

ARGENTINA NATIONAL MEETING IN LAGO PUELO 21-23 MARCH 2025

This national meeting was held in Lago Puelo, Province of Chubut, Argentina on 21, 22 and 23 March 2025. The visit was organised by Osvaldo Delloca, Regional Coordinator, and was supported by Cintia Amor, the National Secretary. He chose a wonderful setting and set the best intentions, which led us to the town of Lago Puelo, also called 'Puelo', located in the Argentinean Andean Patagonia, in the department of Cushamen, in the northwest of the province of Chubut, four kilometres from the body of water that gives it its name. It has just over six thousand inhabitants and its economy is based mainly on the production of red fruits (cherries, strawberries and raspberries), hops and craft beer, as well as on tourism and real estate.

With all its charm and beauty, this marvellous place became the refuge of our meeting, in which Servas from the provinces of Misiones, Santa Fe, Buenos Aires, Neuquén and Chubut, among others, participated.



From the very first day, the intention to revalue our rights and strengthen our bonds of brotherhood that identify the Servas spirit was paramount. This is how we started our activities by participating in a mosaic workshop with social organisations from Puelo, contacted by Carina and Sandra. The thematic of our work was the Plaza de Mayo scarves, a way of participating in the National Day of Memory for truth and justice.



The first day ended with the participation in a Festival in the village of Epuyén, for the benefit of the Andean region, the proceeds of which were destined for the victims of the forest fires of last January of this year.



On the second day of the meeting, we had a participative and friendly lunch, in which Oscar, Viviana, Roberto, Rogelio and Silvana stood out as cooks, where the Servas spirit was felt again. The group activities took place in the 'El gringo' cabins, a beautiful place that sheltered us under a splendid sun that was part of the autumn landscape of the mountain range.

And we made, with Carina's advice, the printing of the new Servas T-shirts with a beautiful design of the forests of Lago Puelo.



We also celebrated one of the member's (Mónica) birthday. So nice!



After midday, the programme consisted of a trip to the village of El Bolsón, in the province of Río Negro, where we visited its 'Regional Fair', full of beautiful objects made by local artisans. We continued with an illustrative visit to the facilities of the factory 'Estancia Micó', a family business dedicated to the production of jams, juices and other sweets with fruits from the area and from their own plants. We took advantage of the facilities of such a beautiful place to hold the 'Reading Workshop', in charge of Silvana and Rogelio. That same afternoon we went on a group trekking to 'Cerro Amigo', where we shared a panoramic view of the city at sunset.



On Sunday, the last day of the meeting, we woke up with the first rays of sunshine peeking through the mountains, and we were able to enjoy the warm atmosphere of the music therapy workshop led by María Elena, Servas from Misiones. It was a wonderful experience, which embraced us as an organisation and allowed us to get to know each other much better.



We continued our visit to Lago Puelo National Park, a biosphere reserve in the northern Patagonian Andes since 2007. Its main species is the pitra and it is accompanied by a biodiversity that we enjoyed with the help of the park ranger Julián, who with a lot of knowledge and love let us enjoy the environment, flora and fauna of the place and also gave us a meditation and relaxation class in the shade of this leafy forest, which we could call 'enchanted'.



Then, we participated in the construction of the commemorative mural for the 'Day of Memory' for truth and justice in the square of Lago Puelo, where we placed the mosaic pieces that we had made on the first day of the meeting. Our day ended with a communal farewell meal, in a spirit of reflection and planning for a year full of projects and better intentions.



We are grateful for the moments we shared.

READING WORKSHOP – Lago Puelo

The team had sent the short story “Metamorphosis” by Mariana Enriquez in advance, and we met to share the ideas that this polemic and provocative story had left us with. We would like to highlight the attentive listening, participation and respect with which we all worked on the feelings aroused by its crucial themes. Respect for difference, ageing, models of beauty, health and the relationship with medicine and doctors. The workshop was held at the end of the day's walk and hike in El Bolsón, province of Rio Negro, 13 km from Lago Puelo.

‘Metamorphosis’ is a story about the body and its changes. A woman is operated on for a myoma, in this process she will recognise her body, the changes that the passage of time has produced, and she will take a strange decision.