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# Police to enforce 2 am bar curfew

By Pathomporn Kaenkrachang

PATONG: Bar, discotheque and pub owners will be given a 90-day grace period before police begin to strictly enforce a 2 am closing time at all nightlife venues on the island, authorities have announced.

Starting at 2 am on February 26, police presence was unexpectedly heavy on Soi Bangla and along nearby roads that make up the heart of Phuket's nightlife entertainment industry.

Their presence sparked fears of a crackdown on bars and pubs, many of which have in recent months been staying open well past the mandatory closing time of 2 am that applies to most venues in the area.

Fearing possible arrests and fines, owners were quick to close up shop.

On February 28 and 29, also starting at 2 am, Kathu District Chief Khantee Silapa accompanied Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonak and other high-ranking officers from the Kathu Police on more inspection tours in Patong.

Again, bar owners were quick to close down and there were no reports of arrests, but the show of force by authorities sent a clear signal to venue owners that failure to observe the mandatory closing time of 2 am will no longer be accepted.

Nightclub owners will be given 90 days, starting from February 28, before police will begin arresting bar owners who fail to comply, Col Grissak told the *Gazette* a few days later.

The new initiative follows an order by newly-installed Interior Minister Chalerm Yoobumrung.



Patong Entertainment Business Association President Sompetch Moosophon (pictured) plans to meet Kathu District Chief Khantee to push for Patong to be exempted from the 2 am closing.

Noting that pubs and nightclubs were used by youths as a place to experiment with and trade in narcotics, he said better compliance with existing closing times would be a key part of his campaign against drug abuse.

Minister Chalerm threatened to punish police officers, district chiefs and other officials who fail to strictly enforce anti-drug measures at entertainment venues, Phuket Governor Niran Kalyanamit said at the monthly meeting of provincial government officers, which he chaired at Phuket Provincial Hall on the morning of February 27.

Current closing times were

put in place in early 2004 under the controversial "Social Order" campaign launched by Pol Capt Purachai Piemsomboon, interior minister during the first Thaksin administration.

The order by Minister Purachai, who initially pushed for a closing time of midnight to keep minors out of nightclubs, resulted in non-violent protests by hundreds of nightlife workers in Patong, where the previous closing time had been 4 am.

In the end, special "nightlife zones" were established where venues with a special license could remain open until 2 am, while those outside the zone

Continued on page 2

## Anchalee resigns OrBorJor presidency

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

PHUKET: Anchalee Vanich Tephabuttra, president of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), on February 29 tendered her resignation to the Governor's Office, the *Gazette* has confirmed.

Manus Nooluck, Secretary to Phuket Governor Niran Kalyanamit, on March 1 confirmed receipt of the letter. No reason was given for the resignation, he said.

A source in the *OrBorJor* said the move is intended to allow K. Anchalee to turn her attention to full-time campaigning in her attempt to recapture the *OrBorJor* presidency seat.

K. Anchalee's current term as *OrBorJor* president ends on March 13. New elections must be held before April 27, according to Election Commission law.

She does not want political opponents to complain that she is unfairly using her position to canvass for votes, the source said.

K. Manus said that Governor Niran was unable to personally accept the resignation because he had left for Germany, where he will attend the International Tourism Bourse (ITB) trade show in Berlin.

The resignation has been turned over to acting-governor Worapoj Rattasima, he said.

While the Election Commission has yet to announce the date of the *OrBorJor* election or accept candidacies for *OrBorJor* seats, the election is expected to become a two-horse race between K. Anchalee and former Phuket Senator Paiboon Upatising.

K. Paiboon is the developer of the island's many Phuket Villa residential estates.



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**From page one**

were required to close at 1 am. However, the strict enforcement of closing times slackened considerably while the country was under post-coup martial law and remained slack after the National Legislative Assembly was appointed as the interim government.

While there were reports of some unlicensed beer bars being closed down in Kathu after Minister Chalerm's order, Kathu District Chief Khantee denied that either officials or police had been distributing yellow warning cards to venues found in violation, as reported by one Thai-language newspaper.

"Now we are forcing all bars to send their guests home at 2 am, but we are not charging them. We also found some venues employing girls under 18 and closed them down," Chief Khantee told the *Gazette*.

The 2 am closing time would cost local businesses money, but both the laws and goals of the anti-drug campaign need to be respected, he said.

"I believe that if nightlife venues close up at 2 am, tourists will begin their night out on the town earlier.

This is also a good opportunity to let tourists know about the anti-drug campaign," he said.

Sompetch Moosophon, president of the Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA), said he plans to meet Chief Khantee soon and push for Patong to be exempted from the 2 am closing time, which he sees as incongruous with the needs of most visiting tourists.

A review of crime statistics for the area proves that this has not resulted in an excess of fighting or other violent crime, he said.

The PEBA has already begun distributing an English-language questionnaire to visiting tourists to see how they feel about enforcement of the 2 am closing time.

The results will be presented to both Chief Khantee and Gov Niran, he said.

A closing time of 3 am, extended to 4 am or 5 am during the high season, would be appropriate, he said.

## Police stations upgraded

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: As part of a nationwide reorganization of the Royal Thai Police Force, Phuket's four subdistrict police stations have been upgraded to district police stations, effective from an order dating back to January 16.

Col Phuwanart Rithawej, Phuket Provincial Police Superintendent of General Staff, said that the order is intended to improve investigation work, budget management and prepare for an expected influx of police officers.

The order stipulated that all subdistrict police stations in Phuket were to be upgraded to district police station status and all their chiefs promoted to District Police Superintendents.

By Sompratch Saowakhon

THALANG: Royal Thai Police Commissioner Gen Sereepisut Taameeyavej had a busy day in Phuket February 28, attending two important dedication ceremonies.

However, it turned out to be his last day as national police chief as Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej on February 29 announced his abrupt transfer to a temporary post in the Prime Minister's Office.

Gen Sereepisut arrived in Phuket from Bangkok February 28 and at 2 pm attended the formal handover of the new, 38-million-baht Tah Chat Chai road checkpoint, covering 36 rai in Mai Khao.

Gen Sereepisut also presided over the ground-breaking ceremony for work on the new Police Region 8 headquarters to be built on 185 rai, also in Mai Khao. Police Region 8 comprises the provinces of Phang Nga, Krabi, Chumphon, Ranong, Surat Thani and Phuket.

Gen Sereepisut told the phalanx of high-ranking Region 8 officers at the ceremony that the 169-million-baht headquarters would be open by 2010.

"We chose Phuket for Region 8 headquarters because it is a major tourist destination and center of development for the entire upper south. We want to

Formerly, chiefs of these stations fell under the authority of the Superintendent of the District Police Station to which they were attached.

The stations that have been upgraded are Kamala Police Station, Tung Tong Police Station, Cherg Talay Police Station and Tah Chat Chai Police Station. The four district stations are Muang, Kathu, Thalang and Chalong.

Meanwhile, Phuket Provincial Police continue to lobby police headquarters in Bangkok to establish independent police stations for Karon and Wichit.

An indication the initiative has support came when Police Region 8 Commander Lt Gen Thane Thawichsee visited Karon Community Police Box to preside over the donation of two Toyota Yaris vehicles for police patrols.

## PIH founder passes away

PHUKET CITY: Dr Anuroj Tharasiroj, 66, founder of Phuket International Hospital (PIH), died at 3 am February 28 after a long battle against cancer of the large intestine.

Dr Anuroj founded Siroj Hospital on Krabi Rd, Phuket City, in 1982. The hospital opened with just 35 beds.

The hospital moved to its current site on the bypass road in 1993 and began trading under the name of Phuket International Hospital (PIH), where Dr Anuroj served as president until his death.

Dr Anuroj is survived by his wife, Dr Supanee, his three daughters – Dr Lalita Singhatiraj, Dr Patriya Watcharong and Aunjira Tharasiroj – and his son, K. Ekaphol.

## Top cop transferred after Phuket visit



Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit (right) leads Gen Sereepisut Taameeyavej, former Commissioner-General of the Royal Thai Police, and his entourage on a tour of the new Tah Chat Chai checkpoint. Gen Sereepisut has been abruptly transferred to a post at the Prime Minister's Office.

ensure the safety and security of all residents and visitors here," he said.

Asked about Phuket's serious police staff shortage, he said it was part of a nationwide problem.

Some 2,800 new commis-

sioned officer recruits will join the force in April, following the last round of examinations, while 2,000 more non-commissioned recruits would be tested on March 2. Those who pass the exams will enter the force after training, he said.

Asked about Col Pornprasert Karnjanarin, who is under investigation for misappropriation of foreign-donated funds intended for the Thai Tsunami Victim Identification (TTVI) center, Gen Sereepisut said that Col Pornprasert's recent resignation from the force would have no effect on the investigation.

The investigation, now in its initial stages, will continue, he said.

Gen Sereepisut told reporters that he knew nothing about widespread rumors that his transfer to an inactive post was imminent.

As of February 29, Gen Sereepisut has been transferred to the Prime Minister's Office, pending further instruction.

He has been replaced by his former deputy, Pol Gen Patcharawat Wongsuwan.

Speculation in the media about Gen Sereepisut's transfer focuses on the fact that it comes a day after the return of former-PM Thaksin Shinawatra, who is reportedly pushing for the promotion of his brother-in-law, Lt Gen Preowpan Damapong.

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# Thanyarat elected as Phuket Senator – again

By Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET: Unofficial results of the March 2 senatorial election indicate that Thanyarat Achariyachai won the contest, garnering 39,574 votes to win a surprisingly close race over second-place finisher Adirek Engchuan, with 35,471 votes.

In third place was Cherdchai Wongseree, with 9,947 votes.

The results, posted on the Phuket Election Committee (PEC) board at Saphan Hin, will be announced officially only after Phuket Vice-Governor Tri Augkaradacha, in his capacity as PEC Director, presents the ballots to the Election Commission (EC) in Bangkok.

Election Commissioner Prapun Naigowit said the EC would announce official Senate election results in the coming week.

K. Thanyarat was elected to the Senate in April 2006 but never took up the seat as the political crisis that year and subsequent military coup prevented the upper house from convening.

Phuket's first female senator, K. Thanyarat is a former judge and well-known businesswoman.

She and her husband Pamuke Achariyachai are major



Thanyarat Achariyachai (right) speaks with a supporter in the runup to the March 2 Senatorial election. Her husband, K. Pamuke (in yellow shirt) looks on.

shareholders in the Kata Group of hotels.

Voter turnout was low, with only 104,006 (47.3%) of Phuket's 219,835 eligible voters opting to exercise their suffrage rights. Of these, 16,448 voters (15.8%) ticked "No Vote" on the ballot.

There were also 2,566 (2.47%) spoiled ballots.

Nationwide, there have been 34 complaints of electoral fraud received by the EC.

K. Prapun said 21 of the complaints were of vote-buying. In two cases, permanent officials

were accused of failing to maintain neutrality.

Seven candidates were accused of intimidating opponents and one was accused of breaking campaign-sign rules, he said.

The number of complaints was low compared with more than 100 received in the general election, he said.

There have been no reports of complaints regarding the Phuket polling.

## Two Princesses to visit Phuket

PHUKET: HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn will visit Phuket on March 11 and HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya will visit Phuket City on March 14, the Phuket Provincial Office announced at a meeting held on February 26 in preparation for their arrival.

Princess Sirindhorn will make stops in Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga during her trip.

On March 11, Princess Sirindhorn will arrive at Phuket International Airport and fly by helicopter to The Chaipattana Foundation office on Koh Yao Noi.

The Chaipattana Foundation supports the careers of local people by providing them with venues to sell their local arts and crafts.

She will then return to Phuket City by helicopter, landing at Saphan Hin football field and travel by motorcade to the grand opening of Khun Poom Mahidol's Home (Baan Khun Poom) at Wachira Phuket Hospital at 2 pm.

Khun Poom Mahidol's Home is one of many autistic childcare centers built around Thailand in memory of Khun Poom, HRH Ubol Ratana's au-

tistic son who was lost to the 2004 tsunami.

After the ceremony, Princess Sirindhorn is scheduled to visit Satee Phuket School. The school's botanical garden is part of a royal project providing students with a hands-on opportunity to study botany and the environment.

Students will hold an exhibition of their science projects for Princess Sirindhorn to view.

The Princess will then travel by motorcade to the Phufa Shop grand opening at Banthai Beach Resort in Patong.

The Phufa Shop will sell local goods created by organizations such as The Chaipattana Foundation.

Princess Sirindhorn will stay the night at the Banthai Resort.

The following day, she will travel to Koh Surin and hold private meetings until March 14, when she will pay a visit to Krabi before returning to Bangkok.

On March 14, Princess Ubol Ratana will arrive in Phuket to chair the Southern Thailand round of the To Be Number One dance competition at the Royal Phuket City Hotel before returning to Bangkok about 8 pm.

## Foreigners charged over ATM card forgery

By Semacote Suganya

PATONG: Two European men were arrested by Kathu Police on the night of February 24 for scanning information allegedly to be used in committing bank card fraud.

Maj Narong Laksanavimol said that the two men arrested, whom he named as German national Hota Bogdan Nicolae and Romanian Andrei Gugioman, both 25, are part of a larger crime ring.

The two men have been charged with conspiracy to produce counterfeit bank cards, which Maj Narong said were intended to be used to steal money from unsuspecting foreign tourists.

The pair were arrested after midnight on February 24 near a Thai Military Bank ATM and currency exchange booth on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, near the junction with Sainamyen Rd.

Maj Narong said that the pair, who had been under surveillance since about 8 pm, waited until the currency-exchange booth closed at 10 pm before beginning their scanning operation from inside a Toyota Camry about midnight.

After the men were arrested, police seized what was described as a "scanning kit" made by

the two men, along with two notebook computers, a Toyota Camry, computer cables and adapters, a USB drive and other equipment.

The pair were taken back to their hotel room at the Baan Suay Resort on Patak Rd in Karon, where more ATM slips and equipment used in making forged bank cards was found, Maj Narong said.

The pair were part of a gang that had different "team members" for different tasks, such as scanning information, creating duplicate cards and using them to withdraw cash, he said.

The gang members, of which there were probably about 10, entered the country on visa exemptions. They could stay in Thailand for only short periods, during which they traveled around the country to popular tourist destinations, he added.

The duplicate cards were sold for about 40,000 baht each and used to withdraw up to 300,000 baht each, Maj Narong explained.

Most of their victims are tourists, he added.

It is possible some Thai people were also involved, Maj Narong said.

Both men confessed to owning the machine, but denied having used it. They were released after posting bail at Phuket Provincial Court, he said.

## Classic ketch gutted in blaze

RASSADA: Police suspect that a smoldering cigarette butt caused an early-morning fire that gutted a 25-meter yacht in dry dock at Phuket Fishing Port.

Maj Wicharn Suwannasit of Phuket City Police told the Gazette that he was notified of a boat ablaze just before midnight on the night of February 25.

Police and firefighters arrived to find several people trying to douse the fire, which police suspect had started in the engine room of the two-masted ketch.

The fire was reported by Korrakot Pereepas, an employee at the port. "I called the police as soon as I noticed smoke and fire coming from the engine room. Firemen took until 6 am to fully extinguish it," he said.

"The boat is owned by a foreigner," he added.

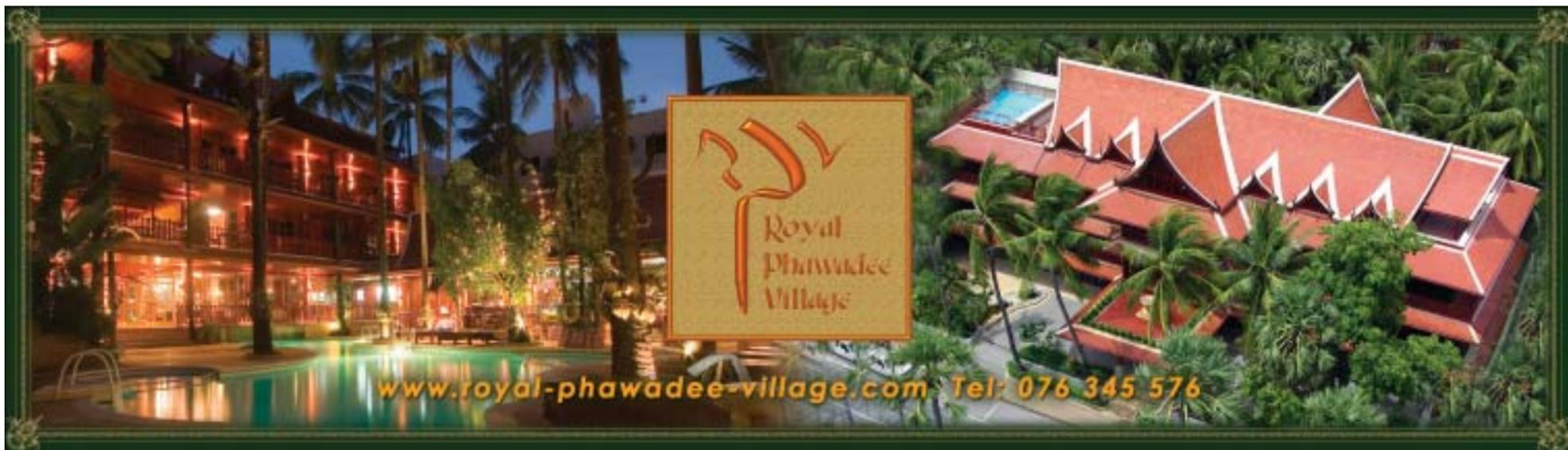
The vessel was the *Andaman Eagle*, a wooden ketch formerly named John Sandy, that had been used for private charter by Rawai-based Dive Deck Co Ltd.

A source at the company today told the *Gazette* that the *Andaman Eagle* had not been used commercially during this high season, but declined to give further details.

The vessel had been in dry dock for four months before the fire, Maj Wicharn confirmed.

No people were on the boat when the blaze broke out, Maj Wicharn said.

Maj Wicharn declined to confirm one media report that estimated the value of the boat at 30 million baht.



# Field of dreams

If you build it, they will come. In the movie, *Field of Dreams*, following this advice proved fruitful for Kevin Costner's character, when, against all odds, the Chicago Black Sox came to play on the baseball diamond he had constructed on his Iowa cornfield.

In a cattle field off Phang Nga's west coast, a similar line of thinking seems to be taking hold.

A domestic airport is in the works on Koh Kho Khao, a 60-square-kilometer island that is accessed from mainland Baan Nam Khem in Takuapa District by car ferry. Though there are at least six resorts currently operating on the island, it remains largely undeveloped, with pastures and deserted beaches still dominating the landscape.

The airport is set to be built on a site that once served as a World War II military airport in the area of Baan Nok Na village, where about 200 villagers reside. The project has been 10 years in the making, and once approved, which Phang Nga Governor Wichai Prais-Ngob said he expects it will, it is estimated to take about five years to complete.

Not only will the airport relieve congestion at Phuket International Airport, it will be a boon to tourism in areas such as Khao Lak and the Similan Islands, he said. Last year, the province attracted about 2 million tourists, compared with 5 million visitors to Phuket. With 4,200 hotel rooms in 2007, compared with 6,200 in 2004, it has yet to rebuild completely from the tsunami that ravaged its coast in December 2004.

The 1.3-billion-baht airport project, which includes the construction of a bridge to the main-

land, has already passed its environmental impact assessment and public hearings, Gov Wichai said, and is now awaiting budget approval from the newly-appointed Cabinet in Bangkok.

The plans, drawn up and submitted by the Department of Civil Aviation, show that the airport will be able to accommodate aircraft as large as Boeing 737s.

Gov Wichai said the airport is expected to handle four flights a day, bringing in about 600 passengers. So far, it appears as though the project has large public support. Several government surveys have found that some 96% of Kho Khao island residents and more than 80% of people from across the province support the

airport's construction. The airport is just one of a handful of tourism-friendly projects worth tens of millions of baht that are awaiting approval, the Governor said.

Land clearing is about 70% complete on a 200-rai site in the Tam Nam Phud subdistrict along Phang Nga Bay, which is slated to become a centralized government office campus. Some 20 government departments that are currently scattered throughout the large province – including the Phang Nga Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor), Provincial Court, Marine Office and Public Health Office – will move to the site, Gov Wichai explained.

The 390-million-baht project also includes a new pier, and the area is expected to be a tourist attraction as well, Gov Wichai said. Another 200 million baht is being requested to construct a



'Our main policy is to conserve the environment, so if there is any project that is against this concept, I won't let it pass.'

– Phang Nga Governor Wichai Prais-Ngob

## CLAWING ITS WAY BACK: Phang Nga tourism figures 2004-2007

The province reached record tourism revenue levels in 2004, but was devastated by the December 26, 2004, tsunami, as the figures illustrate. Some 80% of the rooms are in the Khao Lak area.

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of hotel rooms	6,200	2,000	3,000	4,200
Tourism revenue *estimate	B9.7 bn	2 bn	B3 bn	*B5 bn

Source: Tourism Authority of Thailand

120-meter viewpoint tower overlooking Phang Nga Bay on 30 rai of land opposite the government office site. The site will have access to the pier as well as retail outlets and other services.

A tsunami memorial museum in Khao Lak is also in the works, awaiting budget approval. The cost of this project is 65 million baht, some 40 million baht for the land purchase alone.

Gov Wichai said that all of these other plans, if approved, will be finished within the next three years.

The objective in building these projects is to entice tourists to stay and spend in Phang Nga, rather than just using it as a day-trip destination, said the Governor.

Currently, visitors spend an average of 2,000 baht a day in Phang Nga. Phuket-based day-trips provide little benefit or income to Phang Nga, Gov Wichai explained, and in fact cause the province more problems.

"They bring people to travel in our area without giving anything back to Phang Nga province. And if there is any problem here such as a sinking boat or crime or trash dumped in our area,

we have to take responsibility, which is not fair to us," he said.

### Let it fly, they say

From all accounts, the local business community is strongly in support of the airport project.

Jittiporn Sutthipiboon, President of Phang Nga Tourist Association and a partner of Khaolak Resort, told the *Gazette* that, while tourists do not complain about a lack of an airport, the new airport is a good way to support the long-term growth of the tourism industry.

The airport location will in itself become an attraction, she said, as well as provide a closer air link to the fast-growing Khao Lak area. Phuket is growing so quickly that its airport can no longer support all the tourists coming into both provinces, she added.

"We support the building of the new airport 100%, said Somchai Tantipetchporn, President of Phang Nga Chamber of Commerce, "because this is another facility that will support tourism here and also provide more transport options for investors."

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**MOOOVE OVER:** This cattle field on Kho Khao island will soon make way for a domestic airport serving Phang Nga province.

“If we have our own airport I think tourists will come to stay here. Since the only airport is in Phuket, they tend to stay in Phuket hotels,” he added.

Jiroj Nasakul, the owner of Kho Khao Island Beach Resort & Spa, a 50-room resort located about 20 kilometers from the airport site, said the airport would definitely benefit his resort, especially in saving time transferring guests.

With delays common at Phuket’s airport, it can often take four hours of his driver’s time to pick up guests, he said.

He noted that Kho Khao’s main attractions were its beaches, nature and the local culture.

All the island’s roads were resurfaced last year, in preparation for the airport, and the island has a good supply of electricity, water and telecommunications.

K. Jiroj said that the airport would not harm the business of any of the resorts operating on the island, since it was far enough away from them to not cause any noise disturbance.

Those outside of the tourism industry living near the airport site were indifferent to the airport’s impending arrival, but keen to get the bridge built, the *Gazette* found.

A villager in Baan Nok Na, Wannee Jaiprachote, said that the airport would not affect her life too much either way. The bridge, however, would be of great help to her grocery business.

“We have to go buy things for our shop from Takuapa market [on the mainland], for which we have to spend a lot on fuel and ferry fees to transport our car from here across the sea,” K. Wannee said. “If we had a bridge

it would help us save money and it would bring more tourists to the island too,” she added.

Arak Mianthong, a worker at Baan Nam Khem pier, the mainland departure point for ferries to Kho Khao island, said he was not against the airport plan, but thought that it was unnecessary.

“There aren’t many resorts on the island and Phang Nga doesn’t need an airport because we have Phuket’s airport already,” he said.

“If we had an airport here then it would look as if we had a road with no vehicles driving on it.” The bridge should be the main priority, he added.

**Keeping it green**

The Governor and all the business leaders interviewed said that pre-

serving the environment was crucial to growth in the province’s tourism industry. None expressed concern that the airport would harm its natural attractions, how-

ever, with the Governor noting that the airport would be small and have far fewer flights than in Phuket.

K. Somchai of the Phang Nga Chamber of Commerce said that after the tsunami, the provincial government announced that the area must be preserved, and imposed more strict controls on construction.

K. Jittiporn of Khaolak Resort agreed, saying that both the private sector and government in Phang Nga have the same policy to preserve nature as much as possible, and that it was much more difficult to get construction approvals than it was in the past.

“We have to strictly control the environment because we have to think about how our next generation will live,” K. Jittiporn added. “Our main policy is to conserve the environment,” Gov Wichai said, “so if there is any project that is against this concept, I won’t let it pass.

“I don’t want noisy entertainment areas in my province; tourists who want quiet should come to Phang Nga,” Gov Wichai said.

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## Kids' summer camps

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Municipality Youth Center at Saphan Hin is offering summer courses for children from March 26 to April 30. The goal of the program is to teach constructive activities and help deter students from becoming involved in drug use or other undesirable activities.

Children aged six and up can sign up for swimming, football, basketball, tennis, gymnastics, volleyball, badminton, slow dancing, table tennis, taekwondo, karate, kendo, Thai boxing, Thai dancing, guitar playing and basic Chinese classes.

Thai music and art classes are also on offer, along with keyboard playing and computer training.

Courses cost 50 baht per person. Some courses carry an additional fee, such as 1,000 baht for Chinese-language classes and 200 baht for computer lessons.

Interested parents can sign up their children at the Phuket Municipality Youth Center, opposite the swimming pool at Saphan Hin.

For more information call the center at 076 250-0163 between 8 am and 8 pm.

Participants must provide a copy of their house-registration forms to be admitted.

## Heroines' Festival 2008

THALANG: This year's festival honoring Phuket's famed heroines, Tao Thepkrasattri and Tao Sri Soontorn, will be held from March 12 to 15 at Baan Rieng, near the Heroines' Monument.

The festival will be held at the traditional site, on the same field where the heroines led local Thais to victory over an invading Burmese army in 1785.

The highlight of the festival will be a nightly re-enactment of the famous battle, with a "light and sound performance" each night starting at 7 pm.

There will also be food stalls galore and OTOP products on sale.

Before the festival, from March 8 to 12, a daily historical sight-seeing tour will start at 9 am at the Thalung National Museum, visiting Wat Pranang-sang, the site of the family home of Tao Thepkrasattri, Wat Prathong and the Thalung Victory Memorial monument.

On March 9, a mountain bike race will be held with cy-

clists riding past the same local historical sites.

During the festival there will also be local sport competitions, including takraw, Muay Thai Talay (boxing while sitting on a horizontal pole over a pool of water or mud), tug of war and sack races.

The festival will begin officially on March 12 at Wat Muang Komarapat, in Baan Rieng, where people can honor their ancestors and the Thai warriors who fought in the famous battle. Merit-making ceremonies will be held at 8 am and 11 am, followed by a prayer ceremony at 3:30 pm.

On March 13, wreaths will be laid at Heroines' Monument 8 am to honor the two heroines, with the festivities starting at the field at 7 pm.

Admission to the festival is free. Entry in the sports competitions is also free, except the mountain bike race, which costs 200 baht per person to enter.

For more information call 076-223617.

## Queer News

# Paul the other one

BANGKOK: They say love is blind, but in many instances, "gullible" would be the more fitting word.

This is certainly the case in a sorry story of desire and naive faith that came to light when Pathumwan Police arrested a man claiming to be the manager of Paula Taylor, the well-known Thai-British actress and Channel V presenter.

The conman, who met his victim in an online chat site, managed to dupe the besotted fan of 180,000 baht before he was arrested. Another suspect remains at large.

On February 26, police led by Pol Maj Aphiwat Chairsrit, a Crime Suppression inspector at Pathumwan Police Station, arrested Phanuphong Jitraphonma, 29, outside of Black Canyon coffee house in MBK shopping mall, Bangkok.

The suspect was identified by his alleged victim, Nathaphot Thiansat, also 29.

Before the arrest, Nathaphot told police of how he had come to lose the not inconsiderable sum of money to Phanuphong. On the day of the arrest, he lured in the trickster with a promise of an additional 75,000 baht.

Nathaphot, a salesman at a well-known computer shop, said that around the end of last year he had met someone online who had identified him- or herself as none other than Paula, a VJ with Channel V.

After chatting for a while, the pair exchanged telephone numbers. Nathaphot was apparently not at all surprised that a beautiful and famous actress would want to enter a relationship with a random computer shop worker met the Internet.

Nathaphot and the woman claiming to be Paula then began calling each other regularly. "Paula" would regale him with tales of the many properties she owned in desirable areas such as

Sukhumwit, Sathon and Srinakharin. She also suggested that he should meet a man named Ton, one of her three managers. He did so a number of times.

"We always sent text messages to each other. Most of the ones she sent to me were very suggestive. She also said that she had been to see a number of fortune tellers and they all said that we were meant for each other. She used to tell me about her hiso ex-boyfriend and on Valentine's Day she even sent me a present. I really believed the woman I was talking to was the Paula," Nathaphot said.

One day at the end of January, "Paula" rang up asking to borrow 80,000 baht, Nathaphot said.

The woman told him that she needed it to pay the 2.28-million-baht annual rent on her trendy boutique at Central World mall.

Nathaphot drew up a contract for the loan with Ton in a branch of Big C shopping center.

Ton (or Phanuphong, as Nathaphot would later discover) promised the money would be repaid February 4.

However, when the day for the repayment came, "Paula" rang up and said that she wasn't quite ready to give the money back as she had some other investments to take care of.

Then, at about 2 am on February 10, the woman claiming to be Paula called up again. Sobbing, she claimed she had been driving from a Channel V party when she had come across a roadblock where officers were forcing drivers to take breathalyzer tests.

"Paula" said she tried to

drive away, but crashed into a pickup truck and was arrested and would have to spend the night in a cell at Makkasan Police Station.

Saying that she needed three or four million baht to bribe the police to keep news of the arrest out of the press, she said her manager would go around to all her friends to borrow the money.

