD08.

Tourism Australia has packed the page with event listings, images from around the country and a list of travel recommendations by Australians from Lonely Planet Bluelist Australia.

The page is updated daily to assist pilgrims in planning their stay in Australia. It also allows pilgrims to chat about their travel plans, share travel stories and images, and build excitement about their trip to Australia.



World Youth Day 2008

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Youth meet and greet

Pope Benedict will meet some of Sydney's disadvantaged young people during WYD08.

The Holy Father will share a meal with 12 young people from around the world and hold a special Mass at St Mary's Cathedral with invited seminarians and young religious people.

WYD08 coordinator, Bishop Anthony Fisher OP, said these occasions would allow the Holy Father to connect with young people from different walks of life.

"The lunch will be a very special occasion for those 12 young people, especially the two Australians chosen to represent the host country," Bishop Fisher said.

Thirty year old Teresa Wilson from Melbourne, a long-time volunteer with the St Vincent de Paul Society, said she felt blessed to be chosen to break bread with the Pope.

"It's an incredible honour to speak directly with the Holy Father and to meet young people from every continent at Australia's World Youth Day," Ms Wilson said.

Craig Ashby, a 21 year old Gamilaroi man, said he was thrilled and proud to represent Australian and indigenous youth.

"Who would have thought a young bloke from Walgett would get the chance to have lunch with the Pope one day and represent all young Aussies?" Mr Ashby said.

Special deals for pilgrims

Sydney tourism and entertainments operators including Taronga Zoo and BridgeClimb Sydney will offer pilgrims a range of special offers while they're in Sydney for WYD08.

Taronga Zoo will offer a 50 per cent discount on general admission tickets, the Australian Museum will offer a special \$10 concession package, and BridgeClimb will give pilgrims a souvenir cap.

Captain Cook Cruises will offer pilgrim fares on over 20 Sydney Harbour cruises, and a pilgrim dinner and lunch aboard MV Sydney 2000 (the boat upon which Pope Benedict XVI will arrive).

Pope to thank volunteers

Pope Benedict will hold a special audience with the 8,000 people who volunteer for WYD08 to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

"This will be a wonderful way to thank the 8,000 people who will have devoted their time to become the face of World Youth Day," said WYD08 chief operating officer, Danny Casey.

WYD08 has around 8,000 volunteer roles available. Volunteers must be over the age of 18 and be able to work during between 15 July and 20 July. They will receive a uniform, backpack and assistance with public transport costs and meals.

Australian ambassadors announced

A group of prominent Australians have become ambassadors for WYD08.

Fashion designer Carla Zampatti, Sydney Swans player Jared Crouch, and the Delezio family – Ron, Carolyn, Sophie and Mitchell are part of the program.

They are joined by cricketer Matthew Hayden, opera singer Amelia Farrugia, soccer player Mark Bresciano, wallabies hooker Stephen Moore, musician Jimmy Little, and the former Ambassador to the Holy See and Ireland, and current chairman of the Australian National Council on Drugs, Dr John Herron.

The Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal George Pell, said he was honoured to welcome aboard such a wonderful group of people.

"Our Ambassadors represent a variety of fields and have celebrated remarkable achievements in areas as diverse as sport, fashion design, charity work, musical performance and diplomacy," said Cardinal Pell.

"Their demonstrated abilities and history as impressive Australian role models make them ideal choices as the faces of this international celebration."

Useful Websites

Australia	www.australia.com
ACT	www.visitcanberra.com
NT	www.travelnt.com
NSW	www.seesydney.com
QLD	www.queenslandholidays.com.au
SA	www.southaustralia.com
TAS	www.discovertasmania.com
VIC	www.visitvictoria.com
WA	www.westernaustralia.com