

# Phuket Gazette

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## Booze ban hits park tourists

### Teen stabbing sparks alcohol ban in national parks

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE directors of several national parks in the Andaman region say they have received good compliance with the ban on alcohol inside parks that came into effect on December 27.

Natural Resources and Environment Minister Suwit Khunkitti issued the ban immediately following the December 26 stabbing murder of a student by a group of drunken schoolmates camping at Khao Yai National Park in Surat Thani.

Nontawit Jaturabundit, chief of the Sirinat National Park in Mai Khao, said, "Some people are still bringing alcohol into the park at night. We keep asking them to not bring alcohol and to refrain from drinking anywhere in the park, but we have yet to fine or prosecute anyone."

"Many people were informed of the regulation during the new year period. They all seem to un-

derstand and have given us very good co-operation. The situation is under control," he said.

Most of those warned about drinking in the park were Thais, but a few were foreigners.

"As the park is quite expansive, sometimes people might be drinking inside without our being aware of it," he added.

Two signs declaring the park an alcohol prohibition zone are now being constructed and should go up at both entrances very soon, along with a third sign to go up in the middle of the park.

Under the law, offenders face a maximum fine of 1,000 baht or a jail sentence of not longer than one month, or both.

Chaitat Bunphuphantanti, director of Khao Sok National Park in Surat Thani, said, "We stopped selling alcohol about two years ago when the department issued a new regulation and restricted people from bringing alcohol into the park on December 27."

Standard procedure is for staff to ask people trying to bring alcohol into the park to leave it with officers during their visit, he said.

"We prefer to ask people for their co-operation rather than threaten them with punishment. It seems our public relations campaign is going well, as most people just drink Coke or water," he said.

"Most foreigners understand quite well. Not many of them drink whiskey, but some like to drink beer. But they don't seem to have any problem with alcohol being unavailable inside the park and they tend not to bring their own alcohol with them like Thais do," he said.

Signs in Thai declaring the park alcohol-free are posted at the national park office and at Ratchaprapa Dam, he said.

Phi Phi Islands National Park chief Niroot Puttapong admitted that beer still finds its way into the park by speedboat.

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## Bob shares the Love

MORE than 3,000 music fans flocked to Famous nightclub in Patong on Wednesday to see French DJ Bob Sinclar – the man behind the worldwide hits *Love Generation* and *World, Hold on*.

See our EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW on page 13 to find out why he likes seeing his bootleg CDs being sold in Phuket, what he has to say about his latest Grammy nomination and why French bread and cheese are a match made in heaven. Oh, and who he thinks is the hottest woman on earth. Photo: Christian Mouchet



The pickup hit the utility pole dead center. Photo: Wichai Wittawat

## Canadians killed in New Year horror smash

A CANADIAN couple died in a pickup truck bus (*songtaew*) smash just 15 minutes into the new year.

They were the second and third road fatalities in Phuket for 2011.

Cherng Talay Police Duty Officer Tatchagrit Ritnuang identified the victims as Aryporn Sunthorn, 50, and Kongseng Sunthorn, 61. Both were Canadian nationals of ethnic Chinese descent.

Four others inside the vehicle at the time sustained severe injuries in the crash, which happened on a curved, hilly section of Route 4025 near Bang Tao Shrine.

All six, including the driver, were initially treated at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town.

Miss Aryporn's father, Huy Songsak, 82, was badly injured. He was riding in the front passenger seat.

The driver, Kwanchai Kanpai, 65, picked up the group at the airport and was transporting them to their hotel when the accident occurred.

Mr Kwanchai might have been trying to overtake a vehicle when he was forced to veer off to avoid a head-on collision, Lt Tatchagrit speculated.

Police awaited the arrival of Mr Huy's cousin from Canada to break the bad news about his daughter and son-in-law. All Mr Huy said in the aftermath of the crash was that the driver suddenly swerved right, Lt Tatchagrit said.

Mr Songsak, who speaks Thai, was born in Laos and emigrated to Canada, he added.

After the crash all victims were rushed to Thalang Hospital, then transferred to the ICU at Vachira Phuket Hospital, where Ms Aryporn and Mr Kongseng died before dawn on January 1.

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## This Week

### Pirates of Patong



400k in pirated goods seized. Offenders are unperturbed. **Page 4**

### Home for the homeless

New shelter in Phuket Town helps those in need get back on their feet. **Page 7**

### Film review



Clint Eastwood's latest film *Hereafter* redefines life after death. **Page 12**

### A walk to remember

Social missionary walks over 1,000km in 45 days to raise money to build a school. **Page 14**

### Shaping up



The Yamu is back on track with international investors. **Page 21**

### Sport



Local girl surfs up a storm in Hong Kong. **Page 35**

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# Tip-offs foil illegal worker crackdown

By Janpen Upatising

RAIDS by the government task force commissioned to arrest all illegal foreign workers throughout southern Thailand, including Phuket, are being foiled by tip-offs, says the task force chief.

Noppadon Ployyoudee, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Employment Office, told the *Gazette*, "When we enter a province, they [illegal migrant workers] are aware of us and stop working."

"They also help each other by spreading the news when we enter the province."

"They were careful to avoid us and moved to another province instead," he added.

Mr Noppadol heads the multi-agency team for southern Thailand set up under an order by PM Abhisit Vejjajiva.

The task force began operations on December 1 as part of a nationwide crackdown. So far the southern Thailand team has netted 10 employers and 200 illegal workers.



Migrant laborers stop work for a construction site raid in Phuket.

"Our team was in Phuket once for two days. We caught 10 foreign workers in Patong, most were Burmese, but we also arrested some Vietnamese and Nepalis."

"We also caught 10 illegal workers in a restaurant near Central Festival Phuket."

"We will arrest anyone who does

not have work permit," he added.

"Both the employers and the workers are being prosecuted," said Mr Noppadon.

Although he maintained that any foreigners found working illegally will be arrested, the chief said Burmese were his top priority.

See also First Person on page 9

## Rino makes a speedy recovery

RINO Mangon Vogt, a 10-year-old boy who had life-saving surgery late last year, is recovering well, the *Phuket Gazette* has confirmed

Rino underwent corrective surgery for the rare congenital heart condition Ebstein's anomaly on November 21.

However, when the external pacemaker was switched off days later, young Rino fell asleep, indicating that his heart could not cope unassisted.

Quick action by benefactors provided the funds needed to cover the unforeseen cost of a second operation to install an internal pacemaker.

That operation went well and Rino has gained eight kilograms and just spent the new year holidays in Khon Kaen with his mum, his father Ritchie Newton said.

"He is doing very well and eating well. It's a great recovery;



Rino is all smiles today.

much better than expected... Rino has made a 90-per-cent recovery already," Mr Newton beamed.

"Since June 30 it has been a roller-coaster ride. At one stage we were told that Rino had three to four months to live. His heart and liver we so enlarged he could not eat. He lost 17kg," he explained.

"But he is the bravest boy I

have seen in my life. I'm not saying this because he is my boy – he walked into the operation room without any fear," he said.

However, the road travelled since June 30 has brought many disappointments, Mr Newton said.

"I've lost quite a lot of friends along the way. If you are truly in need, you soon learn who your real friends are – and who are not," he noted.

"But there a lot of great people around," the appreciative father added. "Thomas Gottschalk, a wedding planner in Phuket, immediately donated 75,000 baht for the second operation."

Mr Gottschalk could easily share Ritchie's anguish. "He lost his 17-year-old son a year ago in an accident," Ritchie explained.

"Without help from good people like this, it would not have been possible."

– *Phuket Gazette*

## Parks off-limits for booze

From page 1

"Most tourists visiting the national park are foreigners. We have officially informed tour business operators by letter and asked them to stop bringing in alcohol aboard boats. After, we seemed to get a good response," he said.

"People come to visit during the day. It is not an overnight destination, so there aren't problems with people getting drunk."

"But we keep telling people not to bring alcohol on shore," he said.

Chief Niroot quipped that many visiting tourists are *mao* (drunk) upon arrival by speedboat, *mao reua* being the Thai word for seasickness.

"The national park doesn't have

any problems at all with tourists being *mao*. They have to sit in a boat for a long time to get here from Phuket."

"If they are already a bit sick when they arrive, alcohol will only make them worse," he said.

All of these factors made it highly unlikely that drunken mayhem of the kind that transpired at Khao Yai would ever take place at the park, he said.

"Some tour operators provide beer with their clients' meals to relax them, but they don't want them getting drunk while still on the speedboat."

"We will warn them first not to bring alcohol ashore before fining them," he said.

The park plans to put up signs.



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A monk receives flowers and food from the crowd.

## Phuket ushers in 2011

ABOUT 1,000 people from across Phuket joined an alms-giving ceremony in Phuket Town on January 1 to offer food to 229 Buddhist monks to welcome the new year.

Leading the proceedings at Queen Sirikit Park was Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwanasupana together with Phuket's three Vice Governors: Nivit Aroonrat, Weerawat Janpen and Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak.

The three Vice Governors and Mayor Somjai wished the crowd new year blessings before setting birds free at 8am.

"We gather here today to offer food to the monks to bring good luck to you all in your lives and to honor and maintain a traditional religious ceremony," Mayor Somjai said.

The provincial dignitaries then began the alms-giving ceremony, leading the crowd in giving food and flowers to the monks.

After the alms-giving, some of the crowd continued their new year spirit and gave coins to a small group of sea gypsy mothers and children sitting on the ground nearby.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

# Mixed response to alcohol ban

By Stephen Fein

WORKERS in the tourism industry are mixed over the recent ban on alcohol inside 110 national parks nationwide, but there was wide agreement that the rule would be very difficult to enforce at marine national parks.

Pracha Rachai, Events Manager at Andaman Aqua Trails, said the ban had already caused "a lot" of cancellations by Russian tourists, the company's target market this year.

The company runs tours to Mu Koh Surin Marine National Park and Koh Tat Chai, inside Mu Ko Similan Marine National Park.

"This year we focused on the Russian market only. The culture of the Russians is that they love to drink and have a good time. The atmosphere on the island is calm and relaxing, nice for enjoying a few drinks," he said.

Other regulations, such as the ban on campfires and other beach activities, previously introduced had put enough of a damper on tourists' fun, he said.



A warning at the entrance to a popular cave at Khao Sok National Park in Surat Thani.

"Now nobody is booking the trip [to the Surin Islands] because they can't do anything there," he said.

Mr Pracha was skeptical that authorities would be able to prevent tourists from smuggling alcohol into park territory.

He also thought the ban was hastily issued, coming after the

isolated death of a student at Khao Yai National Park in Surat Thani.

Surapong Janin, a manager at the Kuraburi Greenview Resort & Travel company that runs speedboats to islands off Phang Nga, said the management at the national park restaurants had complied with the new order by ceasing alcohol sales there.

The islands are not appropriate for drinking sessions because the generators stop at 10pm and all the lights go out, he added.

Thus far he has not noticed anyone sneaking alcohol onto the island, he said.

John Gray, who runs John Gray's Sea Canoe, said, "I think it's great. Alcohol is worse for you than heroin. I used to be in medical research. The worst things you can do is drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes and eat red meat."

"I am all for it, especially because alcohol and boats don't mix. I've been running dry boats since I started in 1983 and I don't allow people to drink or jump off the top deck," he said.

See also Editorial on page 8

## Holiday road toll average set to fall

PHUKET'S road toll during the annual Seven Days of Danger road safety campaign is on target to fall compared with last year.

Up until New Year's Eve, the Phuket office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) had recorded 17 accidents in the province, but no deaths.

At the same stage last year, there had been four road deaths in the province.

Uthai Maikhong, 33, was Phuket's first road fatality of the new year.

His body was found beside his bike in a three-meter-deep roadside drainage ditch in front of Wat Muang Mai in Thalang about 8am on January 1 – the same day island-wide enforcement of all people on motorbikes having to wear helmets came into effect.

In addition to the deaths of Mr Uthai and the Canadian tourists the next day (see page 1), 21-year-old Chalong resident Anek Karnchonchai was killed in a hit-and-run accident on Tuesday.

Mr Anek died after his motorbike crashed near Baan Kata School on Patak Road in Karon at about 6am.

The accident was one of seven recorded that day, bringing the six-day total in the province to 62. Of these, nearly 90 per cent involved motorbikes.

By Day 6 of the campaign last year, the Phuket toll stood at six dead and 79 reported accidents.

During the first six days of this



Passengers now wearing helmets.

year's campaign, police pulled over 50,174 vehicles and arrested or fined 3,091 people.

The most common infractions were driving without a license (1,892 cases), failure to wear a motorbike crash helmet (964 cases), and driving without a seatbelt (154 cases).

Police tested 7,622 people for drunk driving, and charged 27 of them.

The national road toll on Wednesday reached 358 deaths, 11 more than last year.

The nationwide number of injured people reached 3,750, 77 fewer than during last year's holiday period.

— Phuket Gazette

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## Patong parking upgraded

THE new parking zones along Thaweewong Road (the beach road) in Patong have finally been unveiled, allowing more room for tourists to park along the beachfront.

Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha on Thursday officially opened the new zones, heralded as the first in a series of steps to solve the tourist town's traffic and parking woes.

The changes make about 60 per cent of the parking space along Thaweewong Road available for the public, with the remainder designated for motorbike and car

rental operators. New parking signs have been posted to mark where tourists and rental operators can park.

There has long been public anger about rental operators monopolizing beachfront parking in Patong, but Gov Tri hopes the new parking regulations will put an end to the issue.

Under the new rules, rental operators are allowed to park only one car and four motorbikes in each of their allotted spaces between 7am and 5pm.

After 5pm these parking zones are open to the public.

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# Hardship grows for boy with no anus

A DESPERATELY poor family in Ang Thong province are struggling to fund treatment for their baby son born early last year without an anus.

Namchok "Suea" Sisuksai, who is now 11 months old, has genitals but no anus. He excretes waste through a valve fitted to his intestines by doctors at Ang Thong Hospital shortly after he was born.

Suea (Tiger) has also received treatment at Bangkok Children's Hospital, though his family are struggling to afford the fees.

Suea's mother, Kusuma Rattanajit, 20, explained her son was weak when he was born and was put in an incubator. When he was brought out, the family noticed that he had no anus and alerted the nurses.

Doctors there performed emergency surgery, cutting Suea's intestines and fixing them to a valve in his stomach.

However, doctors at the hospital did not have the capability to construct him a more realistic anus, so he was transferred to Bangkok Children's Hospital.

"Whenever he stays at Bangkok



Children's Hospital and every time he goes for an examination, we have to pay at least 3,000 baht," Mrs Kusuma said.

"Borrowing money is the only way we can provide care for him," said Mrs Kusuma, whose family earns about 100 baht a day from selling secondhand items.

The family, who have no home of their own, are staying with other poor relatives in a small single-story house. Seven people share the house, which does not have its own bathroom.

Dr Narong Aphikunwanit, director of Ang Thong Hospital, said surgery to provide Suea with an anus cannot be performed until he is at least one year old and weighs more than 10 kilograms.

There is a high chance Suea can lead a normal life if he receives the treatment, Dr Narong said.

# Pirates undaunted by arrest

By Atchaa Khamlo

FIVE people were arrested last week for selling counterfeit handbags in Patong, but at least one of them swore she would be right back in business after paying a fine.

Patong police and representatives of high-end handbag companies led the raid on five shop operators, all working inside the tourist-oriented Sainamyen Plaza on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road.

Chananan Hatthapradit, 39, Samark Phutornchai, 32, Paitoon Pengpol, 38, Yingsak Toekoek-sung, 27, and Maneewan Munmart, 41, were all arrested at shops in the open-air plaza.

Police seized 779 pirated bags crafted to resemble products from famous brands such as Chanel, Burberry and Prada.

The value of the seized items was estimated at 400,000 baht.

Phubet Mingkuan, a representative of Chanel SARL Co along for the raid, told the *Phuket Gazette*, "The [pirated] bags are worth about 400,000 baht.

"If they were the 'real thing' the value of the seizure would be over 10 million baht, because the retail cost of the items they were



The bags seized had an estimated street value of 400,000 baht.

copied from can run as high as 100,000 baht each."

One of the arrested operators told the *Gazette*, "I've been in this business for about three years.

"We buy the bags from Bangkok for about 700 to 800 baht each and sell them for more than 1,000.

"Since I started this business, I've been caught five or six times.

Each case takes about two or three months and [each time] I'm fined 2,000 baht."

This operator also said that business goes on, even if all the bags in the shop are seized.

"New bags will be ordered and we will sell them in the shop again," the operator said.

All five shop owners posted bail of 10,000 baht each.

# Donation-collection tactics spark alarm

POLICE are warning residents to beware of men approaching their homes calling for donations, for which, in return, donors receive souvenir plaques bearing images of His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej and the Queen Mother.

The warning comes after complaints about 10 men in a Nissan Navara who arrived in a neighborhood near the Tha Reua Shrine on January 3.

The men, claiming they were from the Retired Army and Police Association, approached houses where women were home alone, or home with just their children.

The complaints centered on the pressure tactics allegedly used to have the women invite the men into their homes and to encourage them to pay for sponsorship packages.

One woman said the men paid particular attention to the personal possessions inside the home.

Thalang Deputy Superintendent Lt Col Jirasak Siamsak told the *Phuket Gazette*, "I have heard of this association before, but so far we have not received any formal complaints, so there is nothing we can do about them."

Lt Col Jirasak urged people to be careful of such tactics, as in the past some people who visited homes seeking donations came back later to rob the houses.

"If you are not sure if they are genuine, then do not let them into your homes," he said.

"If people really want to make a donation, then they should contact the head office," he added.

— Pimwara Choksakulpan

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# Zoning regulations to protect Krabi

By Gus Reynolds

THE new building restrictions implemented to protect against environmental degradation have been highly publicized in Phuket and Phang Nga.

In Phang Nga, the impact is being felt in areas facing stringent environmental regulation.

The area from the southern edge of Hat Thai Mueang National Park to the Sarasin Bridge is now classified as a rural and agricultural zone with restrictions on commercial projects.

In Krabi, the publicity has yet to make headlines, with most land-owners and developers having quietly pushed through their building plans before the July 30, 2010 cut-off date.

The Environment Act, which came into effect on July 31, 2010 will be in force for five years.

