

# Phuket Gazette

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25 Baht

## Refugees land in Phuket

By Nicholas Altstadt and Janpen Upatising

SEVENTY Rohingya refugees travelling by boat from western Burma landed at Rawai Beach on Tuesday, only to be rounded up and taken to Chalong Police Station.

Duty Officer Boonlert Onklang said he arrived at the beach at about 5:30am. Within 90 minutes police had arrested 35 of the refugees who were wandering around in the area.

"When they arrived, they had not eaten anything. We provided them with food. Some of them were sick and were given medication," said Chalong Police Superintendent Vichid Intharason.

Later Tuesday afternoon police arrested 33 more Rohingya found wandering around near Rawai Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) offices, at the southwestern end of Rawai Beach.

At the time this paper went to print, there were still two Rohingya unaccounted for on Phuket, Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Narong Laksanawimon said.

"But we found a boat that looks like a large longtail on Laem Ka Beach on Tuesday. I presume that's their boat," he added.

The 68 men were transferred to

Phuket Immigration Detention Center in Phuket Town on Wednesday.

The arrests come amid concern among non-governmental organizations and advocacy groups over the Thai government's failure to grant the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) access to detained Rohingya.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a statement on Wednesday urging the Thai government to give the UN access to 211 (pre-Phuket numbers) ethnic Rohingya detained in Thailand, some since 2009.

"Thailand should immediately provide access to UNHCR to conduct interviews to determine their refugee status, because it is clear that many of the Rohingya are fleeing from extreme political persecution in Burma," HRW Deputy Director Asia Phil Robertson told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"The Rohingya face continuous human rights violations by the authorities in Burma, especially in northern Arakan state where they originate. Burma refuses to recognize them as citizens, and harshly restricts their right to freedom of movement, expression, employment, and cultural and family life," Mr Robertson said.

This sentiment was echoed by Col Vichid of Chalong Police: "They are facing problems with



Tired, hungry, the refugees face an uncertain future. Photo: Janpen Upatising

the Burmese government and they need to find a way out. Leaving by boat is the easiest way."

Some of the men have told police that they wanted to continue on to Malaysia, while others have indicated they came to Thailand for work, police said.

The future for the Phuket detainees is not if, but when they

will be deported, Col Vichid said.

Rohingya boat people have been arriving regularly on Thailand's west coast over the past month - 228 since January 22.

Benjamin Zawacki, Amnesty International's Myanmar researcher, told the *Gazette* that although this may seem like a growing trend, it is merely a re-

turn to the norm following relative inactivity in 2010.

The cause for last year's slump, Mr Zawacki said, was likely heightened attention to the issue following the Thai government's controversial handling of Rohingya boat people in 2009, when Thailand faced harsh criticism for arresting and sending Rohingya refugees back out to sea with limited provisions.

The core issue is the Myanmar government's persecution of the Rohingya people and their refusal to grant them citizenship and the basic rights entailed with such, Mr Zawacki said.

This leaves the Thai government in the unenviable position of trying to find a way to deal with refugees without a country to repatriate them to, he added.

Key to successfully addressing the issue, HRW's Phil Robertson says, is allowing the UNHCR to determine genuine asylum seekers and allowing them to apply for resettlement to a third country.

This remains a hope as boats overcrowded with Rohingya hoping for a better future continue to drift to Thailand's shores.

One 18-year-old Rohingya detainee told the *Gazette*, "I want to go anywhere - anywhere except back to Burma."

## Parents urge 'no revenge' over slain son

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE parents of a 13-year-old boy gunned down in an alleged gang attack last Sunday have pleaded for their slain son's twin brother not to exact revenge for his brother's death.

Surachai "Neung" Takuasook was shot dead in Thalang, just after midnight last Sunday morning while he was riding pillion on a motorbike along Thepkrasattri Road.

Speaking to the *Gazette* as they were making preparations for Neung's cremation in Baan Don on Wednesday, father Lertchai Takuasook, 41, and mother Saita Kongkasai, 40, described Neung as a good

boy, who always helped them earn money for the family by working as a farmhand.

They described Song as "naughtier", saying he didn't do anything productive with his time. Both boys had completed primary education and were no longer in school.

Mr Lertchai said he suspects the killers mistook Neung for Song, given their identical appearances.

A close friend of the family told the *Gazette*, "Young people in Baan Plu Som Pan and Baan Don haven't liked each other for a long time. They are always fighting."

Song had once been involved in a melee with a rival gang during which he witnessed one of his friends being stabbed, she said.

"They probably remembered his face, then took revenge against the wrong person," she added.

Asked if he planned to avenge his brother's death, Song nodded silently, then looked away.

However, his parents pleaded with him to stop thinking of revenge. He has now been ordained as a novice at a local temple.

Thalang Police duty officer Krissana Junnit told the *Gazette*, "The killers seem to be young boys in Baan Plu Som Pan. They probably had a fight before Neung was shot."

Thalang Police are now rounding up suspects for questioning, he added.



Friends and family mourn Neung.

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## This Week

### Business



Chinese New Year is set to bring prosperity to Thailand. **Page 9**

### In Focus – Canine Distemper

Following a Phuket outbreak, The Gazette finds out more from Soi Dog founder John Dalley. **Page 11**

### Film review



Find out why Oscar buzz surrounds *The King's Speech*. **Page 12**

### Music



Local musician Singto is making sound waves in Thailand. **Page 18**

### Cop shops coming



Construction of new police stations making headway. **Page 25**

### Sport



Expat Golf Championship swings in and scores. **Page 39**

Saturday



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Sunday



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Monday



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Tuesday



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Wednesday



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# Marine parks face corruption probe

SEVEN marine national parks for which Phuket is a major gateway for tourists will be investigated for alleged corruption in the collection of admission fees.

Sunant Arunnopparat, director-general of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, has confirmed an investigation panel has been selected and that an impartial official from the department would be selected as its chairman.

“So far, I haven’t issued any order to remove the park wardens who have been the subject of complaints during the past few months. The department needs to investigate the issue carefully,” Mr Sunant said.

The national parks under suspicion include Mu Ko Surin, Mu Ko Similan, Hat NopparatTara, Mu Ko Phi Phi, Mu Ko Tarutao and Ao Phangnga.

Mr Sunant said the department would welcome any information related to ticket graft from the public.

Agencies in the department are



Tourists at Mu Ko Surin National Park, one of the parks to be investigated.

to show him attendance figures for the past five years for the parks in question, he said.

Natural and Environment Minister Suwit Khunkitti denied that the ministry was ignoring the problem. He said the case had been referred to the Department of Special Investigation (DSI).

Mr Sunant said he would look

into missing admission income and try to find a way to resolve the problem.

The department has also been instructed to come up with rules to control dive boats and tourists visiting national marine parks so it can ensure admission fees are collected correctly, he said.

– *The Nation*

## Tsunami warning towers to go local

THE tsunami warning towers being installed in the six Andaman provinces will be handed over to local authorities on completion, opening the door to the towers’ loudspeakers being used for community announcements – and possibly even advertising.

National Disaster Warning Centers (NDWC) Director Somsak Khaosuwan made the announcement at a seminar in Phuket last week.

Now in its 85-million-baht fourth phase, rollout of the NDWC warning system began after the 2004 tsunami.

Upon completion, provincial offices and local administrations will be given access to the warning towers, both to issue warnings locally and to use as public-address systems, he said.



The warning towers could soon be announcing advertisements.

Using the towers for purposes other than issuing disaster alerts would make the system more beneficial to the public and be better value for money, he said.

Apart from expanding the existing coverage area, the fourth phase-work also includes:

1. Setting up individual control centers in each of the six Andaman Provinces to enable each province to issue individual warnings using the NDWC’s satellite communication system.

2. Setting up relay stations in each of the six provinces, allowing local officials to receive and transmit disaster warning information to local areas using radio frequencies.

3. Installation of public address speakers in all six provinces.

4. Inspect, maintain and repair existing towers, as necessary.

5. Installation of satellite signal receivers in each provincial hall and Radio Thailand office.

Work on the fifth point has already been completed in Phuket, Dr Somsak said.

– *Krunghthep Turakij*

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Seven people sustained injuries in the accident. Photo: Yodsak Jarana

## Lucky escape as tour bus overturns

A TOUR bus carrying 17 Chinese tourists overturned on Monday after the driver allegedly lost control at the Tesco-Lotus "cross-roads", colliding with two vehicles, and injuring seven people. Phuket City Police Duty Officer Teerawat Amnartcharoenying said the bus was approaching the junction from the north and was unable to stop in time to avoid hitting vehicles waiting at the intersection.

The driver attempted a split-second left turn onto Yaowarat Road. The bus' speed, however, was too great as the bus went over the left-turn traffic island, collided with a pickup and sedan, and overturned, police said.

The force of the impact sent the pickup skidding across the road into a power pole. The driver suffered a head injury in the collision.

Five of the Chinese tourists were injured, one with a broken arm and four others with cuts. None of the injuries were reported to be serious, said police.

Police were unable to locate the bus driver at the scene of the accident. However, the guide leading the tour and Pramual Jitjaipakdee, of Vista Holiday, both confirmed that he was in hospital being treated for injuries from the accident.

They will bring him to the police station after he is released, they said. - Yodsak Jarana

# Tuk-tuks: One-way out

By Atchaa Khamlo

A PROTEST by more than 100 tuk-tuk drivers last week earned them the chance to pitch their suggested changes to Patong's one-way system directly to Patong Mayor Pian Keesin on Monday.

The tuk-tuk drivers arrived at Patong Police Station on January 27, calling for changes to be made to the new one-way system.

To hear their grievances, Patong Deputy Superintendent Lt Col Kittipong Klaikaew invited 45 of them into a crowded meeting room at the station.

Mardlee "Bang Lee" Sawangpon, 56, spoke on behalf of the drivers as "advising president" of an independent band of drivers who call themselves the Tuk Tuk Club.

The group is not a part of the Patong Taxi Federation run by Preechavude "Prab" Keesin.

"I have been on the road for 23 years - and, for sure, the current system is making traffic jams worse," Mr Mardlee said.

"I know the previous system



A call for the one-way system to return to the 'old way'. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

was strange and it confused tourists. Even I nearly hit a BMW once, but this one is making traffic worse," he added.

On Monday, Mr Mardlee presented the drivers' plan to Mayor Pian.

The plan showed traffic heading south along the beach road and north along the parallel main artery Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road, with all streets in between the two

being two-way, except for Prabaramee Road and Prachanukroh Road at the northern and southern ends of Patong's central traffic area.

Patong Traffic Police Chief Lt Col Jakkawat Boontawegunsawat explained to the drivers, "The present system is in its 'test phase' for one month [starting January 15].

"After that we will have a pub-

lic hearing to get feedback from all people who use the road before making any final changes to the road system."

However, the drivers said they wanted confirmation that the current system will not remain after the test phase is over.

That plea remained unanswered at Monday's meeting.

"We have to listen to what the majority of people say. We have to conduct a public hearing with people from every sector. We cannot act on comments of some groups only," said Lt Col Kittipong.

Regardless, Mr Mardlee was happy with the meeting.

"We have submitted the draft plan of the traffic system. Mayor Pian also told us to list the names of people affected by the new system.

"Then we can submit the list of the names and the draft plan to Governor Tri [Augkaradacha] for consideration, but a date has yet to be set for that to happen," he said.

Additional reporting by Janpen Upatising

## OrBorJor warns hotels over tax evasion

THE Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) is threatening to take legal action against one-third of all hotel operators in Phuket for failing to pay the controversial hotel room tax.

The organization hopes an awareness-raising campaign - backed by the threat of legal measures - can help it raise hotel room tax revenues from last year's 60 million baht to 70mn this year.

*OrBorJor* President Paiboon Upatising said he was confident the organization would hit this target because the number of hoteliers paying the tax was continually rising.

The hotel room tax, which is levied at 1% of room revenues, was introduced amid widespread opposition from hoteliers in 2000.

Mr Paiboon said the *OrBorJor*



Paiboon Upatising

would launch a campaign to help hoteliers understand the importance of paying the hotel room tax and the benefits it brought to the tourism industry.

The *OrBorJor* invests the money raised from the tax into developing the island and its tour-

ism industry, he said.

However, if hoteliers still fail to pay the tax after this campaign, the *OrBorJor* will be forced to take legal action, he warned.

Nevertheless, Mr Paiboon said he was confident that those operating outside the system would soon be tempted in by the privileges that came with paying the tax.

For example, hoteliers who have paid the tax get first choice on booths in *OrBorJor*-organized tourism roadshows.

The *OrBorJor* chief said that this year the organization had al-

located 60mn baht to boosting tourism.

Of this, 20mn baht will be spent on organizing road shows, both within Thailand and abroad, to emphasize Phuket's readiness to welcome more tourists.

Aside from this, the *OrBorJor* will expand installation of CCTV cameras from Phuket City to Rassada and Rawai.

The *OrBorJor* also funds the provision of lifeguards at beaches around Phuket, which Mr Paiboon claims have so far saved more than 1,000 lives.

- Manager Online



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# Boy, 5, killed by dolphin statue

A FAMILY outing turned tragic when a young boy was crushed to death by a concrete dolphin at a resort in Nakhon Sri Thammarat last Saturday evening.

Police are questioning the owner of the Saikaew beach resort in Thasala district over the accident, which has devastated the parents of Warot Yotwari, aged five-and-a-half.

Dad Ekkachai and mum Linda had taken Warot to the resort as part of a large group of friends and relatives with small children.

While the adults relaxed at the resort restaurant, they let Warot and the other kids play around the swimming pool, which was surrounded with dolphin statues.

The children were pushing and climbing on one of the statues, which weighed about 55 kilograms. Suddenly the dolphin fell on top of Warot, knocking him unconscious.

The family rushed him to Thasala Hospital. Doctors struggled to save Warot, who had blood flowing from his nose and



Tourists pose with the dolphin statues at Loma Park in Patong.

ears. He died of internal trauma.

Investigating officer Lt Col Aphithan Phumi of Thasala Police arrived at the hospital around 8pm, finding Warot's parents, Ekkachai and Linda, sobbing uncontrollably.

Warot's body would be handed over to the family for the funeral following an autopsy, Lt Col Aphithan said.

The resort's owner, Yoem Rueangdit, who is also a village headman, will be called in for questioning, he said.

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# Raid nets bumper haul of IT goods



Suspects 'Sam' (left) and 'Aon' at the Phuket City Police Station.

MORE than 60 stolen consumer goods are waiting to be reclaimed at Phuket City Police Station following a raid earlier this week.

Police recovered 66 IT consumer goods after a drugs investigation led officers to raid a house in the National Housing Authority development in Rassada.

In the house, officers arrested Tanapol "Aon" Somnukton, 33, from Surin province, and Phuket native Abhisit "Sam" Chupak, 24.

Although no drugs were found, officers seized drug paraphernalia and discovered a suspiciously large number of IT goods, including laptops, PCs, computer screens, TVs, DVD players and digital cameras.