"She claimed that her parents were abroad so she was having to borrow money to pay the police. She asked me to transfer 50,000 baht to her manager, which I did. Then, a little later, she rang up again saying she needed another three million to

Nathaphot was apparently not at all surprised that a beautiful and famous actress would want to enter a relationship with a random computer shop worker met the Internet.

bribe the prosecutor and asked me to lend her 80,000. This time I refused, as I only had 50,000 baht left, but the woman pretending to be Paula said that would do," Nathaphot recounted.

On the January 24, "Paula" rang up again. This time she needed

75,000 baht to pay back taxes on 58 million baht that her parents had transferred to her from overseas. At this point the penny dropped.

"I began to be a bit suspicious, so I asked Channel V if Paula really had a manager called Ton. When they said she didn't, I reported the whole story to Pathumwan Police," Nathaphot explained.

Maj Aphiwat said that they had charged Phanuphong, the man claiming to be Paula's manager, with fraud.

Police are now hunting for the woman who led poor Nathaphot on so successfully.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

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**T**hailand ranks among countries with the world's fastest-growing number of overweight children, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Nearly 100,000 more Thai children become overweight each year, said National Economic and Social Advisory Council chairman Gothom Arya.

Speaking at an international conference on snack food marketing that targeted children, K. Gothom said that Thai children were becoming overweight mainly because of "over nutrition and the excessive consumption of snacks."

His assertion follows data collected on Thai children aged five to 12 between 2004 and 2006, he said.

The snack market is valued at over 100 billion baht last year, he added.

Dr Wittaya Kulsomboon, who is developing a campaign to protect consumers' health, suggested the government use tax measures to discourage the consumption of unhealthy food, snacks, candies and carbonated drinks.

**Garlic crisis.** Imported varieties of garlic are replacing local ones, to the detriment of Thai cuisine, local researchers claim.

Following a study entitled "Thai-Chinese FTA: Impacts on Thai Society", conducted over the past six months, Dr Detcharat Sukkamnerd of Kasetsart University said that one third of all garlic available in Thailand is now imported - much of it from China.

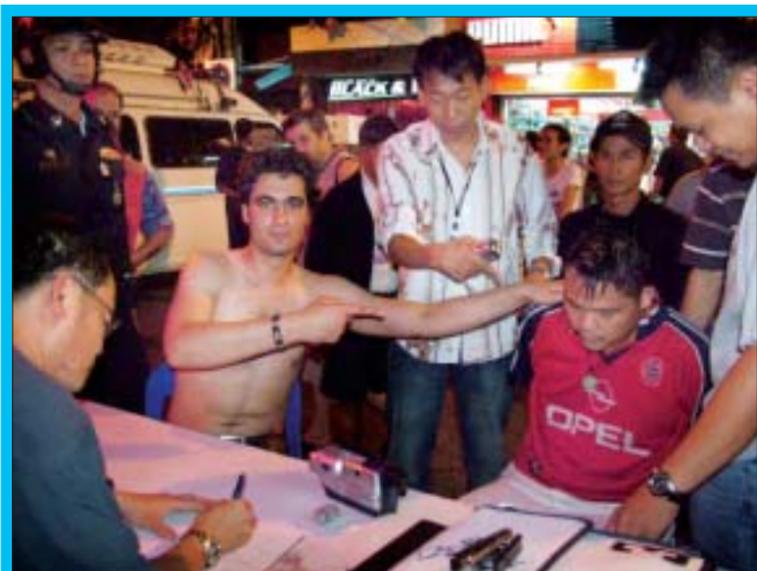
"Thai garlic is better in taste and medicinal properties, such as preventing cancer. Consumers want to buy Thai garlic, but it is very difficult today," explained Kingkorn Narinthornkul na Ayudhaya of FTA Watch.

Most garlic sold today is a mix of local and imported, due to the price factor. Thai garlic is significantly more expensive than that from China.

Thailand grows about 100,000 tonnes of garlic a year, mainly in the North.

Since 2003, Chinese garlic quotas have been imported with no tariffs under the Thai-Chinese

# Thai kids face a weighty problem



## Collared for a camera

Songkran Wongtun (right) is arrested after allegedly snatching a video camera from an Iranian tourist (left) in Pattaya. Photo by Thanasap Noisa-ard.

free-trade agreement.

Garlic imported beyond the quotas is taxed at 53%.

**Dam protest.** Residents of Kaeng Sua Ten in Phrae province have vowed to convince Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej and Natural Resources and Environment Minister Anongwan Thepsutin to scrap the controversial Kaeng Sua Ten Dam construction project.

The villagers are planning a protest trip to Bangkok to publicize their case.

The Kaeng Sua Ten Dam project, which was planned then stalled for more than a decade by strong opposition from villagers and environmentalists, was resurrected recently by PM Samak, who vowed to push the project as a measure to prevent flooding and drought in the lower North.

The villagers said the dam's reservoir would submerge the last

big golden teak jungle in the country and would not help stop inundation.

Seng Kwanyeun, headman of Ban Donchai village in Tambon Sa-ieab, said the community would fight the project with all its might to preserve the teak forest.

**Thinking logically.** Improving scientific thinking processes among Thai people and applying science and technology to benefit the country are urgent agenda items for the new Science Minister Wuthipong Chaiseang.

To encourage scientific learning, the new minister plans to work with the Education Ministry as well as the Information and Communications Technology Ministry to lay down science education infrastructure to allow people in every part of the country to have a chance to learn basic scientific theories.

As Thailand still lacks sci-

ence teachers, the ministry is considering developing science-education content in electronic form, such as on CD-ROM, and distribute it to every school so children as well as teachers themselves could learn about science together, he said.

"We believe that if people understand more about science they can improve their thinking to become more logical," he added.

**Four-legged hero.** A loyal family dog was shot and seriously injured on February 26 when it leaped at a gun-wielding man to protect its owner.

Tawee Makkree was full of emotion when she described how her 14-year-old, mixed-breed dog Ai Ka took two bullets to the leg after a man waved a gun and a knife in her face.

Tawee, 42, said the incident happened when she tried to break up an argument between a local man and a teenager, when one of the men turned on her.

The heroic dog needed an operation to remove two bullets from his right front leg.

No arrest has been made in the case.

**Fossil record.** A 13-million-year-old fossil has been named Siamoadapis maemohensis in recognition of Thailand, where it was found in 2004, said geologist Dr Yaowalak Chaimanee, of the Department of Mineral Resources.

The fossil has links to the present day loris and was the smallest primate of its time during the Miocene epoch, 13 to 25 million years ago.

Four lower jaws with teeth were found near a lignite mine in Lampang's Mae Moh district in 2004, she said.

The fossils were found only in Asia and the discovery will be published in the *Journal of Human Evolution*.

Mineral Resources Department Director-General Aphichai Chawajaroenphan warned against possessing fossils or archaeological items after a new law came into effect on July 9, which subjects violators to a 10,000-baht fine.

Those destroying or damaging protected or registered archaeological sites will face a one-year prison term and/or a fine of up to 100,000 baht.

**Medical issues.** Health activists and senior officials have urged the new government take action on seven key issues to improve quality of life.

Dr Somsak Chunharas, chairman of the National Health Foundation, told a conference seven pressing issues include: amending the Road Accident Victim Protection Act; the control of alcohol advertising in broadcast media; the Medical-Malpractice Victim Fund Bill; the revision of the Medical Practice Act; developing a one-nurse-one-community project; the decentralization of primary healthcare units from ministry to local administration organizations; and developing income insurance for elderly people.

*Around the Nation news roundup is sourced from the pages of The Nation and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.*

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After a long spell of dry weather, Khao Lak was blessed by heavy rainfall at the end of February. As always, several serious traffic accidents occurred during that time, as local drivers struggled to come to grips with the wet road conditions.

The two-kilometer stretch of Petchkasem Rd between the Tab Lamu intersection and the first hundred meters of serpentine road near Lamru National Park became a rain-slicked crash gauntlet.

Several pickup trucks ended up on their roofs, with passenger injuries ranging from a few scratches to broken bones. Gazing at smashed and twisted vehicles along the roadside became a daily routine. I often wondered how anybody could have survived, yet no fatalities were reported for these accidents.

However, at least one person died in a terrible accident that left a minibus destroyed lying on its side near the Tab Lamu intersection.

As we all know, road safety is not a major concern of local authorities; they are more concerned with collecting fines for not wearing a helmet or not paying vehicle taxes. Therefore visitors who use minibuses, taxis and public transport are advised to ask their drivers friendly but firmly to

# Slip-sliding away

slow down should the ride become too scary.

When using commercial transportation, it usually helps to explain that there will be no payment should he or she not slow down immediately.

Speak up! Many say, "Yeah, that sounds so easy, but in reality they simply refuse to slow down." In that case, insist on leaving the vehicle. Transportation is easy to find in Thailand, no matter where you are in this country, sooner or later a tuk-tuk or motorbike taxi will rumble along.

In 2001, friends of mine insisted on stepping off a tour bus on their way from Bangkok to Khao Lak in the middle of the night. The driver was constantly overtaking other vehicles and forcing oncoming traffic off the road by flashing the headlights.

They spent the night at a local guesthouse in a small province south of Bangkok. The next day, they learned that their bus was opened up like a tuna can in a head-on collision with a cement truck, leaving 18 people dead. Keep this story in mind and don't be afraid to speak up if you feel unsafe.



Recent downpours mixed with poor driving ended in a series of non-fatal wrecks, including this flipped pickup, along the serpentine section of Petchkasem Rd at the bottom of Lamru National Park.

**Full house.** Central Khao Lak, near the Petchkasem-Nangthong intersection, is packed with people at night. This appears to be the best season since the tsunami. Most hotels have reported 100% occupancy in January and February.

As of today, there are about 3,200 hotel and resort rooms

available. Sure, it's not the 5,000-plus rooms that were available before the tsunami, but we're getting there.

Yet, Khao Lak lovers who have known the area for more than seven years, might miss the simple bamboo huts on the beach that initially made this place well-known amongst travelers.

With average room prices at 60 to 100 euros and over 200 euros at four- and five-star resorts, Khao Lak is now entering the upper-price range; it's no longer a backpacker destination.

**Rocking the boat.** An earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale near Banda Aceh, Indonesia, caused panic in several parts of Khao Lak February 20. One person was injured in a bike crash caused by the confusion.

Although no official tsunami warning was issued, the National

Disaster Warning Center issued a tsunami alert, which was quickly broadcast by the Thai media.

To be clear, an NDWC tsunami "alert" is intended to warn people only that a tsunami is possible.

A tsunami "warning" would include the sirens being sounded, meaning that an impending tsunami is on its way.

Regardless, some resorts such as La Flora evacuated their premises just in case. Calm returned in the early afternoon.

I interviewed several Khao Lak visitors after the event, overall the replies were positive. Many visitors said they had read about or seen on TV that smaller earthquakes will most likely occur over the next couple of years and there is little chance of them posing any threat.

Many praised the fact that warnings were given and there was at least some kind of communication and people knew about the earthquake in Indonesia just after it had occurred.

Visitors also appreciated the guts resort managements showed by choosing to evacuate, even though there was no official warning and no call from officials to evacuate.

"I still feel safe here in Khao Lak and just one spoiled afternoon can't be reason enough to move on to another destination," a British tourist said. "It appears that there is now fast and wide-spread communication. People are more aware and prepared, even though I am not sure if those warning towers will really work when push comes to shove."

Franky Gun is an expat writer, artist, designer, scuba instructor and businessman who left Germany in 1991 to live in Thailand. He moved to Khao Lak in 2001 and since calls Khao Lak his home. Franky can be contacted via email to: [avalon@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:avalon@loxinfo.co.th)



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# Drug suspect 'silenced' by gun

A man on his way home from a court appearance where he had faced drugs charges was shot dead in Krabi in what police believe may herald a new wave of "silencing killings" in the run up to the relaunch of the controversial "war on drugs".

Pricha Khruajan, 42, was shot five times in the chest as he was driving home from Krabi Provincial Court on February 27. He had appeared on charges of selling 20 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills in Krabi's Nuea Khlong district on January 20.

Witnesses reported that as Pricha was driving his pickup truck on Phetchkasem Rd through Tambon Krabi Noi in Muang district, a pickup truck pulled out in front of him, blocking his exit, while another drove up from behind.

The second truck then pulled alongside Pricha's vehicle and the passenger fired several shots. Pricha lost control of the truck and crashed into a ditch. The assailants' two pickups then sped off.

Pricha died at the scene. His girlfriend, Phakajan Bunthok, 33, who was in the truck with him, was taken to Krabi Hospital for injuries sustained in the crash.

Police, led by Col Sati Malakanond, Deputy Commander of Krabi Provincial Police and former Superintendent of Chalong Police Station, recovered three .357 bullets from inside Pricha's truck. There were six bullet holes in the driver-side window of the truck and two more in the door.

Police said that they believe Pricha may have been killed as a result of his knowledge of the drugs trade in the area. The new government has pledged to reintroduce the controversial "war on drugs" policy, which saw the deaths of more than 2,500 people in 2003 and 2004.

Police claim that most of the deaths were the result of drug gangs "cleaning up" by killing



## Hands off my gold!

Owners of nearly 100 gold shops in Nakhon Sri Thammarat practice with pistols to defend themselves following a spate of robberies in the area.

anyone who could potentially inform on them. Many people, however, believe the police were responsible for a large number of the killings

**Off the rails.** A father and his 17-year-old son were arrested after being caught red-handed stealing railway spikes on the Nakhon Sri Thammarat-Phattalung track early on February 28.

Phattalung native Win Senphlat and his son were caught removing spikes from the railway track running through Village 6 of Tambon Tha Samet in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Cha-uat district. Police also seized their Honda motorcycle and three fertilizer sacks filled with stolen railroad spikes.

Following the arrests, police found that the pair had removed spikes from more than 300 meters of track.

Fearful that the vandalism could cause a derailment, officers alerted the railway authorities and asked for engineers to fix the track before any trains passed through.

During questioning, Win admitted that he stole the spikes to sell to scrap metal merchants for up to 10 baht per kilo and that he had stolen spikes three or four times before, each time looking for a length of track where the sleepers were rotten so that the spikes could be pulled out by hand, police said.

Cha-uat District Police Chief Col Phithak Khlanjan said that the pair were repeat offenders, having stolen railroad spikes from railway track in Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Phattalung provinces many times before. Each time they would remove about 80-100 kilograms of spikes, he said.

The thefts were of great danger to the public as they could cause trains to derail, he said.

Police have contacted officers from the State Railway Of Thailand to press charges against the pair, Col Phithak added.

**Sgt Maj slain.** A sergeant major was shot dead after returning from a cockfight in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Phromkhiri district in the early hours of February 27.

Sgt Maj Sunthon Eamsakul, 52, based at Thepsattri Sri Soonthorn Army Base, was shot dead outside his house. He had just returned from the local cockfighting ring where his cock had won a fight.

Police said that his assailant was likely to have hidden outside Sgt Maj Sunthon's house waiting for him to return. Police are trying to establish the motive for the killing, but could not say whether it was connected to the cockfight.

**Rubber-tree rampage.** More than 100 rubber trees across three plantations in Phatthalung's Tamot district were hacked down on the night of February 25 in what police believe was an act of criminal damage aimed at intimidating the owners.

The perpetrators also left a letter threatening that if the owners of the plantation continued to tap rubber in the area, their safety "could not be guaranteed".

The incident was reported to Tamot district police on February 26 by Somyot Nimduang, 36, the owner of one of the plantation.

K. Somyot showed the letter to the police, who sent a team to investigate the damage near Village 9, Tambon Mae Khari.

Police visited K. Somyot's plantation and that of his mother-in-law, 58-year-old Amphai Mitrasuwan, and neighbor Bunhai Buasum, 56.

Police said that they believe that a gang of around three people took advantage of heavy rain to sneak into the plantations and fell the trees without anyone interrupting. The motive is likely to be a personal dispute with one or all three plantation owners, police said.

However, they did not disclose any potential leads in the investigation

*Around the South news roundup is sourced from the pages of The Nation and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.*

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By Semacote Suganya

# Mail-order makeover

Often overlooked by the hordes of people walking along Patong's beach road is the Thaweewong Post Office.

The more attentive pedestrians will notice that it sits on the corner of Soi Praisanee, Thai for "Soi Post Office", about halfway between Soi Bangla and Prachanukro Rd.

But many might be forgiven for such an oversight. By day, signs outside the building indicating that a post office lies hidden within are obscured by the many other signs promoting Patong businesses, and at night the sidewalk in front of the post office is full of street vendors selling their wares.

Thaweewong Post Office was closed for nearly one year after the tsunami, reopening on December 1, 2005. Recently, however, it has undergone even more renovations, this time by choice.

Thaweewong Post Office is one of only three new-look post offices in the country and the Kata-Karon Post Office is next on the list to get a makeover.

Anusara Jitmitraparp, Thailand Post vice-president of marketing and development, explained, "We have changed the look of the post office to re-



The 'new-look' Thaweewong Post Office is the third Thailand Post branch in the country to get a makeover and offer more services targeting foreigners.

launch our image. The logo design, the color, it's all new. Our goal has been to stand out more.

"By doing this, we can offer our customers a one-stop-shop service: moneygrams, mail

distribution and dispatch, fax facilities and more.

"There is electronic media online daily and upstairs is the True Internet Cafe with high-speed Internet access and coffee and soft drinks.

"We now have staff who speak, read and write English fluently, which is essential for a post office in an area such as Patong.

Say a customer wants to send a volley of parcels to a series of different destinations, perhaps by recorded delivery, with or without insurance, by sea or air, we can help them every step of the way," K. Anusara said.

The Thaweewong Post Office features modern decor and color schemes and even flat-screen TVs advertising postal services, all part of the relaunch campaign devised by marketing specialists TVeez.

"The new branch is a high-tech operation. Together Thailand Post and TVeez will offer a retail world of 'total real-time communication' where retailers are able to communicate their sales, marketing and service strategies to

their end customers at the point of purchase in an effective and motivating manner," said Dr Pongsarn Apiratikiat, CEO of TVeez (Thailand) Co Ltd.

"The introduction of the TVeez marketing platform has helped to reduce the branch's inventory and create a simpler, more streamlined look.

"It is part of an ongoing project for Thailand Post to leverage its specific audience and entertain clientele.

"The Thaweewong branch is our third location and this is only the beginning. We are planning to launch the TVeez service at a series of other Thailand Post branches," said Dr Pongsarn.

The aesthetic revamp of the branch coincides with upgraded services.

A new feature at the branch is a mailbox service priced at around 300 baht a month, which is expected to be popular with foreigners.

The post office now also offers faster mail delivery by having mail flown to Bangkok by Nok Air.

"We are trialing the use of air transportation to support our distribution and have found that it has worked very well during its first fiscal year.

"We will continue using this mode of transport for at least six more months or as long as volume is up," said K. Anusara.

"The past year has seen EMS volume increase from 600-700 kilograms to 1,000-1,200kg per day.

"Other distribution routes, such as Bangkok-Haad Yai by Nok Air and Bangkok-Udon Thani by Thai Airways, are also in the trial phase and are experiencing success on par with the Phuket-Bangkok route," she added.

"I think Patong residents are proud of the new post office. Having True Internet on board gives it an extra touch. There you can relax, have a coffee and get online," she said.

*The Thaweewong Post Office is open daily from 11 am to 7 pm. The True Life Internet cafe is open daily from 8 am to midnight.*

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By Nick Davies

Executive Chef Alessandro Frau of the Sheraton's Puccini restaurant and Stephen Roberto, managing director of wine-importer enVision Phuket, have teamed up to create a seven-course meal accompanied by four fine Italian wines to take diners on a culinary journey.

Chef Alessandro aspires to bring freshness and simplicity with his culinary creations, while Stephen Roberto is passionate about the traditions of the wines he selects.

"There is so much versatility and something uniquely Italian about these wines that speaks of their origins.

"The Italian reds and whites I have selected to accompany this meal truly do belong on the dinner table, as that is how their makers intended them," he said.

After a glass of sparkling wine, a light introduction to what was to be a combination of subtle Italian tastes over seven courses was made with tuna belly tagliata, accompanied by a chilled Ceretto Blanghe Roero, Langhe 2005.

Stephen was excited about introducing this first wine as it is a rare, indigenous grape variety that almost died out 10 years ago.

"A few pioneers decided to preserve this historical wine for future generations.

"Ceretto is concentrated by freezing the juice of the grapes before fermentation to concentrate the richness of the fruit's natural character. It's a good match for seafood dishes with an interesting spectrum of flavors," he added.

The tuna belly was served on a slice of eggplant grilled in garlic with parsley and extra-virgin olive oil, graced with a sauce of mature cherry tomatoes, capers and oregano.

Tangy slithers of shaved Parmesan on wild rocket leaves tinged with a splash of aged bal-



A combination of milk chocolate and gorgonzola mousse with pear ice cream on walnut and black-pepper sauce was the perfect ending to the seven-course meal.

# A marriage of Italian traditions

samic from Modena did a wonderful job of perking up our palates to begin the meal.

Staying with the whites and seafood, Stephen introduced the Ruffino Lumina Pinot Grigio, Venezia-Giulia 2005, that was to accompany the next course of a single pan-fried tiger prawn with cannelloni, enhanced with zucchini cream and fine white-truffle oil.

"The Lumina Pinot Grigio

has a history that dates back to 1887 and is generally acknowledged for its richness and complexity.

"It represents Ruffino's roots in the Tuscany region," Stephen said.

The marriage between the wine and the cannelloni was one of combined richness executed without becoming heavy.

Next were the reds, starting with Ruffino Chianti 2006 as

the accompaniment to the third course of roasted quail marinated in rosemary on a bed of soft, smoked polenta and sautéed porcini mushrooms.

Katiporn Markmai, enVision's southern area manager, demonstrated her knowledge and passion for this fine Chianti wine.

She introduced the Ruffino winery as having a history with wines that are a benchmark for

the region. "Chianti is a crisp wine that works well with rich food; it's the perfect accompaniment to this course," she said.

The Southern European tastes of quail and porcini were a treat and at this, the halfway point in the meal, it was time for a refresher before moving on.

Chef Alessandro created a summery-tasting grape-and-cinnamon sorbet to refresh the palate before going on to the fourth course and the heavier reds.

Stephen introduced Ceretto Asij Barbaresco 2001 to accompany the slow-cooked veal ossobucco on a bed of aged pecorino and squid ink risotto with saffron sauce and bread gremolata.

"This wine encapsulated the concept of Northern-Italian wines and dining because it is meant to accompany only local cuisine. As Barbaresco is not near the ocean, the wine was never intended to accompany seafood dishes," he said.

"The wine is a classic and reminds me of the spirit of the region's traditional cuisine and I wanted to challenge Chef Alessandro to come up with a classic accompaniment," he added.

A challenge it was. The large serving of veal combined with squid ink was pungent. This was the only course that some diners tasted but left on their plates, while others skipped this course to leave room for dessert.

For dessert, Chef Alessandro presented milk chocolate and gorgonzola mousse with pear ice cream on walnut and black-pepper sauce. It was an impressive combination of refreshing richness wonderfully accompanied by the sparkling wine that I still had left over from the start of the meal.

A selection of Italian cheeses with homemade preserves, Puccini coffee and petit fours drew the meal to a close.

*This menu of classic Italian cuisine is available at Puccini Restaurant from 6 pm until 10:30 pm every day until March 31. For reservations call 076-271466 ext 8617. Visit [www.luxurycollection.com/phuket](http://www.luxurycollection.com/phuket)*

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# Breaking the mold with fiber

His hair flecked with paint and fiberglass dust, Wirot Klinrisuk takes off his protective facemask to reveal an expression of satisfaction as he gets up from adding the finishing touches to a bright yellow kayak he has just made for a customer.

As he talks, K. Wirot proudly pats the kayak that has taken him just a few days to build, starting with a specially designed mold and then building up the layers of fiberglass and letting them dry over a few days' time.

Making and fixing boats and jet-skis is what keeps K. Wirot and his small team in regular employment, but as an artist his real passion lies in creating art out of fiberglass.

His own creations include a mobile ice-cream cart and replica animals for a local theme park.

K. Wirot's fiberglass creations may take a little longer than those coming out of fiberglass factories that use large ovens and high-tech machinery known in the trade as Resin Transfer Mold (RTM). This is because all his painstaking work is done by hand.

The lack of modern machin-

Wirot Klinrisuk spends his working hours fixing boats and jet-skis, but in his spare time, his artistic side comes to light.

K. Wirot's passion is in using fiberglass to create everything from ice-cream carts to replica animals.

Nick Davies talks to the man who says he can make almost anything out of fiberglass.

ery at his roadside workshop, however, does not mean his work is low quality. With a keen eye for detail, artistic talent and several years experience K. Wirot can make almost anything out of fiberglass.

"I've just finished making a work area for a themed restaurant. They chose fiberglass over stainless steel because it allowed them to choose a color scheme and structure that matched the theme," he said.

K. Wirot is certified as a fiberglass boat builder with Concorde Yachts, a pioneer of closed mold technology to build luxury fiberglass yachts. He credits his experience with Concorde as key to his ability to get creative in fiberglass.

"I'm lucky to have gained

experience working for Concorde, as learning a trade with fiberglass is not a common subject in college. In fact, my first experience working with fiberglass was as an art student.

"I've only ever found half a sentence relating to the subject in any Thai college curricula," K. Wirot said.

"I think my timing in coming to Phuket was just right because it is only in the last few years that local people have started to accept fiberglass as an alternative to wood for building boats.

"This change in attitude has come as people see that foreigners are impressed with fiberglass boats and trust their designs a bit more," he said.

After about ten years with



Fiberglass molder K. Wirot stands next to the boat he was commissioned to make for the Marine Biology Center.

Concorde Yachts, K. Wirot decided to try going it alone and teamed up with his uncle.

They started a fiberglass business in Bangkok, but it was not to be smooth sailing.

The financial meltdown of 1992 saw business grind to a halt. K. Wirot found himself back home in Chaiphaphum, penniless.

"In hindsight, Bangkok was probably not the best location for a boat making business. It's too far from the sea, so we didn't have a regular supply of customers wanting boats made," he said.

"It was like starting all over again. Back in Chaiphaphum I had to take on any work that was available, such as working in the fields, just to put food on the table," he said.

K. Wirot struggled both financially and emotionally to get through the next few months. With a wife and child to support, but no clear future in sight, he became so depressed that at one point he went on anti-depressant medication.

"It was a tough time. I just couldn't see a way out of our situation and didn't have any hope left. My wife was strong, though. She believed in me and stayed by my side. Even though we had nothing and there didn't seem to

be much of a future for us, she encouraged me to fight on," he said.

"Believe it or not, I came out of my depression and became inspired again after watching the movie Forest Gump.

"His outlook on life and the part where he becomes a successful shrimp catcher is what motivated me to push on with my dream," he explained.

"With the little money that I had saved I bought materials to make a mobile ice cream cart out of fiberglass, one of my own design. That was it. I was down to my last 500 baht," he added.

K. Wirot said that on his first day as an independent mobile ice-cream vendor he made just 20 baht profit.

Undeterred, he continued to turn up outside the local school as the kids were leaving and was soon making 500-baht profit a day.

A year went by with steady profits and there was some relief from the struggle of making ends meet, but in the second year K. Wirot's income took a dive from nearly 1,000 baht to less than 300 baht a day.

"By this time, mobile phones had become popular and more affordable, so kids were saving their snack money to buy the lat-

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'I'm lucky to have gained experience working for Concord, as learning a trade with fiberglass is not a common subject in college.'

est phones and accessories. At that rate I couldn't carry on, so I decided it was time to pack it in and try once more to get a creative fiberglass business off the ground. I chose Phuket as our final make-or-break destination," he said.

Packing his possessions, wife and child into their Mazda pick-up truck, K. Wirot headed for Phuket not knowing anyone here or anything about the island, except that it is surrounded by sea and is a tourist destination.

"Knowing this much, I thought it was worth a try. I thought to myself, there must be work there for a man who knows how to make and repair boats."

"I'd been meditating a lot and giving alms each morning. I had faith that if I persevered with my dream then I'd eventually find success. Thankfully, my wife also had faith in me and we made our way here," he said.

Arriving in Phuket, K. Wirot and his family had nowhere to stay and no idea where they could set up a workshop.

They eventually found some land on Srisoonthorn Rd in Thalang where they could set up a make-shift home and the beginnings of a fiberglass workshop.

A year and a half later,

Wirota Fiber Boats looks as if it is here to stay. Word of mouth has spread and K. Wirot is becoming better known as a skilled artist who can create just about anything out of fiberglass.

From stag heads to catamarans, his list of accomplishments continues to grow.

"My customers are happy that they've found a place where they can get their jet-skis and boats repaired or have a boat made to their own specifications without it costing the earth.

"When people come to me for repairs, I don't charge the kind of additional fees usually associated with boat repairs, such as lifting or dry dock fees," he said.

K Wirot charges between 16,000 to 20,000 baht for his kayaks, which take about three days to complete. His workshop can also produce small sailboats and speedboats of five meters or more.

"I'm happy that I can make a living from my passion. Now the struggle seems worth it and I'd like to say to anyone who has a vision never to give up on it."

K. Wirot's workshop is about five kilometers from Heroines' Monument, on the way towards Surin Beach. For more information call him at 081-436782 or 081-3979988.



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This week

RIGHT: HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya is welcomed to the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa during her visit to Phuket from February 22 to 24.



BELOW: Chart Thai Party deputy leader Jongchai Thiengham (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) joins Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Ratthasima (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) at the grand opening of the Raya Buri Hotel Patong on February 14.

Joining them are (from left) Raya Buri Hotel Group Senior Vice-President Somchat Somnam, Group President Supunnee Ukkachartkul and guests Komen Nukulpanichwipat and Pol Gen Boonpen Bampenboon.



BLEEDING BY EXAMPLE: Laguna Resorts and Hotels Community Relations Director Suthasinee Rukmit (left) and Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts CSR Development Manager David Campion (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) join Laguna management and staff at a Red Cross mobile blood donation on February 19.



BY THE BOOK: Phuket Provincial Public Relations Officer Atchara Raethong (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and The Metropole hotel General Manager Peerapong Supourut (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) welcome former TITV presenter Jom Petchpradab (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), who was at the hotel to deliver a lecture on the 'Principles of Professional News Writing'.



