

# BolivianExpress

Gratis Magazine





**Directors:** Amaru Villanueva Rance and Ivan Rodriguez Petkovic. **Partners:** Jack Kinsella, Xenia Elsaesser, Sharoll Fernandez.  
**Editorial Team:** Sara Shahriri, Matthew Grace, Juan Victor Fajardo. **Web and Legal:** Jack Kinsella.  
**Printing and Advertising Manager:** Ivan Rodriguez Petkovic. **Commercial Manager:** Rodrigo Barrenechea.  
**General Coordinator:** Wilmer Machaca. **Head of Production:** Valeria Wilde. **Production Team:** Sophia Vahdati, Adriana Murillo Argandoña. **Domestic Coordinator:** Virginia Tito Gutierrez.  
**The Bolivian Express Would Like To Thank:** Alejandra Quevedo, Anders Backman.  
**Head of Design and Photography:** Michael Dunn Caceres. **Journalists:** Stéfano Hollis, Wassim Cornet, Felipe Seoane.  
**Our Cover:** Michael Dunn Caceres. **Marketing:** Xenia Elsaesser. **Advertise With Us:** ivan\_rp@bolivianexpress.org.  
**Address:** Calle Prolongación Armaza # 2957, Sopocachi, La Paz. **Phone:** 78862061- 79658778 - 70672031  
**Contact:** info@bolivianexpress.org

La Paz – Bolivia,  
October 2014

f :BolivianExpress    @Bolivianexpress  
www.bolivianexpress.org

Talking Trash



9

Rural Re-Visions



12

Cobwebs in The Sky



16

The Rise of Bolivia's Youth



18

Energy and Natural Resources in Bolivia



20

Guarani Crossroads



22

Time



24

Bolivian Politics In The Decades Ahead



26

The End of The Andean GJacier?



28

Vehicles of Change



33

CONTENTS

**Bolivia**  
te espera



1<sup>er</sup> Encuentro Internacional de  
Turismo Comunitario y Social de la  
UNASUR  
7 y 8 de octubre de 2014, La Paz - Bolivia

As 2014 rushes toward a close and Bolivia's October presidential elections become a thing of the past, the Bolivian Express team decided to turn our eyes toward the future - not just the coming year, but the coming decades here in the marvellous city of La Paz and beyond.

Visions of the future often focus on transportation like jetpacks, flying cars and teleporting - and certainly for many people creeping along the Prado in a **micro** at rush hour a jetpack would be a welcome solution. So even as new cable cars are sweeping silently over our heads, the crew at BX decided to keep our feet on the ground and wonder what will happen as the number of cars in La Paz continues to explode, seriously overtaking roadways and resulting in traffic jams that test commuters' patience to the limits.

We're also looking at Bolivia's growing and very young population, made up of people who increasingly need resources like quality education and jobs. Some of these people, like Guarani youth leader Elidet Ruth Mercado, are debating the move between their homes in traditional communities in rural areas to the big city, where more opportunities for work and school, but also a loss of connection with the past, await.

A growing population also needs more water, a problem that will likely affect La Paz and El Alto with force in coming decades as the glaciers which supply both cities with a portion of their water continue to shrink. The issue of glacial melt is not just a problem for Bolivia, but also for tens of millions of people across the Andes who depend on these ancient water reservoirs for drinking, irrigation and hydroelectricity. Along with the issue of population and water, what to do with all the trash growing cities cast off motivates the visions of some community workers and restaurateurs in La Paz and El Alto, who are looking for alternatives to traditional garbage dumps.

Minding the long literary tradition of future and fantasy, this month, one writer takes on the concept of a futuristic La Paz, from how we get around the city to radical changes in construction and public spaces. Other writers are asking citizens in the city and the countryside what they believe, or hope, the coming years will hold for their communities and the country at large.

Imagining a future that somehow connects with today's reality is not a simple proposition, especially in dynamic Bolivia. But with new problems and innovative solutions happening at this very moment, and others waiting just around the corner, it's a worthwhile and exciting challenge.

**N.B.** Several Spanish and Aymara words are marked in **bold** throughout this issue. Their meanings can be found in our glossary.

By Sara Shahrari



**LA CASONA**  
HOTEL BOUTIQUE  
UN ESPACIO HISTÓRICO CON LA COMODIDAD DE HOY  
A historical place with the comfort of today's world

Av. Mariscal Santa Cruz N° 938  
Tel. (+591-2) 290 0505 | Fax (+591-2) 233 3904  
info@lacasonahotelboutique.com  
P.O. Box 284 | La Paz • Bolivia  
[www.lacasonahotelboutique.com](http://www.lacasonahotelboutique.com)

*"The best gourmet Andean food in a magical colonial setting"*



**GO!**  
NUEVO GIMNASIO  
NUEVOS ENTRENAMIENTOS  
NUEVOS RETOS

NUEVO GIMNASIO

ACHUMANI



IRPAVI: AV. RAFAEL PABÓN S/N, MEGACENTER, 3ER NIVEL, TELÉFONO 214-8161  
ACHUMANI: AV. ALEXANDER ESQ. 14, ALTOS KETAL SUPERMERCADO, TELÉFONO 214-8164





CASA *fusión*



www.casafusion.com.bo

EMAIL: GERENCIA@CASAFUSION.COM.BO  
 CALLE MIGUEL DE CERVANTES 2725  
 ENTRE RENDEZ ARCOS Y VINCENTY  
 TEL: +591 272141372  
 LA PAZ - BOLIVIA



Jaén 722

ETNÖ

CULTURAL CAFE

in the most beautiful street of La Paz

the first absinthe bar in the city

contemporary culture since 2005



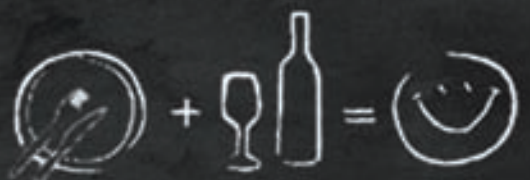
La Coca Gourmet  
 Café Restaurant

Cafeteria con Menú a la Carta Todo el Día

Carne de llama, paella de quinoa, variedad de carnes, platos y postres con coca, opciones vegetarianas, vinos, cervezas artesanales, cafés Italianos

Al medio día Menú Ejecutivo  
 De 08:00 a las 23:00

Rosendo Gutiérrez N° 482 - Tel: (591)2 971730 Cel: 73096883



Lavagna  
 restaurante

f /lavagnerestaurante

- VINOS
- TABLAS DE QUESOS
- PASTAS
- CARNES Y AVES
- ENSALADAS
- MARISCOS

\*COCINA DE AUTOR  
 \*COCINA FUSIÓN



AVENIDA ECUADOR # 2458, SOPOCACHI, LA PAZ - BOLIVIA  
 ATENCIÓN DE LUNES A SÁBADO 12:00-15:00 Y 19:00-23:00  
 RESERVA: 70659836 - 70169725 - 76548534



LAYKA  
 Restaurant

Bolivian Andean Cuisine

Llama steak

Andean stretched pig

KALA KAITO  
 would u dare to finish it?

Andean Buffet

15 bolivian beer choices

Exotic Bolivian Cocktail Bar

daily Live Folk Shows

Happy Hour  
 6:30 - 8:30

free shots every hour

Sagárnaga st. & Linares st. corner  
 2 blocks above Sn. Francisco's church

RESTAURANTE  
 PRONTO  
 Italian Fusion Cuisine

HOMEMADE PASTAS  
 STEAKS  
 AND SEAFOOD  
 RECOMMENDED ON

PASAJE JAUREGUI 2248, BETWEEN 6 DE AGOSTO & 20 DE OCTUBRE, SOPOCACHI  
 RESERVATIONS: (591-2) 2441360 - (591) 70125020  
 WWW.RESTAURANTEPRONTO.COM  
 MON - SAT 11:00 - 23:00



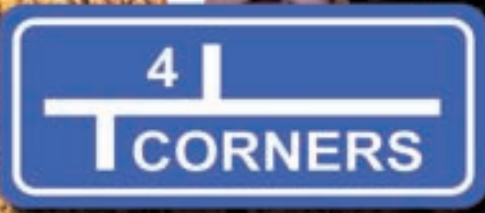
laykarestaurant@gmail.com

+591 246 09 03 - +591 777 47 247

Quality tradition

**Looking for a great meal and a fun night out in La Paz?**

**Look no further than the 4Corners of La Paz, 6 fantastic restaurants/cafes/bars in 1 conveniently located corner of La Paz**



**FOR FOOD & FUN AND LOTS MORE**

**Check out our website [www.4cornerslapaz.com](http://www.4cornerslapaz.com) for more information about each restaurant, or grab a cab to the corner of Calle Murillo, Tarija and Cochabamba in La Paz, and wander around, you are sure to find something you love.**



Tell your waiter you heard about 4corners in this magazine, and get a special offer



# TALKING TRASH

**AS CONSUMPTION INCREASES WITH THE GROWING POPULATION, WILL WASTE BE LINING THE STREETS IN 20 YEARS TIME? WHERE WILL ALL THE RUBBISH GO?**

TEXT AND PHOTO: SOPHIA VAHDATI

**T**rash, litter, rubbish, garbage, waste, refuse, junk, detritus: whatever word you use to describe the excess products of human consumption, it never sounds pleasant. When it is not immediately evident on the streets, it is hidden in a pit miles away from densely populated areas. Most people would prefer to live as far away from trash as possible, however, some individuals are converting trash into one of the unique selling points of their businesses.