The men had confessed to robbing many home-offices in Muang District and Kathu, said Phuket

Provincial Police Commander Pekad Thatipong.

After the men confessed to the robberies, police were able to recover most of the stolen goods.

"We sold the stuff at cheap prices just so we could get money to buy more drugs," Sam told the *Gazette*.

So far five people have identified and reclaimed their stolen items, Maj Gen Pekad said.

"Anyone whose property has been stolen are advised to come to Phuket City Police Station to look for their belongings by asking for Superintendent Wanchai Ekpornpit," he said.

Maj Gen Pekad is even offering amnesty to people who return stolen goods they bought from the two suspects.

- Janpen Upatising

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## Two Thais sentenced, PAD gives Gov three days

THE yellow shirt People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) on Wednesday threatened to intensify its protests if the government fails to bring back Thai Patriots Network leader Veera Somkwamkid and his secretary Ratre Pipatanapaiboon from Cambodia within three days.

On Tuesday, the Phnom Penh Municipal Court found Veera and Ratre guilty of espionage, illegal entry and trespassing in a military zone. These charges carry a maximum combined penalty of 11 years and six months.

Veera was sentenced to eight years behind bars and a fine of 1.8 million riel (about 18,000 baht), while Ratre was given six years and fined 1.2 million riel.

PAD spokesman Parnthep Puapongphan said the PAD would urge the people to join a mass protest at the Makkhawan Bridge in Bangkok on Saturday to decide the government's fate if the three-day deadline is not met.

- *The Nation*

# Reds demand ICC trial

THE United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD) has asked the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate possible crimes against humanity committed by the Thai government during the red shirt protests last year.

At least 91 people were killed and almost 2,000 injured in the military crackdown on the protesters in April and May.

Robert Amsterdam, the London-based lawyer representing former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, filed a 250-page application to the ICC prosecutor on Sunday night.

Mr Amsterdam said the application requested the ICC to "launch a preliminary investigation relating to potential crimes against humanity committed in Thailand in April and May." Mr Amsterdam cited in particular the army's alleged use of snipers and live ammunition against the protesters.

The application, prepared by Amsterdam & Peroff LLP, also claimed the crackdown on the protesters had been planned almost four years in advance and was modeled on the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre in China, *The Toronto Star* reported.

## AROUND THE nation

The army allegedly rehearsed the crackdown as early as February 2007 on a full-scale model of Ratchadamnoen Avenue, where some of the protesters were killed on April 10.

The application also alleged that two Bangkok hospitals colluded with the government to cremate civilians' bodies in order to destroy damaging evidence, *The Star* reported.

There were serious doubts about whether the ICC would accept the petition, not least because Thailand is not one of its 144 members.

But Mr Amsterdam claimed Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva had British citizenship and could therefore be prosecuted. Mr Abhisit was born and educated in the United Kingdom, which is a signatory to the Rome Statute establishing the court.

On Monday Mr Abhisit responded to the claims, denying he held British nationality.



The application to the ICC alleges the Thai army crackdown was modeled on the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre in China. Photo: AFP

"I am a Thai national, not a Montenegrin," he said, in a clear reference to Mr Thaksin, who has taken Montenegrin citizenship.

The protests saw more than 100,000 red shirt protesters occupy Bangkok's central shopping district for 10 weeks to demand that Mr Abhisit dissolve parliament and hold fresh elections.

Following a violent army crackdown that ended the protests on May 19, arsonists set fire to buildings including the Central World Plaza shopping mall and the stock exchange.

A number of red shirt leaders are being held in Bangkok Remand Prison on terrorism charges.

- *Phuket Gazette*

## Pedophile gets 25 years

A US court has sentenced a Canadian man to 25 years in jail for running a brothel in Bangkok where foreign pedophiles had sex with boys as young as four years old.

Attorney Paul J Fishman said in a statement that John Wrenshall, 64, organized sex trips for American men who paid him

to abuse children at his Bangkok home.

Mr Fishman said, as reported by CNN, "It is fitting that a man who has condemned children to live with unimaginable scars for his pleasure and profit should spend decades of his own life in a prison cell."

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## One-way plea from Patong

There is quite an interesting issue with the new one-way traffic in Patong. Many people are living in and around Sai Namyen, in the north part of Nanai Road, on the hill, around the municipality, near the police station, Jungceylon, and so on.

Now consider if you were one of them and you wanted to drive to the beach.

Then you will go westward on Sai Namyen until the cross-road with Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road.

There, you are only about one hundred meters from the beach – if you could go on Sawadirak Road across the junction, which is one way in the right direction.

But now you cannot enter Sawadirak. You have to turn left on Rat-Uthit, follow that street all the way to the south of Patong, as you cannot turn right into Bangla anymore, then turn right to the beach and take the beach road all the way back toward the north.

Doesn't that seem quite crazy?

If it can be dangerous to let people drive through from Sai Namyen to Sawadirak across Rat-U-Thit, then just put the traffic lights on. They are already in place there.

But any solution would be better than forcing ever more people to drive around Patong, polluting the place and spending unnecessarily on gas.

*M de L  
Patong*

## Nightlife swan song?

As a legally-licensed, foreign partner in a bar at a popular tourist destination on the island,

# Guns and gangs not child's play

## Phuket Gazette

**JUST** hours before this editorial was written, friends of slain teenager Surachai "Neung" Takuasook were burning his remains in the furnace of the local crematorium in Baan Don, in Thepkrasattri subdistrict (see page 1).

The shiny white coffin used to house Surachai's body until it was pushed into the fiery chamber read "Surachai Takuasook – age 17", although Surachai was just 13 when his young life ended.

The reason for the age given on the outside of the casket reflects the family's belief that it would somehow help the spirit of Surachai enjoy a longer life span during his next reincarnation.

While just one in a long line of senseless killings that have been reported in these pages over the years, Surachai's murder stands out in a number of ways.

Although police had yet to make any arrests as this article went to print, there is a strong suspicion among both investigators and family members that his assailants mistook him for his identical twin brother, Sawng.

The pair, named Neung ("One") and Sawng ("Two"), entered the world just minutes apart, but time enough for Neung to be "number one" and always the phii (older brother), while his brother would always, by definition, come second.

Identical twins share a closeness that few people understand. While continually being

associated with each other, at the same time they have to fight to establish a unique identity for themselves in ways most people could only imagine.

Given these facts, it's interesting to reflect on whether the parents' choice of nicknames had any influence on how they ended up: with Neung the more helpful brother and Sawng decidedly more "naughty", even by their parents' own admission.

To whatever extent the name issue matters, if at all, it is a sad irony that whatever struggle Sawng underwent to establish a separate identity from his brother ended early last Sunday morning with four gun blasts, all likely intended for him.

It is difficult to imagine the thoughts that must be running through Sawng's young mind, but the *Phuket Gazette* was glad to see him follow his parent's advice and ordain as a novice rather than follow through on his desire to avenge his brother's death.

In the wider context, it is important that the Thalang Police investigating the murder not only find those responsible, but also work towards reducing the dangerous tensions between the youths of the Baan Don and the Baan Plu Som Pan communities.

I would like to ask the government to consider a few things in regard to the ongoing crack-down on closing times.

First, tourists come to Phuket primarily to have a good time, not to view cultural shows and things of that nature.

Even Phuket Town's "old quarter", which has been the

subject of much rehabilitation and hype in recent years, is only about a century old, to the best of my knowledge.

While interesting, it can hardly be expected to inspire awe in visiting tourists, many of whom hail from countries with real antiquities dating back thousands of years.

The nightlife scene here has established a world-class reputation, but one that is now being compromised by the same sort of tactics we last saw during the Thaksin administration and his Lord of Social Order, Police Captain Purachai Piemsomboon.

This is far from the good old

days of just 20 years ago, when bar owners would assign a bartender to sit up with guests all night, if that is what they wanted.

It was part of a hospitality "point of honor" that is now sadly missing from many aspects of the local tourism industry.

If Phuket is to truly be a "holiday" destination and entice millions more to make their way here to "relax and let loose", I think its time to extend entertainment zones outside Patong.

It is indeed a shame that the Government, with so many powerful figures from Phuket in it, have failed to do anything to change these draconian laws that do so much harm to the local tourism industry.

Has our system of government really fallen to the point where protests are the only way to effect change?

*Broke Bar Proprietor  
Muang District*

## Solution to the the jet-ski conundrum

Solving Phuket's jet-ski problem is actually easier than most people think. A complete ban on jet-skies is not recommended, as they remain a good source of fun for tourists and jet-ski operators make their living from renting them.

I would suggest that every jet-ski operator must apply for a Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) license, like all tour companies do. Then they would be controlled by an official authority.

If the scams continue, their licenses could be revoked and the operator would have to shut down their business, otherwise they would be operating illegally.

*Tour Operator  
Kathu*

## Phuket Gazette

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## Issues & Answers...

### Get on board with tickets

I am an American tourist and I took a trip from Patong and Phuket Town on the blue bus. I was asked to pay 25 baht each way for the trip.

However, I was wondering why they did not give me a ticket when I paid.

In the US, we call it "accountability". So, how much money will really go to the government when there is no proof?

*GI Go  
Patong*

**Kanok Siripanichkorn, chief of the Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Office, replies:**

In Phuket, bus tickets have not been given to passengers for a long time.

There is no regulation stipulating that bus tickets must be issued to passengers. It is up to the bus company whether or not to issue tickets because it is about their cost.

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.

Submit your issue at

[www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)

These blue buses are actually owned and operated by private entities – not by the government. So, the fares collected are not received by us.

The only aspect the Land Transport Office is allowed to deal with in relation to these buses is that we provide the official permission required for an operator to serve specific routes.

### Keeping roadsides clean

I see that this year the men with grass-cutting machines are once again working the road edges from

Muang Mai to the four-lane road to Pa Khlok, which is wonderful.

But when they cut it all, they expose the never-ending litter that was hidden by the tall grass.

Last year, there were teams collecting and bagging the litter and putting it in a pickup and taking it away, which was fantastic. But why is that not happening this year?

Please don't tell me it's a money thing, it can't cost that much.

It would be better to not cut the grass and just leave the litter than to cut the grass and reveal this hideous mess.

How can the government of this island "paradise" keep talking about this island-wide problem and not clean it up?

Do Thai people really like the look of this mess? I don't think so, and most people from most countries – including all the precious tourists – do not.

Now is the time to fix this obvious, in-our-face, problem. Now!

*Mr Casey  
Pa Khlok*

# Fuming over needless firestarters in Patong

## FIRST PERSON



**Visit Mathasoontornpoj**, Chief of Patong Municipality's Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Division, has worked for Patong Municipality for 17 years, including eight years as director. In January, four fires broke out in Patong, including the large blaze that left so many residents of 'Soi Slum' homeless. Here Mr Visit, 49, talks about the unique challenges of Patong in terms of fire prevention and firefighting.

MOST fires in Patong start from electrical shorts, such as old wiring or people leaving appliances plugged into outlets, so it's important that every place in Patong – homes, restaurants, bars – have their own fire extinguishers.

Patong has seen, on average, one big fire a month. The biggest one happened near the Holiday Inn, causing over 10 million baht in damages.

There are 16 locations within seven different communities that are now at known risk of fire. The problems are old wiring, overcrowding and difficult access for firefighters. Some examples are along Soi Bangla, shop stalls along the beach road and the small sois along Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road.

I would like these communities and businesses to replace old wiring, which can easily short circuit.

We inspect all businesses in Patong when they submit license renewal applications. We make sure everything is safe, such as electrical wiring, and make sure they have fire extinguishers.

We used to hand out pamphlets about fire prevention and what to do in case a fire breaks out. We now have the idea to produce an instructional VCD to distribute.

We always make extra preparations in case of fire during special events, such as during New Year celebrations, by parking three fire trucks on Soi Bangla and two more along the beach road.



A fire broke out last November in Patong when an air compressor shorted.

We also regularly provide trainers to educate staff and owners of local bars and restaurants on fire safety. This is done on a request basis. Meanwhile, our staff are always undergoing training – often in Bangkok.

One of the reasons fires tend to cause a lot of damage is that we are informed too late. Sometimes emergency calls reach Phuket Town, not our office. If there is a fire in Patong, people should call us directly at 076-342600 or call 199.

Another problem is that we don't have good access to high-quality water. At present, we get water from the wastewater treatment facility near Jungceylon. However, the wastewater damages our trucks quickly.

I propose that the mayor establish emergency water sources at various points around Patong, such as along the beach road, to improve access. This would make our fire-extinguishing speed much faster, like in other countries.

# False reports hurt fickle tour industry

## Island View

By Paul Landgraver

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



SOME National Marine Parks of Thailand have been affected by the recent El Nina weather pattern but nowhere near as badly as in Australia, Brazil or Sri Lanka.

However, false media reports about the parks being closed have had a much more severe impact on local businesses. Misleading articles stating that several marine parks are closed in Thailand are based upon false information.

The truth being that small areas within seven of Thailand's 21 Marine Parks have been closed to recreational activities. These dive sites make up only a fraction of each park's total area – similar to closing a campsite within a park, rather than the whole park.

The already precarious tourism industry in the region is fearing that these articles will cause a rash of cancellations, triggering closures and job loss in a region only just recovered from the devastating tsunami of 2004.

Often referred to as the "jewels" of Thailand's national parks, the uninhabited Similan Islands are home to the most famous diving and snorkeling sites in the country with many tours departing from nearby Khao Lak and Phuket.

With many thousands of jobs dependent on tourism, employers and staff alike are very sensitive to rumors – as highlighted by the recent prediction from a popular fortune teller that a second tsunami would strike over the new year holidays. Publicity of the prediction sparked a 10 per cent drop in bookings, but there was no tsunami.

Many potential and current visitors have expressed concern over the park closures reports and are

considering changing their vacation plans.

Koen De Wit, a co-owner of one local dive center, said, "We are very frustrated by the misinformation that is being passed along as factual."

"The marine parks of Thailand are vast. The Similan Islands Marine Park is more than 140 square kilometers and home to dozens of dive sites.

"To say an entire marine park is closed when it's only a single dive site is like saying the Grand Canyon is closed when, in fact, only a single campground is."

The Khao Lak Dive Operators Forum support strict policies of sustainable tourism and are offering assistance to the National Park by enforcing these standards.

The Similan and Surin National Parks close every year from May 1 until October 31 and we hope that this year the no-fishing policy will be vigorously enforced to encourage further development of healthy reefs.

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

### Trash burning continues

I read your article about burning trash in Rawai a couple of weeks ago.

In it, Khun Surachet said it was a priority of the Rawai mayor to stop people who burn trash and fine them.

What a load of rubbish – I have emailed them four times in the past three weeks about my neighbor, who starts a fire every morning, but has not been stopped.

I cannot open my windows or doors until after 10am every day because of the toxic smoke.

I live on Soi Samakkea 2 in Saiyuan. Somebody please help.

Michael Hynes  
Rawai

**Surachet Jitmet, acting director of the Rawai Municipality Public Health Division, replies:**

I have not received any emails reporting this.