ACCOMMODATING KRIS: The Kris Resort Managing Director Jatina Krissana (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), staff and guests celebrate the opening of the resort at Bang Tao Beach on February 24.



BRANCHING OUT: Celebrating the opening on February 18 of Bank of Ayudhya's Exclusive Banking Center on Phang Nga Rd, as well as three new branches in Phuket, are (from left) Bank of Ayudhya President & CEO Tan Kong Khoon, Von Bundit Co Ltd Board President Nuntinee Kerdwongbhundit, District Chief Wisit Kurattanavej and Bank of Ayudhya Phuket Branch Director Chusak Ruampanpong.

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# Going on a guilt trip

**O**n an average day I will usually experience somewhere in the region of four major guilt pangs and anywhere from three to six minor ones. Major guilt triggers might include glimpsing a girlfriend's name in my mobile address book – I forgot her birthday. Or a wistful message on the answering machine from my father whom I haven't seen, properly, since Christmas.

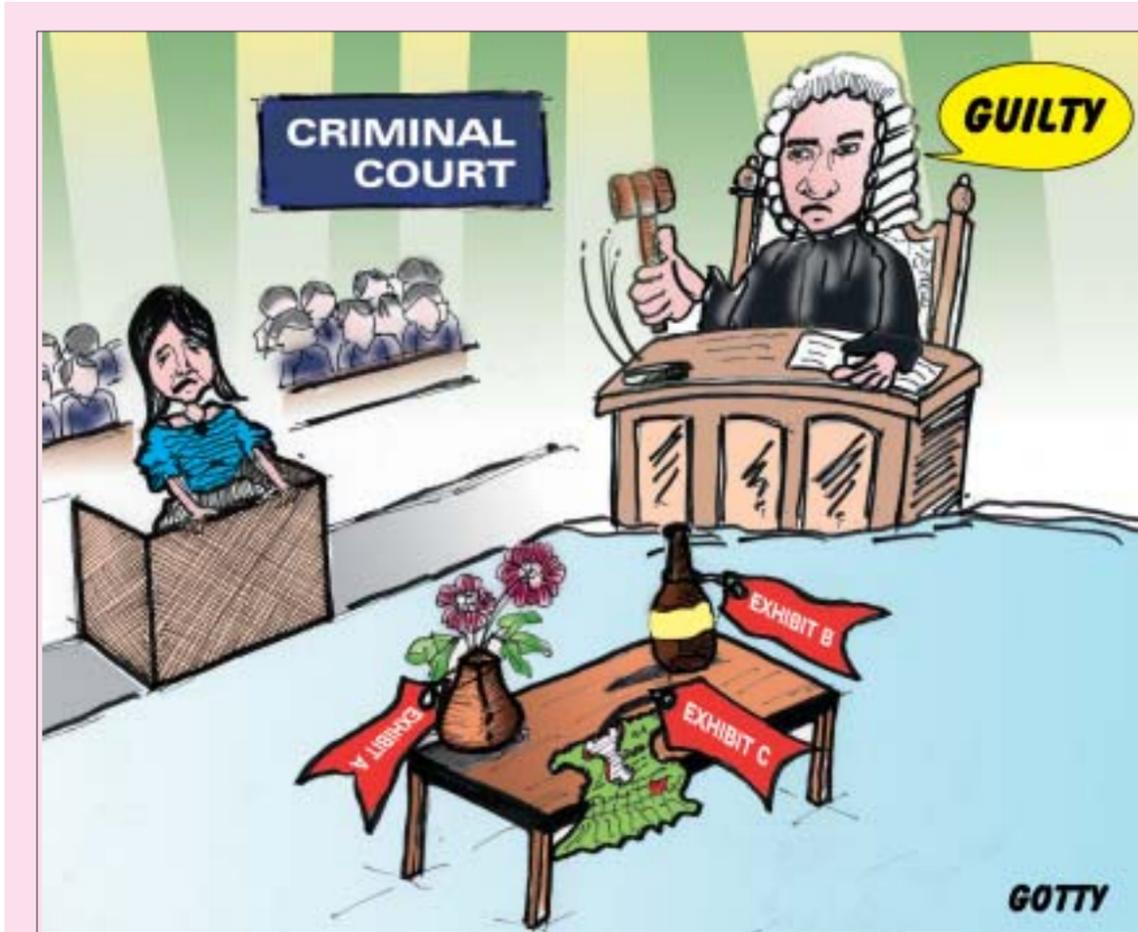
Then there's skimming through an article by an attractive author, half my age, who manages to run a houseful of kids and animals, a husband, a charity and still churn out prize-shortlisted novels from a gorgeously decorated little hut at the end of her country garden. I can barely cope with a quarter of that life buffet.

On a lesser note, though only just, there is the ever present grooming guilt – others look freshly laundered, while I can look as if I've just escaped from a sack – coupled with ongoing body guilt as in, "why did I buy those bite-size chocolates in the first place?"

Then there's overspend guilt, easiest-possible-option-cooking guilt, not-doing-enough-entertaining guilt, house-is-a-tip guilt, never-go-to-the-theater-or-do-anything-cultural guilt, don't-know-anything-about-the-children's-lives guilt.

And on and on it goes. Appearance, relationships, work, family, money, the state of the planet (forgot to sort out the trash for the recycle bin again!) – there is practically nothing in our lives that doesn't make us feel lacking to some degree.

Obviously we are not guilty all of the time, and sometimes we are really quite pleased with our lot, but those periods are just interludes – rest stops between savage attacks of self-flagellation. Drink six glasses of wine, have a blast and spend the entire next day on a rollercoaster of self-loathing. And all of us just assume that this is part of the adult human condition – as inevitable as bingo wings,



graying hair and obsessing whether or not you have the right density mattress.

But if this were true, men would suffer guilt in the same way. And that, as everyone knows, is not the case. Comprehensive guilt is almost exclusive to the female sex. We are hard-wired to find the chink in our own armor and then weasel in there with a sharp instrument in a way men simply don't understand.

Among the classic female guilt trips guaranteed to make a man bug-eyed with disbelief is the one about how we screwed up the dinner party because we left the fresh flowers at the office. Likewise, men do not get "Their house is so much better

than ours. I am a loser", or "I planned to swim every day this week and didn't, therefore I deserve to die."

The way men see it, you're in control of your life, so go swimming or don't. You have a nice house, decorated the way you want it – plus who really cares? The dinner party was fun and everyone had a good time, so why worry about the missing tiger lilies?

The answer is quite simple. Women are genetically programmed to be the less selfish sex, so giving less than we think is expected of us – or seeing others give more – makes us feel bad. We want to do better at everything, even though it may be wildly unrealistic, because someone out there is getting it together and we don't want to fall short of that standard.

Martha Stewart wouldn't

have forgotten the lilies, and if she had she would have made her own out of sugar – and that thought tortures us.

Also, on another level, we like to be distracted. Guilt – superficial guilt – is what motivates us. Inside every woman busting a gut to get a particular sort of organic salt alternative between meetings is a small voice squeaking, "Don't stop pushing or you might not bother to start again."

It's not that we don't like our lives, more that we prefer not to acknowledge their limitations. "Must try harder" is what we do when men are thinking, "Must give it all up, run off with the secretary and have a mid-life crisis". Female guilt has its purpose. Still, you have to know the rules or it can get out of hand.

For example, don't feel guilty about spending money on a dress that makes you feel like

an Oscar winner – but do feel guilty about the high-street number you didn't even like when you bought it.

Never regret a hangover if the drunken part made you laugh and tell people that you loved them – but do if it was the result of boredom.

Don't beat up on yourself for abandoning the kids for the weekend – unless it wasn't dirty enough. And do remember that a couple of pesticide-saturated carrots never killed anyone. I don't think...

*Ambrosia Sakkadas, a Britain-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London, is an artist, designer and newspaper columnist. Her first novel, Greek Girls Don't Cry, is available from amazon.com, and her second is in the works.*

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# Going coconuts about natural oils

By Nick Davies

The humble coconut is a gift from nature we can use in so many ways. After drinking the juice, using the husks to make doormats and the shells to make lamp shades, we are left with the coconut meat. The meat is easily converted into an oil that offers a plethora of health benefits when applied or consumed.

Coconut oil in its natural state has a host of benefits for the body, whether applied to skin and hair, used for cooking or consumed in its liquid or solid state.

We're talking about virgin coconut oil, derived from coconut meat without being processed or chemically altered in any way. Obtaining oil from coconut meat is a very easy process, leave some in the sun and it will dissolve into oil.

There are many "healthy" oils available on supermarket shelves, from olive oil to rice bran oil. All these oils are good for you in their natural state, but most cooking oils have been hydrogenated. This means intense heat and pressure were applied, then hydrogen was pumped into the oil. This process alters the oils on a molecular level, creating something more akin to plastic.

Skin loves coconut oil and soaks it up as a natural moisturizer that offers protection from ultraviolet light, making it the perfect natural sunscreen. This is good news for sun worshippers who want to play their part as eco-tourists. A recent study by a team of Italian scientists discovered a number of ingredients commonly found in commercial sunscreens cause coral bleaching.

The research paper was published by the United States based, peer-reviewed journal, *Environmental Health Perspectives* and in *National Geographic*.

The paper argues that several chemical ingredients commonly used in commercial sunscreens weaken coral and encourage the spread of marine viruses that can desecrate vast areas of reef.

As well as offering natural protection against harmful UV rays, coconut oil also has antiseptic



Among the many uses of coconut oil, diabetics may be interested to know that eating coconut oil improves insulin secretion and encourages the body to use blood glucose.

qualities that combat fungal infections of the skin, such as ringworm, athlete's foot, thrush and diaper rash. Yes, virgin coconut oil is completely safe for babies' skin too. Eczema and dermatitis are also subdued by coconut oil.

Hair loves coconut oil too. Massage some into the scalp after washing to prevent dryness and itching. In fact, hair fed with coconut oil glows with vitality and dandruff disappears when applied regularly.

The anti-aging properties of coconut oil are some of the more persuasive reasons for converting to the mother nature's milk as a natural skin care application. Coconut oil supports the skin's natural chemical balance. It softens skin, helping relieve dryness and flaking, plus its attributed with preventing wrinkles, sagging skin and age spots.

The oil creates a natural barrier that protects the skin from a constant bombardment of 'free-radicals', referring to the pollutants and toxins in the air. Free radicals are responsible for wrinkling and drying the skin, depleting its elasticity.

Coconut oil is just as effective when consumed. Apparently, young green coconuts saved the lives of many soldiers during WWII when they were used as substitutes for saline drips. Co-

conut oil is completely safe to eat, it's more than safe, it's really good for you.

Diabetics may be interested to know that eating coconut oil improves insulin secretion and encourages the body to use blood glucose. It's antibacterial qualities help fight internal infections, such as urinary tract infections. It combats gum disease, cavities, pneumonia, gonorrhoea and other diseases. Coconut oil will also kill and expel tapeworms, lice and other parasites.

Virgin coconut oil is recommended by many nutritionists and doctors, as a good dietary supplement or alternative to the processed oils that we usually cook with for several reasons.

Although coconut oil is 'fatty', this particular kind of fat is easily converted into energy by the body and is lower in calories than all other fats.

It promotes weight loss by aiding digestion, thus increasing the rate of metabolism and helping the body absorb other nutrients, vitamins, minerals and amino acids. The body will immediately convert coconut oil fat into energy, instead of storing it as body fat.

Once in the body, coconut oil is a quick energy booster said to enhance endurance and athletic performance.

Virgin coconut oil improves the cholesterol ratio, reducing the risk of clogged arteries and heart disease caused by fatty foods. The kidneys and bladder also benefit from coconut oil's healing qualities; it dissolves kidney stones.

Go nutty, find yourself some coconut oil and discover the benefits of mother earth's milk.

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

Can't imagine a simple domestic utility such as a plastic basket posing as a deluxe chandelier with all the trimmings, much less a piece of remnant cloth doubling as a chair? Then head down to the new Gubgang gallery in Chalong.

The collection of art pieces on display at the showroom is of more than just interesting-looking artifacts to be used for decoration. Most of the objects on display also have practical functions for use in the home.

On display are acrylic tables in an array of florescent colors, decorated chairs and twinkling chandeliers. In a corner stands a crafted steel sculpture in the shape of a tree that could also be an airer for wet laundry.

Many items can be custom made to suit individual tastes. One popular choice is the transparent acrylic table and chairs designed to customers' preferences with their favorite things on display inside in the table.

"I find my inspiration in my dreams," said ML Rojanatorn "Candy" Na Songkhla, designer and owner of Gubgang.

"I love classical and modern arts. In my work, I get to merge the two. I can't attribute my art to a specific period, it's a mix. Rather than being influenced by specific eras, the pieces here are a product of who I am. My work is me," she continued.

K. Candy's passion is house decorations, but she is also fond of expressing herself through graphic design and technical drawing, which is evident from a series of unusual-looking mobiles that adorn the walls and ceiling of the gallery. "To begin with, I draw a pattern and then when I have a structure, I use needlework to decorate the textile. It is all 100% handmade," she explained.

"I started out with jewelry design. After that, I worked with famous Thai pop-art artist Kongpat 'Ong' Sakdapatik for the Hong Kongpat [Kongpat's room] for 10 years. He's into modern art. After that, I started the Gub Co Ltd. My son, Gub, drew the company logo at the tender age of four," she said.

Popular Thai artist K. Ong is also an artist and designer at Gubgang. The expression of his design is funny, colorful and



Khun Candy (left) with K. Ong in front of their artwork.

# Meet the Gubgang



pretty. His paintings are a drawcard for the gallery, with nearly all potential customers walking into the gallery after seeing one of his works.

"I like a fast, impulsive stroke, but it is more complicated than that. The composition of a painting requires skill. I have painted all my life and I am still constantly working on my technique," he said.

K. Candy added, "I don't plan too much before starting a project. I just choose my materials.

"Often, my clients are of another opinion. They like the fact that my work is different, but they don't always understand my work.

"Occasionally, punters walk into the showroom and say something like, 'I would like this - can you do that?' But then they end up not going through with the purchase because they don't like the outcome.

"They don't have the artistic ability to predict the result of what they are asking for," she said.

Gubgang is at Chalong Park View Village on Chao Fa East Rd, Chalong. Tel: 076-282523. Website: www.gubgang.com

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# Fashion police back on the beat

Phuket's highly-trained fashion police has been patrolling bars, restaurants and beaches in search of the island's worst fashion offenders.

Suffice to say, they didn't have to look far!

**Case File #98665:**  
The human billboard

The crime: This is not so much a case of fashion crime, but fashion victims. The offenders are victims of large, ruthless, organized campaigns of visible branding such as by the Von Dutch family, the Billabong syndicate or the Body Glove mafia.

Anyone plastered from head to toe with the logos of these sinister surf syndicates is a victim.

Some poor souls bear the mark of several different brands at the same time. These victims are making the fashion statement,



"I'm being used." Visible branding is the fashion equivalent of a protection racket – keep paying or your carefully-crafted image will be ruined by next season.

The usual suspects: The major labels making the clothes are the true culprits, but local and tourist victims buying into the im-

age keep them in business. Teenagers susceptible to peer-pressure and high-profile celebrity endorsements are at the highest risk, but those suffering a mid-life crisis have been known to get sucked into the world of addictive trends, too.

The penalty: The solution



**I'VE BEEN TO PHUKET, TOO: It may be hard sell on Patong's beachfront, but there's no excuse for falling prey to logo fashionwear.**

out-of-work tobaccoists. Women seem to be immune to this particular criminal urge and the young don't wear socks anyway.

The Penalty: First-time offenders will merely have their socks summarily removed. Repeat offenders will be made to wear a T-shirt that reads, "Happiness is being a clueless old dolt like me."

### Special Patong APB

Wearing the following shirts along Patong's beach road immediately brands the owner a mindless, gullible tourist:

"No Money, No Honey"

"Same Same But Different"

Red Bull and Singha Beer tank tops

Anyone wearing one of the above shirts



**ANDAMAN**  
BY SOAPBOX SID  
**RANT**

**Case File #45921:**  
Socks with sandals

The crime: One of the all-time intergalactic style no-nos is the wearing of socks with any type of footwear less formal than canvas high-tops.

Why anyone would want to do this is a mystery. Aside from looking stupid in a way normally reserved for the circus, it completely defeats the point of sandals: to keep your feet cool. Are these criminals trying to add a sense of class and dignity to beachwear?

Whatever the motivation, these offenders must be stopped.

The usual suspects: Older men, school teachers and sad,

will be overcharged, harassed by taxi drivers and tailors, and has probably already mistakenly gone home with a ladyboy.

That's it from the fashion cops. Do try to be considerate of other people who have to see you in your worst fashion attire while you're gallivanting around the island.

As it's our evening off, please excuse us while we get into our plaid tartan drainpipes, our Manchester United T-shirts and backwards baseball caps, and head down to Soi Katoey for a bit of a bop.

• 14-15-16 March 2008  
• Race : 2 of 4  
• Venue : Bor Saen Villas Phang Nga (Home of Team TBB)

**"MALAIWANA TRIBALLISTIC TRIATHLON SERIES"**  
**TRIBALLISTIC BOR SAEN CHALLENGE**

Splash 'n' Dash: Swim 50m, Bike 1.5km, Run 750m  
Junior: Swim 200m, Bike 6km, (Mountain bike recommended) Run 1.5km  
Senior: Swim 600m, Bike 22km, Run 6 km

Prizes for all podium finishers, Medals for all finishers

Friday 18:30 - 20:30 Race registration, Pasta Party, Race Briefing  
Saturday 07:00 registration 08:00 Senior Race Start  
Saturday 15:30 registration 16:00 Splash 'n' Dash Race Start, 16:30 Junior Race Start  
Saturday 18:00 till late buffet dinner and awards presentation

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www.borsaenvilla.com Please Book early to avoid disappointment!

Race entry Adults 1,500thb Children 1,300thb inc Awards Dinner Buffet party (drinks not inc). Friday Pasta Party to be paid separate on night 400thb p/p. Discounts for Children

Sports nutrition and TriBallistic merchandise available for sale throughout race weekend

"Online Registration Available"

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Let them train at the right time, don't let it just gone with the wind

# EVENTS CALENDAR

# Upcoming events on the island

## March 8. Special BBQ Buffet Dinner at Wine Connection Bang Tao.

A special BBQ buffet with grilled meats, seafood, salad bar, desserts, cheese, Parma ham, coppa and much more. Live band. 650+ baht per person. 6:30 pm until 11 pm.

Contact Pascal. Tel: 087-8896074. Email: fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

## March 8-9. Andaman Players Theater at the Green Man.

Enjoy an evening of light comedy theater plus dinner at the Green Man, featuring the Andaman Players Theater Group.

Saturday, March 8. From 7:30 pm: Cocktail reception on the lawn, four-course dinner including wine, and an evening of three short comedies. 1,500 baht.

Sunday, March 9. From 4 pm: Matinee performance of the three short comedies. 350 baht.

For details contact K. Nui at The Green Man. Tel: 076-281445, 085-7903652. Email: info@the-green-man.net Website: www.theandamanplayerspaces.live.com

## March 9. PC Group Therapy - Laguna.

Join *Windows for Dummies...* author Woody Leonhard and his band of techie irregulars in a wide-ranging discussion of computer topics.

If you can't get your Windows to work right, if you need to find a decent Internet connection, if you're going to buy a computer in Thailand or if you need to get one fixed, this is the place to be. 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna.

For further information contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com Website: www.khunwoody.com

## March 12. Mom Tri's Boathouse Writer's Night.

From 7:30 pm to 9 pm, Mom Tri's Boathouse in Kata will host an evening with well-known crime-fiction writer Jake Needham, Asia's most stylish and atmospheric author.

He is the writer of best-sellers including *The Big Mango*, *Laundry Man* and *Killing Plato*



Therdkiat Wangwatcharakul explores interaction between shadow and light in this piece entitled *Hope*.

# LIGHT OF LIFE ART EXHIBITION

March 8-29

"Light of Life" will feature acrylic and oil on canvas by Thai artist Therdkiat Wangwatcharakul at D Gallery, Royal Phuket Marina. His previous exhibitions were of oil on aluminum sheets.

His landscapes focus on the interplay between shadow and light. Opening cocktail reception at 6:30 pm, March 8. Open daily 11 am to 7 pm.

For details, contact Bowie at Tel: 076-360867. Email: bowie@dgallery.co.th Website: www.dgallery.co.th

- a story set in Phuket and starting in the Boathouse's own Galley Bar.

Jake will hold an informal and undoubtedly entertaining discussion, with an audience Q&A session afterwards. Drinks available at special prices.

Contact Lisa Sol for details. Tel: 076-330015. Email: pr@boathousephuket.com Website: www.boathousephuket.com

## March 14-16. TriBallistic Bor Saen Challenge Race 2 of 4.

Splash 'n' Dash: Swim 50m, bike 1.5km, run 750m. Junior: Swim 200m, bike 6km, run 1.5km. Senior: Swim 600m, bike 22km, run 6 km.

Friday, 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm for race registration, pasta party and race briefing.

Saturday 8 am: senior race; 4:30 pm: kids' races; 6 pm: dinner and presentation

Entry: Adults: 1,500 baht. Children: 1,300 baht. Includes awards dinner party (drinks not included).

Friday Pasta Party paid

separate at 400 baht per person. Discounts for children.

Contact Shaun Boulter. Tel: 089-5902014. Email: tri@triballisticclub.com Website: www.triballisticclub.com

## March 15-16. Aussie Bush Barbecue & Music (much of) Night.

From 7 pm to 1 am at the Phuket Sport & Tennis Club Rawai. Feature for the night will be a performance by the legendary Mal Clarke of the famed Australian band Bullamanka.

He's fresh from a four-month season at The Ayres Rock Resort Hotel, where he entertained thousands of visitors.

Mal will be joined by many other local and international performers in what promises to be the greatest jam session with a bush-country-rock flavor in the history of Phuket.

Please register early to make your booking.

For 500 baht, you will be well fed and entertained.

For more information call

Stafford or Pat at 081-6072805 or 081-5696569 (Thai). Email: phuketsquash@e-mail.in.th Website: www.phuketsport.com

## March 16. PC Group Therapy - Chalong.

10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

## March 19-28. Phuket Food Festival.

The 11th Phuket Food Festival will be held at Saphan Hin. Don't miss a local cooking contest on March 19 at 6:30 pm.

Find a great variety of local food every day, including fresh seafood.

There will be demonstrations of local delicacies, sales of OTOP products, cultural and contemporary performances and more.

Entry is free.

For further information contact Jaras Sae-Tan. Tel: 081-3261526. Email: rat\_st99@yahoo.com

## March 28. Laguna Phuket Sea Turtle Conservation Ceremony.

Since 1994, Laguna Phuket has held this event within its complex to raise funds for the sea turtle conservation programs run by the Royal Thai Navy and Phuket Marine Biological Center.

Apart from the releasing of sea turtles, there will also be many other fun activities, such as a sea-turtle-conservation exhibition, a turtle sand-sculpture completion, T-shirt painting, bead-bracelet making and games booths at Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket beach front from 4 pm to 6 pm.

For further information contact Saranya Tantiphiriyakul. Tel: 076-362300 ext 1304. Email: saranyat@lagunaphuket.com

## April 6. Chakri Memorial Day - Public Holiday.

Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

## April 13-15. Songkran Festival (Public Holiday).

Songkran (Thai New Year), also known as the Water Festival, is held during the driest months in Thailand.

Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country by pouring - traditionally only a little, but these days a lot - water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

## April 13-18. Phuket Bike Week.

Details to be announced.

## June 15. The 2008 Laguna Phuket International Marathon.

The 2008 Laguna Phuket International Marathon is expected to be another success with more than 1,000 participants in the 42k marathon, 21k half-marathon, 10k run, and 5k walk. There will also be a 2k kids' run.

Also, eco-marathoner and slow-running advocate Hajime Nishi will be guiding interested runners over the course, focusing on the enjoyment of the race and interaction with spectators without the pressure of achieving a certain finish time.

Registration is available at www.phuketmarathon.com Early bird offers end on March 31. Registration closes June 5.

For more information contact Roman Floesser. Tel: 02-2362931. Email: direct@goadventureasia.com

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## The Andaman Players present Comedy Dinner Theatre at The Green Man

Enjoy an evening of light comedy theatre plus cocktail party and dinner at the Green Man featuring The Andaman Players theatre group, hot from their riotous success in the Christmas pantomime "Mother Goose".

Opening Night - Friday March 7th

7:30 pm Cocktail reception on the lawn, three-course dinner and an evening of three short comedies performed in The Green Man theatre. **950 Baht**

Core Night - Saturday March 8th

7:30 pm Cocktail reception on the lawn, four-course dinner including wine and an evening of three short comedies performed in the Green Man theatre. **1,500 Baht**

Matinee - Sunday March 9th

4:00 pm Matinee performance of the three short comedies. Drinks will be available in the interval. **350 Baht**

The Andaman Players will present three one-act comedies:

- Scuba Lessons by Joseph Zeccola
- A Night in a Bar by Simon Hand
- Other Comedy Sketches

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Bookings are essential. Please call Khun Nui on: (0) 76 28 1445-51, fax (0) 76 28 1453  
Or Email: info@the-green-man.net  
www.the-green-man.net  
www.theandamanplayers.spaces.live.com





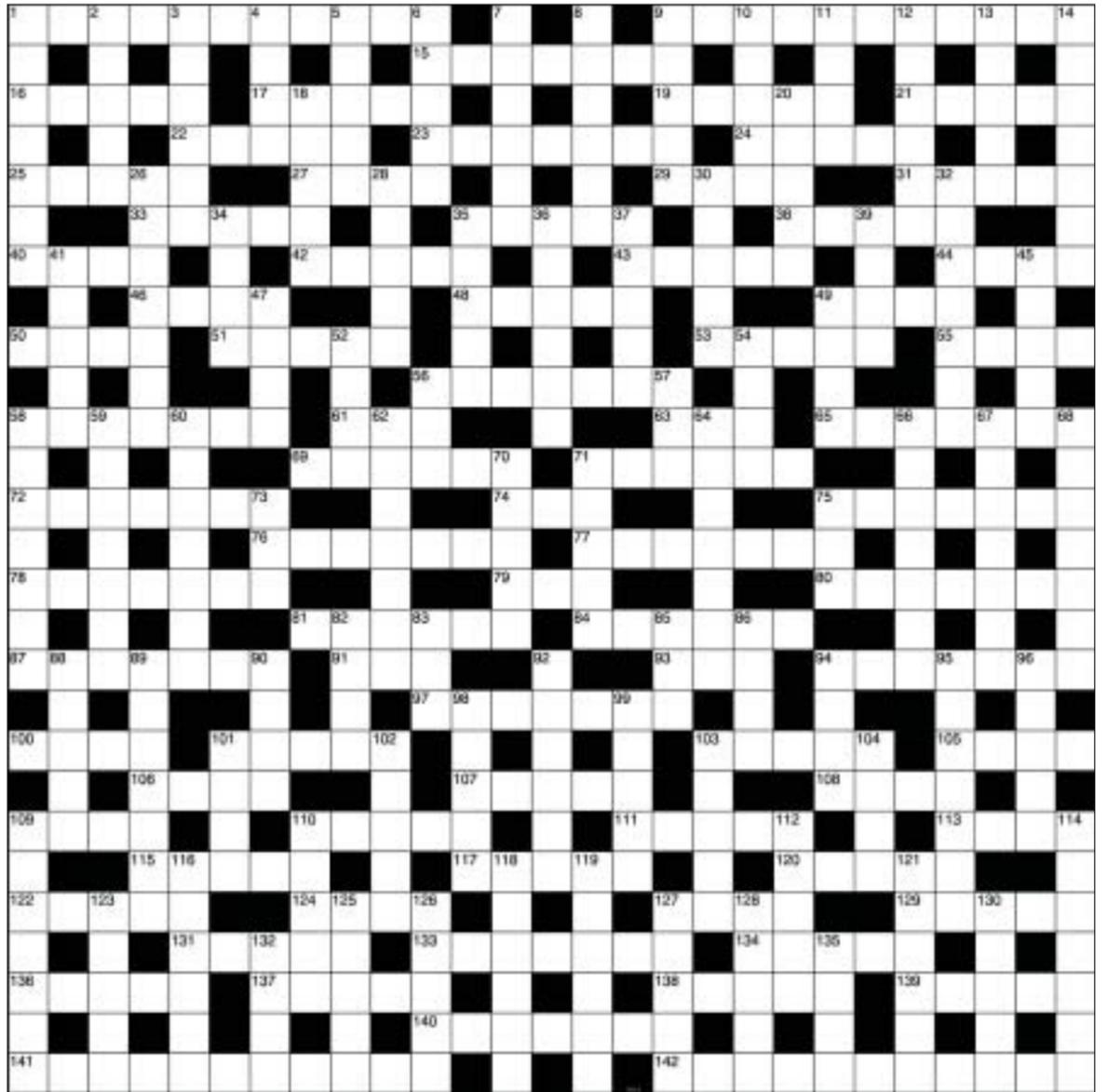
# PUZZLES

# The BIG Crossword

## Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are at least 25 words or phrases related to religion in Phuket. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent. Solution on the next page.

