



We have been enjoying the amazing cooking of Yasu and Mia.

# JULY 2009 Journal

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Source: [www.seekvilcabamba.com](http://www.seekvilcabamba.com)

Well it's the end of July and I'm only now sitting down to write our adventures for July. What the hell have we done all month????????? A lot of this month has been spent on the behind the scenes work of our new website [www.seekvilcabamba.com](http://www.seekvilcabamba.com). I must give a **big thank you** to Pierre for building such an awesome site. There is a lot that has been done that we have not gone live with yet so keep watching the site. A lot of mine time went into collecting more information this month, photos and testing and testing and testing .... I'd also like to thank the people out there who have done editing for us and corrected a number of my typos.

We have also been packing as we move house on the 1<sup>st</sup> August there was the details to our new place to sort out as well as some utilities issues to resolve.

Emily and I had a great day in Loja visiting some local attractions (see article on the Zoo).

Aron and Ivy have come to live in Vilcabamba so have been spending some time with them as well as taking them around Loja for a day.

There has been some serious drama with some expensive internet equipment been stolen from one of the key internet providers here in Vilcabamba.



I've been working on my horse skills.

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mily is very pleased with how her beans are growing. We followed the method of Anastasia. mily's beans have taken off. Mine never sprouted (:

We have been spending a lot of time with Howard and Hillary as they are leaving at the end of this week. So Emily has been making the most of every minute with Ambrosia. I try not to think about their leaving it's going to be hard to not have them around. We have had many great conversations about where the world is going, aliens, health, education and so much more.

We have battled some serous colds here all good now but slowed us up for a few weeks.

The land development has of course been occupying Pierre 24/7. We've had our up's and down's with it this month but it has all work out well.

The other big time consumer has been the preparation of the shipping of our belongings from NZ to Ecuador. Yes, folks we are staying here for a while. Our application for residency has been accepted so we are just waiting for our new ID cards. We've been putting some more needed items in the container and hope to get it underway by the end of August. We are going to have to build a storage facility for it on the land as we have no where to put the stuff when it arrives and you cannot hire a storage facility like in NZ here they do not exist. A another potential business opportunity, storage facilities.

Dogs are all being dogs. We are down to two dogs again. Still planning on taking Tui to the vet but it will have to wait till after we have moved.

**Count your blessing** Well its the 30<sup>th</sup> July today. Pierre is in Cuenca as I write this. He is there with Aron and Ivy doing business. He's also looking at cars. In a place like Ecuador you start to truly appreciate the luxuries of life. A car is a luxury item and not too long ago in New Zealand many families did not have a car. They were an expensive item the same is here in Ecuador. Cars are expensive and the majority of the population does not have one. Some will have one car for the entire extended family. Most get by using buses, donkeys and walking. If you have some money they may own a horse or mule but these animals take money to 'run' just like a car. In 'first world' countries we have lost the true value of items, we no longer appreciate the blessing of having these items. We take it as a god given right to have them and feel hard done buy when we don't. Many of us are not happy with one we want more and more. Often we do not look after them a we take them for granted and through them out when they break down and buy a new one. Many of us form the first world act like spoiled brats. Fortunately, for our own good, the recession is

going to help give us a reality check. Things will be hard to come by because the money and credit used to buy them will be harder to come by. This is not a recession this is the way it should be! We should be grateful for everything in our life. You should count your blessing every day. The fact that you can count, think, walk and breath freely are all blessings. Blessings go beyond the material they include the physical as in body and the spiritual they people in your life and the people not in your life.

Concert on Saturday last week there was a benefit concert at the Community Centre here in V. We went along with a number of other fellow gringos and some locals. It was a good night, chatting to friends and listening to some rock music. Anyway, I was talking to Caroline who helps run the center and commented on the dinner set the centre has. It's local made in Ecuador. We need one and I don't want to buy a made in China set as the local product has fantastic designs and is very sold stuff. Anyway, she didn't know where it came from only that it came from a specialty shop in Loja. So I put it out there, for not the first time since I've been here, that I want a local made dinner set.

**A day in Loja** Emily and me went to Loja yesterday with Michelle and John to show them the ins and outs of the bus and a few places of interest in Loja. Anyway, after our coffee and ice cream at Mimos we went our separate ways as we had different agenda's. Emily and I ended up walking down Sucre and coming across a very nice shop that sells local made dinner sets, and products for the house!

With my very little Spanish and after some time I managed to work out that the lady of the shop's daughter and son-in-law were coming in their car to take us to the ceramic factory where they make this wonderful pottery. So ½ hour later I found myself in heave. I love ceramics and here I am standing among huge kilns and racks and rack of pottery. I bought a 4 setting dinner set.

Then Marie Cecil and Dario invited us back to their apartment. They have a 6 year old daughter and Emily now has a new friend. They have a fantastic, stunning 300 sq foot apartment in Loja. Marie Cecil and Dario are very lovely people, we had a fantastic afternoon at their house with not a word of English spoken.

Karma came around today in many forms. First I got taken to the place that makes the pottery I fell in love with so my request got answered. Also, back in NZ just prior to us leaving I helped out some lost tourist on our land looking for our neighbor who turns bowls (miles away up the road) so I took them to Kemp and showed them some Kiwi hospitality. Today that came back with some Lojarian hospitality. So what you ask for you get and karma comes back in the exact same way you put it out there. Today was an example of that. Marie Cecil and Dario have gone on to become very good friends of ours.

Sorry folks but it is a short journal this month.