

MUSUQ CHASKI - El Mensajero Nuevo



ProjectsAbroad



The Official Newsletter of Projects Abroad - Peru

March 2008

Issue No: 10



What's Inside...

Peru: Inside Out	2	Volunteer Stories	9
Project Updates	3	Cocina Peruana: Cooking with the staff...	10
Introducing...	4	February Diary	11
Volunteer News & Events	5	Announcements	11

New Beginnings



The month of March is a time of change here in Peru. The beginning of March is also the beginning of the new school year and a time when students and teachers alike have to get out of holiday mode after the long summer holidays which begin in mid December.

This has also brought a lot of teaching volunteers out to Peru this month to help get the new school year off to a good start in the classroom. Unlike many Western schools this start date can be a very relaxed, with few students, or even teachers, arriving within the first few days or even weeks of school. Timetable changes, days cut short, even the rebuilding of school buildings may prove frustrating to new arrivals, but this is all part of the experience, that volunteers come to learn about Peru and its culture. Arriving in a country where anything is an excuse for a fiesta or a day off, can be quite daunting for volunteers fresh off the plane though it's laid back attitude can be endearing to many, and frustrating to others.



Though schools may take a while to get back into the swing of organized learning, volunteers have the chance to help get things going on the slowly grinding cogs of the machine that is the Peruvian education system here in the Sacred Valley. The painting of classrooms, the creation of new educational materials which can be used in our partner kindergartens, the organisation of our library of teaching materials, the cleaning of kindergartens, the reorganization of our library project, all help the schools get going and mean that volunteers are not idle while the Peruvian schools are. Then, once the schools are ready for them, our volunteers are too!



Project Updates:

What's New?

The **Teaching** programme saw the end of the Teacher Training Programme which had been running since early January. Although hampered by the strikes at the end of February, this did not stop the clausura (closing ceremony) at the end of the course, with volunteers and their pupils performing songs to commemorate the end of a successful programme.



Volunteers Jacob & Malou with their class singing We will Rock You by Queen.

Schools officially opened again on March 3rd and new volunteers arriving will be able to help try and get the new school year off to a flying start. Our library book project has increased this month thanks to the help of fundraising from abroad with over 250 new books and with more coming in March...

In **Care** last month, the Summer School programme ended, with volunteers enjoying clausuras in their respective placements. Volunteers then took part in community work, including painting classrooms, creating educational materials and cleaning a kindergarten in Coya ready for the start of the new school year. Kindergartens have also begun working from the 3rd March and are eagerly waiting for volunteers to join them this school year.

The **Inca** project has been very busy this month, including the harvesting of corn and work up on the mountain. Volunteers visited new ruins with Tim where they took a small film of these new ruins which Projects Abroad volunteers had never been to before. Inca staff and volunteers were also invited to a local farewell party this month, and enjoyed food and dancing with the local people in Huyro.



Our final piece of news for this month is that our current Teaching Supervisor, Claire Pegler, will be returning to England after a year and a half living here in Peru. She arrived here in early September in 2006 as a Teaching volunteer where she taught in Pongobamba & Huayllabamba. After completing the Teacher Training programme she accepted the position of Teaching Supervisor, travelling the length of the Sacred Valley to supervise and support her teaching volunteers. She will be sadly missed by volunteers and staff alike.

Good Luck Claire & stay in touch!

Introducing...

...New Volunteers

This month we will be welcoming 25 new volunteers in the Sacred Valley, Cusco and Huyro...

Joining the other Care & Community volunteers this month will be **Jennifer Chiu** and **Cathleen Hoskins**, friends coming from the UK to work in Señor de la Vara, our special needs placement in Calca. **Anna Wilson** will be joining Maggie Conarro in kindergarten 241 in Calca. While **Elisabeth Snoddy** will be joining us from the USA to work in Media Luna. **Roland de Bruijn** will also be returning from the Inca project to take part in the Care and Community programme.

The Inca project will be welcoming a number of volunteers this month, including **Ruth Frost, Emily Linehan, Steef Engels, Jill Gray, Adam Gaffney, Pete Ward, Amy Barth,** and **Jeremy Goldsher.**

The Spanish programme this month will have one new volunteer arriving to practice and improve her language skills. **Rosanna Payne** will be joining us for a month working with the Centro Cultural Hispano-Peruano Spanish School in Pisac.