C	H	R	I	S	T	I	A	N	T	S	E	I	R	P
F	F	Y	M	D	M	Z	Q	A	U	A	V	Z	M	W
L	A	W	I	O	E	D	T	Q	R	U	B	G	D	N
A	R	J	N	K	K	V	A	O	J	R	W	B	J	K
H	Q	A	I	B	N	A	O	P	I	H	S	R	O	W
D	Y	G	S	O	T	O	J	T	M	M	W	Y	H	T
D	R	K	T	H	N	U	M	A	I	E	J	E	D	G
U	O	X	E	C	H	U	R	C	H	O	A	N	P	M
B	S	I	R	B	L	E	S	S	K	V	N	U	V	T
A	S	H	T	I	A	F	K	A	E	A	D	L	H	S
T	V	P	C	I	T	S	R	N	W	N	C	O	F	S
Y	D	J	R	X	I	M	E	R	I	M	U	P	U	V
R	E	T	F	A	A	A	X	H	E	U	M	I	Y	U
E	M	W	U	A	Y	A	P	L	Y	S	T	I	I	Y
P	P	G	M	J	I	E	P	E	L	L	P	Q	N	U
I	G	P	E	F	A	M	R	U	H	I	F	V	K	Q
O	R	K	A	I	E	N	O	J	K	M	N	E	X	Y
D	Q	L	X	T	W	I	A	C	I	R	T	N	U	Z
Y	C	P	P	M	A	W	L	V	S	O	Z	I	T	Z
J	D	O	Y	Z	L	L	R	E	R	R	P	V	B	K
Z	J	W	Y	V	T	T	M	F	B	I	Z	I	N	Q
V	F	W	S	K	A	G	W	R	Z	J	N	D	D	A
N	U	N	Y	A	R	A	G	Y	C	V	Z	O	O	J
W	K	Y	E	W	L	S	M	H	I	D	G	H	W	W
V	O	E	V	N	Y	V	P	D	M	I	B	D	P	Y



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**Across**

- 1. Outshining
- 9. Farm science
- 15. More robust
- 16. Ranted
- 17. Strong thread
- 19. Sheikhdum, Abu...
- 21. I...if I could
- 22. Thin porridge
- 23. Care for
- 24. Child's toilet
- 25. Elvis' daughter, Lisa...Presley
- 27. Actress, ...Redgrave
- 29. US space organisation
- 31. Actress, ...Barkin
- 33. Stately
- 35. Priggish person
- 38. Reverse-thrust
- 40. Illuminating gas
- 42. Milan Opera house, La...
- 43. Sleighs
- 44. Revolvers
- 46. Iran's neighbour
- 48. Survives
- 49. Arm or leg
- 50. Converse
- 51. Rides on wave
- 53. Occupied
- 55. Spheres
- 56. Pretence
- 58. Part exchange (5-2)
- 61. Cloth remnant
- 63. Possessed
- 65. US coins
- 69. Not relaxed, ill...(2,4)
- 71. Coyest
- 72. Entertainment world
- 74. Small bite
- 75. Peephole

- 76. Took a breath
- 77. Permit
- 78. Resolve (4,3)
- 79. Have
- 80. Fatigued
- 81. Playground equipment
- 84. Pill
- 87. Determination
- 91. The States (1,1,1)
- 93. Exploit
- 94. Actor, Yul...
- 97. Pickled cucumber
- 100. Vocal solo
- 101. Host (party) (3,2)
- 103. Russian emperors
- 105. Swamplands
- 106. Corporals, sergeants etc (1,1,2)
- 107. Dutch cheese
- 108. Dance
- 109. Haemorrhaged
- 110. Rustling sound
- 111. Rose spike
- 113. Lord
- 115. Red earth colour
- 117. Song, ..., The Clearing Lady
- 120. Verbal exams
- 122. Heavy horned animal
- 124. Prayer ending
- 127. A business agreement
- 129. Tuscany is there
- 131. Florida resort
- 133. Wild marjoram
- 134. About-face (1-4)
- 136. Divide in two
- 137. Legends
- 138. Collier
- 139. Anguish
- 140. Well-read
- 141. Earnestness
- 142. Demoralises

**Down**

- 1. Male rowers
- 2. Golfer, ... Woods
- 3. Boarding house resident
- 4. In place, in...
- 5. Coldly
- 6. Actor, Scott...
- 7. Greedy money-lender
- 8. Juice
- 9. Cosmetics boss, Elizabeth...
- 10. Harvests
- 11. Docket
- 12. Attorney
- 13. Customary
- 14. Conclusions
- 18. Fuses
- 20. Pigs
- 26. Kindled
- 28. Moves closer to
- 30. Publicist, press...
- 32. Ship's diary (3,4)
- 34. Sadly
- 35. Harness-racing horse
- 36. Snobbish
- 37. East England county
- 39. Identical sibling
- 41. Anaesthetic
- 45. Peace prize pioneer, Alfred...
- 47. Multiple birth baby
- 49. Bony
- 52. Stockade
- 54. Includes
- 56. Golfing body (1,1,1)
- 57. Your
- 58. More irritable
- 59. Romantic
- 60. Involve (in dispute)
- 62. Carbonates
- 64. Antennas

- 66. Whinger
- 67. Process of wearing away
- 68. Narrow
- 70. Bequeath
- 71. Exhausted
- 73. Spot
- 75. Use needle & thread
- 82. European currency
- 83. Droop
- 85. Hamburger roll
- 86. Conger fish
- 88. Actor, ...Flynn
- 89. Continually (2,3,2)
- 90. Second largest birds
- 92. About
- 94. Sharp hook
- 95. Finest
- 96. Ex-FBI boss, J...Hoover
- 98. Peaks
- 99. Furious
- 101. Toffee-nosed
- 102. Gullible
- 103. The ones there
- 104. Epic tale
- 109. Trees, silver...
- 110. Disreputable
- 112. Actor, Nick...
- 114. Employee suspensions (3-4)
- 116. Regain consciousness (4,2)
- 118. Boulevard
- 119. Sloping letter
- 121. Hover
- 123. Loafer
- 125. Bishop's hat
- 126. Plane tips
- 127. Having a round roof
- 128. Relatives
- 130. Akin
- 132. Current units
- 135. Inclination

*Solution on next page*

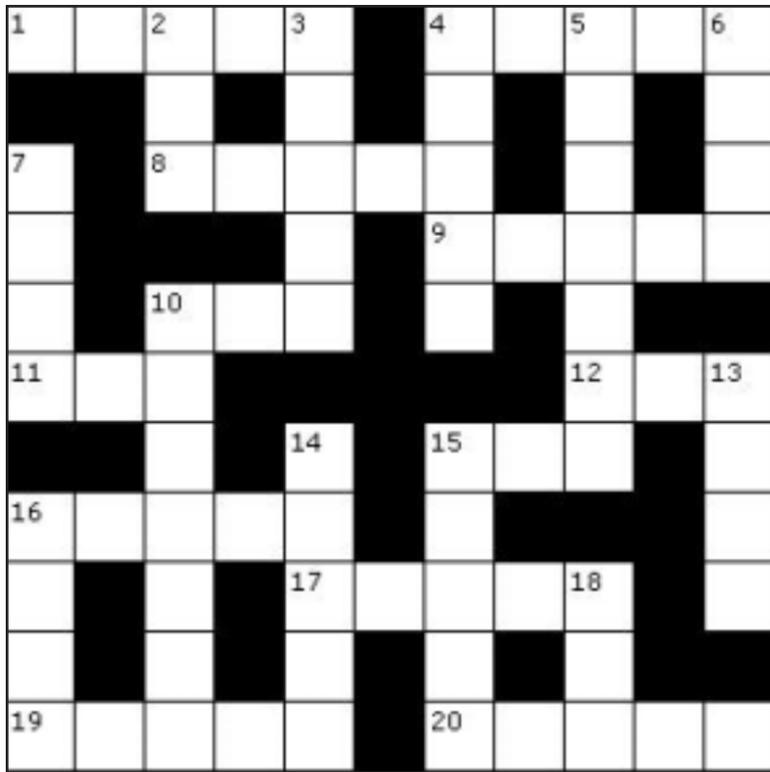
## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

			4	9	3		
4			5		6		
	2	3					
5		7			4	3	
3						9	
8	7			6		2	
				5	8		
	1		9			4	
	4	2	1				

Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each "box" of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.



### Quick Crossword

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Across</b>          | <b>Down</b>          |
| 1. Tests               | 2. Insect            |
| 4. Catwalk star        | 3. Waste system      |
| 8. Tall building       | 4. Idiot             |
| 9. Japanese city       | 5. Leaves            |
| 10. you hear with this | 6. Simpson character |
| 11. Religious woman    | 7. Maize             |
| 12. Pull along         | 10. Put up with      |
| 15. Tax agency         | 13. One-eyed gesture |
| 16. Type of car        | 14. Teacher          |
| 17. Fashion            | 15. Perfect          |
| 19. Command            | 16. Details          |
| 20. Midday meal        | 18. Commotion        |

Solution below

## Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



Kids! Ask Mum and Dad to help you find the answers to these questions. They're not easy but, if you do some research, you should be able to find the answers to all of them.

- |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Which is the only town name in Britain to end in an exclamation mark?                                  | 8. May Day first became a bank holiday in the UK in which year?                                                                                                | 15. In the Chinese zodiac, which sign comes between the rat and the tiger?                  |
| 2. In which sport might two teams defend goals of different sizes?                                        | 9. Which footballer has played alongside Bobby Moore, Liam Brady and Alan Shearer?                                                                             | 16. Which pulp hero was Lester Dent best known for creating?                                |
| 3. Which actor married singer Dorothy Squires in 1953?                                                    | 10. Who wrote the poem <i>The Owl and The Pussycat</i> ?                                                                                                       | 17. In which year did the English Civil War start?                                          |
| 4. Where does the Blue Nile meet the White Nile?                                                          | 11. Which film character has been played by Jack Lord, Cec Linder, Rik Van Nutter, Norman Burton, David Hedison, John Terry, David Hedison and Jeffrey Wright? | 18. Who was captain of the <i>Stingray</i> submarine whose navigator was "Phones" Sheridan? |
| 5. What is the name of the first test tube (IVF) baby born in 1978?                                       | 12. In which 1970s UK TV series did the character Charlie Endell appear?                                                                                       | 19. Col James Doolittle led the first bombing raid on which city during World War II?       |
| 6. How many UK monarchs were there in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century?                                       | 13. Man on the Moon was the biopic of which comedian?                                                                                                          | 20. Who played Dr Duncan Waring in the 1970s TV series Doctor in the House?                 |
| 7. Which Zager and Evans hit single of 1969 had the words Exordium and Terminus in brackets in the title? | 14. Which 1972 film features the tune <i>Dueling Banjos</i> ?                                                                                                  |                                                                                             |

Answers below

# Puzzle Solutions

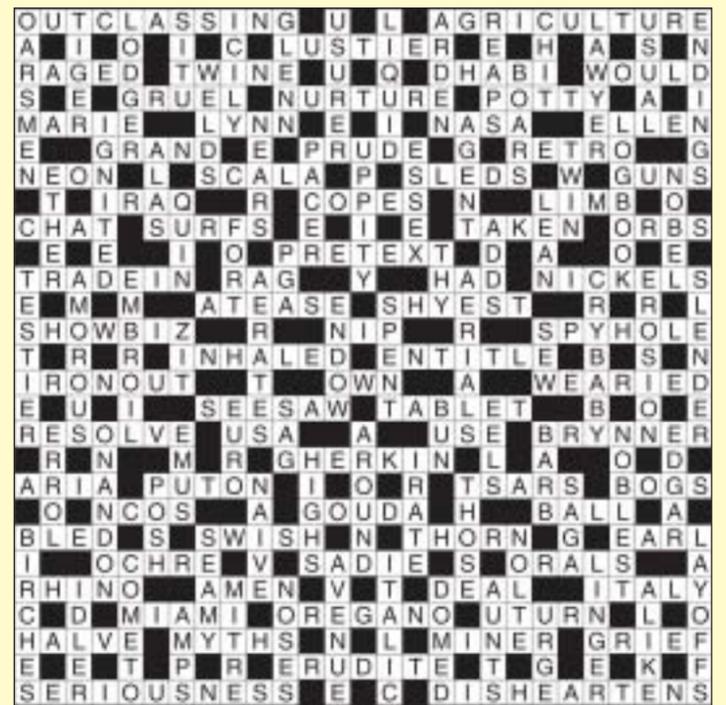
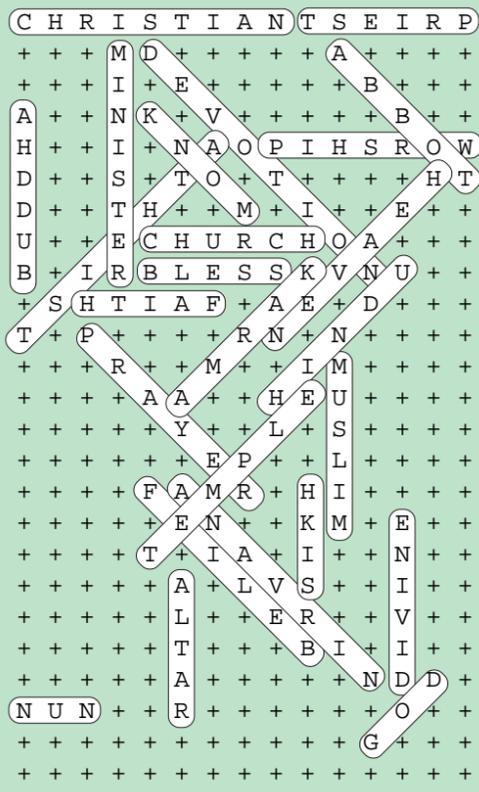
#### Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



#### Monster Quiz Answers

1. Westward Ho!; 2. Water polo (the goal in the shallow end can be higher); 3. Roger Moore; 4. Khartoum; 5. Louise Brown; 6. 6; 7. In the year 2525; 8. 1978; 9. Tony Gale; 10. Edward Lear; 11. Felix Leiter (a character in James Bond films); 12. Budgie; 13. Andy Kaufman; 14. *Deliverance*; 15 The Ox; 16. Doc Savage; 17. 1642; 18. Troy Tempest; 19. Tokyo; 20. Robin Nedwell.

#### Hidden Words SOLUTION



#### Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

#### Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

		4	9	3	
4		5		6	
	2	3			
5	7		4	3	
3				9	
8	7		6	2	
			5	8	
	1	9		4	
4	2	1			



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ราคาเริ่มต้น 1.9 ล้านบาท

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**[PIC] PHUKET SOLE AGENT**



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The Formula One season will kick off in Melbourne on March 16, but local enthusiasts will have the chance to see Formula 1 in Asia again at the Malaysian Grand Prix, the second race of the season, on March 23.

Going to university in Montreal in the '80s, I avoided going to the Canadian Grand Prix for a couple of years because I thought it would be stultifyingly boring. In 1986, my frat buddies pulled an intervention, they dragged me kicking and screaming to the race. I was hooked instantly and the rest is history.

In recent years, F1 has been pared back to two days to save costs, but now it has revived the three-day weekends in order to recreate the festival atmosphere. In my opinion, the most exciting event in all of sports – by far – is the start of an F1 race.

I've been to two Malaysian GPs. The Sepang circuit, although a new, excellent facility with a track designed for overtaking, is in the boon docks outside of Kuala Lumpur and minutes from the airport. Getting to the race on time and returning to KL is a pain in the butt as the traffic is horrible, especially on race day.

However, a real treat for tourists, the curious and avid F1 fans is the inaugural Singapore Grand Prix to be held on September 28. The historic event will also be the Grand Prix held at night.

Access to the Singapore circuit will be easy, but let's face it – Singapore is becoming more expensive by the day, sullied by continuous construction projects in every crevice of the island. It's a fairly sterile place unless you enjoy spending money and time at the shopping malls, where seemingly 95% of Singaporeans go on the weekend.

If one was going only for the race and not for the qualifying, I would strongly recommend looking into making Phuket home base, flying in for the race and returning to Phuket as soon as possible.

If the Tourism Authority of Thailand were on the ball, they would promote a package to facilitate this. Singapore's Changi Airport has its own express hotel



The McLaren team lead the way at the Malaysian Formula One at Sepang last year.

# Gearing up for Grand Prix

(but reservations must be well in advance) and access to the airport is easy.

The last time I was in the new budget terminal near Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), I didn't check it out an overnight stay, but there are two hotels at KLIA, the Pan Pacific and the Concorde Inn.

At the time of writing, AirAsia had round-trip flights arriving Saturday evening and leaving noon Monday for the Sunday 2 pm race start in Malaysia, while Tiger Airways had a morning flight on race day in Singapore, returning the following morning.

Though more expensive, SilkAir has direct flights from Phuket to KL, while JetStar and AirAsia fly direct from Phuket to Singapore. Both destinations, from Phuket, take less than 90 minutes.

F1 fans are in for an interesting season. McLaren and Ferrari are once again expected

to perform well, while both BMW and Williams have made significant strides since last season and are expected to pose many challenges for podium positions this time round.

Two-time world champion Fernando Alonso, after a troubled year with McLaren-Mercedes, is back with Renault, the team that took him to the drivers' title in 2005 and 2006. Partnering with Alonso is the son of three-time world champion Nelson Piquet, Nelson Jr.

Ralf Schumacher has not found a drive for 2008, having left Toyota and unsuccessfully testing for the newly-named Force India team.

Force India is the reincarnation of Jordan/Midland/Spyker and is supported by Indian billion-

aire Vijay Malaya, who counts among his assets Kingfisher beer and the Kingfisher airline, as well as, for our Scottish readers, Whyte & Mackay Whisky.

Force India drivers are Italian veteran Giancarlo Fisichella and young German Adrian Sutil.

The team expected to challenge the two leading outfits is BMW-Sauber, which retains Nick Heidfeld and Robert Kubica as its drivers. Perhaps new developments over the winter will propel the team forward.

Team boss Mario Thiessen said, "One area in which we have a big gap is on the aero side for the F1 car, which is why we focus on wind tunnel work."

The team has one of the best wind tunnels in Formula One, costing a reputed US\$55 million

when it was commissioned by Peter Sauber before the BMW takeover.

"I think this gives us a big advantage," says Dr Thiessen. "But let's put it the other way around: without a good, full-size wind tunnel, you cannot get anywhere in F1." Conversely, Dr Thiessen does not believe the advanced wind tunnel gives BMW any advantage in 2008 with the removal of traction control on F1 cars.

"I do not see a big difference between what we have done in the past and what we will do this season; aero is aero, in my opinion. However, I do expect a big impact in 2009 when we will have the new aero package, new aero regulations, which will be substantially different.

"I think we will see a difference in performance [from the teams] in the first two or three years, and then of course it will narrow again."

Another new driver is Timo Glock, who has replaced Schumacher at Toyota, while in the second Scuderia Toro Rosso is four-time Champ Car champion Sebastian Bourdais.

Partnering rookie sensation Lewis Hamilton is Renault refugee Heikki Kovalainen, while Ferrari retains its 2007 lineup of reigning champion Kimi Raikkonen and Felipe Massa.

"The first impressions of the new car were very positive," said Raikkonen after his first outing with the F2008 on Ferrari's test track at Fiorano. "I don't think we have to make any improvements at the moment."

The Williams team keeps Nico Rosberg and introduces young Japanese driver Kazuki Nakajima. The Honda duo of Jenson Button and Rubens Barrichello are retained for a third season, while former Ferrari technical director Ross Brawn has joined as team principal in an effort to push the Anglo-Japanese team further up the grid.

Red Bull Racing continues with Mark Webber and David Coulthard. For Coulthard, winner of 13 grand prixes, it is probably his last season in Formula One, a career that will have spanned 14 years.

Meanwhile, at the time of writing, the Super Aguri team has serious cash-flow problems, but still expects to be on the grid on March 16 with Takuma Sato and Anthony Davidson.

## TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Ignacio Evans

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# Catching coups in Laos

**D**r Siri Paiboun, the National Coroner of Laos, is the hero of Colin Cotterill's series of mystery novels set in the early days after the 1975 Communist takeover of Vientiane.

Educated in Paris and a great fan of Georges Simenon's Inspector Maigret, Siri has spent 30 years in the jungle and now finds himself delving into all sorts of fascinating murders throughout the new Socialist Republic.

*Anarchy and Old Dogs* (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2007, 272pp) is the fourth, and best, in the series.

Siri's oldest friend is Civilai, a senior member of the Laos politburo. The two share a history of youthful idealism curdled by cynicism over the new, stodgy, bone-headed bureaucracy that now misrules the country.

Every day at noon, the two 73-year-old revolutionaries sit on a log overlooking the Mekong and share a baguette lunch. The dialog between them is hilarious – akin to a pair of vaudevillian comics.

Civilai has just returned from a trip to Russia and the main topic of their conversation when they meet again is an impending coup against the government.

Siri uncovered the plot after a runaway truck ran over a blind ex-dentist who had just picked up a letter at his post-office box.

The letter was blank, but using one of Inspector Maigret's tricks, Siri has uncovered an invisible-ink message written in code that lists the names and locations of the military plotters.

The message came from the southern city of Pakse and it's there that Siri and Civilai fly in search of clues.



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

Soon, Siri's intrepid nurse Dtui and policeman Phosy cross the Mekong and pass themselves off as a refugee couple to enter the camp in Thailand that is the nexus of the plot. They are in search of the Devil's Vagina, the cryptic key of the message.

Towards the end of the novel, the characters are all reunited to celebrate the seeming success of their mission with a bottle of real Johnnie Walker, "not the Vietnamese, re-bottled variety".

This passage shows the type of whimsical humor that permeates the novel:

"With Lao rice whiskey, there were clear signals that it was time to stop: stomachs evacuating, eyes blurring, bottoms flatulating. But those heathen Scottish tribes had created a brew that seduced a man and forced him to consume beyond the point of logic.

"He would find himself floating above the clouds on the back of a giant eagle, euphorically stupid.

"He would be so assured of himself that even when the eagle vanished – poof! – and he was tumbling down the bleak rugged mountains of the highlands, he would still swear he was in control. He might even



*Anarchy and Old Dogs* is Colin Cotterill's fourth and latest in his series about the investigative antics of two aging heroes.

attempt a somersault or two as he dropped – and then splat."

If this is the funniest novel of the series, it is also the saddest because it culminates in a shocking betrayal.

*Anarchy and Old Dogs* is also a nostalgic heartbreaker. Siri meets Daeng, a former comrade from his youth, an old lady now tending a noodle stall in Pakse. She shows him an album of photos from a forest youth camp where Siri and his wife

looked at their teachers as if they could see halos. They were eating up everything. And these weren't the posed photos the PL set up for propaganda. These boys and girls were pumped up with national pride."

The ultimate heartbreak comes from the contrast between such lofty beginnings and the bloated inefficiency and stifling mind control of guerrillas turned apparatchiks.

Boua had been instructors.

"She flipped open to the first set of pictures and Siri's mind turned 11 spinning somersaults into the page. He was back in 1940. There he was standing with his class, B5, all 18-year-olds in their group photo, everyone taller than Dr Siri, everyone as happy as lizards in an ant storm..."

"Siri went through the photographs one by one, naming the youths, remembering exactly what activities they'd done on that particular day. But while he was studying them, he noticed something as clearly as if it had been written in headlines above each picture: enthusiasm. The kids

**D**o I have to accept "utilize" when "use" is a perfectly good word? It comes across as pretentious, like, "Let's utilize the hall closet to store our winter boots."

I do some editing for work and when I come across the word, I always change it to "use" or "make use of".

It's a pet peeve (can you tell?) and I wonder if I'm fighting a losing battle.

Nan Thomas  
Castleton, NY

# Using 'utilize' uselessly

**W**elcome to Word Court, where **Barbara Wallraff** unravels some of the mystery that shrouds the English language, debunking confusing usage and clearing away the clutter that stops clear understanding – all by answering readers' questions.

### Barbara replies:

No, it's certainly not a losing battle – at least to the extent that a sizable anti-pretension-in-language brigade stands ready to fight alongside you about this matter.

We're on the alert for a number of other needlessly-fancy words and phrases too, such as "initiate" instead of "begin", "feasible" instead of "possible", "viable" instead of "workable", "remuneration" instead of "pay" or "salary", and "terminate" instead of "end".

Unfortunately, these aren't battles we're likely ever to win, either.

HW Fowler, the unparalleled British arbiter of linguistic style, poked fun at "those who feel that the use of an ordinary word for an ordinary notion does

not do justice to their vocabulary or sufficiently exhibit their cultivation" – but that was in 1926, in his book *Modern English Usage*.

People who feel the same way are with us today. It's only natural to be proud of having a good vocabulary – and what are words for if not to use?

Not until someone has acquired that vocabulary and started using it does he or she discover how much more effective simple words are.

The fancy words are for conveying meanings the simple words can't.

So you and I will probably have to keep crossing out "utilize" our whole lives, as new people discover it and find it impressive.

Why does "utilize" even exist, if it has no special mean-

ing of its own? Well, it does have one meaning: "to find a profitable or practical use for", as the *American Heritage Dictionary* explains it.

So, "I know how to use a dictionary" means just what you'd think, whereas "I know how to utilize a dictionary" ought to mean I can think of a use for one.

The only problem is, the word is hardly ever used like this – it's hardly ever utilized – and no-one seeing or hearing it can be expected to notice the nuance of meaning. Instead of saying, "I know how to utilize a dictionary" and hoping against hope to be understood, I'd recommend saying, "I could use a dictionary".

**T**he other day, my friend described a chemical that is part

of a grape as an "ingredient" of the grape.

I told him "ingredient" is not the appropriate word. We've been arguing about this for days. Please advise.

Mary C Ferris  
Michigan

### Barbara replies:

You are right. If you use dictionary definitions to prove the point, though, the two of you will just start arguing again.

Ask your friend to search for "ingredient" and "grape" simultaneously on Google.com or, better yet, tell him to try Google News and then get back to me if he has any more questions.

**I**s there a grammatical rule that prohibits the use of "that" in place of "who" when referring to people?

It seems to me that everyone refers to people with "that". Things are "that"; people are "who". Am I correct?

Richard Hepworth  
Millinocket, Maine

### Barbara replies:

Well, you're polite. For ex-

ample, "Are you the person that borrowed my pen?" is a shade ruder and more impersonal than "Are you the person who borrowed my pen?"

But nearly all authorities say that "that" can refer to people. There are even a few set phrases worded that way: for some reason, "Fool that I am!" springs to mind.

What's more, "that" gets you out of trouble in a sentence like this: "Did she say it's a boycott or a boyfriend that is keeping her busy these days?"



Barbara Wallraff is a weekly syndicated columnist for *King Features* and a contributing editor and words columnist at *The Atlantic Monthly*, where she has worked since 1983.

**Phuket Gazette**  
- Since 1994 -

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## Thailand's big gamble

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej's recent remark that he plans to set up a network of legal casinos in popular tourist areas placed legalized gambling – with all its benefits and drawbacks – back on the public agenda.

PM Samak's comments, which came in reply to a call-in question during his weekly Sunday-morning talk show, rekindled the debate about whether Thailand should legalize gambling, considered a vice among the country's predominantly Buddhist and Muslim populations.

The strongest argument in favor of legalization is the simple fact that outlawing the practice has not only failed to eliminate gambling, but driven it underground – where it remains firmly entrenched.

Since the *Gazette* website in 1999 began posting monthly crime statistics provided by the Phuket Provincial Police, gambling has consistently emerged as the most-common offense.

There have been numerous estimates by Thai researchers of the size of the illegal gambling industry inside Thailand, all with staggering results.

A few years ago, Dr Sangsit Piriyanangsan, then vice-chairman of the National Economic and Social Advisory Board, estimated annual revenue at about 500 billion baht annually, accounting for 100 billion baht in net profit.

On top of this, approximately 80 billion baht is annually gambled away by Thais in neighboring countries such as Cambodia and Burma, according to an estimate by Chulalongkorn University researchers in 2002.

Returning even a small percentage of this money to the government by legalizing gambling in a limited form could be an enormous force for positive change in the country.

A lack of qualified teachers nationwide [see "First Person", facing page] is one of the many problems that could be addressed with the added government revenue legalized gambling could generate.

Phuket is well positioned to host one or more casino operations and has one ideal site already lined up by the beach in Mai Khao, where a 350-rai plot of Treasury Department land was finally set aside as the preferred site for the Phuket International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC).

The *Gazette* notes that a representative of the US Harrah's Entertainment group, owners of Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, met with Phuket Vice-Governor Worapoj Rattasima in January to inquire about such a possibility.

Opening one or more casinos on the island can be a positive step forward, but only after a series of public hearings on the issue followed by a "yes" vote in a provincial referendum. – **The Editor**

**Do you have an opinion you want to share?**  
Email [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

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## Letters

The *Gazette* is pleased to receive mail from readers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, fax to 076-213971 or send an email to [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

with your views for publication in our next issue. We reserve the right to edit all letters. Pseudonyms are acceptable only if your full name and address are supplied.

### Build, build, build

So the Outrigger Group plans another resort on Koh Samui, do they?

Don't any of the expected 60 new hotels and resorts now being planned ever conduct feasibility studies or business plans?

If they did, they would find that the island cannot cope now with the existing 40,000 hotel and resort rooms, villas, mansion apartments and guesthouses, nevermind how they expect to get their guests to the island.

All building on Koh Samui should be stopped now to give the island a chance – and even then it will take at least five years for the infrastructure to catch up.

John Stall  
Tradewinds Resort

### Booze ban is bonkers

Of the 30,291 non-Phuket Thais registered to cast advance ballots in the province, only 7,301 (24.1%) chose to do so during advance voting [see 'Low turnout for advance voting in Senate race', *Gazette* online, February 26].

How many holidaymakers, partygoers, bar owners, hostesses and restaurants were seriously inconvenienced because of the alcohol ban over that weekend?

Someone, somewhere, somehow needs to get their priorities right.

SW  
Rawai

### Good crystals...

In your February 23 issue, the *Gazette* published an article about potassium alum (*san som*) crystals by Nick Davies. I would like to thank him.

It works well as a deodorant and is extremely cheap. Most importantly, if commercially-available deodorants and antiperspirants use aluminum chlorohydrate as a base, my wife and I are happy to throw them all out.

Steen Erik Jansen  
Patong

### ...But be careful

As someone who has for years searched for an alternative to commercial deodorants, I rushed to the market soon after reading the column by Nick Davies entitled "Rock solid solution to body odor", in which he espouses the use of potassium alum crystals as a natural deodorant.

After about a week of use, I was very satisfied with the results and more than happy to exchange my commercially-manufactured deodorant for something natural, effective and cheap.

However, after the first week I came down with a nasty and very painful rash to my left armpit – something I have never experienced using Ban For Men.

I have since taken to carefully grinding down the crystal surface before application and write to encourage other users to do the same. I have found a regular knife-sharpening stone to be perfectly adequate for this purpose.

Somchai Huasaikul  
Samkong

### Patong Hill pileup makes perfect sense

Another traffic calamity, this is just ridiculous! [Runaway truck causes Patong Hill pileup, *Gazette*, March 1-7.] How many times does this need to happen?

The trucks going up Patong hill are obviously too heavy for the steep incline.

I see this every other day, these drivers attempt to drive their seriously overloaded trucks up this hill with inevitably the same outcome.

There seems to be no common sense here.

Paul  
Phuket

### A jolly good time

I'm just writing to commend everyone involved for organizing two top events in Phuket over the past few weeks. The first, a night of comedy at the Holiday Inn, was a tremendous success and it was great to see so many faces in attendance.

Once a year just isn't enough and I hope the organizers will consider running the night at least every three to four months.

