

FEBRUARY 2010

Greeting From Sharyn

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February is the beginning of our recruitment period for New Zealanders wanting to depart in 2011. We have therefore been busy doing presentations around the country. A big thanks to those returned volunteers who have been helping to spread the word by doing presentations as well. Having a gap year is such a valuable experience we are certainly aiming to make this available to all young New Zealanders. With good planning combined with some fundraising it should be achievable to the large majority of young people. We are delighted to be able to offer 2 scholarship opportunities in the hope that this will provide further assistance to those in need. Recent feedback from Gill, the mother of Monique who spent 9 months at Downe Activity Centre in the UK shows the value of a gap year. "Monique, after her gap experience, travelled with the other 5 volunteers for 2 months, and arrived home at Christmas time. Yes it was the best experience for her, and she has come home focused and off to Lincoln University for 2010. While she was in London, she applied for a "gap year scholarship", and was awarded one to Lincoln University—\$4500 over two semesters, so that pays for her fees. Isn't that wonderful? And a great opportunity. The scholarship to Lincoln University is especially for people that have had a gap year, and it's called a 'gap year scholarship' " For those of you who are concerned that a gap year may have a detrimental affect on university studies, you can be reassured. We are delighted by the large number of returned volunteers who are popping in to visit us at the office (on the Massey University Campus)—we know from them and the other returned volunteers attending university around the country that they feel well prepared for their university career.

Exciting News about our Scholarships



Lattice New Zealand is delighted to announce that our two scholarships positions will now be sponsored primarily by NZ Travelbrokers and Air New Zealand, with support from Contiki and QBE. We are delighted to be able to receive the support of our National Carrier, Air New Zealand. Our group flights to the UK will now also be flying Air New Zealand.



The sponsorship positions are specifically targeted towards young New Zealanders who would make great volunteers, but who due to their financial or personal circumstances



would not be able to afford to volunteers overseas without assistance. The scholarships are available to any New Zealand residents. They require applicants to be nominated with a covering letter explaining their personal circumstances and why they are deserving of a scholarship. Applications close on March 19. The successful recipients will receive fully funded Lattice placements to the UK, departing in January 2011 for a 12 month placement. This includes all Lattice fees, flights, travel insurance and visa costs. The top applicant will also receive a Contiki tour of Europe. We would like to thank NZ Travel Brokers, Air New Zealand, Contiki and QBE for their support. Application forms are available on our website www.lattice.org.nz or contact the office for more details.

Discover a world of possibilities.

Placements Available for 2011

Applications are now open for departures in 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.

Applications close on Friday April the 23rd. Any applications received after this date will be on a first come-first served basis and will be dependent on placement availability. 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
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
		Education—School Assistant	Jan
	UK	Community, Outdoor Education	Jan or Mar
		Education—School Assistant	Jan

Orientation—January 2010



On Saturday 30th January we welcomed 12 new volunteers into New Zealand. We went to the Auckland Museum and also took a (rainy) harbour cruise as well as giving the volunteers lots of time to get to know each other. The volunteers are placed at schools all over New Zealand from Auckland to Gore and by all accounts are settling in to their



placements well. They join the 55 other volunteers already in New Zealand at school and camp placements.

Great feedback from placements hosting New Zealand volunteers

It's always great to hear from Lattitude hosts that our volunteers are doing well and we were pleased to receive this email from Peter Manning, the Senior Master at Shrewsbury School regarding 2 New Zealand volunteers that departed in January:

"I thought you might like an update on how Ben and Will are getting on at Shrewsbury School.

It has been a very chilly start for them with a good deal of snow in the first few weeks and some dark mornings which must have been quite a shock to anyone coming from an Australasian summer !

We are delighted with both of these volunteers who have already made a significant contribution to the life of the school, both in and out of the classroom. Ben has been helping with a junior Physics set. The Head of Physics writes " Boys like him and he is sensitive and supportive. He has even done some teaching on his own." His Boarding Housemaster writes "He is great in the house and on the Rugby pitch. A really nice guy who gets on extremely well with boys and staff." Will has been helping with junior classes as well as putting in time on the rugby pitch where his technical expertise comes in extremely handy. I am very hopeful that things will continue in this positive manner and see no reason why they should not." Well Done Ben and Will!

