

LATTITUDE

New Zealand Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2009

GREETING FROM SHARYN

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September is the time of year when schools in the UK and Canada start back after their summer holidays. This has meant an influx of placement confirmations over the last couple of weeks and placement offers being posted out on a daily basis. While there are still a few left to be confirmed things are happening fast and we do not anticipate any major problems. We will send offers out as soon as we hear anything. For those people who have accepted placements, briefing packs are starting to be sent out. These packs contain all of the information volunteers require to apply for visas and prepare for their trip overseas. The next important step in preparation is attendance at pre-departure briefings. These will take place in November and December in Christchurch, Palmerston North and Auckland. We look forward to seeing as many of our volunteers and their families as possible at these important events (Please refer to the 'important dates' section for more info).

I have started to visit the volunteers who arrived to New Zealand in August. It is an important part of the support network that Lattitude offers to all volunteers both here in New Zealand and overseas. These visits are a great opportunity to see how well everybody is doing, build relationships with hosts, and iron out any problems. There has been great feedback from the volunteers I have visited so far. I anticipate that the remainder of volunteers currently in New Zealand will be visited during term four. October will be another busy month so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

EXCITING NEWS!!!



**Proof of Funds no longer
required for UK visas!**



We have recently received some excellent news regarding visas for volunteers wishing to go to the UK with Lattitude Global Volunteering. Lattitude has a hosting license that enables us to sponsor 500 volunteers into the UK every year under a Temporary Charity Worker Visa. While other people are also able to apply for a Charity Worker visa Lattitude is now an A rated host, so our volunteers do not need to provide any evidence of funds when applying for a visa. Most people applying for a visa to the UK have to supply three months of bank statements for the visa showing they have \$2,200 in their bank account. This new status takes a huge amount of financial pressure off of our volunteers and their families. Lattitude supplies all of the information required when applying for visas, and those going to the UK will receive their certificate of sponsorship after completing their paperwork and sending us a copy of their passport. **We do encourage people to apply for visas as soon as you can to avoid the anxiety that is created if you leave it too late.**

Discover a world of possibilities.

Focus on... Latitude CEO Visits NZ

On Monday the 14th of September we welcomed Paul Rompani, the new international Chief Executive for Latitude Global Volunteering into New Zealand. Paul is based in the UK and has not been to NZ before. We were privileged to be able to welcome him properly by accompanying him to Hato Paora Maori Boys College for a traditional Maori welcome, a Powhiri. The whole school performed the Powhiri as well as stunning Waiata (songs) and the Haka, which was breathtaking! Paul said afterwards that the Powhiri experience would stay with him forever. Also included at the Powhiri were some of the volunteers who had recently arrived in NZ and who are at local school placements. After our welcome Paul facilitated a round table discussion with these volunteers, four Hato Paora students and Phoebe from Palmerston North who are departing for the UK next year. Paul was keen to talk to our volunteers about why they chose Latitude and what they hope to gain from their experience overseas. As an organisation we are always keen to hear feedback from our volunteers so that we can continue to meet expectations and provide excellent volunteering opportunities.



Back to Sharyn's for another infamous Latitude BBQ!

STOP PRESS... LATEST VACANCIES...RING 06 350 5920

TWO PLACEMENTS HAVE JUST BECOME AVAILABLE FOR A JANUARY DEPARTURE. APPLY IMMEDIATELY

UK: 1-2 FEMALE PLACEMENTS AT A SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED. 12 MONTHS. MUST BE 18

SCOTLAND: 1- 2 M/F PLACEMENTS AT OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRES. 10 MONTHS. MUST BE 18.

MARCH 2010 DEPARTURES: APPLY IMMEDIATELY

CANADA: OUTDOOR EDUCATION PLACEMENTS LASTING APPROXIMATELY 6 MONTHS

UK: OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY WORK PLACEMENTS. MALES AND FEMALES. 6 - 9 MONTHS.

SCHOOLS PLACEMENTS LATER IN 2010: APPLY ASAP

Poland: Departing in September 2010 and lasting approximately 6 months

South Africa: Departing in July 2010 and lasting approximately 6 months

Orientation for incoming volunteers—September 2009

Friday the 11th of September saw the last group of volunteers to enter into New Zealand for 2009 arriving at Christchurch airport. We have long been sending New Zealanders overseas to volunteer in the outdoor education sector, but this year is the first time that we have been able to offer placements at camps here in New Zealand. We now have four volunteers; Tom and Hannes are stationed at YMCA Camp Kaitoke near Wellington, whilst Lasse and Christian are at YMCA Camp Wainui Park in the Christchurch area. The volunteers will have a range of duties, including helping with the instruction of outdoor and adventure activities like kayaking, tramping and bush craft.

During orientation the volunteers got a chance to explore Christchurch and the surrounding area, as well as an introduction to All Blacks mania during rugby season...

We are excited to be able to offer a broader range of placement options for those wishing to come to New Zealand and we are keen to continue this growth. If you know of any prospective placements which may benefit from a Latitude volunteer then please get in contact with Sharyn: email shight@latitude.org.nz



Lattitude in the Press



Boys High gap year a big hit for teens

English teenager (16) who led team to New Zealand, home of the boys high, has been a big success story for the school.

The school's headmaster, Mr. [Name], said the team's success was a testament to the school's commitment to providing a world-class education for its students.

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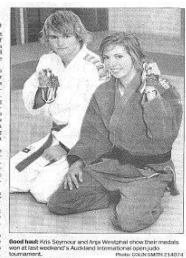


Black belt in her bag

2007 New Zealand Journalist of the Year, [Name], has been a big success story for the school.

The school's headmaster, Mr. [Name], said the team's success was a testament to the school's commitment to providing a world-class education for its students.