The second event I think deserves some praise is the Phuket Blues Festival, which was far busier on both nights than I had anticipated. The bands were excellent, although on the final night I must say that the local boys and girls really showed up the headliner.

A splendid time was had by all and I was left wondering why their aren't more music festivals and similar events held in Phuket. With such a large number of tourists passing through and a huge expat community, would it be so odd for a rock-music festival to be held here? I think it would be a terrific idea and I'm bamboozled as to why it hasn't been done before.

I would love to see a Bruce Springsteen concert in Phuket.

Bob Cob  
Rawai

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials and/or business owners are published in *Issues & Answers* on the facing page.

# Teaching standards placed under the spotlight

There are 1,571 teaching positions available at the 61 government schools in Phuket, but we currently employ only 1,140 teachers, which represents a shortage of 431 teachers. There are also 28 teachers set to retire this year. The greatest shortage is among qualified English-language instructors. We also lack math teachers, especially in some of the more remote schools.

To deal with subject-specific shortages, we have applied for a budget from the ministry to start a "specific teacher" project, where additional teachers would be hired part time to teach three classes a day at two or three different schools.

As far as English is concerned, we are the tourism province so English language skills are particularly important, but at the moment most of the people teaching this subject did not even major in English at university. We know the quality of our English teachers must improve.

The shortage of teachers here is part of a nationwide problem that is especially severe in rural areas.

Every year, teachers retire and need to be replaced, but often we'll have 50 teachers retire and only 25 new ones hired within the year. In cases where teachers opt to take early retirement the government is not required to replace them, so we are constantly forced to negotiate with the Education Ministry's Budget Bureau for additional funds.

After I get a budget allotment for new teaching positions,

## FIRST PERSON

As head of the Phuket Educational Service Area Office, 52-year-old Paiboon Pongtatsana is the highest-ranking Education Ministry officer in the province.

A classroom teacher for 16 years, he started his administrative career as a school headmaster before rising steadily through the ranks to become director the the Krabi Educational Service Area Office, where he worked for three-and-a-half years before taking up his current post in Phuket.

Here he talks about the lack of teachers in Phuket and the future of the island's schools.



their students' needs. We are talking about the future of the nation here.

Anywhere you look you will find both good and bad people. I am sure that not all students have the wisdom and experience yet to discriminate between the two. When I was a young student and my teacher left the classroom before the scheduled time, all the students were happy. We didn't realize we were being exploited.

Parents should ask themselves who they want teaching their children: trainees, "temporary teachers" or government teachers. Surely, parents will opt for government teachers because they have passed their exam, undergone training and are guaranteed by the state.

Students who are getting into trouble or otherwise engaging in antisocial behavior are also part of our nation's future. The teacher's role is not confined to imparting knowledge, but also to prepare students to function well with others as part of society.

We would like to thank all the local administration organizations in Phuket [tambon administration organizations, municipalities and the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization] for supporting our efforts to provide kindergarten teachers, as it is now compulsory to offer public education at this level.

We have already trained a number of teachers working at this level and their work is important in order to prepare the children for formal education starting from Pratom 1 [the first year of primary school].

I have to decide which schools are in most desperate need of teachers so that I can assign them in the best possible way.

All new teachers must first pass an exam. In fact we have enough people waiting to be appointed as government schools, but we simply don't have enough [budgeted] positions for them to fill.

The Teacher's Act requires teachers with civil service [*kha rajakarn*] status at government schools to be graduates in the field of education.

However, we also give any teachers with a minimum of three years experience and a demonstrated commitment to the pro-

profession a chance to sit the civil service exam for teachers and become *kha rajakarn* [even if they have not majored in education].

Teachers who are not part of the civil service can only be employed on a "temporary" basis.

I understand that the reason for this is to provide stability to the ranks of civil service teachers, but I really hate having to use the word "temporary" with all other teachers.

I think professional teachers without civil service status should be considered as more than just people filling gaps or working on some kind of "experimen-

tal basis". After all, teachers are the heart of the nation because they teach the children who will one day run the country.

Education graduates who pass the civil service teaching exam and are waiting to be appointed as *kha rajakarn* must have at least two years of training [as a teacher's assistant]. In fact, teacher training is an ongoing process.

It is not like building a road, where you can finish the work in three months and forget about it. Of course, we can never ensure that every teacher will be perfect, but we have to at least ensure that all civil service teachers are committed and paying attention to

## A dry, dry Happy Home

At the Happy Home village in Rawai, when we first had water problems we were told that we should have water for at least four hours in the mornings and four hours in the evenings every day.

But, in fact, the longest we have water in the evenings is from 5 pm until 6 pm at the latest. Lately, we have had no water in the mornings at all.

When we do have water in the mornings, there is not enough pressure for it to be used upstairs.

Our house has no upper level, but almost all the other houses at Happy Home are two-story.

There are many families with children living here and the lack of a decent water supply is making conditions ripe for cholera, dysentery and other diseases. Also, for many foreigners

### Issues & ANSWERS

[www.phuketgazette.net/issuesanswers/index.asp](http://www.phuketgazette.net/issuesanswers/index.asp)

who rent houses here, the monthly rent includes a water bill.

We have not been told anything about how long this situation will continue.

How am I supposed to have a shower, wash my dishes, wash my dogs and water my flowers?

Every single time I want to do anything involving water I have to prioritize what must be done next.

This situation is not normal and it is now becoming severe. Who should we contact to help us get the matter sorted? The

health authorities?

What's worse is that Phuket has plenty of water all over the island while we still don't have any.

Maria  
Happy Home, Rawai

**Sayan Warearoonroj, manager of Phuket Provincial Water Supply, replies:**

We have not been informed by anyone in that area that there is a water-shortage problem.

We are sure that there are no water problems in the areas around you, so perhaps the problem is affecting only some houses.

I have ordered our staff to check the water supply at your address.

If you have any further water problems, please call our 24-hotline at 076-319173.

## Driving into Malaysia

I am a Malaysian working in Bangkok. I have bought a used car, registered in Thailand. I plan to drive this car back to Malaysia this month. What documents are needed in order to drive into Malaysia and come back to Bangkok?

Wong Fook Wah  
Bangkok

**Boonruam Narinwong, inspector, Sadao Customs House, replies:**

To take a car out of Thailand, the owner of the car must present the blue registration book to Customs at the border.

If you are not the owner of the car, you must have a letter from the finance company authorizing you to take the car out of the country. The letter can be in Thai or English.

Present this letter, a photocopy of the blue book and your

passport to the Customs.

We will issue a permit that will allow you to take your car out of Thailand. You must present this document again when you return so that you can bring your car back into the country.

If you present your passport when applying for this permit, we will allow you up to 30 days to bring your car back into Thailand.

People who do not present a passport when applying will be allowed up to only seven days to bring their vehicles back into Thailand.

**The Gazette notes:**

You must have a Roman-alphabet version of your car's license plates displayed on your car while driving in Malaysia. These can be obtained from a local Transportation Office. Third-party insurance is also compulsory for driving in Malaysia.

# Dog-chip program faces uphill battle

In a boon to the island, Phuket has been named Thailand's first rabies-free province. The announcement, originally made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on December 26, is expected to be ratified in the Government Royal Gazette towards the end of next month.

In the wake of SARS and the H5N1 bird flu virus, one can only imagine the effect that a rabies epidemic would have on the tourism and property industries here.

It is a credit to Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) Chief Dr Sunart Wongchawalit, who has actively been promoting the vaccination of pet dogs and cats for the past five years and providing numerous free clinics for pets, that Phuket is now in this position.

In addition, charities such as Soi Dog Foundation, which has now sterilized nearly 18,000 cats and dogs in Phuket, routinely vaccinate the stray animals that they deal with.

The announcement brought a flurry of inquiries as to whether dogs and cats from Phuket would be exempt from the often long and laborious procedures of taking pets overseas. The short answer is "no".

Having spoken to authorities in the

European Community, they confirm that the current legislation in force there has just been extended to the end of 2009 and will not be reviewed again until that date.

In reality, it is unlikely that pets coming from Phuket will ever be free to travel without restriction until the whole country is designated rabies-free. It is easy to understand why.

Although the import of pets from overseas is now strictly regulated at the airport, there are absolutely no controls in place to stop anybody bringing an infected animal onto the island overland from elsewhere in Thailand.

Puppies arrive almost every week for sale at markets and temple fairs. Unless the PPLO can control this – and it is difficult to see how – there is always a danger, however remote, that infected animals will be brought in.

I stress that it is remote as the number of incidences of rabies in Thailand is very low, with only 14 deaths recorded in 2006, all of these in rural areas.

Compare this to the risk of HIV/Aids where, despite Thailand having one of the best education and prevention programs in Asia, more than one-in-100 adults are infected with HIV – and Aids has become a leading cause of death. The reality is

that you are about 60,000 times more likely to contract HIV than you are rabies.

Other countries, however, can hardly be expected to exempt Phuket when an animal from another province could be brought here for shipping elsewhere.

Dr Sunart also announced that the office will take the next step by asking local governments to come out with regulations to have dog and cat owners in their respective areas register for animal passports and have microchips fitted in their animals. In theory, this is definitely positive step.

But I am left wondering how this will be implemented. The number of dogs currently on Phuket is stated as being about 13,000, of which 1,000 are strays. This figure, however, sounds grossly optimistic.

One of the problems is in identifying when a dog is a stray or not a stray. There are vast numbers of pseudo-owned dogs in Phuket.

A dog might live at a house and receive scraps of food from the homeowner and be welcomed for the security it provides. However, ask the "owner" if the dog belongs to him and the answer is usually "no". Fears of being held responsible for any problems caused by the dog are probably behind it. If the dog becomes sick it, will generally be left without veterinary treatment.

The reasons are not hard to under-

stand. If an owner is only earning 200 or 300 baht a day, he can hardly be expected to pay for veterinary treatment or cover the cost of repairing a car after an accident caused by his dog.

Therein lies the problem with enforcing pet passports and microchips. A microchip costs more than the average daily wage in Thailand. Unless the authorities are willing to provide the chips for free, it is unlikely that many people will comply.

Also, if the authorities come down hard by fining non-compliant owners, there is a real danger that the number of stray dogs will increase as owners dump animals at temples and beaches, rather than pay the fees or fines. This could lead to a much bigger problem.

The United Kingdom had a dog-license scheme in place for years but eventually abandoned it, as it was universally ignored and cost far more to administer than it raised in revenue.

It is hard to see how the authorities in Phuket and other regions of Thailand such as Bangkok, which also announced a similar scheme, can make it work effectively.

To contact the Soi Dog Foundation, visit their website at [www.soidog.org](http://www.soidog.org), email [john@soidog.org](mailto:john@soidog.org), or call 087-0508688.



By Top Dog

## In The Stars

by Isla Star

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): If you are celebrating a birthday this week, prepare to step away from familiar paths during the year ahead. Your earning power is likely to be boosted by overseas contacts this month. Romance is also highlighted away from your usual scene; swimming in the same old pool won't lead to meeting your soul-mate.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): If you're looking cheaper living, you will benefit from a meeting with a thrifty Taurean friend this weekend. A new love affair could be draining your bank balance, but the person concerned is not as interested in being showered with gifts as you imagine. Those already in a relationship are advised to stop

being so stingy with their partner. Wear citrus shades to encourage sharper energy to flow.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Attention to detail needs strong focus this week. If you tend to be slapdash, you could face trouble midweek, so put personal affairs in order this weekend. Your social life is slow at the moment, but this is due to change when an exciting Sagittarian catches your eye in the middle of the month.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Success should come quickly towards the middle of this month. You could find yourself juggling appointments in order to keep up with demands on their time. Pay special atten-

tion to your agenda midweek as you could forget an important meeting. Wear aquamarine to encourage clever thinking.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): An important new person is forecast to come into your life before the middle of the month. If you've been struggling to balance the books, you will be grateful for this introduction. Romance is also set to pick up the pace when an alluring Arian makes it clear they won't take no for an answer. A mystery at work next week can be solved by digging deeply, but you may be shocked by what you unearth.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Family bring unexpected joy this week.

This could be because a surprise visit takes your breath away. The stars are ready to support your efforts to make changes at work, but delay signing contracts until after the middle of the month. A Capricorn friend is glad of your support and understanding on Sunday, but don't make promises you can't keep.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Change is highlighted this week. If you're not relocating, then it is time to brighten up your current environment. If you make the effort, you will be amazed at how much more positive energy will flow into your life. An Aquarian friend is waiting to help and their creativity could help transform your home. Incorporate moss green and turquoise to encourage a more optimistic outlook.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): This week you will be reminded that the best things in life are free. Loving gestures from family and close friends come at a time when you are dealing with several problems, but these problems are forecast to disappear by the end of the week. Romance with Scorpio is about to fizzle out, but another Libra is waiting on the sidelines. Wednesday is best for scheduling bureaucratic appointments.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Relationships are subject to stress this week and your tendency to insist on having the last word won't help. Scorpions are advised to eat a large serving of humble pie and be prepared to apologize. Set time aside for some

much needed relaxation; a visit to the spa will do wonders. Wear the color mahogany to encourage a better balance of emotions.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): You will be subject to negativity this week, but this can be alleviated by focusing on what is good in your life. The cloudy astral atmosphere will clear by the middle of the month and you can expect to receive good news concerning finances towards the end of the week. Taking a few steps back from a romantic dilemma will enable you to see the situation clearly.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Capricorns are advised to keep life simple this week. With your energy at a low ebb, dealing with too many issues could prove exhausting. Midweek, you learn of a way to streamline responsibilities that could also lead to a higher income. A dream you have this weekend sheds light on a personal problem, but the real answer won't come until the end of the month.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): If you want to improve your chances in love, listen to an experienced Gemini friend this weekend. The world is your oyster where business is concerned, but schedule travel after the middle of the month to achieve better results. On Thursday, a financial discussion yields more than you had hoped for – investments made now will reap rewards later this year.

The Phuket Gazette is now available at all **FamilyMart** outlets in Phuket

- Nanai Rd, Patong
- Sainamyen intersection (next to Subway), Patong
- Sawatdirak Rd (near Patong Hospital), Patong
- Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd (opp. 7-Eleven), Patong
- Thara Patong Hotel, Thaweewong Rd, Patong
- Mae Luan Rd (diagonally opp. 7-Eleven), Phuket City
- Yaowarat Soi 2 Rd, Phuket City
- Chao Fa East Rd (opp. Big One Supermarket), Phuket City
- Klong Pak Lak, Patong
- Club Andaman, Patong
- Phisit Gorani Rd, Patong
- Monthana Rd, Patong
- Colisiem Mutiplex, Phuket City
- Soi Paneang, Samkong
- Moo Baan Irawadee, Samkong

# Making your site shoot to the top of search engines

In my previous article, I described how websites get popular on Google and Yahoo by using "backlinks": getting high-traffic websites to display good links to your site [Gazette, February 9-15].

This week, I offer some simple dos and don'ts within to boost your website's search-engine appeal (search-engine optimization or SEO).

**Keywords.** Also known as "key search terms", keywords help Google guess the focus of each web page.

They're also words that Google users might type when searching for the product or service offered on your site. Choose five to 10 keywords per page and put them in high-profile positions.

Don't overuse them, however. I recommend a 5% to 7% keyword "density" (the proportion of key words to all words on the page) – the perfect percentage is hotly debated and is different for Yahoo and Google. Weirdly-high keyword density is spam that backfires and even get you blacklisted.

Choose your keywords carefully. SEO pros get big bucks because they use fancy tools and research to pick keywords. You can do fairly well with a little logic, some time spent Googling and by using tools such as wordtracker.com.

Be honest, too. Cheap trick keywords like "free beer" and "hot monkey love" get you traffic, but visitors will feel cheated and angry unless you provide alcohol and sexy gibbons. Google might even blacklist you.

Keywords should be relevant, but don't let that kill your sense of fun and adventure. Britney Spears' Guide to Semiconductor Physics, for example, is mostly about physics and has its tongue firmly in its cheek, but always shows on the first page of Google search results for the keywords "Britney Spears". Check it out at [britneyspears.ac/lasers.htm](http://britneyspears.ac/lasers.htm)

Don't use competitors' brand names as keywords unless you're comparing your product to theirs. Otherwise, using their name is theft.

Don't use the same keywords for all pages. A website's overall SEO strategy is like guessing a dog's name: variety beats repetition.

There may be too much competition for the obvious keywords, so they aren't always best. Consider even common misspellings like "sailbota" or "rela estate".

"Calendar", for example, is misspelled as "calender" in at least 20% of Google searches. That's 20% of traffic that perfectly-spelled sites won't attract. Cater to common misspellings on one or two pages.

Plurals and other variants of keywords are separate keywords: Use both "daisy" and "daisies"; "dive" and "diving"; "color" and "colour".

Avoid keywords with many meanings. The keyword "print", for example, creates competition with every printer, newspaper, wallpaper and fingerprint site.

Word pairs, natural word order and phrases have value. "Phuket scuba shop" is better than "Phuket, shop. Scuba..." or the same words being scattered separately around the page.

**Keyword location and appearance.** Search Google for "Phuket scuba". Thousands of pages might have that text. Which line below will have a higher Google rank?

On [blogofjoe.com](http://blogofjoe.com): At the bottom, Google finds: "I was in Phuket yesterday, scuba diving."

On [phuketscuba.com](http://phuketscuba.com): At the top, in a menu, Google finds "Scuba shop locations: Phuket, Khao Lak, Krabi, Bangkok".

The second line will rank higher, of course, because its keywords are in the site name, near the top, in bold and in links. The keywords look important.

Here's a loose guide to the places you can put keywords, ordered from best to worst:

1. External links to your site.
2. Website name: [phuketprinting.com](http://phuketprinting.com) beats [joemsmithcompany.com](http://joemsmithcompany.com)
3. Folder names, page file names, page titles: [andamanexclusive.com/phuket/safari.html](http://andamanexclusive.com/phuket/safari.html) outperforms [andamanexclusive.com/location\\_2/options\\_3.html](http://andamanexclusive.com/location_2/options_3.html)
4. "Key words" and "description" meta-tag areas of the HTML header. (If that's technobabble, let a pro web designer worry about it.) These are perfect hiding places for intentionally misspelled keywords.
5. Emphasized text: menus, links, bold, capitals, italics, headlines.
5. Hidden formatting code in your website, like alt="..." in image tags.
6. Top-left portion of the page. Sometimes Google doesn't even read your whole page!
7. PDF files are okay, but a distant second behind HTML

## OUT OF THE BOX

By Seth Bareiss



Posting a forum on websites such as SEO-Board.com is one way of boosting how search engines rate your website.

pages. Avoid using PDF versions less than a year old.

**Googlebots are blind.** Google uses "web-crawling robots", not people, to review your website. Bots read text, but can't read pictures of text. Keep your keywords in HTML text, as those nice, colorful words placed within graphical images will not be "seen" by Google or other search engines.

**Googlebots are dumb.** Which is better: [www.FreeBeer.com/locations.html](http://www.FreeBeer.com/locations.html) or [www.FreeBeer.com/index.php?id=82072&ref=200812113617?cat=5?col=2?pass=on?](http://www.FreeBeer.com/index.php?id=82072&ref=200812113617?cat=5?col=2?pass=on?)

Googlebots skip or incompletely read the page at link #2, since they have difficulty finding keywords in complicated page composition.

They often skip pages made dynamically with oodles of parameters in the URL and ignore keywords and text decoration obfuscated by programming

code. Avoid HTML frames, JavaScript, Java and extreme dynamic PHP or ASP programming.

Embedded text in Flash (\*.SWF), according to Andreas Solemo, a local Flash expert ([anniblue.com](http://anniblue.com)), recently started having a little SEO value, but less than HTML pages. Read more at [internet-marketing-analysts.com/google-flash\\_tutorial](http://internet-marketing-analysts.com/google-flash_tutorial)

**Give value and bulk up your site.** Fishing without bait? Dumb. Likewise, webmasters won't backlink and traffic languishes unless you have something worth sharing. More is better.

Offer a Thai-English glossary for your subject – customers love it. Host a forum built with "SEO-board" free software like [ozvisual.com](http://ozvisual.com), or a contest like Mom Tri's Boathouse, or logo-rich games like .Pro advice. News blogs, profiles of clients and suppliers, jokes, and riddles all raise SEO and attract visitors and backlinks.

Make your site multilingual, but try to use one language per page. Also, put backlinks in the language of the page they point to.

**Wait.** Who would you take advice from: grandpa or grandson?

Google prefers grandpa: older sites are probably more trustworthy. Google may ignore new websites for half a year before sending bots and including the sites in search results. Almost without exception, bribes and begging won't help.

To get new sites noticed, specialized "sitemap" forms submitted to Yahoo and Google might help a little, but for the first six months you should probably concentrate on a good pay-per-click ad campaign and actively seeking backlinks from friends, clients and news services.

**Tools.** SEO Elite ([seoelite.com](http://seoelite.com)) costs roughly US\$160 and automates most SEO tasks except writing webpages. Many tools out there, however, don't cost a thing.

Free SEO-friendly forum software is available at [seo-board.com](http://seo-board.com). On Google, knowing its advanced search options and how to submit a Google site map are other ways to boost your site's rankings.

The Google web browser toolbar, also free, displays each page's Google page rank. Be warned, though, it's a security nightmare, wanting to tear a hole in your firewall and "phone home" to Google hourly, even when you're not using the web browser. It reports all your web surfing activity to Google.

Locally, the Phuket computer discussion group ([ozvisual.com/phuketcomputerclub](http://ozvisual.com/phuketcomputerclub)) offers a free forum with a good thread about SEO.



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# Pearl River Delta losing its luster

**D**uring the past 20 years, the region of Southern China known as the Pearl River Delta has in many ways become the center of the world's factories, especially for low-tech goods.

It is indicative of the speed of change in today's world that already this manufacturing area is under threat. The rise in the value of the yuan together with new labor laws, environmental rules and other factors are combining to make this region less competitive than other parts of Asia and a large number of China's own inland provinces. The latter are offering attractive incentives to attract new business.

The Federation of Hong Kong Industries estimates that 10% of Hong Kong-owned factories in the Pearl River Delta will close this year. With 60,000 to 70,000 factories in total, this is going to cause significant disruption. Around 1,000 shoe factories have already closed.

The Chinese government is trying to persuade manufacturers

of basic goods, such as toys and shoes, to move up the value chain and produce items such as computer and motor-vehicle parts. Outside of China, countries that are expected to benefit from re-allocation of Pearl River Delta factories are Vietnam, Indonesia, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Bob Michaelson, group investment director at fund-management group Fleming Family and Partners, believes that the subprime problem is now about 66% played out and, hopefully, the worst is over. He expects that more write-downs will be announced by mid-April and that by then we will be 75% through the subprime story.

"The key factor is that the nature of the beast is now largely exposed," he said.

One reader kindly forwarded an "education note", published by Swiss Banking Giant UBS, headed "Understanding Sub-prime". Technically, it was accurate, but never ventured into why subprime became the problem it did.

In reality, the cause of



**CLOSED FOR BUSINESS:** This regional manufacturing powerhouse will see thousands of factory shutdowns this year.

not manage to part company with their creations, resulting in huge write-downs and the need for new capital.

Within days of receiving the UBS subprime briefing, I noted from the BBC that UBS had to write-down US\$18.4 billion in losses and was holding a shareholders' meeting to raise over US\$22 billion in new capital. The BBC also announced a lawsuit against UBS by a German Public Sector Bank HSH Norbank, claiming losses caused by mis-selling on their US\$500 million subprime portfolio.

Visa, the credit-card group, is about to become a public company, hoping that its stock-market listing will raise US\$18 billion.

Some observers, as the BBC noted, might be surprised at the timing, but Visa does not take part in any credit-related losses in its client base. It is paid on the volume of transactions. Visa's rival, MasterCard, listed last year and has enjoyed a substantial increase in the value of its shares.

subprime was simple: greed. Banks and other lenders packaged subprime loans together with loans of higher quality and issued them as "structured investment vehicles" (SIVs), "collateralized debt obligations" (CDOs) and other anagrams that are, in effect, new investment vehicles that were flipped through the credit-rating agencies to obtain an investment-grade credit rating.

The lenders marketed these vehicles to many different types of corporate clients, from banks operating in other countries to municipalities anywhere. The lenders wanted to move these assets off their balance sheets because they knew that in a number of cases, these CDOs and SIVs had real problems.

In many cases, the originating banks or housing lenders did

This shows that stock markets, while volatile, are still open to good opportunities.

Readers may have been exposed to the economic buzzword "stagflation" as it has appeared in many publications and on various television channels. Through random research, I have discovered that the public is generally unaware of what it actually means. Stagflation is a combination of "stagnation" and "inflation", referring to the condition last seen in Western economies in the 1970s.

At that time, stagnant economic growth was combined with inflation. The rise in commodity and energy prices and other pressures being felt throughout most of the world in the form of inflation is combining with lower global economic growth to cause stagflation.

In economics, just about anything is possible, but stagflation is unlikely to last any lengthy period of time.

*Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service. He can be reached at Tel: 076-381997, Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.global-portfolios.com*



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

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# Dragonair ready to boost Hong Kong-Phuket service

By Nick Davies

PHUKET: Dragonair is ready to boost its Phuket-Hong Kong service by using Airbus 321s and A330s, Tony Tyler (pictured), Chief Executive of Cathay Pacific Airways and Chairman of Hong Kong-based Dragonair, has told the *Gazette*.



Dragonair currently uses A320 aircraft configured to carry 150 passengers for the service.

In an exclusive interview with *Gazette*, Mr Tyler explained that when Cathay Pacific acquired Dragonair in late 2006, one of the airline's first tasks was to recommence Dragonair's services from Hong Kong to Phuket, which had been suspended since the 2004 tsunami.

"We now operate daily flights between Hong Kong and Phuket and are selling the Phuket service all around the world, filling the flight with passengers from Europe, North America, Japan and Australia," he said.

Mr Tyler expects demand for flights to Phuket to increase soon, adding that Dragonair has larger A321s and A330s at its disposal as demand builds, especially in peak holiday seasons.

Mr Tyler was in Phuket recently for the Willis IATAAAPA Asia Pacific Aviation Insurance Conference held at Le Meridien Phuket from February 26 to 29.

While in Phuket, he also met Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit to discuss the airline's role in the expansion of services at Phuket International Airport.

Cathay Pacific celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006 and was presented with Airline of the Year awards from several organizations, including Skytrax, OAG and Air Transport.

Dragonair has also been awarded Skytrax Best Airline in China for six consecutive years, while Cathay Pacific last year won the Center for Asia Pacific Aviation Airline of the Year Award.

Mr Tyler said, "The airline has grown enormously in the past 10 years. Combined with Dragonair, we now have a fleet of over 160 aircraft.

"Dragonair's main mission is to provide a network between Hong Kong and mainland China, but since Cathay Pacific took over the full ownership and became a sister airline of Dragonair, several new destinations have been added, including Pusan, Taichung and Katmandu," he added.

# Millennium set for March opening

PATONG: The Millennium Resort Patong, Phuket Hotel, operated by Millennium & Copthorne Hotels Plc (M&C), is due to officially open at the end of March.

Owned by Phuket Square Co Ltd and managed by M&C, the new hotel is the second Thai hotel to join M&C's global portfolio, following the Grand Millennium Sukhumvit Bangkok Hotel, which opened in November.

The resort has been built adjacent to Jungceylon - also owned by Phuket Square Co - to put hotel guests on the doorstep of the 200,000-square-meter shopping complex, making it what Millennium calls "Phuket's first urban resort".

The resort has been operating since December 2 and is one of nine global management contracts secured by the Millennium group in 2006 that saw 2,007 rooms in London, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharm el Sheikh and Phuket added to the company's operations, bringing the total of rooms managed by Millennium to 5,539.

A 95% interest in Jungceylon was acquired by Real Estate Capital Asia Partners, L.P (RECAP) in March 2006. RECAP is a private real estate fund in which property giant CDL has significant interest with a US-based investment fund and other limited partners.

Millennium Resort Patong General Manager Fabien Linsay told the *Gazette* that the hotel has 400 employees and that most of the facilities have been operational since December.

"We have been fully booked almost every day since the resort's soft opening. As we are part of an international chain with international clientele; our bookings come mainly through travel agents or the Internet," he said.

"The aim of the combined retail-and-resort complex is to offer guests maximum choice in Phuket's entertainment center without having to worry about making complicated transportation arrangements," added Mr Linsay.

Kwek Leng Beng, Execu-

Chairman of Hong Leong (HL) Group Singapore, which includes CDL and Millennium & Copthorne Hotels, said that the project aims to boost tourist confidence in tourism and retail businesses in Phuket following the tsunami.

He added that the Millennium at Jungceylon and the Millennium Sukhumvit are two of several investment projects the group is undertaking with partners in Thailand.

Explaining HL group's hotel strategy, Mr Kwek said M&C has been focusing on increasing its footprint in Asia. In August, the Millennium Hongqiao Shanghai hotel will open under M&C management.

In Beijing, the group has agreed to invest in a joint venture to develop a 520-room hotel in the heart of Beijing's central business district. Currently under construction, the Millennium Beijing Hotel is scheduled to open in the first half of 2008, before the Beijing Olympics get underway.

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CENTRAL FESTIVAL

# Karate kids kick off in Phuket

The Japanese martial art of karate is alive and kicking in Phuket, with recent red-belt awards going to two local eight-year-olds. Studying under experienced martial-arts instructor Darren Brinkman, Victoria Bird and Jake Graves recently passed their 10th kyu examination to gain their new belts.

These two karate kids began training with Darren just last September and have worked hard under his supervision to achieve a kyu recognition and their karate grading.

Victoria said, "We need to do lots of strength exercises in our training and a lot of stretching so that we can perform the movements correctly. It's hard and each class is challenging, but I enjoy it very much."

Jake Graves agreed that the training is tough and tiring, but he added that it is lots of fun, especially as Darren is so patient and understands that it's difficult for beginners at first.

Darren, 40, holds a black-belt, third-dan ranking in karate jutsu kai, which means he has achieved a distinguished level of mastery in karate. He has taken part in several European full-contact (knockdown) competitions and in 2005, he competed in the Karate World Knockdown Championships in Tokyo.

Darren has held the title of sensei (instructor) for five years and currently offers karate classes for adults and children at the Boat Lagoon Fitness Center.

