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Greeting From Sharyn

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June is another busy month for Lattice in New Zealand. We aim to complete interviews around the country by the middle of June and will then begin the process of matching volunteers to their placements. The exciting part of our process!

We are still receiving many enquiries from people interested in placements in 2011. We have a closing date of April 23 to enable us to process the large number of applications we receive from applicants wanting to go a school placement in the UK. Our application numbers for placements at UK schools are very high this year. We will prioritise the people who got their applications in prior to the closing date of April 23 for these placements. Having said that, there are still placements available in the UK in outdoor education placements and community work placements for those really wanting to go to the UK. These placements have had excellent feedback from those volunteers who have participated in them in previous years. We have much greater flexibility for all other countries so if you are still considering volunteering overseas next year please do contact us in the office to discuss your options.

I would also like to draw your attention to some recent research from the Ministry of Education that indicates that people who have had a gap year do very well at university. We have certainly had much anecdotal feedback that this is the case so we are really pleased to see some NZ based evidence to support this.

Finally a number of our volunteers in country will be drawing near the end of their placements. They have been here since August last year and February this year and have done a great job. We would like to wish them well for the remainder of their placements, and thank their hosts without whom their placements would not be possible.

Gap Students perform better at University

Recently published in the Sunday Star Times (23/05/2010) was an article that stated studies by the Ministry of Education show that students who take a 'gap year' before starting university are more likely to succeed.



The research looked at how students who had achieved the National Certificate of Education Achievement at level 3 and attained University Entrance standard performed in their first year at university study. It found among those with lower school achievement, students who took a year off showed higher levels of performance at university than those who progressed directly to tertiary study after leaving school.

Students who take part in a 'gap year' are pushed outside of their comfort zone experiencing challenging situations forcing them to become more independent, thus increasing their confidence within themselves. The researchers quote "The improvement in university performance for students who took a gap year derives from the fact that only motivated or confident students enroll in tertiary studies after taking a break."

"Those students who are not motivated, or lack confidence in their ability, do not continue with their studies."

The government has foreshadowed that from 2012 some tertiary education funding will be tied to successful students outcomes. That means that universities may have to become more selective about who they enroll.

Get a head start with Fundraising!

We are excited to hear from some of our 2011 applicants who have gathered together through school to organise fundraising events. Remember the earlier you start, the more time you have to get your funds together.

Raising thousands of dollars can be a daunting prospect, especially when added to the commitments of school or university. There are a few things to bear in mind when you are planning an event. So here are our top five tips for successful fundraising:

1) Don't be afraid to promote your cause

You are giving up your time for free, and helping others at the same time. Don't be afraid to sell yourself and your cause; ask for donations, raffle prizes, and man power. If you don't ask for help, you likely won't receive any.

2) Make the most of your skills

If you are a keen sportsperson put on a charity tournament. If you're a good cook then think about selling home made produce at work, school or university. Make the most of talents and resources available to you and you will be surprised how easily an event comes together and how quickly the dollars come rolling in.

3) Don't forget the extras

Raffles are a real money spinner, and you can often get prizes donated by local businesses. If you add raffles, lucky dips or add-on sales to an event it can really bring the totals up at the end of the day.

4) Tell people where their money is going

People are far more likely to donate a little extra when they know where their money is going. If you have exact details of where you are going and what your role will be, then publicise it.

5) Make it Fun!

People will be more likely to empty their pockets if they are having a good time. Especially at a bigger event, if people feel that they are getting value for money and are having a good time then events will run smoothly.

Keep us updated in the office and let us know if you need further help with fundraising. If you would like a list of volunteers in your area so that you can organise group events, then please don't hesitate to get in contact.



Focus on...Vanuatu

Vanuatu is a collection of islands with a unique blend of intact tribal communities, resorts, beaches and geography ranging from accessible volcanoes to pristine underwater environments, offering unique and memorable experiences. Projects would suit volunteers who would like to get involved in organic education.



Vanuatu offers Volunteers the chance to work as a full time teacher assistant in primary and secondary schools. Volunteers will teach subjects from their own education background, and help with extra curricular activities, according to their interest. Most schools are very under resourced, and you will directly contribute to Ni-Vanuatu students' education, improving their opportunities for the future. Placements last up to 6 months. Volunteers can choose between a January or a June departure date.



Returned and current volunteers have developed an impressive fluency with the Vanuatu *lingua franca*: Bislama. In some schools this is critical for their success as a volunteer, but in all cases it is highly beneficial for acceptance and communication within the local community. An introduction to Bislama is included in your week of in-country orientation.

If you are looking to challenge yourself to a completely different way of life, then Vanuatu may well be the choice for you. If you are interested in volunteering in Vanuatu with Latitude please contact the office.



Placements Available for 2011

Our brochure and application form are available for download on our website www.lattitude.org.nz or you can email info@lattitude.org.nz with your postal address to have a paper copy mailed to you.

