

# LATTITUDE

## GLOBAL VOLUNTEERING

# New Zealand Newsletter

JANUARY 2010

Greeting From Sharyn

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Welcome to the First newsletter of 2010. This year has already got off to a busy start with a large number of volunteers departing to the UK, Canada, South Africa and Mexico in January. We are very excited about our first two volunteers about to depart for a six month placement in Mexico. We would like to wish Ameera and Tiffany all the very best for their time away.

I have recently returned from the UK after accompanying our largest departure to the UK. Their arrival to the UK was met on the first night with snow. While this was very picturesque and exciting for the volunteers it also provided an excellent example of the benefits of the support provided by Lattitude Global Volunteering. The snow caused chaos throughout the UK meaning many schools were closed and all forms of transport was severely disrupted. Our volunteers were safe and sound at Reading University and able to stay one or two extra nights. Hosts and onward travel for 150 volunteers were sorted by Lattitude staff in the UK and volunteers eventually got to their placements. I would hate to have been a young person arriving on their own trying to rearrange their plans as many schools were unable to be contacted as they were not open. Thanks to the Lattitude staff in the UK for looking after our volunteers so well.

### Scholarships Available for 2011 departures

We are pleased to announce that our travel agent NZ Travel Brokers, along with Contiki will be funding two scholarship positions again in 2010. The first two successful recipients have just departed for the UK. These scholarships are targeted specifically for young New Zealanders who would make great volunteers but who due to their personal or financial circumstances would not be able to afford to go overseas. Applications will be open shortly for these positions and will require people to be nominated by a school principal, careers advisor, sports coach or lecturer who can attest to their personal circumstances. Special Scholarship Application forms will be sent to all school principals and careers advisors and will be available on our website. If you are from a different organisation and wish to nominate someone please contact the office for a scholarship application form.

### Applications Open for 2011 Departures

Applications are now open for departures in 2011. Our brochure and application form are available for download on our website <http://www.lattice.org.nz> or you can email [info@lattice.org.nz](mailto:info@lattice.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.

Discover a world of possibilities.

*Last Few Remaining Vacancies for 2010*

\*\*\* URGENT \*\*\* URGENT \*\*\* URGENT \*\*\* URGENT \*\*\* URGENT \*\*\* URGENT \*\*\*

Immediate/ASAP—We have been offered 4 school placements in the UK for immediate or at the latest March 2010 departures. There are 3 female vacancies and one position for a male with strong rugby skills.

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

*Departures from New Zealand*



Another Palmy departure

January is always our busiest time of year for saying farewell to our New Zealand volunteers about to embark on their big adventures. This year has been no different.

January saw 73 volunteers heading to the UK from around New Zealand. They attended an orientation on arrival in the UK which was unexpectedly longer than planned due to the worst snow in the Reading area of the UK for years! The volunteers travelled to their placements as soon as it was safe to travel and

from all accounts are starting to settle in.

3 volunteers (including our intern, Laura) arrived in South Africa on the 9th January ready for their orientation and to start their placements.

And at the end of this month we are very excited that our first 2 New Zealand volunteers are travelling to Mexico.

We would like to wish all our volunteers the very best and hope to have news from them in the not too distant future.

We have more departures planned throughout the year.



Timaru Volunteers leaving Christchurch



St. Hilda's Girls leaving Christchurch



Christchurch Departure to the UK



Palmerston North volunteers and Sharyn heading to Auckland

## Focus on... Lattitude New Zealand Internship

After the success of our first intern, Laura, who is now in South Africa at her teaching placement—we are currently on the lookout for an intern for 2010.

The role of intern is designed for new graduates or returned Lattitude volunteers who have an interest in international development, or similar and are keen to gain basic experience of working in a not for profit organisation in a related field. The intern will work with the New Zealand Lattitude team in different roles including recruiting and preparing New Zealand volunteers prior to their departure overseas and supporting international volunteers placed in New Zealand. The role will include public speaking, marketing, national travel and the successful applicant will gain a wide and varied experience.

This post will be advertised on [www.seek.co.nz](http://www.seek.co.nz) and if you are interested in finding out more please contact Michelle at [info@lattitude.org.nz](mailto:info@lattitude.org.nz) for a job description.

And here is some news from Laura (our 2009 intern) on her first days in South Africa...

