

MUSUQ CHASKI - El Mensajero Nuevo



ProjectsAbroad™



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Photo: Inês Gerales Cardoso

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Corpus Christi in Cusco



The festival of Corpus Christi is one of the most important Catholic festivals in Cusco in the month of June. It is a celebration of the saints and is celebrated throughout Peru every year, though perhaps most colourfully in Cusco. This year it took place on the 11th June, and all of Cusco took a day off for this special festival. Many volunteers took the

opportunity to take part in the celebrations. Celebrated across the world, Corpus became established in Cusco after 1572 by Viceroy Toledo. So what is the celebration about?

Well, fifteen saints and virgins, organized in various processions, arrive from various districts of Cusco to the main Cathedral in the Plaza de Armas to "greet" the body of Christ. It is celebrated 60 days after Easter Sunday. During the day you will no doubt hear the calls of the María Angola bells, the largest bells in Peru.

On the principal day of the celebration, the typical dish, Chiri uchu, or plato frio, is prepared and eaten. In the plazoleta de Santa Teresa and in Plateros you can see these dishes being sold. Many masses take place for each of the saints in the cathedral and then around 11am the procession passes and the Plaza is filled with onlookers trying to catch a glimpse of the saints. After the procession the saints return to the cathedral. After eight days, on el octavo, the saints return to their usual resting places for the rest of the year.



The festival has some interesting similarities with Inca practices, when mummies were taken in procession with many adornments. The Spanish - forty years after arrival in 1533 - managed to establish the tradition of Corpus, changing the previous pagan festival of the Incas, obligating them to take part in the celebration and replacing the mummies with saints and virgins. Garcilaso Inca de la Vega, was witness to Corpus Christi in the early years of the colonialism and noted the influence of the previous Incan traditions in the new festival.



Corpus Christi is thus an example of how Incan practices merged with Catholic ones once the Spanish arrived. Catholic missionaries made note of many Incan beliefs and used these ideas to establish Catholic practices amongst the Incan population. For example, mountains were considered divine by the Incas and thus crosses were placed on their

summits. Therefore under colonial pressure the natives were supposed to adore the crosses but were able to maintain an adoration and respect towards the "Apu" of the



mountain. If you visit the Cathedral in the Plaza de Armas in Cusco, you can see a painting of the Last Supper of Christ with a guinea pig dish on the table. Although Peru is theoretically and officially know as a Catholic country, these are just some examples of how in practice many Incan religious beliefs and practices have survived in the Andes.

Project Updates:

What's New?

In **Teaching** we have now distributed the Library Project books to the participating schools: General Ollanta, Valle Sagrado, Chinchero, Tambohuacso and Coya:



IEMx General Ollanta, Urubamba



IEMx Valle Sagrado, Urubamba



IEMx Inka Tupaq Yupanqui, Chinchero



IEMx Bernardo Tambohuacso, Písaq



IEMx San Juan Bautista, Coya

Our second network meeting of the year will take place next month on the 2nd July. We also have a new placement in Teaching at Virgin Rosario in Rayannioc, Taray, where our new volunteer Halley Shaw is working.

This month on the **Care & Community** programme we have volunteers starting to work in our new placement, San Martin in Cusco. Volunteers Angela and Kay used the oven in Señor de la Vara with a difference last month when they made pizzas with the students for Profe Sonia's birthday. Care volunteers, remember every Tuesday there are workshops to exchange ideas and get some feedback from your supervisor Yessika. The workshop starts at 3pm!

On the **Inca Project** last month work has continued on the Cochapata ruins.

In the **Medicine** programme this month we sent our first volunteers to our new placement, Centro de Salud de San Jeronimo.

We would like to say thank you to Sid Bruinsma, who took part in our **Sports** programme in April, who donated five Frisbees to IEMx Valle Sagrado in Urubamba.

Finally, we would also like to congratulate Inês Geraldês Cardoso whose photo from the Señor de Torrechayoc celebrations at the end of May was selected as the winner of our photo competition. You can see Inês' photo on the front cover of this month's Musuq Chaski Newsletter.

Introducing...

...New Volunteers

In July we are welcoming 33 new volunteers to the Sacred Valley, Cusco and Huyro...