Each province – Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga as well as Hua Hin and Pattaya – has its own set of regulations. Krabi province is covered



by the “Krabi Environment Regulation”, which breaks down the province into four different zones.

Restrictions are the greatest close to the beach.

Buildings within 50 meters of the beach are limited to six meters in height and must maintain at least 75 per cent of the usable area as undeveloped to fulfill the new open-area space requirements.

In zones greater than 150m from the beach, the height limitation is 12m and open area requirements are 40 per cent.

Strict building regulations covering the treatment of wastewater are in place to protect the waters of the Andaman Sea.

The codes also closed some previous loopholes and establish

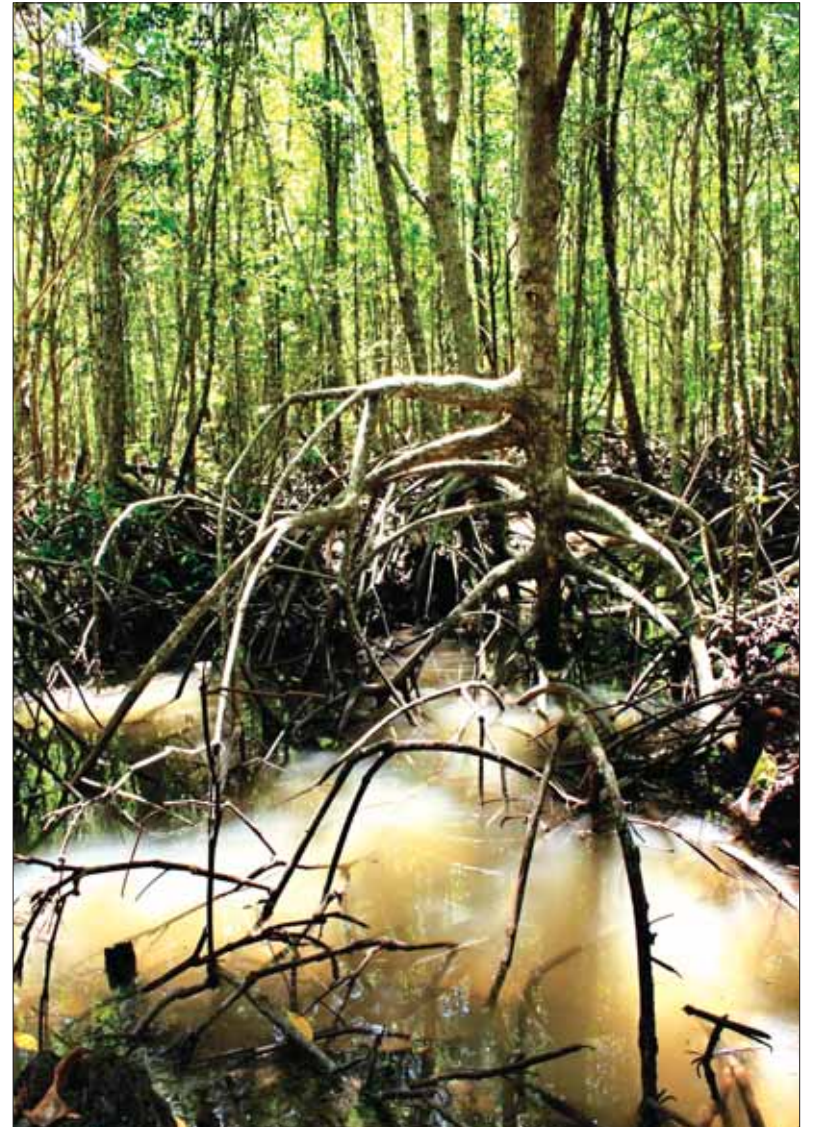
requirements for disability access, fire safety and parking.

“The goal of this legislation is to preserve the environment of Krabi and establish standards for safety and cleanliness,” says Suntud Udommaneehanakit, chief operations engineer for the Krabi Provincial Planning Board under the Department of Public Works.

The department is responsible for making sure all new projects adhere to the new regulations, which are enforced under the environmental impact assessment (EIA) requirements.

Mr Suntud said the new rules will help protect the environment and keep Krabi green, and are in the long-terms best interests of both residents and visitors.

The new rules add emphasis on developers contemplating starting a new project now having to seek professional advice from a qualified consultant with experience in the new EIA environmental regulations before starting a development.



The new regulations are expected to provide much-needed protection for local flora and fauna, including mangroves. Photo: Lesley Chittayanon

## Corruption charges against former Land Registrar

THE National Counter Corruption Commission (NCCC) says it will pursue criminal charges against a former Phuket Land Office registrar and a well-known local businessman over an encroachment case dating back to 1997.

NCCC Secretary-General Apinan Issarangkul Na Ayudhaya made the announcement on December 28 following a meeting in Bangkok.

The commission ruled that former Phuket Land Office Registrar Thawatchai Anukul was at fault for gross dereliction of duty, criminal misuse of power and document forgery.

The ruling follows the



Phuket land developer Boonkeng Srisansuchart at Phuket City Police Station in 2003. Photo: Gazette file

commission's investigation into three Chanote title deeds issued to well-known Phuket land developer Boonkeng Srisansuchart in 2001.

Mr Boonkeng had applied for eight Chanote titles based on a single SorKor 1 title deed covering over 362 rai of land.

The NCCC ruled that a survey of the land specified in the document revealed it to be state forest land.

Two of the title deeds were annulled in November 2005 and the third was ruled invalid on December 28. The commission deemed Mr Boonkeng an accomplice in the case.

The NCCC will forward the case to the Attorney General with the recommendation that he be charged in the Criminal Court, Mr Apinan said.

Thawatchai has been a fugitive since 2003 when the Land Department requested police to pursue his arrest over Chanote titles for a 65-rai plot in Karon and other parcels of land in Phang Nga. The title deeds were said to have been wrongfully issued by the former Phuket Land Office Registrar.

At the press conference, the NCCC also ordered the dismissal of all other Chanote applications

lodged based on the fraudulent SorKor 1 document.

Mr Boonkeng also had four plots of land seized by the government in June 2004 following a ruling that they had been fraudulently obtained.

Four plots issued to him under SorPorKor 1 land-use deeds were returned to the state in September that year following a ruling by the Anti Money Laundering Office.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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# Arrests stoke border tensions

CAMBODIA continues to detain seven Thais – including a Democrat MP – for straying into its territory in a border area, inflaming a long-standing dispute between the two countries.

Claims that the group did not know they had trespassed have been undermined by the release of a video showing the MP, Panich Vikitsreth, telling the prime minister's secretary he had crossed the border into Cambodia.

The group – which also includes People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) leader Veera Somkwamkid – was arrested December 29.

They were reportedly caught around 1,200 meters inside Cambodian territory over the border from Thailand's Sa Kaew province.

"They were measuring Thai territory inside Cambodian territory. So Cambodia has the right to arrest them," Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said in a speech at a government meeting on rural development, AFP reported.

The group are awaiting trial in Prey Sor prison in Phnom Penh. They were visited by their families, including Mr Panich's wife, and

## AROUND THE nation

were reportedly in good spirits.

The Thai side originally intended to argue the group didn't realize they had trespassed into Cambodia, it was reported.

However, the release on January 2 of two video clips showing Mr Panich talking on the phone to an aide to the prime minister threw this defense into doubt.

Mr Panich, who was being filmed by another group member, told the aide he was in Cambodian territory.

Mr Panich is a member of the house committee that vets memorandums of understanding agreed to by the Thai-Cambodian Joint Boundary Commission, which is responsible for demarcating the shared border.

With the clips making any defense of the group's actions difficult, the Thai Government fell back on appeals to Cambodia to consider the two nations' bilateral



MP Panich Vikitsreth is escorted by Cambodian police at Phnom Penh Municipal Court December 30. Photo: AFP

relations in its treatment of the case.

Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban said the Thai Government would fully respect Cambodia's laws and decisions on the cases.

"[But] what we should do now is to ask Cambodia to think of the relations between both countries

being restored after the unpleasant events of the past," he said.

The Thailand Patriot Network, a splinter group of the PAD, said it planned to hold a protest near the site where the seven Thais were arrested.

Its leader, Chaiwat Sin-suwong, pledged that it would be held to demand the release of the

seven, as they were allegedly arrested in Thailand.

A group of 500 villagers from Sa Kaew's Khok Sung district gathered in front of the district office January 3 to protest against the rally, demanding that it be canceled as it would bring trouble to the site.

– *Phuket Gazette*

## New Year bullets kill one child, injure another

BULLETS fired into the air during New Year celebrations killed one young girl and seriously injured another in two separate tragedies on January 1.

Shortly after midnight a bullet fell through the roof of a house in Yala province, hitting six-year-old Ni-eeftina Khueji in the head as she was sleeping in her bedroom.

Almost 24 hours later in Ratchaburi province, a slug hit eight-year-old Kanyarat Wanthong under the armpit. She was rushed to Ratchaburi Hospital but doctors were unable to save her life.

The first incident took place at a house in Yala's Muang district.

Ni-ohnee Khueji, 31, told police that around 10 past midnight she heard Ni-eeftina screaming in the bedroom. When she rushed into the room she saw her daughter with blood pouring out of her temple. A bullet was lying on the floor next to the bed and there was a hole in the roof. She rushed her daughter to Yala Hospital, where doctors saved her life.

Yala City Police said they were trying to establish who was firing into the air around the time of the incident.

In Ratchaburi, eight-year-old Kanyarat was hit by a bullet in a very similar incident.

Kanyarat's grandmother, Lom Noothet, said she and her husband were sharing their bed with Kanyarat at the time. Suddenly, Kanyarat starting writhing around as if she was having a nightmare. Her grandparents moved her but she wouldn't respond. When they switched the light on, they saw that blood was pouring out of a wound under her right armpit.

The family rushed the child to Ratchaburi Hospital but she died shortly after arriving.

Ratchaburi City Police Superintendent Anuphap Srinuan said his officers were questioning every household in the area that held a party that night in a bid to find who shot the bullet.

## Posh teen vilified for horror smash

A 17-YEAR-OLD girl from a privileged background is being vilified in the Thai press for her involvement in a December 27 crash with a minivan that killed nine people and injured five others on a Bangkok tollway.

The girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was photographed using her smartphone immediately after the accident.

Many of the victims' bodies were thrown out of the minivan after it collided with the girl's Honda Civic.

Critics claim the photograph showed her chatting with friends on her Blackberry while victims of the crash lay dying. The girl's family claim she was merely phoning her father.

She said at a press conference on December 31, "If I were not speeding, the accident would have possibly not occurred, or not been this violent. I tried my best to swerve away [from the van], but my car lost control, and hit it. I apologize for this," she said.

The girl and her parents have visited all five people wounded in the accident at Vibhavadi Hospital and offered their apologies.

General Wit Thephasdin na Ayutthaya, chairman of the Army's staff and the uncle of the girl, apologized for the accident and denied using social privilege to influence the police investigation into the accident.

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# A home for the homeless

By Janpen Upatising

MANY Phuket residents will be surprised to learn there is a homeless shelter located in the middle of one of the most upscale residential housing estates in Rassada.

Phuket Mitr Maitree House is one of five shelters established nationwide by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security as part of its initiative to tackle homelessness.

Director Charoen Promsuk said Phuket's large population of migrant workers from across Thailand made it a natural location for one of the shelters.

"Many people come to Phuket in search of work, but some face problems or lose jobs. Unwilling or unable to return to their hometowns they become homeless, which can cause problems for society at-large," he said.

The shelter opened on December 4, 2009. Staff comprises Mr Charoen and six others.

The home accepts walk-ins who come for help voluntarily, but they also act on reports about homeless people from the public. Three or four times a month they coordinate with police and set out in search of homeless people.

Areas the team has visited include Loma Park in Patong, Phromthep Cape in Rawai and many areas in and around Phuket Town. "We do our surveys by night, because that is when the homeless come to public places.

They go elsewhere during the day," Mr Charoen said.

Since opening, the shelter has helped 138 homeless people, most from provinces in the North and Isarn, he explained.

The shelter is located in an attractive, two-storey home. It has accommodation for a maximum of eight people, with two small dormitories – one for men, the other for women.

Very clean, the home has a relaxed atmosphere more like a guesthouse than a shelter.

"If we find homeless people, we ask them what kind of help they need before taking them to Mitr Maitree House. We must first ask them if they want to come with us," explained social worker Sudjittra Jamjit.

In addition to food and shelter, guests are given vocational training. "We have to help them find ways to make a living, otherwise they will be back here again and again. A lot of them are able to find work again after getting help from us," Mr Charoen said.

"We provide for their basic needs. We also send them to hospital for checkups and make sure they are free of disease. If they have mental problems we transfer them to Suan Saranrom Hospital in Surat Thani. After therapy, we will take them back," he said.

Under house rules, clients can spend anywhere from 15 to 45 days at the shelter. Smoking,



Mitr Maitree House Director Charoen Promsuk in front of the homeless shelter, located in the heart of an upscale housing estate in Rassada. Photo: Janpen upatising



Social worker Sudjittra shows the women's dorm.

drinking alcohol and other vices are not allowed and shelter staff enforce a curfew.

As guests undergo training, Mitr Maitree staff search out relatives in the hope of reuniting them with their families.

In cases where clients are unwilling or unable to help themselves find employment and families cannot be located, they are transferred to long-term shelters in Nakhon Sri Thammarat or Prachuap Khiri Khan.

Those over 60 years of age are sent to the Phuket Home for the Elderly in Pa Khlok or to a similar facility in Songkhla, he said.

"Homeless people with disabilities are transferred to homes for the disabled in Samut Prakan and Chachoengsao," he added.

Apart from locating homeless people and treating them at Mitr Maitree House, staff also seek out people at risk of homelessness in 20 slum communities in and around Phuket Town.

"We found that these people generally move here from other provinces, encroach on government and privately held land to build something to live in," Mrs Sudjittra said.

"Some have faced legal prosecution. Our staff visit their homes and try to provide them with knowledge and develop vocational skills," she added.

"Most of them live together as families. We want the children to go to school, the parents to get secure jobs. We do not want them becoming homeless again," she added.

Inside the dining area of the shelter is a small bulletin board bearing photos of some of the

shelter's "alumni". Mrs Sudjittra smiled when looking at images of the people the shelter helped in its first year.

"There was one lady brought in by a government department. The doctor later found out that she had a slight mental disorder, so we contacted Suan Saranrom Hospital and sent her there for treatment.

"After 15 days of therapy, she felt better and returned. We helped her develop her basic skills and learn how to better look after herself," Mrs Sudjittra said.

"By the end of 30 days she was helping us with the housework and wanted to go back to her family. I think it was successful."

## To make a donation

Mitr Maitree House accepts financial donations at:

Bank: Krung Thai  
Branch: Phuket Town  
Account Name: Baan Mitr Maitree  
Account Number: 805-605-6696

For donations of food and other supplies, Mitr Maitree House is at 74/168 Phuket City Home, Rassada, Muang District, Phuket, 83000.



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## Taxi profiteering driving away tourism

I flew to Phuket Airport recently, arriving at 7pm, and the travel shop immediately opposite the baggage hall quoted me 1,800 baht for a taxi from the airport to Kata.

The airport limousine service charges 850 baht for this journey and the meter taxis charge 600 baht for the same.

The young man backed up his price by showing me a map of Phuket explaining that it was a long way and he had a laminated price list to give his quote authenticity.

He added that that the price went up recently because of rising gasoline prices.

This attempt at blatant profiteering is very bad for the tourist industry in Phuket.

Paul  
Phuket

## Taxi ransom

On Monday December 27, I was taking my girlfriend to Phuket Airport from Nai Harn when my car tyre was punctured.

We were running out of time to catch her flight, so I decided to get her a taxi at the Chalong Pier taxi rank. She instructed the taxi driver to please hurry as otherwise she would miss her flight.

The taxi driver demanded 800 baht from Chalong to the Airport.

On the way he drove very slowly and once again she asked him to please drive faster.

He then demanded a further 200 baht if she wanted him to go faster. He said she could afford it, as she is with a *farang*.

She responded that she earns her own salary and said it [the taxi ride] didn't have

# Park alcohol ban belongs on ice

## Phuket Gazette

WHILE possibly well-intended, the recently announced ban on the sale and consumption of alcohol in 110 national parks nationwide is just one more addition to the long and growing list of regulations that are difficult or impossible to enforce – and that probably do more harm than good.

The new rule, announced over the recent holiday period, calls not only for a ban on alcohol sales inside the parks, but also forbids tourists entering the parks to bring in any alcohol.

This is an unnecessary over-reaction by the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, which issued the statement hurriedly in the aftermath of the holiday-season stabbing death of a student camper in Khao Yai National Park in Surat Thani.

It is difficult to believe that the department really thinks that simply banning alcohol in areas under its jurisdiction will end violent encounters on park grounds or keep alcohol outside the unguarded borders of these vast areas.

Thailand's Marine National Parks alone cover more than 10,000 square kilometers, 18 times the size of the Phuket mainland.

Alcohol has been used by virtually every culture since the beginning of recorded history, and going well back into the archaeological record. Over-reactionary attempts to ban it have done far more bad than good, the ultimate example being the US Prohibition that drove the entire business underground,

anything to do with a *farang*.

She ended up just making the flight, as it was delayed, and had to pay the taxi driver 1,000 baht, which is extortion.

I suggest people use another taxi rank. Unbelievable!

Richard Lusted  
Siam Real Estate Phuket Co Ltd

cost the government untold millions in lost tax revenue and created a host of new social problems – including a surge in alcoholism among housewives.

The National Park Department might think the ban will make their life easier: it won't. Park rangers will now have to spend far more time searching for alcohol and fining the few violators they can catch, while huge volumes are smuggled in under their noses.

Wouldn't that time be better directed towards other objectives, such as conserving wildlife and plants from the enormous threats they already face?

If the department and other agencies can't even keep coral-killing trawlers from illegally operating inside the parks, it is hard to think how they expect to keep bootleggers out.

The ban will also add a fertile new ground for corruption, as if there weren't enough already.

It would be far better if park rangers accepted the reality that people are going to drink inside the parks and do their best to minimize the negative environmental and social effects.

The key to good governance, a good drinking session or anything else is moderation – but the new ban reeks of the same sort of knee-jerk immaturity as the act that inspired it.