Focus on... Outdoor Education Placements



We find many people want to go to the UK to be a teaching assistant at a boarding school and do not consider a placement at an outdoor education centre to be an option. However we are getting more and more good feedback from volunteers returning from placements at outdoor education centres and we wanted to highlight some of the benefits of going there. Reece and Linda have just returned from a 7 month placement at Fairthorne Manor, a YMCA camp near Southampton in the UK. "Fairthorne Manor is the best place ever, You can have fun whatever the weather. Kayaking, Canoeing, Archery, We feel like a family. Yeeehhaa!!!!" The camp song was made up by some of the camp kids that came for a week and had such a good

time. Linda (Tippy - her camp name) said "It's the best job you will ever have." She was trained in water sports, kayaking and canoeing and is now a fully qualified instructor. "You have just spent 13 years of your life at school - so break out and do something different" she says. "It was awesome seeing the kids develop during the week and gaining in confidence and trying new things. It was great what a difference you could make to some of the kids lives."

Reece said outdoor placements are well worth going to because "you gain some cool qualifications and life experience, you have to be responsible as you have the kids safety in your hands." You can actually have more hands on time instructing children at a camp than at some of the school placements.

People who may be concerned that they will not have an opportunity to travel should not be worried. Reece travelled independently around a number of European countries. Liking a challenge Reece said it was not too much trouble to find his way around. He went to France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic. Tippy did an organized Top Deck Tour - 26 days and 14 countries, including the ones Reece went to and also Italy, Greece, Albania, Croatia, Slovenia, Amsterdam, Sweden and Denmark.

For further information about outdoor education camps please see our website www.lattitude.org.nz or phone the office (06) 350 5920.

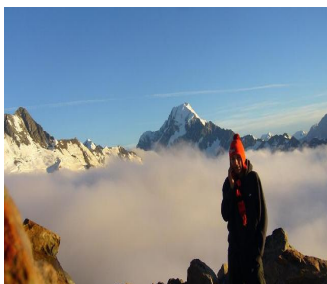


News from Volunteers in New Zealand

Roman arrived in NZ August 2009 and was able to arrange an unpaid internship during his summer break...

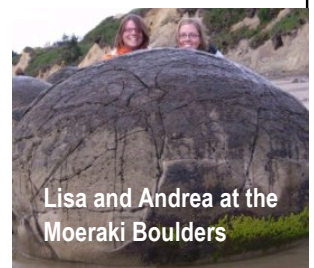
"Just finished my work experience with HELIPRO on Sunday after nearly 2 weeks. I really enjoyed it and learned so much. I got the chance to actually be on the chopper, I went to the Marlborough Sounds to unload people from the aircraft. Furthermore, I experienced lifting with helicopters and firefighting (we didn't fly to put the fire out but prepared the helicopters for a fire in Wellington) which is very rare back home. I got along well with everyone involved Overall, this has been an outstanding summer which I miss already!!"

Ben arrived in NZ August 2009 and has sent us photos from his summer break ...



Ben spent the holidays walking the Tongariro Crossing and snorkelling in the Coromandel amongst other things. His group even had to push their car along Ninety Mile Beach when it broke down!

Message from Lisa who arrived in NZ August 2009 ... "Andrea and I had an awesome trip on the South Island during our holidays. We started with the Abel Tasman Track in December (I think there were about 18 Gappies doing that). Then we celebrated a German-Kiwi Christmas on a cute little campground in Marlborough Sounds with still about 14 people. Afterwards the others headed off to the North Island or Australia and Andrea and I went south on our own. Well, we had our car "Alan" as a company ;-). He's been amazing and took us once around the whole island. We cracked the 500,000kms on the car somewhere near Slope Point. We saw so many different things and met friendly people, it's been incredible! After four weeks of sleeping in the car, having rice or noodles for tea, public toilets and rare showers we went back to Taranaki in mid-January. The rest of the holidays we spent here which was really cool cause we could enjoy Taranaki's summer. I always thought it would never get hot here but finally even in rainy Stratford you were able to jump into the school's pool. We're now back to normal school life. As normal as it could be with the little year 9s arriving, being homesick and testing out how far they can go and the big rush with everyone else back in the hostel yesterday. But it's good to be back and we're looking forward to the rest of our time here. It'll probably fly by as the first half of the year did!"