Volunteer Name	Arrival	Programme	Town	Accommodation
Hailey O'Neill	01	Sports	Calca	Aucca
Kim Fluyt	02	Teaching	Pisac	Gilt
Robynne Struthers	02	Medicine	Cusco	Ocampo
Katherine Bear	02	Sports	Urubamba	Valcarcel
Hugh Claridge	03	Inca	Huyro	Community House
Alice Nettleton	04	Medicine	Cusco	Ramirez
Laura McKenzie Wynne	05	Inca	Huyro	Community House
Simran Panesar	06	Teaching	Calca	Vela
Katrina Hayek	06	Inca	Huyro	Community House
Claire Marchetti	06	Inca	Huyro	Community House
Christine Blauvelt	07	Medicine	Cusco	
Bonne Meetsma	08	Inca	Huyro	Community House
Yui Chi Gigi Leung	09	Care	Pisac	Nieto
Fred Campbell-Jones	10	Medicine	Cusco	Davila
Tobi Adeagbo	10	Spanish	Pisac	Rivera
Eleanor Frere	10	Inca	Huyro	Community House
Calire Fitzgerald	11	Medicine	Cusco	
Ivan Redor	12	Inca	Huyro	Community House
Rutger Deluster	12	Medicine	Cusco	
Meike von Horn	13	Care	Urubamba	Ramirez
Houda Benjelloun	15	Care	Urubamba	Casapino
Natalie Evans	18	Inca	Huyro	Community House
Tai Van Dyke	19	Inca 2 week Special	Huyro	Community House
Jake Flaherty	19	Inca 2 week Special	Huyro	Community House
Joanna Lusk	19	Inca 2 week Special	Huyro	Community House
Kaitlin Jones	19	Inca 2 week Special	Huyro	Community House
Amanda Cheng	19	Inca 2 week Special	Huyro	Community House
Zaneta Cheng	19	Inca 2 week Special	Huyro	Community House
Craig Bannerman	21	Sports	Calca	Rimachi
Manisha Pandey	27	Inca	Huyro	Community House
Amrita Patel	27	Medicine	Cusco	Miranda
Andrew Mikhalyuk	27	Medicine	Cusco	Ocampo
Aur�lie Paci	30	Inca	Huyro	Community House
Isabel Campos-Cleary	31	Care	Urubamba	Casapino
Camilo Tapia	31	Inca	Huyro	Community House

Hot Spots

Paucartambo & Tres Cruces



The place to visit in July is definitely Paucartambo, due to its Mamacha Carmen festival in the middle of next month. It is a typical colonial town located at 100 km (about 4 hours) to the east of Cusco. With its old bridge, its beautiful church, narrow and stony streets, small squares and big houses with balconies and wide halls, Paucartambo still keeps a strong colonial air. From Paucartambo, the road goes up towards Acjanaco and Tres Cruces (in the south borders of the National Park of Manu) from where you can admire one of the most beautiful sunrises in the world.

Tres Cruces is a natural lookout located on the edge of the Manu Biosphere Reserve. It is famous for the so-called "white ray" phenomenon that occurs when the sun rises over the horizon during the winter solstice (June, July). The light shines through the humid atmosphere and is distorted as if going through a prism. The effect causes three suns to appear, one of them seems to be jumping from one side to the other.



May Social: Celebrating the Señor de Torrechayoc

In Urubamba on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st of May, it was the annual festival of Señor de Torrechayoc, the local religious patron. Dancing took place on Saturday during the day in Urubamba stadium followed by a procession through the streets. In the evening fireworks were set off outside the Señor de Torrechayoc temple where festivities carried on throughout the night. The principal day, Sunday, saw more dancing and lots of food.

As seen in last month's newsletter, each of the different dances represents different aspects of Peruvian culture. Each year one person is chosen to lead and organize each of the dances for the following year, which is known in Peru as the "cargo." This person is responsible for the cost of the dance as well as providing ample food and drink for the dancers afterwards. Many volunteers saw their host families involved in the festivities, accompanying or dancing in the procession.

Last month's social took the opportunity to introduce volunteers to local dances and volunteers from all projects and staff met in the office at 10am and saw a short presentation, led by social manager Sarah, regarding the dances they were about to see. Following this, armed with cameras, the group took to the streets of Urubamba to see the procession. At 1pm we all met in TAWA Lounge for a BBQ to refuel for the afternoon session. It was a tiring but enjoyable day.