Please come to our office at

Rawai Municipality and fill in a complaint form.

After we receive the complaint, we will go out to check the places reported within a few days.

If we find anyone burning trash, we will give them a verbal warning.

If they continue to burn trash, depending on the circumstances, they may be fined up to 2,000 baht – but most people take heed of our warnings.

### Entrance fees at National Parks

A multinational car rental company some years ago published in one of their bulletins: "If you can produce a Thai driver's license, you should be charged at the rate for Thai people (20 baht/adult)."

Is this true? If yes, it never worked for me.

Peter Van Der Sakoo, Thalang

**Dararat Jantaset, an Accommodation Officer at Mu Ko**

**Surin National Park head office, replies:**

We don't know why different entrance fees have been set for Thai nationals and foreigners. We just follow the regulations set by the National Parks policy department.

Any person who is not a Thai national is to be considered a foreigner and charged the according rate for entering that park.

We charge the following entrance fees:

For adult foreigners (over 15 years old), the charge is 400 baht. For foreign children (3-15 years old), it is 200 baht.

For Thai adults (over 15 years old), the charge is 80 baht and for children (3-14 years old) it is 40 baht.

Our rates for parking vehicles are: 10 baht per bicycle; 20 baht per motorcycle; 30 baht per car (not over 12 seats); 100 baht per bus (12-24 seats).

**Wilaiwan Janthai, the financial officer at Sirinath National Park in Phuket, replies:**

We charge the following entrance fees for Thais and foreigners:

อัตราค่าธรรมเนย		TABLE OF FEE'S		ค่า
ค่าธรรมเนียมบุคคล / 5 วัน		Admission fee to the park / 5 days		บัตร
เด็ก	40 บ.	Child	200 B.	บัตร
ผู้ใหญ่	80 บ.	Adult	400 B.	บัตร
ค่าธรรมเนียมรถ / คืน		Accommodation Fee's / night		HI
จักรยาน	2,000 บ.	Bungalow	2,000 B.	Snorkel
มอเตอร์ไซด์	300 บ.	Tent (small)	300 B.	Snorkel
รถกระบะ	450 บ.	Tent (large)	450 B.	Charter
ค่าธรรมเนียมรถเช่า / คน / คืน	80 บ.	Minimum charge w/ no personal equipment / person / night	80 B.	ค่า
ค่าธรรมเนียมรถเช่า	40 - 5,000 บ.	Mooring / Anchoring Fee	40 - 5,000 B.	ค่า
ค่าธรรมเนียมรถเช่า	200 บ.	Scuba Diving Fee's / day / person	200 B.	ค่า
1 คน / คืน				ค่า

Admission fees posted at Mu Ko Surin National Park.

For adult foreigners (over 15 years old), the charge is 200 baht. For foreign children (between 3-14 years old) it is 100 baht.

For Thai adults (over 15 years old), the charge is 40 baht and for Thai children (between 3-14 years old) it is 20 baht.

However, we charge the same

rates for parking vehicles regardless of nationality: 10 baht per bicycle; 20 baht per motorcycle; 30 baht per car (not over 12 seats); 100 baht per bus (12-24 seats).

For more information call our hotline at Tel: 1362 or visit our website at www.dnp.go.th

# Economy excels despite turmoil

## Island Investor

By Bill Anderson

INVESTORS in “The Land of Smiles” finished last year with broad grins on their faces as the expected forecast of Asian growth, and relatively low debt, worked in the Thai economy’s favor.

This was despite disruptions caused by the red shirt protests in May, the industrial estate disputes concerning the Map Ta Phut expansion, and the delayed ruling on 3G mobile network licences.

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) advanced 40 per cent in 2010 making the exchange one of the world’s best performers.

A combination of foreign investment coupled with a more confident local investor base drove prices higher, particularly in the second half of the year.

Thailand was not alone in attracting foreign investors. Many emerging markets in Asia and beyond had a stellar year as lower debt levels and strong GDP growth proved an enticing proposition.

Fundamentals remain strong

but equity prices, property values, bond spreads and baht exchange rates are far less likely to enjoy a bumper year in 2011.

Interestingly, the start of this year has already seen a pull-back in the SET, as well as a weakening of the baht against most other currencies.

The obvious domestic consideration that could either derail or boost Thailand this year is the ongoing political uncertainty.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has vowed to hold elections this year, possibly in April, providing the security situation warrants it.

The recent resumption of street demonstrations by the yellow and red shirts is certainly a factor to consider.

If the election is held in an orderly manner, and all parties accept the results, then Thailand could potentially come out on the up.

Since the baht was floated 13-and-a-half years ago, the risks and rewards of the Thai currency itself have been the major factor in movements against the global reserve currency – the United States Dollar (USD).

Now the situation is reversed.

The Thai baht is the stable currency, appreciating last year as much due to USD weakness as to any of its own inherent virtues. This is likely to remain the case in the year ahead.

Thailand has become a relative haven of economic stability, while the obsession that America’s economic leaders with quantitative easing (QE) has made the “greenback” the volatile currency.

It wouldn’t be a surprise to see significant USD spikes in 2011 or 2012, but a long-term resumption of the weakening trend in the USD, undermined by QE policies, is the likely outcome.

The extent to which American chickens come home to roost is more likely to determine the range and volatility of the baht versus USD this year and the direction of all other Thai assets.

The United Kingdom is also still in a fragile economic state. Just released GDP numbers for the last quarter of 2010 show the economy shrunk 0.5 per cent.

With inflation spiking to 3.7 per cent in December and the VAT increasing to 20 per cent, kicking



**STRENGTH IN ADVERSITY:** The riots in Bangkok last May did not hinder Thailand’s economic growth as much as expected. Photo: The Nation

in last month, the prospects for a reasonable recovery are still very much in doubt.

As the *Economist* so succinctly put it this week, “The toxic mix of falling GDP, high inflation and a big budget deficit is rare amongst rich countries, but not unique, Greece suffers from it too”. A warning if ever there was one.

Thailand may well be in for a more subdued performance this year.

However, the ongoing troubles in the world’s developed economies is unlikely to attract investors for very long. Thailand’s growth may be slow (The Bank of Thailand forecasting growth of up to five per cent this year) but it will still remain far more dynamic than others in the West.

Bill Anderson is the Phuket Associate Director of MBMG International. E: bill@mbmg-international.com

## Domestic tourism a ‘click’ away for TAT

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) in Phuket is planning to increase domestic tourism during the low season by introducing cheap “Phuket Phang Nga Click & Go” travel packages.

TAT Phuket will co-operate with Phuket International Airport and the island’s hotels to run three-day packages, which will include round-trip flights, two nights at a hotel, plus special discount coupons for Phuket organizations worth up to 9,600 baht.

Car rental is included in some of the pricier packages. The project is targeted at tourists nationwide.

“The packages will encourage both Thai and foreigners living in Thailand to come to Phuket from places like Chiang Mai, Udon Thani, Ubon Ratchathani and Bangkok,” said TAT Director Bangornrat Shinaprayoon.

“There are three different packages, each for two people. There’s a ‘silver package’ which includes round-trip flights and a two-night hotel stay.

“There is also a ‘gold package’ including the same, plus car rental, and another high-end package which includes all the above plus pool-villa accommodation.”



TAT Phuket Director Bangornrat Shinaprayoon

“We plan to run the project from April until the end of October. If the first project is successful, it will probably be done again in the following years.

About 20 to 30 hotels are participating in the project.

“TAT would like more people to visit Phuket in low season, as during this period there are a lot of available hotel rooms,” Mrs Bangornrat said.

Final details of the project are still under discussion.

– Atchaa Khamlo



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## Pruksa Real Estate tout B5bn as annual target

PRUKSA Real Estate is expecting nationwide sales to be up to five billion baht this year, generated from provincial residential projects.

The company hopes its two housing projects in Phuket will generate as much as two billion baht of the projected target.

According to Mr Piya Prayong, Chief Business Officer of Pruksa Real Estate, demand for homes in Phuket now mainly comes from domestic buyers rather than foreign investors.

Therefore, Pruksa is developing residences priced in the one to two-million baht range in an attempt to attract lower-income buyers.

The company launched its first Phuket housing project, the Pruksa Ville, last year, investing about 402 million baht.

Already the company has sold 80 per cent of its total units in Phuket.

The Pruksa Ville project, located on Theprkasattri Road, 15 kilometers from Phuket International Airport, consists of town houses in "American cottage" style.

Pruksa has announced a second housing project on the island worth 600 million baht, which will open next month, and offers both townhouses and detached houses.

Part of the company's marketing strategy is to concentrate on innovative products and new technology in order to keep up with changes in home buyers' behavior.

Pruksa is well known for using prefabrication techniques to reduce construction time and costs.

Prefabricated concrete pieces are made in factories in Bangkok before being shipped to Phuket and other provinces for the construction of houses.

Last year, Pruksa spent more than one billion baht in building its fifth prefabrication plant.

— Anand Singh

# New Year brings prosperity

By Anand Singh

PHUKET is reaping the rewards of a huge surge in tourists for this year's Chinese New Year.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) expects revenue generated over the festival period to top the eight-billion-baht mark nationwide from both domestic and Chinese markets.

Reports from around the island point to occupancy rates in three and four-star hotels hitting the 90 per cent mark. Similar reports are coming in from Koh Samui.

Many Chinese tourists booked their New Year holidays in Phuket and Samui well in advance, Mr Prakrit Chinamournphong, president of the Thai Hotels Association said.

"This has helped boost occupancy rates of three and four-star hotels during the month to an average of 85 to 90 per cent."

During the period each year, hotels in Phuket Town get a surge in occupancy, says Ms Duangduan

Vichit, reservations officer at the Phuket Merlin Hotel.

"Currently, the Phuket Merlin Hotel is fully booked, with around 80 per cent of guests being Chinese holiday makers.

"There is also a significant number of domestic tourists who stay in Phuket Town but not as many as foreign tourists," Ms Duangduan said.

She also said that Phuket Town is a popular tourist attraction for Chinese tourists, who prefer to stay there during the New Year festivities because of the town's cultural charms, which make for a good atmosphere during the festival.

Phuket Town is also home to many important Chinese shrines on the island, which attracts Chinese tourists and locals.

During the New Year festival, 130,000 Chinese tourists are expected to visit Thailand, generating 3.5 billion baht from Chinese-inbound tourists alone, said Mr Sarasern Gnowrangsi, deputy head of marketing for



ROARING TRADE: Tourism numbers are rocketing this Chinese New Year.

TAT Asia Pacific Region.

He added that there were 120 chartered flights due to land at Thai airports during February.

Out of this number, as many

as 80 chartered flights will be landing at Phuket International Airport, in addition to regular flights operating between China and Thailand.

## MOU signed to boost MICE Industry

THE Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) and Phuket Provincial Government signed an agreement last week to develop an action plan to promote the island's Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) industry.

Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha and Anusak Inthraphuvasak, Chairman of the Board of the TCEB, signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) late last month at the Westin Siray Bay Resort & Spa in Phuket to initiate the "Phuket MICE City" project, which aims to develop the province as a hub for meetings, incentive tourism and regional trade shows.

Speaking at the event, TCEB Honorary Advisor Seven Smulders pointed out that developments are well underway for a convention and exhibition center in Mai Khao.

Construction on the center, which was approved by the cabinet in October last year, is expected to finish in 2015, Mr Smulders said.

Further highlighting Phuket's potential as a MICE destination was TCEB Director of Exhibitions Supawan Teerarat.

She explained that Bangkok is currently Thailand's center for MICE activity, but that with the upcoming expansion of Phuket International Airport to handle more than 11 million passengers per year, along with other infrastructure development plans and the availability of accommodation and healthcare, Phuket is well positioned to become a MICE center in Asia.

According to the MoU, Phuket

province and the TCEB will "exchange information for planning purposes, including construction of infrastructure, transportation and mass transit in Phuket in order to enhance Phuket's competitiveness as a global MICE destination".

The partnership will also work at publicizing and "enhancing" Phuket's potential and competitiveness in the MICE industry.

Andy Dowden, general manager of Informa Yacht Group Thailand and organizer of the PIMEX International Boat Show, pointed to the success of his event as evidence of Phuket's potential.

PIMEX, which recently wrapped up its eighth annual event in Phuket saw 90 companies representing 40 brands, 47 boats and an estimated 5,000 visitors attend, Mr Dowden said.

He said that for the past four years, the TCEB has been providing assistance with organizing the boat show and that co-operation with the TCEB was "simple and painless".

He praised their financial assistance and help with publicizing the event both throughout Thailand and overseas.

— Nicholas Altstadt



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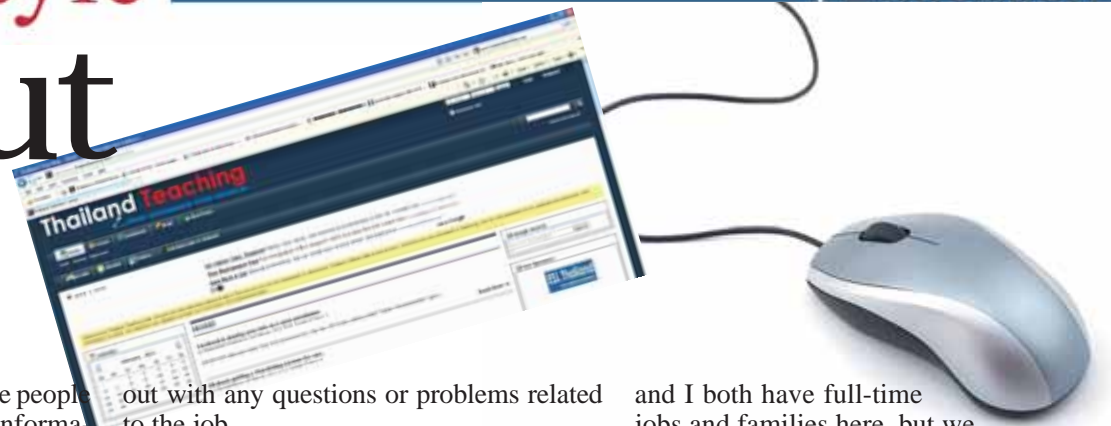
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# Talking about moderation



THERE'S a new teachers' forum in town. Recently launched and relatively unknown, Teaching Thailand hopes to provide a place to exchange valuable information, as well as resources for teachers across the country.

Ajarn.com and Thai Visa already have teachers' forums which see high traffic and have established reputations, so why bother with another forum?

The answer is that there is space in the marketplace for another forum, honing in on areas which others don't. Some critics say Ajarn's forum is loosely moderated and discussions can turn into inane banter. On the other end, Thai Visa's teaching room is strictly moderated, resulting in topics sometimes running dry. The new forum aims to capitalize on a happy-medium between the two.

Combining his passion for teaching with his tech-savvy knowhow, Teaching Thailand's co-founder Charlie Peat sat down with the *Gazette* to deliver a lesson on his alternative forum for teachers.

