

World Youth Day celebrations in Auki

William Toli, Catholic Communications Officer, Auki

Malaita youths were not left out of the 2008 World Youth Day celebrations. According to the Catholic Calendar, July 15th is a day dedicated to all the youths around the world.



From Sunday 13th to Sunday 20th July 2008, Buma Centre in West Kwaio, experienced the biggest gathering, when over 2,000 youths around the Catholic Diocese of Auki get together there. There were youth representatives from all the nine parishes; Takwa, Usu'usue, Kwalakwala, Dala, Auki, Buma, Rohinari, Rokera and Tarapaina parishes. Youths from Kukum parish as well as seminarians from Holy Name of Mary from Honiara also attended. These enthusiastic young people traveled for hours by ship, outboard powered canoes, trucks and by foot to the host venue, in Buma parish.



The one week celebrations included; sports - soccer for the boys, netball for girls and volleyball for both boys and girls. There were night talks on health issues, policing, vocations, etc. Daily masses animated by different parishes are also part of the celebrations.

Feasting and the prize presentation closed the celebration on Sunday 20th July 2008.

Pope Benedict XVI Cup Tournament

William Toli

As part of celebrations to mark 2008 World Youth Day in Malaita, thousands of youths from around the Catholic Diocese of Auki gathered at Buma Centre to compete in the following sports; soccer, netball and volleyball.



The week-long games started on Sunday 13th and ends with the finals on Sunday 20th July 2008 with the prize presentations in the evening.



All sporting events took places at the upgraded sports grounds at Buma, called the Late Bishop Loft Memorial Stadiums, after the first bishop of Auki, late bishop Gerald Loft of New Zealand.

At the closing of the week-long competitive sporting, the following teams came out as winners as follows:

Soccer	1 st	Takwa Parish
	2 nd	Buma
	3 rd	Rohinari
Netball	1 st	Rohinari Parish
	2 nd	Dala
	3 rd	Rohinari
Volleyball	1 st	Buma
	2 nd	Auki

Consolation gifts were also given out to individuals and teams.



Guest at the closing ceremony and prize presentation was the Honourable Premier of Malaita and his wife. Speaking at the prize giving ceremony, Premier of Malaita Province, Mr. Richard Namoi Irosaea said that it was a success story. Also, it was the first biggest gathering of youths in the province.

All prizes for the tournament were sponsored by Bishop Chris Cardone of Auki. The Pope Benedict XVI Cup will be played every four years. The next host will be decided later.