Tea and Torta moment...



Volunteers in Ulrike's, Písaq

Our new social manager Sarah has been starting up some new afternoon activities for our volunteers to get together. Last month volunteers went for a tea and torta moment in Ulrike's café in Písaq. There was also a meeting on Monday 15th June in Calca. Also, on Wednesdays volunteers have been gathering together in Charcahuaylla park in

Urubamba to play sports together, most recently, frisbee and football. Keep an eye on your email for further activities organised.

Inti Raymi 2009



Every year in June, Cusco celebrates the festival of Inti Raymi, an Incan celebration which honoured the Sun God. Inti Raymi was the most important festival of the Inca Empire Tawantinsuyo, which based its religion on the cult of the Sun. The 24th of June was when the Incas celebrated the beginning of the Sun's New Year.

The festival begins at the temple of Coricancha, passes through to the Plaza de Armas before going up to the archaeological complex of Sacsayhuamán, where crowds of people come together to witness more than 500 actors proudly bring the past alive. Most tourists buy tickets to sit in the grand stands, while locals fill the surrounding ruins to catch a glimpse of this famous performance.

To honour the Sun God, animals were sacrificed, though today during the ceremony there is a simulation of a sacrifice of a llama. Inca priests used to take out the guts of the llama through an opening on one side of the animal through which the priest also pulled out the heart still beating, and through the blood stains they could forecast the future for the Inca and the Empire. Volunteers should take the time to see this interesting celebration which is carried out in Quechua, the language of the Incas.



Political Peru
Paul Merchant - Teaching
IEMx San Juan Bautista , Coya

When people think of Latin American politics, it is likely that the images which come to mind are of Fidel Castro, "Che" Guevara, or perhaps Hugo Chávez or Evo Morales. Peru doesn't fit into the former two's category of socialist revolution, or the latter's socialist populism. This is not to say that it is a politically tranquil or boring country. Recent events in Bagua in the northern Amazon are proof of this. Outraged by President Alan García's plans to sell off tracts of jungle to foreign oil companies, indigenous people fought back. Up to 100 people (the majority indigenous people, including around 22 police) are said to have been killed in the protests.

The violence in the north can be seen as emblematic of a debate present in the whole of the country. Alan García's government seems intent on privatising many sectors of Peruvian life. In Cusco and the Sacred Valley, where Projects Abroad works, this is visible in the argument over the water supply. Since I arrived at the beginning of April, there have been 4 full days of strikes in protest at the government's plans to privatise it. In Peru, a "strike" seems to mean that everything (buses, shops, farming) stops, and that the strikers move boulders onto the roads. They claim that it's the only way to get the authorities to listen.

Around the Cusco region, there is a perception that García is only out to help the rich in Peru, and that he doesn't care about the poor majority. If you look at how the country voted in the 2006 elections, it is interesting to see that García was indeed elected by the richer areas of the country – the Cusco region was very strongly against him. The people here want more projects funded by public money ("por más obras", for more public works, is a very common political slogan around here. In fact, there are political slogans or symbols painted on many of the houses – proof that the people's general disenchantment (with all politicians, not just García) doesn't translate into apathy. The political process is very much alive.

That is the paradox of Peru – although the government seems far less populist or left-leaning than that of Bolivia or Venezuela, the democratic system is arguably in far better shape. Alberto Fujimori, a former president, was recently tried and convicted for human rights crimes, in what was a first for Latin America. The writer Mario Vargas Llosa, who himself ran for the presidency in 1989 (and lost to Fujimori), cites this as evidence of the strength of Peru's democracy. The government may not be popular, and the recent violence is shocking, but overall this is a stable country, unlikely to slide into dictatorship any time soon!

This month's specialty is typical for the month of June...



Chiri uchu

for 3 portions...

Ingredients:

- 1 chicken
- 1 guinea pig
- Corn flour (toasted)
- Cheese
- Chalona (sun dried meat)
- Rocoto (hot pepper)
- Cochayuyo (seaweed)
- Canchita (toasted corn)
- Sausage
- 1 kilo of fish eggs
- 4 eggs
- Spring onion
- Pepper balls
- Aromatic spices

Preparation:

- Skin and cube the guinea pig meat and season with salt, pepper and spices. Cook in the oven.
- Boil the chicken and cut into cubes.
- Mix the flour made from the toasted corn with 4 eggs, salt, a dash of water and finely chopped spring onion. Fry the mixture to make tortillas.
- Leave the food to cool and then serve on a plate with the rest of the ingredients. Each plate should have: toasted corn (canchita), cochayuyo (seaweed), cheese, sausage, slices of hot pepper (rocoto), fish eggs, chalona (a red meat seasoned with salt and dried in the sun), guinea pig and chicken pieces.

