GERMAN pilgrims Eva Standler and Eva Seizinger who joined the Sale Diocese group for the World Youth Day experience.

Memories for Eva and Eva

EVA Standler, 26 and Eva Seizenger, 22 travelled a long way to join group 169 Sale Gippsland.

The two friends from Rodalben in Germany, in the south west of the country near the French border decided to link in with some Aussie pilgrims for their pilgrimage.

Eva Standler's aunt Matilda Boettcher has lived in Traralgon for 50 years and Eva decide when WYD was to be in Australia it would be a good time to come and visit.

"My aunt rang Jess to see if we could join in from Traralgon and she said it was possible," Eva said.

The girls said they were concerned their English would not be good enough to understand and this would make fitting in with the group difficult but they soon realised this was not a problem.

"I was concerned that it would be hard so far from home but everyone has been so welcoming we have been celebrating with them even though we don’t know them," Eva said.

They had enjoyed the Concert on the first night and were starting to make friends.

The girls said they had found it cold in the nights as they had come from summer at home.

"We have been seeing a lot of people from Germany, there are about 6000 here from our country," Eva said. Both girls said they were happy to be experiencing WYD with an Aussie group and felt it was going to be a good experience for their faith.

"We went to Cologne so we had our own Pope in our own country so we do understand about having WYD in your home country, it is special," Eva said.

Foot sore but still smiling

EVA Standler, 26 and Eva Seizenger, 22 travelled a long way to join group 169 Sale Gippsland.

The two friends from Rodalben in Germany, in the south west of the country near the French border decided to link in with some Aussie pilgrims for their pilgrimage.

Eva Standler's aunt Matilda Boettcher has lived in Traralgon for 50 years and Eva decide when WYD was to be in Australia it would be a good time to come and visit.

"My aunt rang Jess to see if we could join in from Traralgon and she said it was possible," Eva said.

The girls said they were concerned their English would not be good enough to understand and this would make fitting in with the group difficult but they soon realised this was not a problem.

"I was concerned that it would be hard so far from home but everyone has been so welcoming we have been celebrating with them even though we don’t know them," Eva said.

They had enjoyed the Concert on the first night and were starting to make friends.

The girls said they had found it cold in the nights as they had come from summer at home.

"We have been seeing a lot of people from Germany, there are about 6000 here from our country," Eva said. Both girls said they were happy to be experiencing WYD with an Aussie group and felt it was going to be a good experience for their faith.

"We went to Cologne so we had our own Pope in our own country so we do understand about having WYD in your home country, it is special," Eva said.

By Don Dwyer
St Ita’s, Newry (Maffra Parish)

ON the first day of our Pilgrimage, we went to St. Mary’s Cathedral in Sydney. We all filed through and, as we were moving along, I could see all these people around the corner with cameras flashing and people praying. As I came around the corner I saw the most beautiful picture of our Lady I had ever seen - Our Lady of the Southern Cross. She was dressed in royal Blue with a White Veil.

In front of the veil is a gold headband and she holds a baby Jesus. She stands above dry land with a small creek running through it but the most amazing thing about it, is the stars. She is facing true North.

I will never look at the Southern Cross again without thinking of our Lady of the Southern Cross. She has become my true north even more accurate than a compass which only gives magnetic North. On the bus

By Yani Barroso
St Agatha’s Cranbourne

THE bus trip took so much longer than the expected 12 hours due to some delays but nothing could dampen the spirits of the pilgrims.

There were three stops on the way to Homebush Olympic Park (the place we would call home for the next 6 nights) which allowed us to buy food, go on toilet breaks, stretch our legs, and socialise with the passengers of the other buses.

En route to Sydney, the passengers were buzzing, sharing in the excitement of the week ahead. Amazingly, most were hesitant to nap as one of the past times in the bus was to take funny photos of people sleeping.

Our chaplain, Fr Michael Willemsen led us into praying the Rosary in Samoan, Vietnamese and English. On the way back home, each of us was asked to share a short testimony of our amazing experiences during World Youth Day.

Judging from the stories presented, the phenomenal week obviously made a profound impact on everyone.