

# YANAPUMA Foundation & Spanish School

A cooperatively run NGO driven by the enthusiasm of its staff and volunteers to promote sustainable development in marginalized communities throughout Ecuador and to promote cultural exchange for mutual benefit in our increasingly globalized world.

## Stay up to date with all the news at Yanapuma!

A bimonthly newsletter

Issue No. 45 Mar-Apr 2015

### Introduction

March and April have been busy months for the volunteer department, as for the foundation, although the Spanish school has been a bit quiet as is normal at this time of year. Kelly and Cristina have coped admirably with the flow of volunteers despite being a person down in the department after the departure to Argentina of Rachel Worthington, the third member of the team.

The work of the foundation was mostly taken up with the 6<sup>th</sup> semester of the project co-funded by the Inter American Foundation. We expect the project to run until the end of this year when the funds will be exhausted. Thus we begin to review our progress over these past three years and think about what direction to take in the future.

The Spanish school in Quito meanwhile has been fairly quiet as is quite normal for this time of year. In contrast the school in Cuenca has remained busy with a good number of students enjoy-

C  
o  
n  
t  
e  
n  
t  
s

Page 1	Intro & News
2	School News
3	Project & volunteer News
4	Photo Gallery

ing the tranquil and relaxed atmosphere of this historic colonial city in the Andes. We are using this time productively though to overhaul the teaching materials and methods, introducing a range of new texts and electronic materials recently purchased in Madrid from the “Casa Del Libro.”

We have continued to work too on the new travel agency – True Ecuador Travel – gathering information and developing the website. In theory it is now possible to set up a limited company in Ecuador in three months, but we are now going on for 7 months and are still not quite there! Hopefully the remaining bureaucracy will be taken care of in the next 3 or 4 weeks and we can actually be legally up and running!



Students in Quito in April attended the traditional Easter procession in the historic center



Volunteers enjoy shopping in the famous Otavalo market

### Foundation News . . .

Cacaoteros from the Tsa'chila comuna of Bua—Wilson Calazacón (below left) and Rafael Machin (below right) were invited by the Fundación Inter Americana to take part in a participatory conference in Brazil in April on the topic of agroecology organized by ECOVIDA. This was a great opportunity for them to meet other farmers from Latin America working in similar áreas, and to learn about systems of quality control, fair trade, certification, etc, and how these can be applied to the Tsa'chila.



The trip, from 19 to 25 of April, was also a just reward for all their hard work over the past years.



Typical snack foods of Ecuador—a regular in-class activity for Spanish students

### Did You Know . . . ?

You can take online Spanish classes with Yanapuma from the comfort of your own home or office! Simply go to this page to sign up for a FREE TRIAL CLASS with no obligation: <http://www.yanapumaspanish.org/onlinespanish.html>

## Spanish School News . . .

### New Syllabus!

We have been taking advantage of a slack period in Quito to work on materials, methods and methodology, starting work on creating a new syllabus for levels A1, A2 and B1 to start with. Our drive to fully incorporate technology into the classroom continues and we are creating an electronic class system with which teachers will have all the teaching materials at their fingertips. With this they will not only have the curriculum for each class on screen each day, but they will be able to email students extra assignments and revision materials, further adding value to the teaching system that we employ at Yanapuma.

There is no doubt that the spread and ubiquity of communication technology is creating new opportunities in education. The concept of BYOD (Bring Your Own Device!) means that students can use their own smart phones, tablets and laptops to hook into class materials rather than relying on the traditional computer lab. Increasingly we see our students bringing their own devices to Ecuador while our aging PCs and Macs for student use languish unused. So it is a natural extension for us to find ways to incorporate these into our learning system.

### Cuenca!

The school in Cuenca meanwhile has stayed very busy and administrators Carina and Alicia have been kept busy dealing with the constant flow of students of all ages, drawn to Cuenca for its historic colonial charm. In addition Cuenca is recognized as a very safe city, for which reason we are keen to promote programs for younger students and groups to learn Spanish there.

### AECEE!

Yanapuma is proud to be a member of the AECEE, a group of the best Spanish schools in Ecuador. We have been working with these schools to develop a system of quality control for our institutions to be able to assert with total confidence that we offer the very best in Spanish tuition. ProEcuador has



Representatives of AECEE schools meet with ProEcuador

recognized our efforts and has begun a process of promotion of language tourism as an important contributor to the economy of the country, using the AECEE as the spearhead organization to represent quality service.