The Medicine programme will also be welcoming **Larissa Haberer** who arrives early in the month from Germany to work in Siete Cuartones, and **Darcy Werner**, who will be arriving at the end of the month from the USA.

Joining the Sports programme this month are **Paul Cohen Traevert**, from the Netherlands, and friends **William Jackson Barr & Alexander Morgan**, who will all be helping out Jaime in Apu Pituisiray Sports School.

With the start of the new school we have eight new Teaching volunteers arriving. Friends **Ottillie Chichester, Katie Ramsay, Juliet Mahoney,** and **Katharine Toller** will be arriving to get the English lessons off to a good start in Agropecuario-Calca and Humberto Luna. **Katherine Wragg** from the UK will be working in General Ollanta, while **Beth Fitzpatrick** joins us in Bernardo Tambohuacso in Pisac. Finally Canadian **Marcus Doherty** will be arriving from his conservation project in Puerto Maldonado to lend a hand in the Teaching programme.

Volunteer News & Events:

The month of February was dominated by the Carnivals, here two of our volunteers tell us more...



Annemarie Stout - Inca

How a normal Wednesday became the **wednesday!**

For many the New Year started with those typical New Year's resolutions. Here at the Inca Project at El Establo, Huyro, January brought rumours about Carnival. Not only in general about how the Peruvians celebrate it, but especially about how a certain member of staff goes frenzic.

The last week of January showed a few water balloons and the occasional handmade water pistol. I thought two contradictory things: "Thank God, I won't get totally splashed!" and "Is this it?"

The tensions rose when that member of staff planned on staying the week before Carnival in El Establo. The Monday and 'tough mountain Tuesday' of that week weren't in line with the rumours and gave no reason to look over your shoulder. So a normal Wednesday came.

And that is when it hits you !!! A full bucket smacked right in my face. That's how Carnival started in El Establo.

Everyone laughed, but realized that there was only time to throw off camera's, glasses and Ipod's. Everything that could hold a fair amount of water was grabbed and left the Tupperware shelf pretty empty. The paddling pool turned out to be the best source of water supply.

What started with water, ended with fluid mixtures that aren't even there in your worst nightmares. In between you get mud, natural bright colours from the Achiote plant and paint. For more awareness – that you really don't need and want – the contents of those mixtures was discussed regularly before use. Because of the colours the crowd turned into one massive Braveheart water attack where no one got spared. You were either under attack, attacking or numb by laughter. A few men found it all so magical that it was as if Dumbledore himself squeezed in.

Running away meant becoming the target; mud in the face and hair and a good rinse (keep the rhythm going) The phrase: "this is not the time" was completely ignored this day. To lose attention – because you were laughing about how someone else took the blow – was dangerous; you were likely to be next. The only moment for a timeout was when the pool needed to be filled up again. Where we had not been drinking unboiled water, here it was splashed into your throat if you were not careful. Parasites in El Establo weren't an issue anymore.

When the pool was empty again, the group headed for the water tank for a pre-shower rinse. But the fight continued, thanks to our watchman Sr. Garcia. The ants (big ones!!) joined in as well. Mud was again the main ingredient in the water mixture. By the way, the cows like to graze near and around this area..... It is also here where behaviour – which remains unspecified – was passed on from father to son!!!

Carnival at El Establo turned out to be a fantastic water festival. It leaves you with not many dry clothes, aches in your muscles from laughing and throwing. If you had problems or questions on this day; you could “not talk to Tim”.

We had to shower one by one, so it took some time before we headed into town. But the waiting was worth it; it is not every day that you find out that a fellow male volunteer can turn his boxers into tutu’s. We think that nibbling does the trick.....

Beers and chips at the restaurant, where we found out that volunteers can turn into local celebs. Of course the pranks went on and on. Again continuous laughter. It looked like the night would end more quietly with reminiscing that fabulous day around the bonfire. NO WAY. Before we female volunteers knew it, we were in the pool again (and wasn’t that empty in the afternoon?) !!!!!