**Eric Haeg: What's the general vision for the forum?**

Charlie Peat: We want a place where people can ask questions and find good information relevant to teaching in Thailand. We want a forum where things don't end up in online fights.

**What topics have generated the most traffic so far?**

Mainly teaching topics, where not every member agrees on certain teaching methods. This is what makes a forum. If everyone agrees with each other, then threads don't move.

**How will the average teacher benefit from your forum?**

We'll always have the latest information related to visas, work permits, and other requirements from the Thai government as well as the Teachers Council of Thailand. We also have a growing download section, where members can download lesson plans and worksheets for a variety of subjects. The most common benefit is general advice from experienced teachers who are ready to help

out with any questions or problems related to the job.

**Do you have a job board?**

We've just opened a sister site, ESL Thailand Asia, which isn't a forum and there are no members. We're creating this site as a place for information on teaching in Thailand as well as up-to-date job postings.

**Thailand's already got two hugely successful forums, how do you plan to offer your readers something different?**

A lot of our members, including myself, were very active posters on Ajarn.com, but over the past few years the site has gone downhill. Content now is dominated by inane banter. We keep threads clean...we think they should be and free of aggressive comments. We also have a great download section.

**In terms of technical ability and time, what does it take to run a forum?**

I am no technical wiz-kid, but I know the software we use very well. The co-founder

and I both have full-time jobs and families here, but we put most of our free time in keeping things running smoothly. We also have a great team of moderators and advisors who also keep the forum free of spam and off-topic posts.

**What are your hopes for the forum in one year's time?**

That our member list will have grown, that the forum is still on-track and that teachers feel welcome to join in the discourse.

**Thanks for that Charlie. Good luck with the project. Any last words?**

Yeah. Teaching Thailand also has a few sections which are less teacher-orientated, where posters can share pictures and info about their travels around Thailand. We have a light-hearted "Teacher's Lounge" where posters can sit back, have a chat among online friends and wind-down after a day or week of teaching.

Teaching Thailand can be found at: [www.thailandteaching.asia](http://www.thailandteaching.asia)

## In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

## BIS hits mid-teens

THIS week marked a historic landmark for the British International School (BIS) – its 15<sup>th</sup> year in business on the island.

Opening its doors to a student body of 59 students back in 1996, under the name Dulwich International College, the school has morphed into the island's largest international provider with a current student tally of more than 900.

Headmaster Dr George Hickman told the *Phuket Gazette*, "BIS Phuket is simply the best place to be for education".

The anniversary celebrations, which were due to take place as this newspaper went to print, were expected to draw hundreds of parents and community members, including school founder Arthit



The British International School

Ourairat, Phuket Governor Tri Augkaracha and the director of Phuket's education office.

"The school's anniversary will be a celebration of the achievements of our students," said Christophe Espouy, BIS Marketing and Communications Executive.

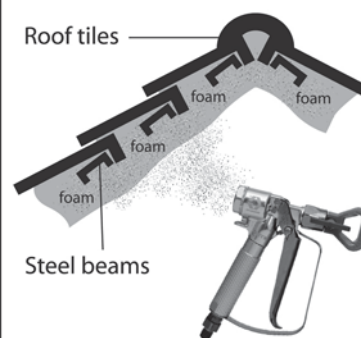
"The celebrations will mark the school's commitment to invest and offer even more outstanding opportunities to students in years to come," he added.

Celebrations were due to take place on Friday, with dance and fashion shows as well as cultural performances highlighting the 36 nationalities represented by students at the school.

Looking to the future, BIS is planning extensive upgrades in facilities, including renovation work in classrooms, library resources and athletics facilities.

– Alexandra Andersson

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## St. Valentine's Day 14 Feb'11

### MENU

Aperitif served at Vanilla Skybar

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Amuse Bouche

Mermaid Kiss : Two small soft cookies, embraced around smoked salmon mousse

Starter

Soothing Hugs : Bloc de canard on brioche croutons, served with rock salt, rose jelly and melon mustard

Soup

Naughty dreams : Potato and leek veloutée, white truffle foam, lentil sprouts and mini choux

Subtlety

Smooth 'n Berry : Olive oil ice cream, old vintage balsamic syrup and fresh berries

Mains

Sea Of Passion : King tiger prawns, artichoke tahine, keta caviar, white asparagus and quail eggs with herbed extra virgin olive oil

Or

Lover's Strength : 120 days grain fed Australian beef tenderloin, grilled to perfection and served with buttered csipetkét, Barolo reduction, rosemary infused puri and braised apple

Dessert

Head In The Clouds : Œufs à la neige, caramelized pecans, Moscato sabayon, Pistacchio Di Bronte ice cream

# Putting a leash on dog disease

ANIMAL rescue charity Soi Dog Foundation is currently embroiled in an island-wide battle against canine distemper. Last week's *Phuket Gazette* online report about Soi Dog's strategic vaccination of Phuket's dogs to create "firebreaks" preventing the spread of the disease has raised many questions.

Soi Dog was founded by Briton John Dalley, his wife Gill and Dutch expat Margot Homborg in 2003. Arriving on the island, Dalley was "appalled" by the conditions of its street dogs. And so began his efforts to give back to his new community, but it has not been an easy ride.

Despite Mrs Dalley losing both of her lower legs after contracting a rare bacterial infection while rescuing a dog in a flooded buffalo field in 2005, the couple continue to work seven days a week and have made the organization into one of Asia's largest and most successful animal rescue foundations. Soi Dog is registered as a charity in Thailand, the Netherlands, Australia, France and will shortly have similar status in the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany. Here, the *Gazette's* Nicholas Altstadt speaks with John Dalley about dogs on Phuket, animal diseases and the challenges his foundation faces in caring for them.

**Nicholas Altstadt: What is distemper and how is it transmitted? Is there a similar disease in humans that it can be compared to?**

John Dalley: Canine distemper is only found in dogs and one or two related species, none of which are found in Phuket. The disease cannot be readily compared to any human disease. It is an airborne virus transmitted either by a dog licking an infected dog or when an infected dog sneezes, it can be transmitted up to 20 meters. It was virtually eradicated in the West about 20 years ago.

**What are the symptoms, how is it treated and how can pet owners protect their pets?**

Initial symptoms are similar to a common cold in humans. It involves coughing, sneezing and discharge from the eyes and nose. Some veterinarians stock test kits that cost about 500 baht. In later stages of the disease, it affects the nervous system and brain, with death the usual result. Pet owners should have their dogs vaccinated. Soi Dog will vaccinate for free if the owner cannot afford it. Puppies should have a full course of four vaccinations at three-week intervals between the ages of eight weeks and 18 weeks.

**Can the dog's behavior be affected, making it dangerous as in the case of rabies?**

Canine distemper presents abso-

lutely no danger to humans. In the latter stages, the symptoms can resemble rabies, with the dog shaking and foaming at the mouth. However, the dog is not affected mentally in the same way as rabies can make a dog violent.

**How many cases of distemper have there been during this outbreak and when did it start? What are the numbers compared to a "non-outbreak" period?**

The current outbreak started in early December last year and despite several "false dawns", we continue to see many cases. Thus far we have seen in excess of 200 cases and must assume that there are many we are unaware of. Distemper is endemic on the island, but outbreaks are usually localized. I have never seen anything remotely on the current scale.

**How many dogs, strays and pets, are there on Phuket?**

It's difficult to be accurate, but according to our estimates there are about 50,000. The numbers have reduced in most areas over the years with more than 30,000 being sterilized by us alone.

The major problem is the large number of very young puppies brought on to the island every week for sale at various locations. These puppies come from farms in the North of Thailand and are not vaccinated against any diseases, including rabies.

**What year-on-year statistics or**

**estimates are there regarding the number of dogs on Phuket? What are the forecasts and how are they relevant to Soi Dog's efforts?**

Soi Dog does an annual count in various areas. In these areas, the number of dogs has dropped significantly over the past seven years. Although this year has seen an increase in two of them.

We are looking to increase our efforts, subject to finance, by increasing our number of vets to four and employing more dog catchers. The effort is to sterilize 70 per cent of the dogs on the island, which is scientifically proven as the benchmark that would lead to a significant reduction in dog numbers. Simply removing dogs from the streets doesn't work and the wholesale killing of dogs is contrary to Buddhist beliefs.

**How many dogs have you vaccinated for distemper?**

We have not traditionally vaccinated dogs against distemper because of the cost factor and the fact that it is not dangerous to humans. However, following the current outbreak, we have changed this policy and as of December last year, over 1,000 dogs have been vaccinated. A further 1,000 vaccines have just been bought at a cost of over 100,000 baht, and Pfizer just donated an additional 500 vaccines.

**What other diseases are of concern on Phuket?**



HOUND HERO: John Dalley, founder of the Soi Dog Foundation.

The biggest killers of dogs on Phuket are blood parasites transmitted by ticks. Ticks are everywhere on Phuket and pet owners should always protect their dogs against them. The number of dogs with tick-borne diseases is growing and we treat dozens every month.

**Other than Soi Dog, what agencies are there in Phuket to handle stray animals?**

We are increasingly working with a few of the tambon administration organizations (*OrBorTor*). The Livestock Department in Phuket has overall responsibility and operates the "dog pound", but this is basically a dumping ground and is

underfunded and understaffed, with no vets on site.

Visitors there are generally shocked by what they see.

**What is the goal of Soi Dog in Phuket? In a perfect world, what would happen?**

People may well question the effectiveness of what we do. However, with over 30,000 animals sterilized in the past seven years, they should ask themselves just how many more unwanted dogs there would be in Phuket if Soi Dog weren't active.

They should also ask themselves what effect on tourism there would be with thousands of starving, diseased dogs wandering the streets and beaches.



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# So good it will leave you speechless

## Film

By Scott Phillips

### The King's Speech

**Director:** Tom Hooper

**Starring:** Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush, Helena Bonham Carter, Guy Pearce

**Genre:** Drama/History

**Gazette Rating:** 4.5/5 – Must see

*The King's Speech* is an insightful, inspirational, and entertaining story that has been creating much-deserved buzz throughout this year's awards circles.

Based on actual events, although critics are slamming some of the film's authenticity, the film tells the story of King George VI, or "Bertie" (Firth), who struggled to overcome a childhood stutter as Europe was facing the growing threat of Hitler's Third Reich.

With King George V in failing health and Bertie's elder brother and heir to the throne, Edward VIII (Pearce), not wanting to take the throne, it was a tumultuous and uncertain time for England.

As Winston Churchill was at the center of mounting political pressure and the verge of war

with Germany, that baffled and frightened most, the country was in desperate need of a leader who could inspire national pride.

Colin Firth earned himself an Oscar nomination for Best Actor by projecting the stammering prince with an uncanny sense of struggle.

In the movie, Bertie can't tell his children a story without interrupting his animal impersonations with a stammer. He can't talk to his wife or his aides without struggling, and when he gets in front of an audience, what he experiences is nothing short of humiliation.

At the forefront of it all is a revolving door of the country's "best" doctors, who fail to help Bertie make any progress in overcoming his disability. The doctors don't just fail – they fail miserably in their diagnosis.

The pressure on Bertie to rise to the occasion of succeeding his esteemed father is asphyxiating. King George knows that Bertie is better equipped to lead than his first son Edward.

But when he sits down to have his son recite a speech – a routine they've been through many times before – Bertie blurts out fragments of syllables as his father grows increasingly frustrated. When King George's



**HEROIC PERFORMANCE:** Colin Firth plays King George VI in 'The King's Speech', a movie tipped for Oscar gongs.

frustration culminates in him shouting at his son, all hope seems lost.

In spite of how hopeless things seem to be, Bertie's loving wife, Elizabeth (Bonham Carter), never stops seeking out new doctors

with new methods to treat her husband. She eventually comes across the eccentric Lionel Logue (Rush).

Lionel is Bertie's savior. He's unconventional and insists on a lack of informality in a way that initially offends the prince, but it's the refreshing approach that Bertie needs.

Lionel believes treating speech patients requires a holistic approach that is part scientific and part art. In essence, he's half speech therapist and half psychologist.

As he encourages Bertie to consider the childhood origin of his speech problem, the trust between

them grows; forming a friendship that will earn a place in history.

Those who pay attention to film awards circles will frequently hear of *The King's Speech* in the upcoming months. Firth has already won the Golden Globe Best Actor Award for his role in the movie and is hotly tipped to scoop the Oscar for Best Actor in coming weeks.

Expertly acted, entertaining to watch, and inspirational in all the right places, it is more than a period piece; it's a story of a friendship that overcame extraordinary odds to give a country a new leader.

When this movie hits cinemas in Thailand this month, go watch it.



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### Sails: "Two Hearts Forever"

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### Thai Thai: "Thai Romance"

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sails

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# Beat the rush to visit Brush

KALIM Bay has developed into Phuket's fine dining epicenter where the island's trendiest restaurants stretch from Baan Rim Pa to IndoChine, and include the White Box, Acqua and Lim's.

The latest five-star bistro to join this exclusive group is the internationally stylish Brush Restaurant & Lounge.

Brush is the creation of Australian sculptor John Underwood, whose studio created the award-winning interiors at the Indigo Pearl Resort.

**SETTING NEW STANDARDS: Celebrity Chef Martin Bower**



## On the Menu

By Bruce Stanley

He has transformed what was the Chinese-themed Hung Fat's restaurant into an elegant and chic bistro that offers international tapas and cocktails, which may quickly become the most exciting in Phuket's diverse culinary scene.

Creating the stylish cuisine is Martin Bower – a British celebrity chef that travels the world presenting contemporary pieces of food as art.

Martin graduated from Stratford College's culinary program in London and has been directing kitchen operations at various hotels and resorts in the United Kingdom and Australia.

"I want to travel and learn about world cuisine. Using my basic talents with Mediterranean flavors, I'm excited about presenting a menu which adds the tastes of the Orient," says Martin.

The menu at Brush has a strong focus on tasty tapas, all priced around 250 baht. The Dreaming Crab Roll consists of soft shell crab cooked in tempura batter rolled into a sushi shape and coated with bright orange Japanese caviar. It is served with pickled ginger, soy sauce and wasabi.

Another tasty tapas item is Lemon and Black Pepper Calamari alongside marinated grilled red snapper served with bell pepper aioli.

"We invited some of the region's top Japanese and Indian chefs to our kitchen to train our staff on creating the savory subtleties in our



**NEW FACE:** John Underwood designed the stylish interior at Brush. Photos: Baljit Gidwani

tapas," explains Martin. "Our menu is meant to entice guests who want the variety of flavors found in Southeast Asia."

In addition, Brush has contracted the services of DJ Kensho ("DJK") as resident spin-master for the restaurant.

His mix of funk, chill and ambient sounds have proved very popular in the Phuket and London club scenes.

On Phuket, he has been a guest artist and spends much of his time in his studio creating new sounds which he presents nightly.

John Underwood has transformed the former dark red and black of Hung Fat's into a light and airy space that is original and beautiful, similar to his other projects in the region.

