

LATTITUDE

New Zealand Newsletter

MAY 2009

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Greeting from Sharyn

May has already been a busy month at Lattitude and we are only a week into it. A reminder that our first ever fully funded scholarships are available. Please see below for details. Applications close May 29th.

We welcome Laura Pope as the first ever intern at Lattitude New Zealand. Laura is on a nine month internship with Lattitude and will then be offered a fully funded placement at the end of her contract here. We hope to have internship positions each year, so watch this space!

Our application period officially closed on the 17th of April. This closing date is particularly important for those wanting to go to UK Boarding Schools, these applications need to be processed in the UK by the end of June, these placements fill up fast and it is important that we recognize those people who got their applications in on time. This year we have had a large number of male applicants indicating UK Boarding schools as their first choice and so we are unlikely to be able to find schools for late applicants if they are male. We are likely to have spaces for females wanting to go to the UK Boarding schools. Please contact us urgently if you are interested in applying as they will fill up fast!

We have been working hard to increase the number of options for New Zealander's volunteering overseas, so we have a greater number of placements available this year. We therefore can still offer placements in the following areas:

Canadian Schools – we are excited to be able to offer a greater number of school placements in Canada next year. These depart in January or April 2010 and vary in length. We have also been contacted with a specific request for a school placement in Canada for September 2009 and again in January 2010 for someone with strengths in sports, maths and science. Please contact us urgently if you think you have strengths in these areas. **Canadian Outdoor Education Placements** – again these departures range in dates and lengths. Some volunteers this year have combined schools placements with outdoor placements in their summer holidays. **Poland** – We have last minute placements available in schools departing September 2009. We also have places available for departures in January 2010 and September 2010. **Vietnam** – We are excited about responses to Vietnam – our first year to this country. Please see the next page for details. We also have placements in **South Africa, China, Vanuatu and Mexico**. These departures are filling fast, so please contact us urgently if you are interested.

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LATTITUDE NEW ZEALAND ALONG WITH NZ TRAVEL BROKERS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE OPPORTUNITY OF TWO FULLY FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NEW ZEALANDERS AGED 18-25 TO VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS. THESE SCHOLARSHIPS ARE INTENDED FOR DESERVING YOUNG PEOPLE WHO, WITHOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY, WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO GO OVERSEAS. PROSPECTIVE SCHOLARSHIP CANDIDATES NEED TO BE NOMINATED BY A REPUTABLE REFEREE, FOR EXAMPLE A HEAD TEACHER OR A SPORTS COACH. IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION THEN PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS CLOSE MAY 29TH 2009

Discover a world of possibilities.

Spotlight on... Vietnam



Vietnam is a country which straddles the South Eastern tip of the Asian continent, has a population of over 86 million people and is almost the size of Germany, however, very few people in New Zealand or other Western countries could tell you more than the bare minimum about this astounding country that has had such a troubled recent history.



Vietnam is exotic and beautiful. There are jungles, high mountains, stunning beaches, rolling hills, plains and river-deltas. The people are charming and friendly, and with not a trace of bitterness after the brutal that they have been subjected to over the last 150 years.

Vietnam offers volunteers the chance to to work in Primary and Secondary schools, teaching conversational English to groups of up to 40 students at a time. Many Vietnamese see English as the key to a good future and volunteers provide them with an opportunity to practice the English speaking skills with a native speaker. During their stay, volunteers will witness their students become more confident and eager to practise!

If you are looking to challenge yourself to a completely different way of life, then Vietnam may well be the choice for you. As a global organisation Lattitude has been sending volunteers to Vietnam for a number of years, and this year Lattitude New Zealand hopes to send it's first cohort over in September. If you are interested in volunteering in Vietnam for Lattitude then please contact the office.

Spotlight on... India

India is home to one over one billion people and the population continues to rise. It is an incredibly diverse, colourful and exciting country, home to the Taj Mahal, the Himalayas and Bollywood. However, a quarter of its population continue to live below the poverty line and Lattitude volunteers are needed to work in schools, Tibetan monasteries and community centres to provide support and teach English.



We are especially keen to hear from those who are interested in working in monasteries and nunneries working with Tibetan refugees. Encouraging students to practice conversational English is an important element of the work but volunteers will also be expected to help out with a range of other subjects. Volunteers will need to be motivated self-starters as English classes often take second place to prayer and ritual. Tibetan Monks value kindness above all traits, and both the adults and the children are a pleasure to teach. The Indian placements are challenging four month appointments, but they would give volunteers an unrivaled experience, and an insight into one of the most unique environments in the world. The schools range from being relatively wealthy to very poorly resourced community schools. Volunteers will teach English as well as a variety of other subjects to classes full of eager and enthusiastic children. The ages of students vary from the very young (pre-primary) to adult. Sometimes volunteers are asked to do a special project, such as put on a play with the children for the end of term



Religion and tradition are pivotal aspects of daily life, and volunteers must be fully prepared to immerse themselves completely into community life. The benefits of doing this however, are boundless. The generosity of the people you will encounter knows no limits, once you have been to India you will find yourself returning again and again.

