



Friday + Saturday - January 24 & 25th 🏊

MALARIA SWIM – ‘Swimming the length of Lake Malawi to raise funds for mosquito nets for the children of Queens Hospital Paediatric Unit.

X7 Adults, x7 Children attended.

This was not a typical Servas Event. It started on Friday at 12lunch-time, ran all through the night and ended at lunchtime Saturday. The events aimed to get people to bring a net or pay MK2000 and swim lengths which were counted and added to a crawling upward line up Lake Malawi. Lots of people and schools took part; in Servas Malawi, Maria Greaney (newly joined), and two families took part. The Kasprzyks had x2 Servas Travellers from France staying with them - *Jacqueline and Dominique Jaussoin and it seems as if they could have been forced into agreeing to swim the 9-10am shift in order to get ‘a bed’ at the Kasprzyk house!! I thought this was very strict and I didn’t realise Servas had such a serious approach to ‘health and fitness’, ‘support-your-community’ or die rule! Valentin swam over x600lengths (totally amazing!), Mateau & Sichella 200, Uncle Chris, ‘the *visitors’ my mum, Auntie Albarine, 100each! Dad 50, me 450lengths, Lemorah 360 and Taron and Eleanor 35 lengths each. Over 100 people took part over the 24hours, music 🎵 played all night, free ☕tea+coffee & hot showers, lots of water games – *next time more Servas must be encouraged to come (are you listening mum?) even if they just walk in the water along the pool edge – every length counts!*

Albarine and Mateau



The Servas Malawi swimmers.



Jacqueline & Dominique Jaussoin: Servas France



Maria Greaney + Lemorah & Jacqueline + Sich



Note: We swam the length of Lake Malawi and halfway back down again and over \$600 was raised!!

■ Our 1st SYLE-Volunteer is almost processed!

Marian MANDAVILLE from Australia is expected mid- April 😊

SYLE-Volunteer coming to YOUR home soon! What are they and what will YOU do with them?

Malawi doesn't get many Servas Travellers and Malawi is quite an expensive country to get to and stay in. So we made up a 'SYLE-volunteer experience'. The Servas Traveller stays with x5hosts for 2nights each learning Chichewa and visiting Blantyre, and around and then goes to 2 hosts for 2weeks each; carrying out volunteer work at one of Community NGO Links. Our goal is cultural understanding, and to get some Servas Travellers to come to Malawi at last and meet and stay with us.

- ✓ **Our first SYLE-Volunteer is likely to arrive in Mid-April.**
- ✓ **She is Marian Mandaville and she is originally Dutch but now living in Australia.**
- ✓ **She will be staying with x5hosts for 2nights each, going to your work/visiting Blantyre sites.**
- ✓ **She will be learning Chichewa & working at 2 of our community links maybe Chichiri prison.**

Here are some words from her and what she is hoping for her time with us as a SYLE-volunteer.

"Getting to know and understand different cultures is a passion of mine. The best way to do that is to live and work in the country of interest. As it is not always possible to get work in another country, participating in volunteer work is also a good way to get knowledge about the country and gain a better understanding of the people and the culture. I have always wanted to go to Africa but up until now I have not had an opportunity. When I read about this SYLE programme in our Servas newsletter I became very enthusiastic and thought this could be the opportunity I was hoping for. My experience with Servas people has always been very positive

a) I think I will gain a lot from the programme such as: the experience of meeting so many hosts who contribute to the ideal of 'world peace', being in Malawi and working as a volunteer. It would be very different to work for two NGO's than teaching at a University which I did as a volunteer in Vietnam. I would love to look after babies and infants as I haven't had that opportunity.

d) After having experienced a Syle programme myself I could try to organize something similar in Australia.

b) I understand that the NGO's are doing me a favour rather than the other way around. Normally it takes a few weeks to get to know the workings of a place. However I am creative and resourceful and have had experience in a wide range of jobs which will be of assistance in my role as a volunteer.

c) I would be very pleased to talk about any topic of interest or answer any questions. I am adaptable, easy going and adventurous. I am happy to participate in any cultural event and share my knowledge or skills which I have gained in my life. If there is anything Servas people would like me to bring from Australia, I am happy to do so.



I have been a Servas host and traveller since 2008. Many hosts live in Brisbane and therefore you don't get that many travellers. However, I have had people from Denmark, Germany and Australia. In 2011 a good friend from the Netherlands came over to stay with me for a while. I suggested for her to become a Servas member before coming to Australia. She was a bit reluctant to stay with people she did not know. Fortunately, we had some wonderful stays. I wanted to show her outback Australia and we drove in my car all the way to Uluru and back (9000 km). We camped, stayed in a few motels and whenever possible with Servas hosts. Our hosts in Alice Spring were exceptionally inspiring, interesting and compassionate people. They told us we could only stay one night. She was Samoan and her husband a Maori from New Zealand. Both their jobs involved working with Australian Indigenous people. She took us to her work and gave us insight about the problems Indigenous people have in Alice Springs. She was very compassionate and knowledgeable. My friend was very impressed. She also told us that they just had become hosts and didn't know what to expect and therefore wanted us to stay only one night. Once they got to know us and it was clear that they enjoyed our company, they offered us to stay another night and with them again on our way back from Uluru. It was good to know that all of us found it to be a valuable experience. They got as much from us as we got from them