"My intention is for Brush to be a center of all kinds of art. Foremost is food art but we plan to constantly change the interiors as part of the excitement of a space that offers art with cuisine.

"We will host all kinds of art events at Brush starting with textiles.

"Later this month, we will present the fashion designs of Cassandra Harper, whose label Island Bliss represents the ultimate in leisure elegance," says Martin.

John designed and built the interiors of Brush at his Underwood Art Factory on the Bypass Road, displaying his talents at fabricating decorative furnishings using recycled materials.

He is one of the South's leading exponents on environmental art and plans to use Brush as a venue to demonstrate that style doesn't always need to be expensive.

The menu at Brush also features imported beef from Australia and fresh seafood that is grilled to suit the guests' taste, served with a tasty selection of accompanying vegetables and sauces.

Chef Martin also offers Braised Ox Cheek in a red wine reduction, a Rack of Lamb and a tasty Asparagus and Green Pea Risotto with roquette and parmesan emulsion.

Brush is a great place to try their signature Chili *Mangkong* (scorpion in Thai) cocktail and a memorable dessert such as a chocolate fondant or coconut panna cotta.

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# Two Birds, one kayaking dream

Father and daughter are ready to hit the water for their 120-kilometer charity paddle around Phuket. Will they make it? Bank on it...



**BIRDS' BELIEF:** Victoria and Les Bird are 'determined' to circumnavigate Phuket in a kayak. Photo: Fraser Morton

By Fraser Morton

THE countdown is on for the father-and-daughter team of Les and Victoria Bird whose epic quest to paddle more than 120 kilometers in a circumnavigation of Phuket starts next weekend.

In the early hours of February 12, Ironman athlete Les, 59, and seven-time triathlon champion Victoria, 11, will set out from Yacht Haven marina on the island's northeast coast. They won't return for some time.

Paddling in scorching heat during the day and cloaked in darkness at night, the Birds will have to successfully contend with boat traffic, exhaustion, unpredictable weather and tide changes to make it the whole way around.

But they are determined to finish what has been described as an "inspiration for Phuket", and it could take them five days to finish.

Anil Thadani, CEO of Symphony Capital, has donated his 38-foot vessel *Blowfish* as safety boat. Australian mariner Bill O'Leary will helm the boat, looking for potential dangers and pointing the pair in the right direction.

"When I read in the *Phuket Gazette* about Victoria's aim of raising awareness for charity, I wanted to help in some way. I admire people who take on tough new challenges. This young girl is an inspiration to us all," said Mr Thadani.

The Birds will also be flanked by two veteran kayaking instructors on their trip: Ian Jones, who runs Exceptional Experiences, and Rob Ford, the Head of Primary at Victoria's school, the British International School.

The Birds announced their ambitious plans in October. Since then, the local community has been quick to lend support and cash donations. They are raising

funds for the 100 Friends international foundation and Phuket Sunshine Village. So far, more than 32,000 baht has been raised and handed to charity representatives. Victoria is intent on raising much more.

First taking up kayaking 22 months ago in Phuket, Victoria completed a British Canoe Union (BCU) training course on the Isle of Wight in the English Channel in summer 2009.

Victoria's paddling progress over the past few months has left dad Les and her instructors baffled.

"It's amazing. She is a natural...she makes me look bad," says Les.

The pair will be paddling in 14-foot solo Atlantis kayaks with drinks, food and their bunk-beds

all aboard *Blowfish*.

Les said the paddle will be split into eight sections, a change from the original three.

On the first day, the Birds will set out from Yacht Haven and paddle about 30km to Nai Yang (2). Later that day (after Les has had his daily two-km swim for a "cool-down", they will head for Bang Tao (3) and stay the night on *Blowfish*.

The following day they plan to make it all the way to Nai Harn (4) in the South. They plan to stop halfway for a quick respite.

This will all be the easy part, says Les, who is more concerned with the unpredictable tidal patterns and speedboat traffic in Chalong Bay and off the coast of Phuket Town's Rassada Pier.

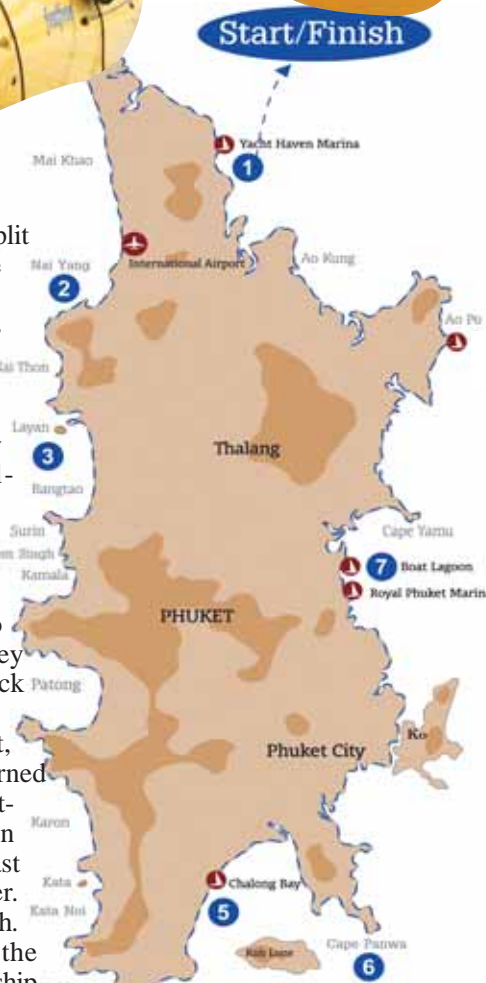
Day three is going to be tough. Paddling from Nai Harn, the duo plan to make it to Friendship Beach (5), then Cape Panwa (6).

On day four, en route to Boat Lagoon (7), "We'll stay away from the coastline to avoid the busy channel," says Les.

The fifth day will see the pair shoot for their final destination,

Yacht Haven. This is where Victoria's classmates are expected to throw a welcome home party. All are welcome to attend.

For more, contact Les at T: 081-9267103 or E:lesbird@loxinfo.co.th



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# Peter Haenni

**EXPAT**  
gallery  
By Bruce Stanley

PETER Haenni moved to Phuket in 1994 from the Yverdon region of Switzerland where he trained and worked as a baker. He established bakeries on Phuket several years later and today provides pastries and delicatessen goods from his bakery in Chalong to supermarkets and other baked goods outlets around the island.

Many Phuket residents will remember that his bakeries were originally called "Flintstone".

"I liked the character of Fred Flintstone, who reminded me of myself, and I didn't think I would have any trouble using this name until I was contacted by a major law firm and told I was in copyright violation. I had to pay a big fine and change the name. Okay, now I call my bakery Flints-One, and I drew a new logo but it's still me."

Peter adapted to this change with a shrug of the shoulders, and chalks it up to the challenges of doing business in Thailand. He has succeeded as a small entrepreneur by focusing on increasing his product range and providing quality foods for his loyal customers.

"I make more than 150 different products, which include traditional Swiss pastries such as *laekerly*, a biscuit with mixed fruit inside, and a Swiss pasta, *spatzli knoepfli*.

"I developed a whole range of fresh frozen dinners like moussaka,

lasagna, cottage pie, and *vol au vent*. I make fresh tomato sauce, pork pie, pickles, fresh mango, strawberry and raspberry jams and a salmon terrine. There's the native cuisine of many European countries on offer."

Flints-One also offers a full service restaurant menu at their Chalong location, near the Fisherman Business Park, where locals go for a Western breakfast or an afternoon sandwich made with Peter's fresh bread.

Peter was born in the French region of Switzerland and took an apprenticeship as a baker. His first job was with the large Co-op Lausanne, where he worked at the company's factory from late night to early morning making a wide variety of breads.

After five years, he tired of the late hours and moved to mega-chain Migros where he made cakes all day. He stayed for seven years.

During his time as a baker in Switzerland he traveled to the United States and around Europe and played football in his spare

time. In 1991, he came to Phuket for a three week holiday and it changed his life.

"I was single then and it was a lot of fun to be on the island. A few years later, I returned with the idea of taking a year off and traveling around Thailand, but I never left Phuket."

He took a job at Le Croissant on Chao Fa East Road as a baker. By 1998 he was ready to open his own bakery and delicatessen. During the past 12 years, he has supplied his bakery products to the Deli Supermarket in Patong, the Kathu and Kamala bakeries, and Villa Market.

And for eight years he operated the restaurant at the British International School. He also opened another Flints-One Bakery in Rawai opposite the Sea Gypsy Village.

"I work all the time. There is no time to relax or for holidays as I have a lot of staff to support and it is a constant challenge to meet the needs of my loyal customers."

His shops are busy from early morning till closing, with local residents buying birthday cakes, elaborately decorated pastries and a line of designer quiche.

"I love living and working in Thailand as there's still a lot of freedom to do what you want, and, thankfully, there's a big market for what I can produce."



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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# Sun, Sea, Surf ...and 'Singto'

COOL CAT:  
'Singto' shows  
off his ukulele.



By Andrew  
Jennings

THAILAND'S indie music scene remains quite the bone of contention. That is to say, there doesn't appear to be any defined "scene" as such.

On the surface of it, this country's live musical experience is a stable diet of tone-deaf karaoke yodelers screeching out Lady Gaga's latest hit, or, over-excited Thai jam bands churning out the same old predictable covers.

But scratch a little deeper and the talent is undoubtedly there – accomplished musicians walking their own independent path. One such troubadour is "Singto" Numchok.

Singto's voice and mellow guitar skills have shifted thousands of copies of his self-titled debut album, yet the man himself remains the same laid-back soul who began his musical apprenticeship as a busker on the mean streets of Patong several years back.

Originally from the northern province of Biri Ram, Singto started playing guitar at the tender age of 12. He eventually moved to Bangkok, before the salty scent of the ocean steered him in the direction of Phuket, initially on a three month break from the capital. As often happens in



BEACH BOYS: 'Singto' and band 'Mono' shoot a music video on the beach.



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life, three months became three years.

"When I first arrived in Phuket I performed my music just for fun... on Soi Bangla among other places. A friend of mine owned a restaurant in Phuket Town and asked me to play music there in the evenings. It sort of took off from there," says Singto.

Phuket and Singto proved a perfect fit. Phuket was where he began to refine his music, give it direction. Island living is everywhere on his debut – an unashamed surf-fused pop record released last Autumn to critical acclaim. Think Jack Johnston's sound and you won't be too far off.

The laid-back beach music of artists like Johnson and Jason Mraz has been well received in Thailand in recent years, but it took Singto to take up the baton for the local boys.

"Thailand already has a lot of reggae and ska but not too much surf music, so I decided to have a go at it," he says.

"Surf music comes from simple pop music... it's easy for people to get it and like it.

"Everyone loves the beach in Phuket. When you've got a broken heart or feeling tired with things, you might think of the beach and it can make you happy," he adds.

Playing to an ever-increasing number of fans in the Phuket bar scene, Singto eventually got the opportunity to release a debut record, following a meeting Kij Monotone, owner of Pollen Sound.

Produced by Pollen and promoted by Believe Records, the album received positive reviews on its release last year, with latest single *Ther Khue Khong Khwan* (You're a gift) getting

plenty of radio airplay.

The opening track on the album, *Wake Up*, is performed in English, so too is jazz-scat soaked *Hoo Hoo*.

Acoustic guitar is prevalent on most tracks on the album, but so too is the ukulele, which gives the music a Hawaiian bent.

Singto is self-thought on the ukulele – picking up how to play through clips on YouTube.

And as it turns out, he is a natural on the instrument, scooping first prize at a national Thailand Ukulele Festival last year.

"I bought a ukulele in small music shop in Phuket Town, it was the only one they had.

"I liked the sound of it and quickly got to learning it," says Singto.

"I applied to the competition while I was still making the album. I wanted to win the grand prize of two really good ukuleles.

"I thought they might give the album something different. I sent a clip to the competition organizers and I was voted the winner," he added.

Playing live, Singto plays mostly his own songs, but does include a few covers in his repertoire. Stevie Wonder's *My Cherie Amour* and Marvin Gaye's *What's going on* (both played in Singto's own unique laid-back style) are two fan favorites.

Singto is currently holed up in Bangkok but is already making plans to return to Phuket in the next couple of months, hopefully to play a few gigs.

"There was a show planned for March in Phuket but it was canceled. I still plan to return to Phuket very soon. I've so many friends on the island and it very much feels like home for me," he says.

## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### February 1-8. Quest Fun Zone is back for Chinese New Year!

From 10am to 4pm at Quest Laguna Phuket Adventure on Bang Tao Beach. One full week (February 1-8) of Quest's much-loved adventure activities for kids aged 5-15, including rock climbing, survival, wet'n' wild and many more outdoor adventures. Fill out the form for your kids on our Facebook page: "Quest Fun Zone". Great discounts available if you show proof of residence. Full day 750 baht, includes lunch per person. Half day 400 baht per person. Contact Quest Laguna Adventure Staff T:076-314253 E:quest@lagunaphuket.com W:lagunaphuket.com/qffz.com for more information.

### February 6. Gourmet Sunday at Möevenpick

Bring the family and enjoy a gourmet feast and some wine by the poolside on Sunday (running every Sunday from now). Our Play Zone is equipped with activities and friendly staff for the kids. An array of various food will tantalize the taste buds, including sushi, sashimi, seafood, oysters, pan-fried goose liver, barbeque with imported meat, cheese, Möevenpick ice cream and Swiss specialities to round off a delightful afternoon. Adult price: 1,500 baht nett per person for food only and 1,800 baht nett per person for food and selected wines and cocktails. Kids aged between 4-11 years old: 750 baht nett per person for food

## February 14. Valentines Day at the Hilton



Treat your sweetheart to a grand celebration this Valentines Day with a romantic atmosphere and candle-light dinner at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa. You can even create a personalized meal for your loved one. Choose which venue to show your true love from our four sensational dining options on February 14, from 7pm at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa in Karon. Contact Nikki Tipaxsorn on T:076-396433 E:sales.phuket@hilton.com or W:phuketarcadia.hilton.com. Bookings open from February 10.

only. Contact Carlos Vizan on T:076-396139 or E:carlos.vizan@moevenpick.com for more information.

### February 6. Phuket Dinghy Regatta Series

Come early to rig boats in the Topper Sail Phuket Dinghy Regatta Series - open to all dinghy classes. Boats available for charter, so come and join the fun. Race Optimist, Topper, Topaz, Lasers and Hobie Cats. Booking required. For new racers, we have workshops and training available before the race day. Also on February 26 and March 12. Topper Sail Phuket also offers sailing lessons for all ages. Courses run

most weekends and during the school holidays, except race days. Contact Katy Gooch on T:085-2159185 or E:toppersailphuket@gmail.com W:toppersailphuket.com for more information

### February 7. Super Bowl XLV at Roxy Bar in Phuket town

Come and enjoy the Super Bowl fun with us at Roxy Bar on Phang Nga Road in Phuket Town from 9am-12:30pm. There will be a Bloody Mary bar, some snacks and pre-game shows. Contact Nuno on T:081-3970033 E:nuno@roxybarphuket.com W:roxybarphuket.com for more information.