According to Bolivia's National Institute of Statistics, in 2012 La Paz produced 181,267 tonnes of waste, or approximately the combined weight of 1,000 average-sized blue whales. The World Bank's most recent report on solid waste management in Bolivia estimates that the average citizen in the country generates 0.33kg of waste per day. This figure is dwarfed by that of the United Kingdom, where people produce 1.79kg of waste on a daily basis; and by that of the United States, where the figure jumps to 2.8kg daily.

## NO SE HACE RECICLAJE.

Unlike in the UK and USA, where the annual generation of waste will probably decrease in the near future, Bolivia's waste production is expected to increase by more than 50% by 2025. In La Paz alone, the growing population signals a future growth in consumption. Recently, a small-scale recycling plant opened in the city that separates plastic and sends it to Plastimadera, a firm that uses the waste to make school furniture. But without

a larger-scale culture of recycling, or a structural method of separating rubbish implemented by the local government, La Paz seems headed for an all too common urban

original metal doors of the hall in which the restaurant currently operates. The tables are fitted with wheels and metal spokes from old bicycles; hanging lamps are made

way for community farms. Its members also promote separating glass and plastic from the general waste for recycling purposes.



María and Andres dream of a better and cleaner future for La Paz. The image they evoke of that future place is a city of gardens. Green spaces where communities can grow their own food, recycle and take care of their rubbish. The way they see it, education and better infrastructure for classifying the city's rubbish could change the landscape dramatically. 'La Paz is a city of entrepreneurs,' María says. She and her partner are hopeful about the future.

The leaders of Fundación Alternativas are not alone in thinking of a garden. The landfill site of

nightmare, that of the junkyard dystopia.

But hope is not lost, says the handful of pazeños who are busy creating avant-garde restaurants, bars, and even community gardens with objects normally considered to be trash. They say the junk-laden nightmare

out of discarded hard drives; the interior is more Shoreditch-chic than recycled rubbish. It truly is art with a utilitarian use.

Even though Ciclick has been in business for only two months, every object in the restaurant has a long story behind it. The

Alpacoma, which is the final resting point of all of the waste generated in La Paz, was recently renamed 'El Nuevo Jardín de Alpacoma.' But this 'new garden' is no garden at all. At least not yet. At 15km away from the nearest urban settlement, Alpacoma is a regular landfill site and a park in the making.

In 20 years, when the Alpacoma site reaches its maximum capacity, the authorities plan to cover it over and turn it into a public garden. The Council of the German city Bonn, which is working in tandem with the local government of La Paz, sent a team to this year to inspect the site and concluded that the project complies with international environmental regulations. This is definitely a positive development. Taking into account the strong anti-littering campaign currently active in La Paz, one can be driven to feel overly optimistic about the future of waste management in Bolivia.

But is it enough to push all the waste of a city under the carpet of a garden? What happens after the garden is finished? It seems that a sustainable solution for waste management in La Paz must also include a strategy to reduce the amount of disposable waste generated in the city. Recycling initiatives like the ones currently emerging in La Paz could go a long way to achieve this objective. ✕

'IN 2012 LA PAZ PRODUCED 181,267 TONNES OF WASTE, OR APPROXIMATELY THE COMBINED WEIGHT OF 1,000 AVERAGE-SIZED BLUE WHALES.'

does not have to become a reality.

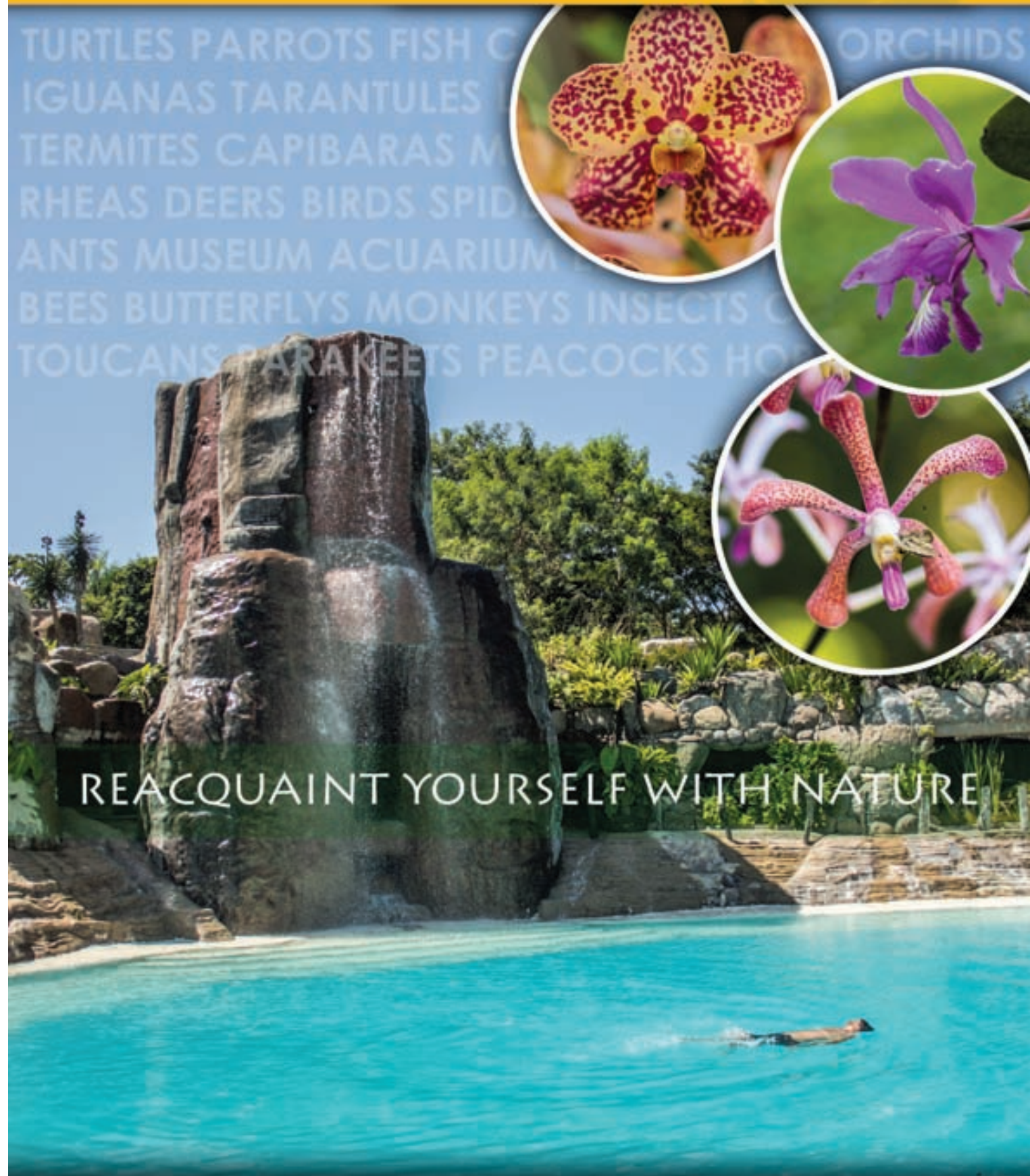
Carola Ibañez and Katya Vergara are two of those driven and innovative people. Together, they founded Ciclick, a new organic restaurant situated in Sopocachi. 'The restaurant is called Ciclick because it refers to a cycle – a cycle of eating good quality food, of visiting the restaurant and of using recycled materials in every feature of our interior design,' Carola said from her chair, fashioned out of recycled wood from a building site.

