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A gap year of service

Like many other high school graduates, Guyra resident, Ashlea Turnham is going on a gap year before she starts tertiary education. However, that's where the similarity ends.

Ashlea, a member of the Guyra Seventh-day Adventist Church, has volunteered to spend the rest of this year in Thailand to help the church in its work there.

She will be teaching conversational English to a class of young children at the Seventh-day Adventist Church's school in Bangkok for four months.

After that, she will be travelling to the Thai-Burmese border with One Mission, an Adventist organisation aimed at providing community development projects within Australia and in developing countries. The group of 29 Australians will spend Christmas at a village building a playground and running kids' activities.

"I am very excited and overwhelmed by it," says Ashlea. "I've never been overseas before and this will be the first time I'm leaving home."

Ashlea graduated from Duval High School in Armidale last year and has been accepted to study photography at the International College of Creative Arts in Melbourne.



Ashlea Turnham

The Guyra Argus

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