A new arrival for the Lattitude NZ team

Hi everyone! My name is Laura and I'm the newest addition to the Lattitude New Zealand team here in Palmerston North. I'm really looking forward to meeting some of the current and prospective volunteers who will be coming to or leaving from New Zealand.

I have a degree in International Relations and Development Studies from the University of Sussex in the UK. When I was 18 I spent a year working as a volunteer teacher in Andhra Pradesh, Southern India. My time in India was a truly amazing experience and I am looking forward to helping other young people to make the most out of their time overseas with Lattitude.



News from Volunteers in New Zealand

The Great South Island Adventure

Some of the current Lattitude volunteers in New Zealand made the most of their Easter Holidays by taking a tour of the South Island, in a convoy of up to 15 people no less! Here are some of the highlights (and misadventures) of their two week trip...



- ⇒ Taking the gondola in Christchurch to view the city
- ⇒ Watching the sun set over Dunedin at Signal point
- ⇒ Spying on baby seals as they splashed about in the rock pools off the Catlins coast.
- ⇒ Getting a bit Snap happy at Bluff point, the Southern most point of mainland New Zealand
- ⇒ A scenic cruise through the Milford Sound, with a boat's captain who sang Happy Birthday!
- ⇒ Hurtling down the Luge track in Queenstown
- ⇒ Conquering 'The Fear' and taking the plunge at the Nevis Bungee, 134 metres down and 8 seconds of freefall add up to one insane experience!
- ⇒ Tramping on the fox glacier



Postcard from Aussie

"Hello Sharyn, Hello Katie,

We spent two weeks here in Australia and had a great time.

We discovered Sydney in the first couple of days. Our highlight was the bridge climb. After that we drove up to the Gold Coast to Surfer's Paradise where we spent most of our time in hospital thanks to Richard! Our next stop was Hervey Bay and a beautiful trip to Fraser Island. Now we're enjoying our last day in Brisbane and are looking forward to going home to New Zealand.

Love,

Richard, Trixia, Kathi and Theresa"



Interested in Hosting a Lattitude Volunteer in New Zealand?

We are inundated with volunteers wanting to come to New Zealand, Please Help!

We are currently looking for hosts wanting male volunteers, who are due to arrive in August for a 12 month period. These volunteers are willing to help in schools, coach sports teams, help in classes, tutor foreign languages... the potential is endless! Hosts are required to provide accommodation, meals and a subsistence allowance to volunteers. Currently most of our placements are within boarding schools with accommodation within the hostel. We would love to have placements in other schools who may be able to provide a host family environment.

Please contact us urgently if you are interested: shight@lattitude.org.nz

New Zealand Volunteers Overseas



Brogan McGreal Rorkes Drift, South Africa

Brogan and her partner Abbey who are based in Rorkes Drift, South Africa, have been settling into their new positions as teachers, talent scouts and managers of the school tuck shop!

The girls are working in both their local Primary and Secondary schools, teaching English and helping with administration. After being thrown in at the deep end with classes of up to 40 and no set curriculum, Brogan is now well settled into school life, and making the most of her weekends by exploring the local area. **The picture shows Brogan and fellow Lattitude New Zealand volunteer Carina Bowe flying the Kiwi flag at the Rugby in South Africa.**

Kadie McCreery Kamp Kiwanis , Canada

Kadie has been making the most of her time at a Canadian Camp before her young charges arrive. As well as making sure everything is ready for the campers, Kadie has also been out tramping, experienced the oddities of five pin Canadian bowling, and taking in the breathtaking views of Lake Banff. By the looks of some of Kadie's pictures she has certainly had her fill of snow and has been making the most of her time off in the wintry wilderness.



Classic volunteer photo of the month has to go to Kat Beaty for her pickaxe pose on one of the glaciers in Southern Island

**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!**

**EMAIL:
INFO@LATTITUDE.ORG.NZ**

The world famous Lattitude New Zealand Bag Competition



And the winners are.....

We have been inundated with weird and wonderful entries for this months bag competition. It was a tough call but the lucky winners for this edition are Kate Millington, who is at Kristin School in Auckland, and took her picture whilst touring the South Island. Kadie McCreery who is at Kamp Kiwanis in Canada roped some friends into posing with the bag whilst on a trip to Lake Banff. Both volunteers will receive a \$20 NZ (or overseas equivalent) gift voucher. To be in with a chance of winning next months competition don't forget to email us your bag photos to info@lattice.org.nz



Important Dates for 2009

- **Now**— applications for 2010 departures are filling fast—we still have vacancies for most countries and are accepting applications. Please apply urgently to avoid missing out!
- May/June—Interviews across New Zealand for 2010 applicants
- 29th May—Closing date for scholarship applications
- 27th June—Vanuatu volunteers depart
- August—volunteers arriving into New Zealand from Germany, Canada and the UK
- August—Potential departures to India
- September—Poland, Vietnam & Mexico volunteers depart
- November and December—Pre-departure briefings for volunteers departing in 2010
- January 5 -First departures of the year (UK schools)

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