In the restaurant space, light floods the room from the roof filtered by 70 reused glass bottles. The bar top is made from the

owners believe that must be one of the reasons why people are drawn to their restaurant. The public's reaction has been positive and Carola assures me that using recycled art is a growing trend in restaurants and cafés throughout the city. One of the pioneer venues in this movement was the late night bar Diesel, which has been championing raw, recycled interior design for 14 years.

Other recycling initiatives in the city have an entirely different focus. Maria Teresa Nogales and Andrea Ibañez Pantoja lead Fundación Alternativas, a community-based organization aimed at ensuring food security in the city. The foundation cleans up the rubbish from urban areas to make

# PARADISE IS HERE



TURTLES PARROTS FISH C  
IGUANAS TARANTULES  
TERMITES CAPIBARAS M  
RHEAS DEERS BIRDS SPID  
ANTS MUSEUM ACUARIUM  
BEES BUTTERFLYS MONKEYS INSECTS C  
TOUCANS PARAKEETS PEACOCKS HO

REACQUAINT YOURSELF WITH NATURE

 **GÜEMBÉ**  
BIOCENTRO & RESORT

Reservations: [reservas@biocentroguembe.com](mailto:reservas@biocentroguembe.com)  
Park Information: [info@biocentroguembe.com](mailto:info@biocentroguembe.com)  
Km 5, Camino a Porongo, desvío Las Cruces  
Zona Urubó- Santa Cruz, Bolivia  
Tel./Fax: (591) 3 370-0700



# RURAL



## RE-VISIONS

TEXT: WILMER MACHACA  
PHOTO: MICHAEL DUNN (FROM THE SERIES "FELIX MAMANI")

To cast an eye upon the rural areas of Bolivia is to look back at the history of the country. You are looking at a Bolivia that, in its early years, depended on the peasant workforce, taking you back to a period when the majority of the population lived and worked in the countryside. According to the Census of 1950, 78.3% of Bolivia's population lived in rural areas. Nowadays, according to the 2012 census, this

figure has dropped to 32.7%.

The way the State has approached the rural world in Bolivia is striking. It is impossible to ignore the colonial characteristics of the Republic: to live in a rural area used to be synonymous with being an "indio"; an inferior subject, someone who had been denied citizenship, political participation and education, amongst other rights. At the

root of this project was a worldview which separated haves from have-nots based on skin colour and an imposed class system.

Less than a century ago, being indigenous was a concept that carried connotations of cultural and biological inferiority. In turn, this inferiority translated into restrictions in the free exercise of citizenship, involvement in public sector roles, and the allocation of civil rights.

**BOLIVIA CENTRO ENERGÉTICO DE SUDAMÉRICA**

**PLANTA SEPARADORA DE LÍQUIDOS**

**GRAN CHACO**

**INVERSIÓN: 680 MILLONES DE DÓLARES**

**EL PRESIDENTE DE LA REPÚBLICA**  
PRESIDENTE DE LA REPÚBLICA

**COMUNICACIÓN**  
El Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia

[www.comunicaciongob.bo](http://www.comunicaciongob.bo)

Ministerio de Comunicación

As they were perceived to have neither culture, art, nor science, they effectively had no rights, as stated in the third chapter of the 1931 Constitution, a documents which only recognised city-dwelling creoles as having this privilege.

Over the past decade there has been a re-claiming of indigenous forms of identity which stems from the reconfiguration of the country as the Plurinational State of Bolivia. This process involves a demand for extended rights and recognition of the diversity of cultures which exist in the country. However laudable this process may be, it is lacking in important respects, chiefly, that the formal advances are not materialising into real practices. Furthermore, problems arise when trying to assign new meanings to the terms used to identify members of the rural population, with a conflation between the true meanings of “indios” or “campesinos”, “originarios” or “indigenas” or “autóctonos”.

Another clear example of the points mentioned above can be found in the way the 2nd of August, a date originally proclaimed as the “Día del indio”, has continually changed its name over the years. In 1953, in allusion to the agricultural reform, the “Día del Campesino” was put into place. During Evo Morales’ government, the term used to denote this date has been subjected to several variations: in 2007 it was declared the “day of the agricultural reform”. Later, in 2009, with the new CPE, it came to be known as the “Day of Indigenous Autonomy”, only to be changed in 2010 to the “Día de los Pueblos Originarios”. From 2011 until the present, the 2nd of August became the “Day of Productive and Community Agrarian Revolution”.

These complex changes can lead us to various interpretations. To understand the visions and social imaginaries that are tied to the rural areas it is necessary to look at the structures that encase them; political processes and realities that have dictated the internal organisation of communities. all be it in a contradictory or antagonistic manner. In some cases, bad feelings have been known to exist between authorities of people of origin, of country-dwellers and municipal authorities as well as other civic institutions such as school unions, which are the main actors of mobility in a community.

There are some political positions such as the

LESS THAN A CENTURY AGO, BEING INDIGENOUS WAS A CONCEPT THAT CARRIED CONNOTATIONS OF CULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL INFERIORITY.

one held by Zenobio Quispe of the Foro Indígena and CONAMAQ that claim a need to reestablish ayllus and Markas not only in rural communities but also in the cities. German Choque, secretary to the Local Government Council of Caquiavair, explains that if there were to be a municipal structure that spans across all communities, there would not be the same situation of authority recognition that exists now, where the majority of authorities are a hybrid between indigenous and union-based.

As German states many times, the differences and arguments between communities are marked by the organisation matrixes that represent them, CONAMAQUE or CSUTCB. It will be necessary to add the participation of political parties to this on the inside of each Local Council.

These realities lead the rural word to a dead end in terms of reclamation, change and construction. For example, the Caquiaviri Council ceased construction of their Carta Organica\*(see footnote) due to members of the cantons belonging to different matrix organisations and the the differences that lay in the type of autonomy they wanted to achieve: municipal autonomy or autonomy of the indigenous peoples of origin.

While all of this occurs, the inhabitants of these communities are demanding the fulfilment of basic needs such as: access to water, road surfaces, irrigation and health and education services. These are vital necessities that they want to see resolved in the future since the lack of attention to these issues over the past few years has lead to the rural migration of the young population.

Clemente Condori, second secretary of the Federation of Country-dwellers of La Paz, explains that there are four factors which encourage country-dwellers to abandon their farm land: the search for better salaries, the effects of climatological phenomena, the lack of government support with education and the seductive image of business in the cities.

Today, different visions and revisions of rurality have been underlined by the influence of cities and migration. Today, the rural inhabitants have two residences and new commuting dynamics; those who work in the cities spend the weekend in their communities. There is a still a link with the community that stems from the umbilical cord from which these new dynamics and visions, slightly differing, hybridus and intersecting, are sewn. ✕



20 DE OCTUBRE AV. ACROSS AVAROA SQUARE. LOOK FOR THE SHAMROCK



**BOOK A COMBO NOW**

**The World's Most DANGEROUS Road**

**BOOK WITH US ONLINE: AT GRAVITYBOLIVIA.COM**

**gravity assisted mountain biking**

**NIFF SAID**

**secret singleTrack**

**ANDER EPICS**

Unare's Street #940 - Upstairs. Between Sagarmaga y Tarja - La Paz, Bolivia - South America - Tel (591) 772 - 0218 Cel (591) 231 - 0218

Show this ad when you book for a special offer!



# COBWEBS IN THE SKY

## Do the Evolution

TEXT: RODRIGO BARRENECHEA  
ILLUSTRATION: OSCAR ZALLES

Suddenly I find myself once again flying over this city which is always so familiar from high above in an airplane, and realizing, to my surprise, that there are no more brown brick houses, and all the facades have been painted blue and white, an homage to the Movement Toward Socialism's many years in government. Arriving in La Paz, the sun burns my cheeks more than ever, the wind blows less cold, a dryness in the air tires everyone around me, and as usual it difficult to breath – how wonderful to be back.

Many things have changed since I left the country in 2016. Now, after 20 years, I've come to manage forestry projects at the invitation of the government of Indira Pasoskanki Wolff, a Bolivian woman deeply rooted in her Northern Cochabamba homeland, but with Australian heritage on the side of her mother, who lived her whole life in Bolivia.

