

LATTITUDE

New Zealand Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2009

Greeting from Sharyn

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2009 has got off to a flying start with the departures of around 90 volunteers to placements around the world as well as the arrival of 20 to New Zealand. It is therefore somewhat of a surprise to take a breath and realize it is February already! 2009 is a year we are really looking forward to with lots of opportunities for volunteers in the pipeline. Our applications are currently open and we look forward to meeting all of our applicants and many of their families around the country. Interviews will take place once our applications have closed and are a good opportunity to meet with us and talk about your options.

Many of our returning volunteers have contacted us wanting to talk to their former schools about their amazing experience overseas. We would love to hear from any other returning volunteers who would be interested in talking to others as this is a real opportunity to inspire other young people and make a difference in their lives as well. If any schools or other organisations are interested in having a presentation by a returning volunteer or Lattice staff please contact us to arrange a visit.

We are really enjoying hearing from the volunteers who have recently left as they all appear to be settling in well and having a great time. Please keep the photos and news coming, as to us, you volunteers are what the job is all about! To that end I have even learnt how to use Facebook and am amazed as how easy it is to keep in touch with you all. I would recommend it to all family and friends but please bear with me as I continue to develop my social networking skills! Keep up the great work as you are doing a great job representing yourselves, your family and your country overseas!

The world famous Lattice New Zealand bags

We ordered some special red canvas bags displaying our logo when we rebranded back in August 2008. These bags are unique to Lattice in New Zealand. We have handed them out to all of our New Zealanders going overseas as well as our volunteers arriving into New Zealand. These bags are great for easier identification at airports when volunteers arrive but we've also



heard they are handy for carrying swimming togs and stuffing excess baggage in at the airport! We have had some great feedback and are glad to see people using them. You will see them a few of the photos in this newsletter. Send us a photo of you with your bag in the most exciting place you have visited or which reflects the Lattice brand of Exciting, Responsible and Different (please note that the word Responsible is an entry criteria!). We will publish the best photo in our newsletter each month and the winner can choose their prize from a variety of voucher options. This month's photo is of some of our volunteers in New Zealand. They were travelling during the summer holidays and popped in to see us in January. This was sent in by Trixia Macli-ing who is our first prize winner!

**OUR 2010 BROCHURE IS
NOW AVAILABLE!**
PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL US
IF YOU WOULD LIKE A
COPY. THE BROCHURE AND
APPLICATION FORM ARE
ALSO AVAILABLE TO
DOWNLOAD ON OUR
WEBSITE:
WWW.LATTITUDE.ORG.NZ
(CLICK ON 'VOLUNTEER' AND
THEN 'APPLY NOW')

Discover a world of possibilities.

Spotlight on...Vacancies in Canada



Volunteer opportunities in Canada - it is not too late to experience a Canadian summer in 2009! Several opportunities still exist to volunteer in Canada this year, starting in April, May or June.

Experience the Canadian wilderness and lakes, the spectacular peaks of the Canadian Rockies or the beautiful coast of British Columbia at an Outdoor Education camp.

Bring your outdoor skills and enthusiasm for an unforgettable experience. Or spend a few

rewarding months helping people with disabilities to experience camp life. For a longer caring placement, bring your positive outlook and energy to a community house, helping residents with their daily needs and providing companionship. Some placements

also offer the opportunity to practise your French.

Outdoor Education camps - In British Columbia, Alberta or Ontario start in April or May and run until August. Skill requirements vary.

Caring Camps - Outdoor camps for children or adults with special needs in British Columbia or New Brunswick start in May or June and run until August.

Caring placements - 6 - 12 months placements that can start anytime in locations across Canada.

If any of these opportunities appeal to you, contact us now for your chance to experience Canada in 2009.



ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER? EITHER IN NZ OR OVERSEAS?

IF SO, WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU ABOUT WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN UP TO AND WOULD LOVE TO SEE SOME PHOTOS!

Other opportunities still available for 2009 departures

If you have not yet decided what you want to do this year or the options you chose are not going as well as you had hoped or you are just looking for an amazing experience there are still options available for you with Latitude. Some of our more exciting destinations have 2 intakes a year as the placement length is around 5 to 6 months.

While we have just sent groups to Poland and South Africa in January we still have vacancies available for volunteers wishing to depart to South Africa in July and to Poland in September. These placements will be finished in time for those who are hoping to return to New Zealand for university in 2010. If you are at all interested please contact us now.

Our 2010 brochures are out now and advertise placement opportunities in Vietnam and Mexico. We do however have the opportunity for anyone who is interested to depart in September this year.

Please note there is a language requirement for Mexico—applicants are required to have an intermediate level of Spanish.

If you are interested in any of these options listed on this page—please contact us urgently. While our 2010 brochure lists a closing date of 17th April 2009 this date is for people wanting to depart in 2010. Anyone wanting to depart in 2009 should apply now.

