

Stay up to date with all the news at Yanapuma!

A bimonthly newsletter

Issue No. 10: March– April 2009

Introduction

How the months fly past! Here we are again, when it seems like only yesterday we were putting together the last bimonthly newsletter!

The biggest news for the school has been our move upstairs to a larger space (see right). Also, our new programs – medical Spanish, online classes, and the travelling programs – have all proven popular, keeping the school busy in what is usually heading into the quietest time of the year.

Through March and April we have maintained an average of around 15 students per week, in addition to several online students, with 18 students here in Quito at our peak.

On the foundation side we have been as busy as ever - getting the program of scholarships for Estero de Plátano children up and running (see page 2), continuing our work in Bua with the cacao growers, making a start on the renovation of the health center, as well as beginning work on the construction of a new classroom and library in Puca Chicta.

Our ongoing work in Quito is to establish a Code of Ethics and Conduct, . . .

West Point Grey Academy in Puca Chicta

On the 14 of March our Shanti welcomed a group of volunteers from Westpoint Greys Academy of Vancouver, Canada, to Puca Chicta where they began work on the construction of a new classroom and library for the school. For four days they worked alongside parents and teachers to lay the foundation for the new classroom. Their donation of \$2000 will be supplemented by a further \$1500 donated by Laure Sandoz from Switzerland, as well as a donation by the UK volunteer group that was also there in April. Laure is currently teaching English to the students of the school. We hope to finish construction and put the new classroom into use by the end of the summer.



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. . . write a set of Bye-Laws, revise our Statutes, install a responsive accounting system, and continue to develop our organizational structure so that we can maximize our efficiency and the delivery of services to the communities that we are working with. Plenty to keep us all busy . . .

Donation News . . .

As a result of a project proposal submitted in December last year the Ryklow Trust from the UK made a donation of 750 pounds sterling to our project work in Bua, specifically related to Giovanni's work organizing a group of Tsa'chila cacao growers to improve production techniques and make their agricultura more sustainable. The money will buy tools, materials and seeds, and be used for training workshops.

We've Moved!

At the start of April we jumped at the opportunity to move our school upstairs in the same building. The move gives us more than 100 square meters of extra



classroom space, with a rooftop terrace and access to a mature garden for classes outdoors, a larger meeting room, expanded offices, and a dedicated space for our online classes.

But most importantly it makes our school the most attractive learning space in Quito, with large windows with great views, great architectural features, and a very cosy feel.

With space for up to 35-40 individual classes per day, we should be well set for this summer, and possibly the next.



Code of Ethics and Conduct:

With the indispensable help of Klaus Boas, we have completed a first draft of a **Code of Ethics and Conduct** that will put Yanapuma on a firm footing as a competent and trustworthy organization internationally. You can read it here: <http://www.yanapuma.org/pdf/Yanapuma%20Code%20of%20Ethics%20&%20Conduct%202009.pdf>

The draft code, based on the work of WANGO (World Organization of NGOs) has been approved, and we are currently in the process of forming an external board of trustees to oversee the foundation, although we expect this to take some considerable time.

Together with the development of a set of **Bye-Laws** and individual policies to cover all the different aspects of the work of the foundation and Spanish school, this will help us to create an organization that will comply with the most rigorous standards applicable to non-profits at the international level.

Klaus returned to Spain, where he now lives, but will continue to offer his invaluable help to us in the coming months as we continue to develop our institutional and organizational capacity.

Scholarships in Estero de Plátano

April saw the start of the new academic year at the coast, and Yanapuma staff were busy in March with the unenviable task of choosing the 6 students who would receive funding to study at college from the 35 applications that we received. We had each student complete a form and send additional materials like school reports. Additional criteria that we used were the family status (living with family or single mother, income level, etc), career aspirations, participation in community events as seen by staff and volunteers, etc. In the end we chose 7 students, committing ourselves to find a little extra funding to cover the 7th during the coming year.

One question will be whether \$250 is enough to cover the whole year after uniforms, books, and supplies are bought, and daily transport is taken into account. But this is the first time, so we are prepared to learn along the way and we will have a better idea for next year.

And speaking of next year, we are already seeking possible funding sources for next year, to expand the program with 2 or 3 new students each year. We also aim to include complementary education on such issues as sexual and reproductive health and rights and interpersonal communication to ensure that these students receive a good education and adequate preparation to lead their community forward in the future.

Volunteers from the LEAP UK

On the 1st of April 25 volunteers arrived from the UK to carry out project for up to 10 weeks in Caimito, Chilcapamba, Puca Chicta, Estero de Plátano, and Kamak Maki. Split into two groups, they will each spend time in the Amazon rainforest, the Andean sierra, and on the Pacific coast, working on projects to build classrooms, school dining facili-

Ecotoilets in Bua - Training Day

On 22 April, Azalia spent the day in the school in Bua training the parents in the use and maintenance of the 6 ecological toilets that we built last year. As the academic year has just begun, they are now receiving full use.