The President, who holds a doctorate from Monterrey University in Engineering and Sustainable Development, came to power after a grueling struggle by middle class

union and indigenous supporters due to the environmental and food crisis that is affecting the entire continent. Evo Morales, already in his fourth term, couldn't face this challenger due to aging and a profound physical deterioration that led him to his death bed – imagine, being President for 17 years! It's job that could only lead to that end.

For me, Indira was a sort of Bolivian, intellectual version of Janis Joplin. Her image was pasted on innumerable billboards, picturing her strong features and wild hair.

My anxiety grows and I'm not sure if it's because in just a few hours I will meet my country's President, or because as I descend into La Paz I see a city totally different from the one I remember: the lines of the Teleférico have increased from three, (back when operations began in 2014) to 16, and my view of the sky is totally obscured by the movement of all these colored machines.

Don Mario, the driver of a 'fancy' Radio Taxi (Toyota Model 2024) makes a turn in the middle of the autopista into a long avenue I don't remember at all. The walls are covered in graffiti of all different visions of the Pachamama in intense colors with phrases at the bottom of the murals like:

“las mujeres somos, las mujeres queremos”  
(We are women, as women we want).

Don Mario tells me that everything that once was the Prado in the city center has become a giant pedestrian walkway open to informal markets all the way from San Francisco to the Plaza del Estudiante. He says:

“Jefe, este país se ha vuelto un país de hippies, el centro es un conglomerado de esos”  
(Jefe, this country has become a hippie country; the center is just full of them).

In line with that comment, a few months ago people voted in a constitutional refe-

rendum to do away with all cars and public/private transport, which means that mini-buses, **micros** and **trufis** no longer exist and the only forms of transport are the highly valued Puma Kataris, Teleféricos and a few Radiotaxis. This was one of the measures adopted by the government to deal with air pollution and global warming. I see, with great sadness, looking from Llojeta toward the Zona Sur, that Illimani now has just a tiny cap of snow at the very peak, and is just like any other mountain - it makes me want to weep.

Arriving in the Zona Sur, I see that all the houses that once lined the streets in and around Calacoto no longer exist, and instead there are the huge towers of buildings that house major businesses, banks and other institutions. It seems that all the movement in La Paz is now concentrated here, and Pollos Copacabana is the biggest real-estate holder with a restaurant every three blocks. It's so much - maybe comparable with McDonald's, which went into international bankruptcy a few years back. Seeing so many images of chickens in red hats disturbs me a bit.

I must say it seems unbelievable to me that all the new government buildings are on 21st Street in Calacoto (the most 'elite' commercial area when I was young), and that the old Plaza Murillo and its palaces have become touristic and cultural spa-

ces - well, at least they say that the old presidential palace is now one of the best history museums in the world.

I am greeted by the communications director in the surreal door of the presidential offices, where the old Cathedral of San Miguel once stood. The new building is a majestic work that reminds me of the mega-ecological projects of the German company Bayer, totally minimalist and triangular, covered in glass with solar panels at each corner.

Finally I enter the room where the President's cabinet meets. Indira enters, takes her place at the center of the great oval table, everyone finds their seats and she greets the room:

“Compañeros, este mundo ya no esta hecho para intelectuales, esta hecho para espirituales” (Compañeros, this world is no longer made for intellectuals - it is made for spiritualists.)

Everything seems so out of this world to me, and I'm like an alien in my own land. Disconcerted, I take a sip of the glass of water in front of me while the Minister of Economy sends a biting smile my way, letting me know she perfectly understands my confusion upon seeing so many changes. And the day, for me, is far from over. ✖





# THE RISE OF BOLIVIA'S YOUTH

AS THE COUNTRY'S YOUNG POPULATION AGES INTO THE WORKFORCE, CAN THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING?

TEXT: STEFANO HOLLIS  
PHOTO: MICHAEL DUNN CACERES

**S**trolling—or, rather, panting—up Avenida Montes from Plaza San Francisco towards the highway to El Alto one recent early afternoon, I came across gradually larger groups of school-age children in impressively consistent uniforms. My best guess was that La Paz's **Escuela Militar del Ejército** had just finished another school day, but what struck me most was that these groups of young people were large enough to make passing—on the largest boulevard I'd seen since arriving in Bolivia—difficult, and they just kept coming.

Bolivia has an overwhelmingly and disproportionately young populace. More than 4 million of the country's 10 million-strong population was 19 or younger in 2010, according to the National Institute of Statistics (INE). In contrast, the UK's 2011 census found just 23.9 percent of its population in that same age bracket. Bolivian population trends are ano-

malistic within South America, too.

For example, only 27.7 percent of Colombia's population was 14 or younger in 2013 (compared with 35 percent in Bolivia), according to the United Nations' "World Population Prospect".

This poses an economic challenge for Bolivia: With an estimated 120,000 young people entering the labour market each year, the formal employment sector can only provide work for a third of them. At the same time, however, Bolivia's adult population continues to age, primarily as a result of a steadily increasing life expectancy. And with over half of Bolivians over 60 living in poverty, how can the working-age citizenry support even the minimal assistance offered by the state to this vulnerable group of people? Can the Bolivian government cope as the composition of its population increasingly means too few opportunities for those who can work, an increased need for quality edu-

cation, and an increasing commitment to its older citizens?

In December 2010, President Evo Morales introduced a new pension scheme for Bolivians. This not only reduced the retirement age from 65 to 58 (and to 55 for women with three or more living children), but also promised those who are informally self-employed (who account for 60 percent of the Bolivian workforce) the opportunity to invest in the state pension. This goes against current global trends of raising retirement ages and restricting state pensions. Indeed, it was met with much criticism by those who said the policy was unsustainable.

Government officials justified the policy by explaining that the harsh nature of much Bolivian employment means people are less able to work as they grow older. Ministers also defended the move by highlighting Bolivia's relatively low average life expectancy

of 66.9 years (65.1 for men and 69.2 for women, according to the World Health Organisation), arguing that a lower retirement age therefore makes sense. But with the World Bank predicting an average Bolivian lifespan of over 70 years by 2020, will the policy prove a strain on the country's economy?

Patricia Urqueta, a researcher at CIDES—a research division of the San Andrés University that specialises in development sciences—told *Bolivian Express* that the elderly population is not entirely dependent: "The older adult population is not passive—they fulfil many functions."

For example, Urqueta highlighted the way in which many grandparents, in addition to working in small stores, provide childcare for their grandchildren. In this way, they provide much needed services for the working-age members of the family, allowing them to work and, as is sometimes necessary, travel to do so. Though the ageing population has this integral social role, it doesn't obviate the state's need to provide assistance to the elderly.

In a recent interview with *El Sol de Santa*

Cruz, the director of Renacer—a charity that promotes the interests of the elderly in Bolivia—proclaimed that 'Santa Cruz needs a geriatric hospital.' It is perhaps the provision and extension of these sorts of supportive infrastructures and facilities that future governments must prioritise in order to ensure the health and security of the growing elderly population.

Further complicating the issue, ageing does not take place homogeneously across the

**More than 4 million of the country's 10 million strong population was 19 or younger in 2010**

country. There is a key distinction to be made between a 'biologically ageing' population, one whose average age is increasing, and a 'socially and demographically ageing' population, one in which social trends begin to parallel such biological divisions. In an interview with *BX*, René Pereira, the director of San Andrés University's social sciences faculty, spoke of the way in which the dominant young population is migrating in large numbers to cities and leaving behind concentrated rural areas of the elderly, what

he calls 'the most vulnerable population.' This is something future governments must acknowledge, said Pereira—populations of elderly people without access to any kind of insurance or familial support.

For future governments, Pereira recommends a strong focus on education. 'Bolivia must diversify', he said, and the best future policies should focus on 'productive transformation', which will allow the country to become more prosperous. This, according to Pereira, is how the government can best accommodate the two-thirds of 120,000 young people new to the labour force and without work each year.

Indeed, Urqueta said that 'a great challenge for future governments is the formation of policies that are more productive of work', and providing education that prepares people for work. However challenging the composition of Bolivia's population may be, Urqueta reaffirmed that 'this is an entirely positive thing'. Such a large working-age population, augmented with workplace training and education, can surely be a good thing. ✕



# ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN BOLIVIA.

TEXT: FELIPE SEOANE

**O**n hearing that this issue of the Bolivian Express focuses on “visions” of the future in Bolivia, many ideas passed through my mind – but it was natural resources that surfaced as the most defining force in Bolivia’s past and future. The fate of Bolivia has always been linked to natural resources, which make up the central pillar of its economy, but are also as determining a factor of its political and social life. Hydrocarbons, minerals, water resources and lithium are just a few examples of the kindness that nature has bestowed upon Bolivia. It is precisely because of these resources, and Bolivia’s location in the heart of South America, that the country has a chance to consolidate itself, over the next few years, as the energy centre of the region.

