

THE AMAZON

February 2013



In 2013 guest speaker Prof Gwen Jull and a hardy band of StuVac delegates embarked on a floating seminar/adventure down the mighty Amazon River. We began in Iquitos, a rubber boom town that is now a mixture of the salubrious and the decayed. Despite being one of the world's most remote cities, Iquitos is home to a half million residents. And every one of them seemed to own a motor bike or a tuk tuk which they drove at breakneck speed. Loaded into the back of tuk tuks, we joined the race, hanging on for dear life to visit the Belen markets and Gustav Eifel's famed Iron House. From Iquitos we boarded our river boat, the Ayapua, newly refurbished but retaining much of the decoration from its initial commission in 1906.



THE AMAZON

February 2013



We navigated the mighty Amazon through the Pacaya-Samira; Peru's largest water reserve. Stops were made at indigenous villages to meet the children (much excitement when the children saw a photo of themselves taken on a mobile) and to talk with the elders. Frequent stops were made to fish (piranha are small but their teeth are huge), to trek through the jungle (once stopping for the guide to machete a snake into pieces because he informed us it would follow and strike if he did not), enjoy a display by pink dolphin, watch manatee, observe giant millipede, giant fungi, giant spider webs (grateful we didn't see the spider), huge waterlily pads, magnificent toucan, and watch stunning sunsets while being serenaded by ear-splitting howler monkeys under the watchful eye of sloth.

And during daily lectures/prac sessions Prof Jull updated us on her world leading research into whiplash and cervical headache.