Lisa and Andrea at the Moeraki Boulders

Departures from New Zealand



Jose Luis, our local representative in Mexico, sent through some photos of the first New Zealand volunteers to go to Mexico. Jose Luis organised their orientation, a Spanish speaking course and some teaching skills advice. Ameera and Tiffany are teaching English to Mexicans studying different courses at a University but who need to have English as part of their qualification. By all accounts Ameera and Tiffany are doing well and settling into their placements.

We've also farewelled some more volunteers heading to Canada this month and wish them all the best. Our next departure is to the UK on 23rd March and we will be seeing off 18 volunteers.

News and Photos from Volunteers Overseas

Message from Grace who was placed at Tolmers Scout Centre in the UK in 2009... "Just wanted to thank Lattitude for everything they did for me. My GAP year was the most amazing time of my life, I think that everyone should be made to do one as soon as they turn 18. Thanks again so so much. Hope everyone else enjoyed/ enjoys their GAP year as much as I did."



One of our recent arriving volunteers in the UK—**Michelle—who is placed at The Abbey School—**featured in a BBC news story about

volunteering.

The article can be found by clicking on this link: http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/berkshire/hi/people_and_places/newsid_8525000/8525003.stm

Michelle, who is staying in Reading until December 2010, says she is not really sure what she will do when she goes home. "I think this is the year to find out who I am and what I want to do. I think I will go to university but I'm sure that this year will set me down a path. I do miss my parents and being independent does have its drawbacks - I have to make my own dinner everyday and I miss having my mum downstairs to just go and talk to. I'm sure everyone misses that and the teachers are really lovely. It feels like home here at school at the moment."

Photos from Fran, one of our current volunteers in South Africa, who is placed at Hope Valley Farm School in KwaZulu Natal...



Teaching

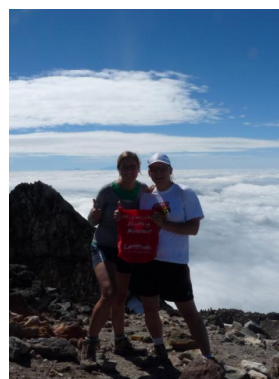


Swimming Lessons

Important Dates for 2010

- Now to April —NZ departures to Canada
- **March 19th—applications for scholarships close**
- March 23rd —Departure to the UK
- **April 23rd—official closing date for 2011 departures**
- April to June—interviews for 2011 departures to take place
- June 5th—Get-together for Volunteers currently placed in New Zealand (in Palmerston North)
- June—Vanuatu departure
- July—South Africa departure
- August— Mexico departure
- 27th August—incoming volunteers arrive into New Zealand from the UK, Canada and Germany
- September—Poland and Canada departures
- November/December—Pre-departure briefings for 2011 departures

The Lattitude New Zealand Bag Competition



This month's winner is Lisa who together with Andrea (her fellow volunteer in Taranaki) climbed Mt. Egmont/Taranaki and posed with her bag at the top! Lisa—email us to collect your prize!

We see some great photos of volunteers here in NZ and overseas with their Lattitude bags on Facebook and around the web but please remember you need to email your photo to us to be in with a chance of winning! Winners can choose

from 2 great prizes—The Great NZ Songbook CD or KiwiSpeak book. Both prizes have been chosen because we think they are a great memento of home for New Zealanders currently overseas and are a great souvenir of kiwi life for volunteers placed in New Zealand.

To enter the bag competition—please email your entries to intern@lattitude.org.nz by the 20th of each month!