If we take a look back at the historical influence of these natural resources, we at first come across mining. Throughout the history of this region (even before it was known as “Bolivia”) mineral extraction has been ever present and of chief importance. For a large part of the 19th and 20th centuries, large mining families built up economic and political power to the point where various presidents of this

period were closely involved in the mining world, first of silver and then of tin. Simón Patiño provides us with an indicative example of this economic power. He was one of the “tin barons” who, in the thirties, was one of the five richest men in the world, coming to control tin extraction in Bolivia much as he controlled the processing and smelting of it in England. Today, mining maintains economic importance. There are several different types of mining that range from the state-led, to cooperative, to mining by international corporations. Amongst the internationals, it is the Japanese Sumitomo Corporation, operating the San Cristóbal mine, that stands out as the biggest. The importance of mining is reflected by the exportation figures; in 2013 17% of all exports came from mining and even though the price of minerals has suffered a large decrease in the last few years, the demand is still there. All the signs point to the fact that Bolivia’s historical relationship with mining is not going to change over the next few years.

Another natural resource that, since the second half of the twentieth century, has been moulding itself into one of the principal drivers of the Bolivian

economy is natural gas. Stored in the underground regions of southern Bolivia, this resource provides energy for the two largest countries in South America: Brazil and Argentina. Currently, natural gas exportation represents the main source of income for the Bolivian State and 56% of exports. Its importance is also seen in the internal distribution of gas and its weight in terms of foreign policy. In the long term, gas reserves have turned out not to be as plentiful as was initially thought. Furthermore, exploration activities have been reduced which could become a problem over the next few years, especially since demand, particularly in Brazil, is set to increase.

Both resources (gas and mineral) collectively form 73% of the country’s exports and are the principal pillar of the national economy. Nevertheless, this country has large stores of other natural resources which are gaining more significance on an international level.

Bolivia has immense water resources, as much subterranean as surface based. However, they have not been adequately taken advantage of. Two of the main basins (Del Plata and Amazonas) form part of the largest hydrographical systems on the continent. The Altiplano

nic basin (Lake Titicaca, River Desaguadero, etc...) hold enormous potential. Bolivia anticipates the exportation of energy from 2015 onwards by means of the construction of various hydro-electric power stations in Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, Tarija and La Paz which will produce energy for export to countries such as Argentina, Brazil and Peru, who have already expressed interest in buying Bolivia’s energy. The exportation of this energy could bring about great economic benefits for the country, however, questioning comes from environmental sectors reminding us that dams greatly affect their surroundings.

The worldwide demand for lithium is constantly increasing since batteries for devices including mobile phones and laptops need this material. Salar de Uyuni, located in the department of Potosí, represents the largest reserve of lithium on a global level and there are currently state-led industrialisation projects in progress. However, these projects have not yet been fully activated since there is a lack of technology and know-how to do so.

With regards to atomic energy, President Evo Morales says this energy source will be developed peacefully and will be used purely for medical and production purposes. A nuclear plant is expected to be constructed in the La Paz region within the next 10 years. This plan has provoked worries amongst many sectors since recent incidents (Fukushima) and not so recent ones (Chernobyl) show the enormous environmental risk that this type of energy can pose. Neighbouring countries have reacted cautiously to this idea and so the future of this type of energy, and the possibility of exporting it, remains uncertain.

As you can see, Bolivia is a country blessed with large amounts of natural wealth, and converting the country into an energy hub and regional driver has been portrayed as a national interest for decades. It’s an achievement that would confirm Bolivia, as the diplomat Alberto Ostria Gutiérrez dreamt, as “country of contacts not of hostility.” Nowadays, President Evo Morales (who will most likely be re-elected in October, 2014) has announced his government’s interest in consolidating Bolivia as the heart of energy in South America, utilizing the natural and energy resources already mentioned. There is no doubt that the potential held by these resources offers the chance to establish Bolivia as the centre of energy and chief provider of natural resources for the entire South American area, as well as for other parts of the world. However, this process must involve an appreciation of the importance of taking precautions not to exploit natural resources to the detriment of the environment.

The opportunities to develop that are presented to Bolivia because of its natural resources can be followed up in a sustainable and balanced manner, prioritising the introduction of “clean” sources of energy. At the same time, the fact that natural resources are finite must be taken into account, making it is important to invest in resources from areas which generate a larger number of jobs in the long term. Without a doubt: the vision of Bolivia becoming the centre of energy in South America is a real possibility over the coming years.\*

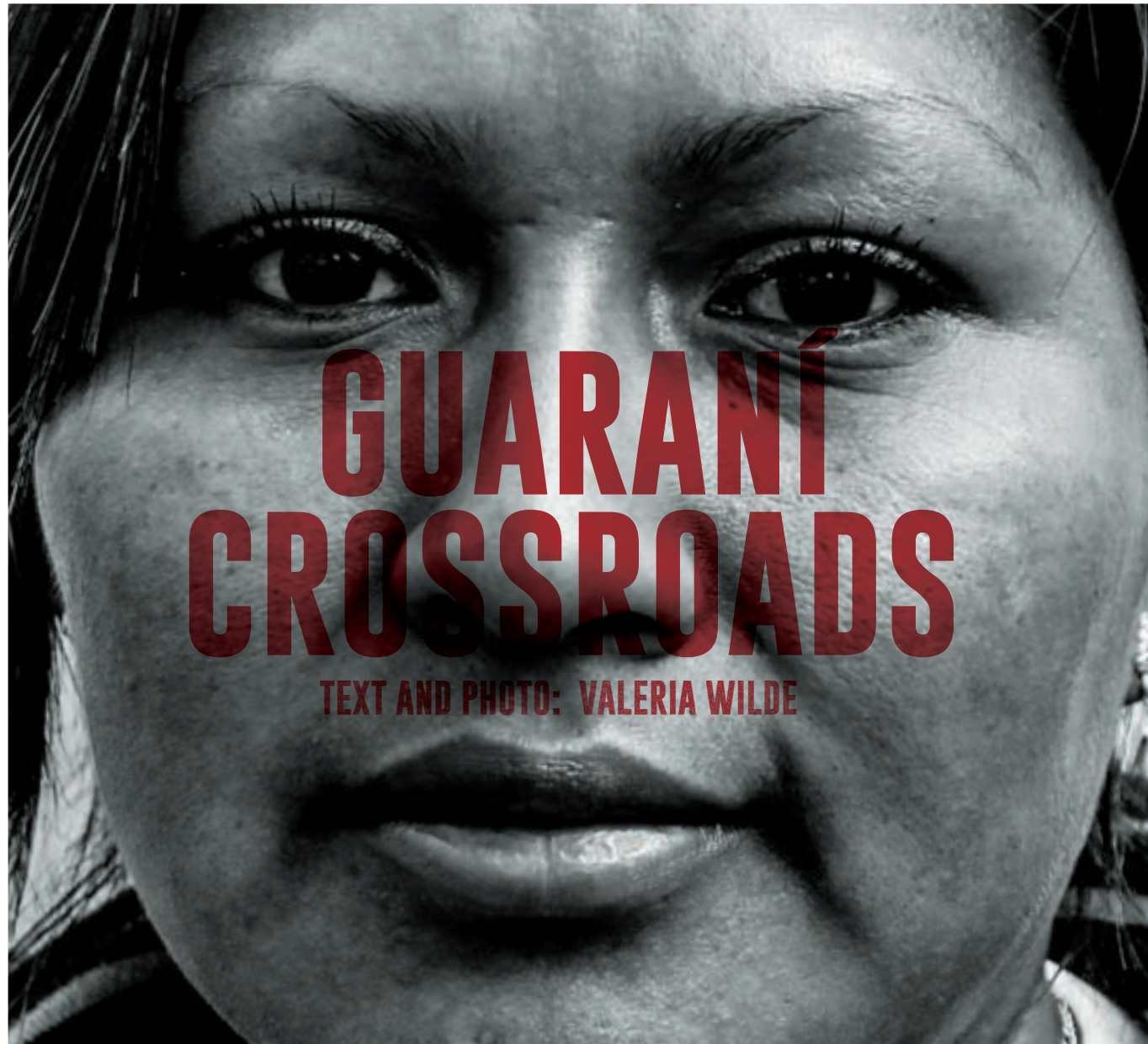
mistura  
Manifestación Creativa



A unique and inspiring place, where you will find the essence of Bolivia. Mistura offers clothing, art, gourmet food, and a variety of curated products proudly made in Bolivia, by Bolivians.

calle Sagarnaga no.163  
la paz bolivia

www.misturabolivia.com



# GUARANÍ CROSSROADS

TEXT AND PHOTO: VALERIA WILDE

**E**lidet Ruth Mercado is a young woman with a lot to say. She loves to talk and explain her opinion, and from the look on her face and the tone of her voice you understand her desire to be heard and the seriousness of every single word. Elidet, whose friends call her Charito, is a 27-year-old Community Director and President of a group of young people in the Guaraní community of Guirapayete.

