

# MUSUQ CHASKI - El Mensajero Nuevo



ProjectsAbroad



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## Letter from the Editor

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Welcome everyone!

This month has seen the start of the cold nights and mornings as we come into our winter season here in Peru. Along with the cold have also come a number of unique festivities which our volunteers have been fortunate enough to be able to experience and be part of. Volunteers started the month with Día de la Madre celebrations followed with Urubamba's major festival Señor de Torrechayoc on 23rd May. See photos from this celebration on page 4.



Students from Agropecuario School in Calca who were affected by the natural disaster in February/March have been working on a play with Director Ninoska Carbajal to present to other schools in the Sacred Valley. To the left you can see a photo from rehearsals. Look out for more photos of the performance in next month's newsletter.

We'd like to thank all our volunteers for their continued good work on their projects and those who left us this month, a huge thank you and keep in touch.

Thanks also to the following people for their contributions to the newsletter:

Jorge Espinoza for his *Inside Out* articles.

Thom Gray for his volunteer story 'Peru in a Nutshell!'

Rosalyn van Houwelingen for her article 'Als Hollandse, engelse lesgeven aan Peruanen...'

As always, if you have any suggestions or comments or any articles or photos you'd like including in the newsletter, please just drop me a line on [tessaokell@projects-abroad.org](mailto:tessaokell@projects-abroad.org). I'm always happy to hear your suggestions and ideas!

All the best,

Tess

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### Día de la Madre

Jorge Espinoza

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On April 12<sup>th</sup> 1924 politicians forgot their rivalries and came together to declare the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day in Peru. Since this date, Mother's Day has been highly celebrated and this year volunteers witnessed this special day on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May.



Tradition goes that mothers would be invited to a celebration at their children's school and the children would wear flowers in their buttonholes, "a red flower for those who had a mother living and a white flower for those who didn't". Nowadays people in Peru still keep this tradition of celebrating Mother's Day in schools and institutions the Friday before as they also keep the tradition of celebrating at home in honour of their Mother on Sunday.

Many volunteers were treated to special family meals on the Sunday and witnessed traditional celebrations with some songs, poems, special food, drinks and gifts (mainly greeting cards and flowers).

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### Señor de Torrechayoc

Jorge Espinoza

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On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May volunteers were able to witness the biggest folklore festival in the Sacred Valley here in our very own Urubamba: Señor de Torrechayoc. The festival dates back to 1867 when a huge cross was built in the snow and placed on a stretch of the Urubamba highway and a Mass was conducted for its inauguration. Years later the cross was moved to Urubamba where it stays in the church of Señor de Torrechayoc. During the festival, the cross is taken in a procession with all its jewels and decorations. The celebrations include fireworks, a parade of dancing, bullfights and cockfights and beautiful dances from the region.



## Project Updates



In Care this month volunteers have joined partner teachers for a Network meeting in Yucay on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Volunteers showed teachers games and techniques which they can use with their students. We had a great turnout of 90% of the teachers and most Care volunteers also attended. Volunteers also attend Care workshops on Tuesday afternoons in the office after working in the morning to get together to share ideas and strategies and to collect materials for their students. We would also like to send a warm welcome to Kindergarten 57 in Calca, our newest partner organization where we currently have two very hardworking volunteers.

Teaching volunteers have joined together on Thursday afternoons to share the trials and tribulations of teaching English in the Sacred Valley! Workshops have continued being a useful tool and a great opportunity for volunteers to meet one another and speak with Teaching Supervisor Elizabeth about any teaching related subject! The office is also full of materials and resources waiting to be used by you – be sure to drop by to find anything that might be of use to you or your students.



## Volunteer Social Activities

Volunteers were treated to a whole host of heavenly dances during the Señor de Torrechayoc festival in Urubamba on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Many volunteers met in the morning and took part in festivities throughout the day. During the celebrations we spotted many host family members in their traditional costumes dancing in the various different local dances. It was a beautiful day and we hope it was a very memorable and unique experience for everyone.