### February 12-13. Balanced Mind Course Training at Phuket International Academy

Transforming Adversity - part of seven points in the Mind Course training program. A synthesis of practices will be developed to train your engagement in daily life. The goal of the training is to transform the mind so that even during adversity, the mind is balanced, enabling joy and happiness to arise in times of both felicity and adversity. Ringu Tulku Rinpoche, Master of Tibetan Buddhism of the Kagyu Order will be teaching this session. He was trained in all schools of Tibetan Buddhism un-

der many great masters, including HH the 16<sup>th</sup> Gyalwang Karmapa and HH Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche. Contact Weena on T:076-336030 E:mtc@phuketinternationalacademy.com or W:phuketinternationalacademy.com for more information.

### February 13. Phuket Yacht Club Kids Sailing at Ao Yon.

The Phuket Yacht Club is hosting kids courses on selected Sundays in February and March for children aged 7-12 years. These will be introduction-to-sailing courses. Contact Donna Stephens on T:086-1200752 or E:phuketyachtclub@gmail.com W:phuketyachtclub.info for more information.

### February 18. The Phuket-Times Dot Com Amateur Golf tourney

To kick off 2011, The Phuket-Times

dot Com Amateur Golf Open will hold its 6<sup>th</sup> qualifying heat. Places are still available for all qualifying heats and you need to be in it to win it, with the top 25 in the order of merit rankings getting a place in the Grand Final automatically, as well as winners of each category in each Qualifying Heat. Entry Fee is 3,000 baht (inclusive of green fee, caddy fee, and food). All payments and entry forms to be received by February 16. Will be held at 10:30am at Blue Canyon Lakes Course. Contact Neil Taylor on T:082-2803486 or Laong T:087-8564426 or E:phuketamateurgolfopen@gmail.com W:phuket-times.com for more information.

### February 14. Special tasting on Valentines Day at SALA Phuket Resort and Spa, Mai Khao Beach

Recline and dine with your loved one this Valentines Day. Graze through our special tasting menu while mood jockey DJ Noom lays down silky smooth tracks. After dinner, lie under the open sky and enjoy a romantic comedy in our starlight theater. Price is 3,500baht++ per couple. Lavish your table in a blanket of rose petals for additional 500baht++, book an intimate, private rooftop table for an additional 2,900baht++, including a bottle of pink bubbles. Contact Tibor Baan on T:076-338888 or E:fbphuket@salaphuket.com W:salaresorts.com for more information.

### February 18. Curry Fridays at Karon Sea Sands

Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet. Selections include all-time favorites Chicken Tikka Masala, very hot mutton and served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449baht nett. Draught Beer is just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Contact Seemant Raju T:076-286464 ext 4 or E:sm@karonseasand.com W:karonseasand.com

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# Bikers for Life Home



**BIKERS FOR LIFE:** Following on from their successful fundraising efforts over the past few months, the Nai Harn Bikers dropped in at the Life Home Project (LHP) office in Koh Sireh to hand over donations to Helene Fallon Wood and Joojee from LPH. There to present a cheque for 118,000 baht on the day was Khun Ohm, the organizer of a series of successful biker events held recently to raise money for LHP. Photo: K Napadom of LHP



# Pizza pride

**PIZZA PERFORMER:** Kata Beach Resort & Spa recently welcomed Italian "Pizzaiolo" (Pizza Man) Lorenzo Massezzoli who demonstrated his mastery of pizza cooking to the resort's kitchen staff. Lorenzo (back row, wearing cap) with the resort's Management.

**YOUR**

**Phuke**

# Bamboo men believe in Friendship rock



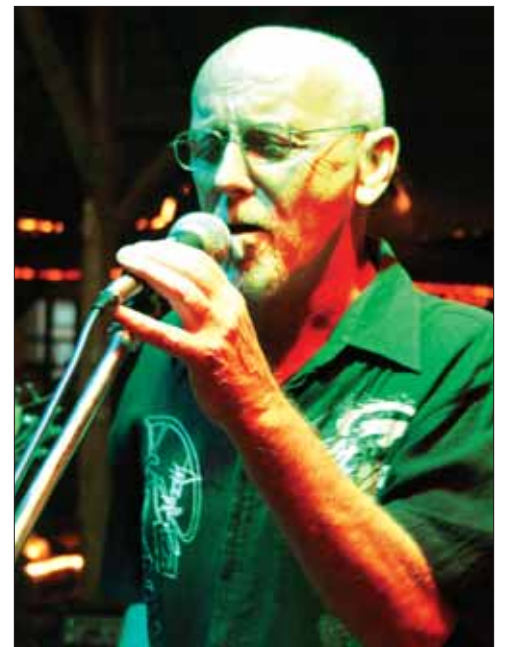
The Big Bamboo blues-rock band joined many more hot island acts at Friendship Beach Resort for last week's Music Extravaganza. Above is Glenn Fleagle, guest bass guitar



Markus Vogt on lead guitar



Rob Kief on drums



Tony 'Chainsaw' Wilson, lead vocals

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Phuket Punchline Comedy Club returns this month

# It started with Hicks

Sometimes there are phone calls you just have to take

By Andrew Jennings

FOR English comedian Nick Doody – the headline act at this month’s Phuket Punchline Comedy Club – his call came on a bleak January morning in 1992 while studying at Oxford University.

Sitting on the stairs of his student house, holding a Walkman with a recording microphone blue-tacked to it, racked with nerves about conducting his first interview for the Oxford University student newspaper, Doody waited for his interviewee to phone.

Around 11am the phone rang. Doody picked it up... the voice on the other end said: “Hello, it’s Bill Hicks”.

Universally regarded as the greatest stand-up comedian of all time, Hicks humor challenged the mainstream establishment and their beliefs of the time, aiming to “enlighten people to think for themselves.”

When the impressionable Doody – an aspiring comedian himself with a dozen college stand-up shows behind him – bagged the interview in ‘92, Hicks



**FORMER GREAT:** The late Bill Hicks was at the peak of his powers. The chat between the pair took place two years before Hicks passed away from pancreatic cancer aged just 32.

It’s a remarkable interview, where 20-year-old Doody begins nervously before quickly finding his feet. By the end, he has Hicks in hysterics. The legendary American comedian was so impressed that he invited Doody to support him at his gig in Oxford the following week.

Praising his interviewer, Hicks remarks: “I’m enjoying this... you’re asking some very relieving and refreshing f\*cking questions,” before adding, “I’ve never asked

someone to do a show with me, but that’s how good your questions are”.

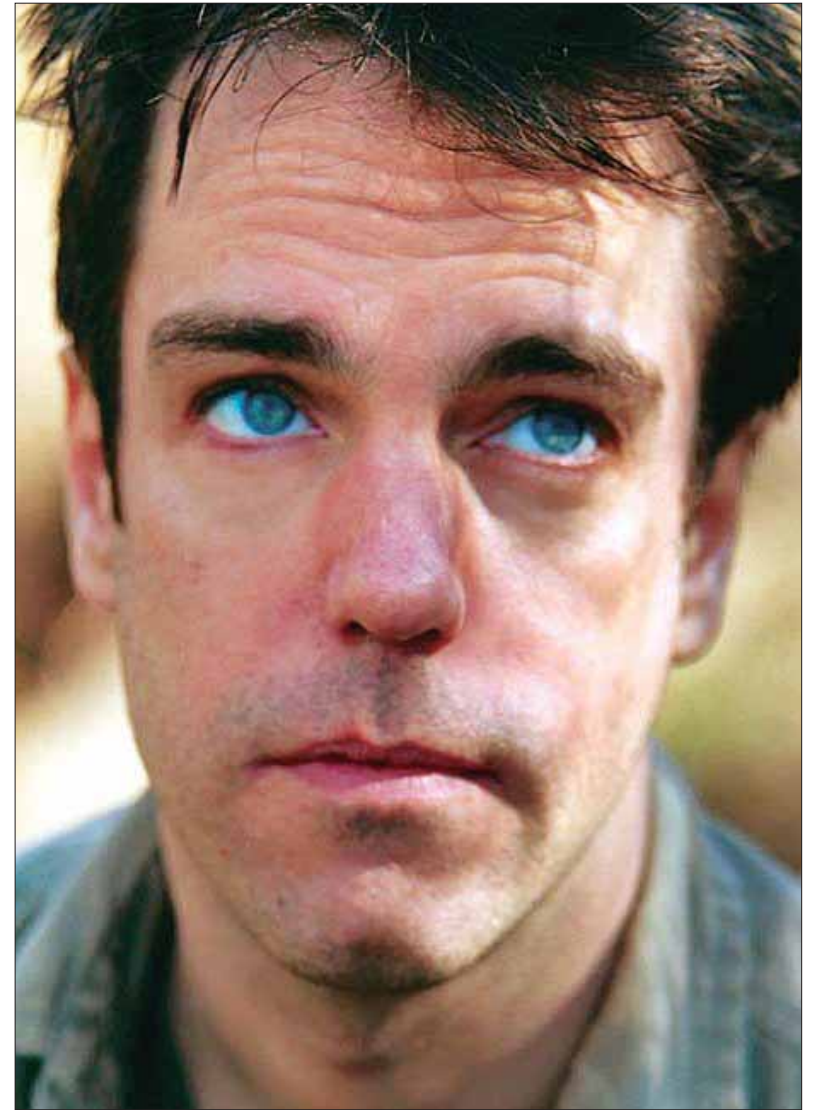
The chat with Hicks undoubtedly left its mark on Doody, who has since gone on to become one of the brightest, radical talents on the UK comedy circuit. Hicks would have been proud of Doody’s sharp, topical and “not afraid to say what he thinks” brand of political comedy and satire, which has won fans all over the world.

Doody also writes comedy for television and radio, with credits including Channel 4’s *Friday Night Project* and the Armando Iannucci’s Sony Award-winning *Charm Offensive*.

He will perform at the Phuket Punchline Comedy Club at the Holiday Inn Resort in Patong on February 23.

Comedians Josh Howie and Michael Legge will also perform on the night. Tickets are on sale at venues across the island at 960 baht each until February 22.

For more information visit [W:phuketcomedy.com](http://W:phuketcomedy.com)



**FUNNY GUY:** British comedian Nick Doody will perform in Phuket this month.



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Pruerk-Tipa	168.6	8,800,000	100,000	4,300,000	4,400,000
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# PROPERTY Gazette

News | Construction | Gardening | For sale | For rent | Classifieds

## Building up The View

By Nicky Vermeulen

WORK on The View in Karon is underway again now that the rainy season, which delayed operations on site late last year, is over.

With foundations in place and the soft opening scheduled for December this year, builders are now busy installing the infrastructure at the site, including the 25-meter by 400m retaining wall piled in around the site.

Perched right on 60-75m above sea level, The View is the 500-million-baht brainchild of developer Alexander Grabowski.

The project will feature 53 Ocean View units as well as a panoramic ocean-view clubhouse with infinity pool, pool bar,

restaurant, children's pool, fitness room, business center, step garden and spa pavilion in the middle of the 8.03-rai project site.

The conceptual theme of the development is "ocean wave inspiration" demonstrated by the white color scheme and floor-to-ceiling panoramic ocean views.

Unit sizes range from 114 square meters for one-bedroom units, 145sqm two-bedroom units, 222sqm three-bedroom units and the three-bedroom penthouses roam up to 392sqm of interior space opening onto a huge sundeck.

All units have been designed with spacious terraces, private swimming pools and each unit soaks in the surroundings



CONCEPT VIEW: Work on The View in Karon is expected to finish by December. Photos: LerThai Design Studio

through large glass windows, sliding glass doors and tempered glass handrails.

Some units even feature rooftop sun decks and entertainment areas for guests of the condominium owners.

Units throughout the development will be linked by green pathways ready for golf car transportation.

Architect and interior designer on the project are Pongsakorn Aunprdit and Borritat Sawanrat from LerThai Co Ltd, whose design experience includes working with internationally renowned five-star hotels and residences, such as the Moevenpick Resort and Spa at The Palm Jumeirah Dubai.



OPEN-AIR: The villas are open-air and spacious.

The main aim of the modern interior design is to capitalize on light and airflow to maximize the space of the units, which can be fully furnished at the owners' request.

Prices for the units, of which 30 per cent have been sold, start from about 15 million baht and rise up to about 48 million baht for the larger penthouses.

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Laguna Village. Phuket.

# Hillside properties keep hanging on

LEAFING through any of the island's glossy property magazines or websites, three terms seem to crop up time and time again: "oceanfront", "absolute beachfront" and "sea views".

Although, the most exaggerated property moniker has got to be the term "luxury".

Copywriters employ artistic license by applying the word to all manner of property, from galvanized iron roofed shacks and dog houses to condos and ultra villas.

An underground movement should be established with the principal aim of banning the word "luxury" from property publications and advertising.

The leaders will live somewhere up in the hills of Phuket subsisting only on free-range geckos, home-grown high-octane coffee beans and solar-powered connections to Facebook.

Radical movements aside however, there's a nagging question



**Property Watch**  
By Bill Barnett

which regularly pops up in Phuket property circles: what drives top-range property prices on the island?

The strange species of luxury cliff-hanging villas is a case in point. Take a drive in California's Malibu, or perhaps Italy's Amalfi Coast, and hillside properties with awe-inspiring views and definable aspects are understandably the most sought after properties on the market.

In Phuket, when comparing the value of upscale real estate – say along Kamala's headland or in Surin, Nai Thon or easterly Cape Panwa – the common denominator is not the beaches, but privacy and viewing horizons.

In many cases, as the slope gets steeper the price gets higher.

Take it from me: Seclusion sells.

Of course there are exceptions. The most notable being the high-priced neighborhood just over the bridge in Natai, which offers the opportunity to step right onto a long stretch of beach.