Being a single mother to two young children in the conservative community of Guirapayete, an Indigenous Guaraní community 220 km from Santa Cruz with around 40 families, has been a challenge for her. When Charito remembers the hardship of having to

come to terms with her reality she cannot help but let a few tears roll down her face and her voice shakes slightly as she continues her story:

*“As a mother, I would not want the same for my daughters, I want things to be different, I want the chance to work and to be able to help my daughters so that they can be better than me. That they could have a profession and could be somebody in their lives. I would like my children to go out and to know about new things.”*

Like many young Guaraní, Charito wants more opportunities for herself and her children, but is looking toward an uncertain future for her people and their culture, as she sees many of her

peers drawn toward cities where they face discrimination.

Guaraní people arrived in the Bolivian Chaco from Paraguay before the Spanish conquest. They first fought against the Incas and after that came the colonization with all its implications.

Amongst a Guaraní woman's greatest challenges in facing the modern world, Charito mentions the discrimination she feels on leaving her community. Discrimination for dressing or speaking differently or for not having a similar level of education to those who live in the city. “They make us feel smaller or inferior for being Guaranis. We do not speak Spanish well but neither do we speak Guaraní. They discriminate aga-

inst us because we lack resources but above all, because of our lack of education.”

Many people take education for granted, but Charito does not. She wants to study Social Communications and her greatest dream is to have a video camera in order to capture the customs and traditions of the Guaraní people, so that the number of people who know about their dances, foods, dress and crafts gradually increases.

Charito says that the current generation of young people in her community lack a feeling of identity. They are caught between two worlds, since they do not completely fit in when they migrate to cities, but at the same time their own traditions are disappearing. Older women still dress in a tipoy, a long white tunic made of rough cotton with bands around their heads, painted cheeks and collars, in the traditional style. They speak perfect Guaraní and can weave and participate in other activities specific to place. However, the young women have started to copy different customs in their attempt to fit in with Bolivian life outside the community. They have abandoned traditional dress and though the vast majority understand Guaraní, they don't speak it. This means many adults are regretfully seeing their language diminish. It seems the next generation will determine if

***‘AS A MOTHER, I WOULD NOT WANT THE SAME FOR MY DAUGHTERS, I WANT THINGS TO BE DIFFERENT FOR THEM’***

Guaraní continues to be spoken in communities.

Living in Guirapayete is far from simple. Using a mobile phone or the internet appears futuristic. Just a year and a half ago they received basic services like water and electricity, but the worst of all this is the absence of projects and policies that would allow community members to keep their families united within the community instead of migrating to cities - quality education and access to healthy forms of entertainment. Customs are disappearing and in many cases it seems children living today in Guirapayete or one of the other 320 Guaraní communities in the Bolivian Chaco are destined to search for better chances and abandon their communities.

The effect this migration of the young has on communities is defined by the Director of the Social Sciences Faculty at the UMSA, René Pereira, as social or demographic aging. It leads to a large absence of youths in rural areas, leaving communities partially deserted and us wondering what the future holds for them.

For Charito, there is an internal struggle between being proud of her origins and her community, and wanting to offer her daughters the possibility of education and professional jobs. Her vision means giving them what they need to establish themselves as people and spend their lives doing what makes them happy - even if it means leaving her community. ✕





THERE THEY ARE  
VISIONS OF YOUR PAST,  
YOUR PRESENT AND YOUR FUTURE  
BE QUICK, THE TIME IS  
ALMOST UP  
IF YOU CARE AT ALL

# TIME

A PHOTO ESSAY BY IVAN RODRIGUEZ PETKOVIC



# FORECASTING THE FUTURE— BOLIVIAN POLITICS IN THE DECADES AHEAD

TEXT: WASSIM CORNET  
ILLUSTRATION: OSCAR ZALLES



**E**vo Morales is currently on track to become Bolivia's longest-serving leader since the country gained independence in 1825. This unprecedented feat is telling of the lack of stability that has defined the country's political landscape for almost two centuries. Considering this tendency toward political flux, it is very difficult to predict the direction the country will take

in 10 to 20 years, but I have asked two political minds what they think. In the past 20 years, Bolivia has seen seven presidents leading the country, a series of protests that rocked the political landscape, and the rise and fall of many political parties, some of whose members are now in exile. Just 11 years ago, Gonzalo "Goni" Sánchez de Lozada was forced to resign from the presidency and flee the country

after dozens of people were killed in what is known as the 'Gas War'. So when Evo Morales, an indigenous coca farmer, gained the presidency in 2006, no one could have imagined how much Bolivia would change in just a few years.

According to Ana María Solares, economist and specialist in commerce and international negotiations at her own

enterprise Calidad Total, 'the country has changed', with a more empowered lower and middle indigenous class emerging thanks to the policies introduced by MAS (Movimiento al Socialismo—Movement Toward Socialism) and setting itself as one of the pillars of Bolivian society. This class is here to stay, and since it owes its political clout in part to Morales's rise to power, it is likely that the current president will see widespread support for many years to come.

pa smelter plant, the enormous project of bringing natural gas to Bolivian homes, and the more controversial plans like the TIPNIS highway and the discussion over the possibility of a nuclear power plant. But, said Solares, 'the defense of Mother Nature is just political discourse.' According to her, Morales's commitment to the environmental is just a façade.

Marcelo Arequipa, a political scientist at the Social Investigations Center of the Vice Presidency, said that Bolivia will continue to industrialize and develop, and as long as the populace sees results, they will support whoever is leading the most productive developmental agenda. He says that Morales is unable to escape globalization, and his government has been a very active solicitor of fore-

opposition so intent on evicting MAS from power and moving away from its professed socialist agenda? Arequipa said that the current opposition used to be the richer elite prior to Morales's rise to power. They were businessmen that were hurt by the government's intense dedication to the lower and middle class, and they would like the tide to turn once again to their favor.

But can the opposition unite? Solares said this is unlikely because of the current behavior of opposition leaders. 'Democracy is more viable when there is a strong opposition . . . but politicians in general are just too egocentric.' Solares said that politicians have blocked themselves out of anything other than their internal, personal political agendas, which is not a viable way to govern.

Is there a possibility that the environmentalist Bolivian Green Party could rise to the fore? Despite strong opposition against the TIPNIS highway project that cuts across protected indigenous lands,

'DEMOCRACY IS MORE VIABLE WHEN THERE IS A STRONG OPPOSITION . . . BUT POLITICIANS IN GENERAL ARE JUST TOO EGOCENTRIC.'  
ANA MARIA SOLARES

ign investment in the country. Arequipa said that Bolivians don't give much importance to the political ideology of the country and that they are very pragmatic regarding politics. What's likely, according to Arequipa, is that Bolivians will continue voting

for whichever party continues the development of the country, whether that means supporting a socialist or a liberal ideology.

Looking to the future, it may be hard for any opposition parties to gain the needed support because of that pragmatism that permeates Bolivian society. So if Bolivians aren't fixated on ideology, then why is the

Back in 2006 and in the run-up to his election, Evo Morales presented himself as a staunch defender of the right to grow coca, the importance of agriculture, and the preservation of **Madre Tierra**. Today, leading into 2014 election, the discourse has changed to focus on major development projects for the country, such as the reactivation of the Karachipam-

the Green Party has found scant support. Arequipa attributed this to the major difficulty of getting citizens to become concerned about the environment. 'The only way to change that is to make it a state policy', he said. Solares added that on the international stage, Bolivia has taken a very environmentalist stance. However, within the country, not much has been accomplished regarding environmental protection, and it will likely remain that way for some time to come.

