

JULY 2010

Greeting from Sharyn

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July is a somewhat sad time at Lattice in New Zealand as we prepare for many of the British, German and Canadian volunteers to complete their placements and leave New Zealand. Most of them have been placed in boarding school or outdoor camp placements since August last year, with a smaller group arriving in January of this year. Many of them finished their placements at the end of term two with a few remaining for a few more weeks. It is a privilege to have met them all and see the development in them. From their nervous arrival at Auckland airport to the talented, confident and independent young men and women they have become it has been great. We would like to congratulate them on their successful completion of their placements and wish them a safe trip home and all the best for their future. We would also like to thank their wonderful hosts, without whom we could not make such an experience possible. Many of our hosts go above and beyond what is expected of them to ensure our volunteers have an incredible experience while in New Zealand. THANK YOU!

On the other hand July is also an exciting time for us and New Zealand applicants who are waiting to have their placements confirmed for next year. Offer letters are going out on a daily basis at the moment and it is great to see how excited everyone is on receiving their offers. Please do not be concerned if you have not had your offer yet. We are about half way and will contact you as soon as we hear anything. Alternatively you are more than welcome to phone us in the office if you have any questions.

Our UK and Canadian School Placements remain in high demand. We have currently matched all of our male volunteers. We will now accept applications from male volunteers who may be interested in a school placement in the UK on a limited basis—applicants should be prepared to go on a waiting list for a period of time while placements are confirmed. Female placements are in higher demand this year due to the large number of female applicants so we cannot accept any applications for female volunteers at present. We will update you should this change.

We have placements available in all other countries so if you are still thinking about what to do next year it is not too late to apply! Contact us urgently for more information.

Pre-departure Briefings

Pre-departure Briefings are a great opportunity for volunteers to meet others who they may be travelling with, or even placed with. It is an important step in the establishment of a support network while you are away. It is also a good opportunity for parents or other family members to meet us, as well as other parents who will be in the same boat as yourselves.

We already have dates confirmed for pre-departure briefings for 2011 departures. Venues will be confirmed at a later date and we will ask volunteers to RSVP nearer the time. In the meantime please add the date for your nearest briefing to your diary so you don't forget.

Christchurch

30th October

9.30 am—2.30pm

Palmerston North

6th November

10.00am—3.00pm

Auckland

7th November

9.30am—2.30pm

Focus on.....Vietnam

Vietnam, officially the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is the eastern most country on the Indochina Peninsula in Southeast Asia. It is bordered by China to the north, Laos to the northwest, Cambodia to the southwest, and the South China Sea to the east.

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 brutality that they have been subjected to over the last 150 years.



Learning English is seen as an avenue to a prosperous future in Vietnam and Latitude volunteers take on a position of responsibility as they teach English to people of all ages. Volunteers will help up to 40 students at any one time and will enjoy the respect of students as you will be highly regarded. During their stay, volunteers will witness their students become more confident and eager to practice speaking English!



Latitude has been sending volunteers to Vietnam for a number of years. Vietnam is a great placement for volunteers looking to gain a unique experience. Immerse yourself in the local culture and witness first hand the intense history that the country offers. If you are interested in volunteering in Vietnam for Latitude then please contact the office.

News from South Africa

Below is a email we received from Alan, a teacher as well as a mentor for the volunteers at Kosi Bay School in South Africa. It is great to hear such fantastic feedback about our volunteers.



"Laura and Thomas were absolutely outstanding! They are a credit to their families, to their countries and to LATTITUDE. They both took their work so seriously, but were always cheerful and friendly to be with. They also were not pushed around, they were firm in their dealings with learners AND staff. Laura brought a mature, diligent demeanour with her each day and she was able to do amazing things with the kids. Thomas is a computer boffin and brought his superior knowledge and ability into practice daily in keeping our ailing, aging computers functioning.



Both did far more at our school than was ever asked and we thank them and LATTITUDE for their generosity. May ALL future placements be as good!!!! "

Get together

On Queens Birthday weekend the Latitude team here in New Zealand organised a Dinner/Get together for all the volunteers in New Zealand. Many of the volunteers were able to attend, some travelling from as far away as Whangarei, Oamaru and Christchurch to make it. The volunteers are nearing the end of their placements and it was great to hear stories of their experiences so far and to see how close their friendships have become. We wish the volunteers all the best for the remainder of their time in New Zealand and their travel home. Thank you to everyone who attended for making the night a great success!



Andrew and Ben in NZ

Here is a photo of Ben and Andrew with Mr Lindsay Carlton, Sports Coordinator. They have been volunteering at Palmerston North Boys' High School and have had an amazing time.



Charlotte in Canada



Hey,

I've been here in Canada at camp hector for a good month now! I'm absolutely loving it to bits!!! I've made some cool friends and had a million good times already!!! I'm not sure really what to write except I'm having a good time and haven't been homesick yet. Thanks for the opportunity!

Charlotte

Lattitude Bag Competition

The winner of this month's world famous Lattitude New Zealand bag competition is Lucy Dench. The photo is of Lucy, Emma, Georgia and Pip at the Edinburgh Sevens. All four girls are placed at schools in England.

