

LATTITUDE

New Zealand Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2009

Greeting From Sharyn

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While most people are winding down for the end of the year, we at Lattitude are gearing up for the busiest time of the year. I would like to take the opportunity to say farewell and good luck to our intern, Laura Pope. Laura is the first intern we have had at Lattitude and has done a fantastic job. Many of you have met her but she is also the person behind the scenes producing our newsletter, blogs, facebook and twitter updates. See later in the newsletter for more about Laura's plans. Thanks Laura!

We have now confirmed 72 volunteers departing for the UK on January 4th. Also departing in January will be our volunteers to Canada, Mexico and South Africa. These are really exciting placements and we are delighted as always that people are prepared to really challenge themselves. I am really excited about our first ever volunteers to Mexico. It is always challenging taking on a new country but the support from our volunteer staff in Mexico and the UK has been exceptional so it looks like an amazing experience will be had. February sees the departure of our volunteers to Poland. ***These departures are now all full, apart from one vacancy to Poland due to a late withdrawal.*** Volunteers for these departures should have their visa applications well underway, as well as their police check and have their flights all booked.

This will be our last newsletter for the year so we would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year. Make the most of your time together, especially those of you who are about to depart. To our volunteers in New Zealand have a great holiday and enjoy your experience of a summer Christmas (if it ever arrives!). Thank you to everyone who has helped us and supported us this year.

Travel Safe, Sharyn

Criminal Records Checks for UK School Placements

There has been a new policy in the UK that will eventually affect all school placements in the UK. OFSTED (the governing body for schools in the UK) now requires that anyone working at a school has to have a CRB (Criminal Relations Bureau) check.

Some of you may have been or may be contacted by your placements and asked to complete a CRB application form and send copies of your ID. If this has happened please contact us and we will be able to help you complete it. Please do this as quickly as you can as in some cases the CRB should be completed 6 weeks prior to your arrival.

Each day we seem to be getting a new CRB request from a school so we have decided to ask all volunteers going to school placements to send us the required documents so we can act quickly should the school require it. We will therefore need the following documents from you:

Your birth certificate, Your passport and a bank statement showing your address (or a telephone bill etc)

As part of the CRB check we, at Lattitude, have been asked to check the original ID documents and provide a letter to verify your identity. So we actually need to sight original copies of these documents.

Please note - this is a UK check and is different from your NZ Police Check. You still need to apply for your NZ Police Check and send us a copy when you receive it and take the original with you but you may be required to have a CRB also. We can appreciate that many of you are busy with end of year exams and finishing school but this is a requirement set out by the government in the UK and failure to provide this information and verification of your identity could prevent you from commencing your placement.

Discover a world of possibilities.

Last Few Remaining Vacancies for 2010

ALL UK SCHOOL PLACEMENTS HAVE NOW BEEN FILLED

URGENT: We have one placement left in Poland departing February 2010 for six months. This placement has come about due to a withdrawal, and we would really like to fill it.

March 2010 We still have a few **community work** and **outdoor education** placements left for our March departure to the **UK**. Placements last for around six months.

June / July 2010 Placements are available in **South Africa** for six months. There are **teaching** and **caring placements** throughout the country.

August 2010 English teaching opportunities in **Mexico** lasting five months.

September 2010 Six month opportunities in **Poland**, mainly based in schools working as **Language assistants**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE PLACEMENTS PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE ON 06 350 5920

New Zealand Volunteers travel to Australia

Kat and Sarah in the Blue Mountains



Kat has nearly finished a year at Waikato Diocesan. During the last holidays she went to Australia, here is an account of the day she and fellow volunteer Sarah went to the Blue mountains outside of Sydney.

"Early start today but totally worth it - Sarah and I were heading off into the Blue Mountains for a day! We hopped on our tour bus and met our guide Smokey. He was awesome, he spent the whole drive out of Sydney telling us all about the history of the place, which was really interesting. Our first stop for the day was a wildlife park, where we got out to look for wild kangaroos. We did find a couple, a mother and a baby who were very cute, and we spotted a kookaburra too, who was pretty cool.

Next stop was in the mountains themselves, which were absolutely beautiful - they're called Blue Mountains because the eucalyptus trees release an oil that creates a blue haze around them, and it was gorgeous - the weather was awesome so we could see it really clearly. We walked with Smokey through some beautiful landscapes - over a few waterfalls, round some cliffs, then we went around a corner and saw the hugest drop out of nowhere, it was amazing! There was a waterfall running over it as well, Wentworth Falls, which was so gorgeous - Smokey asked who was keen to go to the bottom, so naturally we said yes, and it was so incredible - we walked for about 5 minutes down steps in the cliff, and when we got to the bottom it was just beautiful.

However, what goes down must go up, as we discovered on the way back - the steps which were quite steep and a bit hard to navigate on the way down were a nightmare on the way back up, we all crawled back to the top panting, sweating. Ah well, it was worth it, and probably did us good. We walked back the long and scenic way and got some more awesome views and inside tips on life in the bush - highlight of the day was getting to a lookout point which showed us the waterfall we'd just climbed to the bottom of - the sun was hitting it so that there was a rainbow in it!

