

# LATTITUDE

## New Zealand Newsletter

JULY 2009

GREETING FROM SHARYN

### HOW TO CONTACT US:

+64 (0)6 350 5920 (Phone)

+64 (0)6 350 5640 (fax)



Sharyn  
Hight

Country Programme  
Manager  
shight@lattice.org.nz



Katie  
Stalham

Project Co-ordinator  
kstalham@lattice.org.nz



Michelle  
Vooght

Admin Assistant  
info@lattice.org.nz



Laura  
Pope

Intern  
intern@lattice.org.nz

We are now at the exciting time of year when everything seems to be happening. To update you: all New Zealanders who have been interviewed have had their details sent to a Country Programme Manager for consideration for placements. From here things will happen differently depending on where you are going. We have had the first confirmations of UK placements this week and the first offer letters will go out today. We will have more over the coming days. I would also remind you that we may then have a delay in confirmations as the UK schools will commence their summer holidays and are unlikely to confirm placements until they return to school in September. So please do not panic if you have not heard anything yet—we will update you as soon as we hear anything. South Africa, Canada, Poland and Vanuatu Programme Managers have been starting to contact volunteers to discuss placement preferences. Mexico is still proceeding at this point and we are expecting a final decision to be made by the beginning of September so will update everyone then. We say a final farewell to the volunteers leaving New Zealand to return home. We look forward to welcoming 50 new arrivals on the 28th of August. We are excited to announce two new hosts—YMCA Camp Kaitoke near Wellington and YMCA Camp Wainui near Christchurch and look forward to finding volunteers for the first ever Outdoor Camps with Lattice in NZ!

### TRAVEL ZONE – News from the travel agents



The 2010 Contiki brochure exclusively issued for the *Gap Year* market has been released for tours in Europe next summer. Contiki remains the market leader of your age group and the brochure offers three fantastic European tour options for July 2010. Unfortunately many of our travellers missed out on getting on these tours this year because they booked far too late. The Australian *Lattice* contingent is very quick to book and as such most of this years tours were full by September/October last year. We certainly recommend you **book now** for these departures to avoid disappointment. A non refundable deposit of \$200.00 is required to confirm your place on your preferred Contiki Tour.

We have also specially negotiated with Contiki to give you the opportunity to change (at no cost) your tour departure date after booking (subject to availability) should you wish to join friends on another tour. Whilst we are grateful to Contiki for accommodating us in this respect to give you a little more flexibility, the reality is you will still need to book early either way. Contiki are also offering a **free night** in London before or after the tour as part of the deal.

We have also negotiated an Earlybird special whereby if you book and then **pay 25% of the tour cost by 30 September, your tour cost will be guaranteed** as per the GAP YEAR brochure. Otherwise it will be subject to any increases applicable when the Contiki Europe 2010/11 brochure is released in October. For a copy of this brochure please email [rachael@nztravelbrokers.co.nz](mailto:rachael@nztravelbrokers.co.nz).



### TO ALL VOLUNTEERS CURRENTLY OVERSEAS...

Please can you all double check the end date on your visas. We have had a couple of instances where the British High Commission has made a mistake and return flights have been booked for after the expiration date of a visa. Please double check your details and if you think you may run into problems then contact the Lattice office.

Discover a world of possibilities.

Hello , we send you tropical greetings from the beautiful Cook Islands. We spent our last holidays together on Rarotonga and enjoyed the warmth of the sun before we return to cold NZ. We hope you had a relaxing holiday too. We're



all sad to leave New Zealand soon, but will hopefully get the chance to say goodbye to you before we fly back to Germany. Lots of Love, Kathi, Trixia and Theresa

Dear Katie and Sharyn, thanks to the wonders of 'Grab-a seat' we are in Tonga, and having an amazing time! We have been sunning ourselves



on the beach, and in true British Style, Sarah is already burnt! The Tongan family we are staying with are lovely but we have to use rain water to drink and wash in, it's a bit cold! So far we have attended church (very responsible), swam out to a shipwreck and looked at the fish (exciting) and eaten a coconut that Julian found on a beach (different).... Lots of Love, Kat, Sarah & Julian

**Natalie Miles, from Hamilton, has just finished a placement in Poland. Here is her account of life as a volunteer teacher at the Nowy Sacz Catholic School**



Teaching in Poland has been great! I taught at 4 schools with students aged from 7-20. Its amazing how much even the small kids pick up on! I get the younger ones to repeat words after me for vocabulary practice and they even mimic my New Zealand accent... to the extreme!