A current drought in Bua has underlined the need for water-free sanitation solutions, conserving the little that there is for hand-washing and drinking. The good news is that the children are using them well, with only minor problems up to now. Several other schools in the area have expressed interest in similar systems.

We will continue to monitor and evaluate their use to ensure that we are providing a reliable and sustainable solution to the disposal of human waste.

Seen here, one of the Bua school children carries out routine monitoring of the ecotoilets.



EcoEscuelas . . .

With the help of Erica from England, Klaus from Germany, Justine from France, and Yanapuma staff we are developing a project to work with Ecuadorian schools to make them more ecological and to introduce environmental themes into the curriculum.

The Eco Schools movement has grown in Europe and other countries of the world as a primary means of promoting the Millennium Development Goals among a new generation.



And in the UK, a program called the Global Dimension in Education aims to teach youth about the inter-dependency between developed and developing countries and the need for sustainable development.

Yanapuma aspires to spearhead this movement in Ecuador in the coming years as part of this global education program.

Intern Justine on a visit to Chibuleo school with Azalia to learn about their environmental education program

ties, an ethnographic museum, community livestock management pens, and more, as well as finishing off with a well-deserved few days on the beach at Montañita at the end of their stay

Students and Interns . . .

Noemie Pedrot, a French student from Aix-en-Provence left us on the 27th of April after 9 months working on different projects including developing markets for the handicrafts of Estero de Plátano.

Carrie Kretsch, from the US, returned home after spending 6 months leading our volunteer groups. Outgoing and very dependable, Carrie was very popular with the volunteers.

Justine Bonnet continues working with Yanapuma, now on the development of the Eco Escuelas concept, helping to design a program that will incorporate ecology and sustainability into the curriculum as well as contributing to the infrastructure development of the school.

Inga Gorzolla, from Switzerland, left us at the start of April after 6 months working in Los Peluchitos daycare centre in the barrio La Unión. She is much missed by the staff and children alike.

Lesley Arney continues to work for Yanapuma in the community of Estero de Plátano, fulfilling an important role in keeping our programs rolling there. She is active in youth groups, in the local school, in helping locals to seek infrastructure development from local authorities, and on recycling and waste management problems in the community.

Michelle van Pol, Anne Nieuwenberg, Tessa Frijters, Katrien Verzezen, and Valerie de Ceuster from Holland and Belgium, are working in tourism for Eos Ecuador (<http://www.eosecuador.com>) as well as for other agencies in Quito.

Emily Burnett from the US, became part of our team in April, leading a volunteer group for 10 weeks. She will be with us for 6 months.

Laure Sandoz, from Switzerland, began teaching English in Puca Chicta in April. She also came with a \$1500 donation, raised from a school event, that will go towards completion of the new classroom/library we are building.

Jamie Gunging left us at the end of April after spending 5 months volunteering with Niñez y Vida. She will be missed by staff and children alike.

Volunteer Ecuador:

Yanapuma's **Volunteer Ecuador** program continues to attract a good number of volunteers for projects around Quito and the rest of Ecuador. During March and April the program had an average of 18 volunteers placed in different communities and projects at any one time, in addition to the 7 interns that are working in Yanapuma and Eos Ecuador, our complementary travel agency.

Things quieten down a little in May, but we expect a big influx during June and especially July, when the summer vacations begin.

Stephen and Shanti are to thank for keeping the program running smoothly.

News . . .

Spreading the Word . . .

On the 9th of April Yanapuma was involved in two exhibitions; a tourism fair in Quito, and an agricultural show in Santo Domingo. The first was a joint venture with our partner travel agency Eos Ecuador in "Verde Ecuador 2009," an international tourism exhibition to promote tourism in Ecuador.

The second was an agricultural exhibition in Santo Domingo at which Yanapuma's Giovanni demonstrated the agricultural work of the foundation in Bua as well as our ecological sanitation solutions.

Seen left, one of our cacao promoters demonstrates the Project to Tsa'chila from other communities in the Santo Domingo area.



Ecuador versus Brazil:

On the 29th of March Ecuador faced mighty Brazil for a place in the next world cup, cheered on by a group of about 20 of our students and volunteers, led by our irrepresible Vinicio (bottom). Unfortunately the 1-1 draw put Ecuador out, but it was an exciting and action-packed game.



Forward Planning—Communities:

During the second quarter of 2009 we are planning to start work on the renovation of the health centre in Bua, as well as continuing the project to build a library in the school using a donation secured by former volunteer Maria Marone from the Dutch Patent Office. Giovanni continues to build the Tsa'chila farmers confidence in improving their cacao growing, as well as beginning a reforestation project that will come to fruition in September when a Thinking Beyond Borders group will plant thousands of trees in Bua.

In Estero de Plátano, Kyle continues to encourage community participation in a variety of projects, including building a new dining room in the school with a group of volunteers, as well as working to solve recycling, waste and drinking water problems in the community.

Yanapuma Foundation Newsletter
March and April Photo Gallery