Karate jutsu kai is a form of



**Karate focuses on an array of attributes pertaining to a student's body motion in order to develop whole-body fitness and power, as well as providing training in memory skills and thoughtfulness while in the midst of kinetic activity.**

karate founded and developed by one of the current grand masters of the art, Hanshi Bernard Creton, eighth dan. Darren has studied directly under Hanshi Creton's teachings and he continues today to be a student of this unique style.

Hanshi Bernard Creton is one of the few original karate masters that has the skill and technical knowledge to take this fighting art to higher levels.

Karate focuses on an array of attributes pertaining to a student's body motion in order to

develop whole-body fitness and power, as well as providing training in memory skills and thoughtfulness while in the midst of kinetic activity, said Darren.

"Modern Japanese-influenced karate training, together with core fundamental traditions, emphasize the psychological elements incorporated into true kokoro [attitude], such as perseverance, fearlessness, virtue and leadership skills," he added.

But karate is more than just a physical art. For beginners, es-

pecially for the young, karate builds character through discipline and rigorous training. The process begins with perfecting techniques through repetition. Karate also instills the correct attitude towards conflicts as students gain confidence through developing stronger techniques.

"We train hard to develop a strong spirit," said Darren, "not only to fight, but to overcome personal problems, especially in times of weakness."

"Developing these spiritual values is most difficult, but once achieved, they will provide a lifetime benefit of peace and inner strength."

As well as holding karate classes for beginners, Darren also welcomes intermediates. Classes for adults and children are held separately. For further details contact Darren Brinkman. Tel: 083-3911007. Email: darren.bri@gmail.com

## ACYC Race Series 2008

CHALONG: The Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) has announced the dates for the ImageAsia Keelboat and Multihull Race Series 2008.

Race dates for the series are March 16, March 30, April 27, May 11, May 25, June 15, June 29, July 12-13, August 10, August 24, September 7, September 21, October 12, November 2, November 16 and November 28.

The race dates for the ACYC series were scheduled so as not to clash with other major yachting events in the region, including the Top of the Gulf Regatta and Coronation Cup (Pattaya, May 1-3); Koh Samui International Regatta (June 1-7); Phuket Raceweek (July 23-27); Raja Muda Regatta (Malaysia, Nov 14-22); the Phuket King's Cup Regatta (December 1-6).

All are welcome to join the ACYC regattas, regardless of sailing experience.

Ben Copely and his crew on *Asia Spirit* will be looking to maintain their title of Racing class champions, though Ket Mangklaseranee and his crew aboard *Cinders* and Roger Diggelman and crew on *Nereida* are likely to make that task as difficult as possible for them. Likewise, John Fenn on *Four Winds* will be looking sneak another Cruising class series title from Harry "Sir Pie" Usher on *Eos*.

Last year was the second consecutive ACYC race series that *Eos* failed to seal a series victory despite going into the final races with a healthy lead. *Eos* failed to start in the last two races of the series in 2007, which made way for Fenn to steal top honors in the class.

Needing only to finish the last race to take the Cruising class title, Usher decided to sail in the Racing class, spoiling his chance of a Cruising class series title.

For more information call Tony Knight at 081-7470074 or visit [www.acycphuket.com](http://www.acycphuket.com)

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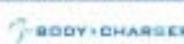
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**PATONG  
DARTS  
LEAGUE**

**PATONG:** The top two teams in the league, Queen Mary and Piccadilly, both managed three-point wins to remain undefeated and set up a showdown at Queen Mary that will be reported in next week's edition.

Queen Mary, playing at home, will be trying to protect their unprecedented 27-game win streak while the Piccadilly side will be doing everything in their power to stop it.

In last week's matches, Sick Buffalo went to the Market Bar, where they were butchered 8-1 but still managed to win the beer leg. Dave of Sick Buffalo scored a 180.

On Nanai Rd, Beach House started strongly going up 3-1 in singles against Valhalla, but then lost all the remaining games – including the beer leg.

Shakers won five singles games out of six, but lost all three doubles games to limp to a narrow 5-4 win over Simply Red, who came back to win the beer leg. Greg of Shakers took the highest score with a lowly 140 (T19,T19, 19).

Send match notes to [darts@phuketgazette.net](mailto:darts@phuketgazette.net) for inclusion in this weekly forum.

**February 26 results:** Offshore 3 Queen Mary\* 6; Piccadilly\* 6 Dogs Bollocks 3; Shakers 5 Simply Red\* 4; Market Bar 8 Sick Buffalo\* 1; Beach House 3 Valhalla\* 6 (\* = winner of beer leg).

**Standings:** 1. Queen Mary (21 pts.); 2. Piccadilly (19); 3. Offshore (13); 4. Valhalla (10); 5. Dogs Bollocks, Sick Buffalo (9); 7. Beach House (8); 8. Shakers (7); 9. Market Bar (6); 10. Simply Red (3).

**March 11 match-ups:** Dogs Bollocks v Queen Mary; Piccadilly v Offshore; Shakers v Beach House; Simply Red v Market Bar; Valhalla v Sick Buffalo (home team first).

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# Students do battle at Fobissea Games

**PHUKET CITY:** About 250 athletes aged under 15 years from eight schools around Southeast Asia gathered at Surakul Stadium from February 28 to March 1 to take part in the annual Fobissea Games.

The participating schools were British International School (BIS), Phuket; Bangkok Patana School; Alice Smith School, Kuala Lumpur; BIS, Jakarta; BIS, Manila; Garden International School, Kuala Lumpur; Harrow International School, Bangkok; and Tanglin Trust School, Singapore.

Boys and girls competed in a variety of events, including football, basketball and swimming; all

winning teams received trophies. Selected results are:

**Boys' football:** 1. Tanglin Trust School, Singapore; 2. Alice Smith School, Kuala Lumpur; 3. Bangkok Patana School.

**Girls' football:** 1. Bangkok Patana School; 2. BIS, Manila; 3. BIS, Phuket.

**Boys' basketball:** 1. Bangkok Patana School; 2. BIS, Manila; 3. BIS, Phuket.

**Girls' basketball:** 1. Bangkok Patana School; 2. BIS, Manila; 3. Tanglin Trust School, Singapore.



Girls from Bangkok Patana School (in black and orange) go head-to-head with the team from British International School, Phuket.

**CRICKET**

## ICC win, Lizards bat into the record books

**CHERNG TALAY:** The Island Cricket Club (ICC) chalked up their first win in the Island Furniture Cricket League on February 17 when they played against the Phuket Cricket Association (PCA) in the first of two matches held at Cherng Thalay Wittayakom School.

On the same day, the Liquid Lounge Lizards (LLL) tore into the Village Cricket Team (VCT) to set a batting record and cruise to an easy victory.

After ICC won the toss and elected to bat, the openers made steady progress before Anand (14) and Vicky (3) fell after scoring just 20 runs.

Three more quick wickets followed and ICC soon found themselves in dire straits with just 41 runs on the board for the loss of five wickets.

However, a whitewash was averted as the next four batsmen all scored double figures and put together some valuable partnerships.

For PCA to win, they had to chase down

158 runs – certainly not impossible on a wicket where scores of more than 200 are fairly common and even a 350-plus innings was seen the week before.

Despite losing opening batsman Yatin for one run, PCA regrouped and put on another 35 runs before losing their skipper, F Khan, for 14.

Best bowler was Tannu, who took five wickets for 21 runs off six overs. Kamblesh and Sameer also assisted by picking up two wickets apiece.

ICC gave their points tally a shot in the arm with a 26-run win. They took away 18 points from the match while PCA had to settle for eight.

Records were smashed on the same pitch in the second match of the day as LLL went up against VCT. LLL skipper R Meyer won the toss and put his side into bat, probably with an eye on picking up some extra bonus points – and bonus points they got.

LLL batsmen scored well, but South Af-

rican C Du Preez put together a first-rate innings of 164 runs, just pipping by one run M Foster's high score from two weeks earlier.

With noteworthy contributions from M Ayling (45), S Reading (80), R Loughland (14) and Meyer (19), LLL squeezed past the magic 400 figure to retire with 415 on the board in the 30th over. The only saving grace for VCT was to get out of fielding for the last five overs, although credit to Arron, Martin and Harvey, who all picked up wickets.

Luckily for the Villagers, they didn't have to face the LLL bowling lineup for too long as they soon found themselves back in the pavilion after just 20 overs. With a score of 35 runs, it was a comfortable win for LLL, with all four bowlers picking up wickets.

For VCT, it was another hard day in the sun after their match against the Patong Cricket Club (PCC) two weeks ago. Unfortunately, VCT picked up just two points for their trouble. LLL took 23 points from the match to go top of the league.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel



Baan Wana Pool Villas and Wana Loft Condominiums is located on 11 rai of land on Srisoonthorn Rd, six kilometers from Heroines' Monument in Cherg Talay. The development will comprise 17 units of pool villas and 23 apartment units in three condominium blocks.



Construction of the project began April 2007 and two villas have been reserved since the opening of the sales office in January.

# A taste of the Orient

CHERNG TALAY: The show villa at Baan Wana Pool Villas and Wana Loft Condominiums is now open for viewing.

The design concept of the 400-million-baht project is Oriental tropical living emphasized by the use of large, lateral spaces throughout the living area that allow natural light to illuminate the space.

The project is located on 11 rai of land on Srisoonthorn Rd, six kilometers from Heroines' Monument in Cherg Talay.

Development is in the hands of Wanathara Property Co Ltd and will comprise 17 units of pool villas and 23 apartment units in three condominium blocks.

The houses will be built to suit individual buyers, who will get the opportunity to choose between a series of interior-design

options upon reservation.

The 17 pool villas are divided into three types: one-story, three bedroom pool villas (Type A), one two-story, two-bedroom pool villas (Type B) and one-story, two-bedroom villas (Type C).

The villas will be set on plots ranging from 280 square meters to 800sqm. Prices start from 8.8 million baht to 16.3 million baht.

The 23 apartment units, to be built on two rai of land, will comprise 12 one-bedroom apartments (from 3.1 million baht) and 11 two-bedroom apartments (from 9.4 million baht) ranging from 71sqm to 180sqm.

Construction began April 2007 and two villas have been reserved since the opening of the sales office in January.

A master bedroom, kitchen,

living room and bedrooms are centered around a swimming pool.

A large veranda, which also serves as a pool deck, joins the master bedroom to the kitchen and living area with the pool as the main focal point.

"This design allows for an outdoors-meets-indoors feel that provides residents with a unique family-activity area," said K. Chidchanok Nimpitakpong, managing director of Wanathara Property Co Ltd.

"What especially appeals to buyers is the pool-centered veranda and the quality of the finish.

"We have paid a lot of attention to detail. Our concept is different from most projects around here. We are a Thai developer and we charge Thai prices.

"Because we build and con-

trol the construction ourselves, we can keep an eye on costs as well as the quality of work," K. Chidchanok said.

"We expect that all the villas will be completed by the end

of 2009 and all condominium buildings will be completed one year later.

"Once completed, there will be a public park, a tennis court and 24-hour security," she said.

Baan Wana Pool Villas and Baan Wana Loft sales office, Village 4 Srisoonthorn Rd or 100/57 Village 5, T. Rassada. Tel/Fax: 076-261916. Mobile: 089-7260284, 089-6440664. Website: www.baanwana.com Email: marketing@baanwana.com



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# Bold designs keep boredom at bay

The new year is already starting to show promise with the delivery of some highly-anticipated new projects on the island. Leading the way is Sala Phuket in Mai Khao, next to the JW Marriott.

The 79-room, mostly-pool-villa resort is the second Sala hotel in Thailand, the first being in Samui and owned by the same group as the island's Sila Evason Hideaway. Just drive past the entrance of JW Marriott along the sea to catch a look at the future of hotel design.

The hotel and residential markets in Phuket have long relied on a formula-driven approach to architecture, be it Lanna-inspired, detached pavilions or modern, tropical structures with little character or identity.

With the opening of the Martin Pallero-designed Twin Palms a few years ago, the bar was raised on what could be

achieved with out-of-the-box ideas, integration of definitive resort-style landscaping and breaking the mold on enhancing simple

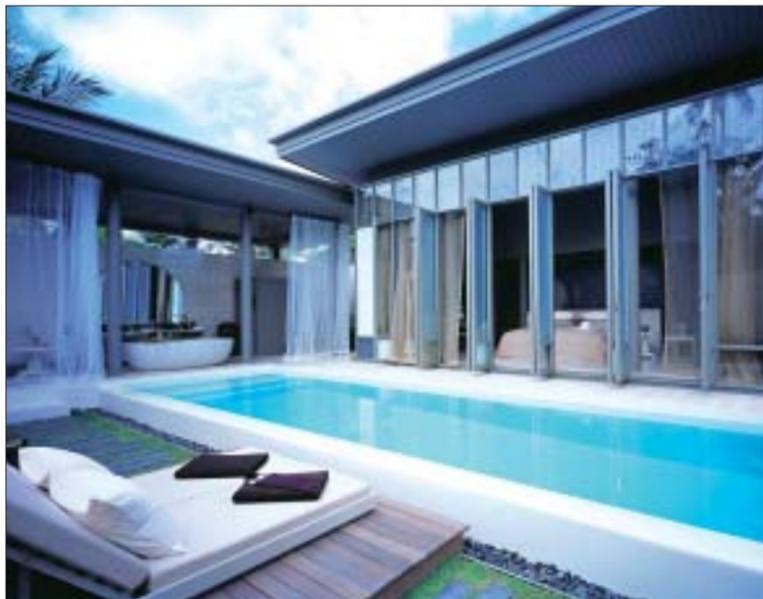
designs with extraordinary creativity.

The hotel's reputation continued to evolve, making the property an industry leader with its Catch beach club, which is now sprouting an entire micro-industry of new projects looking to duplicate its success.

Last year's renovation of Indigo Pearl Resort by famed landscape architect Bill Bensley, with its industrial chic together with John Underwood's magical ironwork, also showed how new ideas are creeping into the spotlight.

Continuing in this vein, architects such as Adrian McCarroll, Gary Fell and landscape-designer Ross Palmer are changing the look of island design one project at a time. Two highly-anticipated hotel projects are Philippe Starck's The Yamu and Thailand's own Lek Bunnag at the Taj Exotica.

Meanwhile, back in Mai Khao, visitors to the Sala are in for some big surprises. Entering through an ornate sliding gate,



**THE WOW FACTOR:** The Sala is one of several new properties that are raising the bar for innovative design and architecture in Phuket.

you feel like you are entering a private garden. Privacy and space are paramount with the focus mainly on secluded pool villas.

Down at the beach, the natural seafront space is the star attraction with integrated lap pools that appear almost too good to swim in.

Among the highlights are swings located among the tall trees near the beach. The swings create an image of idyllic wanderlust currently missing from so many cookie-cutter hotels.

While many developers look abroad for design advice, Sala was mostly the work of Thailand's Amata Lupaiboon of the company Department of Architecture.

With previous work at Zeavola on Koh Phi Phi and Samui's Sila Evison Hideaway, the Sala is clearly a labor of love. Told that the design was inspired by Phuket's Sino-Portuguese past, this influence is hard to find at first. Looking at the nuances in the outdoor tiling, window glazing and

use of doors in the pool villas, the influences are subtle hints in the most unexpected places.

While the indoor space is limited, the entire bathroom, from sinks and showers to bathtubs and toilets, is outdoors, providing an exotic experience for visitors.

In the restaurant and bar area, furniture is oversized, aimed at comfort and relaxation, which is what a holiday should be all about – furnishings are meant to be used, not looked at. All too often, designers move away from the first rule of work: form follows function.

We salute K. Amata, Bill Bensley, Adrian McCarroll, Martin Pallerors and the people here who dare to be different. The foundation of what we expect from hotels, houses and developments continues to evolve. Next time you have some time to spare, go and visit the Sala and catch a glimpse of this brave new world of "wow" design.

*Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and residential property consulting firm. With more than 20 years' experience in the region, he has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.*



## PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

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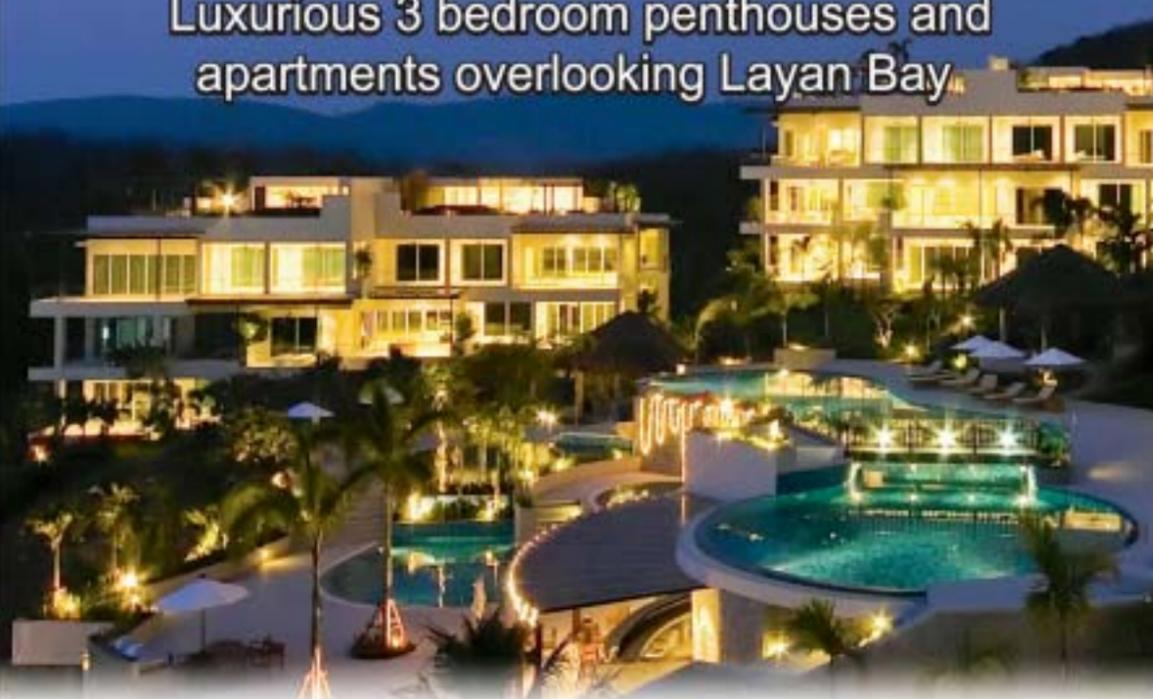
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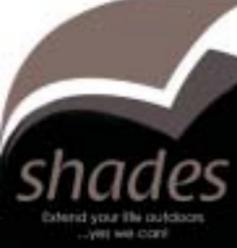


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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

# A homegrown beauty

How many times have you been cornered by a moron droning on about "bloody immigrants"? These types are found all around the world and we've all been subjected to their tirades.

The script is fairly predictable. "They come over to our country and try to make us change our ways – the cheek of it."

"How would they like it if I went over to their country and did the same thing?" There are variations on the theme, but they all have a similar thread.

Ironically, there are plenty of these people in Phuket, complaining as they wolf down hamburgers, pizzas and fish and chips.

Some even insist they left their home country because too many foreigners were taking up residence.

"Why don't they just stay at home?" they cry into their glasses of specially-imported beer.

There's a certain country north of Mexico that contains one or two people (perhaps more) who like to rant and rave about immigration spiraling. They conveniently forget that unless they happen to be Native Americans, they're descendants of immigrants themselves.

The English take it one step further, with regards to sports. I could be wrong, but I was under the impression that you had to be English to play for England.

Lesley Vainikolo is a recent addition to the England rugby union team. Born in Tonga to Kiwi parents, the giant winger was raised in Auckland and played rugby league for New Zealand. English?

By residence only, which means that I would be Thai if the



The kopsia fruticosas is a Siam native. This plant loves waterlogged soil and blooms with beautiful white and pale-pink flowers.

The kopsia fruticosa, or pink gardenia (pud chompoo in Thai), produces a gorgeous flower. It has pale-green leathery leaves and the delicate five-petaled flowers are white or a very light pink with a vivid crimson center.

same logic were applied.

It seems that I always babble on about plants that are immigrants to Thailand. Most of the plants in Phuket originated elsewhere.

This week, I decided to break the mold by writing about a plant that did originate in Thailand. Well, maybe... it's certainly native to Southeast Asia.

The kopsia fruticosa, or pink gardenia (pud chompoo in Thai), produces a gorgeous flower. It has pale-green leathery leaves and the delicate five-petaled flowers are white or a very light pink with a vivid crimson center.

The first one I saw was in a wholesale garden center, an

enormous example sitting in large a pot. I pleaded with the little man working there to sell it to me, but he wouldn't part with the beauty.

Cuttings are notoriously difficult to take root, but the best offer he would make was selling me a recent attempt in a small pot. He had planted 20 cuttings in total, this was the last survivor. The other 19 had failed miserably, so he charged me only a few baht – he even felt guilty doing that.

This was about six years ago and the plant is still going strong. I'm surprised how little the kopsia cutting has grown in that time, probably about 30 to 40 centimeters in total. In the UK, this growth rate would be considered somewhat spectacular.

In tropical climates such as we have in Phuket, 10 centimeters a year is rather pathetic. Eventually, it should grow to a couple of meters tall, which may

take a while.

The best way to deal with the kopsia fruticosa is to just let it grow. Unlike many other plants, frequent pruning stunts growth. Trim too often and it looks like it's smoking 60 ciga-

rettes a day.

The watering rules for this plant aren't standard, either. Go for it – water it incessantly if you want. Kopsias thrive in waterlogged conditions and soggy soil, rather than drown like other plants.

Make sure it gets plenty of sun, too. It will not bloom with full vigor until it's seen the sun for at least half a day.

There's more to this plant than meets the eye. Scientists have found that latex from its leaves and bark contain alkaloids with potential cancer-fighting compounds.

Some nations as far away as Africa are researching the plant's medicinal possibilities. It's certainly a change to see Asian plants migrating elsewhere.

Although an unusual plant in Thailand, kopsia is much more common than its cousin, the Singapore kopsia, which has made the endangered species list. The Singaporeans have become quite worried and are trying to reintroduce it back into the wild.

In Phuket, there's no need for alarm. The local variety of kopsia is doing fine – you just have to look for it. You don't have to worry about it taking over your garden. The kopsia fruticosa is definitely not an immigrant.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden? Email Bloomin' Bert at: [bert@bloominbert.com](mailto:bert@bloominbert.com)

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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

Remember when Elvis was still shake, rattle and rolling? When Marilyn Monroe was the sexiest woman on the planet? When Elizabeth Taylor was famous for more than just being Michael Jackson's friend? The 1950s was the decade of beehive hairstyles, petticoats and synthetic fabrics.

That era may be over, but there's one shop in Phuket caught in a timewarp, where the owners hope that islanders will want to relive (or live for the first time) the 50s through its range of Scandinavian retro furniture.

"Every piece is copied from an original," said Roong Suchinunkul, architect and design consultant for 50:50, a chic shop located in Cherng Talay. "We don't make our items from looking at pictures because it's difficult to get the proportions right if you do it like that."

After working as an architect in Bangkok, K. Roong moved to Phuket and became dismayed at seeing the same old Asian designs in furniture shops around the island and thus 50:50 was born on February 5. "The items in the shop are functional," she added. "These designs never died."

"We use only teak wood in our products because it lasts a long time and the originals often used this same type of wood. The

# Shake, rattle and relax

**SIMPLY 50:50:** Architect and design consultant **Roong Suchinunkul (right)** and her partner **Chidchanok Nimpitakpong** show off their retro designs.



best type of wood is the old teak from Ayudhya. "It's good because the wood does not warp over time," she said.

Retro is cool, according to K. Roong. Although the designers of yesteryear may be all but forgotten, the original designs from the '50s can still play a practical role in life today. "These items will stay functional until after the 2050s," she added.

"The main point of 50:50 is

so that people can mix and match their furniture with retro items. We don't want people to have only retro furniture in their houses, but rather a balance between old and new," said K. Roong.

"Retro armchairs are com-

fortable and they can brighten up any room. The furniture in the 50s was bold and colorful," she added.

"Our furniture is for anyone who loves interesting style. We've had really good feedback about this retro trend. It's popular

among the hip, working people," she said.

"Each item is custom made and we can redesign any piece depending on what a customer wants for his or her house. We have a factory in Bangkok and the materials we use are all from Thailand. Our signature items are our armchairs," she said.

The star of this '50s show is the Teddy Bear Chair. Originally designed by Dane Hans J Wegner, a Teddy Bear Chair is said to be playful through its organic design. The chair was given its name after an uncredited source said the armrests were like "great bear paws embracing you from behind".

Although the focus at 50:50 is on armchairs, the shop also stocks a range of sofas, tables, footrests and closets. Prices start from about 10,000 baht. A Teddy Bear Chair can be custom made for 17,000 baht.

50:50 offers free delivery anywhere in Phuket. For further information contact K. Roong at the shop, 177/24 Village 4, Srisoonthorn Rd, Thalang. Tel: 076-527780. Email: fiftyfiftyshop@yahoo.com

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# Property Gazette

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### MISSON HEIGHTS LAND

225sq wah or 900sqm for 1.8 million baht or best cash offer. Concrete road, 3-phase electric, 10 mins from airport. Blue Canyon golf club. Call Khun So. Tel: 081-3444473.

### LAND ON KOH SAMUI

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### LAND FOR SALE

22 rai (NorSor 3 Gor) near Mission Hills Golf Club, hotels and residential areas. Road and utilities access. Owner has done project layout, easy to start. 2.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: [talayjan@yahoo.com](mailto:talayjan@yahoo.com)

### SHORT SALE B2.8M



Moo baan Chao Fa Thani. Detached house, 260sqm of land, community pool, 24hr security. 2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, large living room, fully furnished, garden. Tel: 089-6639669. Email: [andrekant@hotmail.com](mailto:andrekant@hotmail.com)

### LAND FOR SALE

Near Laguna Phuket - good for residential projects. 22 rai (NorSor 3 Gor). Close to main road, water and electricity access. 7 million baht per rai - can buy half-plot. No need for fill-soil! Tel: 081-5399269. Email: [talayjan@yahoo.com](mailto:talayjan@yahoo.com)

### RAWAI LAND

First to view will buy. 2-level plots with hill views in exclusive gated community. Road, 3-phase electricity and water. 1,009sqm for 4.4 million baht. 1,185sqm for 5.1 million baht. Tel: 089-9702745.

### SEAVIEW LAND KARON

Land located in the hills above the temple, 1,300sqm. Price: 7 million baht or highest bid. Email for more info and pictures. Email: [sverker\\_gustafsson@yahoo.com](mailto:sverker_gustafsson@yahoo.com)

### 3-STORY SHOPHOUSE KATHU

Brand-new, 5-meter-wide shophouse, excellent location on Wichit Songkram Rd, near Anuphas Golf Ville. Tel: 081-6065772. Email: [pauljames@expathotel.com](mailto:pauljames@expathotel.com)

### NEW 3-BEDROOM HOUSE, CHALONG

Spacious, European-style, tropical garden, 4 bathrooms, large living area and terrace, laundry and garage, Western kitchen. 9.5 million baht. Tel: 084-8441486. Email: [meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com](mailto:meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com)

### VILLA FOR SALE



Immaculate villa. Private area, big lush garden, pool, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, big living room, Scandi-kitchen, huge patio, fully furnished, contemporary Bali-Thai style. Living area: 450sqm. Land: 1,400sqm. Near Heroines' Monument with scenic hill view. Chanote. 12.9 million baht. Tel: 084-6907057.

### PRIVATE SALE OF 1 RAI

next to Phuket Country Club golf course. The land has a new road and is in a very nice neighborhood. 7 million baht. Tel: 081-6766214.

### SEA VIEW, 3.2 RAI

at north end of Bang Sak Beach. This land is between Thap Tawan Beach Rd and Bang Sak Beach Resort, 6km from Takuapa. Tel: 081-8947644.

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### CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

near mission hills 1.7 rai. Only 2.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2699206. Email: [phkt51@yahoo.com](mailto:phkt51@yahoo.com)

### FOREIGN FREEHOLD

Rawai, condo, 27sqm. Close to bank, 300m from the pier. 650,000 baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: [chotip07@yahoo.com](mailto:chotip07@yahoo.com)

### COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai, Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Buddha for more information. Tel: 089-2900484.

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### LAND FOR SALE

10-min drive across Sarasin Bridge. Chanote title, 80 rai. Has road and utilities access. Suitable for hotel or residential projects. Nice location, just 300 meters from the beach. Only 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: [talayjan@yahoo.com](mailto:talayjan@yahoo.com)

### PRIVATE PROPERTY PROJECT



(Kamala 1). Thai-style pool villa with sea view. Price: 28.5 million baht. Project Kamala 1 is km from the beach and 5 minutes from Patong. Details: 1,400sqm land area. 450sqm living area. Fully furnished, aircon. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. 1 studio with kitchen, bathroom (staff room). 1 European kitchen, 1 Thai kitchen outside. Swimming pool 10mx4m. Thai-style sala. Fish pond. Thai-style parking for 2 cars. Storage room. Contact Manuel Pinto. Tel: 081-8923172.

### INEXPENSIVE LAND

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### NEW RAWAI POOL VILLA

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### LAND FOR SALE

Manik-Bangjo land, Chanote. 4 rai at 2.7 million baht per rai. Located in residential area and close to road. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: [talayjan@yahoo.com](mailto:talayjan@yahoo.com)

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### CHALEYKERE VILLAGE IN KATHU

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-9347637.

### PLOTS ON MY ISLAND

Cherng Talay: 77 rai. Thalang: 106 rai. Chalong: 66 rai. Kata-Chalong: 6 rai. My name is Wellta. Tel: 081-9680309. Email: [info@houseinphuket.com](mailto:info@houseinphuket.com) Please visit my website: [www.landingphuket.com](http://www.landingphuket.com)

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# Property Gazette

## BANGWAD DAM NICE PLOT



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## BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



5 mins to Phuket Airport, close to the beach. 10 rai, 120 million baht. Must see. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: gyb\_giff@hotmail.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE



in Erawadee 2 Project, located near Khao Khad Viewpoint. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Only 1.5 million baht. Please contact to view. Tel: 087-2770978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

## APARTMENT PATONG BEACH

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## GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Due to health problems, I am offering two houses for quick sale – one on half a rai of land and another on 1 rai. Both are located in a good residential area 5 mins from Laguna resort. Buy both for 15 million baht. Call Bepy for more info. Tel: 081-8930692. Email: toto@phuket.ksc.co.th

## LAND FOR SALE

13 rai in Pasak area located near Laguna Phuket. Only 2.8 million baht per rai (Nor Sor 3 Gor). Good-sized plot and no need for fill-soil. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

## BEACHFRONT LAND

at reasonable price. Located at Natai Beach near hotels and residential projects (drive across Sarasin Bridge just 15 mins). Nice sized plot, 3.2 rai. Close to the road. Chanote title. 7 million baht per rai. No agents please. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

## 80 RAI, BEACHFRONT

At Bangsak Beach, 10 min from Khao Lak, 340m of beachfront. Chanote, good road. 4 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-7298365.