## Hot Spots – Señor de Qoyllur Ritti

The festival of El Señor de Qoyllur Ritti originates from a legend from 1870 which says that a pale child appeared cold on the mountain of Ausangate and asked a small boy called Marianito Mayta to find him some clothes. Connecting the clothing the child was wearing to what he had seen in church, Marianito went to the Bishop of Cuzco for help. The Bishop, concerned that Marianito might steal vestments from the church, sent a priest to investigate. The priest followed the boy to the sacred Apu, or mountain, of Ausangate, and then to where he saw the pale child enveloped in a shining light. When the priest snatched the child out of the light, he was transformed into a Tayanca tree with the image of Christ in agony. The image of Christ is painted on the rocks.



In the 1920s, veneration at the spot where the image is on the rocks evolved into a celebration merging ancient rituals, worshipping the Sun god stemming from pre-Inca times, with the Christian faith. The old ceremonies combine worship of the sun with offerings to the Apu to protect the worshipers from harm. A shrine was built at the base of nearby Sinagara mountain, and over time, the veneration became the annual pilgrimage and celebrations of El Señor de Qoyllur Ritti, el Lucero de la Montaña, or the Shining or Snow Star of the Mountain. Today, the Qoyllur Ritti is one of Peru's most revered religious events.

An estimated 20,000 pilgrims make the journey to the snowy, cold mountainside to the Sanctuary of Qoyllur Ritti to attend Mass and participate in the events spread over several days. The pilgrims are accompanied by a procession, dances, bands, fireworks and the symbolic market of Alacitas (miniature craft fair). At the craft fair people go to buy miniature goods such as trucks, houses, cattle, university titles and others, with money valid only during the Qoyllur Ritti festival. These miniature possessions represent those things you wish for yourself, and according to legend, will come to pass.



## Volunteer Stories

Peru in a Nutshell!

Thom Gray, Teaching volunteer, UK.



So when Tess asked me to write an article for the newsletter, I literally couldn't decide what to write about. Life is filled with so much stuff going on it would be quite easy to write several.

So after much deliberation I decided to write about Peruvians and my teaching placement.

Specific, I know.

The Peruvians are a friendly bunch. Often on nights out in Cusco at the weekend they'll ask you where you are from, and are usually very appreciative when they find out you're a volunteer, not just the usual gringo (white person) travelling to Machu Picchu. They are also always willing to help, even if you have very poor Spanish, they will wait and try and help you explain what you want then help you the best they can. They are one of the most approachable races you'll ever meet, as exemplified by the extremely warm greeting you either receive, are receiving or will receive from your host family and friends at your placement.



One of the things I was most worried about before I came was my host family, so for all you future volunteers, do not worry about a thing, Projects Abroad choose the nicest people to live with and there are regularly volunteers returning after travelling just to visit their families.

And Peru in general, wow. Just wow. I am personally a teacher at one of the larger schools and I love every moment. By and large you work hard, play hard. The kids all want to learn, and there is a much friendlier atmosphere between kids and teachers here which lets you have fun, as well as making them laugh. They also really want to learn and (as much as can be expected) have their homework done, and focus in class.



The host teacher may have little English, and you have no Spanish, as was my case, but you can still one hundred percent teach effectively and have an absolutely great time while doing it; it presented nearly no problem for me. Having said that, it is always wise to have some before you come - it just makes life that little bit easier!

What else is there to say? I'm having the best months of my life. If you put effort into the people and placement, you'll be so thoroughly rewarded!

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Als Hollandse, engelse lesgeven aan Peruanen...  
Rosalyn van Houseline, Teaching volunteer, Holland.

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Hoi, mijn naam is Rosalyn, en ik ben 20 jaar oud. Ik ben nu 6 weken in Peru en ik blijf in totaal 8,5 week. Ik doe het project lesgeven. Ik heb voor lesgeven gekozen, omdat het mij een uitdaging leek. En ik had helemaal gelijk! Ik zal jullie een blik in het vrijwilligerswerk in Perugeven.



Toen ik voor het eerst aankwam in Peru, werd ik opgehaald door een medewerker van Project Abroad. Ik werd in de taxi van Cuzco naar Urumbamba gebracht, mijn woonplaats.

Tijdens de rit werd mij alles uitgelegd. Hoe mijn school was, waar ik ging wonen, waar ik de pinautomaat kon vinden etc. Ik woon samen met een Deens meisje genaamd Maiken. Bijna elke vrijwilliger woont samen met een andere vrijwilliger in een gastgezin.

