



Azul Wasi Newsletter

Autumn 2023

We hope you will enjoy reading the latest news from Azul Wasi



News from Azul Wasi

The past few months have been a difficult and uncertain time for Azul Wasi for various reasons which we explain below. Despite all this the boys are doing well and we will continue to support them, providing a substantial amount towards the provision of food.

Alcides – health and the economic situation in Peru

Several months ago we heard from Alcides that he had been unwell and needed surgery. This took place in Lima, but we are glad to say that he has recovered well and is now back at Azul Wasi. You may have read about the social unrest in Peru as a result of the political situation: there are strikes, which typically block the main roads, and shortages. Foreigners are also consequently more reluctant to come to the country as tourists and volunteers. On top of all that, we recently read that there is likely to be a threat to the drinking water supply in Cusco due to meteorological changes caused by the current El Niño, which also habitually brings difficult conditions to the highland areas. So we ask for your prayers and support for Alcides and for those living at Azul Wasi in these very challenging times.

Important news about LAFF

LAFF, which is a UK charity working with various projects in highland Peru, recently decided also to register as a Peruvian charity in order to facilitate local fundraising. This means that their beneficiaries need to meet certain conditions, to which, unfortunately, Alcides felt he could not agree, and so LAFF reluctantly have had to withdraw their support. We have had a very good relationship with LAFF over the years: they have arranged the transfer of our donations and have been a presence on the ground who have very much acted on our behalf, maintaining regular contact with Alcides and providing us with information about the project. However, we feel we must respect Alcides's decision: he is passionate about Azul Wasi and has given many years of his life unstintingly to his large family of boys there (as well as his own family, now grown up). We have every confidence that Azul Wasi continues to be in good hands, and we admire Alcides greatly. Since our mission is to make sure the boys are properly fed, a need which will not go away whatever the circumstances, there is therefore no reason not to continue our support. But we are very sorry our relationship with LAFF has come to an end, and LAFF send their thanks for the long-lasting partnership they have had with St. Andrew's; they truly appreciate our support over the past years.

We have now put in place a system for making our payments every two months (to save on transfer charges), and we are ourselves in regular contact with Alcides via WhatsApp. He has agreed to send us his receipts for food (previously

sent to LAFF for checking) and to keep us informed about activities at Azul Wasi and any problems they are experiencing. What he has so far told us informs the rest of this Newsletter.

Comings and goings

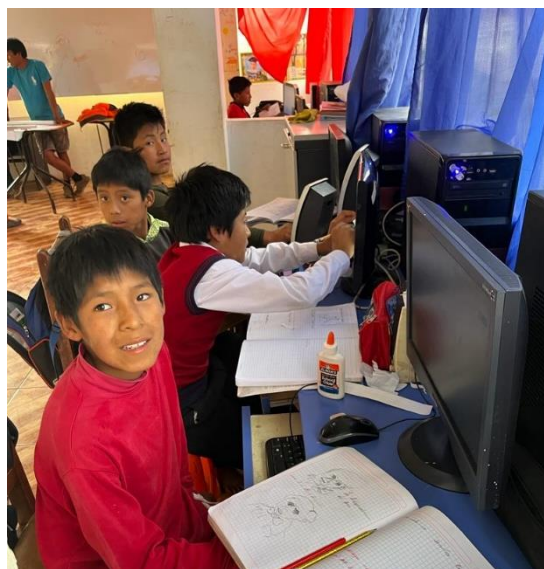
An important development is that David, the tutor, has left Azul Wasi. David has been the tutor for many years and was very much part of the family, helping the boys with their schoolwork, being their mentor, and in many other ways. During the Covid pandemic he also became their teacher when they were not able to attend school. He was joined by his wife Luz and their baby a couple of years ago, when Luz became the cook.



However, we were delighted to hear that Dante and his wife Victoria have taken over as the tutor and cook respectively, and they are now living on site with their small son. Dante, now 27, was one of the first boys to arrive at Azul Wasi, when he was 11, and so he grew up as part of the Azul Wasi family. Back in 2016 we were thrilled to hear that he had passed the exams to go to university to study physics and mathematics. This was an amazing achievement and a reflection of his hard work and determination. But in the end he felt he had to leave the university to find paid work. Dante had always been a good role model for the boys and used to return to help out whenever he could. We recall him saying after he left, 'Azul Wasi es mi casa' — 'Azul Wasi is my home'. And now it is once again!

News of the boys

At the moment there are 16 boys living at Azul Wasi. The difficult economic situation in Peru has put a lot of pressure on the project and Alcides is unable to accept new children for the time being. The boys are in their third term at school (the school year in Peru ends at Christmas) and doing well. At the end of this term three of the boys will be graduating from college. They have all been at Azul Wasi since they were very young and each have different aspirations: Gustavo wants to be a computer technician, Roger a car mechanic, and Ronaldino a business entrepreneur. We really hope they will be able to realise these ambitions and be able to become independent.



The greenhouse and outdoors

Some vegetables are still being grown in the greenhouse but they are a bit limited in what they can grow as the plastic roof is damaged. As a result, first of the pandemic and then of the economic situation, they have fewer animals now, just chickens and ducks.

How you can help to feed the children

Your support and donations enable us to continue our commitment to send £875 a month to Azul Wasi. If you would like to become a regular donor, or make a one-off donation, you can do this via the St Andrew's website <https://www.standrews-chesterton.org/azulwasi> or by contacting us.

Thank you

Alcides thanks St Andrew's for continuing to raise funds to help pay for the food at Azul Wasi. Knowing that a regular sum will be coming each month gives him much-needed security. We add our own thanks to everyone who supports Azul Wasi.

Mary + Chris

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To sign up to our mailing list, make a donation, and read about St Andrew's connection with Azul Wasi visit

<https://www.standrews-chesterton.org/azulwasi>