The carnival battle started again.

The real reminiscing was after that with a beer at the table. And that is where Wednesday January 30th was declared:

the Wednesday



The Wednesday – the movie, is released soon on You Tube.



The Thursday!
Laura Gent - Teacher Training

February is a month of rain,
The heavens open again and again

But the Peruvians don't seem to mind at all,
An excuse to hold a carnival

Water fights and plenty of foam,
Children chasing you all the way home

A calm day in little Pisac,
Volunteers are out to attack

Armed with buckets and a water gun,
Towards the locals with *globos* we run

We're outnumbered, its fifty vs. five,
No idea how we're going to survive

Up to the plaza for full on war,
The local children are up for more

No idea where they're all coming from,
Malou and Jenny put their sunglasses on

Jacob throws with such great power,
Laura and Evelyn are covered in flour

We're all soaking wet, it's time to retreat,
For lots of *cerveza* and something to eat

Dancing and drinking throughout the night,
And plenty of time for another *globo* fight

Although it was fun and I shouldn't moan,
A piece of advice I wish I'd known

If in February, you're walking outside,
Be well armed or run and hide!

A Song for Claire



Although forced to take place early due to strikes, the clausura of the teacher training programme still proved to be a big success and did not stop the tradition of each class of teachers, lead by their volunteer teachers, to sing an English song to the rest of the training programme. The basic group, led by volunteer Jennifer Genten, sang a Peruvian favourite, *My heart will go on*, by Celine Dion. The lower intermediate group with Evelyn Brakema performed the Beatles well-known track, *All you need is love*. Malou Snijder & Jacob Schuetz's Intermediate group performed Queen's *We will rock you*. The higher intermediate group sang Jimmie Davis' *You are my sunshine*, led by volunteer Laura Gent. The advanced group was the final class to take to the stage, singing Auld Lang Syne with Tracy Harrower-Rennie. It was then time for the volunteers to take to the stage, with a surprise number for Teaching Supervisor, Claire Pegler. As Claire will soon be leaving us, the teaching volunteers took the opportunity to bid her farewell and thank her for all her hard work and support with the following song...



Don't leave me (Sung to the music of *Let it be*)

When I find myself in times of trouble, Claire the Queen comes to me,
Speaking words of wisdom, don't leave me
And in my hour of teaching she is sitting right in front of me
Writing words of wisdom, don't leave me

It can't be, you leave me, it can't be, you leave me,
Claire the queen of wisdom, don't leave me

And when the teachers are too late, Claire is standing at the gate,
Yelling words of warning don't be late.
For though we may be parted, we will meet again, if that's the fate
You will be in England, mate you're great

Mate you're great, mate you're great, mate you're great, mate you're great,
Writing words of wisdom, mate you're great.

And when Peru is empty, there is still a light that shines on me, shine until tomorrow
don't leave me.

I wake up to the sound of music, queen Claire comes to me,
Singing el embrujo, es así...
Es así, es así.....
Es así! Déjalo ahí.....

Emily Soames & Constance Mainwaring-Burton Care Programme *Yuca Summer School*

We are coming to the end of our two months in Urubamba and have agreed that it has been the most challenging but rewarding time of our lives. Arriving here knowing no Spanish was very difficult but before long we were in full swing of our school routine.



Our school in Yuca had children from 4-12 years old and our timetable meant that we taught English in the morning, followed by clubs after *recreo*. At first, we were a bit intimidated about standing in front of 20 riotous children so we took the more boring approach and taught numbers, animals and alphabet. But within the first 2 hours we were put on the spot to sing and dance to English songs. Their favourite songs being 'Heads, shoulders, knees and toes' and '1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive'. It didn't take long for the ipod speakers to come to class and we found ourselves dancing through the whole of *recreo* to Spice Girls, S Club 7 and Michael Jackson – a definite workout! They soon discovered Daddy Yankee and Gasolina and Shakira which both became great hits which we can safely say we have heard enough of to last a lifetime.