## TOWNHOUSE

In Than Thong 3 project. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. 19sq wah. Located near Khao Khad Viewpoint. On Phattana Thongtin Rd. Fully furnished. Price: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.



## Detached House for Sale

- In Chalong  
- New detached house on 370sqm of land with Chanote title  
- 1-story, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath rooms (1 with jacuzzi), 3 toilets, 1 living room and Western kitchen (with microwave, dish washer, big cooler, electric hot plates), 1 stock room.  
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- Ornamental pond and jets of water which maybe fitted out in swimming pool  
- Big underground septic water tank  
- Frontal view of a small lake  
- Quiet, well-situated and exposed  
- Near all commodities  
- Telephone line  
- Internet ADSL  
- Cable TV  
Price: 7.5 million baht. Must see! Email: allservices29@gmail.com

## LAND FOR PEACEFUL LIVING!

If you are looking for a good plot of land for a residential project look here!

We are now offering 20 rai on the east side of the island. The land is located in Bang Rong/Ao Por just 30 min from the airport.

The land is easily accessible but is quiet and peaceful.

3 million baht per rai. Please contact K. Len for more info. Tel: 085-7852035.

## ABSOLUTELY

The best piece of land for a project! We are now offering the opportunity to buy the best beachfront plot of land in Khao Lak.

The beach front is 145m wide, 20 rai.

20 million baht per rai. This is a perfect place to build a resort or residential project.

For more info please contact K. Len for details. Tel: 085-7852035.

## SEAVIEW PLOTS IN BANG TAO

Infrastructure completely finished. Fantastic sea and waterfall views. Tel: 086-2670157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

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## KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 million baht per rai, Chanote. Hillside, panoramic sea views, quiet area. Contact for details. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se\_rim@hotmail.com

## HOUSE W/ POOL RAWAI

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, furnished, 4 aircons, alarm system, sala, terrace in 2 levels, 8x4 pool, walled garden and parking. Includes company papers and Chanote. 5.5 million baht. Please contact Paul (English) on 081-8941660 or Pop (Thai) on 081-0770133. Email: bo@motto.dk

## NEW TOWNHOUSE KATHU

Phuket Goldenville 2. New two-story home with extension, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and lock-up parking in front yard with gates. Some new furniture included. Good location with security close to markets and Big C. Opposite turn-off to Kathu waterfall. 1.8 million baht. Email: pmoney@hotmail.com Contact me for further details or inspection.

## PHUKET TOWN CONDO

Corner condo unit overlooking pool. Great location opposite Tesco, near Big C and Central. 42sqm, plus two balconies in a modern-design building. TV, stereo, aircon, washing machine, furniture all included. Will be finished by mid-2009. 3 million baht obo, but the price will increase near the project's completion. Tel: 087-277-0978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

## AO POR LAND, URGENT SALE



150 rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more info. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se\_rim@hotmail.com

## HOUSE WITH POOL

in Land & Houses Park. 3 bathrooms, 4 bedrooms, European kitchen, 5 million baht. Tel: 081-0918908. Email: stein\_dokset@hotmail.com

## LAND FOR SALE

Bang Jo area. Road access on 2 sides of land. 4 rai 18sq wah. Company owned. Nice, square plot. Asking price: 4.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5369252. Email: sppcnx@gmail.com

## SEAVIEW CONDO PATONG: B3.6m

New 2-room deluxe condos. Fully furnished, in best location in Patong, with pool and parking. 5 minutes from the beach. 3.6 million baht. Tel: 081-8928526. Email: info@phuket-besthomes.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-besthomes.com

## THAI-STYLE VILLA WITH POOL

500sqm, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Furnishings negotiable. Stunning villa in secluded hillside development. 29.95 million baht. Tel: 076-304070. Fax: 076-304071. Email: phuket@plus.co.th For more properties, please see our website at www.thaipropertyplus.com

## SEAVIEW VILLA



in Rawai-Nai Harn, Phuket. Price: US\$1 million. Land: 700sqm. 5 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, fully furnished, fitness room, swimming pool (communal). 1-minute drive to Rawai Beach, 5 minutes' drive to Nai Harn Beach. Contact K. Sam. Tel: 085-1106449.

## NEW VILLA, KAMALA

Built to highest standard. Four bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, detached 2-car garage, studio apartment, fully furnished, large pool, aircon. Save 1 million off list price. 17.5 million baht. Owner moving. Many extras. Tel: 084-8500568.

## LOVELY HOME

Exclusive hillside. Big shady garden. 15-meter pool. Unique! Quiet! Secure! Tel: 076-388-236, 089-7275407. Email: cosmocampbell@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.villa-sale-phuket.com

## BEAUTIFUL LAND, 1 RAI

Chanote title, near Ton Sai Waterfall. Good road, 3-phase electricity, water supply. Located in quiet area. 2.2 million baht. Tel: 076-321062, 086-8194373. Email: pojjana@swift-mail.com

## BEACHFRONT LAND

8 rai of stunning land, prime plot for development. 20 million baht per rai. (Ref: SL0134-08-07). Tel: 076-304070. Fax: 076-304071. Email: phuket@plus.co.th For more properties, see our website at www.thaipropertyplus.com

## Exclusive house and office for sale/rent



Chalong, 250sq wah, 5 bedrooms en suite, 4x16 swimming pool with Jacuzzi, fully furnished, ADSL Internet, garden, home theater, office room, aircon. Buy 16.8 MB, For Rent 240,000 B/month

Tel: 087-0719907, 081-5698432  
www.naraplacephuket.com

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See more classified ads  
at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

# Property Gazette

**KAMALA: NICE HOUSE**



for sale. 2 bedrooms (possibility for a third bedroom), 2 bathrooms, whirlpool, dining and living room, kitchen. Fully furnished, aircon, electric gate, all furniture included with the property. 11 million baht. Call for info. Tel: 086-2807400, +336 24483630. Email: eaghod@yahoo.fr

**BEAUTIFUL 3 BED, 3 BATH HOME**



The Oasis: 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom modern home. Fully-equipped kitchen, 14x5m pool and Jacuzzi. Fully landscaped, 2-car garage. 2km from British International School. Brand-new construction. Tel: 076-239370, 085-7969324. Email: showing.oasisphuket@yahoo.com

**BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE**



51.4sqm, in Chanakran Property Village, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Behind TOT Public Co Ltd in Chalong. Price: 3.6 million baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-9562406.

**HEAVEN ON EARTH**



5-bedroom, Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay view. 3 big bedrooms are en suite with sea views. Private swimming pool. 730.8sqm land plot. Construction area approx 573sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 27 million baht. Tel: 081-7191705. Email: layan@loxinfo.co.th

**SUPERB EXTENDED HOUSE**



1 km from Heroines' Monument, 147sq wah. Nice area, room for swimming pool. Large sala and many extras. European kitchen, etc. 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, utility room, fully furnished. Top quality, must be viewed. 7.2 million baht inclusive. Tel: 087-9785804.

**DESIRABLE**



Unique and elegant home/office. This ideally-located property (Samkong, Phuket City) represents the ultimate in a comfortable home with adjoining office suite. Recently refurbished and tastefully decorated at a cost of more than 4 million baht, this property is now available for discerning home buyers. The home consists of: master bedroom with balcony, elegant en-suite "spa" bathroom, large second bedroom with balcony and bathroom en suite, and a third double bedroom with balcony. The property has a maid's bedroom and separate toilet/shower. The fitted kitchen features an adjoining breakfast/dining area. The home also offers a vast, comfortable sitting room with contoured ceiling and atmospheric lighting. The adjoining 3-level office suite is ideally suited for numerous business opportunities. The property features an attractive garden and 2-vehicle car port. Asking price is a realistic 8.5 million baht. Call for details. Tel: 081-7191705.

**APARTMENT SALES & LETTINGS**

in Kamala, Surin and Bang Tao areas. 1- & 2-bedroom modern apartments. Sales and short- & long-term lets. Tel: 081-5372018. Email: matt@phuketwest.com Website at www.phuketwest.com

**BEAUTIFUL GARDEN APARTMENT**

Bang Tao Beach Gardens. Beautiful, 2-bedroom, ground-floor apartment (124sqm), overlooking gardens & pool. Two minutes' walk to Bang Tao Beach. Furnished, THB 10m. Contact Thanisara. Tel: 081-8928259. Email thanisaraferguson@gmail.com

**KATA GUESTHOUSE**

New, 7 rooms, swimming pool, 18 million baht. Tel: 087-8950328. Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

**PATONG CONDOS FOR SALE**

Condos from 3.8 million baht. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk Please see our website at www.housesforsalephuket.blogspot.com

**CHIANG MAI HOUSE**

New, luxury house for sale, ready to move in. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Total area: 452sqm. Living area: 300sqm. 4.5 million baht for quick sale by owner who is relocating. Tel: 081-5369252. Email: sppcnx@gmail.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE**

Near butterfly home, Pisitkaronee Rd, Patong. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cable TV, Internet, fully furnished, 21sq wah, Chanote. Tel: 089-7298852. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketdir.com/alibaba

**MISSION HILLS LAND**

for sale. 1.43 rai, Chanote, water, well and electricity on site with two-floor house plan ready to build on. Opposite Mission Hills Golf Course. Price: 3 million baht. Tel: 081-8924126.

**THAI-STYLE HOUSE**

Near Laguna, 3 bedrooms, living room, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8938590.

**NEW TOWNHOUSE**

in Tan Tong 7 project. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 19sq wah. Central location on Chao Fa East Rd opposite Villa California. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

**URGENT SALE, KAMALA**

3-bedroom house on 1 acre of land, fully furnished and many extras included. Price reduced to 15 million baht ono. Tel: 084-8406751. Email: gsantosj12@yahoo.com

**HOUSE WITH POOL**

Land and Houses Park with finance. Only 1-million-baht down payment. Tel: 087-8950328. Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

**PRIME SLOPING LAND FOR SALE**

2-and-a-half rais. Asking for 20 million baht per rai. Behind Government Saving Bank-Patong. 400 meters from the Patong-Phuket road. Suitable for condo/serviced apartments. Wide, new access road. Quiet. Owner available for discussion now. Contact Songpan. Tel: 081-7378662. No brokers please.

**AIRPORT & BEACH-AREA LAND**

1 rai (1,600sqm) with four 2-bedroom houses. Includes 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, shared swimming pool, Internet. 19 million baht for all. Tel: 081-6919346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

**TROPICAL POOL-VILLA**

in Chalong. Brand-new, spacious, 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell. Tel: 089-6521473.

**CHALONG VILLA**

Convenient location in quiet soi off Chao Fa West Road in Chalong. Two bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, laundry/kitchen and car port, plus covered outside area. Aircon, telephone, ADSL & cable TV installed. Only 3 years old and in superb condition - viewing essential. 2.6 million baht. Tel: 081-8949668. Email: cantaneze@gmail.com

**POOL VILLA FOR SALE**

Bang Tao, 3 bedrooms, big living room, 2 bathrooms, 2-car parking. Tel: 087-8933183. Please see our website at: www.phukethome.ws

**BEAUTIFUL GARDEN APARTMENT**

2-bedroom, ground-floor apartment overlooking gardens and pool. 2 mins' walk to Bang Tao Beach. Fully furnished. 10 million baht. Please contact Thanisara. Tel: 081-8928259.

**LAYAN LAND (REF: SLO148-11-07)**

5 rai 1 ngan 37 wah, scenic land plot in prime location. 5.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 076-304070. Fax: 076-304071. Email: phuket@plus.co.th For more properties please see our website at www.thaipropertyplus.com

**LAND FOR SALE**

Cheng Talay area, Chanote, 1.1 rai. 7 million baht. Contact Ms Tanaka. Tel: 081-8927721. Email: ytmland@yahoo.com

**RAWAI, 3-BEDROOM HOUSE WITH POOL**

220sqm living space, newly built, 700sqm land. Sauna, Jacuzzi, top-quality interior, salt-water pool, PVC windows and doors. Resale, original price: 10.9 million baht. Save 3 million baht. Now only 7.9 million baht. Top bargain. Come and see now. Tel: 089-6525664.

**SEAVIEW, 2-BEDROOM**

apartment on top floor, north Patong. 20 steps to beach. Freehold: 9.7 million baht. Contact for photos. Tel: 086-2765117. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

**LUXURY BEACHFRONT VILLA**

in Samui. 5 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, fully furnished, swimming pool. 65 million baht. Contact for info. Tel: 087-8302725. Email: monchai\_ae@yahoo.co.th Website: www.thesamuivilla.com

**JACUZZI VILLA**

in Rawai for 3.5 million baht. Also, we can build you a house in 4 months in Rawai for 4.9 million baht. This includes land, 2-3 bedrooms, 5 aircons, kitchen, etc. Please contact to choose a plot and view show model. Tel: 085-7955383.

**QUICK SALE**

Gated community in Thalung. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 2.3 million baht, pay 700,000 and take over the payments. Tel: 081-8928208.

**Free Beach Car**

**New Property in Rawai**

consisting of 2 units separated by a swimming pool and communal kitchen. 4 individual living areas, approximately 50sqm each, with an overall living area of 300sqm. Situated on a quiet soi near Rawai Pier. Ideal for owner occupation plus rental accommodation.

**FREE** beach car for lucky buyer before 21 March 2008.

**SPECIAL PRICE, NOW: 7.5 million baht.**

Can be seen at [www.kbpd-phuket.com](http://www.kbpd-phuket.com) or Tel: 084-6722725 or 081-7888280.

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Rent

### KAMALA



2-bedroom, 2-bathroom villa with swimming pool. Private, all amenities. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8111067.

### HOUSE NEAR LAGUNA

New and fully furnished. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-0613559. Email: saranyu2001@yahoo.com

### NEW 3-BEDROOM HOUSE, CHALONG

Spacious, European-style, tropical garden, 4 bathrooms, large living area and terrace, laundry and garage, Western-style kitchen. 35,000 baht/month. Tel: 084 844 1486. Email: meeu wissenpaula@hotmail.com

### HOUSE AT THE SANDS

Attached to the "Sands" Resort with the benefit of all the resort's facilities. Living room, kitchen, toilet and yard on the ground floor. Two bedrooms each with king-size beds, en-suite bathrooms, dressing rooms and balconies on the first floor. Private roof-top sala. Email: jackt@ardencraig.fsnet.co.uk For further details, please see our website at www.phukethouserental.co.uk

### RAWAI CONDOTE

Double room, corner unit, 3rd floor, freehold, remodeled. Tel: 086-0760141.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

on Nanai Rd. Nice Thai-style house with 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, fully furnished. For rent 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-4491510.

### RAWAI STUDIO

Aircon, cable TV, kitchen, fully-equipped. 7,000 baht per month, long-term negotiable. Tel: 084-1899336.

### 22 ROOM HOTEL

rental, Patong. Long lease. Email: patongexaosa@yahoo.com

### KAMALA, 3-BED HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, maid's quarters, large, shaded recreational area under house, car port, gardens, own water supply, 15-minute walk to the beach. Chanote title. Rent at 35,000 baht per month. For sale at 10 million baht. Tel: 081-2573447. Email: info@ozvisual.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT



Beautiful house, 180sqm. Quiet, 5-min walk from Rawai Beach to bank, market and clinic. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 fully-equipped kitchens, large living room, fully furnished, aircon, gardens, pool, Jacuzzi, ADSL and gazebo. Long term. Tel: 089-1824674.

### STUDIO APARTMENT IN KAMALA

Private kitchen, aircon, True TV, ADSL, pool. 5,000 baht per week; 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8500568.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

in quiet and safe area, long or short term. 5 km from Laguna. Furnished, True TV, telephone line, Internet, big garden, 3 bedrooms, 2 aircon, 2 big bathrooms, bathtub, hot water. Only 16,000 baht per month, or 13,000 baht if you pay lump sum for 1 year. Tel: 087-4172757 (English), 086-682-9804 (Thai).

### SEAVIEW HOUSE

Ao Yon, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, terrace. 8,500 baht per month. 1 payment of 30,000 baht for furniture. Tel: 081-2717071.

### RAWAI BEACH DUPLEX

Furnished, pool 12mx4m, close to bank. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

### KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Private, gated, parking with storage. True TV and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing. Pool and gardener service. Daily rental offered; weekly: 40,000 baht; monthly: 140,000 baht. Contact K. Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837.

### THALANG HOUSE

for long-term rent. 2 bedrooms, aircon, 200sqm, near waterfall. 136/37 Pernjunvilla. 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-6831147.

### LAND AND HOUSE PARK

house for rent. Chalong, new, fully furnished, nice decorations, 3 bedrooms, safe. Tel: 085-7863213. Email: abelenp@yahoo.fr

### NICE, MODERN HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai & Nai Harn Beaches. 162 sqm. 2 bedrooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage service. 22,000 baht per month. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-3830936.

### BOAT LAGOON, LUXURY

waterfront townhouses for rent. 2 & 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, True TV. Long or short term. Pool, sauna included. Call So. Tel: 081-3444473.

### KAMALA HOME/RENT

3-bedroom detached house in small select compound. 20sqm pool, security. Cable TV, ADSL, maid. Tel: 081-9560527.

### SHOP IN PATONG, SOI FOODLAND

Townhouse shop, now used as a restaurant, with kitchen. Best location, available in June, 2008. Ready for 3 years' rent. Tel: 076-340920, 081-8928526. Fax: 076-340920. Email: Peter@phuket-best homes.com

### BEAUTIFUL HOUSE

with pool, available from March 17 to December. Located between Chalong and Phuket City. 3 bathrooms, 3 bedrooms. Indoor and outdoor kitchen, dishwasher, washing machine, microwave, broadband Internet, computer, fully furnished. Minimum rent of 3 months. Water and electricity not included. 13,000 baht per month. 3-month deposit of 20,000 baht. Tel: 076-244-399, 081-5693768.

### PATONG BAY SEAVIEW

Nice apartment in quiet and green area, Baan Suan Kamnan on a hillside just outside Patong. Living room plus 1 (big) bedroom, cable or True TV. 2 aircons, furnished and large balcony with sea view. Very secure area. Long term only. Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

### RAWAI STUDIO

for rent, fully furnished, terrace, swimming pool, cable TV, ADSL Internet. Long term only, 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6067410. Email: info@siam-business.com

### LUXURY APARTMENT, KATA

70sqm in luxury, newly-built complex, 400m from Kata beach. Pool, steam sauna, top kitchen, Jacuzzi. Come and look. From 2.9 million baht, fully luxury furnished. Tel: 076-388593.

### APARTMENT SALES & LETTINGS

in Kamala, Surin and Bang Tao areas. 1- & 2-bedroom modern apartments. Sales and short- & long-term lets. Tel: 081-5372018. Email: matt@phuketwest.com Website at www.phuketwest.com

### HOUSE IN CHALONG

for rent near Palai Beach. 2 or 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, phone line. Tel: 089-7288311.

### CHALONG SHOPHOUSE

This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at Tel: 089-6521473.

### BUNGALOW

for lease: 1 bedroom, small house, walk to Patong Beach and Bangla. Cable TV, swimming pool, maid service. Tel: 076-344343, 076-342948-9. Email: pppropt@loxinfo.co.th

### APARTMENT KATA BEACH

for rent. cable TV, furnished, Internet. Tel: 086-5958512. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

Need help finding property for rent?  
**081-777-4-799**  
www.phuketeasyrent.com

### NEW SHOPHOUSE AT CORNER



for rent. Sri Suchart Grand Ville, Soi Luk Kong See. 30sq wah, 2 floors, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. 2,000L water-tank underground. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-5378648.

### RAWAI/NAI HARN LUXURY HOUSE

for rent. 5 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, big garden, swimming pool. 50,000 baht per month, 1 year minimum. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-3971835.

**NEW CHALONG HOME**  
2-bedroom, furnished home for rent with phone, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

### NEW BALI-STYLE VILLA

Viewing recommended, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, furnished, 24hr security. Low price, 40,000 baht. 6-month minimum. For further details, please see our website at www.julianburgess.co.uk/4bedvilla.html

### FOREIGN-OWNED

house in Nai Harn. 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, terrace, aircon, ceiling fans. ADSL, True TV, alarm system, fenced-in garden. Car park, 100-sqm storage. Quiet area. Furnished: 28,000 baht per month. Not furnished: 26,000 baht per month. Long-term rental only. Tel: 085-4767318. Email: happyjo@procom.in.th

### BANG TAO VILLA FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, car park, big 20sqm living room. Tel: 087-8933183. For more details, please see our website: www.phukethome.wv

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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# Property Gazette

## Property Wanted

**LAND WANTED IN**  
Kata-Karon, Chalong or Phuket City. Between 150-800sqm. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 086-1203660.

**LAND WANTED**  
Wanted: 300-400sqm of land for lease, located anywhere in Phuket but must be on a main road. Tel: 089-7807558.

**LAND IN RAWAI - NAI HARN**  
Looking for a plot between 200 and 800sqm to build a house. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 085-7955383.

**LONG-TERM RENTAL**  
wanted for family. Location: Patong, Kata or Karon. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8989274.

**ABOUT 1 RAI WITH SEA VIEW**  
at a maximum of 6 million baht. Kata, Chalong, Rawai, Nai Harn. Contact me for further details. Tel: 089-9728544. Email: av58phuket@yahoo.com

## Property Services



**We can rent your property FAST!**

phuket4rent.com  
Free property listing service  
Tel: 076-242844, Email: info@phuket4rent.com

## PHUKET TECHNICIAN SERVICES

Electrical-system installation, repairs and maintenance. Plumbing and painting work is also provided. Tel: 081-5384989 (Eng), 086-9487489 (Thai). Email: mnobnorb@hotmail.com

## VILLA CALL-OUT SERVICE, 24-HR

What happens when a pipe breaks in your roof at 2 am? What happens when you rent your villa and something breaks? Who can you call? We offer a complete call-out and inspection service. Please contact us for more details. Tel: 027-281327, 081-8954480. Email: handyman@loxinfo.co.th

## CAN WE RENT YOUR VILLA?

Phuket Personal Travel Planners requires villas to offer to our customers. If you have a villa to rent or are thinking of renting, then please contact us with the details. We offer a complete management service. Email: info@phuketpersonal.com For further details please visit our website at: www.phuketpersonal.com

## Accommodation Available

**PATONG APARTMENTS**  
in quiet and secure location. Swimming pool and car park. Long- or short-term rent. 1 or 2 bedrooms. With Internet and cable TV. Daily or monthly rates. Please call or mail for details. Tel: 076-296621, 081-6916147. Fax: 076-344689. Email: info@baansuanvilla.de

## PATONG APARTMENT AND ROOM

Long- or short-term rent. Rooms from 800 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151, 089-2909567. Visit our website for more info www.brommathahouse.com

## BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim/Patong, high standard, fully furnished. 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Please contact for more info. Tel: 081-8920038.

## PATONG APARTMENT

300m from beach. Clean, modern, comfortable. Aircon, TV, fridge, big bed, pool, car park. Tel: 081-0825707. For more info visit: www.phuket-accomodation.info

## FREEDOM APARTMENT

near Patong temple, Soi Khuan Yang. European-style, fully furnished, kitchen, fridge, aircon, high-speed wireless Internet, cable TV, hot water. 9,500 baht per month. Please contact for more info Tel: 084-8450541, 081-8914561.

## Accommodation Wanted

### TWO-MONTH RENTAL

required Dec 18 through Feb 18, 2009. Two or three bedrooms, preferably with beach access plus pool. Email: fairlee@hotmail.com

**BEACH / SEA VIEW**  
2 bedrooms close to the sea. Telephone with excellent ADSL is essential. Please contact for more information Tel: 084-3060115. Email: adamaarons@hotmail.com

## Building Products & Services

### The Stone Doctor

Specialist in European stone-care products and services:

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All your maintenance, protection & cleaning needs for natural and manufactured

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- Sandwash
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Fax: 076-271218  
Email: info@thestonedoctor-asia.com

## PHUKET PRO PAINTING

Foreign painting company; we deliver clean jobs, no mess. Free quotes. Tel: 087-2713599. Email: phuketpropainting@yahoo.com

## GARDEN-FURNITURE SERVICE

We collect it, repair it, re-stain it and return it. No mess, no fuss. Good standard of finish and coatings. Phuket Handyman Co Ltd - for all your home services. Tel: 076-281327, 081-8954480. Email: handyman@loxinfo.co.th

## Household Services

## WORLDWIDE REMOVAL

Contact for additional details. Tel: 076-2387912. Email: spp\_phuket@hotmail.com

## SWIMMING POOLS, CHEAP

but highest quality. Reference sites available. All sizes. Can be set up in one hour. For further details, please see our website at www.pools4fun.com

## CLEANING SERVICE

Rawai-Naiharn cleaning service efficient and reliable. Tel: 085-3485137.

## CONSTRUCTION

Renovations, electrical, painting, tile, sand wash, aircon service, gardener. Contact K. Udom. Tel: 084-7541132. Email: w2dmaintenance@yahoo.co.th

## QUALITY BUILDING SERVICES

Renovations, construction, electrical, plumbing, carpentry, real wood, parquet, pool cleaning, gardening, painting, tiling.

**Fair prices and free estimates given.**

Contact K. Pueng for additional information at Tel: 087-2709093 or K. Ne at Tel: 087-6899679 (English, Thai). Email: allservices29@gmail.com

## BANDHIT CONSTRUCTION



Construction and swimming pools. Tel: 083-5253108. Email: info@bandhitconstruction.com or visit www.bandhitconstruction.com

## PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Construction, renovations, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, painters, tilers, gardeners, aircon servicing, sandwash and cleaners. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-1935124.

## Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

\_\_\_\_\_ (heading)

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

**Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.**

**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**

## Have something to sell? Tell the WORLD!

All CLASSIFIED ads in the Phuket Gazette appear FREE OF CHARGE in the

## Phuket Gazette Online

Always on top in Google  
30-40,000 visitors a day!

**Phuket Gazette.Net/Classifieds**  
Focused exclusively on **Phuket** - and delivered to the world!

## Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

# Boats & Marine



**PRE OWNED BOAT SELECTION**

 <p><b>CATAMARAN 60'</b></p> <p>A successful charter vessel. Catamaran motor sailor equipped with 5 air-conditioned cabins with en-suite bathrooms. Vast deck space and easy access to water.</p> <p><b>Asking Price 350.000,- EUROS</b></p>	 <p><b>STEEL HULL SAILING VESSEL</b></p> <p>Great opportunity. This steel boat is strongly built and in pristine condition after her actual owner made all necessary safety and cosmetic improvements. Belgium flag. Huge price reduction.</p> <p><b>Reduced Price at 69.000,- EUROS</b></p>
 <p><b>ALUMINUM SCHOONER 65'</b></p> <p>Designed by world-famous boat architect Peter Cole of Australia and built at the equally-respected S. E. Ward Shipyard with 1 double and 2 bunk bed cabins.</p> <p><b>Please inquire</b></p>	 <p><b>GRAND BANKS 59'RP ALEUTIAN</b></p> <p>Brand-new boat delivered just a few months ago to the owner and already put for sale as he wants to purchase a bigger Grand Banks.</p> <p><b>Asking Price at 2.450.000,- USD</b></p>

**Boat Lagoon & Yacht Haven Office**

Tel: 076 239111  
 E-mail: broker@asia-marine.net  
 www.asia-marine.net

**2003 SEA RAY SUN DECK 220**



Great speedboat with Mercury 260hp engine. Only 1.1 million baht, including Thai registration. Enjoy snorkeling, fishing, diving, speed driving and visiting quiet beaches by yourself. Tel: 085-7988522. Email: nilsharald1978@gmail.com

**FIREFLY 850 CATAMARAN**

"Voodoo child", probably the fastest in the class. Immaculate, ready to race or cruise. 2 sets of race sails and 1cruising set. New dinghy with outboard. 2 million baht ono. Road, launch, retrieve trailer available. Tel: 081-8940339. Email: hilltribe@poppiessamui.com

**SPEEDBOAT CHEAP**

Twin engine, good condition, everything included. Cheap, only 600,000 baht. Tel: 087-8817600.

**28-FOOT CATAMARAN**

Still under construction, great pleasure boat. 520,000 baht. Tel: 087-0929921.

**20-METER CATAMARAN**

6 cabins, 2 saloons, built in 2006 with a wood-epoxy composite. 30,000 euros, obo. Tel: 087-4618089.

**DIVE TOUR BOAT IN KRABI**

Twin 135hp Hinos, 20kW generator, new electric, GPS, radio and dinghy. Gear boxes reconditioned. Toilet. New top canopy. Email: pspearing@hotmail.com

**FISH/DIVE BARGAIN**

Our best value listing ever! Superb boat, super cheap. Call Andrew at Lee Marine. Tel: 081-8941530. Email: wunchart-thannawat@hotmail.com

**LIVEABOARD FOR SALE**

Liveaboard/fishing boat for sale. Width: 5.5m. Length: 22m. 7 cabins, 3 showers, 3 toilets, 20kW dynamo, 355hp engine. Price: 1.9 million baht. Please contact more for more info. Tel: 084-4411390. Email: janne.pasanen@carnivore.fi

**WOODWORK & BOAT SERVICES**

Specializing in woodwork for boats and houses, we are now opening our new office and workshop at Boat Lagoon. Our services include: boat storage and maintenance services, full hull repairs, internal works, teak woodwork, teakwork accessories, fiberglass repairs, spray painting, boat building. Home furniture, kitchens, built-in or moveable bars, counters, work desks. Contact for more info. Tel: 076-243089, 081-9683118. Fax: 076-242742. Email: info@procarpentering.com www.procarpentering.com

**17M WOOD SAILING**

boat built in 2003. Cutter, rig, diesel 6-cycle engine, 180hp. In good condition for day sailing. US\$17,000. Tel: 086-2762626.

