

LATTITUDE

New Zealand Newsletter

AUGUST 2009

GREETING FROM SHARYN

HOW TO CONTACT US:

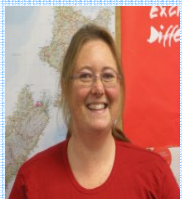
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We have just returned from the welcome and orientation for 49 volunteers who arrived in to Auckland on August 28th. It was on this weekend that I felt we were starting to make great progress with the relationship we have tried hard to foster with volunteers. While we were in Auckland two of our current volunteers, Sarah and Kat, who arrived in New Zealand in January, came to help and shared their experience with the new arrivals. I was thrilled that Jenn Tamati, who had just arrived home from Poland, and her parents Ra and Colleen came to help with orientation, as they really wanted to be involved with Lattitude and give something back. Then Tom Bronlund, who had just arrived back from Poland two days previously "popped" in, as did Vanessa May Hanley and her parents. I was absolutely delighted to see them, as this is the kind of relationship we have tried hard to foster with our volunteers.

A Lattitude experience is about gaining independence, life, and work experience. We love to hear how our volunteers are doing while they are away and believe it is important to have enough of a relationship with the volunteers that should they have any problems while they are away they feel comfortable making contact with us. As a not for profit organisation we also rely heavily on returned volunteers sharing their experiences with others during our recruitment processes. We also need parents or other interested supporters to be local representatives to help the incoming volunteers placed around New Zealand. We are trying to recruit interviewers around New Zealand to help us with interviews, and of course we need returned volunteers and their parents to come and talk at pre-departure briefings.

If you would like to find out more about getting involved with Lattitude and becoming part of our support network, please ring the office on the number above.

Pre-departure Briefings

Pre-departure briefings will be held in Christchurch on November 7th, Palmerston North on December 5th, and Auckland on December 6th. They are designed to run from 10 am until 3 pm allowing time for travel, and we have tried to make sure that, where possible, they do not clash with NCEA exams.

Briefings are an ideal opportunity for volunteers and their parents to meet with us, our travel agents, and representatives from Contiki tours to ask any questions. It's also a great opportunity for volunteers to start meeting those people who they will be spending their gap year with, and for parents to meet up and ask all the questions which teenagers never think of!

If you are going away next year we will be in touch soon with details of the briefings, if you are a returned volunteer or supporter and you would like to attend, then please do get in touch.

Discover a world of possibilities.

orientation: August 28th-30th, Auckland



Got some photos you want to share?
 Email your news and photos to
 intern@latitude.org.nz

Latest Vacancies

Keeping in Touch...

UK
 2 school placements for females 12 months from January
 Outdoor education camps 6-9 months from January or March, including placements at centres in Scotland
 Community work placements 6 months from March

English Teaching
 South Africa 6 months from January 2010
 Poland 6 months from February 2010
 Vietnam 3-4 months from February 2010
 Vanuatu 6 months from July 2010

Canada Outdoor education camps for 6 to 9 months, departing at various times

We love receiving your news, photos and updates, and now there are more ways than ever to keep in contact with the Latitude team:

- Email:** our addresses are on the front page
- Facebook:** We have added all those we can find to our friends, if you join during the course of the year please let us know!
- Blogs:** For updates on what we are doing please visit:
www.nzlatitudegapyear.blogspot.com
 To find out what your fellow volunteers are up to visit:
www.gapyearnews.blogspot.com

The Class of 2009

We asked our departing volunteers to tell us some of the Responsible, Exciting and Different things they did during their time as Lattitude volunteers in New Zealand and overseas. This will be the final instalment of entries, thanks to everyone who contributed, and sit tight for news on your country 'year books'. If you have recently finished your placement and still want to contribute Email: intern@lattitude.org.nz



Anja Westphal - Nelson College for Girls

Responsible: One of the tasks I had at the College was to work with international students. We've got a lot of Asian students, who are doing an exchange year and struggle with the language. The teacher gave me a lot of freedom, which allowed me to plan my own lessons for two or three students. I really enjoyed the possibility to teach and do a little bit more than the usual photocopying or similar things.

Exciting: In a country like New Zealand, where you can do so many different things and which is full of beautiful places, it's really hard to tell what the most exciting experience was. I did a lot of stuff from tramping to skydiving and all of it was great and exciting. But one thing was really special. When Sandra and I stayed a night at Curio Bay (Southland) during one of our road trips, we went for a swim in the morning and were suddenly surrounded by Hector Dolphins.

I love dolphins and since I was a child, it was my dream to swim with dolphins one day. It was great, because we could swim with them without doing a tour or something like that, which most people have to do for this experience.

Different: As soon as I arrived in New Zealand, I noticed how friendly most people are here. Kiwis are really open and helpful. Compared with Germany, where you ask yourself sometimes what you did to the salesman that he is so angry with you, it's really nice to come into a shop and hear a friendly: 'Hey, how is it going?'. This and the relaxed lifestyle, which most Kiwis have is probably the biggest difference to Germany I have noticed.

Chelsea Watt - St Peter's School, Auckland

Responsible: At the Year 7 School camp on Mototapu Island. I had to supervise groups as they participated in different activities. One of the groups I had was Kayaking. I had to rescue any of the boys who capsized and was also in charge of first aid. I had a very interesting moment trying to get a boy over slippery jagged rocks when he could barely walk!