I had to be a teacher to the students, but also a friend - its something that is very hard to do; especially when you are teaching people who are older than you, and so much taller...



The funniest thing which happened to me also concerns age. I don't look 18, and at the beginning of my placement I was being introduced to a teacher and her class happened to see me. When they asked who I was, she said I was the next 'Gapper' but they thought I was a new student! (they were 13!!!).

I have loved being in a small town (where no one speaks English) as it has forced me to pick up the polish culture, which I am loving. One thing I will not miss though is the massive amounts of bread and potatoes they eat! I'm so glad I chose to come here.

Latest vacancies

Our New Blog

**URGENT:** We received notification this morning of an excellent school placement that has become available for a male interested in sport and the outdoors in Quebec, Canada. The placement is at an English speaking school and is available from September 2009! And runs until January 2010. Please contact us urgently if you are interested

- UK** - 5 schools placements for 12 months, **Outdoor education camps** for 6-9 months, **Community work placements** 6 months
- English Teaching—South Africa** 6 months from January 2010
- Poland** 6 months from February 2010 **Canada** Outdoor education camps **Vietnam** 3-4 months from February 2010 **Vanuatu** 6 months from January 2010

**We are now entering the 21st Century. The latest addition to our internet presence is two new blogs.**

At the first blog you will find all the latest news and info from the Lattitude team:

[www.NZLattitudeGapYear.blogspot.com](http://www.NZLattitudeGapYear.blogspot.com)

Our other blog is where you will find all the latest news and gossip from the volunteers!

[www.gapyearnews.blogspot.com](http://www.gapyearnews.blogspot.com)

# The Class of 2009

Some of our volunteers here in New Zealand are nearing the end of their time here, as a memento we asked them to tell us some of the Responsible, Exciting and Different things they have done during their time as Latitude volunteers. These entries are just a selection from all our volunteers, we aim to make a year book publication for each country group, so keep your ideas coming in to us here at the office. Email [Intern@latitude.org.nz](mailto:Intern@latitude.org.nz)

## Chris Bright – Hamilton Boys' High School

**Responsible:** I was often asked to cover school classes if the teacher was away, which to begin with was extremely scary. But the more experience I gained, the better I became at controlling the students.

**Exciting:** Appearing on TV during an All Blacks match against France. For the next week I felt like a celebrity, as lots of the school boys told me how they had seen me on TV! Another exciting experience was meeting the Waikato Chiefs Super 14 rugby team at a charity event.

**Different:** New Zealanders are far more relaxed and always very friendly.



## Carly Au—Napier Girls High School

**Responsible** Keeping my group of students calm on the Chemistry caving trip, where we were lost underground for over an hour! What do you do when you're in the dark without a guide? Start singing of course!

**Exciting** The south island road trip was awesome, we managed to squeeze a whole lot of excitement into 2 weeks! Climbing Fox glacier, getting lost multiple times, and doing a HUGE U-turn in front of a police car...! A particular favourite moment has to be hang gliding in Queenstown was amazing, getting to see the city from a new perspective as well as pretending to be Superman ;)



**Different:** Kiwis don't know the meaning of the word 'traffic'! I hear Napier residents groaning about how busy it is when there are 3 cars on the road! Good thing they've never experienced rush hour in Central London...



## Mathias Plewinski - Francis Douglas Memorial College, New Plymouth

**Responsible:** Looking after the little Year 9 boys all by myself for a whole week since their housemaster was away.

**Exciting:** Travelling throughout New Zealand! I have never seen volcanoes, waterfalls, glaciers etc. before; I have never done a bungee jump, skydive, rafting, a three days hike etc. before.

**Different:** People are so much more laid-back in New Zealand than back home in Germany. Life seems to be more relaxed, people don't worry as much.

## Kat Beaty - Waikato Diocesan

**Responsible:** Helping to direct the school entry for a local Shakespeare competition, as well as doing all the voice work for the piece – it's a pretty big competition so there was a lot of pressure to do well and we rehearsed a lot, and we still had to find a way to keep it interesting, different and fun. It was awesome though, seriously brilliant! Other than that it'd have to be working mornings in the boarding house – getting 30 teenage girls out of bed, off to breakfast, into uniform and at school on time is a big responsibility and is pretty high pressure (especially when they refuse to wake up!)