## FC Phuket: look on the bright side

Re: Gazette online, All change at FC Phuket, January 4

Firstly, I would like to thank the *Phuket Gazette* for bringing the existence of Phuket's very

own football club to my attention.

It's great to see the local football team getting the attention they deserve.

Baht-to-fun ratio is not even worth mentioning, as home-game tickets [50 baht] barely register in the 'funbudget' – and you can bring in your own Leos

[approx 30 baht per can].

All things considered, not a negative word to be said – until now. You've disappointed me, *Phuket Gazette*.

You left me riding high on our local boys' promotion to Division 1 football only to try and shoot me down with your latest report.

The first sentence in the story ends with "...but it appears the honeymoon may be over", referring to the team's loss of four star players and its manager.

Yes, that is a major loss, and the *Gazette's* prediction could be right – but let's not jump to conclusions here and damn the next season before it even starts.

Read a little further and what we have to look forward to, and cause for optimism, is the signing of Korean and Brazilian players. What if these guys are better than the ones we're losing?

In my opinion, we've got a lot of fun and excitement ahead of us this year and hopefully we can see more and more people come out and support the Southern Sea Kirin. Go green!

Helmut Schneider  
Phuket

## Jet-ski-a-go-go away

With all the issues raised in the media recently surrounding the safety of jet-skis and the hundreds of cases reported yearly of scams suffered by tourists at the hands of jet-ski operators [one which I witnessed only the other day on Surin Beach], I have one question to ask: What is the government's plan to meet its seven-year deadline for ending this dangerous and ruthless business so everybody can enjoy the beach safely and quietly?

Warren  
Phuket

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## Issues & Answers...

### Easier to buy booze in bulk?

What time of day can I legally buy alcohol in Phuket? Am I allowed to buy alcohol in bulk during restricted hours? What is the minimum quantity (in liters) for a bulk purchase of alcohol?

Laurence  
Phuket

Sakkarin Kongtrikeaw, an officer at the Phuket Provincial Excise Office Enforcement Department, replies:

Alcoholic beverages can be sold only from 11am to 2pm and 5pm to midnight.

However, this rule in its strictest sense only applies to stores with type 3 and 4 liquor licenses issued by the Excise Office.

According to the Liquor Act of BE 2493 (CE 1950), type 3 liquor licenses permit the sale of alcoholic beverages in volumes less than 10 liters for each purchase.

The type 4 licenses permit the sale of alcoholic beverages made

in Thailand – sales of imported alcohol are prohibited.

Customers can buy alcoholic beverages anytime from stores holding type 1 and 2 liquor licenses.

But, if the purchase is between 2pm and 5pm or midnight and 11am, it must be a "bulk" purchase of more than 10 liters.

### Missing salary

I have been working with a work permit for the same company for 4.5 years and was fired without valid reason two weeks ago.

I have a written agreement of

understanding where the owner has signed that he owes me 407,000 baht for salary and money borrowed from me – but now he won't pay it.

On top of that I have heard that I can get six months' salary since I worked there for a continual period of between three and six years.

I have been to the Labor Department and they arranged a meeting between the owner and me to settle the dispute, but he wanted to pay me only 100,000 baht, which is not okay for me.

Is there any public place where I can get help? Or should I go to a lawyer?

Tom  
Krabi

Adison Janta (LL.B., Director, Notary Service Attorney) of the International Law Office, Patong Beach branch, replies:

First, you have to treat the non-repayment of the loan separately from the other issues, as they must be pursued through separate channels.

For the unpaid salary plus the



# Crackdown on illegals holding economy back

## FIRST PERSON

I THINK it is of no use for “task forces” to arrest foreign [Burmese] workers without work permits. In fact, it brings about more problems.

They should arrest Burmese workers, for example, who go into business for themselves. They do things like operate motorcycle taxis and become street vendors, competing with Thai people.

Instead, the authorities arrest our workers for having no work permits.

We know that it isn't right, but we have no choice. We have already told [the government] that we are in trouble because we do not have enough workers. We asked the government to open up new registration for more workers, but they don't want to. They argued that it's an issue of national security.

We have to admit that Thai people no longer want to work as laborers, so we need to have Burmese workers to fill those positions.

But, if employers do not have enough workers, how can our economy move forward?

Another problem is that after Burmese workers receive their work permits, they leave and work with other employers offering higher wages. Their original employers are badly affected because they have paid a lot of money to get their workers' permits.

Some of these workers are now working in department stores and hotels – the owners of those businesses have no rights to hire them.



**Prasat Buntantrapiwat**, owner of Phuket Khanom Jeen restaurant in Phuket Town, has been the president of the Phuket Business Owners Association for 10 years. Here he speaks about the Thai Government's crackdown on illegal foreign workers and the problems it creates for local businesses.



Burmese workers detained at Phuket Immigration.

The government should set rules regarding who hotels and department stores can employ. Those industries have high turnover rates and can hire Thai people.

Also, Burmese workers should be required to stay with their original employers for one year. They can leave their jobs when there is a new round of registration or when it's time to extend their permits. This would give employers time to find new employees.

The whole process for the application of permits should be less

complicated. We, the employers and employees, have to go through many application processes in many places like the hospital for physicals, the District Office for forms and the Provincial Employment Office for work permits.

There should be a one-stop service that brings all relevant government agencies under one roof to expedite the process for us. This would also make things much more convenient for them to communicate, forecast and plan for the volume of applications.

# A perfect dose of New Year madness

## Island View

By Andrew Jennings

Do you have an opinion to voice?  
Email Editor@PhuketGazette.net

WHEN you bring an act to town, you bring it heavy, and Patong did just that on New Year's Eve.

Last Friday I was cast into the lunacy of the town's New Year celebrations for the first time and it was something I won't be soon forgetting.

Before last weekend, I had made up my mind that Patong was indeed a wicked place, a disturbed tourist town best avoided.

A place of general back-alley ambiance where few paid attention to law or order. I maintained that if I spent New Year's Eve there I would probably end up barefooted penniless and insane.

What Patong needed, I thought, was a chaplain and his hellfire preachings, uttering the kernel of positive lawful thought.

Yet, despite my misgivings, numerous folk told me that Patong on New Year's Eve is the high-water mark for partying on the island and not to be missed. So, I went.

I complained all the way up and all the way back down Patong Hill that there was no way the night could end up anything other than a real horror show.

Then, just like that, I stepped out of the taxi and it was like being administered shock treatment and told, “You no longer have power of choice, you are committed to immersing yourself in this town on this night, a little machine capable of only having fun”.

Turning onto Soi Bangla you could see the energy of a whole town rising to a glorious head in a long fine flash towards the beach.

Of course there was madness in all directions, but the walk down Bangla had a sort of operatic and



OH, MATRON: A reveller ushers in the new year 'Patong-style'.

colorful feel. Others might have experienced something different, but there didn't seem to be any undercurrent of violence or evil-doing.

The drunks came in all ages and sizes, more like merry and spirited elves in an Elizabethan comedy than anything sinister.

It was almost midnight when I reached the edge of Patong Beach. Every inch of sand seemed to be filled with a moving being, all looking at the night sky glowing the colors of a fireworks rainbow.

The night eventually flowed into the early hours and a certain amount of good natured excess – and despite my occasional remorse (given the strength of my hang-over) the following day – I deduced Patong's New Year party to be something rather special, a modern day Wild West.

A colleague of mine refers to Patong as “Ol' Dirty”...and I think that's just about the perfect fit.

## ...asking the questions that affect you...

compensation payment in lieu of notice, as well as your right to compensation payment for working consecutively for a full three years, you need to file an official complaint with the Department of Labor Protection and Welfare office in your province.

You might have been at such an agency, which sometimes is wrongly confused with the Department of Employment.

If you have filed a complaint with them already, check to see if the agency is following up on it and ask them if and when they plan to make a decision on the case and inform the parties.

Most of the time, an arbitration meeting is the first step. You are right that you do not need to settle for any lesser amounts offered. You have the right to compensation payment for working consecutively for a full three years, but not a full six years, with the payment calculated at 180 days at the last wage rate.

If such a step does not help, you would be best contacting a lawyer to file your case directly

with the Labor Court in the province of employment.

For the repayment of the loan, you should contact a lawyer to file in a Civil Court with documentary proof that the loan was paid out, as well as the loan contract.

## Neighborhood has gone to the dogs

I have a neighbor who keeps about 12 dogs and they are an absolute menace.

About 6am each morning, he lets them out of his yard and they run down the soi in a pack, barking and waking everyone. This happens at least four times a day.

That's bad enough, but they also chase anything that moves. To my knowledge they have caught and killed at least two of my cats.

The worst is if you walk past the house when the dogs are inside and they see you – they come rushing out and surround you trying to bite your legs.

Not being very mobile, I man-

age to keep them off with my walking stick, but it's only a matter of time...

The owner, hearing the dogs, comes out and calls them off. If you show anger he tells you to go and live somewhere else.

Can the police do anything? What about the *OrBorTor* (local administration organization)? Many dogs living in a small, terraced house must contravene some regulations.

The police came a year ago following a complaint and the owner said he would control them. This had no effect and the people who made the complaint withdrew their considerable financial investment in Thailand and moved back to Europe.

Peter Joyce  
Chalong

**Natthapon Siang-nua, a complaint officer at the Chalong Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), replies:**

Please come to the Chalong *OrBorTor* office and fill out a complaint form. Be sure to give a detailed account of the situation

and your complaint against the resident in question, and specify the duration of this “nuisance”.

Our office will process the complaint on the same day. We will first issue a verbal warning to the source of the nuisance and ask that person to solve the problem within 15 days.

If the problem persists, we will issue a written warning ordering the resident to solve the problem within seven days. If the first two steps fail to solve the problem, we will invite the person responsible for the nuisance to a meeting at the Chalong *OrBorTor* office.

In our experience, the majority of cases have been resolved after issuing the first, verbal warning.

This procedure is done in accordance with the Public Health Law of BE 2535 (CE 1992) Chapter 5: Sources of Nuisance.

Section 25 states: “An occurrence that may cause annoyance to residents in the neighboring area or expose a person to the following, it shall be a source of nuisance: Raising of animals in a place or by any method or in too great a

number that causes impairment or may be harmful to health.”

Section 28 states: “In the event a nuisance occurs in a private place, the local official shall have power to issue a written order to the owner or occupant of said place requiring him to resolve the nuisance within a reasonable period of time as specified in the order and, if he deems it expedient, to prescribe the method of abatement of said nuisance or the method of preventing future nuisances and to specify such methods in the order.

“In the event it appears to a local official that the nuisance occurring in a private place may cause serious harm to health or impact living conditions suitable to the livelihood of the population, the local official may issue a written order forbidding the owner or occupant to use or permit any person to use said place in whole or in part until the local official is satisfied that the nuisance has abated.”

For more information, call the Chalong *OrBorTor* at 076-282255 ext 206.



# TAT call on smartphones to connect with tourists

By Anand Singh

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has launched a smartphone application dubbed "Amazing Thailand".

The application has been designed to run on iPhone, Blackberry and Android, as well as the iPod Touch and iPad.

TAT Governor Mr Suraphon Svetasreni said the application will help promote Thai tourism to the rapidly growing number of smartphone users worldwide, while also improving the TAT's digital profile.

The application is available for download from popular application sites, such as Apple's App Store.

Amazing Thailand lists the country's top

10 tourist destinations, one of which is Phuket. The Phuket destination guide includes a lot of useful travel and transport information.

The application also has a "where to go" section, providing a brief description of Phuket's most popular tourist attractions, such as Saphan Hin, Old Phuket Town and Laem Phromthep.

In the "where to stay" section, many of Phuket's top hotels are listed. Restaurants also get a mention in the "where to eat" section and two of the island's largest malls, Jungceylon and Central Festival, feature under the "where to shop" header.

The application focuses on short descriptions of tourist hot-spots supplemented with

three to four photographs on each page.

Currently, the application is designed to be an informative tool only, with hotel and restaurant bookings are not yet supported.

For now, the application provides more than 10,000 snippets of information about tourism in Thailand, with 89 destinations listed from all over the country.

According to information from the TAT, further improvements to the Amazing Thailand application will be made in the near future, so users can review and rate businesses and restaurants, gain access to personal travel plans, access flight schedules and make hotel reservations.



**SMART MOVE:** TAT are marketing Phuket on smartphones to lure more tourists.

# Asia's rising rich insure against taxes

AS THE world's demographics change and pockets of unfulfilled needs surface, life insurers are seizing the opportunity to meet those needs.

One such development is an increase in the number of "high net worth individuals", or just "HNWIs" as they are often called.

As their wealth becomes global in nature, they look to the insurance sector for solutions to manage this wealth.

A smaller world with a growing number of millionaires is an apt way of describing the world we live in. According to a recent report by CapGemini and Merrill

Lynch, the wealth of HNWIs in Asia is set to reach a staggering US\$13.9 trillion (more than 4 trillion baht) by 2012.

Thanks to China and India's strong growth, Asia-Pacific is due to overtake North America in HNWI assets by 2013.

This development has attracted a horde of private bankers to the shores of Hong Kong and Singapore. The insurance market has also undergone changes with the introduction of non-traditional products to cater to the unique needs of this niche market.

Among these needs are tax and estate planning concerns.

## Island Investor

By Bill Anderson

Having attained a higher degree of self-insurance, HNWIs are generally more concerned with tax and estate planning. Typical concerns of HNWIs include succession planning and provide a legacy for their beneficiaries or other chosen causes.

Depending on their residency and domicile status, there may also be estate duty or gift tax implications that require careful planning.

As the wealth of these individuals has normally been created by entrepreneurial activities and as a result is tied up in a variety of assets globally, the need to remain liquid is also a major concern.

The ability to manage their taxes is another growing concern. It's generally understood that with their high tax brackets and capital gains taxes, Europeans prefer to buy insurance to help in the management of their tax liabilities.

The use of "wrappers" where taxes are deferred until a more

favorable time is very popular as investments held within the wrap are not taxable until funds are withdrawn from it.

Although the tax situation is more benign in Asia, an increasing number of Asian HNWIs are taxed on a "worldwide" basis as their wealth becomes increasingly "global".

In this respect, these individuals are not much different from their European counterparts and the benefits of creating a non-income producing asset are just as real.

The universal recognition that insurance is a viable tax planning tool enables it to offer solutions, especially as other arrangements such as trusts or private companies may attract suspicion.

Assets held through a trust can be placed via an insurance wrapper. This will result in income arising from these assets to be sheltered and there will be no tax liability. The wrapper can then be used alongside other tax planning tools.

In addressing these concerns, HNWIs are turning to insurance, usually in the form of Universal Life or "101 per cent Wrappers", or a combination of these.

Universal Life products offer high-limit excess liability and some potential growth on capital. These are single premium policies

and traditionally have been the most popular amongst HNWIs, especially in North America and Asia-Pacific.

As HNWIs usually have large portfolios of assets all over the world, insurance wrappers have the advantage of being able to hold a wide variety of asset classes, from a range of financial institutions and jurisdictions.

These wrappers therefore provide a simple transparent structure to facilitate the efficient transfer of large and often complex portfolios in the event of death. Other than the wrap feature, the other unique attraction is their global portability.

Recently the emergence of Variable Universal Life, a favorite amongst tax planners in the west, is proving an attractive option combining the flexibility of the 101 per cent insurance wrapper with the high death benefit of the more traditional Universal Life policy.

This offers the investor the potential upside of selecting their own portfolio or maintaining their traditional bank relationship whilst ensuring that in the event of death their estate will be provided with a large cash injection.

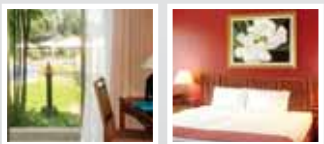
Bill Anderson is the Phuket Associate Director of MBMG International. E: [bill@mbmg-international.com](mailto:bill@mbmg-international.com)

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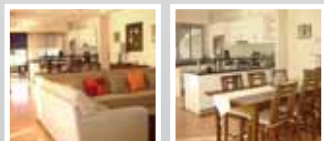
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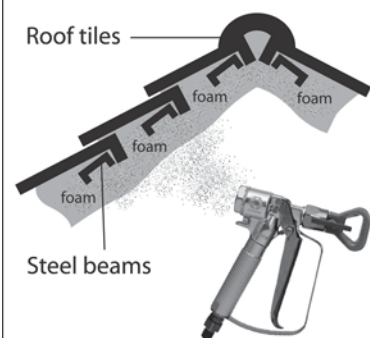
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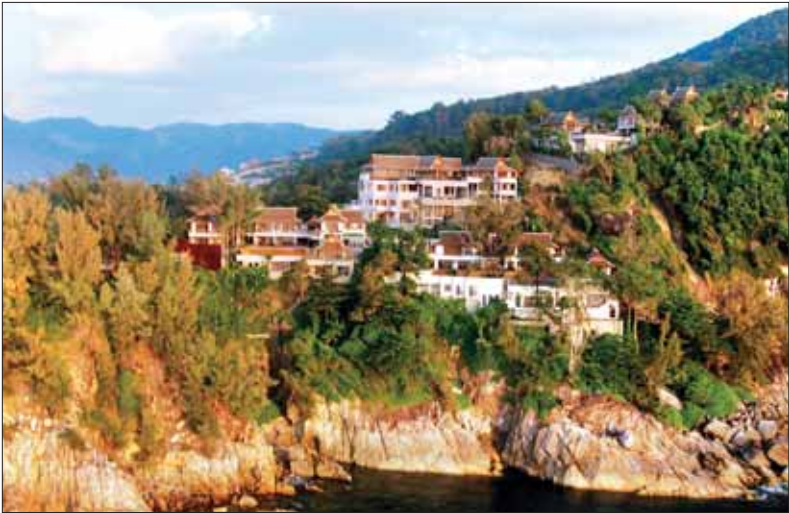
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# Property sales to rise by 25%



Kamala is likely to benefit from a surge in property sales. Photo: Jim Welch

By Krungthep Thurakij

REAL estate sales to foreigners in Phuket are expected to grow 25 per cent this year to 5 billion baht, according to property development firm Seacon.

Nevertheless, sales are likely to remain at least 50 per cent lower than during the boom years of 2006 and 2007, when foreign sales came in at 10 to 12 billion baht each year.

Piya Sosothikul, executive director of Seacon, said property sales to foreigners in Phuket were worth about 4 billion baht last year, up around 25 per cent on 2009. Trends are improving, with sales expected to reach 5 billion this year, he said.