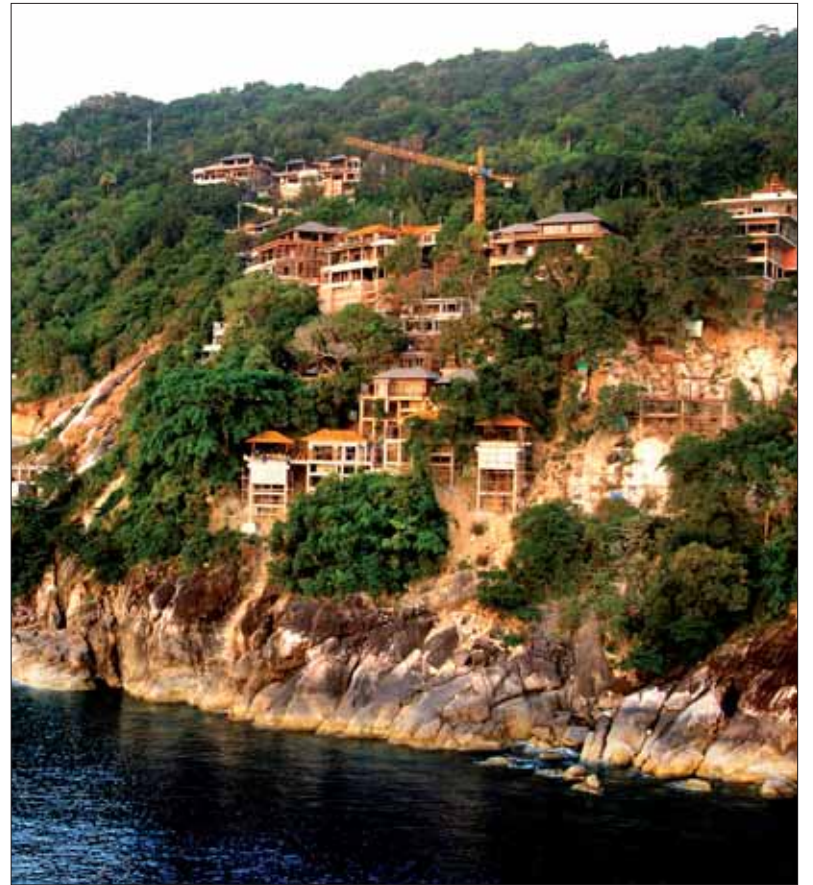
The respective camps representing beachfront versus hillside ocean view will continue to wage war on the subject of what really defines "luxury".

Truth be known, the answer lies somewhere in between. But in terms of the broader market in Phuket, at least there is a direct correlation between the angle and pricing stratosphere.

With so little coastline left, some will point out that opportunities of high-end developments are shrinking faster than the value of the beleaguered US dollar.

However, there are still a number of premium sites left in Phuket which will ensure longevity for the cliffhanger fraternity.

Plus, new environmental laws



**CLIFF-HANGERS:** Property on headlands with exceptional views are sought-after commodities in Phuket. Photo: Jim Welch

passed last year actually favor less density. The best use of these laws is to develop prime resort homes. One could say it's not less is more, but less for more.

So budding millionaires rest

assured – Phuket will indeed have a place for you in years to come.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through [www.c9hotelworks.com](http://www.c9hotelworks.com).

## In brief...

### Strategic alliance not a bad idea

AS PHUKET'S non-traditional accommodation providers, management companies and rental agents continue to multiply, perhaps now is the time for local leadership to form a strategic alliance with organizations who have similar aims.

Bali's Villa Rental Association is the brainchild of six leading agencies and was established in 2007.

Currently membership stands at 16 organizations operating on the island. While essentially formed to act as a conduit for its members in

promoting the destination, its critical tasks are effectively raising the bar amongst the industry and working with villas owners, government, management companies and agents in institutionalizing the trade.

One key competency has seen the association being able to deliver value through its efforts in consumer advocacy.

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



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# Police station plans inch forward

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

PLANS to build a new police station in Karon are progressing at a snail's pace, but work on the new Police Region 8 headquarters now under construction in Mai Khao is steaming ahead, officials were told this week.

Maj Gen Decha Budnampeth, Deputy Commissioner of Provincial Police Region 8, told a meeting on Tuesday that his office was still awaiting Treasury Department approval on whether the Karon police station project could go ahead.

Maj Gen Decha, a former Phuket Provincial Police superintendent, explained that the police station in Karon is to be built on three rai of Treasury Department land located between the Hilton Arcadia Phuket Resort and Spa and The Old Phuket Resort.

Police Region 8 had first requested to use five rai at the site, but Karon Municipality had already been granted two rai for a medical center. This left the remaining three rai to be used for a police station, he explained.

Only after the Treasury Department approved the land request can his office start construction of a road, 300 meters long and eight meters wide, to reach the

proposed site from Patak Road. Access road will cross private land, but both landowners involved have agreed to donate the land needed for the road to go ahead, he added.

One of the parties granting access is a member of the Ekwahnit family, one of the island's largest landholders.

Maj Gen Decha expects to spend a total of 20 million baht in total on the new station, including land costs and construction.

Meanwhile, progress on the new Police Region 8 headquarters, now under construction on 185 rai of land in Mai Khao, is going gangbusters.

Fencing, an entrance sign, security guard box, helicopter hangar and other facilities have

been completed at a cost of 10 million baht.

Work on infrastructure installation including roads, water and electrical supply, as well as a Phuket Forensic Science building is to continue under a 90-million-baht budget.

Police Region 8 received the required budget more than a year ago, but construction stalled after encountering problems with sea gypsies living there, Maj Gen Decha said.

"There are 26 families living on the land; 24 of them have accepted compensation, but just two refused the option," he said.

Nevertheless, construction will resume next month and take about one year to finish," he explained.



HANGING IN THERE: A helicopter hangar at the new site of the Police Region 8 headquarters, currently under construction in Mai Khao.



The entrance to the Police Region 8 headquarters.


The forensic center will cover 13 rai and serve as a "Scientific Crime Detection Center" or "National Training Center".

"Once it is finished, tests for drugs, including urine tests, and tests on weapons can be conducted here," he added.

Currently, samples and other materials to be used as evidence in Phuket investigations must be sent to a forensic science center in Trang for analysis and confirmation.

Phuket City Police chief Wanchai Ekpornpit earlier has often said the lack of a testing facility on the island was a major weakness in the local criminal justice system, allowing some drug suspects to walk free.

Police Region 8 will wait until 2012 before applying for the 110 million baht in funding needed to build the headquarters office building and the officers' accommodations, Maj Gen Decha said.




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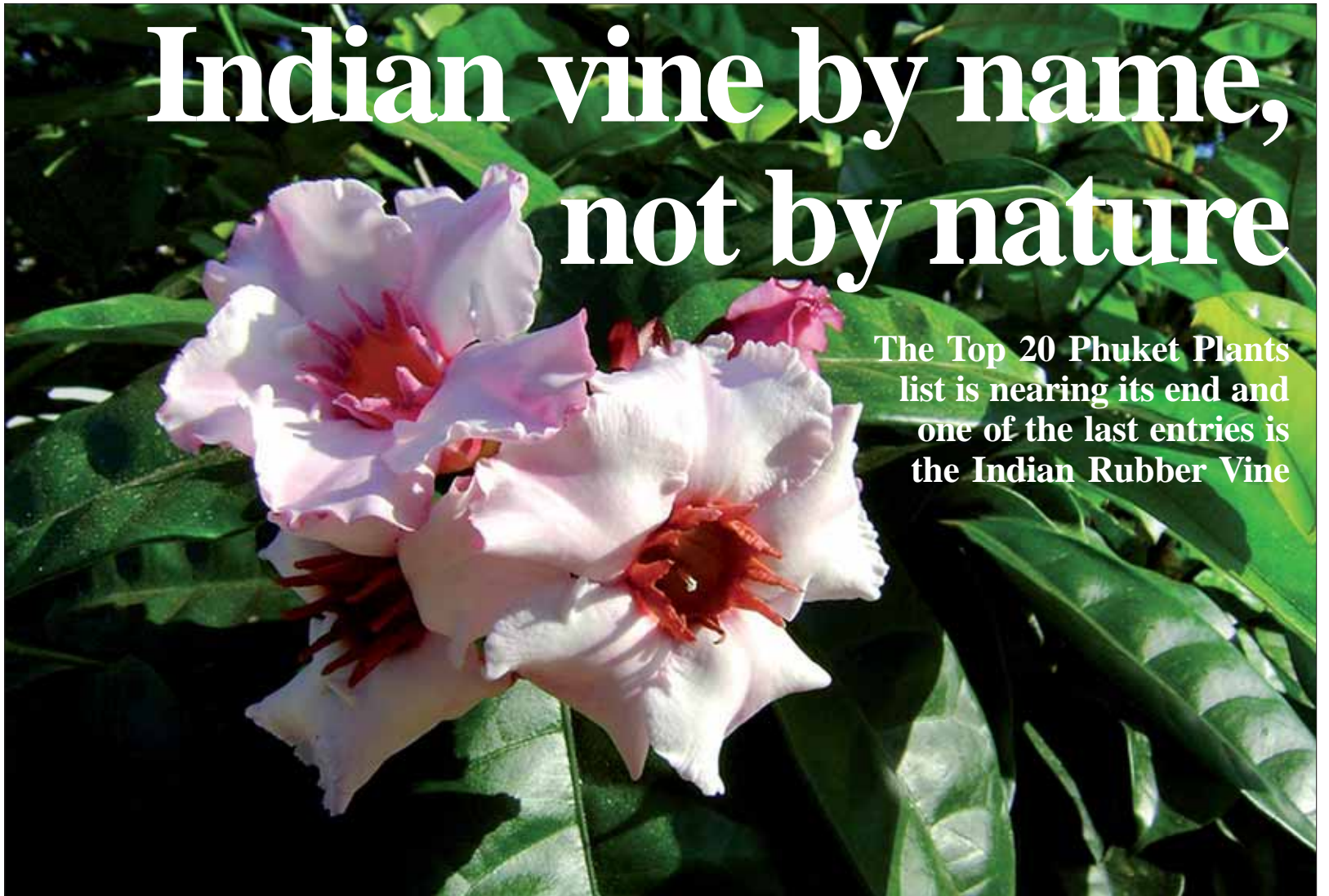


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# Indian vine by name, not by nature

The Top 20 Phuket Plants list is nearing its end and one of the last entries is the Indian Rubber Vine

DESPITE what the name suggests, Indian Rubber Vine (*Strophanthus gratus*) can be found in hot climates all over the world, from the southern United States, where it is sometimes referred to as climbing oleander or rose allamanda, all the way to Phuket, where it's called *Yaen Pinang* in Thai.

The Indian bit is misleading, since it hails from Madagascar. Also, it is neither a true oleander nor allamanda, despite coming from the same family of *Apocynaceae*.

Enough about semantics: what is undeniable is the vine's beauty and its value as a garden shrub.

It produces clusters of large, waxy, pink blooms which shade to a deeper pink at the edges.

The trumpet shaped flowers are allamanda-like, but they have projecting throats that are deep burgundy in color.

Some cultivars have long twisted segments that hang down from this, hence the name *Strophanthus*, which means "twisted cord flower". The buds are attractive too, purplish-red in color.

In full sun it will bloom profusely and more-or-less continuously. One slender stem may have as many as 10 flowers at its tip.

These will last for several days before turning pale brown and dropping, and they exude a powerful, musky fragrance, which some say is reminiscent of roses.

Moreover, the blooms can be used as decorations.

The foliage is another bonus. The leaves are large and leathery in texture.

PERFECTLY PINK: The Indian Rubber Vine hails from Madagascar and is grown worldwide under many different names. Photo: Tatters

However, they are extremely glossy, displaying a rich green when new that turns to olive-green with age.

Nicely complementing the massed display of pink blooms, they stay on the bush without looking at all scruffy for a very long time.

A natural tendency of the shrub is to be somewhat vine-like. It is scandent and can be a bit straggly without some support. After all, it

is a heavyweight.

But *Strophanthus* is tolerant of pruning and will form a good-sized bush if the long shoots are pruned and the plant is supported when it starts to get top-heavy.

Apart from that, it is a low-maintenance shrub tolerant of most soil conditions and unlikely to succumb to disease. It is easy to propagate from hardwood cuttings. What's odd is that it is not more popular in Phuket.

It is most certainly a Top 20 Phuket Plants candidate.

It needs plenty of space, as the roots go down a long way, so do not put it too close to less robust shrubs.

Apart from that, its only possible demerit is that it is, in common with most members of the *Apocynaceae* family, highly toxic and contains a range of extremely potent alkaloids.

But even these have been used

positively to treat heart conditions.

After all, every tropical garden will have its share of poisonous plants.

*Strophanthus* has won out over other members of this extensive genus. The so-called yellow oleander (*Thevetia Peruviana*) came very close to being selected.

It is more compact and bush-like, will grow to the size of a small tree and produces beautiful yellow or apricot flowers. It is every bit as hardy as its cousin.

Although *Thevetia* blooms for most of the year, its flowers are produced more sparingly than those of the Indian Rubber Vine.

For this reason, *Strophanthus* gets the nod.

Next week will be the last in this series. Then it will be time to put these Top 20 Phuket Plants in some sort of order of preference.

That is going to be very tricky, not to say, highly contentious.

Readers' comments will be most welcome.

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

## Tip of the week

### Planting preparations

NOW that the wet season is supposedly behind us, it's a good time to plant new shrubs.

After all, the garden soil will still be moist and reasonably workable.

The hole for your plant should be a bit bigger than the ball of soil at the base of it.

For ease, saturate the immediate planting area with water beforehand, and, if the plant has a well established root system, water the container too.

If the soil is poor or needs conditioning, dig a larger hole and incorporate some compost or other organic matter. Only tease out the roots if they are too compact.

After positioning the plant, pack the remaining space with good quality top soil and firm down.

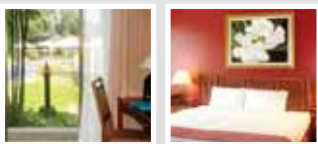
This will help deter predatory worms and grubs.

If the new plant requires a stake, ensure that the stake is placed in the hole first.

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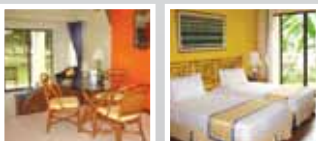
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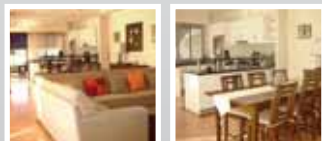
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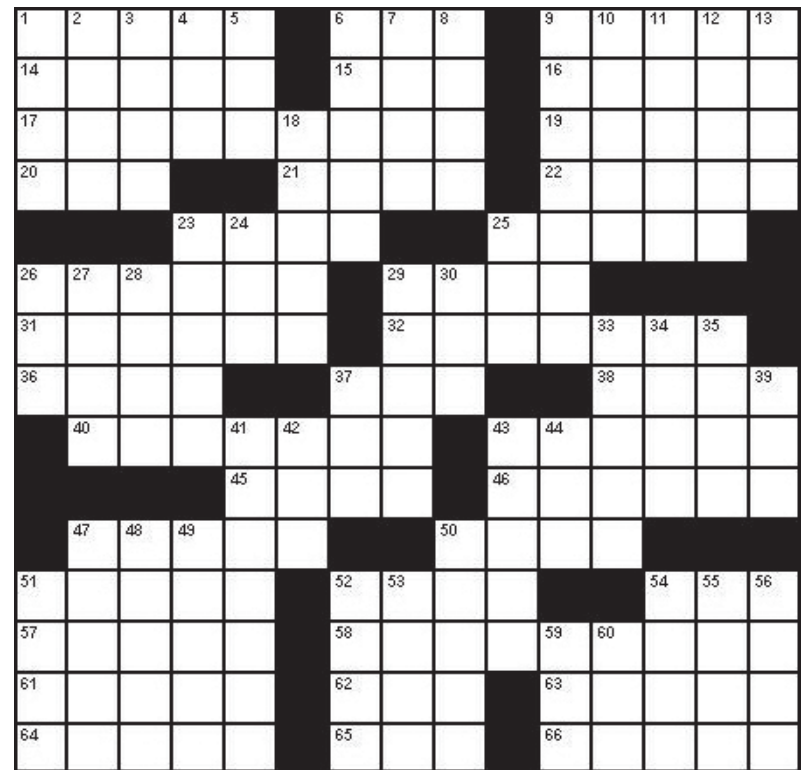
## The IMPOSSIBLY POSSIBLE QUIZ

1. What other name is the Chinese New Year known as?
2. Does the Chinese New Year fall on the same date every year?
3. Why is the 15<sup>th</sup> day of Chinese New Year significant?
4. What does *Gong Xi Fa Cai* mean?
5. What do the Chinese call the New Year?
6. What animal was 2010 the year of?
7. According to Chinese legend, which color has the ability to drive away bad luck and evil spirits?
8. In China, how many public holidays are given to the New Year celebrations?
9. Why are dragon dances performed during Chinese New Year?
10. Which fruit, representing luck and prosperity, is traditionally the most popular to hand out for Chinese New Year?
11. According to tradition, who do families visit on the first day of Chinese New Year?
12. What can one expect to find, in even quantities, inside *Ya Sui Qian*?
13. Which calendar determines the Chinese New Year?