Lucy—email Waipora 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!



Focus on Community Work Placements—Tess in the UK

News from Tess who is at Calvert Trust - Kielder, a caring outdoor education placement in the UK.

Well where to start... 2 months has flown by already and I feel like I have been here for absolutely ages!!

Haven't missed home that much which is good but all I can say is thank god for Skype because I think I would be lost without it! My placement is amazing, the people that work here blow me away some days with their positive attitudes and they love working here, so it really rubs off on you. It



helps when you are working with people who love doing what they are doing. Some of the guests we get here are just amazing, they bring you back down to earth. I mean we think we have a hard life or we have bad days and then I look at these guys and realise I really have nothing to be complaining about. I am really happy where I am and I would just like to say thank you to the amazing New Zealand Team that represent Lattitude, because you all have done and will continue to do a great job. I have been exploring just a little bit, I want to do more but it is a matter of working it in with work and time off. I spent a weekend in Newcastle with other gappies and spent a week in London with family!

I hope all the preparations for the next load of volunteer's is going smoothly and that there are a lot of applicants.

I love taking a step back some days and realising where I am, and how I got here. I love knowing the good work I am doing here is paying off and really helping out people that need it.

The people I live with are crazy fun and keep me on my toes :) The aussie volunteer's are good fun too. Sometimes I wish I had another kiwi to chill with but it's good that I stay in touch with basically everyone I came over here with so I catch up with them when I can!

I am on a rotating roster, which includes Caring (Feeding, helping dress the disabled), Activities assistant (Pretty much leading activities, but I always have a more experienced person with me) and Domestic (Cleaning rooms, and servicing the center in which we work in). During the World Cup we have dedicated our sports hall to football. We have turned it into World Cup Village. Two flat screen TV's that are playing football all day. The room is decorated with flags from teams all over the world that are participating. A very happy and vibrant room all day long!! Although I am very isolated the scenery here is beautiful and there is always something for you to do. You just have to be willing to go on adventures sometimes, and not know your destination till you get there. It's all about making the most of your time here. That's what a gap year is all about.

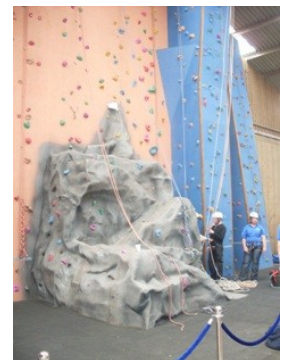


You can't always rely on others to take you places, so to find your own type of transport is helpful. Biking is very popular in the forest. It is very rewarding when you hear people saying they can already

see a change in you. Imagine what you can get out of 8 months? Time is flying by, and it only felt like yesterday i was saying goodbye to my family at Christchurch Airport. Time flies when you are having fun! I can definitely say i will not look back with regret, Things can only get better from here.

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Thanks Lattitude! :)



Argentina Vacancies

There are placements available at a school in Buenos Aires for 2011. University level candidates preferably required, this means at least 19 years or older. The placement is for 4 months.

For more information please contact the office.

Placements Available for 2011

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

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

- **Canada School Placements are now full.**
- **UK/Ireland School Placements:** We have currently matched all of our male volunteers. We will now accept applications from male volunteers who may be interested in a school placement in the UK on a limited basis—applicants should be prepared to go on a waiting list for a period of time while placements are confirmed. Female placements are in higher demand this year due to the large number of female applicants so we cannot accept any applications for female volunteers at present. We will update you should this change.

Important Dates for 2010 and 2011

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17th July—South Africa departure • 9th August— First NZ departure to Argentina! • 27th August—incoming volunteers arrive into New Zealand from the UK, Canada and Germany • September—Departures to Poland and Canada • 30th October— Christchurch Pre-departure briefing • 6th November—Palmerston North Pre-departure briefing • 7th November — Auckland Pre-departure briefing • 11th January 2011– Volunteers arrive in the UK | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16th January 2011—Volunteers arrive in South Africa • 12 February 2011– First NZ volunteers arrive in Vietnam! • 20th February 2011—Volunteers arrive in Poland • Late January 2011—Volunteers depart for Vanuatu • February 2011—Applications Open for 2012 departures! • 8th of APRIL 2011— Applications Close for 2010 departures (Please note this date is essential for volunteers wanting to go to a school placement in the UK. Applications will be received after this date for placements only if there is a vacancy in that country and will be accepted on a first come first served basis) |
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ATTENTION:

VOLUNTEERS IN NEW ZEALAND AND OVERSEAS

DON'T FORGET TO KEEP US UPDATED ON WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN UP TO. WE LOVE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS AND FEATURE THEM IN OUR NEWSLETTER.

AND DON'T FORGET TO SEND US PHOTOS WITH YOUR WORLD FAMOUS LATTITUDE BAGS TO BE IN WITH THE CHANCE OF WINNING A PRIZE.

PLEASE EMAIL ANY NEWS AND PHOTOS TO

ADMIN@LATTITUDE.ORG.NZ

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