The market has still not fully recovered from its peak before the 2008 financial crisis, however. The major reason for continued weak sales is the economic situation in Europe, particularly the UK, where large numbers of customers came from in the past, he said.

The strength of the baht is also a factor. The appreciation of the

currency means property is becoming more expensive for foreign buyers, he said. Another factor is lack of confidence, Mr Piya added.

There are many projects on the island that people have invested in that have been delayed or remain unfinished, he said.

The foreign property market in Phuket is Thailand's second-largest after Bangkok. Rounding out the top seven are Pattaya, Chiang Mai, Samui, Hua Hin and Krabi, respectively, he said.

Mr Piya said there were 147 property projects under development in Phuket.

Of these, 23 would be considered "super premium", meaning they comprise villas worth at least US\$2 million each. Most of them were found in Surin, Kamala and west coast areas overlooking the sea.

There are 96 projects with units costing between 5 to 60 million baht each, which are spread all over the island, Mr Piya said. There are also 28 condominium projects, he added.

## New budget carrier to take off

NEW low-cost carrier Thai Tiger Airways is ready to take off in the first quarter of this year as planned, said Piyasvasti Amranand, President of Thai Airways International.

"I can't confirm when this new airline should start operating, but it should be as soon as the company is established and if there are no unexpected issues," Mr Piyasvasti said during a recent trip to New Zealand to attend the Star Alliance CEO meeting.

In August, THAI and Singapore-based Tiger Airways finalized talks about setting the a low-cost carrier.

Since then, the parties have been working on the details and joint-venture agreement, expecting to start flight operations next year.

They have almost completed the agreement on the use of the investment of 99.8 million baht, business operations and

shareholders' signing authority.

Thai Tiger Airways will focus on the "ultra-low cost market" in the region.

The new airline would serve major and competitive destinations such as Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong, with the Asian region, China and India being their key target markets.

It will also operate to high-potential destinations in the domestic market like Chiang Mai and Phuket.

"Thai Tiger will be the true Thai national low-cost airline and it will represent the story of a real low-cost carrier. Other players in the market are not real Thai firms," Mr Piyasvasti said.

"The operation would run at a loss in the first year, but pick up after that. The airline can survive if it can ensure an average occupancy rate of over 75 per cent," he added.

— The Nation

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# Eastwood looks into the afterlife

## Film

By Scott Phillips

### Hereafter

**Director:** Clint Eastwood

**Starring:** Matt Damon, Cecile De France, Bryce Dallas Howard, Frankie and George McLaren

**Genre:** Drama

**Gazette Rating:** 4.5/5 – Must see

IT IS somewhat ironic that many people are talking about *Hereafter* as a reflection of Clint Eastwood's age. Many critics say the aged icon – now 80 years old and arguably approaching the pinnacle of his career – made the film to come to terms with his own mortality.

The irony comes from the film's

ultimate message. In the end, it's more about life than death, more romantic than pessimistic, more about the struggle in life than peace found in the afterlife.

*Hereafter* doesn't try to ease cinema-goers' fear of death, but instead presents an interesting supposition: Death can give infinite possibility to those still living, usually bereaved relatives.

The film doesn't use the after-life theme to push religion, but there is the assumption that conscience beings exist after death – but avoids explanations of "why?" and "how?"

The plot centers on characters who have a connection to the dead. There is George (Damon), a legitimate psychic who regards his ability as more of a curse than a gift, Marie (De France), a reporter

who has an epiphany during a near-death experience, and Marcus, a young boy who is forced to confront grief and loss at a young age.

The dead – of which there are many – have a prominent posthumous role in the film. Though they are never present on screen, they haunt the main characters who struggle with their own mortality.

For George, a down-to-earth, well-intentioned chap, his ability to converse with the dead is his gift, as much as it is his curse. And it isn't until he meets a grieving widow that we understand why.

After trying in vain to lead a normal life – well, as much as one who can speak to the dead can – he signs up for a cooking class and sits at an empty table in the back row. As luck would have it, a striking damsel enters and pulls up a pew next to him. And so the love interest takes root.

The scene could have easily been the start of a romantic comedy, but George's ability to channel the voices of the dead will not allow things to go down that path.

When Melanie finds out about George's skill, her reaction is to have fun with it. For her, being psychic is another playful element she can use to flirt with George – so she has no hesitation in asking him for a "reading". George, on the other hand, knows better. He knows what it's like for someone to be able to speak to a person in their life who has died – especially those with a dark history.

In one of the best scenes in

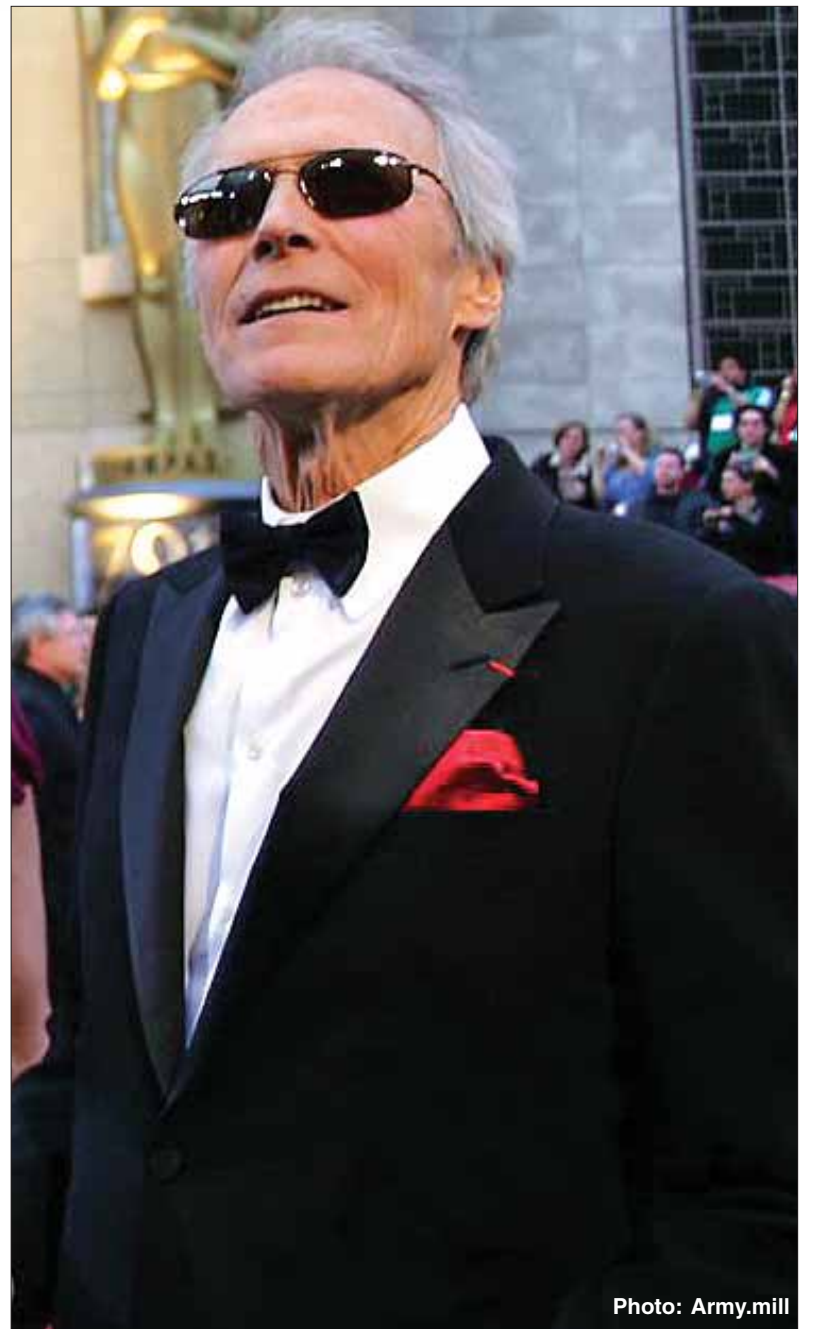


Photo: Army.mill

**GOING SUPERNATURAL:** Clint Eastwood's *'Hereafter'* is a deathly experience.

the film, George contemplates whether or not to give Melanie the reading she's asking for, and the result defines every element of his personality. Similar events happen for Marie and Marcus, until all of them realize that even the isolation of death can find a way to bring people together in life.

Think of it this way: If

*Hereafter* is indeed Eastwood's cinematic vision of what will happen when he dies, he's not thinking about what's in store for himself. He's thinking about the possibilities for the people learning to live in a world without him – a thought none of us want to have anytime soon. Stay healthy Mr Eastwood, and keep making great films.

## Clint's directing highlights

**1993.** Won two Oscars for Best Picture and Best Director for *Unforgiven*. Nominated for Best Actor. Scuttled on the latter.

**2004.** Nominated for Best Picture and Best Director for *Mystic River*. Left empty-handed.

**2005.** Won two Oscars for Best Picture and Best Director for *Million Dollar Baby*. Nominated for Best Actor. Should have won the lot.

**2007.** Nominated for Best Picture and Best Director for *Letters from Iwo Jima*. Left empty-handed again. Boooo!

## 10 of his best in the director's chair

1. The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976)
2. A Perfect World (1993)
3. Unforgiven (1992)
4. The Gauntlet (1977)
5. Mystic River (2003)
6. Million Dollar Baby (2004)
7. Gran Torino (2008)
8. Sudden Impact (1983)
9. Firefox (1982)
10. Absolute Power (1997)

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## What else is on

### Yogi Bear

**Director:** Eric Brevig

**Starring(voices):** Dan Aykroyd, Justin Timberlake, Anna Faris

**Genre:** Animation/Childrens

**Gazette Rating:** 2/5

YOGI Bear is now in 3D, with this modern-day tale of the 50-year-old character, featuring the voices of Aykroyd as Yogi and Timberlake as Boo Boo.

On Jellystone Park's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, attendance is down and the park is set to close, leaving Yogi and Boo Boo homeless.

Once again, Yogi must prove that he really is "smarter than the average bear" and come to the rescue.

The film falls short on substance and time, running at a meager 80 minutes.

With an unoriginal plot and crude jokes, this film will please one audience: children.



# One-on-one with DJ Bob Sinclar



IF THERE is one DJ who stood out from the rest over the past decade it was Frenchman Bob Sinclar.

With two Grammy nominations for his 2007 single "World Hold On" and with his most recent album "Made in Jamaica" on the short list for a Best Reggae Album Grammy, Sinclar is no stranger to plaudits.

He truly stamped his mark on the world with "Love Generation" in 2005, selling over two million copies and reaching Number One in seven countries.

The track was also the official anthem for the 2006 FIFA World Cup, and although his beloved French team crashed out of the final against Italy – yes, the infamous Zidane head butt – Sinclar ticks off that year as his career high so far.

The self-styled image-conscious 41-year-old

accredits the rise of the "Superstar DJ" to a French movement in the 90s. In fact, Sinclar (real name Chris Le Friant) is one of a handful of French DJs who pioneered the dawn of the "French touch" – the use of Euro disco with a sampling and distorted beats and instrumentals in the early 2000s.

As he looks to the next decade, Sinclar is optimistic about the future, eagerly awaiting the opening of his 2,000-capacity club in Miami, confident in the ever-rising demand for DJs to play at clubs around the world, and of course, coming back to Phuket.

The Frenchman tucked his hair behind his ears and put down his iPhone long enough for Features Editor Fraser Morton to have a chat with him.

**FM:** More than 3,000 people saw you perform at Famous nightclub in Patong (Jan 4), how did it go?

**BS:** I really enjoyed playing at Famous. It was a great atmosphere and good crowd. Hopefully I will be back soon, and I'm sure there will be more big-name DJs wanting to play too – especially when they hear about the roof-top swimming pool! (He's talking about the glass-bottomed pool which bikini-clad girls frolic in at the club).

**FM:** Let's go off-the-wall a bit here. Who do you think is the hottest woman in the world?

**BS:** Easy, Monica Bellucci

**FM:** What's on your iPod right now?

**BS:** Kings of Leon, Bob Dylan, Bob Marley, A Tribe Called Quest, Swedish House Mafia. It's 180 degrees, but they all have soul.

**FM:** Who do you think was the world Person-of-Year 2010. *Time* Magazine said Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg. Were they right?

**BS:** No, they should have chosen the jailed Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo.

**FM:** French Bread or French Cheese?

**BS:** (Arms raised) You cannot have one without the other.

**FM:** A holiday in Thailand or a holiday in the UK?

**BS:** (Laughs, almost hysterically). There is no holiday in the UK my friend. Thailand, for sure.

**FM:** In the past few weeks you've played in Pattaya, Bali, and Australia, how did the gigs compare?

**BS:** It's great to play in different countries. The atmosphere is different and the music scene is more established in Australia, but the support here has been fantastic.

**FM:** Your last album, "Made in Jamaica", has just been nominated for a Grammy. Do awards mean a lot to you, or couldn't care less?

**BS:** For sure, it means a lot. It's special because I did it for myself. I worked with legendary Reggae musicians and I am very proud of it. (Chuckles, slaps FM's knee) I think it is the first time a white guy has been nominated for a Grammy in the Reggae section.

**FM:** You're on tour non-stop, how do you find time to make records and play gigs at the same time?

**BS:** I only play on weekends when I tour, but this is where the money is now. Music is free. Musicians have to accept this now. The only way to make money in music is to produce videos and produce your own albums. All of this, I do myself.

**FM:** So you're pro-free music?

**BS:** At the beginning it was a bit strange to see music free, but today I cannot believe how many people know my name around the world. This is because music is now accessible for everyone. The

fact that I'm here, which is a holiday resort, where you would think nobody cares about international DJs, shows the power of accessibility. It reaches places and people you would never have imagined.

**FM:** Have you seen pirate copies of your music here for sale?

**BS:** I saw bootleg copies of my albums for sale at one stall here. I said to the guy selling them, "Hey that's me, thank you for selling my music". It's a great way for people here to see my music.

**FM:** You have an interesting nickname: "Chris the French Kiss". Where did that come from?

**BS:** It was given to me when I started out in the early 90s. There were no DJs that had an image or identity. The only examples were the Americans like David Morales or Masters at Work or Roger Sanchez. You had no one who had created an identity of their artist image. The French guys made the DJ image I think, like Daft Punk.

**FM:** And what's yours?

**BS:** Mine is like a disco-superhero. In 1997 I took the name Bob Sinclar from a French movie star. It caught on.

**FM:** So do people often ask you to take your clothes off, as you appear half-naked in many photos?

**BS:** I'm not like a gay icon or like Kylie Minogue or something.

**FM:** How do you stay in shape? You're a DJ and you have a six pack.

**BS:** You are what you eat (laughs). I just don't eat fat. Lots of protein, fruit, vegetables and no cigarettes, and no alcohol, ever.

**FM:** What do you class as your career-defining moment?

**BS:** Easy, this was in 2005, "Love Generation". It was a beautiful accident that I built towards. I created all the melodies, and I'm not a musician. I studied music in creating recycled sounds with a sampler, that's it. That's all I know in music.

**FM:** So what's next?

**BS:** I've sold millions of tracks

around the world. Two million with "Love Generation", and five albums. Just now, I'm just happy to be here.

**FM:** Do you think you'll ever want to do something else?

**BS:** Not until I get bored of it, but the travel is killing me. I am opening a club in Miami this year. Only a DJ can make a club.

**FM:** What's the best and worst things about being famous?

**BS:** Being famous is very perverse. It makes you believe that you are something, but one day, fame will take me back down to Earth. It's good to be loved for what you do.

**FM:** Love Generation was the anthem of the 2006 FIFA World Cup, but shame about France's result in the final that year, eh?

**BS:** That song spread the right message to football fans, but it was a shame Zidane did something wrong, but what do you want me to say? We got to the final!

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# Building a school one step at a time

By Alexandra Andersson

AFTER 45 days of non-stop walking, Filipino Dada Krishna, 47, arrived in Phuket last month having completed a 1,260-kilometer walk from Kanchanaburi in the name of education.

Nearing the Sarasin Bridge on December 7, former engineer-turned-social missionary Dada felt like "the entire walk had been a dream," but powered through exhaustion and marched on to his final destination of Phuket Town.

It was the thought of the 60 children back at Baan Dada Children's Home – a charity he founded 17 years ago – that kept him going. Baan Dada, located in Sangkhlaburi on the Thai-Burma border, provides basic needs to refugee children, orphans and otherwise disadvantaged children, including vaccinations, medical treatment and education.

Dada's Walk for Education was part of a world-wide effort to raise funds to build the P.R. Sarkar Technical School, which will provide children with opportunities for higher education, allowing them to

fulfill their intellectual potential.

The school will provide post-secondary vocational training in automotive technology, industrial mechanic technology, electrical technology, and secretarial practice. The estimated start-up cost for the school is 16 million baht.

"I think this school will help break the cycle of poverty in this area. I wasn't in Phuket for long but it is developed and the children there have a lot more opportunities than those in Sangkhlaburi," Dada said.

Although he had never been to Phuket before, Dada chose it as his final destination since it's a well-known tourist area and he thought it would maximize exposure – ideal for spreading awareness.

The walk raised over 120,000 baht in funds. Volunteers at the children's home have also been on fund-raising walks in their home countries of England, Canada, USA and Australia, which has brought the total amount of money raised to over 360,000 baht.

Dada is now busy thinking of ways to encourage more donations to the project, as he is hoping



to have the school up and running by next year.

Despite the hardships he endured, including physical pain, substantial weight loss, sleeping rough in police stations and temples, he says he plans to do a similar walk every year to raise money for his charity, although he may opt for a slightly shorter distance next time round.

"I was stupefied by the distance when I started the walk," he recalls. "I did not expect it to be that far but when I stopped at a police station at the beginning of my walk they gave me a map, and when I saw the challenge ahead of me, I was shocked."