### New Materials!

In April we acquired new materials for teaching Spanish, purchased from Spain. These include new textbooks with electronic materials, grammar books, DELE-specific materials and short stories and novels for our Spanish students to use in class.



Typical Ecuadorian cooking class in the school—a regular event for students in both Quito and Cuenca



A typical small group class for Spanish students in Quito

### Did you know . . . ?

- ⇒ The Spanish language is spoken by over 500 million people worldwide, and it is estimated that it will reach 600 million by 2050.
- ⇒ It is the official language of 22 countries.
- ⇒ The US has nearly 40 million native Spanish speakers and growing, making it the biggest Spanish-speaking country in the world by 2050.
- ⇒ Spanish is the second most used language for international communication
- ⇒ Spanish is the 3rd most used language on the internet.

## Project News . . .

### Tsa'chila

We were delighted to receive news that our two Tsa'chila cacao promoters **Rafael Machin** and **Wilson Calazacón** had been invited by the Inter American Foundation to take part in a series of meetings in Brazil on agroecology. This opportunity represented a just reward for their years of hard work and dedication to learning new techniques for improving cacao production and teaching those techniques to their fellow Tsa'chila farmers.

Our project with the Tsa'chila is now in the 6<sup>th</sup> semester and we have been reworking the budget to propose changes for the remainder of the project. There have been various developments over the life of the project that have led to changes in how funds have been used, and now we must consider how to best use what remains. We expect the project to finish at the end of this year.

Here is a summary of the budget and spending to date:

Source	Budget	Spent
Fund. Inter Americana	\$ 210.298,00	\$ 119.300,00
Fundación Yanapuma	\$ 90.600,00	\$ 55.570,00
Total:	\$ 300.898,00	\$ 174.870,00

With the project ending at the end of 2015 we will soon start to review our progress over these years and think about how to proceed in the future.

### Becados

The new school year at the Pacific coast starts in May this year. Previously it started around March, but the government is moving it a little each year to bring it in line with the rest of the country which begins in September. This year we will have 14 youth receiving scholarships to study at high school. 12 of these are in Estero de Plátano and 2 are in the Tsa'chila comuna of Bua.

Interns from Union College **Samantha Muratori** and **Gabriela Romero** have been working hard with the becadors in Estero de Plátano over the last months as well as helping us to choose new scholarship recipients from a list of potential candidates. With 5 of them having graduated last year we had a few spaces to fill for this year. Each scholarship costs us \$350 and the funds are raised through the \$25 registration fee for Spanish students as well as a fundraiser at Christmas. The funding for the two students in the comuna Bua come from **Colège Edouard Montpetit** in Canada where teachers **Sylvie Loslier** and **Nathalie Malo** are in charge of providing the funding each year.



Sam dancing bachata on the beach in Estero dePlátano

## Volunteer News . . .

In March we hosted a group from **Pacific Discovery** as part of a larger program in Ecuador which saw them visiting different parts of the country including the Amazon, the Andes and the Galapagos Islands for volunteering and cultural tourism activities.

We also welcomed two volunteers from Germany on the “**Weltwärts**” program through **Kulturlife**. They will spend a year working with the project **Selvavida**, teaching English and involving themselves in different local programs and projects.

At the start of April a group of 20 volunteers from the **Leap** (UK) arrived to begin a 10-week program that will take them to volunteer with the Tsa'chila planting trees as part of a reforestation project, to volunteer in the Kichwa community of Chilcapamba in the Andes, and on to the Galapagos Islands for a conservation project. In between they will have time to visit the cloud forest at Mindo, travel down the spine of the Andes on the “Ruta de los Volcanes,” explore the Galapagos Islands, and spend a few days relaxing on the Pacific coast at the very end.

In the Tsa'chila community of Bua the 20 volunteers will be planting around 8,000 trees of native species as part of Yanapuma's ongoing commitment to reforestation with the Tsa'chila. The trees are produced by members of the cultural group at Shinopi Bolón in Bua from seeds collected locally. They will be planted out in sensitive and degraded areas.

The groups are split into two, and while one half is planting trees with the Tsa'chila the other half is working on community projects in the Andes community of Chilcapamba (right).



### Donation News . . .

We were pleased to receive a donation from **Stuart Kirby** of £400 to our general fund.

Former student **Sheila Connor** sent us a donation of \$100 to use as part of our general fund.

**We are always happy to receive small donations** from former students and volunteers, and pledge to commit 100% of these funds directly to a specific small project or to use as part of a general fund for small projects.

March-April in Cuenca Photo Gallery

