

LATTITUDE

GLOBAL VOLUNTEERING

Aotearoa- New Zealand

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Greetings from Sharyn

March saw the last of the departures for this financial year with departures to the UK and Argentina. We now look forward to the 2011/ 12 financial year. We are busy receiving applications for departures during this period. A reminder that applications close FRIDAY 8TH OF APRIL! We already look likely to have the largest ever number of applications this year so it is important that you get your application in on time as it will mean you have a full range of options available to you. We will still receive applications after this date but they will be dependent on placement availability and will then be processed on a first come first served basis. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Lattice staff have been busy doing presentations at schools and careers events around the country. It is great to see the enthusiasm of young people considering their career options and the support of the staff at many of the schools we have visited. It is very tough for young people at present, there are so many choices for them, universities are capping entrance and fees are getting expensive and jobs are incredibly hard to come by. Taking a gap year and volunteering overseas is an excellent way of getting valuable work and life experience. We would encourage young people to really challenge themselves and consider a placement with us!



New website!

We are really excited as we are about to launch our new website. The launch is aimed to be the **29th of April 2011**. The new website is going to be hosted here in New Zealand, will be much more interactive and will give us the opportunity to have news from New Zealand volunteers. It will also have direct links to our facebook page, new blog and twitter.

To make it really exciting we need news from you in two forms. We need stories from volunteers about their placements that will be viewed as county specific stories on the website. This will be really useful for any prospective volunteers so they can see what it is really like on placement. The second and most exciting news opportunity is that you are now able to contribute directly to the Lattice blog.

To encourage you to be as excited as we are we have an incentive. We have decided to run a competition. We will have two categories: **Best story from a returned or current volunteer** which must include a photo or video. It has to be minimum of 300 words and up to 1000. There will be a winner for each country in this category. The winner will receive a \$50 iTunes vouchers. There will also be a category for the best blog. This is for current volunteers only. As our blog is not live yet you will need to send us a draft which we will post on your behalf. Again there will be a winner for each country, the best blog post winning a \$50 iTunes voucher.

But wait there is more, all country winners for each category will be have the opportunity to win a NZ\$1000 Travel brokers voucher! This can be used to purchase flights, accommodation, cruises, tours or rental cars just to give you some ideas. This will be valid for 12 months from the 29th April 2011. All entries must be submitted to the Lattice New Zealand office by **Friday the 15th of April**. All entries will be received with the understand that they will be able to be used for the website and all future Lattice media.

ARGENTINA



¡Hola! Last year Latitude NZ started sending volunteers to South America. Argentina has proved a fantastic destination so far, and the feedback from our volunteers has been all positive!

Our volunteers are working in all sorts of exciting placements. We have three different types of placements; starting with community work, smack bang in the middle of the country in a region called Cordoba, with our volunteers working with people with disabilities, and in a home with young children whose parents can no longer look after them. Volunteers who go to these placements need to want to learn Spanish, because English is fairly limited. Thankfully our local representatives offer Spanish lessons!

Volunteers also teach English, in Neuquén, the biggest city near the south region of Patagonia. They work in institutes and schools with children and adults, and get immersed in Argentine culture by living with host families. Volunteer's main job is to assist the trained Argentine English teachers and many take conversation classes. Volunteers join local sports teams, take Tango classes,

and go to numerous asados, the Argentine version of a good old BBQ. We have just opened up more of these placements in a region called San Luis.

We also have a teaching assistant placement for slightly older volunteers (19+) in Buenos Aires, in one of the top bilingual schools in the country. Volunteers have the opportunity to live in a city known as the Paris of South America.

What is the appeal for Argentina? There is much, from being immersed in a new culture which has given the world the Tango, great steak, gauchos (Argentine cowboys), and Evita just to name a few things. Our placements can prepare you for a career in a service profession like social work, or nursing, or for teaching. Regardless, if the placements have nothing to do with future career plans, its work and life experience which are always worthwhile. Learn a new language, meet new people, and explore the incredible glaciers and ski fields of the South or the massive Iguazú falls or Salt deserts of the North.



There are still teaching English placements available for August 2011- if you are interested please contact Anna Burgin aburgin@latitude.org.nz

Massey University Volunteers Expo

We are delighted to have entered a formal partnership with MAWSA, the student body for Massey University in Wellington. March 30th 2011 saw us invited to attend the volunteer expo at Massey University Wellington campus. This was an excellent day out with a number of local and international volunteer organizations present. It was great to hear Vice Chancellor Steve Maharey speak about the value of volunteering both for the community for the skills and experience gained for the volunteer. He encouraged both staff and students to consider volunteering.