**"I'm currently in Jo'burg, tomorrow Thomas and I (the guy I'm volunteering with) are getting on a 36 hour bus journey to Kosi Bay, which is certain to be a bit of an experience. SA so far has certainly lived up to my expectations of it being a land of contradictions. To enter our hostel you have to press a buzzer on a gate, go through a sort of holding area and then through another electronic gate. The whole place is surrounded by either this double fence system, or ten foot high walls, which kind of gives the impression of a gated community. That being said though, when we have gone out I haven't felt unsafe, and have found almost all of the South Africans I have met to be some of the friendliest, generous and fun loving people.**



The issue of Race is still a massive one though. It is evident in all aspects of life, for example at the hostel the management are white while the domestic staff are black. You very rarely see a white person in a mini van taxi, which is one of the main forms of transport for the poorer demographic, and although segregated house is officially no longer the case, there are still huge swathers of the city that are deemed as Black, or White, There are also serious No go areas, like some of the inner city suburbs. The orientation has been good so far, yesterday we went to the constitutional courts, which has been built on the site of the old prison which housed a lot of political prisoners in the apartheid era. Personally I was like a pig in muck reading about all these heroes of human rights who were imprisoned, and seeing living history of how a country that has tried to re-build itself. We also went to Soweto and **saw Mandella's house, which is now a museum. I'm looking forward to getting to KwaZulu Natal now, and starting work. Although I am a little daunted by the prospect of teaching 60 10 year olds at a time!"**

## Kirsty in Canada 2009

Kirsty spent 6 months in Nova Scotia at Camp Big Cove in 2009. Here is an email we received from her on her return to New Zealand....

**"I recently returned from my placement in Canada. I was working in Big Cove YMCA Camp and words cannot describe how much I enjoyed it!! It really was a life changing experience and I am actually planning on returning next year to work again. Sorry I hadn't been in touch with you alot throughout my placement time as my 6 months was extremely full on as you can imagine! I just wanted to say a HUGE thank you so, so much for giving me the wonderful opportunity. It really is one that I will never forget and I have made so many life-long friends along the way. I had also heard through the Camp Director that there are 'gappers' working at camp next year from NZ, Australia, and Britain. I would really love to get in contact with them to get to know them and also let them know what there in for! Once again THANKYOU =] !" Kirsty**



## News from Volunteers Overseas



From Kathryn at a school on Vancouver Island in Canada...

Hey there from QMS, Vancouver Island!

I got here last Friday afternoon (8th) and got taken to a local hostel, which was nice because I met so many cool people from all kinds of different places over the world. I travelled a bit round Vancouver with some friends on the Saturday and they showed me some neat sites but the weather makes it hard to appreciate how awesome it is! The school I am at is great and I share a two bedroomed house with two other gappies, which is nice. The food is great (none of your American junk) and everyone is so helpful and willing to cater to your strengths and desires. This week-end we are heading out to Victoria (the Capital) to do some sightseeing and probably some shopping. The Winter Olympics starts soon in Whistler so everyone is getting excited about it and it seems very real being so close to it! Anyway that's about it from me now! I will update you when I have more to tell! *Kathryn*

News from Alex, one of our successful 2009 scholarship applicants, who arrived at Dover College earlier this month...

"We were warmly greeted by Jac Palmer who is the House Mistress of our house which we reside in. DUCKWORTH



Alex and friends enjoying the snow

HOUSE. The smallest house but I can already feel my patriotism to this house starting. There is around 20 girls in this dorm from ALL over the world its amazing. We were shown the ropes on Thursday however with the uncanny snow it wont be until tomorrow that we really get into some sort of working routine. Apparently we have sports every afternoon with the kids so I am really looking forward to that. Everyone here is lovely. The staff are so warm and welcoming I feel right at home. We had chapel today, which isn't a regular thing but I enjoyed going. Had a lovely Sunday roast for lunch and as we always eat at the top table.

Verdict Week 1: Happy and settled :)"

## The Lattitude New Zealand Bag Competition



The winner of this month's world famous Lattitude New Zealand bag competition is Sam Crawford, who arrived in the UK to the biggest snowfall in years. He decided to send us a Lattitude Bag inspired Snow Angel. Sam will be volunteering at Newlands School in the South East of England this year.

Sam—email Katie to collect your prize! You can choose between the Kiwi Speak book or the Great NZ Songbook CD—hopefully your prize will be a nice reminder of home!

## Important Dates for 2010

- Now— we still have vacancies for some countries and are accepting applications. Please apply urgently to avoid missing out!
- January 30th —Orientation for incoming vols who will be placed at New Zealand schools
- January 30th —First departure to Mexico
- January— April —NZ departures to Canada
- February 6th — NZ departures to Poland
- February 26th—Intern applications close
- March 19th—applications for scholarships close
- March 23rd —UK departure
- April 23rd—official closing date for 2011 departures
- April—June—interviews for 2011 departures to take place
- June—Vanuatu departure
- July—South Africa departure
- August— Mexico departure
- August—incoming volunteers arrive into New Zealand
- September—Poland departure

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