After lunch we hopped back in the bus to walk number two - this one saw us tramping down about 900 very steep uneven steps through the bush, seeing two lyrebirds (which are cool!) and getting our first view of the Three Sisters (a famous rock formation). Our tramp ended at the bottom of our colossal amount of steps, but instead of walking all the way back up (which would probably have killed me) we took the funicular railway - it's the steepest one in the world, and is basically a train-type thing that goes pretty much vertically up the side of the mountain we'd just climbed down. With no seatbelts. And no obvious way of holding on. It was a lot of fun and considerably less hassle than walking up all those steps again! "



Smokey the tour guide....

Focus on... Outdoor Education



We still have several placements available for 6 to 9 months at outdoor education centres in the UK, departing on March 23rd 2010. We have recently been speaking to some volunteers who have just finished their placements and the feedback has all been great. Your outdoor education skills will be put to good use at these projects, and you may find yourself involved in activities such as kayaking, skiing, fencing, rock-climbing, horse-riding, hiking, archery, ropes, orienteering, or sailing just to name a few. You'll also need to chip in and help with day-to-day supervision of camp-goers and some general maintenance around the camp. For many of the people you'll be working with, camp is the highlight of their year, so you're always making a difference.

The job can be physically demanding, so volunteers need to be fit, healthy, and not afraid of long days and hard work. Outdoor education projects are all about teamwork, so you'll need to be comfortable living and working closely with others to achieve a common goal. Demonstrated experience in a wide range of outdoor activities is required in these roles and many of the host organisations call for basic first aid and lifesaving qualifications. Fun is the key, so as well as outdoor education skills you'll need an upbeat personality, a great sense of humour, and the ability to dress up and get silly when required!

To find out more information regarding these placements, then please contact the office or check out our website. www.lattitude.org.nz

Kimi in the UK

Kimiora has been on a placement at a school in the UK since January this year. Below are some extracts from a letter she sent us recently about life as a Lattitude volunteer in the UK.

This year has been super busy and time consuming! Work is a lot of hard work as well! I am working at a school called Tring Park School for the Performing Arts. It is one of the top performing arts schools in the U.K. I am at this placement with two other Kiwis; Sophie and Angus. We flat together with three other people and we live just 40 minutes out of London, which is really handy!

At school I work mainly in the academic department doing photocopying etc and normal office work. I look after kids ranging from 9-18 four nights a week which also uses all my energy! I escort kids into shows in London and just into London in general. I do duties such as babysitting, taking kids swimming, taking kids to the cinemas, ice skating and shopping!!! You name it, we do it.

This year has also been a year for me to travel the world and get to know a lot of people! I have travelled to Singapore, England (of course), Wales, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Italy, Holland, Czech Republic, Germany, Prague and last but not least, I went to America to catch up with the Whanau half way through the year! It was amazing seeing them and catching up with as much news as I could about back home! My friend Sophie and I went on a 21-day camping tour around Europe with 38 other tourists. It was like a massive grown-up camp where we all had little duties and took turns to cook! On the tour, you had to be ready on the bus by 7.00 am and then you would go sightseeing all day. It has been amazing seeing all the sights that we all see in movies and experiencing all the different cultures that we rarely see in New Zealand! One of my friends Waipora and I are also heading to Ireland and Scotland for 5 days in just over a month which should be really cool! It is going to be our final weekend/time off for the year!



Kimiora and Waipora outside Buckingham Palace.

Arohanui, All the way from the other side of the world!

Kimiora

Five minutes of fame with Lattitude NZ



We have recently had the chance to speak to a few of our volunteers who have recently returned from their placements overseas. These visits resulted in a couple of videos which are available to watch on YouTube™ or can be accessed via our



Website or blogs. If you have recently returned from a Lattitude placement and would like to be the star of our next video then please contact the office ASAP (before we lose our video producer, Laura).

Staff News



Our intern Laura, who has been with us for seven months, will be leaving us in December. As part of her internship with Lattitude Laura will now swap working in the Lattitude for a six month placement at Kosi Bay School in South Africa. Laura will be teaching children in a class of at times up to 65. It will be an experience I am sure! Laura has been an incredible asset to the office and has had a major impact on our IT usage. She has been involved at all stages of our Lattitude programme, including a four week tour of the North Island doing presentations at schools, interviewing applicants, and attending pre departure briefings. We would like to wish her all the very best for the future. **We hope to have a new intern in 2010 so watch this space!**

As promised we have managed to get hold of a wedding photo from Katie's big day. Ever classy, Katie, Graeme and their family from England and Scotland had a lovely day. It's great to have Katie back at work. Those of you who have not yet met Katie will get the chance to meet her at pre-departure briefings in Auckland and Palmerston North.



The Lattitude New Zealand Bag Competition



The winner of this month's world famous Lattitude New Zealand bag competition goes to Andrew, who is currently placed at Palmerston North Boys High School. Andrew has got involved with his local community by joining a twilight cricket league, and was recently awarded their player of the day award. Ever the committed Lattitude volunteer, Andrew got his picture snapped with *that* red bag!

Congratulations Andrew, come and annoy us in the office to claim your prize.

Important Dates for 2009 / 2010

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

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