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The last few months have seen quite a few Lattitude related articles in local and regional press. We have had several articles in papers based in the Palmerston North region, and some from further afield. As well as this we have also made it onto national television! Sharyn appeared on TV3's Sunrise programme, along with former volunteer Vanessa-May who went to the UK last year on a community placement with Lattitude.

Finding the Funds...



Now is the time of year when a lot of volunteers start fundraising. So on a wet and windy Sunday recently the Lattitude team led by example and took part in the great kiwi institution of Sausage Sizzles!

In January our intern Laura is off to South Africa as a Lattitude volunteer, and the money raised at the sizzle will go towards purchasing educational and sports equipment for the school where she will be working.

Raising thousands of dollars can be a daunting prospect, especially when added to the commitments of school or university. There are a few things to bear in mind when you are planning an event which can turn a good day into a resounding success. So here are our top five tips for successful fundraising:

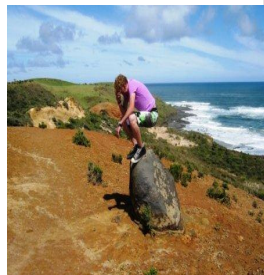
- 1) Don't be afraid to promote your cause** You guys are giving up your time for free, and helping others at the same time. Don't be afraid to sell yourself and your cause, ask for donations, raffle prizes, and man power. If you don't ask for help you won't receive any.
- 2) Make the most of your skills** If you are a keen sportsperson put on a charity tournament, if you're a good cook then think about selling home made produce at work, school or university. Make the most of talents and resources available to you and you will be surprised how easily an event comes together and how quickly the dollars come rolling in.
- 3) Don't forget the extras** Raffles are a real money spinner, and you can often get prizes donated by local businesses. If you add raffles, lucky dips or add-on sales to an event it can really bring the totals up at the end of the day.
- 4) Tell people where their money is going** People are far more likely to donate a little extra when they know where their money is going. If you have exact details of where you are going and what your role will be then publicise it.
- 5) Make it Fun!** People will be more likely to empty their pockets if they are having a good time. Especially at a bigger event, if people feel that they are getting value for money and are having a good time then events will run smoothly.

Let us know in the office if you need further help with fundraising. We are happy to provide letters of support that you can send to prospective sponsors, as well as promotional material which you can display at events. If you would like a list of volunteers in your area so that you can organise group events then please get in contact.

Volunteer Pose of the Month

This month we couldn't resist a classic volunteer pose section for the newsletter. Joseph, who is at Whangarei Boys High with Max-Bastian, spent the first part of their holidays around the Bay of Islands.

This is Joseph in a "thoughtful" pose at Araiti Te Uru Omapere, near Hokianga



Around the World with Lattitude...

Hayden who is currently at Seaford College in the UK certainly had a busy summer holidays. Over the course of four weeks he travelled just about the length and breadth of England and Scotland, as well as managing day trips into Wales, and across to Isle of Skye which lies off the North Western coast of mainland Scotland.



(Sexy Hamish... Apparently)

Hayden has certainly had his fill of British history and modern culture. From Roman baths, castles ruins and walls in Cheshire and Gloucestershire, to haunted castles, the Loch Ness monster and Toga parties on a Tiki tour of Scotland! Not to mention Sexy Hamish the Highland Cow...

Following on with the country hopping theme, **Ben who was at the Scottish Centres**, certainly managed to fit in a lot of travel over the last month. Here is what

he wrote to us back in August.... *"I've managed to see heaps of the country, mainly just by being shifted between the 4 bases of the company. Soon I will be off to Spain for a week with Vic and Richard on my first holiday since arrival. I am really looking forward to that because I should put my 5 years of Spanish to some use. Then just two days later I'm off again with my Mum and Nana on a tour of Scotland- to the bits I haven't seen. Then later after my placement I've got my Contiki booked. 10 countries in 20 days! But wait there's more, sometime between finishing that and Christmas I'm off to Morocco to spend as much time as I can on as little money as possible in the place that everyone has recommended I should go to. I've got the travel bug if you haven't realised..."*

Are you currently overseas with Lattitude? Are you fundraising to go away? Send us your news and photos and you could be appearing in the next Newsletter...
 Email
intern@lattitude.org.nz

The world famous Lattitude New Zealand Bag Competition



Each month we pick a winner for our world famous Lattitude bag competition. To enter the competition you need to email your entries to us. Although we love seeing your updates and photos on facebook, to be eligible for the prize you actually have to send us the photos. Every winner can choose between a copy of "The Great New Zealand Songbook" or 'Kiwi Speak' a book that will mean you never run out of 'choice' things to say!



This month our prize goes to Kimberly who is at Solway college in Masterton. Kim and fellow volunteer Alexandra modelled a Lattitude hoody as opposed to the traditional bags when they were out exploring the coast line near their placement.

Important Dates for 2009 / 2010

- **Now— we still have vacancies for some countries and are accepting applications. Please apply urgently to avoid missing out!**
- November 7th Pre-departure briefing in Christchurch for volunteers departing in 2010
- December 5th & 6th -Pre-departure briefing in Palmerston North and Auckland,
- January 4th -First departures of the year to UK
- January 9th — Departures to South Africa
- January 30th —Orientation for incoming volunteers who will be placed at New Zealand schools
- January— April —NZ departures to Canada
- February 6th — NZ departures to Poland
- February —First departure to Mexico
- March 23rd —Outdoor and community work placements depart for the UK

Our website address is: www.lattitude.org.nz