**Exciting:** It's so hard to say at this stage, there's so much more I need to do! Entering the Shakespeare competition was pretty exciting, all the girls were so nervous and the atmosphere was brilliant, but at this stage it'd have to be the tramp over Fox Glacier (which was amazing) or the Nevis bungee jump (2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the world, eek!) and I've still got to skydive and black water rafting to go – can a person die from over-exciting themselves??

**Different:** The big one would have to be how much more laid back New Zealand is compared to UK – things are much more chilled over here and people are so much friendlier, it's awesome! Few little ones though – tippex is twink, sweets are lollies, it's OK to walk around barefoot but it's not OK to sit on a table, and all the doors lock the wrong way!



## Responsible. Exciting. Different.



### Rachel Jones -Auckland Diocesan School for Girls

**Responsible:** Looking after girls of contrasting ages in a boarding house, helping them with academic matters as well as personal matters. I have also learned to look after myself in a city! I am a country girl and so learning how to do tax refunds and managing my money for trips will definitely help me in future things like University.

**Exciting:** At Easter, we travelled all around the South Island, developing a taste of NZ culture while being in crashes and long drives!! I also drove to one of the most exciting places in NZ, Queenstown, where we skied for a week which was challenging and new! I loved it!

**Different:** NZ is like England, only in a different time wave. This is good because everything seems more relaxed. I like the fact that it isn't so busy. The countryside is so interesting because in one country you have all the weather and entertainment you need i.e. from skiing to sunbathing, shopping in the city to vast amounts of forest to tramp. Its amazing!

### Kristina Baitalow - Waitaki Girls College, Oamaru

**Responsible:** I was involved in the school as well as in the hostel where I had lots of responsibilities such as supervising the girls on school and hostel trips, help out in German and PE classes and entertain Trixia my GAP partner...

**Exciting:** I Enjoyed working with the girls and watching them grow and develop! In the holidays we had time to do tiki touring around crazy NZ including climbing on cliffs and waterfalls, jumping out of planes and into canyons, random camping and relaxing in egg smelly hot pools.

**Different:** The isolation, the variety of this beautiful landscape and all the flat dead possums on the road...



### Herget Ludger - St Kentigerns, Auckland

**Responsible:** Somewhere in-between coaching soccer/tennis teams and helping organizing events. The coaching included practice two times a week and one match each week. At events usually I was in charge of the database and kept track of the results and times.

**Exciting:** Probably surviving every day and doing all the cooking, washing and drinking

**Different:** I was astonished at the friendliness of the locals over here in New Zealand. It will be definitely hard to come back to Germany and to not even think about getting invited for a week or two to an amazing holiday batch next to the mountains...



Thanks for all your response to our 'Year Book' questions. All the replies that we have had will be featured in full in our country by country publications which we will email to all volunteers.

If you have not yet sent us your entries then do so today!

*Next Month... Carrina Bowe who was in South Africa, Swantje Gaertig-Wahle and Anja Westphal who were in New Zealand, and maybe you?*

## The world famous Latitude New Zealand Bag Competition



The winner of this month's competition may be a little hard to recognise in this epic photo...

It is in actual fact Ben Sandlant who is based at the Belmont Scottish Centre which is an Outdoor Education Centre. Here's what he says about his photo: "Its travelled quite far. This is me standing on one of the highest cliffs in the UK, on the Island of Hoy in the Orkney Islands. They are at the very top of Scotland near the amazing 'Man of Hoy' rock stack."

Congratulations Ben, email the office to organise 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!**
- August 28th—volunteers arriving into New Zealand from Germany, Canada and the UK for orientation in Auckland
- August 30th— Volunteers arrive at their placements at schools around NZ
- September 6th - NZ volunteers arrive in Poland
- November 7th Pre-departure briefing in Christchurch for volunteers departing in 2010)
- December 5th-Pre-departure briefing in Auckland
- December 6th—Predeparture briefing in Palmerston North
- January 5th -First departures of the year to UK
- January— Departures to South Africa and Vanuatu
- February 6th — NZ departures to Poland
- Early 2010—NZ departures to Canada

**Our website address is: [www.lattitude.org.nz](http://www.lattitude.org.nz)**