Saying Goodbye to our New Zealand volunteers travelling overseas



Some of the volunteers departing in Auckland

Our first departure for 2009 was on Sunday 4th January. This saw 73 volunteers departing for the UK with Sharyn on hand to assist 53 of our volunteers departing Auckland while Katie assisted the 18 volunteers leaving Christchurch. We are pleased to hear that everyone arrived safe and sound and by all accounts had a great time at orientation in Reading before travelling to their placements. We have already had some emails and news from our volunteers in the UK and look forward to hearing more (and seeing some photos!). We have also had departures to Canada as well as the first New Zealanders going to South Africa in January. And on Friday 23rd January 7 New Zealanders departed for Poland with Sharyn on hand to see them off.



Some of the volunteers departing in Christchurch



Family and friends watching the Auckland plane depart

January Arrivals into New Zealand



We were pleased to greet 20 volunteers on 30th January from Canada, Germany and the UK. They have arrived to take up placements in New Zealand schools across the country and will be here until around August. They were a great bunch and we were pleased to be able to settle them into New Zealand at orientation—an important part of the Latitude experience. We would like to wish them well for their time in New Zealand and look forward to



hearing how they are getting on. Again, a major highlight of orientation was the Powhiri given to us by staff and students at Wesley College. This is always an amazing experience for our volunteers just off the plane and a great introduction to New Zealand. We would like to thank Wesley College for hosting us for the day and look forward to continuing our great relationship with them.



WE WILL SHORTLY BE LOOKING FOR HOSTS FOR VOLUNTEERS ARRIVING IN AUGUST 2009 WHO WILL BE HERE FOR 12 MONTHS.

Currently most of our placements are in high schools or New Zealand boarding schools. While these offer an amazing opportunity for our volunteers we would also be interested in developing placements in primary and intermediate schools as many of our volunteers would like to work with younger children. We would also be interested in placements at outdoor education camps or community work organisations. Our Volunteers can contribute huge amounts to any placement so anyone interested in hosting a volunteer should contact us for more information. Hosts are required to provide accommodation and food as well as a subsistence allowance of \$120 per week to our volunteers. Placements who do not have boarding facilities or accommodation onsite are currently providing this via a host family which can work really well.

New Zealand Volunteers Overseas

Update from Carrina who is currently placed at St Dominic's School is KwaZulu Natal in **South Africa**... "Brogan, Abbey (both at Rorkes Drift/Shiyane school), Courtney (my fellow volunteer) and I caught the bus to Kwazulu Natal. It was such an awesome trip! We saw so many different standards of living just within a few hours drive from Johannesburg! I am assisting in the Grade 1s, 2s and 3s classes with reading, maths, marking their homework, taking classes for swimming lessons, later I will have my own netball team to coach. The kids love looking at the globe to see where New Zealand is. Today the teachers kept asking me if I felt at home now that it was raining. They all think it rains A LOT in NZ. I know dad would agree with this, but it's not that bad! I have an aim to learn the sign of the cross in Zulu before I leave, that shouldn't be too hard seen as I go to mass on Sunday with a couple hundred Zulus! I am thinking about attending some of the grade 3's Afrikaans lessons next week! I have already started receiving cards from the kids who I teach! so cute So, we have settled in now and have found the staff computers & the internet!"



Update from Hayden who is currently placed at Seaford College in Sussex in **the UK**... "Everything is great here! I arrived in London on Monday morning and got off the plane into a cool 0 degrees, snow and still wearing my jandals! During orientation I met some really cool people and I also met the person who I would be working with, Jordan Herbert. The school I am at is fantastic, everyone is really nice and I am getting offers

left, right and centre to go into town. Jordan and I find a few things here quite funny like the Rugby fields are on a slight hill. It looks like this year is going to be one of the best!"

Update from Kimiora who is currently placed at **Arts Educational School** in Hertfordshire in **the UK**...



"Just thought I'd drop an email to let you know that everything over this side of the globe is **AWESOME!** The orientation was a **BLAST** and got to know **HEAPS** of other volunteers! A lot of us have kept in touch which has been cool and we have already met up with a few of them! Once again, thank you **VERY MUCH** for giving me this once in a life-time opportunity."



Photo from Thomas who is currently placed in **Poland**... this is all seven New Zealanders in Warsaw when they arrived in January.



Important Dates for 2009

- **Now**— applications for 2010 departures are now open
- January to March —volunteers departing to Canada
- 1st March —some outdoor placements depart to UK
- 22nd March —Main departure of NZers going to UK Outdoor, Environmental and Caring placements
- **17th April** —2010 applications close
- April/May—Interviews across New Zealand for 2010 applicants
- May—Thailand volunteers depart
- 27th June—Vanuatu volunteers depart
- July—South Africa volunteers depart
- August—volunteers arriving into New Zealand from Germany, Canada and the UK
- September—Poland, Vietnam & Mexico volunteers depart
- November and December—Pre-departure briefings for volunteers departing in 2010