Exciting: My first day at school was very exciting, meeting the people I lived with, The Nevis bungy jump in Queenstown, Skydiving in Taupo, Black Water Rafting in the Waitomo Caves, Zorbing in Rotorua, Travelling around the South Island in a four car convoy, Teaching a class by myself for the first time, the list is endless!

Different: It's probably the fact that everyone is really laid back and friendly. Kiwis CAN'T drive - pretty much every second car in the school car park is bashed where they have obviously reversed into something! Doors are just plain awkward! (Why would they lock like that?) Finally, People have a lot more respect for others and their surroundings, I noticed this most in the school kids, it's the small things like offering someone your seat on the bus that really stand out the most!



Ollie Barber and Tom Prifti—Palmerston North Boys High

Responsible: Ollie - Teaching 8 students to play the drums.

Tom - Driving the under 14 cricket team to Dannevirke for a match.

Exciting: Ollie - Sky Diving over Lake Taupo Tom - Jumping out of a cable car suspended over a valley with a cord of elastic wrapped around my legs (Nevis Bungy!)

Different: Ollie - The chips here are not soggy enough, and you never get gravy at the chip shops. Tom - When our national rugby team plays at least we make the final!



Trixia Macliing - Waitaki Girls High

Responsible: I worked in the school as well as in the Hostel. Kristina and I helped out in PE and German classes, supervised school and Hostel trips and of course supervised Prep every night. We were not only supervisors but big sisters to the Girls and tried to support them wherever we could.

Exciting: Travelling through entire NZ, sleeping in the car, taking Richard to hospital in Australia, surviving Yr11 PE class, being 24/7 with Kristina, playing Rugby, going to Rarotonga with Kathi and Theresa, jumping off cliffs, living and working with Sharyn, cooking German food for the whole Hostel...

Different: I experienced a different culture and lifestyle. Kiwis are way more laid back than Germans. And then of course all the different people I've met, all these crazy Kiwis and Gappies from all over the world.



Follow us on Twitter:

<http://www.twitter.com/lattitudeNZ>

Carrina Bowe and Brogan McGreal have just finished six month placements in South Africa. When we asked them to tell us about the responsible, exciting and different things which they have done, this is what they shared with us:

Carrina— St Dominics School

Responsible: Taking the whole grade 3 year group on a school trip to Durban on our very slow school bus! It was neat to see what goes into a school outing and be able to experience one from a staff point of view rather than as a student! There were only a couple of us staff and therefore we really couldn't slack off at all and had to know what was going on all the time and make sure the kids were ok.

Exciting: The Super 14 rugby game I went to see in Durban. The Hurricanes (my home team) were playing The Sharks (my SA home team) so there was some huge rivalry that night! It was such a neat night where we got to know some of the locals and was definitely a night to remember!

Different: The affects of Apartheid are still very evident in the South African society, though it was neat to see many different ethnicities within one community. Everyone was bilingual - if not trilingual, which is not that common back home.

Brogan - Shiyane High School

Responsible Being given a grade, setting up the whole curriculum for them and deciding what would be most useful and important for the class. There is great expectation and dependency upon this, as English is the medium through which all examinations are completed. So if we did not help and encourage their English, all other subjects also suffer. The teachers also looked to us for ideas on activities, group work and tests.

Exciting: I found South Africa amazing because of the diverse people, scenery and activities available. A few highlights for me were hiking in the Drakensberg Mountains (up to the Amphitheatre and Tugela Falls, 2nd highest in Africa), going to a Zulu Wedding, watching the Shiyane High School Speech Competition and Modeling Competition, (both of which I was fortunate enough to help organise and judge), and a trip to Swaziland!

Different: The poverty and cultural diversity. In Auckland we claim multiculturalism, but one has not truly experienced it until they have been to SA. There are so many different cultures (and languages) living amongst each other, all proud to represent their people, wishing South Africa would unite under one cultural banner...their own!! It was amazing to walk down the street and hear several different languages within such a short space. The poverty is shocking, both in urban and rural communities, a big eye-opener for a kiwi girl.



The world famous Lattitude New Zealand Bag Competition

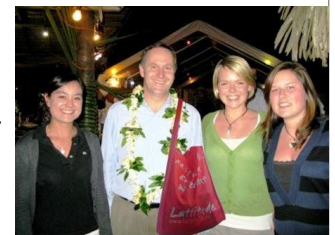


One of our most original Lattitude Bag competition entries is the winning photo this month.

Theresa, Trixia and Kathi have recently finished their placements here in New Zealand, before they left they took a six day holiday to Rarotonga. They had a relaxing holiday and spent a lot of time at the beach, making time for some Lattitude bag photo opportunities. On their last

night they were lucky enough to have their photo taken with the NZ Prime Minister John Key. Thanks to Laura, who added in the Lattitude bag that they had left in their room that evening, it was too good an opportunity to miss!

Theresa please contact the office to arrange your prize!



Important Dates for 2009 / 2010

- **Now— we still have vacancies for most countries and are accepting applications. Please apply urgently to avoid missing out!**
- September 6th - NZ volunteers arrive in Poland
- September 11th—13th Orientation for incoming NZ volunteers at outdoor camps
- 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
- Late January—Orientation for incoming Volunteers.
- February 6th — NZ departures to Poland
- Early 2010—NZ departures to Canada

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