After analyzing the possible future of the Bolivian political landscape, Marcelo Arequipa takes some time to share his ideal vision of the country's government 20 years from now: 'A female president leading a pluralist government' would be a dream come true, he said. Will that dream materialize? Only time will tell. ✕

# THE END OF THE ANDEAN GLACIER?

GLACIERS AREN'T JUST IMPORTANT TO PENGUINS AND POLAR BEARS. IN FACT, THEY CONTRIBUTE TO THE WATER YOU DRINK IN PARTS OF BOLIVIA TODAY.  
 TEXT: SARA SHAHRIARI - PHOTO: ANDERS BACKMAN, REDI IMAGES



Not far from La Paz, on a lonely mountaintop, sits a building surrounded by rock. This is the Chacaltaya ski resort, once the highest in the world. But today the ski lift is closed because the glacier it relied on has melted away.

Most glaciers are located at very high or very low latitudes, the kind of freezing cold, extreme places you'd expect to find masses of ice. But a small percentage are tropical, and of those the vast majority are found in Peru, followed by Bolivia. Gazing around the city of La Paz, glaciers are not hard to spot, from the gleaming peaks of Illimani shining in the south, to the wedgelike Mururata and the single summit of Huayna Potosi. But could these ancient glaciers be headed the way of Chacaltaya, so that looking around La Paz in 20 years we see just rocky peaks without their icy caps?

Andean glaciers are shrinking at alarmingly rapid rates. In fact, according to the European Geosciences Union, 'Since the 1970s, glaciers in tropical Andes have been melting at a rate unprecedented in the past 300 years,' and have shrunk by an average of 30 to 50 percent. This melt is vastly more important than the loss

of a single ski resort, and affects tens of millions of people throughout the Andes who rely on glacial water for drinking, irrigation and hydroelectricity.

A glacier is like a viscous, slow moving river of ice that relies on snow and freezing temperatures at its head to recharge a mass that usually migrates downward at a snail's pace. In Chacaltaya's case, the mountain's altitude means it simply became too warm.

'There are many causes for glacier melt,' says Gabriel Zeballos, Teacher and Researcher at the Geographical Engineering Program of the Escuela Militar de Ingeniería in La Paz. 'The fundamental cause is global warming, and that controls the recharge level, which keeps rising. That's what happened to Chacaltaya - there was no recharge given that its peak is relatively low in altitude - only 5300 meters above sea level.'

Today, residents of La Paz rely on glaciers to provide some 15 percent of our drinking water, according to recent studies by an international team of investigators. If that water source eventually diminishes, and it seems it will, El Alto and La Paz may have to construct more dams to retain river water. But dams bring their

own set of problems, especially for communities downstream, which often see their access to water radically restricted.

Zeballos says that, according to the book *Gestión de Aguas, Conceptos para el Nuevo Milenio* by Margot Franken, La Paz - and all major cities - needs to change the way it uses water to deal with both an increasing population and the possible loss of part of its water supply. 'We take potable water and use it for everything, even toilets. We dirty the water, and then we pump it into a dead river,' he says, referring to the contaminated Choqueyapu River, which flows through parts of La Paz and carries water away from the city. A more sustainable solution would be that instead of sending this valuable resource away, water from sinks and showers be re-used for purposes like irrigation, returning it to the land locally.

As global temperatures continue to rise, Andean glaciers, due to their special position at high altitudes near the equator, will continue to be disproportionately affected by climate change. We're probably not looking at the total disappearance of Andean glaciers in the next few decades, but they will continue to melt and become smaller in ways that spell change and hardship for many communities.



SERVICIOS Y HOSPEDAJE DE LA CADENA  
 VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.ONKELINN.COM

 <p>ONKEL INN 1886 LA PAZ</p>   <p>onkelinn@gmail.com              Calle Colombia 257 (20 mts down San Pedro Square)              (+591-2) 2 490 456</p>	 <p>MEETING POINT CAFE LA PAZ</p>   <p>meeting@onkelinn.com              Calle Colombia 257 (20 mts down San Pedro Square)              (+591-2) 2 48 28 04</p>	 <p>SLEEP BOX AEROPUERTO EL ALTO</p>   <p>sleepbox@onkelinn.com              1.Piso - Aeropuerto El Alto              (+591-2) 2 82 94 34</p>	 <p>ONKEL INN TORRES DE COPACABANA</p>   <p>copacabana@onkelinn.com              Av. Costanera 257 Playa Copacabana              (+591-2) 796 26 886</p>
---	--	--	---



**Jodanga**

Backpacker's Luxury Hostel  
 Santa Cruz - Bolivia



**Facilities:**  
 Dorm beds & Private Rooms,  
 Breakfast included, BAR,  
 SWIMMING POOL, All you can  
 drink and eat BBQ's, Billiard  
 Table, Spanish Lessons,  
 TOURS, Book Exchange

www.jodanga.com  
 f Jodanga  
 info@jodanga.com  
 C/El Fuerte #1380  
 Barrio "Los Choferes"  
 (UV. 6 - Zona Parque Urbano)  
 Telf. 591-33-398-542







# Study in La Paz

Spanish, English, Dutch, French, Aymara, Quechua



- ✓ Native teachers
- ✓ Tailor-made classes
- ✓ DELE/TOEFL
- ✓ Onsite/Online classes
- ✓ TEFL Teaching
- ✓ Homestay options

20 de Octubre Av. N° 2315. Phone: +591 224 21072 - 70135112  
www.instituto-exclusivo.com - info@instituto-exclusivo.com



"He has not learned the lesson of life who does not every day surmount a fear."  
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

- > #1 Activity on Tripadvisor
- > The most fun you can have with your pants on in the center of La Paz!
- > Rappel/Abseil 50 meters! ( Traditional Style or Face First!)
- > Exceeds ALL International Standards
- > 100 % safe! (3 brakes! 2 ropes!)
- > For extra adrenaline, try the 20 m. FREE FALL!



> Book at most tour agencies or just come on by Hotel Presidente! (Potosí St. 920, Big Green Building across the street from San Francisco Church). We are open every day from 1-5 pm! > 1st Drop: 150 bs > More Drops! 70 bs

Check us out on Facebook! www.facebook.com/urbanrushworldwide - www.urbanrushbolivia.com

Tel. (591-2) 240-6666  
After hours: (591) 762-85738  
info@urbanrushbolivia.com



## ZIP The Flying Fox

Come "Fly" With Us!

Located in Yolosa, at the end of The WMDR/"Death Road" bike ride

- Speeds of up to 85 km/h
- 1555 meters of Zipline divided into three exciting segments
- Built to exceed U.S. ACCT (Association for Challenge Course Technology) standards with 1/2" steel cable rated for 12,600 kgs!

Book now at: www.ziplinebolivia.com - info@ziplinebolivia.com - Phone in La Paz: 231-3849

**ZIPLINEBOLIVIA.COM**  
FIND US ON FACEBOOK AS "ZIP THE FLYING FOX"

## Traditional Swiss Fondues served in relaxed ambience to make any chocolate, cheese or meat fondue lover feel right at home

FRIBOURG+SION+DE LEMONT+BERN+AARAU+STANS+HERISAU+SA RNE+APPENZELL+SCH AFFHAUSEN+BASEL+SC HWYZ+LIESTAL+SOLO THURN+ST.GALLEN+ FRAUENFELD+GENEVE +BELLINZONA+GLARUS+ ALTDORF+CHUR+LAU SANNE+LUZERN+ZUG +NEUCHATEL+ZURICH

# SWISSFONDUE

FRIBOURG+SION+DE LEMONT+BERN+AARAU+STANS+HERISAU+SA RNE+APPENZELL+SCH AFFHAUSEN+BASEL+SC HWYZ+LIESTAL+SOLO THURN+ST.GALLEN+ FRAUENFELD+GENEVE +BELLINZONA+GLARUS+ ALTDORF+CHUR+LAU SANNE+LUZERN+ZUG +NEUCHATEL+ZURICH

**Especialidad en Fondue de carne y queso en un ambiente cálido y acogedor**

20 de Octubre 2355 entre R. Gutierrez y B. Salinas, telf.: 2 424305 / 701 20264

## THE "RIDICULOUSLY AWESOME" BOLIVIA DEATH ROAD MOUNTAIN BIKING OPTION

\*EXTREMELY EXPERIENCED GUIDES  
\*FULL SAFETY EQUIPMENT

**BRING THIS IN FOR A HUGE DISCOUNT!  
NORMAL PRICE...500 BS. SPECIAL OFFER 449 BS.**

Phone: (591-2)245-9950 | Cell: (591) 767-28881  
Main Office: Illampu St. #750 (Inside Hostal Gloria, Office #4)  
info@barracudabiking.com | www.barracudabiking.com