Spotlight on a Volunteer...



Name: Kay Shaylor
Age: 55
Hometown: Gosford, NSW, Australia
Arrival date: 5th May 2009
Town: Calca
Placement: IEE Senor de la Vara

Describe your placement...

Care work with the most special children you could meet.

What has been your favourite meal in Peru?

Rice has never been my favourite, so the BBQ Projects put on – I love meat. Alpaca – yummy!

What is your favourite memory in Peru?

Just being at my placement with the children.

What has been your favourite trip in Peru?

I have only had weekends to trip around so getting to Tres Cruces was an adventure in itself, let alone the sunrise coming up...

What is the strangest thing you have seen in Peru?

How is it possible to grow anything with such rocky ground – amazing!

What is your most embarrassing moment in Peru?

I had been here two days and I climbed the trail at PISAQ – so a week later I'm still having trouble walking. On Mother's Day and we went to my host's mum's house – I needed to go to the baño but they only had a hole and my legs still could not squat so I had to apologise and walk home (luckily not too far) to do the job!

Describe your overall experience in Peru.

My Spanish is nil except for basic polite words, but I have had many a conversation with people on the street – I have enjoyed my time here and especially with the children at my placement; I have been kicked, pinched, punched and have loved every moment with them. My host family can't do enough for me – thank you Projects Abroad!

What's happening in July?

Festival	Description	Place	Date
Virgen del Carmen	Four hours from Cuzco , in the town of Paucartambo, thousands of devotees hold festivals in honour of the Virgen del Carmen , known locally as Mamacha Carmen, patron saint of the mestizo population. For five days, dance companies in various costumes (Doctorcitos, Waca Waca, Sajras) take to the streets to accompany the Mamacha throughout the entire procession through the main square, the church and the city streets. On the main day, the virgin is borne aloft in a procession to bless those present and scare away demons. The dancers take to the housetops, performing daring gymnastics. At the end of the procession, war is waged on the demons, from which the faithful emerge in triumph. Finally, the gathering ends up in the cemetery to render homage to the souls of the dead.	Paucartambo	The second week of July (15 th – 16 th)
Festival del Café	Jubilee week of the province of La Convención	Province of La Convención	20th - 30th July
Corpus de Santiago	Corpus of Santiago is a religious festivity where there is a mass with numerous and beautiful dances. The typical dish of the festivity is the " Chiriuchu ". This is a dish with small portions of several typical dishes. It is celebrated in the square of Santiago.	Cusco	July 25 th
Corpus de Santa Ana	Corpus of Santa Ana , is another religious celebration performed in the chapel of Santa Ana. They day before, a festive mass is celebrated with a procession, dances and musicians. The typical dish is also the " Chiriuchu ."	Cusco	July 26 th
Fiestas Patrias	Commemoration of the Independence of Peru. Parades and civic ceremonies are made all over the country. Public holidays.	Peru	July 28 th & 29 th

Announcements

- There are some new visa regulations that have been passed by the Peruvian government. If your tourist visa is to expire it is no longer possible to extend this in Cusco. You will need to make arrangements to travel to Bolivia or Chile, for example, and re-enter the country, where the immigration official will give you another stamp for further days.
- Please can all new arrivals be aware that you need to pick up your luggage in Lima when arriving from an international flight as it is not forwarded directly onto Cusco. Lima is the first point of entry into the country and you need to pass customs with your luggage.
- Just another reminder to make sure that volunteers are aware that the police are making more identification checks here in Cusco. Please be aware that you need to **always** carry your passport or a legalised photocopy of your passport (which has been signed by a notary) with you, especially if you are travelling within Peru, whether that is to your placement, Cusco or a long weekend in Puno. You may be asked by a police officer for proof of identification and you should be able to present this to them. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask in the office.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped bring about this month's issue of *Musuq 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