Although he did not have much

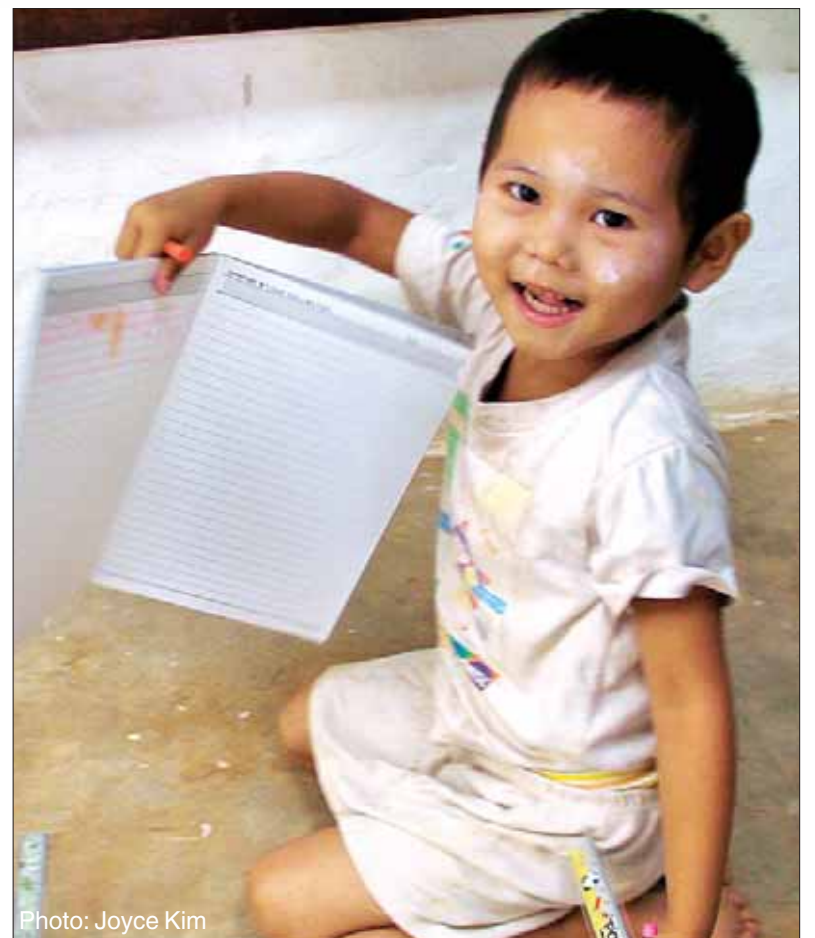


Photo: Joyce Kim

**FOR THE KIDS:** Dada Ramakrishna (left) walked 1,260 kilometers to Phuket to raise money for needy children in Sangkhlaburi (above).

time to see the sights of Phuket, he appreciates the support motorists displayed, with many offering rides – that he of course refused – and water.

"I was in Phuket for less than 24 hours. I left the day after I arrived and I did not get a chance to see the beaches. I was just

walking down the main roads. I was not focused on touring the island though – I wanted to get back home to the children."

If you want to find out more about Dada's journey visit [walkforeducation.wordpress.com](http://walkforeducation.wordpress.com), or go to [prsarkartechnical.wordpress.com](http://prsarkartechnical.wordpress.com).

## Putting resolve to good use in the new year

THE month of January is named after Janus, the Roman god of time. He had two heads – one for looking back on the past and one for looking into the future.

In order to improve our future, we must first look back upon our past. If we look back and see bad habits, we resolve to end them. If we look back and see a self-image we don't like, we resolve to change it.

Resolutions need not always be personal. They can also focus on our professional life – in this case teaching.

Let's take a look at just a few factors that might need a New Year's teaching resolution.

If you look back and see students reluctant to participate,

resolve to pique their interest. Remind yourself of what it was like to be a student and identify your students' topics of interest.

Be sure not to create lessons that are overly simple or too complex. Don't be too harsh with mistakes and always reinforce positive progress. If you look back and see poor board work, resolve to improve it. Practice outside of class. Plan your board work and do not deviate from the plan during the lesson. This may take some time, but eventually it will come naturally and your board work will improve.

If you look back and see discipline issues, find ways to minimize them. Be fair but firm. Set boundaries and when a student tests them, remind them that they're

### In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

fixed. Focus on positive reinforcement rather than negative.

If you look back and see an unkempt appearance, resolve to clean it up. If we don't take this seriously, we're telling our Thai students and co-workers that we don't care about this aspect of their culture. Laundry service is perhaps the cheapest luxury in Thailand so take advantage of it. Be sure to look fresh and ready to teach.

If you look back and see emotional roller-coaster rides after exceptionally good or poor lessons, resolve to keep these emotions in check. Teachers can't take all the

credit for great lessons, nor can they take all the blame for poor ones.

Resting on past success or fretting upon past failure helps no one. Instead, jot down ideas about what worked and what didn't. Find patterns and then address them appropriately.

If you look back and see only a void of professional development, resolve to join a teachers' association. For a small annual fee, these groups send out articles and job announcements as well as free materials you might use in your classroom. Look for professional seminars in Bangkok and ask a like-minded colleague to join you.

If you look back and see long lunches, mornings spent lazing in bed or office downtime filled with

Facebook, resolve to increase your personal accountability. Don't presume that because your Thai supervisor hasn't said anything that he or she hasn't noticed.

Test the waters too far and your Janus vision will be looking forward to unemployment while looking back as the school doors slam on your backside.

Whatever you resolve to improve, set clear and realistic goals. If you can, exchange these resolutions with a peer, review your progress as you see fit and be sure to reward yourself when it's due.

If you have a TESOL or TEFL issue you want addressed, then contact Eric at [kru.phuket@gmail.com](mailto:kru.phuket@gmail.com)



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# Peter Child

PETER Child is the talented artist who creates the weekly sketches for Expat Gallery.

He spent most of his early life in the Midlands of England, working first with his family's construction business. He then attended art college where he studied architectural drawing and discovered his talent for graphic design.

"I opened my own studio after college at Atherstone where I studied photography, portraiture and architectural sketching. It was at this time that I began with custom sign making."

He then developed a thriving sign making business, PPC Signs, using his distinctive abilities first as an artist and later as a technician with the manufacture and installation of computerized signage. It was a business he operated for 26 years, producing a range of signage from posters for sales to major electronic billboards.

During that time, he also worked in the family construction business building distinctive family homes.

"With my training in architectural design, I was able to build custom designed properties. I would often use reclaimed materials such as 200-year-old wood from barns in the region."

With my signage business and my home building, I was very busy for many years."

## EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

Peter had a major lifestyle change when he met and married his second wife, Kim, who was involved in horse driving trials, a sport developed by Prince Phillip.

"When I first met Kim, she had a single 12-hand-high horse and a small trap. Three years later we were competing in the National Carriage Driving circuit alongside some of the top competitors in the sport, including Prince Phillip."

From a modest start, Peter and his wife developed their own stables in the Midlands with seven Friesian horses they brought to England from The Netherlands.

"The horses and the sport became a total passion. We took care of these beautiful black horses, from training to cleaning the barns."

Peter also built custom horseboxes with pneumatic side stabling to transport his horses and began producing the boxes for fellow competitors. He then began designing individual logos and graphics for the equine industry.

"We had many years of competing at the highest level around

the beautiful country estates of the United Kingdom, including Windsor Park and Sandringham."

Tragically, Peter lost his wife in 2005 in a training accident while she worked with a young horse.

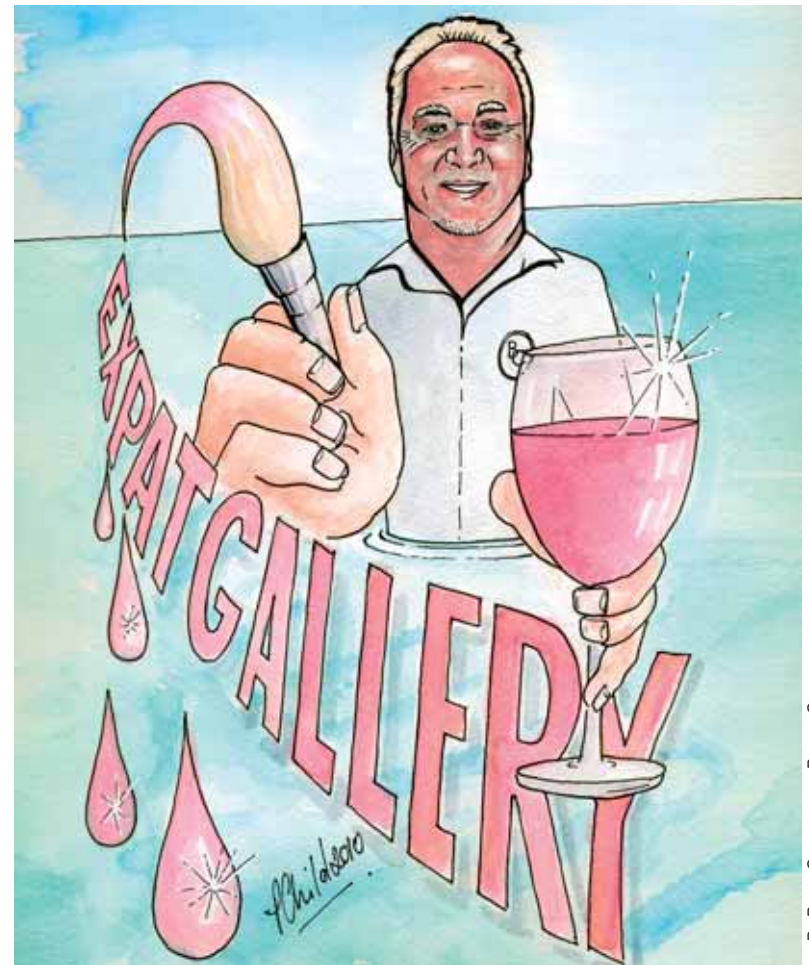
"I was devastated by her loss and lost my interest in horse driving trials. It was my 88-year-old father who encouraged me to travel. I had a friend in Thailand so I decided to pay a visit."

Peter traveled around Thailand and visited Langkawi and Kuala Lumpur to see the horses.

"I went to Pattaya and up to Chiang Mai. Much of these travels made me very sad as my horses had a better life than many of the people I saw. But when I came to Phuket, it seemed like a nice place to live with some very good golf courses. I found that my interest in life improved when I moved to Phuket in 2007."

Peter has been an avid golfer for many years. He played in the UK and in Spain. These days he plays three to four times a week at Blue Canyon Country Club. When he is not out on the golf course he keeps busy sketching some of Phuket's most interesting people.

"I really love living on the island and have met a lot of great people in the expat community and through my work doing sketches for Expat Gallery."



By PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

### About Expat Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Expat Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket, and for having made those contributions in successful partnerships with Thais. For many, the contributions have entailed significant investment, often in the mid-80s and 90s when the rules of business were, ahh, not always clear. Some are not in business at all, but all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.



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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### January 6-9. Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) 2011

PIMEX is the largest in-water boat show in the region and the most effective showcase for boating and marine leisure. Now in its eighth year in Phuket, the show will be held at Royal Phuket Marina. On display will be more than 40 yachts in the water as well as marine products, luxury brands and prestigious cars in the 2,500 square meter exhibition hall on the marina boardwalk. To be held from 11am-8pm. The *Phuket Gazette* has sponsored this event since its launch in 2004. Contact Andy Dowden on T:081-8927670, E:info@phuketboatshow.com or visit W:phuketboatshow.com for more information.

### January 15-16. Phuket Airpark Aviation Show

Airplanes from all over Thailand and Malaysia will be on show at this event. From 10am-7pm, meet the pilots and see the aircraft. There will be flying games, a barbeque and a bikini contest for the Miss Phuket Airpark 2011 title. To enter the pageant contact Gift at E:gift.th@hotmail.com. Open to ladies between 19 and 28. Contestants will receive 500 baht and a free bikini while the runner-up will win 3,000 baht, second place will win 5,000 baht and the winner, 10,000 baht. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Bikini Banana Dot Com. Contact Robert or Tom Claytor on T:076-529543, E:robert@thephuketairpark.com or visit W:phuketairparkfly-inpilots.blogspot.com.

## January 22. QSI Annual Phuket Fun Run



**Registration for the ninth annual QSI fun run is at 8am at Bang Wad Dam in Kathu. There will be events and awards for children aged five to nine and school teams for the one kilometer, 6.5km and 13km runs. The Team Challenge event is open to businesses, NGOs, and social teams. There will be free water for runners, good food and drinks, jumping castles, a band, DJ, raffles and silent auctions all for a complete family fun day! The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTv are sponsors of this event. Contact Jantira Nobnor or Alan Siporin on T:076-524243, E:qsi@phuketinternet.co.th or visit W:phuket.qsischool.org for more information.**

### January 15 & 22. Saturday chill out on Bon Island

Join Evason Phuket on Bon Island every Saturday for a chill out session. DJ Ricky will spin the tunes while you indulge in an unforgettable experience with all the food and drink you can handle. Price is 1,900 baht nett per person, inclusive of modern tapas, local beer, house spirits, cocktails, soft drinks and juices. From 7-11pm. Complimentary transport available from Evason Phuket pier. Contact Bernardo De La Garza on T:076-381010, E:fbma-phuket@sixsenses.com or visit W:sixsenses.com to find out more about the event.

### January 20. PIWC brunch

The first brunch of the new year will be at the Radisson Hotel in Cape Panwa at 11am. All are welcome. Price is 600 baht per person, 450 baht for members. For registration contact Carole Dux on T:076-200730 E:info@phuketiwc.com or visit W:phuketiwc.com for more information.

### January 21. Curry Fridays

Every alternate week. Enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favorites chicken tikka masala, very hot mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, Goan fish curry, chickpea curry and many more. Served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett. Draught beer by the glass for just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. From 7-11:30pm. Contact Seemant Raju on T:076-286464, E:sm@karonseasand.com or visit W:karonseasand.com for more information.

### January 23. PCF Charity Race Day and Great Phuket Rubber Duck Race

Dragon boat, kayak, home-made raft and cardboard box races. Ride in classic cars, jump on a trampoline and kids can enjoy arts and crafts. There will be a Delightful Duckling costume contest, a terrific magic show by Joe Conrad,

and much, much more is on the agenda for the day. Good food and drinks at very reasonable prices. The highlight will be the second Great Phuket Rubber Duck Race. This time they plan to launch 2,000 ducks. Amazing prizes – the biggest one so far is worth US\$27,000 (about 800,000 baht). A great day for all the family. Contact Alasdair Forbes or Janyaporn Morel on T:087-884 9964, E:alsadair@phuketcharity.org or visit W:phuketcharity.org/pcf-race-day for more information on this charity event.

### January 24. Classical Concert at Mom Tri's Villa Royale

Mom Tri Devakul has invited HE Adm ML Usni Pramroj to perform at Villa Royale, continuing the tradition of the Baan Kata Arts Festival, a celebration of art and cultural events. The program includes

Joseph Haydn's string quartet in F major, Op 77, No 2 and ML Usni Pramroj's string quartet No1. HE Admiral ML Usni Pramroj, a privy councillor, is also an accomplished musician and composer. String Quartet No 1 was inspired by the turmoil in Bangkok. A three-course set menu will be available on the evening, in addition to the á la carte menu. Price is 500 baht per person and includes a cocktail reception.

Contact Sylvie Yaffe on T:076-333569, E:pr@villaroyalephuket.com or visit W:villaroyalephuket.com for more information.

### February 25-26. Phuket International Blues Rock Festival

The sixth annual Phuket International Blues Rock Festival will rock the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa again for two nights over the last weekend in February. The 2011 bands, hailing from seven different countries, are among the best in the blues world, honored with numerous awards and nominations. Starts 6pm.

Contact Andy on T:086-6822639 E:phuketmusic@yahoo.com or visit W:phuketbluesfestival.com for more information.

### April 23. PIALSLC IronKids Phuket Triathlon

Hosted by Phuket International Academy Sports & Leisure Club (PIALSLC), in partnership with IronKids. Starts at 7am. The 6-8 year-olds will take part in a 50m swim, a 3km bike ride and a 500m run. The 9-11 year-olds' group will compete in a 150m swim, a 6km bike ride and a 1km run. The 12-15 year-olds will participate in a 300m swim, 12km bike ride and 2km run. Early bird discount of 15 per cent before February 28.

Contact T:076-336000 E:triathlon@phuketinternationalacademy.com or visit W:IronKidsPhuket.com for more information or to register for the event.

## Free Computer Clinics

**Is Windows driving you nuts? Want to know about the best Internet connections in Phuket? Need help finding a repair shop or a dealer that knows what they're doing? Join *For Dummies*... author and local Windows guru Woody Leonhard in his free weekly seminars. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.**

**January 9 – Laguna, January 16, 23, 30 – Chalong,  
February 6 – Patong, February 13 – Laguna.  
Starts at 10am.**

**For more info contact Woody T:076-290468**

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# A night to remember as Phuket



## Hundreds head to the Hilton

MORE than 700 hundred tourists and locals ushered in 2011 in explosive style at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa in Karon.

The "Drum and Dance" night went off without a hitch, as children were kept entertained by clowns and balloon-artists, couples enjoyed the night's cabaret entertainment and danced until the stroke of midnight. Here are a few sights caught on camera from the night's festivities...

Photos: Happy Act Digital Studio and Fraser Morton



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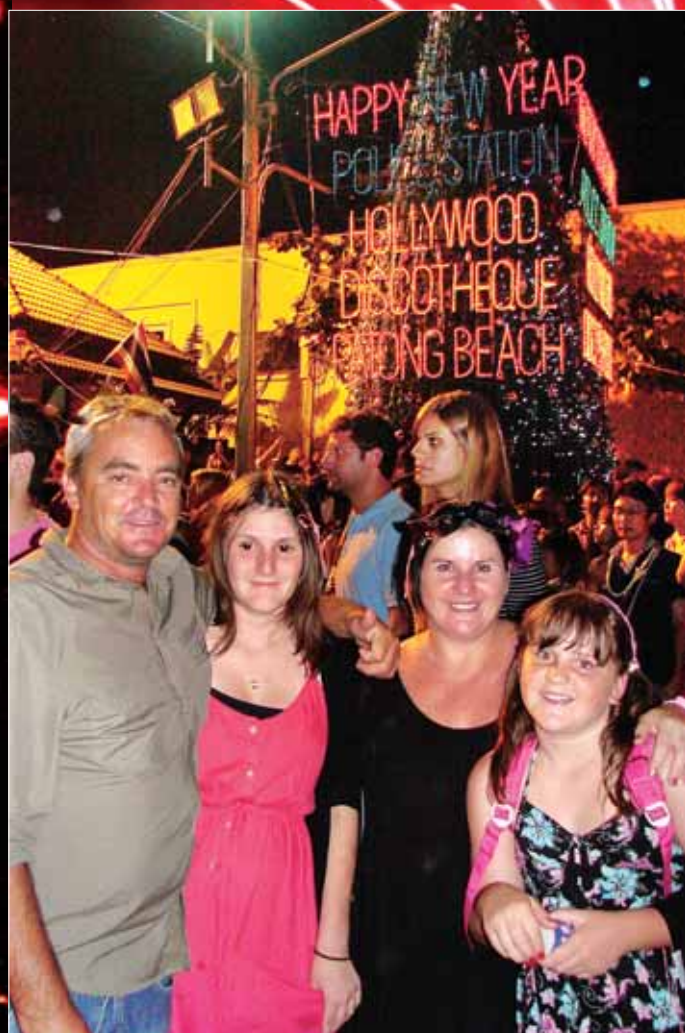
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# explodes into 2011



RAPPERS DELIGHT THAI hip-hop group Thai Anium took to the stage at Patong Beach on New Year's Eve in their usual dramatic fashion, belting out a few top tracks to thousands of adoring fans. Rapper "Day" is pictured right.