After three weeks, the summer school came to an end and we were asked to run our own classes in a room just off the church to keep the children busy for their last couple of weeks of their summer holidays. At first we found the prospect of having no structure quite daunting but before long the children had decided their own timetable – singing, drawing and painting in the morning and English after break. The hoola hoolas were a definite favourite as was doing the limbo with the skipping rope.

Although we would never say this any other year, Valentine's day was definitely our favourite. Receiving 20 cards EACH, was an all time record, although admittedly most of them were from girls. It was especially funny when Nienke's cards said 'Te amo knickers', which was their way of pronouncing Nienke. The name has stuck ever since!

I think we will all agree we couldn't have asked for a nicer group of children. Everyday we would be greeted by them running across the plaza to hug us, and at 12:00 they would walk us to the road and wait with us for a bus and wave us off back to Urubamba.

We were very sad to leave the school and the children, and will be even more sad to leave Urubamba. But not a day has gone by that we will ever forget.



Cocina Peruana: Cooking with the staff

This month's choice is from the Inca Project's Archeologist, Jhon Valencia...



Parihuela

Serves 6 - 8 people

A little bit of history...

Parihuela is a typical dish from the coast of Peru

Ingredients:

- 24 shellfish (similar to mussels)
- 2 crabs
- 1 cojinova (Peruvian white fish) (approx. 1kg)
- 1/2 kilo of octopus
- 1/2 kilo of squid
- 1/2 kilo of prawns
- 1/2 kilo of king prawns
- 1 kilo of tomatoes
- 1/2 kilo of onions
- 1 spring onion
- 100g of peeled garlic
- 2 large yellow chilli peppers
- 2 fresh large yellow chilli peppers
- 3 lemons
- 1/2 teaspoon of ground pepper
- 1/2 bundle of parsley
- A bundle of fresh oregano, rosemary and coriander
- 2 glasses of dry white wine
- Salt
-

Preparation:

- Put two litres of water in a saucepan and incorporate the tomatoes, the onions (chopped in four), the chopped garlic, the yellow chilli peppers (without seeds), the crabs, the shellfish, and the bones and the head of the cojinova (fish). Leave it to boil.
- Remove the shellfish (when their shells have opened) and the crabs (when they are pink) and put them to one side.
- Boil the stock for half an hour. Take out the bones and the head of the fish. Liquidise and strain the stock.
- Pour it into the saucepan and add the large yellow chilli peppers (whole and roasted), the wine and the bundles of herbs.
- Put it to one side, cook the octopus and cut it into small slices. Clean the squid and take out the cartilage and innards. Cut them into hoops. Wash the shells well. Peel the king prawns and take out the black spinal chord. Clean the prawns and take out the dark bag of the head and the eyes. Cut the fillet of cojinova (fish) into big pieces.
- Season all the seafood and fish with salt, pepper and lemon juice and put them into the stock.
- Leave them to cook for 15 minutes. Add the shellfish, the octopus and the claws of the crabs.
- Take out the bundles of herbs and the chilli peppers.
- Serve and sprinkle with chopped parsley and spring onion.

What's happening in March?

Festival	Description	Place	Date
Semana Santa	The biggest festival during March is that of <i>Semana Santa</i> , which is celebrated throughout Peru, though perhaps with the most fervour, in Ayacucho. Typically, on <i>Domingo de Ramos</i> (Easter Sunday) Jesús enters on a donkey with the devoted hundreds kneeling as he passes the palms and branches of olive trees. On the Wednesday a procession leaves the cathedral with images of the Virgin and Saint John to meet with the Nazarene in the Plaza de Armas. On Good Friday the Señor del Santo Sepulcro passes silently along the streets accompanied by the faithful dressed in black and carry large candles. On Sabado de Gloria (Easter Saturday) night many people fill the Plaza de Armas with the intention of seeing the dawn of Easter Sunday when the image of the resurrection of Christ leaves the cathedral and passes around the Plaza de Armas accompanied by colourful fireworks and the sound of bells.	Peru	20 th to 23 rd March

Announcements

- Thank you to everyone who has helped bring about this months issue of *Musug Chaski*. If you would like to contribute your experiences, stories, photos or anything else to the next edition then please send them to: hannahpartis@projects-abroad.org