**ITALIAN SPORTBOAT**

5.7 meters. Hypalon RIB, 100hp, 4-stroke Yamaha, boat trailer, chart-plotter and many extras. All as new. 850,000 baht. Contact Richard. Tel: 087-2795566. Email: rifiki@xtra.co.nz For photos see our website at www.placesinthailand.com/bowen

**THAILANDS LEADING BROKERAGE AND NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP**



 <p><b>Riviera 47 Enclosed Flybridge</b></p> <p>Available Exclusively through Lee Marine</p>	<p><b>Ericson 380</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immaculately maintained yacht</li> <li>Yanmar 3JH2E 38hp in excellent condition</li> <li>Bose sound system with waterproof</li> <li>Full sunbrella bimini and full boat awning</li> <li>3 blade feathering prop</li> <li>Muir electric windlass</li> <li>Doyle sail wardrobe</li> <li>One owner</li> </ul> <p><b>\$198,000 USD</b></p>	 <p><b>Front 38</b></p> <p>180,000 Euro</p>	 <p><b>S&amp;S 36</b></p> <p>49,000 Euro</p>	 <p><b>Princess 366</b></p> <p>4,750,000 THB</p>	 <p><b>Bearcat 9.5</b></p> <p>2,250,000 THB</p>
<p>Dealership Office The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket Contact: Martin Holmes tel: 076 238 803 fax: 076 273 318 email: info@leemarine.com</p>	<p>Brokerage Office The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 01 968 1437 tel/fax: 076 239 729 email: brokerage@leemarine.com</p>	<p>Yacht Haven Marina Office The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket Contact: Jim Poulsen Mobile: 081 881 3237 tel/fax: 076 206 260 email: yacht@leemarine.com</p>	<p>Puttaya Office Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach Contact: Mark Heath Mobile: 0817879408 tel: 038 235 061 fax: 038 235 062 Email: mark@leemarine.com</p>		

**Dedicated Service Department** **WWW.LEEMARINE.COM**



Find more classified ads

# "Boats & Marine"

at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

# Island Job Mart

## British International School, Phuket are now seeking:

### Service Support Officer

- Thai national
- Bachelor's degree in related field
- Computer proficient, good typing skill in both Thai and English
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Ability to coordinate multiple projects working about... Housing Service, Shopping Matters, Ticketing and Accommodation Arrangement, Trip Arrangement, Transportation Coordination

### Secretary Assistant

- Female, Thai national
- Bachelor Degree in related field
- Excellent English, Computer literacy and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other department

### Temporary Staff (Teacher Assistant / Matrons)

- Male and Female, Thai national
- Bachelor degree in related field
- Teaching qualifications and experience of child care/teaching preferable
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills
- Loves to take care with children

 British International School, Phuket (BCIS)  
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd., Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand  
Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 www.bcis.ac.th



We need confident Caucasian or Thai-Western mix models with blond or brown hair. Specifically, large figured women for European fashion, size XL++

**CONTACT US**  
MOBILE + 66 081-737 0623  
info@myclipstudios.com

### SALES POSITIONS

Wine Connection is looking for sales executives. 3 positions are available. Foreigners as well as Thais are encouraged to apply. Positions are available in Phuket, Khao Lak and Krabi. Salary, commissions and monthly support package offered. Apply today at Wine Connection Chalong. Tel: 076-282411. Fax: 076-282414. Email: gmphuket@wineconnection.co.th

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Thai National with especially high administration, organizational and English-language skills. Will work directly with managing director and on his behalf as needed. Position requires a person who is mature, well educated, refined and able to travel as required. Please submit a CV to pat@destinationair.com For details see our website at www.destinationair.com

### CHEF & WAITRESS - JUNGCEYLON

Chefs and waitresses wanted for a restaurant/cafe opening soon at Jungceylon shopping center. Good location! Please contact K. Oh. Tel: 087-8810300. Email: thommm@online.no

### OFFICE ASSISTANT

Qualified female, good command of English and computer literate. Interested? Tel: 076-239112, 084-0633319. Fax: 076-238943. Send your CV and a recent photo to us. Email: damian@electrical-marine.com

### PROJECT MANAGER

Arayaburi Residence is urgently seeking a Condominium (Condotel) Project Manager. Persons applying must have experience in a sales department and at least 5 years in real estate, especially in a condominium. They must also be able to do overseas marketing. The ability to speak Mandarin or Russian would be an advantage. The company will arrange a work permit for the successful candidate. Salary is negotiable. Tel: 076-304000, 083-5088782. Fax: 076-304007. Email: thiti81@yahoo.com For further information, please log on to our website at www.arayaburi.com



Mobile Pool Doctor is A LEADER IN THE FIELD OF SWIMMING POOL AND POND SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE. We are seeking to expand our team in our Kathu Branch.

**Position: ACCOUNTANT**  
A professional dedicated to achieving international standard account keeping for a progressive thinking company. The successful applicant will need to be a fast learner with a strong analytical mind. Most importantly, the successful applicant needs to be a team player with a desire to become a high achiever.

Duties will include all government taxation requirements and standard company accounts for directors and managers to maintain the operation of business.

English: High understanding of written English is essential. Spoken English must be of a good standard.

Computer Skills: High level computer skills in accounting programs and emailing.

Own transportation is essential.

Please email covering letter and detailed resume in English to info@islandpools.co.th

**The Mobile Pool Doctor Co., Ltd.**  
(Proud Member of Island Pools Group)  
48/236 Moo 6, Prabaramee Rd., Kathu, Phuket 83150.  
Tel: 076-203358, 076-273577, 081-9580743. Fax: 076-273579.

### POLICE VOLUNTEERS

Phuket Immigration Police are asking foreign residents with long-stay visas and clean records to volunteer for immigration and general patrol work under the Tourist Assistance program. We need people during the day and/or evenings. For further details or to apply, please contact us. Email: touristassistance.recruitment@gmail.com

### GOLF IN THAILAND LTD

Golf in Thailand Ltd is looking for a Thai national, male or female, aged between 25 to 35 with good English communication skills who enjoys meeting people. Experience is not necessary as training will be provided. Excellent basic salary + commission. Please send your CV to Email: franklin@golfinphuket.com or for further inquiries please call at Tel: 076-319019 Monday to Friday from 10:30 to 12 noon. Location: 96/1 Vichitsongkram Road, Moo 7, Kathu, Phuket 83120, Thailand.

### ROOM CLEANER

Some basic English needed, full- or part time. Please contact for additional details Tel: 083-3915525.



One of Phuket's biggest Dive Centers has positions available in the following departments:

- 1 Accountant, Patong office, Phuket
- 1 Snorkel guide, Phuket
- 1 Driver, Phuket

**Accountant**

- Able to speak and write English
- Minimum 2 years of working experience with accountants
- Knowledge of Quick Books is necessary
- Knowledge of official papers such as work permits, TAT license and related company papers, will be an advantage

**Snorkel Guide**

- Able to speak one Scandinavian language fluently
- Minimum certification as Rescue Diver
- Service-minded and able to sort out problems quickly
- Presentable and flexible

**Driver**

- Very good knowledge of hotel locations
- Reasonably good spoken English
- Presentable and flexible

Interested candidates, who fit the above profiles, please email your resume to us immediately. We will call you to make an appointment for an interview.

**Patong: Phone: 076-294 226**  
**Email: info@scandinavian-divers.com**

### FREELANCE HOST(ESS)

Freelance host(ess) gezocht voor individuele reizigers naar Phuket. Graag met ervaring. Please contact for more info. Tel: 085-0483810. Email: edbeelaar@tiscali.nl

### ENGLISH-SPEAKING THAI LADY

Home help needed in the morning, 6 days a week. Must have own transportation, preferably a car. Tel: 086-7458832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

### HOSTESS FOR BOOTH

We are looking for a friendly and outgoing lady with a good appearance and good social skills to represent our company at our booth at Jungceylon. Must be able to learn quickly and speak English well. We provide training, good salary and commissions. Thai nationals only. Reply by email or call 087-8822856. Email: annickenluc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

### MANAGER & STAFF NEEDED

1. Thai Female manager with 3-5 years experience in hotel or resort management. Must speak and write perfect English.
2. Electrical engineer. Must speak English. Tel: 089-8736889. Please Send your CV by Email: wnammatapetersen@hotmail.com

### MARKETING

Fly Adventure Phuket is looking for a creative and responsible person with an outgoing personality and experience as a travel agent to join our sales-and-marketing team. Please contact Oliver for more additional details. Tel: 085-3632325.

### RESTAURANT MANAGER WANTED

Thai national with experience in marketing, management and food creation. Tel: 081-4326587.

**Looking for a job?**  
**Looking for better quality candidate?**  
**Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.phuketgazette.net/](http://www.phuketgazette.net/)!**

# Island Job Mart



**Due to a recent expansion in our distribution channels, PGTV, the television production arm of the Phuket Gazette, is seeking to fill the following position:**

**Tape Editor:** Reporting to the Production Manager, the Tape Editor will be responsible for editing, in coordination with the TV News Editor and camera operators, each day's raw footage, as well as final edits of our daily program packages.

Qualified candidates will be Thai nationals who can quickly develop a sense for our English-language shows and tailor images to fit their tempo, cadence and purpose. Basic English is required. Knowledge of Adobe Premier would be an advantage.

Interested parties should send a resumé, cover letter and photo to [Jib@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Jib@PhuketGazette.Net), or hand deliver these documents to our studios at:

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**  
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang  
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555

## STAFF REQUIRED



Owners and guests staying in luxurious villas are world travelers who value convenience and service. To ensure their utmost satisfaction and experience, Phuket Villas & Homes is currently seeking applicants to occupy the following permanent positions:

### Executive Assistant Manager (Koh Samui)

- Ideally a Western applicant
- Hotel experience essential

### Villa Operations Manager (Koh Samui)

- Responsible for all staff training and implementation of villa-operating procedures

### Villa Operations Supervisor (Phuket)

- Supervise villa staff
- Co-ordinate villa operations and guests

### Estate Managers (Phuket)

- Property management or hotel experience
- English speaking, organised and able to supervise

### Estate Secretaries (Phuket)

- Support and assist Estate Manager in the day-to-day operations of the estate & accounting (good level of English required)

### Villa Managers (Phuket)

- Co-ordinate and manage the day-to-day operations of a large 4-5-bedroom villa + staff

### House Keepers / Maids (Phuket & Phang Nga)

- Required for housekeeping and cleaning duties
- Positions in Khok Kloy, Koh Pilai and Kamala

### Engineer / Technician / Handyman

- Vocational or higher in technical / mechanical
- Systems-maintenance experience essential

### Thai Chefs / Thai Cooks (Phuket)

- Full-time and part-time chefs / cooks for live-in and non-live-in positions

### Reservations Officer

- Ideally an English-speaking native with reservations experience. Thai applicants will require very high levels of English

All positions offer an attractive salary package & benefits including service charge. Applicants are invited to apply in writing with full CV stating present & expected salaries, enclosed with a recent photo to [lek@phuketvillasandhomes.com](mailto:lek@phuketvillasandhomes.com) or 089-8662796 or 076-270155



Sunparadise (Thailand) Co., Ltd. is the market leader in the supply and installation of high-quality, powder-coated aluminium door & window systems for the residential market in Thailand and S.E. Asia.

Due to our success and continued growth, we are seeking individuals who possess the following attributes to join our marketing team in Phuket.

#### Marketing/Sales Executive (3 positions)

- Smart and pleasant personality
- Good interpersonal skills and a team player
- Self-motivated and goal-minded
- Can work on his/her own initiative
- Good command of English
- Computer literate in Microsoft Office
- Own car

This is an excellent career opportunity and earning potential for the right candidate who is looking for a challenge and to join a growing and dynamic company. Please apply in person or send your C.V. with recent photo to Marketing Manager at:

Sunparadise (Thailand) Co., Ltd.  
148/5 Moo 4, Srisoonthorn, Thalang, Phuket 83110.  
Tel: (076) 527548-9 Fax: Ext. 12  
Email: [marketing\\_phuket@sunparadise.com](mailto:marketing_phuket@sunparadise.com)



All About Residence

A great opportunity to join a dynamic real estate business !!

### Residence Sales & Services Manager Services Operation Assistant

- Minimum 3 years' experience in Property Sales & Management
- Fluent in English
- Excellent interpersonal and management skills
- Highly motivated with strong leadership skills
- Has initiative and is able to work under pressure
- Proactive with good presentation skills

Applicants are invited to apply in person or send their full in English with recent photo to:  
All About Residence Co., Ltd.

24/28 Moo 1, T. Rawai, A. Muang, Phuket 83130.  
Tel: 076-388136, 289261 Fax: 076-388103  
Email: [hr@allaboutresidence.com](mailto:hr@allaboutresidence.com), [sales@allaboutresidence.com](mailto:sales@allaboutresidence.com)



Dive Supply Co., Ltd.

### Sales Representative

- 1 Foreigner (with own work permit)
- 1 Thai
- both with own car

#### Job Requirements:

- Must have sales background, PADI Divemaster or higher certificate, computer skills
- Fluent English (foreigner: second language preferred)

#### Job Description:

- Increase sales, generate new business, introduce new products
- Working area: Khao Lak, Phi Phi Island, Krabi, Koh Lanta, Trang, Phuket
- Head office in Chalong, Phuket. 80% of work time is spent traveling and visiting customers.

Please send your application in English to:  
E-mail: [info@divesupply.com](mailto:info@divesupply.com)  
[www.divesupply.com](http://www.divesupply.com)

### TELESALES, NATIVE ENGLISH

Full- or part-time, native English speakers for telesales desks. Excellent opportunity on board professional team. Call or email for more details today. Tel: 087-1111646. Email: [colin@evocation.net](mailto:colin@evocation.net)

### TIMESHARE JOBS HONG KONG

Absolute is looking for 4 English-speaking, sensible, experienced, cold-line and in-house sales staff to join its newest sales center in Hong Kong. Excellent product, potential and package. Sales manager is John Parnell, training starts 9th March. Don't miss this opportunity! Email: [bl@marbella.net](mailto:bl@marbella.net) Email your resume or apply online at [www.clubabsolute.com/fivestar](http://www.clubabsolute.com/fivestar)

### ROCK CITY SINGERS WANTED



Rock City are opening a second venue in Patong and are looking for Rock singers who want to live the Rock'n'roll lifestyle. Any rock genre considered. Show us what you've got! Demos/CVs/references are welcome.

Rock never dies...  
Tel: 086-6864170,  
087-3866223.

Email: [fredrikphuket@yahoo.com](mailto:fredrikphuket@yahoo.com)  
Please visit our website at [www.rockcity.cc](http://www.rockcity.cc)

### JAPANESE NATIVE SPEAKERS

Work in Bangkok. Translators, writers, reservation agents needed.

- Degree in Hotel & Tourism Management.
- Good communication skills in both Japanese and English.
- Minimum of one year experience in the field of hospitality and tourism or customer service preferred.
- Experience in an online travel company is a plus.
- Able to work day/night shifts.
- Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply.

Email: [hrmanager@wd-travel.com](mailto:hrmanager@wd-travel.com)

### MARINE TECHNICIAN

Sailing yacht charter company is looking for a technical manager. Good salary for qualified candidate. Email: [thailand@dreamyachtcharter.com](mailto:thailand@dreamyachtcharter.com)



### STAFF WANTED, TRAVEL AGENCY

located in Chalong. We are looking for Thai or European staff who speak French. Computer/Internet knowledge is essential and a past in travel is a must. We provide training and a very good salary. Tel: 076-282906 or Email: [info@thailandcircuits.com](mailto:info@thailandcircuits.com)

### PHP & ASP PROGRAMMERS

Need experienced PHP / ASP programmers. Good English skills. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 084-6644050. Email: [aadams007@yahoo.com](mailto:aadams007@yahoo.com)

### KATA

New restaurant in Kata. The restaurant will have about 240 seats for dining and about 50 employees. We need: Manager, Chef, Sous-chef, Restaurant manager and Head waiter. Are you adventurous, have relevant education, adequate experience, good knowledge of English and want a real challenge? You will be welcomed. To apply, send application with CV to Email: [rkristiansen@phileasfogg.no](mailto:rkristiansen@phileasfogg.no) (Submit by June/July for training in Norway.)

## Employment Wanted

### HOTEL, DIVING, SALES

Male, 43, Swiss national, Sales manager (13 years of advertising experience), hotel business (head waiter) and diving (PADI instructor). Fluent in German, English and French (basic knowledge of Thai and Italian). I am looking forward hearing from you soon, kind regards, Stefan. Tel: 087-2684981. For more info please contact me at Email: [stefanhaldenstein@hotmail.com](mailto:stefanhaldenstein@hotmail.com)

### RESPONSIBLE THAI-CANADIAN

lady seeking Rawai job in child care, cooking or cleaning. Tel: 089-6483711.

# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

## Articles For Sale

**GYM MACHINES**  
3 exercise machines for sale. Very good price. Tel: 081-3670991.

### DIVING COMPRESSOR

Diving air compressor. The most compact, light 46kg, one of the most mobile diving compressors in this range! 225 & 330 BAR junior 2 compressor. 100,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-2706613.

### KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

- 1) 6-door under-counter refrigerator
  - 2) 3-door under-counter refrigerator
  - 3) Fagor 6 open burners
  - 4) Dishwasher
  - 5) Grill
  - 6) Walk-in cold room
  - 7) Shelves (stainless)
  - 8) Ice cream freezer
- All are professional materials in very good condition (1 year old). Tel: 081-9583341. Email: lavillaphuket@gmail.com

### DIVE GEAR FOR SALE

- 2 new APEX regulators CTX 50 with octopus and manometer. 30,000 baht for both.
  - 1 BCD Poseidon Besen WZO S/M, 15,000 baht.
  - 1 BCD Sequest Fusion S/M, 15,000 baht.
  - 1 Panasonic video camera, MV-GS 17 mini DV, almost new. 10,000 baht
- Moving to Europe. Tel: 085-4767314.

**ALL KINDS OF HOTEL** restaurant and kitchen inventory for sale. Contact Jan Jensen. Tel: 081-9683882.

### CONCEPT 2 ROWING MACHINE

As-new, only used a few weeks. Selling because of injury. 58,000 baht. Email: micke22c@telia.com

### AIRCARD

CAT Aircard. Internet anywhere, anytime in Phuket, to Krabi and beyond. Be in when you're out. 10,000 baht. Email: lan@evocation.net

### ARTIST'S EASEL FOR SALE

Oil / watercolour wooden easel for sale. As new. Bought for 15,500 baht 3 months ago; will accept 12,000. Watercolour board has adjustable stretchers, allowing canvas height of up to 114cm. Only serious inquiries. Email: melkyriaco@hotmail.com

### SALTWATER FISH TANK

16 x 16 x 30-inch long saltwater fish tank with stand and sub-filter tank (also 16 x 16 x 30). Includes Bio Ball waterfall filtration, charcoal filtration sub pump and protein skimmer. Plus extras. 17,000 baht. Tel: 087-2800659. Email: galinskig@yahoo.com

### WINDSURF BOARD

with paddle, used, old, for sit-on-top paddling. 6,000 baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 080-0416612. Email: hundewasserhaus@gmx.at

### RELOCATING - ALL

furniture from Index for sale, only 2 months old:  
- Red L-shaped sofa  
- White computer work station with matching book shelf plus 2 matching book units  
- 2 red office chairs  
- Samsung Thai washing machine  
- Noble king-sized mattress  
Email: melkyriaco@hotmail.com

### BARGAIN BUY

Snooker table, 8ftx4ft. Only 19,000 baht. Tel: 089-871-8663. Email: davidhnelson@hotmail.com

## Articles Wanted

### SHOP TOOLS WANTED

Metalworking tools wanted: arc and gas welders, wire-feed, plasma cutter, high-speed hand-held grinder, drill press, vise. Woodworking tools wanted: table or radial arm saw, miter saw, jointer, brad nailer, etc. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-7972110. Email: iolare@yahoo.com

### CHEAP LAPTOP

Secondhand laptop computer wanted. Must run windows XP and have wireless card. Cheap price please. If you have upgraded and have an old one lying about, why not give me a call? Tel: 081-2716250. Email: mattysiam@gmail.com

## Bulletins

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital  
Phuket City  
Wed and Sun 7 pm  
Bangkok Phuket Hospital  
Phuket City  
Fri 7 pm  
Patong Hospital Patong  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun  
at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm  
Chalong Health  
Clinic-near Chalong Circle  
Tues 1 pm  
For Phuket info (English)  
call 081-9564031,  
081-8912895  
Scandinavian speaking Group  
Wat Karon School-Karon  
Tue and Sat 7 pm  
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)  
087-2795636 (Nor)  
086-7458910 (Swe)  
For info on other Thailand  
AA meetings inquire  
at Tel: 02-2318300  
(for Thai language press 3)  
www.aathailand.org or  
email info@aathailand.org  
phuketaa@yahoo.com

### INVESTMENTS 30% MINIMUM RETURN

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2006, matte black color, 30,000km, 475,000 baht. Tel: 076-528016, 089-2262612. Email: jim@jimmarsh.net

**MAZDA MX5**  
Showroom condition, well-maintained by lady driver. 35,000km. Price: 1.25 million baht. Tel: 087-0804258.

**DAIHATSU MIRA**  
Excellent runner, new tires. Move forces sale. 85,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 087-2630948.

**BMW 323i SPECIAL EDITION**  
  
2002 full options model. Only 2 Western owners. 8 airbags, traction control, trip-tronic gear box, electric seats, computer, iPod dock and anything else you can think of. Must be seen to be appreciated, spotless condition. Private sale but can offer a warranty. 999,000 baht ono. Tel: 081-8954480. Email: security@mail2michael.com

**YARIS FOR SALE**  
S limited model, full options, 2006, auto, black, with 30,000km. Price: 575,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-1965212.

**TOYOTA ESTIMA**  
7-seater, first-class condition, automatic with new tires. Please contact for details. Tel: 084-4413633.

**BEAUTIFUL MIRA**  
Green/blue, 1995, excellent condition. Comes with aircon and lots of new parts. Reliable and cheap at 82,000 baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 089-7291099. Email: 1stlisa@gmail.com

**NISSAN NV AUTO**  
Wingroad, Sept 2005, very good condition. 45,000km. 265,000 baht. Tel: 084-3046723.

**HONDA CITY VTEC**  
Engine 2 years old, manual gearbox, 7,700km. Excellent condition, service history, still under warranty. Selling for 475,000 baht. Please contact for details. Tel: 089-9703697. Email: cuth22@hotmail.com

**1992 BMW 318i**  
Professionally maintained, only one registration, manual transmission, aircon, central locking system, leather, 152,000km. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-4421957.

**Pick ups**  
**2005 MITSUBISHI STRADA**  
4-door, aircon, 30,000km, manual, insured, service book. 300,000 baht ono. Tel: 086-2727636. Email: rewopnadia@hotmail.com

**2000 RANGER XL PICKUP**  
Maintained, CD, aircon, runs and looks great. 219,000 baht. Tel: 086-2699145.

**NISSAN NV WING ROAD**  
2005, 23,000km, silver, manual, Carryboy, CD player, great condition. Asking 290,000 baht. Tel: 081-3670991.

**TOYOTA 4-DOOR PICK UP**  
Late 2003, one owner, genuine. 20,500km. Virtually unmarked. CD and many extras. 430,000 baht ono. Tel: 076-289714, 081-6072805. Email: phuketsquash@e-mail.in.th

**PILE OF RUST**  
Mitsubishi pickup 430,000km. Drives great. Make an offer. Tel: 089-8755477.

**MAZDA TRUCK FOR SALE**  
1994, gray, 2-door, manual transmission, aircon. 40,000 baht. Tel: 089-7291391.

**TOYOTA PICKUP MIGHTY X**  
4-door, 1995, power steering. 140,000 baht. Contact for info. Tel: 089-2087205. Email: jaswilliamson2@yahoo.com

**ISUZU D-MAX CAB 4**  
  
2003. 100,000km, perfect condition, runs great, 3.0L, automatic, only one owner. Price: 510,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 087-2709093. Email: anutsamantamit@gmail.com

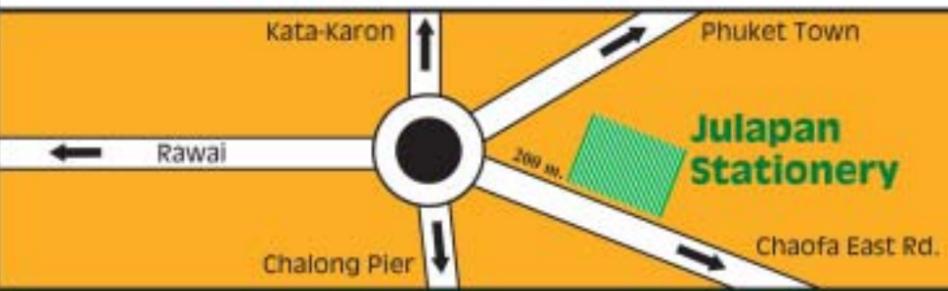
**NISSAN PICKUP 4-DOOR**  
Turbo, 2007. 395,000 baht. Please contact for more info. Tel: 084-4413633.

**FORD RANGER**  
2005 with 13,000km. Diesel, open cab, 1st owner, TV, VCD and extras for 330,000 baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 081-5395948.

**1996 MITSUBISHI STRADA**  
2.8L, excellent condition. 190,000 baht obo. Contact for more information. Tel: 086-9719776.

**2003 MITSUBISHI STRADA GRAND 2.8L**  
Excellent condition with 48,000km. 4-door extended cab, power steering, power windows, aircon, central locking system. Carryboy top, roof-rack, chrome guard bumper. Serviced and maintained. Two-tone finish: red/gray. 350,000 baht obo. Moving, priced to sell fast. Tel: 087-2705177. Email: baxter831@msn.com

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# Wheels & Motors

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#### ISUZU DMAX 4-DOOR

2004, 3.0L diesel, automatic, CD player, anti-lock brake system, airbags, metallic blue, full insurance. 6 months old. Vega cab. 94,000km. 450,000 baht. Contact Peter for more info. Tel: 086-2688701.

#### TOYOTA HILUX TIGER



4WD, extra-cab, 2004, automatic, 2,500cc. 75,000km. Full service, excellent condition. 470,000 baht. Tel: 083-6491510.

### 2 CARS FOR SALE



2003 Honda CRV. Very low mileage, perfect shape, gray/silver. 600,000 baht. New registration and insurance in place. 2003 Ford Escape, 84,000km, no dents or dings, gray/silver. 650,000 baht. Please contact Bob for more information. Tel: 081-0911863.

### SUZUKI CARIBIAN FOR SALE



Black, good condition, well-maintained by foreign owner with Phuket blue book. 155,000 baht, negotiable. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8980937, 081-2700179. Email: jaco@haadthip.com

### JEEP CHEROKEE

4,000cc, 1998, excellent condition, only 94,000km, 100L LPG tank. 350,000 baht. Tel: 081-3410836.

### Motorbikes

#### YAMAHA NOUVO

Secondhand Yamaha Nouvo, only 1.5 years old. Price: 35,000 baht. Contact Khun Tan for further details. Tel: 076-296658, 089-6513479. Email: noonno@hotmail.com

#### HONDA SONIC 125

15,000km, 18 months old, for sale at 33,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 086-1203660.

#### HONDA MAGNA 750CC

Beautiful Honda Magna 750cc, 1982, for sale. New chrome and paint. 80,000 baht. Call Mr Thierry for more info. Tel: 081-8939925.

#### HONDA AIR BLADE MOTORBIKE

for sale. 2007, red & black, 3,000km, very good condition. Asking 35,000 baht. Tel: 084-9106585. Email: tahola@gmail.com

### SCOOTER YAMAHA NOUVO

2006, white and black, 6,000km, great condition. Asking 38,000 baht. Tel: 081-3670991.

#### HONDA PHANTOM

Silver, 11,000 km, 1 year old. Quick sale: 65,000 baht. Tel: 076-243089, 081-9683118. Email: moodiving@yahoo.com

#### 1974 ALFA ROMERO

A collector's item. 650,000 baht. Tel: 086-0760141.

#### RED HONDA PHANTOM

1 year old, 12,000km. Insured for 1 year, well maintained by farang. Only 65,000 baht. Tel: 081-2717071.

#### MOTORBIKES

Yamaha Nouvo MX, 2005, 8,000km. 28,000 baht. Tel: 087-1259505.

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Silver, 1 owner, 2005, side bags, rear bag. Won't last at 35,000 baht, call now! Tel: 085-7967835.

#### HONDA WAVE 100 S

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10,000-20,000 baht per month, full insurance. Tel: 089-4727304.

#### 1-YEAR-OLD VIOS FOR RENT

Black, full options, premium insurance. 5,600 baht per week, 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-5885692.

#### NEW TOYOTA VIOS FOR RENT

2008, new, full insurance. Tel: 087-8933183. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com

#### NEW TRUCKS FOR RENT

New 4D/4WD Mitsubishi Triton, manual or automatic. Only 18,000-20,000 baht a month. Tel: 083-6419807. Email: goodtasteforgoodlife@hotmail.com

#### LONG-TERM RENTALS

125cc Wave from 2,700 baht per month. Mio automatic from 3,300 baht per month. Please contact for more info. Email: patong.rentals@mac.com

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- Toyota Vios,
  - Yaris, Fortuner,
  - Wish and Honda Jazz.
- Please contact at:  
Tel: 083-1743880,  
087-2646808.

### TWO NEW TOYOTAS FOR RENT

New Fortuner (silver and bronze) and Toyota Camry (silver and bronze) for rent. Call for more info. Tel: 087-4172757 (English), 084-1915669 (Thai).

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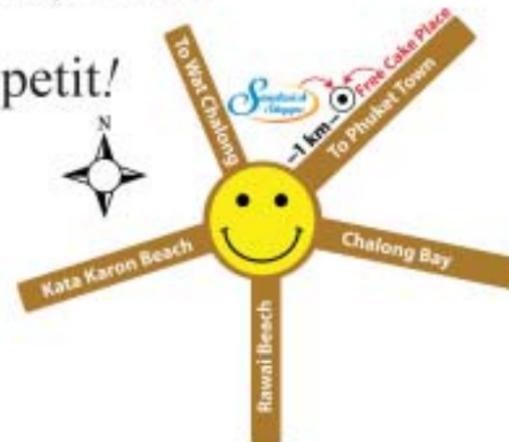
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