Elsewhere in Patong, Soi Bangla was brimming with revelers, and on the stroke of midnight, roars went up from the crowds as fireworks went off overhead.

Photo by Imwara Choksakulpan



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Pruerk-Ampai	111	6,570,000	100,000	3,185,000	3,285,000
Ladachon	100.72	6,980,000	100,000	3,390,000	3,490,000

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- \* The price and style of the houses may be changed without prior notice

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Location Map



## The Impossibly Possible Quiz

1. What is the celestial sounding name of the major port city on the White Sea?
2. Which 1880 novel from Lew Wallace, later a Hollywood blockbuster and Academy Award winner, was the first work of fiction to be blessed by a Pope?
3. In the movie *Gremlins*, what Cantonese word is used to describe a monster or demon?
4. The following are the first words in which famous Sci-Fi novel?  
"The drought had lasted now for ten million years, and the reign of the terrible lizards had long since ended."
5. At three hours and 54 minutes (234 min), this is the longest film to win a Best Picture Oscar. What is it?
6. The character "Two Socks" featured in which movie that won a Best Picture Oscar?
7. In which city can you find Schiphol Airport?
8. Donald Duck's penny-pinching uncle Scrooge was born in which European city?
9. *Sagarmatha* (goddess of the sky) is better known in English as what?
10. What was Ivanhoe's first name?
11. How many Asian countries start with the letter "B", in English? (Current names only)

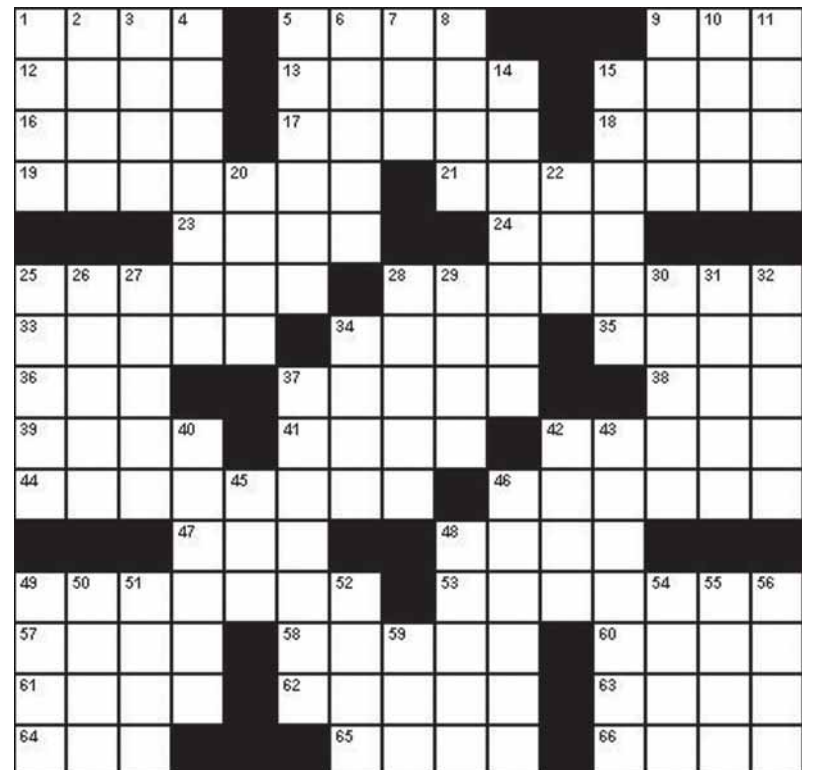
Quiz answers on page 29

### Across

1. Explorer Tasman
5. Cry
9. VCR button
12. — majeste
13. Roman god of the underworld
15. Fair
16. Bluesy James
17. Puccini heroine
18. American space agency
19. Spinning wheel
21. Brand of facial tissue
23. Not e'en once
24. Bass, e.g.
25. Go at full speed
28. East Indian swine
33. Decorate
34. Cotton seed pod
35. Bouillabaisse, e.g.
36. Treasure Island monogram
37. Get hitched quick
38. Song syllable
39. A wedding cake may have three of these
41. Kernels
42. Clip wool
44. Pardons
46. The — Queene
47. Call on
48. Flying stinger
49. Cocktail
53. Refrain voluntarily
57. Hard —! (sailor's yell)
58. Astrologer Sydney
60. Rule Britannia composer
61. Neet rival
62. Muslim messiah
63. Freshwater fish
64. Directional ending
65. Not fem.
66. Bed support

### Down

1. Actor Baldwin
2. Playwright Henley
3. This, in Tijuana
4. Apprentice
5. Pester
6. Bellowing
7. Loos
8. Good fortune



9. Horse color
10. Style, fin —
11. Cajole
14. OK to vend
15. Scoffs
20. Sharp
22. Actor Wallach
25. Magna —
26. Go off-script
27. Thorny flowers
28. Heavy footwear
29. European mountain range
30. Absolute
31. Turkish palace
32. Alert

34. Sky color
37. Make poisonous
40. Register
42. Back talk
43. Groups of seven
45. Wreath of flowers
46. Cloth
48. Hospital rooms
49. Long luxuriant hair
50. Banned apple spray
51. Bridle strap
52. Muslim elder and prayer-leader
54. Asian sea
55. Member of a great Peruvian people
56. Depilatory brand
59. Bingo!

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.  
Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 29

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Capricorns are likely to be feeling prickly this week and the stars suggest that your irritation could burst the bubble of someone's contentment. As the middle of the month approaches, problems in your personal life should be smoothed out, but this will necessitate putting romance before work commitments. Those with a birthday in the week ahead will develop new ambitions in the coming year.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): The temptation to bend some rules could be strong mid-week — you are advised to consider carefully before taking unnecessary risks. Your support for family members is appreciated this weekend, but those who suspect their financial generosity is being taken for granted should offer practical suggestions instead. Romance is well-starred. Single Aquarians could be on the crest of a wave when they meet a lonely Leo.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): Pisceans are advised to sleep on a problem before acting this week as a hasty reaction is forecast to complicate matters. If this situa-

tion is work-related, there are signs that an air sign can give sensible advice. Your luck in love is affected by uncertain astral conditions — those who recently began a new romance may be having second thoughts. Events this weekend help you decide.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Arians are likely to become suspicious that someone is beating about the bush at work. Tuesday is the most auspicious day to obtain straight answers. Those embarking on a new business venture could be prompted to make their goals more modest. In the realm of romance, you should make allowances for a partner's possessive attitude — a heart to heart talk should clear the air.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): A change of heart could potentially see some Taureans dropping a work project like a hot potato. The stars indicate that your practical outlook helps you make a wise decision. Your focus for the remainder of this month should be on research and concentrating on realistic ideas. Those who are single are predicted to meet a water sign who has what it takes to blow you away this weekend.

## YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Failure to keep others in the loop could cause friction between work colleagues for Geminis this week. Your tendency to assume that others will follow your lead could be compromised. Wednesday is the best day for discussions, but you should be prepared to do more listening than talking. Finances are forecast to be boosted by the payment of a debt. A romantic partner has a creative way of showing how much they care this weekend.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Cancerians start the week with lively energy and much can be accomplished if you keep a strong focus. The stars indicate that an earth sign could interrupt your progress on Monday or Tuesday, but you have probably had enough experience with this person to avoid getting side-tracked. Your luck in romance picks up and a hot date with a fire sign this weekend is exactly what you were hoping for.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): A disappointment in the world of work could leave Leos searching for fresh opportunities this week. The stars suggest that a water sign will be a useful contact — Wednesday is an auspicious day to catch up with this person. Those who overspent during the holiday period stumble upon a simple way to economize. Where romance is concerned, mixed messages from a partner may give cause for concern this weekend.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Virgoans are predicted to be frustrated about delays this week. Where business is concerned, the stars suggest that time is on your side more than you believe. Taking on additional responsibilities should be avoided until later in the month. Those who have been confused about an on-off romantic relationship should not react too quickly to something they hear this weekend.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Those born under the sign of Libra who had cold feet about a proposed project now see that success is possible. Another air sign is forecast to be more

supportive than you had expected and tangible results will be seen by the end of this month. If your energy is still low after a busy holiday season, take time out to pamper yourself this weekend.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): It appears that many Scorpions will be going round in never ending circles at work this week. This slow start to the year should be seen as an opportunity to take stock and plan carefully. A second chance at a love affair that went sour late last year could come at an inconvenient time. Those who have become involved with someone else since that break-up should get their priorities straight.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): You should have several reasons to look on the bright side this week. Where employment is concerned, someone who has been digging their heels in is about to give the answer you've been waiting to hear. Your romantic outlook is positive — an earth sign who caught your eye recently makes a welcome move this weekend. Lucky days for finances are Monday and Tuesday.



# PROPERTY Gazette

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## Yamu boot gets a shine

By Bill Barnett

CAMPBELL Kane, the luxury hotel developers of The Yamu on Phuket's east coast, have secured backing by an investment team comprised of Singapore tycoon Ong Beng Seng's Hotel Properties Limited (HPL) and Thailand's KS Group.

The Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels office in Singapore acted as an advisor for the transaction. While construction of the hotel was suspended due to the global financial crisis, the hotel is set to recommence construction and open in 2012.

BS Ong's HPL (SGX H15) is listed on the Singapore stock exchange with its primary business

in property development.

The HPL group with its affiliates privately owned by Ong has ownership interests in close to 40 hotels with over 4,600 rooms in 14 countries, including Singapore's Four Seasons, Hilton and Concorde, and other Four Seasons hotels in Bali and the Maldives.

In Thailand, HPL holdings comprise Bangkok's The Metropolitan and the Hard Rock Hotel in Pattaya.

Aside from residential developments in Singapore and the region, HPL also owns and operates Hard Rock Cafes throughout Asia and hotel management entity HPL Hotels and Resorts Management, which operates 11 hotels. Hotel operations for The Yamu will



FOOT IN THE SEA: An ariel view of Cape Yamu on Phuket's northeast coast.

come under Como Hotels and Resorts, a privately held company of BS Ong's wife, Christina Ong. The luxury lifestyle group is highlighted by the Metropolitan in London and The Halkin, Como Shambhala in Bali, Uma Bali and resorts in the Caribbean and Maldives.

Included in the investment pair is Thai KS Group headed by Eddie Kiasrithanakorn.

The firm's core business is Honda motorcycles and parts in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. A shift into hospitality in the past few years includes ownership of upscale Alila-managed properties in Cha Am, the Maldives and

Luang Prabang as well as the Hotel De La Paix in Siem Reap.

While hospitality assets have been especially hit hard in the US, Europe and the Middle East, Asia has continued to recovery relatively unscathed.

Phuket did see a handful of upscale projects stopped mid-stream, but expectations are for most of these to recommence over the next 12-24 months given most are not leveraged or carrying significant levels of bank debt.

*Do you have any breaking news about Phuket property? Email [property@phuketgazette.net](mailto:property@phuketgazette.net)*



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# Hitting back at Bigfoot

THE increasingly large footprint the Greater Phuket tourism industry has left on the local environment has reached the point where it could now quite aptly be called "Bigfoot". Walking tall and carrying a big stick, the hulking specter is characterized by the creaking sounds of new building sites, highways and other concrete structures sprouting up everywhere on the island.

Traffic jams, electricity overloads and water shortages are constant plot devices in this episodic reality show.

The factory-like roll out of new "same-same" hotels is increasing tourism accommodation as fast as lightning. Confused travelers waking up in a disoriented state could easily open their eyes in their hotel room only to ask themselves: "If it's Tuesday this be Belgium, but Wednesday it's Phuket?"

Like a carnival funhouse full of mirrors, a series of distorted reflections leaves the viewer just enough cues to recognize some familiar features in this kaleidoscopically changing landscape.

Phuket needs to ask itself: Does the island give what it thinks the market wants, or have we switched on our iPods, cranked up the volume and simply refused to listen?

The word "alternative" creeps to mind, but without conjuring up visions of kaftans, Birkenstock wearing wanderers, vegans and New Age do-gooders.

When talking about sustainable tourism – or shall we call it "Littlefoot"? – more often than not the buzzwords "eco" and "green" spew forth, conjuring up Spartan images of having to sleep on bamboo floors with no hope of a double espresso or ESPN.

With all this as a backdrop, a few years ago Pizza Company magnate Bill Heinecke and his Minor International Group took a brave step in laterally developing the Four Seasons Tented Camp in the Golden Triangle.

Designed by Bill Bensley, the



**RENT-A-TENT:** A new trend in 'eco-resorts' is seeing more and more resorts offering tented abodes.

same landscape architect who designed the grounds of the Indigo Pearl, the 15 luxury tents are built on raised wooden platforms that offer an integration of the resort with the surrounding countryside.

Guests enjoy activities such as elephant trekking and visiting the nearby hilltribes. When you wake you can smell, breathe and feel where you are – not just stare at another four-walled monotony with the broken spirit of a prison convict.

Destination DNA (differentiators, nuances and attributes) seems to be becoming an endangered species in Phuket. Just the other day I was transfixed to my computer screen while going through an old collection of PDFs extolling the virtues of some luxury pool villa projects.

Despite actually having visited all of the properties at some point or another, my senses were nevertheless numbed by endless images of infinity pools, carved Buddha heads and picturesque salas spilling out towards an endless horizon. With so little to differentiate themselves from the competition, far too many of the projects that make up this increas-



**Property Watch**  
By Bill Barnett

ingly uniform landscape suffer a great deal from identity confusion.

But hope springs eternal with a walk through the Koh Yao Island Resort. A tented safari lodge has been thrown into the mix of this unique addition to the Phang Nga Bay resort roster, one which combines beachfront luxury with minimal impact on the environment.

Local hotelier Bas van Straten, who worked on the project, pointed me towards the company Exclusive Tents in Vail, Colorado. The group has developed ecolodges, island dwellings, tree houses and other alternative accommodation around the world.

Here in Phuket there are already a number of quality suppliers offering shaded fabric tensioned structures for use around pools and attached to villas. Australia's Longitude 131° retreat at Ayers Rock has adapted these into luxury accommodations with low-impact on the environment.

For those who have traveled the globe, tented camps in environ-

mentally-sensitive areas are nothing new in parts of Africa and South America. Even India is in on the act, fronting world-class accommodation such as Oberoi's Rajvillas in Jaipur.

In his book *New Tent Architecture*, author Philip Drew traces the origins of tent culture from nomadic tribes up to the present day.

Themes include ways of using new materials and architecture to create smaller building footprints. Meanwhile, with the intensity of a cement truck driver on the bypass road, Phuket continues with single-minded intent in its efforts to cover the island with mountains of cement, kilometers of sand-washed sidewalks and oceans of infinity pools.

The island's current journey, born out of a black hole of DNA loss, could be likened to the voyages of the Flying Dutchman.

Greater Phuket's tourism mainstays are the idyllic islands in the bay, long strands of sandy, white beaches in Phang Nga, the rainforests of Koh Sok in Surat Thani and stunning karsts of Krabi. Given this, the potential for alternative accommodation screams out like a foghorn through a shroud darkness in the book *New Tent Architecture*.

I can almost hear the sounds of Littlefeet somewhere out there as I write this. Hopefully, they aren't too far away.

## In brief...

### Jones Lang LaSalle launches vacation rental website

JONES Lang LaSalle (JLL) Thailand have launched Holiday Rental.com, a new vacation rental website, to cope with the growing demand for non-traditional hotel accommodation.

On offer are holiday properties including private pool villas, condos, townhouses and apartments in resort destinations such as Phuket, Phang Nga, Hua Hin and Krabi. City listings for Bangkok are also available. In Phuket, JLL's estate management division currently manages 16 developments including The Cape (formerly Cape Yamu), Kamala Beach Estate, Allamanda Phase 1 and Patong Tower.

An increasing number of property owners are now looking to tap into the surging tourism market by renting their second or investment homes through the Internet.

For hotels who view residential projects as foe rather than friend, expect added pressure for hotel licensing regulations and rental taxation in the coming year.

### Hyper-inflation hits island property owners

FOR residents and investors in Phuket estates and developments, this year could see maintenance costs hit by hyper-inflation.

The new minimum wage order is behind this. It sees an 8.3 per cent increase in Phuket to a daily amount of 221 baht. This will cost property owners when it comes to paying for labor and maintenance.

The wage rise is 17 baht, even though local officials only asked for a 11 baht increase.

Thailand's Ministry of Commerce has reported an official inflation figure of 3.4 per cent for the first 11 months of 2010.

### Siam Real Estate calls the doctor

ONE of the islands agents, Richard Lusted's Siam Real Estate, has launched an online business resource: thailandpropertydoctor.com. It's mission is to become an interactive web-based initiative that will cover the entire spectrum of real estate, living in Thailand, and be a great resource for potential buyers and sellers.

Do you have any breaking news about Phuket property? Email [property@phuketgazette.net](mailto:property@phuketgazette.net)

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# Fabulous furniture – and stylish, too

By Alexandra Andersson

DURABILITY and style don't always go hand in hand when it comes to interior design.

But now you can find sophisticated furniture made from top-quality materials here in Phuket – and some items are even hurricane proof.

Anyone with a trained eye for window shopping will have spotted the Absolutely Fabulous furniture shop that opened six weeks ago on the bypass road next to the Premium Outlet.

