

THE OFFICIAL

NEWSLETTER



December's Photo Competition
Winner
Andrew Woodward, Australia
Boy and lama, Arequipa

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EDITORIAL

The impact of volunteering

I've been working for Projects Abroad Peru for the past four months, and in my position as Communications Officer I have the chance to be in contact with the volunteers during a relaxed moment at our socials once a week.

During all of the conversations that I have had with them, I've noticed one thing: when they are at the point of almost leaving, they always tell me "I don't want to leave" or "Time passed by so fast"..

Most of them are already planning to come back...

How come? Some say the Andes have a magic about them ...Being a Peruvian myself, it is hard to say.

These conversations make me think about how big the impact of spending their time far away from home volunteering with us is on their lives.

I'm sure this experience, no matter at what point of time in their lives, opens minds and hearts, which is fantastic in a world that desperately needs care, tolerance and respect for each other.

We are close to the end of this year, and I want to thank all the volunteers who shared their time, love and energy this year with us, and tried to make a difference.

And to those, who already made the decision of coming to Peru with Projects Abroad next year, our team in Peru is very excited to getting to know you. It is great you are keen to explore the world and most importantly, explore yourself.

And you? Do you already have big plans for next year?

PROJECT UPDATES

Inca Project

ARCHAEOLOGY: Excavations finished at the beginning of November for 2014. All three sites (Q-7 sub. I & II and Q-6) were also 'recapped' before the rains started. 'Recapping' means replacing the excavated earth removed from the structures during the excavations.

The volunteers have started in earnest the task of washing the excavated ceramics, preparing them for codification. This involves varnishing a small section of the ceramic. They also started codifying them, a reference code of letters and numbers is placed on the varnished section of the ceramic. This work is all carried out in Establo. Some of these indoor archaeology tasks may seem a little tedious but it is all in accordance with our legal agreement with the Ministry of Culture and a worthwhile experience for the volunteers alike.

At the very end of October some Inca structures were "discovered" by Projects Abroad's Inca staff and volunteers in an area called Pasto Grande close to 'Inca Carcel'. This find was reported to the Ministry of Culture on October 28th and on the 4th of November Projects Abroad's Inca project staff, volunteers, archaeologist and director went to the site with representatives from the Ministry. 16 structures were registered, but we believe there to be more! Projects Abroad Peru is currently going through the legal process with the Ministry to extend explorations in the area in 2015.

ESTABLO: Some of the sleeping quarters and washrooms in Establo are currently receiving an overhaul. The works being carried out involve rendering bare brick walls, tiling, reflooring and paintwork amongst other repairs and improvements. These works will be ongoing throughout 2015.

The area next to the compost was cleared out and this larger area will now be used for the guinea pigs. Thankfully the rains haven't been as strong as we expected so staff and volunteers have enjoyed the swimming pool in Establo.

COMMUNITY WORK: We have continued with our weekly visits to the local stimulation centre, library and the kindergartens in Huayopata & Huyro.

LESSONS& TALKS: Lessons and talks have tended to be more on-site briefings and ceramic workshops in the past month. However, there have been presentations on subjects such as 'The Inca Road Network', 'Guaman Poma', 'The great Inca Rebellion' and 'Machu Picchu'. Zenobio, who is now 'chief of the regional archaeological park' gave the volunteers an on-site briefing regarding restoration work and preservation techniques.

Care Project

In the Care Project, this month we worked on a recycling project. Kiva, one of our volunteers made huts out of newspapers and walked around the playground with the kids on a song called "Marcha soldado cabeza de papel". She also crafted flowers, purses and sculptures out of used plastic bottles and taught the kids the importance of taking care of our planet.

Teaching Project

December is the last month of the academic year in Peru, so a lot of volunteers have helped with students evaluations.

Andrew Woodward, Australia and Hendrick Towley, USA, played the guitar in their classes and the students learned English songs such "Row, row, row your boat" and Christmas themes like "Rudolph the red nose reindeer". We are ready to welcome new volunteers that come for the Teacher Training Program that starts in January 2015. We are sure they will do their best to make this Teacher Training a memorable one.

VOLUNTEER STORY

Kitty Lam: Medical Project



Kitty Lam, from Hong Kong, is a professional dentist with ten years of experience, who took the challenge of joining us to discover South America. “I decided to allow myself the time to do this. You can keep postponing, but the time is now”, she says.

She volunteered at our Medical Project, from November 2014 until the first week of December. Her time in Peru is over now, but a new exciting experience is waiting for her in Argentina.



Here in Cusco, she worked at the Clinica Peruano Suiza, where, she attended to all the patients together with the other doctors and nurses on a daily basis.

During her last day with us, she had the chance to work as a dentist at one of our outreach programs in Anta, a small village at about 30 kilometres from Cusco. “I worked together with another local dentist in her office. There were about 6 to 7 patients coming for check-up and treatments...” “...I performed

tooth fillings for teeth with shallow cavities. However, for few patients, their caries condition were too severe that teeth were required extractions...”

Of course the difference in culture was huge for Kitty, but it never annoyed her or caused her any fears. Instead, she took this as an amazing opportunity to enrich her world. “You should have an open mind and always carry a smile on your face. This will make language barriers disappear”, she explains.

Maybe the most rewarding experience was the opportunity to have a real connection with the local people and to understand their culture.

She also appreciated the contact she had with other volunteers from all over the world. An experience, she believes, that will bring understanding to the world.

She can accept a challenge and she is aware that this will give her the strength to face any issue in the future.

“This is a strong motivation to advance in my career”, she exclaims enthusiastically.



PERU IN PICTURES

The beauty of this amazing country

The photos below are a mixture of volunteer contributions for our monthly photo competition and snaps taken on visits to placements. Peru is a photographer's paradise and if you're interested in this field you will find inspiration around every corner.



Top left: Sunset in the Andes

Top right: Scholars celebrating the end of the school year in typical folkloric dancing clothes

Bottom left: Two quechua women waiting for the bus

Middle: Scholars after performing a typical Andean dance

Left: Rain

Bottom right: On the road to the Sacred Valley

To see our monthly photo competition winners check out the album on our facebook page:



Don't forget to check out our Instagram account where you will find beautiful imagery from our other destinations. Follow our global account and get to know more about the way we see this wonderful world.

SCENE / SEEN

Goings on around Peru with Projects Abroad



Volunteer Kitty Lam, at her last day at our Medical Project.



We always have so much fun at our salsa classes, one of our favorites!

Peruvian cooking is just amazing. And this time, we learned how to make a "Causa rellena", delicious!



Some pictures of the Christmas celebrations at one of the kindergartens we work with.

The kids got a present and we shared some typical for Christmas hot chocolate and paneton.