Het is belangrijk om een woordje Spaans te kunnen, want over het algemeen spreken de gastouders geen engels. Je hoeft het niet vloeiend te spreken, maar het is voor jezelf ook handig & leuk, om dingen te kunnen vragen en te vertellen. In Peru kun je 14 of 60 Spaanse lessen volgen. Maar je pikt al snel wat woorden op tijdens je verblijf.



Ik werk in twee scholen. Ik werk 4 dagen in Maras, en 1 dag in Urumbamba. In Maras werk ik met een leraar, wiens engels niet zo goed is. Ik leid elke klas. Meestal moet ik wel improviseren, omdat hij de boeken heeft, waar ze uit werken, Hij vertaalt alles in het spaans en legt oefeningen uit in het spaans, nadat ik het hem in het engels heb uitgelegd.

Lesgeven geeft heel veel zelfinbreng. Elke donderdagmiddag hebben we een teaching workshop in het hoofdkantoor in Urumbamba. Daar geven vrijwilligers elkaar tips voor het lesgeven en delen ze elkaars weekverhalen. Ook kun je in het hoofkantoor heel veel materiaal krijgen voor het lesgeven.

In Urumbamba werk ik met een lerares, die vrij goed engels kan. Zij leidt de lessen en ik assisteer haar met de uitspraak en door de kinderen te helpen met hun oefeningen. Alle kinderen zijn tussen de 11 & 18 jaar. Ik heb tussen de 20 a 30 kinderen in een klas. Ik geef in totaal 26 uur les. Als je lesgeeft, kan het zijn dat je 1 dag in de week vrij hebt. Maar de keuze is aan jou.

We hebben een hele leuke groep vrijwilligers. De vrijwilligers zijn verspreid over 4 steden. Urumbamba, Calca, Pisac & Cuzco. Op dit moment wonen de meeste vrijwilligers in Urumbamba en Calca. Waar je werkt, kan verschillen in reistijd. Je kunt rekenen tussen de 15 minuten tot een uur.

2 keer per maand wordt er een social georganiseerd door Project Abroad. Dat kan zijn: een gezellig drankje met elkaar, een bbq, of een sportnamiddag. Wat er ook georganiseerd wordt, het is altijd gezellig!

Je zult hier een onwijse gave tijd krijgen, je niet snel vervelen, en je hebt een ervaring voor leven!

## Feliz Cumpleaños !!



We have had so many birthdays this month so from all Projects Abroad staff and volunteers, we'd like to wish the following people a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

- ❖ The first birthday of the month was Gabrielle Girard's who celebrated her birthday on 1<sup>st</sup> May.
- ❖ Nura Wolf turned 20 on 7<sup>th</sup> May – many happy returns of the day.
- ❖ Happy birthday Maiken Hutchings who celebrated her birthday on her very last day in Peru on the 9<sup>th</sup> May.
- ❖ Feliz cumpleaños to Julie Curran who had her birthday on 22nd May.
- ❖ Shelby Manton turned one year older on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May.
- ❖ Felicidades to Marie Bonnet who celebrated her birthday on 30<sup>th</sup> May.

## Cocina Peruana

### How to make....Tacu Tacu

#### Ingredients:

3 cups of canary beans  
150lb (300g) pork fat or bacon, diced  
2 cups of cooked rice  
2 onions finely chopped  
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped  
2 fresh yellow aji/chili, seeded  
Bread crumbs



#### Preparation:

Soak beans overnight. Drain and cook in unsalted water together with pork fat or bacon until soft. Remove from heat and let cool. Beat with a wooden spoon to form a coarse puree.

Heat oil in a large frying pan and add onion, garlic and aji. Sauté onion and aji until soft and tender and add seasoning. Add the beans and the cooked rice, mix well and season. Cook stirring until golden and remove from heat.

Take one part of the mixture into your hands and form a small oblong shape. Cover with bread crumbs to maintain shape.

Heat oil in frying pan, place one part of the bean mixture and fry turning constantly to avoid sticking. Repeat with the rest of the mixture.

Serve with breaded fried tenderloin, fried banana, fried egg and Creole sauce.