A sizable shop, about 1,150 square meters, it contains fine pieces of teak wood furniture that are contemporary yet classic, and stylish without being sterile.

And, as mentioned, they are also built to last. When Director Nicole McLean opened the first of her three Absolutely Fabulous shops in the Cayman Islands 14 years ago, the pieces were set the ultimate endurance test when a category five hurricane struck and 95 per cent of buildings were damaged.

"Most of my clients live on the water and their homes were literally blown apart, roofs gone, walls gone, everything," she recalls.

"But the sheer amount of our furniture that survived was incredible, I had to send an email to our suppliers saying, 'It's official, your furniture is hurricane proof!' We were going through the rubble and picking up whole pieces of this furniture," Nicole said.

When you take into account the materials used in Nicole's furniture, it is no wonder that they are so strong. Absolutely Fabulous uses primarily reclaimed teak salvaged from wood structured buildings destined for demolition. Needless to say, such buildings tend to use rather strong teak.

In addition, sustainably harvested A-grade teak (from the heart of the tree) is also used. In both cases the wood is older, which Nicole advises is a good trait to look for when buying teak, since young wood will move, shrink and split more easily.

"That's why you hear of people

buying furniture abroad, getting it home and then six months later it's in splinters on the floor, because it's not made well and it's made with new wood," she said.

"Plus the old wood has a lovely persona and every piece is completely different.

"They have all got dings and gouges in them which adds a lot of character so you can have a very contemporary design using this beautiful old wood, adding a sense of warmth instead of the starkness of some modern design," Nicole added.

The quality of the wood, combined with expert Indonesian craftsmanship and creative European design, has given this furniture its unique, trendy yet traditional style.

"The old adage 'you get what you pay for' really applies here, but it is still very reasonable... this is built to last, it is not disposable furniture," says Nicole.

This shop is testament to the selling power of a good product.

Despite being new to the island,



**WOOD YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE:** Absolutely Fabulous Director Nicole McLean in her new furniture shop on the bypass road. Photo: Alexandra Andersson

the shop has already experienced considerable success and had positive feedback.

It is visited by numerous clients each day, including: Thais, foreigners, private owners, interior designers and developers.

This is how Absolutely Fabu-

lous prefers to operate. "The primary reason our business in the Cayman Islands became so successful was word of mouth and satisfied customers," Nicole says.

With furniture this stylish, and strong, word is sure to spread fast on Phuket.



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# Always in the mood for Ixoras

ENTER another heavy hitter on our Top 20 Phuket Plants: The Orange Ixora.

A familiar sight in Phuket, it can often be found in gardens and especially in parks, where its neatly clipped presence provides a symbol of public order.

Its dominance is hardly surprising since it hails from South East Asia, and is a member of the huge family of *Rubiaceae* which has over 400 species. Even its name has Asian connections: it is derived from the Portuguese word for the Hindu goddess, (*Siva*). For many first-time visitors to Thailand, the Ixora will be the first exotic flower that they encounter.

Ixoras come in many shapes and sizes, but in essence, they are low-growing, evergreen shrubs with small, dark green, glossy leaves, and clusters of vibrantly colored florets. The forms in Thailand derive principally from *I. Coccinea* or *Chinensis* varieties.

The smaller ones have a width which may exceed their height, a characteristic which makes them suitable as borders. Add to that, their dense, woody habit and you have a prime candidate for a clipped hedge.

The only trouble with pruning dwarf Ixoras is that while one early clipping will encourage flowering, repeated pruning of the tips will inhibit the floral growth, especially if the top-shoots are removed. So

## Gardening

By Green Sleeves

go easy on the shears. After all, the flowers are the main attraction.

Ixoras flower in large, vivid clusters, and arguably provide more color per square foot than any other tropical shrub. The most familiar hue is a brilliant orange, of which the cultivar "Flame of the Woods" is a newish example.

Coccinea varieties also include Bandhuca with scarlet flowers, Lutea which has yellow ones, and a slow-growing pink cultivar which is becoming very popular as a decoration along roadside verges.

Other Ixora cultivars – and they have been extensively hybridized both here and in America – include Frances Perry, a deep yellow variety, the rose-pink Rosea, the more vigorous variety Herrera's White, Angela Burman, which has pink flowers, Orange Glow with its unusual two-toned flower heads, and Singapore Yellow, which is characterized by deep lemon blooms.

Some of these hybrids are larger and faster growing than the dwarf forms, and most have denser and more compact clusters of florets. They may reach two meters if left unpruned, and are sometimes referred to as "Super Kings."

You probably won't need these names when you shop around for your Ixoras, but most of these colors are available in good plant nurseries. And the standard orange *I. Coccinea*, which comes in small soft plastic containers, is especially cheap to buy: anything from three baht a plant upwards.

However, cultivating these shrubs requires observing a few rules. Ixoras are acid-loving – in common with relatives such as the Gardenia and Hamelia. So they will not do well if they are positioned too close to concrete walls or paths, or near recent building work.

Tell-tale signs of a waning Ixora are yellowing foliage, followed by leaf loss. In fact, Ixoras will need acid-forming fertilizer or a mulch of peat if soil conditions are high in pH. Failing that a dose of chelated iron should do the trick.

Other than that, they are easy to grow. Quintessentially tropical shrubs, they enjoy full sun, but they will adapt in the tropics to filtered shade. Given the right conditions and once established, they will flower profusely all year.

Ixoras do not require a lot of water. Their leathery leaves and strong root systems mean that they are well adapted to life in the tropics. They can be grown as a container plant, but if you do want to cultivate them in this way, use a large pot or even better, a planter



**POPULAR PLANT:** Ixoras are a common sight in Phuket. Photo: Hellmy

box. And do not over-water. To propagate, plant your woody cuttings in an acid potting compound.

If you have a garden that you would like to be featured, please email [pcampbell45@gmail.com](mailto:pcampbell45@gmail.com)



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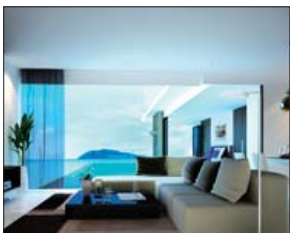


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**PHUKET'S ALL POOL CONDOMINIUMS**

Enjoy risk free tropical living in a completed Mandala Condominium located near Bang Tao Beach in Phuket's popular west coast Laguna area.

**SHOW UNIT OPEN DAILY**

Several apartments, including two penthouses, are still available for purchase in the gated community. Attractive financing options are available.

**AWARD WINNING DESIGN**

Mandala was "Highly Commended" at the recent Thailand Property Awards 2010 in the "Best Condominium Development in Phuket" category.

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Tom Travers  
+66 (0)870 342 090  
tom@indigoRE.com  
www.baanmandala.com

**NICE PLOT**

For sale. Near Layan Hill Estate (Manik-Bang Jo area). Size: 1,364sqm. Price: 7.2 million baht. Tel: 080-520 2989.

**PATONG TOWER 1 BEDROOM**

Modern, fully furnished 1-bedroom apartment. 68sqm, freehold. Price: 6.5 million baht. Tel: 081-088 8099.

**LAND FOR SALE**

4 rai at Bang Jo near main road. For a quick sale from owner: 13 million baht. Tel: 081-956 0527. Please contact for more details. Email: tuenjai1@hotmail.com

**HOUSE IN KAMALA**

For sale. 2 houses on land. 1 Ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peace and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 7.5 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE**

Baan Suan Loch Palm. Price: 9.5 million baht. Contact: Wanrisa. Tel: 088-765 1826.

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Simply write out your ad, pay for it and leave it with Khun Na. Tel: 076-325586 or 081-3977307.

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- 10 mins to beach, airport and golf
- Near Phuket international academy

Tel: 081- 892 4804



Opposite Royal Phuket Marina, near Koh Kaew Post Office. 3 storeys. Rent: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-171 9705.

**Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.**  
**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**

**Live in Rawai?**  
**Place your *GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS* at**  
**'The Network' property office**

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it  
with Khun Anna (086-478 0201)

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**simultaneously - and *FREE* - in the *Gazette Online*!**

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**SELLING YOUR BOAT?**  
We can meet you on board, take up to 80 photos and full details. We will accompany all viewings and provide non exclusive brokerage on a "no sale, no fee" basis.

**Boat of the moment**

**Ref 113657**  
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Twin 800Hp MAN Diesels  
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M: +66 84 8426146  
[boats@boatshedphuket.com](mailto:boats@boatshedphuket.com)

**www.boatshedphuket.com**  
Part of the Boatshed.com Yacht Brokerage Group with offices across the world.

**FIBERGLASS BOAT**

30-foot monohull. Needs work. A bargain at 120,000 baht. For further details, please email: [jgkg24@hotmail.com](mailto:jgkg24@hotmail.com)

**20' CHRIS-CRAFT BOAT**

20' Chris Craft Special Edition. With a powerful 5.0L, V8 engine that gets you to 57 mph (91 kmph) in seconds. In an exceptional quality handbuilt prestige boat. Barely used. Call Paul for more info. Tel: 076-617269.

**18FT SPEEDBOAT**

In very good condition, with an overhauled 90Hp Yamaha engine. Price: 370,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 085-253 4429.

**FIBERGLASS MOLDS**

For sale. 36-foot boat – hull, deck and flybridge. Proven design. For further details, please email: [jgkg24@hotmail.com](mailto:jgkg24@hotmail.com)

**SAILING BOAT FOR SALE**

Year: 1989. Length: 32' - 9.75m. Country: Thailand Builder: Beneteau. Hull material: GRP. Engine: Volvo Penta. Price: 1.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-090 9170.

**PROPELLOR**

Stainless Steel Propeller! 13-1/4' X 15'. Fits Suzuki or Evinrude. Hubs available for other engines. Price: 5,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: [kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk)

**BOAT SHARE**

May I share your boating expenses in exchange for some agreed-upon usage? Tel: 089-017 7876. Email: [billwoods80@hotmail.com](mailto:billwoods80@hotmail.com)

**DOUBLE KAYAK**

Fiberglass, good condition, imported from Europe. Used a few times. Price: 30,000 baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 076-202908 or 086-268 7901. Email: [martintwn@yahoo.com](mailto:martintwn@yahoo.com)

**REMOTE SEARCHLIGHT**

Guest stainless remote operated, motorized, 12v spot / floodlight. In excellent condition. 7,000 baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: [kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk)

**£29,000 ONO**

38ft steel videos sailing yacht. Nice condition. Inspections in January ashore at Langkawi. Call for more details. Tel: +44-013-06640898. Email: [brianrphgoodwin@yahoo.com](mailto:brianrphgoodwin@yahoo.com)

**GULF CRAFT 36' 5.5 MILLION BAHT**

Perfect for island-hopping in safety and comfort. Can be used as a private charter boat (17 Passengers + 3 crew) and comes with optional tour contracts with five-star resorts. Contact Ross for more info and photos. Must sell now! Tel: 084-744 2240. Email: [ross@funboatcruises.com](mailto:ross@funboatcruises.com) For more details, please visit our website at [http://www.funboatcruises.com/mvsting\\_deck](http://www.funboatcruises.com/mvsting_deck)

**43FT ROBERTS CRUISING YACHT**

Fiberglass boat with equipment warranty. It is undergoing major refitting. Price: US\$43,500. Contact for more info. Tel: 081-866 8716. Email: [stormbay2@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:stormbay2@yahoo.com.sg)

**NEW BOAT SUNNAV 18FT**



For sale. Highest quality with trailer. Price: only 270,000 baht. No engine. Tel: 089-476 7443, 085-352 1940, 076-377577. Contact for more details, email [sales@sunnnav.com](mailto:sales@sunnnav.com) or visit: [www.sunnnav.com](http://www.sunnnav.com)

**MOTORSAILER**

Neptunian 33. Bluewater cruiser. New paint and varnish, inside and outside. Sailed single-handed from UK. Tel: 081-968 1437 (English). Email: [bobedward1@hotmail.com](mailto:bobedward1@hotmail.com)

**40FT CRUISING YACHT**

Fast fiberglass boat well equipped for cruising. It's been used for circumnavigation. Sale price: US\$85,000. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-866 8716. Email: [stormbay2@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:stormbay2@yahoo.com.sg)

**ALUMINUM SPEEDBOAT**

6.3 meters LOA, Marine grade aluminum construction. 115 Suzuki 4-stroke with 110-liter fuel tank. Asking 1.2 million baht. See at Max Marine showroom. Tel: 076-617269. Email: [craig@maxmarine.asia](mailto:craig@maxmarine.asia)

**55FT CRUISING CATAMARAN**

6 double cabins, 105sqm sails. 2009 in composite, no engine. Price: 1.5 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-461 8089.

**19FT RIB FOR SALE**

With a 100Hp, 4-stroke engine, built in a stainless steel tank. Also includes a 7-inch color chart plotter, 2 anchors and a bilge pump. Price: 650,000 baht. Email: [alistair@aimdb.net](mailto:alistair@aimdb.net)

**AZIMUT 46 (2001)**

For sale. New listing. Very good condition, mail for brochure. Please call for more details. Tel: 086-690 0444 (English), 085-887 7414 (Thai). Email: [rico@yachtcharter-asia.com](mailto:rico@yachtcharter-asia.com)

**BIG GAME FISHING BOAT FOR SALE**

13 meters, purpose-built big game fishing boat. Price: 4.5 million baht. Serious offers considered. Tel: 082-218 3177. Email: [deudale@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:deudale@yahoo.co.uk)

**DINGHY FOR SALE**

New Quicksilver, 2.7 meters, soft bottom, inflatable keel, hypalon. Price: 60,000 baht. Tel: 081-817 8377 (English & Thai). Email: [bucephalus1950@yahoo.com](mailto:bucephalus1950@yahoo.com)

**INFLATABLE DINGHY**

Lodestar 2.6 meters dinghy. Hypalon construction with 5Hp Yamaha outboard. Price: 65,000 baht. Contact for more info. Tel: 081-397 7598. Email: [kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk)

**RACING YACHT FOR SALE**

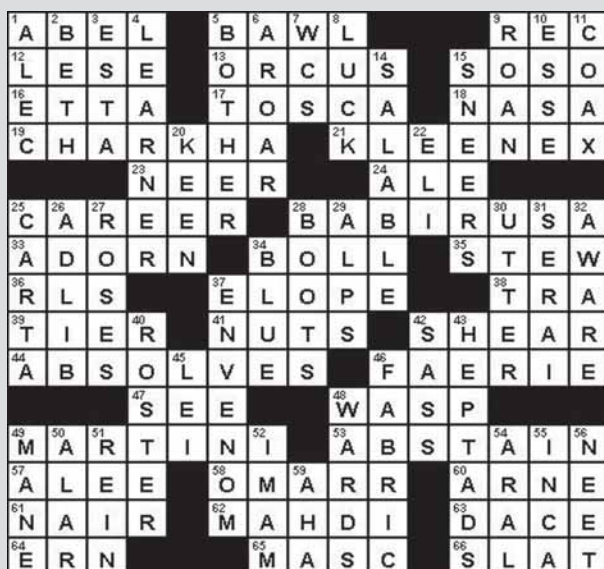
Inglis 47' racing yacht. Lift keel, sweptback spreaders, masthead and fractional asymmetrical. 1.5 bowsprit, twin wheels and aft nav station. In excellent condition and ready to race. Tel: +61-418-939336 (Eng-lish). Email: [nomadaust@hotmail.com](mailto:nomadaust@hotmail.com)

**38FT CATAMARAN**

It has 4 double cabins, 2 toilets / showers. In composite, under construction. Price: 390,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089.

**WAKE/SKI BOAT FOR SALE**

2-year-old, 4.2 meters long Cholmark boat with a 60Hp Yamaha Enduro engine. Includes trailer, GPS sonar, Waketower and more. Price: 475,000 baht. Call for more info. Tel: 086-949 1913. Email: [juraj\\_t@yahoo.com](mailto:juraj_t@yahoo.com)

**SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES****Crossword puzzle:****Quiz answers:**

1. Archangel or Arkhangelsk 2. Ben Hur, A Tale Of The Christ. (blessed by Pope Leo XIII) 3. Mogwai 4. 2001 A Space Odyssey (Arthur C Clarke) 5. Gone With The Wind 6. Dances With Wolves (Two Socks is the lone wolf) 7. Amsterdam 8. Glasgow (Scrooge McDuck) 9. Mt. Everest 10. Wilfred (Sir Wilfred of Ivanhoe) 11. Four. Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Brunei



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!

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd  
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To ensure clarity, please airmail. Do not Fax!



## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

### SUB-EDITOR

- ▶ Fluent in English
- ▶ Able to work to strict deadlines
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially in PageMaker or InDesign, required.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following positions:

### Reporter (3 positions)

The successful candidates will be Thai nationals with initiative, outgoing personalities and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car. Knowledge of Burmese (1 position), passion for sports (1 position) is an advantage.

Good salaries for the right candidates.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to [Oh@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Oh@PhuketGazette.Net)  
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

### FLUENT IN RUSSIAN & ENGLISH

or Japanese & English. Should be experienced in hotel industry. Hours and pay negotiable. Tel: 085-503 1255 (English). Please send your resume via email: [dtslimited@gmail.com](mailto:dtslimited@gmail.com)

### MAID / RECEPTIONIST

An attractive honest and polite person who speaks English. Wanted by a handsome resort owner, 51. Email: [skyumpix@gmail.com](mailto:skyumpix@gmail.com)

### PERSONAL ASSISTANT WANTED

I'm seeking an attractive Thai woman between 25-35 years old who is fluent in English. For single semi-retired businessman. Position might suit a nurse, a university teacher or a similarly qualified woman. I can provide an apartment at Royal Phuket Marina and a high salary for the right person. Tel: 089-054 4354. Please send your photo and CV to [bggvirgo@gmail.com](mailto:bggvirgo@gmail.com)

### GRAPHIC ARTIST

Freelance work producing brochures and graphics. 86-275 2480 (English). Email: [tony@graingerdesigns.com.au](mailto:tony@graingerdesigns.com.au) See our website at the link below [www.graingerdesigns.com.au](http://www.graingerdesigns.com.au)

### NEED FOOT MASSAGE SPECIALIS

We are seeking staff for a new shop at Big C. Good salaries. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-537 6866.