News from volunteers

Hey

I am loving my placement! There is no problems at all. I just moved in with my host family 3 days ago and the first time I met them it was scary because they didn't speak much English but now I am having no problems trying to communicate with them. The first week of arrival was definitely hard to try and settle down but I managed with the other Lattitude volunteers haha! Thank you for your help. Hope all is well in New Zealand. Keep in touch!

Niki Chu



This is the first day of orientation from Brooke Cox in Buenos Aires

9th: We slept in until ten then went on the undergrounds to Central BA.. all we seem to be buying is water, it's still 33 degrees and we are all the sweating tourists while the locals are in jeans and t-shirts! The sun doesn't burn though and I'm not getting that much more tanned (obviously a real concern of mine at the moment!) Downtown you see shoe polishers and men trying to sell everything from rubbish picker uppers to roses to chewing gum! We walked to the parliament and governmental buildings and saw the Casa de Rosa where woman pray for their loved ones they have lost. Marcello, the man who is looking after us is really into McDonalds so we had that for lunch.. the meat tastes nicer though! We then had Helgado (ice-cream).. I had Dulce de leche flavour which is popular over here (it is like a caramel that they put on toast and desserts and is a flavour for everything!) and banana split. The



most amazing ice cream I have ever had hands down! We walked down the main shopping street. We were impressed with the walls of Havaiana jandals they stocked. They are popular in NZ and sell for \$50 about, here \$12 a pair. Chris who is a real laugh broke his on the first day so was glad to see that. There were street bands that set a cool atmosphere. We went on a open aired bus tour around the city showing us the main areas and monuments.

La Boca was amazing! It is the oldest part of the city and is full of funky, bright houses. It is home to the Boca Juniors, the premier football league and we saw the stadium. All around live the hooligans that attend every game. Evita is painted onto the buildings and the graffiti trend is continued.. We found out it is legal so Chris and I want to go wild when we return!

We went to this pub where there is a big metal table with dents in it from the 1880s where immigrants from Italy used to go and get drunk and bang their cups on the tables! We saw the rich areas too, where there is the Hilton and big mansions. There is a definite divide between rich and poor. For example we saw a horse on the train tracks in one area and children naked playing in a shopping trolley. Also, where I am now in Neuquen is a large contrast to what you see in the city.

After the tour, we went to a pizzeria and had cider and beer.. very refreshing after the long day in the heat. Beer here is cheaper than water! We went back to the hostel and sat on the rooftop eating and drinking that evening. We met some guys from France who are a good laugh and we found out that it is a myth, French woman do shave their armpits!!! We can see the Southern Cross and the saucepan!! We went to bed about midnight. I am sleeping so well. We get so shattered!

Hi,

Everything is good, didn't seem to have any problems arriving and meeting up with the people at the camp. A lot easier than I thought, which was good. I had my first camp group this week, which was interesting, still trying to find the best way of teaching the activities but I am sure that will come when I start to do the activities more. There are definitely bits that I expected and some bits that I didn't expect but I am still happy with the choice of coming and I think that it will teach me a lot.

Thanks

Sam



March departure to the UK

Our second departure to the UK took place on 29th March. There were 9 volunteers flying out of Auckland and 1 already over there. We are pleased to hear that they arrived safe and completed their orientation at Reading university and have arrived at their placements.

It is always an exciting but emotional time for volunteers saying good bye to their families. It certainly helps to be travelling in a group!

We have also had departures to Poland, Vietnam, Vanuatu and Argentina. We really look forward to reading their stories and seeing their photos!



Important Dates for 2011

- **8th March 2011**—Volunteer departs for Argentina
- **8th of APRIL 2011**— Applications Close for 2012 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)
- **28th March 2011**—Next departure to the UK
- **25th June 2011**—Second departure to Vanuatu
- **10 August 2011**—Second departure to Argentina
- **27th August 2011**—Second departure Vietnam
- **31 August 2011**—First New Zealanders depart for Fiji
- **September 2011**—Second departure to Poland

Interviews -We already have some interview dates set - with more to follow!

- 6th –7th April—Palmerston North
- 12th April—Palmerston North
- 13th—14th April—Wellington
- 9th & 11th May—Christchurch
- 12th May—Timaru
- 13th May—Dunedin
- 17th May—Hamilton
- 24th-25th May—Hawkes Bay
- 9th June—Gisborne
- 10th-11th June—Auckland