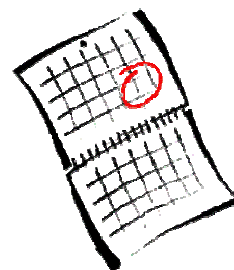
Below is a summary of countries, work types and departure dates on offer:

Area	Country	Placement Work Types	Departure Dates
The Americas	Canada	Community	Jan or Feb or Mar
		Education—Schools Assistant	Jan or Sep
		Outdoor Education	Jan through to Jun
	Mexico	Community, Education—English Teaching	Feb or Aug
	Argentina	Community	Mar or Aug
Africa	South Africa	Education—Schools Assistant/Teaching, Environment, Outdoor Education	Jan or Jul
Asia	China	Education—English Teaching	Feb or Aug
	Vietnam	Education—English Teaching	Feb or Aug
The Pacific	Vanuatu	Education—Teaching	Jan or Jun
Europe	Poland	Education—English Teaching	Jan or Sep
	Ireland	Community, Outdoor Education	Jan or Mar
	UK	Community, Outdoor Education	Jan or Mar

Note: At this time all UK/Ireland School placements are now full.

Important Dates for 2010 and 2011

- June 5th—Get-together for Volunteers currently placed in New Zealand (in Palmerston North)
- April to June—Interviews for 2011 departures to take place
- June—Vanuatu departure
- July—South Africa departure
- August— Mexico/Argentina departure
- 27th August—Incoming volunteers arrive into New Zealand from the UK, Canada and Germany
- September—Poland and Canada departures
- October/November—Pre-departure briefings for 2011 departures
- January 2011– Departures commence to the UK, South Africa etc



Brad in Scotland

Rugby



Getting involved with a sports team or other club outside of your placement is a great way to meet new people and learn more about the local community. Many Volunteers have joined outside activities on arrival in country once they are aware of their timetables etc and placements are usually keen to encourage them to take part.

Here are some photos of Brad from Oamaru, New Zealand who is a volunteer in Scotland, playing for his rugby team, Strathmore RFC at Murrayfield in the Scottish hydro bowl final.

Sam in the UK

Hi Everyone

I spent my first half term up in London with two other gappies, Pip and Kate. It was a good week and we did lots of sightseeing. We went and saw the Abercrombie and Fitch store, the Changing of the Guards, the National Portrait Gallery, Hard Rock Café, Harrods (a department store), British Museum, Abbey Road, Big Ben, Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Imperial War Museum, Kensington Palace, Tower of London, London Bridge, Royal Bank, The Monument, Greenwich, Shakespeare's Globe and St Paul's Cathedral. We also went into Madame Tussauds (the wax museum.) I also did the London Eye which is really awesome being able to see all over London, but the best was London Dungeons. So that was basically my week in London.



I then came back to school. I am still working Yr3/4, Yr6 and Yr7 Science, along with Yr7, Yr5/6 and Pre-Prep PE and Manor and Prep Games and now Yr6 English, where they read to me and one Yr7 Math's, so I am keeping myself busy.

Once the term finished we had a 3 week holiday. I started off first by going to Belgium. My first day there I went to Ypres which is where there are a lot of war graves. I hired myself a bike and biked around the cemeteries. It was an amazing experience. It was also very cool to see F.C Bakers grave, his name is the first name on the Whangarei Boys' High School roll of honour, so it was a very cool experience. Well the next day I saw Grote Market in Brussels before heading out to Liegge and catching up with Chase for the afternoon. The

next few days I was in Brussels and saw the Manneken Pis, Jubel Park, Notre Dame Church, The Atomium, The Palace of Justice, The Synagogue and The Cathedral. I also tried Belgium waffles and chocolate, they are amazing.

Well from Brussels I flew out to Edinburgh and spent a week in Scotland with Lucy another Gappy. While in Scotland we saw The Castle, Edinburgh Zoo, Murrayfield Stadium, The Aquarium, Greyfriar Bobby's grave. We then went to Glasgow for a night and saw The People's Palace but unfortunately it rained. However Scotland was really nice and reminded me of home. I flew back and managed to get back to Seaford for a day to do some much needed washing.



After being back for a day I flew out again this time to Denmark. Whilst in Denmark I saw the old family home called Marienborg. It was really cool to see and something I won't forget. I also spent a lot of time in Copenhagen seeing the Botanical Gardens, the Royal Guards, art museums, Rosenborg Castle, St Paul's Church, the Museum of Danish Resistance.

Well I have been back at school now for 3 weeks. We had a bank holiday weekend, so went and had a night out in Brighton, and last week I spent a few days helping with exam supervision. But apart from that not much has happened. Hope all is well back in NZ and I will be in touch soon.

Sam

Becki in NZ

As a drama student, I was really keen to help with anything that involved drama during my stay at Napier Girls High School, so I was delighted when the Head of the Drama Department asked me to help out in the school production of "Footloose".

It was a great chance to meet people from Napier Boys High, as both schools join together every other year to create a school production.



Helping out in auditions was awesome-although I felt very mean having to tell people they weren't good enough!

The next three months consisted of hard work from the cast and as we got closer to the opening night, we moved into the City's local theatre and Chris gave me the job of Stage Manager which was really cool and a completely new (and stressful!) experience for me as I'm used to working on stage NOT behind it!

The show turned out to be a great hit with the audience and the whole experience was fantastic and allowed me to see a production from a completely new perspective and also gave me the chance to meet more awesome people!

Becki