### SENIOR HOUSEKEEPER REQUIRED

Senior housekeeper required. Thai national, must speak English, good salary. Please email info@villachangrajang.com

### STAFF WANTED, BYD LOFTS

– 3 Waiter / Waitresses  
– 1 Sous chef  
– 2 Cooks  
– 2 Hotel wine shop sales persons  
– 1 Receptionist  
Please contact for additional details. Tel: 076-343024, 081-476 1871 (English), 086-272 0111 (English & Thai). Email: [umi@bydlofts.com](mailto:umi@bydlofts.com)

### SALES EXECUTIVE/RM

Five years experience in property sales or hotel management required. Tel: 076-318400, 081-989 5466 (English & Thai). Email: [cilcon@hotmail.com](mailto:cilcon@hotmail.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.bangtaotropicalresidence.com](http://www.bangtaotropicalresidence.com)

### SUSHI BOX

Manager required. We need a Thai national aged between 25 and 40. Must have food and beverage experience. Duties include staff training, ensuring food and beverage cost control, and maintaining our high standards. Tel: 087-080 4258. Please send your CV with a current photo to [sushibox.th@gmail.com](mailto:sushibox.th@gmail.com)

### SALES REPRESENTATIVE WANTED

Diving company needs 2 sales representatives. Thai nationals with fluent English required. Tel: 086-654 3139 (English). Email: [miguel-van@hotmail.com](mailto:miguel-van@hotmail.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.andamanapnea.com](http://www.andamanapnea.com)

### ADMINISTRATOR

Real estate company requires Thai national with fluent written and spoken English and previous admin / customer service experience. Good salary and benefits package. Tel: 076-527565. Send CV and expected salary to [info@phuketoceanvillas.com](mailto:info@phuketoceanvillas.com)

### WAITERS / VILLA STAFF /++

– Waiters: Italian Restaurant. Must have experience and excellent English. 14,000 baht per month + transport, etc  
– Villa Staff: Live-in. Must have English and Experience  
– English Teacher: Part time. Need qualified native speaker  
– Cafe Server: Boat Lagoon. Must have some food prep. Sole charge position.  
Tel: 076-302040. Email: [scot@toon.co.nz](mailto:scot@toon.co.nz)

### 2 OPENINGS

1) Director of Tourism and Finance. Function as Director of the company for the Tourism Division and handle AR / AP and Balance Sheet Reconciliation. Monthly salary up to 25,000 baht, depending on experience and capability.  
2) Operations Manager. Manage the operations of 2 USA made Sport Fishing Boats. In charge of maintenance logs and schedules. Accompany trips as required and directed by the managing director. Expat highly desirable. Up to 30,000 baht a month. Email: [martin@phuketfishboat.com](mailto:martin@phuketfishboat.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.phuketfishboat.com](http://www.phuketfishboat.com)



**WEST SANDS VACATION CLUB**  
Mai Khao Beach, Phuket

Be a part of something fantastic! West Sands Vacation Club is seeking additional outgoing, motivated individuals to join our growing fun-filled family. Competitive salaries and benefits.

Sales Executive	2 Positions
Sales Team Leader	1 Position
TO Sales Executive	1 Position
Russian Sales Executive	1 Position
Russian Marketing Executive	1 Position
Thai Marketing Executive	2 Positions

Send resume or CV with recent photo to [mark@west-sands.com](mailto:mark@west-sands.com)

### WANTED IT DEVELOPERS

Asia Web Direct is seeking IT developers with 2 years experience. Great working environment. Send your resume now. Email: [recruitment@wotifgroup.com](mailto:recruitment@wotifgroup.com)

### GRAPHIC / WEB DESIGNER NEEDED

Tel: 086-060 7712. Email: [thepixelstudiosjulie@hotmail.com](mailto:thepixelstudiosjulie@hotmail.com)

### WEB / LOGO DESIGNERS

Seeking website and logo designers. Tel: 084-628 2629. Email: [gianni@ictned.eu](mailto:gianni@ictned.eu)

### BANG TAO RESTAURANT

We need 1 European chef and 1 Thai cuisine chef. Please contact Peter. Tel: 087-882 1445.

### PURCHASE MANAGER

Audio / Visual and electrical company. Must have good experience in dealing with supply companies, import, and logistics. Fluent Thai and good English speaker and strong personality preferred. Please send email: [daragh@techworx-projects.com](mailto:daragh@techworx-projects.com) or fax CV to 076-325144. For further details, please see our website at [www.new.techworx.biz](http://www.new.techworx.biz)

### STAFF FOR OFFICE

Thai lady with good English for working in dive center office. Tel: 085-222 4140, 085-222 4041. Email: [dasa@lovediving.net](mailto:dasa@lovediving.net)

### 50,000BHT+

Looking for Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, German and Danish sales professionals for our new resort in Kata. Free work permit and full training provided. Email: [manager-kata@premierpropertyleisure.com](mailto:manager-kata@premierpropertyleisure.com)

### GERMAN COMPANY

That sells electrics seeks a sales engineer in Phuket. A minimum of 2 years' electrical experience. Must have car. Tel: 02-673 9857-9. Email: [hr@thjungasia.com](mailto:hr@thjungasia.com)

### PREMIER HOLIDAY CLUB PHUKET

Seeking admin assistant (2 positions), receptionist (2 positions), HR assistant (2 positions). Tel: 076-326292. Should submit a resume with a recent photograph to email: [admin@premierpropertyleisure.com](mailto:admin@premierpropertyleisure.com) or fax: 076-326 293. Website: [www.premierpropertyleisure.com](http://www.premierpropertyleisure.com)

### PADI DIVING INSTRUCTOR

Required for dive center on Phi Phi. Urgent. Email: [jkg24@hotmail.com](mailto:jkg24@hotmail.com)

### NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Female Caucasian to teach class of 10-12 children, 3-7 years old. Located in Chalong. Work hours: Mon-Fri (8am-4pm). Start immediate. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: [phuketpreschool@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketpreschool@yahoo.com)

### VILLA MANAGER REQUIRED

Must have excellent spoken and written English skills. Experience in property and people management essential. Good communicator, structured and system-oriented. Thai National required. Tel: 084-848 0000. Send CV and salary requirement to [info@villachangrajang.com](mailto:info@villachangrajang.com)



**Laguna Holiday Club**  
Laguna Holiday Club, the fastest-growing Vacation Club in Asia, is urgently seeking:

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[career@lagunaholidayclub.com](mailto:career@lagunaholidayclub.com)

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Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.PhuketGazette.Net/](http://www.PhuketGazette.Net/)



AVC Engineering is Thailand's leading MEP Engineering and Home Automation Company. With over 160 completed projects we are looking for professional, highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

**M&E Engineer, 2 positions (English not essential)**

Bachelor's degree in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering.

Minimum 3-5 years of working experience in M&E design and site management.

Holds an EIT (Engineer-in-Training) license.

Proficient in AutoCAD.

**Secretary, Fluent in English (Speaking, reading and writing)**

Female with Bachelor's degree.

Proficient in software applications like spreadsheets, word processing and email.

Please note these positions are only open to Thai nationals. If you take pride in your work and want to be part of a highly specialised team, then please send your resume to [info@avcphuket.com](mailto:info@avcphuket.com)

**AVC ENGINEERING Co., Ltd.**

9/76 Moo 4, Bandon Rd.(HYW 4030), Cherg Talay

Thalang, Phuket 83110 Thailand.

Office: +66 (0) 7661 5810 Fax: +66 (0) 7661 5811

Email: [info@avcphuket.com](mailto:info@avcphuket.com), [www.avcphuket.com](http://www.avcphuket.com)



**HEXACON PROPERTY  
STAFF WANTED**

We are looking for professional staff for our expanding property company in Phuket.

We are looking for English, Russian, Italian, German, French, Spanish and Thai-speaking sales staff with experience in the property business.

We want good sales people, based on high commission, as well as an experienced accountant.

Our strategy is to represent a select group of the best projects on and around Phuket.

This includes condominiums and villa projects in the best locations.

Our strengths are that we work internationally, have substantial knowledge about Phuket and that our staff speak several languages such as Thai, Russian, English and Scandinavian.

If you have what it takes please submit a resume / CV, a recent photo and expected salary to: [michael@hexacon-property.asia](mailto:michael@hexacon-property.asia)

**We need the following staff:**

■ **1 Accountant / Secretary (Thai Only)**

■ **10 Sales with good experience**

■ **5 Salespersons for our booths in Jungceylon and Patong area (Thai only)**

**HEXACON PROPERTY Co., Ltd.**

1 Moo 8 Chaofa West Road, Chalong Sub-district, Muang Phuket District, Phuket Province, Thailand

Website: [www.hexacon-property.asia](http://www.hexacon-property.asia)



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From the blissful Hua-Hin retreat to the family-friendly Surin and Kamala and the party hub of Patong, we have got the beaches, the tranquility, the recreation and the entertainment at the hottest destinations in Thailand.

**Bangkok, Thailand**

- Director of Sales-MICE
- Account Manager-Leisure
- Marketing Communication Executive

**Sydney, Australia**

- Cluster Account Manager

**Phuket, Thailand**

- Cluster Director of Reservation
- Director of Sales
- Senior Sales Manager
- Executive Housekeeper
- Assistant Front Office Manager

Courtyard by Marriott Phuket

Tel: +66 (0) 76337000, Fax: +66 (0) 66 76337040

Email: [Suwan.S@courtyard.com](mailto:Suwan.S@courtyard.com)

[www.marriott.com/careers](http://www.marriott.com/careers)



Royal Phuket Marina is Asia's most sophisticated and high-tech yachting haven, a world-class destination combining luxury waterfront living with a state-of-art marina, is now looking for enthusiastic and motivated candidates in the following position:

**Sales & Marketing Manager (Expat or Thai National)**

**Job Descriptions and Responsibilities:**

- Take charge of all sales and marketing activities
- Provide leadership to the day-to-day operations of the sales and marketing department, while maintaining focus on the company's strategic goals
- Develop the strategic marketing plan for all projects
- Develop, maintain and improve business relations with all customers of the company
- Operate with outside agents and other service providers
- Develop, implement and manage eMarketing strategies, plan activities for the assigned RPM products, which align with brand strategies; ensure KPIs(key performance indicators), and other goals/objectives will be met or exceeded

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree in a real estate and / or marketing related field
- Minimum of 5 years experience in sales & marketing management capacity in real estate, residential sales is a must
- International experience with a large real estate developer is a major advantage
- Developed communication and presentation skills
- Strong motivational, innovative, and interpersonal skills
- Proven leadership ability to influence, develop, and empower employee to achieve objectives

Interested candidates please sent fully detailed CV, recent photo, current and expected salary with other related documents to:

**HR Department**

**Royal Phuket Marina**

68 Moo.2 Thepkasattre Rd, Kohkaew, Muang, Phuket

Tel: 076-360833-38 Fax: 076-360840 Email: [prasertm@royalphuketmarina.com](mailto:prasertm@royalphuketmarina.com)



**SALA Phuket Resort and Spa:**

SALA Phuket is a stylish 5-star resort located on Maikhao Beach, Phuket. The property offers 79 luxurious villas and suites on unspoilt beach frontage.

SALA Resorts and spas is a home grown Thai hospitality company which owns and operates three luxury resorts in the Kingdom.

We are looking for the following professionals:

**Food & Beverage**

- FB Supervisor
- Senior Waiter / Waitress
- Hostess

**Front Office**

- Front Office Supervisor
- Guest Relation Officer
- Bell / Driver

**Engineer**

- Senior Pool Cleaner
- Technician

**Housekeeping**

- Room Attendant
- Gardener (คนสวน)

If you have what it takes and you would like to join our dynamic team, please forward your CV or contact our Human Resources Dept. Contact details below.

**Human Resources Department**

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# Local surf sensation making big waves

By Andrew Jennings

UNTIL recently, surfing had a reputation of being a male dominated sport. Images of surfer “dudes” riding through the barrel of a perfect wave have long filled the pages of glossy magazines covering the sport.

It's easy to forget that serious female surfers have always been around. There are in fact, recorded images of women surfing alongside men at the very birthplace of surfing – Polynesia in the early 1800s.

Today, media interest in women's surfing continues to grow and the sport is now highly regarded, and gaining plenty of respect. The waves clearly now belong to both genders on an equal basis.

Phuket can boast its very own women's surfing sensation in the shape of 12-year-old Annissa Flynn.

Annissa, who practices mainly on Kata Beach, had a fantastic last year, which cemented her position as a surfer to watch in the coming years.

After stealing the show at the 2009 Quicksilver Thailand Surf



**CHAMPION: Annissa Flynn, 12, has won many competitions.**

Series in Phuket, claiming both the women's open and “groms” (under-16s) divisions, Flynn used her knowledge of the home surf to take top honors in the women's shortboard event at last year's Quicksilver Thailand Surf Competition as well.

Annissa, who lives in Chalong and attends Satree Phuket School, rounded off last year in impressive style by claiming the Open Women's Division of the Hong

Kong Reef Classic, held at the remote Tai Long Wan beach in November.

This competition was a little different since it required competitors to walk into a national park with camping gear, boards, and wet suits, and set up camp on the beach to stay overnight.

The beauty of the event is that it offered Annissa the opportunity to get to know the other competitors in a convivial and low-key setting before hitting the waves.

The following morning the surfers were up early, working out what the overnight high tide and rips had done to the sandbar and the shape of the wave.

It was the sixth staging of the The Hong Kong Reef Classic, which is the brainchild of Ken Choi from Xgames of Hong Kong.

Mr Choi was thrilled to see international competitors from Malaysia, Thailand and Taiwan compete against the local surfing fraternity.

Annissa surfed solidly in the morning heats of the groms and open women's classes, and easily made it into both afternoon finals.

In the finals Annissa clinched



**SURF'S UP: Annissa competing at Kata last year.** Photo: Apinun Saithong

first place in the women's event and third in the groms.

Describing her experience at the Hong Kong event, Annissa said, “It was really good fun camping out and getting to meet many new people. I'm delighted I surfed well and won first place.”

Annissa currently has a sponsorship deal with Quicksilver worth 100,000 baht for the coming year, which includes apparel and trips to either Bali or Taiwan.

Her board sponsor is Adam at “Ark” boards of Hong Kong, who

has given her four custom made boards of various lengths.

Looking ahead to a busy 2011, Annissa will go to Bali for two weeks of practice on the island's larger and more powerful waves.

Later in the year she will again compete in the Quicksilver Thai Open and the Rip Curl Grom events here in Phuket, while a return to Bali will be on the cards for the Quicksilver “King of the Groms” and Oakley World Pro Junior Championship.

## Surfer profile: Annissa Flynn

### What do you like best about living in Phuket?

The best thing is that we're surrounded by surf half of the year. It's beautiful, it's fun, has good waves, and I have friends here.

### What is your favorite movie/actor or actress?

I like animated films, like *Toy Story* and *The Incredibles*. My favorite actress is Raven-Symone. I also like the Harry Potter movies.

### Away from surfing, what keeps you busy?

I like skateboarding, playing PSP, wake-boarding, and hanging out with friends at Kata Beach.

### What is your favorite food?

Lasagna or raw salmon with wasabi and soy sauce, and anything my mum cooks.

### What music do you like?

I like pop and rock bands with girl singers.

### What is the last book you read?

Jimmy Neutron

### Do you enjoy school?

Yes, because I enjoy learning.

### Do you have a surfing hero?

I don't have any. I don't really follow famous surfers much. I just like surfing with my friends.

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## QSI Fun Run

THE ninth annual QSI International School Phuket Fun Run is two weeks away and will take place on Saturday January 22 at Bang Wad Dam in Kathu. Organizers expect over 200 children and 50 adults to compete.

Students from all schools in Phuket are welcome and there will be five categories to suit every level of ability and fitness.

Registration for both individual and team races will take place on the day at 8am and will be followed by the first two 1-kilometer races.

Next the 6.5km individual fun run will be held, which this year will include the 6.5km team challenge, open to businesses, NGOs, and social teams.

There is also a 13km run for the more serious athletes out there.

Trophies will be awarded to the top three schools finishing with the highest points. The entry fee is 100 baht per student.

All races are open to the general public. The entry fee for adults is 200 baht per runner.

For information contact: Jan (Thai or English) T:084-8945678 or Alan Siporin (English) T:084-8504631 for more information.

# Phuket's pain as he heads for Spain

By Andrew Jennings

FC PHUKET is in the market for a new manager after it was confirmed that Arjan Songsamssub will not take charge of the team for the 2011 campaign.

Mr Arjan, who was expected to stay on for another term with Phuket after guiding them to promotion only last month, is leaving for Spain to take part in a coaches development course with Atletico Madrid.

He will remain as a consultant for three months before departing for Europe, helping with the search for a new man to fill the Phuket managerial hot seat.

With the new Division 1 season set to start on February 12, Phuket's preparation has been further hampered with the departure of four key players.

The Phuket playing roster will be without Adisak Kaisorn and Chachis Rawanprakorn, who have been snapped up by FC Buriram, while in an even bigger blow, Ivory Coast duo Diarra Ali and Nene Bi Tra Sylvestre have also moved on.

Ali, arguably Phuket's player-of-the-year last term, will play for current Thai Premier League champions Muang Thong United.

It's not all doom and gloom for the "Hulk" support after it was confirmed Korean Choi Wan Geon has penned a deal to play for FC Phuket.

Wan Geon, 25, is a quick defensive midfielder and signs from crisis club Nakhon Pathom on a one year contract.

Nakhon Pathom have been forced to offload players after The Football Association of Thailand suspended them from competition for two years for their supporters' attack on the referee in a recent playoff game against Si Sa Ket.

FC Phuket Club Secretary Sorranan Sanae has confirmed further new faces are set to join the club in the coming week, with names to be released at a meeting on Monday.

Meanwhile, the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (OrBorJor) is set to give 10 million baht towards Phuket's assault on Thai League Division 1.

ON HIS WAY:  
Arjan Songsamssub  
will not stay on as  
FC Phuket manager.  
Photo: Atchaa Khamlo



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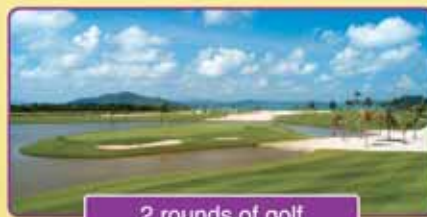
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