**NO BULLSHIT GUARANTEE!**

## CONSULTORA MULTIDISCIPLINARIA "FMG" S.R.L.

Audidores & Consultores

**AUDITORIAS**

- Operativa
- Financiera
- Impositiva
- Técnica
- Especial
- Forense
- Integral
- Evaluaciones de Control Interno
- Sistemas

**ASESORAMIENTO**

- Administrativo
- Financiero
- Tributario
- Laboral (Recursos Humanos)
- Contable
- Aportaciones al Seguro Social
- Importaciones y Exportaciones

**CONSULTORIAS**

- Revalorización Técnica de Activos Fijos
- Desarrollo de Sistemas Contables
- Sistemas de Inventarios de Almacenes
- Elaboración y Evaluación de Proyectos
- Organización de Empresas
- Entrenamiento y Cursos Actualización
- Evaluación de Personal

**OTROS SERVICIOS ESPECIFICOS**

- Trámites de inscripciones y afiliaciones al Seguro Social, Fundempresa, Impuestos Nacionales, Ministerio de Trabajo Gobiernos Municipales y otros.
- Trámites de CEDEIMS, Sector Exportador, Tradicional y no Tradicional.

**CONTABILIDAD**

- Externa
- Balances de Apertura
- Balances de Gestión
- Balances de Cierre
- Libros de Contabilidad
- Declaraciones Impuestos
- Libros de contabilidad
- Libros de Compras y Ventas IVA
- Comprobantes de contabilidad

Calle Sucre 1016 esq. Víctor Sarquini # 402 Sucre  
 Potosí 1958@hotmail.com  
 Ave. Rivera 1965  
 taller@confmg\_srl

7081216-7089015-7089842  
 881-2-2419189-2419183  
 facebook.confmg\_srl



# GLOSSARY

ESCUOLA MILITAR DEL EJÉRCITO	Military School of the Army
EL NUEVO JARDÍN DE ALPACOMA	The New Garden of Alpacoma
MICRO	An often over-packed mini-bus, common form of public transport.
INDIO	Indian
CAMPESINOS	Peasants
ORIGINARIOS	Originals
INDÍGENAS	Indigenous
AUTOCTÓNOS	Autochthonous
MADRE TIERRA	Mother earth
ALTEÑOS	People from the city of El Alto
LA SEMAFORIZACIÓN	The process of installing traffic lights

## VEHICLES OF CHANGE

STÉFANO HOLLIS EXPLORES HOW LA PAZ'S CITY GOVERNMENT MUST ADAPT TO COPE WITH ROCKETING LEVELS OF CAR OWNERSHIP

**T**he streets of La Paz--especially during gridlocked rush hours--are hardly the most welcoming of places for pedestrians. In the mad crush of cars, taxis, minibuses, **micros**, motorbikes and now Puma Kartari buses, making it alive to the next plaza can feel like a grand achievement. At times, you must dodge vehicles of all kinds and sizes in order to reach this rare collection of pedestrian safe zones.

The number of registered vehicles in Bolivia almost doubled in the span of only 6 years, going from 418,000 in 2002 to 821,000 in 2008. It is estimated that over 300,000 of these vehicles can be found in the relatively small, though extraordinarily dense urban area of La Paz. Both of these figures, however, overlook the fleet of unregistered vehicles in the country, with a large number of doctored documents allowing for these. The government of La Paz predicts that in 5 years there will not be enough physical room for all the cars to move through the city.

But the practical issues of congestion are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the problems caused by traffic. Not only do many people in La Paz--especially **alteños**--face a daily commute of over 4 hours, but 3 people die each week in the city due to traffic accidents. This figure presents a 240% increase in traffic-related deaths and injuries since 2000. Furthermore, there is also increasing concern in the city over the air pollution caused by traffic. La Paz, along with Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, holds some of the highest nitrogen dioxide levels in South America, according to a 2012 report by the Clean Air Institute.

In order to understand why car ownership has grown at such a fast pace here, it is important to examine what owning a car means to the average Bolivian in La Paz. For some, a car is absolutely necessary to their job. Some people, like Edwin Marquez, a 41-year-old Bolivian, have always lived in La Paz but work in a rural area. Other residents believe cars have gone from being a desired luxury to being perhaps too easily accessible.

Orlando, an 8-year-resident of La Paz, says that 'in the past [a car] meant a large investment...it changed your life'. Today, he says, it is not uncommon to see 3 or even 4 cars per family, due to the growing availability of cheaper, used Japanese models.

That said, owning a car in Bolivia may still say a lot about a person's status--much like in the vast majority of developed and developing countries in the world. One employee at a car dealership in La Paz told BX that owning a car in the city is still a common aspiration; 'It's about having status. Above everything else it's an accomplishment, something you've conquered'.

In order to combat the rising levels of pollution and congestion caused by the growing number of vehicles on the streets, Bolivian President Evo Morales introduced a ban in 2008 on the importation of all cars older than 5 years. The goal was to limit the speed at which older Japanese models were entering the country. In Japan, owning an older car has become increasingly expensive due to strict environmental regulations. People tend to update their models fairly frequently, which is

PHOTO: VALERIA WILDE

WWW.BOLIVIANEXPRESS.ORG

FOLLOW US

f: BOLIVIAN EXPRESS @BOLIVIANEXPRESS



when police attempted to seize their vehicles.

Back in La Paz, road users protest for entirely different reasons in a city where traffic remains an intractable issue. Only two weeks ago, bus drivers blocked the streets of the Zona Sur to protest against **la semaforización**, a policy that introduced over 60 new traffic lights to the area. Julián Manzaneda, leader of the bus driver's union, told the news outlet Red Uno that the Mayor's office in La Paz fails to acknowledge the demands of his sector. Since the traffic lights are aimed at benefiting the city's pedestrians, Manzaneda suggests that perhaps the City should look into 'our need for more walkways' instead.

For now, according to Alvaro Mérida--an official in the department of mobility at the Mayor's office--the priority in La Paz is 'to reduce the number of private journeys' across the city and encourage the use of public transport. One scheme already in place to achieve this goal is the road space rationing program implemented within the bounds of central La Paz. This program limits vehicle access to the city centre on particular days of the week, according to the vehicle's license plate. In the near future, the Mayor's office plans to tackle parking with a plan that 'will involve the construction of parking spaces at key points in the city'.

Bolivians remain sceptical, though, arguing that the City will be unable to make any truly effective changes without facing entirely reversing public backlash. The challenge for future leaders, it seems, will be to build consensus around the need for addressing these issues, harmonizing voices and interests that are as dissonant and diverse as they look when they're sharing the streets of the city. \*

why a huge market developed in Bolivia for these cheap second-hand models.

But the import ban was not entirely successful. After 2008, cars continued to enter Bolivia under the guise of

false documentation. The attempts to seize these contraband vehicles were also largely unfruitful and even led to violent conflict. In 2012, the chutereros (who are responsible for the illegal entry and modification of the cars) confronted the military in Challapata

La solución contra el mal de altura  
**The solution for high altitude sickness**  
 La solution contre le mal d'altitude  
**Die Lösung gegen die Höhenkrankheit**  
 こうざんびょう の たいしょほう

# SOROJCHI PILLS



Altura ciudad de Potosí: 3,900 msnm



Altura salar de Uyuni: 3,650 msnm



Altura lago Titicaca: 3,812 msnm

**Previene y alivia todos los síntomas del mal de altura**  
**Prevent and brings relief to all high altitude sickness symptoms**

Un producto de:

**CREZPAL**

Laboratorios CRESPAL S.A.

[www.sorojchipills.com](http://www.sorojchipills.com)



Advertencias: No es recomendable para personas con alergias o intolerancia a alguno de sus principios activos: aspirina (ácido acetilsalicílico), salófeno, cafeína. Consulte a su médico si sufre de: desórdenes de coagulación, hemorragia gástrica, gastritis, alcoholismo, diabetes, hipertensión o reducción en la función renal, cardíaca o hepática. Mantener fuera del alcance de los niños.



PHOTO: ANDERS BACKMAN, REDD IMAGES - WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/REDDIMAGES