*Quiz answers on page 33*

- Across**
1. Hebrew prophet
  6. Doo-wop syllable
  9. Starbucks order
  14. Friendship
  15. Aurora's counterpart
  16. "The dog ate my homework" example
  17. Period of youthful inexperience
  19. Member of the nobility
  20. Single room occupancy
  21. Coup d' —
  22. Portents
  23. Collars
  25. Uneven
  26. Capital of Lesotho
  29. Go out with
  31. Monetary unit of Thailand
  32. Formal speech
  36. Ammo
  37. Relative of "i.e."
  38. Cook
  40. Nuptial
  43. Saltworks
  45. Like some fir trees
  46. Simple shed
  47. Fastener
  50. Atomizer output
  51. New Zealand aboriginal
  52. — first you don't...
  54. Gangster's gun
  57. First name in photography
  58. Gratuity
  61. Shorthand taker
  62. Anger
  63. Baffled
  64. Sacred text of Islam
  65. Paris possessive
  66. Attack

- Down**
1. Aggregate
  2. Actor Epps
  3. Farm structure
  4. 7<sup>th</sup> letter in Greek alphabet
  5. Barrett of Pink Floyd
  6. Chairs
  7. Georgetown player
  8. Kind of prof.
  9. Worker
  10. 1836 siege site



11. Wearies
12. Steak order
13. Half of zwei
18. Rid of insect pests
23. Cool!
24. Prince Valiant's son
25. Airport abbr.
26. Ed.'s pile
27. Exclamations of relief
28. Cease
29. Every 24 hours
30. Axlike tool
33. Acclaim
34. Type of guard
35. Dispatched

37. Covered vehicle
39. — Schwarz
41. 20<sup>th</sup> letter of the Greek alphabet
42. Little drink
43. Narrow openings
44. Loser to DDE
47. Division of a long poem
48. Not a winner
49. Concert venue
50. Creates
51. Face covering
52. Large wading bird
53. Payment for travel
54. Adventurous exploit
55. Between ports
56. Yonder thing
59. Gives birth to
60. Hot time in Paris

*Provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission.*

*Puzzle solutions on page 33*

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): The stars suggest that something or someone could try to push you faster than you want to move this week. Aquarians who are uncomfortable with this situation are advised to make their feelings clear on Monday or Tuesday. Where love is concerned, interest from Scorpio leaves you cold, but an earth sign could become a ray of sunshine in your romantic life. Those with a birthday in the week ahead will gain new priorities in the coming year.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): A few twists and turns could disturb what you hoped to be a smooth path this week. Those involved in business negotiations are advised to delay important meetings until after Wednesday to ensure smoother progress. Where your personal life is concerned, another water sign is ready to make amends for their recent inconsiderate behavior. Romance is well-starred and single Pisceans will be cheered by an introduction to Gemini.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Success is forecast for many Arians in the world of work this week. The astral atmosphere will back your attempts to follow through with an idea

that others were skeptical about late last year. As February progresses, your monetary situation should become less stressful, but the temptation to splash out will be strong this weekend. A romantic partner will encourage you to take time out to smell the roses.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): If your heart's not in a social get together this weekend, it would be best to back out gracefully. The stars indicate that many tired Taureans will benefit from spending some quality time alone or in the company of close friends. Events in January may have left you confused, but you should soon see the way more clearly. If this applies to a romantic dilemma, another earth sign friend has helpful advice.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Geminis seeking guidance are advised to choose their source carefully this week. There are signs that it could be in another air sign's interests to lead you up the jungle path. Your financial luck improves, but a repayment could take longer to come through than anticipated. In the realm of romance, those with a partner are reminded that they can't have everything their own way. The number six can be lucky this weekend.



**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): Cancerians are predicted to gain fresh perspective on stale situations this week. Even if you decide to abandon a particular project, there should be a way to put this experience to profitable use. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for brainstorming and wowing others with your creativity. Where love is concerned, an earth sign is forecast to make an offer you can't refuse this weekend. Wear midnight blue to encourage quiet confidence.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Unfulfilled promises remind you that no-one is perfect this week. Many Leos could be reconsidering business arrangements, but the stars suggest that there is still chance to turn a situation around. Collaborating with water signs is forecast to be mutually beneficial. Your luck in love increases, but those with a partner may be forced to make compromises this weekend. Wear tangerine to encourage a more open mind.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Others are forecast to be impressed by your attitude this week. Virgoans who found it hard to get going at the start of this year should now find a pace that they can maintain. A stroke of luck midweek could lead to a new job opportunity. Investments are well-starred until the middle of February. Where romance is concerned, allowing your heart to rule your head is not going to lead to lasting happiness.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): It will be important for Librans to keep up with what is happening at work this week. Last minute alterations are forecast and the stars suggest that a fire sign could turn your lack of attention to their advantage. In the realm of romance, your need for independence can cause ripples in a relationship this weekend. Those who are single could start to see a water sign acquaintance in a more romantic light.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Those born under the sign of Scorpio are advised to keep ideas and plans flexible this week. The stars suggest that last minute travel is a strong possibility until the middle of this month. Where work is

concerned, a red herring could lead you in the wrong direction on Wednesday or Thursday. Playing hard to get won't have the desired effect on an air sign – romance with other water signs is positive.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Too much concern for other people's welfare could result in Sagittarians neglecting their own needs this week. There are indications that a family member or close friend will expect you to be on call when things go wrong for them. A breakthrough at work will come at a time when you are ready to give up. Your romantic outlook is positive, with true confessions helping to make a relationship more committed this weekend.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Certain Capricorns are likely to have their heads high in the clouds this weekend, but the stars suggest that events at work on Monday or Tuesday could prompt an abrupt return to earth. Your reaction to what is happening will be observed by more people than you think. Taking a chance on love with an earth sign proves to have been the right move to make. Wear a piece of red stone to encourage strong intuition.

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1 rai, behind Phuket Fanta Sea. Price 6.5 million baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 087-270 9093.

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9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 minutes to Phuket airport. Asking price: 120 million baht. Chanote. Must see. No agents. Email: [allservices29@gmail.com](mailto:allservices29@gmail.com)

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Overlooking the ocean in the exclusive Ao Por area on the East Coast of Phuket, the luxurious Sunrise Ocean Villas, located only 60m from the beach, offer breathtaking panoramic views of Phang Nga Bay. You will find the most beautiful untouched island, with white sand beaches only a few minutes away.



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Built to the highest western standards, Sunrise Ocean Villas offers a stylish and contemporary design to suit our clientele. Large window panels and an infinity swimming pool are built to offer the enjoyment of a great open space with a truly amazing view. Buy your dream villa now with a 25% discount for **only 14.9 million baht!**  
**Tel: 081-343 0777 (Eng)**  
**086-274 6062 (French)**  
Email:  
**montha\_phuket@yahoo.com** or  
**thesunrisevillas@yahoo.com**

**LAND FROM OWNER**  
Mission Hills: 1 rai. Cape Yamu: 1.5 rai. Tel: 076-239432, 081-0879237 (English & Thai), 086-270 8727 (English). Email: crob58@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://samuivillaforsale.com/phuket-land>

**HOT DEAL FOR LAST 2 UNITS****SHOP HOUSE FOR SALE  
IN KATA**

New 4-story, 248sqm in front of Ibis Kata Hotel, right at Club Med entrance. Just 400m to Kata Beach.  
**ONLY 13MB/unit.**

Contact: 080-222-1716 or  
E-mail: [nawareeh@gmail.com](mailto:nawareeh@gmail.com)

**SINGLE HOUSE  
FOR SALE**

In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Keaw. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Price: 2.4 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 083-140 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

**GOLF VIEW LAND  
FOR SALE**

1,020sqm, fully serviced, 5 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

**SUPER CHEAP  
APARTMENTS**

Freehold in Patong. Call or email for details. Tel: 080-692 6114. Email: orsorealestate@gmail.com

**TWO PLOTS  
MISSION HILLS**

-206sq wah plot. Flat land with a mountain view on small development with Chanote title and electricity. Price: 1.6 million baht.

-6-Rai hilltop land with sea and mountain views, including Chanote title. Price: 4 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-978 5804.

**1 RAI IN KATA**

About 1 rai of flat land with 40 meters of ASL. Price: 9.5 million baht. Tel: 081-273 5047. Email: patakso12@hotmail.com

**LAND NEAR LAYAN  
HILL ESTATE**

½ rai in Bang Jo. For sale for 2.35 million baht. Good quiet location, easy access. Tel: 081-078 0014. Email: homeinphuket@live.com

**2 X ½ RAI BLOCKS**

In Soi Pasak 8. 5 minutes to Laguna. Chanorte title. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

**ON THE BEACH**

2-bedroom apartment in North Paton. Foreign free-hold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-276 5117. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

**ANDAMAN  
MOUNTAIN PATONG**

New large 3-storey house (approx. 315sqm) with a seaview. It has 3 double bedrooms, all with ensuites, a huge seaview lounge, a kitchen, cloakroom/bathroom, and a garage. Includes a private driveway, power and water supplies. Includes a self-contained apartment on all 3 floors with seaview balconies. More than 1 rai of land (1,676sqm). Price: 25 million baht for all. Or all the above, but on 628sqm: 15 million baht. Or 1,048sqm for a land with seaview (10,000 baht per sqm): 10.48 million baht. Contact Mr R Crane. Email: craneprop@hotmail.co.uk

**HOUSE FOR SALE  
IN KATHU**

3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, with a swimming pool, a garden and 2 car parks. Price: 12 million baht. Tel: 081-925 1730.

**VILLA FOR SALE  
225SQM**

Patong on Nanai Rd. 4 bedrooms, 2 living rooms with aircon. 5 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, swimming pool and jacuzzi. Contact Ple. Tel: 083-390 9001.

**LAND IN RAWAI**  
Size: 264sqm. Flat plot with Chanote title. 5 minutes' drive to Nai Harn Beach. Price: 1.5 million baht. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

**4-BEDROOM RAWAI**

380sqm land with 4 air-conditioned rooms and storage area. Within walking distance to shops and beach. Great mountain view. Asking price: 5.9 million baht. For photos and further details, contact Tom. Tel: 084-424 7688.

**MUST SELL: 1.9MB  
OR BEST OFFER. NEW  
RENOVATED ONE-  
STOREY TOWNHOUSE  
WITH 3 BEDROOMS. WITH  
CHANOTE TITLE. IN  
PHUKET TOWN, CLOSE  
TO LOTUS, A PARK AND A  
SCHOOL. IN VILLA 3  
QUARTER, WHICH HAS A  
BIG POOL, TWO TENNIS  
COURTS AND A GYM. TEL:  
081-788 8280 (ENGLISH),  
081-791 1525 (THAI).  
EMAIL: MAURICE.PHUKET  
@GMAIL.COM**

**SEA VIEW LAND  
IN RAWAI**

This land is located not far from the beautiful Nai Harn Beach, with a sea view overlooking Chalong bay, and with concrete road and electricity to the border. The land comes with Nor Sor 3 titles, and is in total just over 1 rai. (about 1,650sqm) Got to sell now, asking price 9.5 million baht – or best offer! Tel: 076-290235, 080-519 9777 (English). Fax: 076-290236. Email: kenth@zarpazorealestate.com

**BEST BARGAIN  
IN PHUKET**

Pool villa with 5 bedrooms on 1 rai of land with 5 separate bungalows. Includes all contacts. Available for financing. Price: 14.9 million baht. Email: bricothailand2@hotmail.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE**  
In Chalong. A house with 4 bedrooms on a 1 rai land plot. Includes aircon and swimming pool. Tel: 081-403 3870.

**PENTHOUSE  
7 MILLION BAHT**  
2 entire floors in a very private setting at the best view in Patong, great location. 9 million baht invested. Tel: 084-848 4876.

**BRAND-NEW CONDO**  
Mid Town, Royal Place Project. Studio condo, fully furnished, reasonable price. Tel: 086-4769612.

**NICE LAND**

500sqm of prime land in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach. Good access road and good, clean water supply. Very quiet and natural setting. 2 mins from beach or town center. For more details, contact Andy. Tel: 081-891 3466 (English). Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

**LAND IN KAMALA**

Plain site in the middle of Kamala, easy to build on, quiet and popular residential area. 14km to the beach. The land can be divided into 3 or 4 smaller plots. The short side of the land is adjacent to residential streets and there is electricity to the border on the plot. The land comes with Nor Sor 3 titles, and is in total just over 1 rai (about 1,650sqm). Asking price 9.2 million baht. Tel: 082-807 2392. Email: info@hyrahusphuket.se For further details, please see our website at [www.hyrahusphuket.se/Objekttillsalu\\_303.html](http://www.hyrahusphuket.se/Objekttillsalu_303.html)

**SURIN BEACH**

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 rai, 5 mins walk to Surin Beach. Email: costello@hotmail.net.au

**180 DEGREE  
OCEAN VIEWS**

Big 155 sqm, 2-bedroom, 2-bath apartment with private roof terrace, 5 minutes from Nai Harn Beach. It is fully furnished with a pool. 3.7 million baht. Tel: 087-897 4421. Email: bisop5@yahoo.co.uk

**DELUXE CONDO  
IN PATONG**

Quality / quiet building. Furnished, city / sea views, close to everything, 4,195,000 baht. Tel: 080-603 6341. Email: caltirol@hotmail.com

**URGENT SALE! KATA  
A NICE STAND-ALONE  
VILLA IN KATA HILL.  
WITH A GARDEN, BIG  
POOL, JACUZZI, LARGE  
LIVING ROOM AND  
KITCHEN. 3  
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FURNISHED. FROM 19  
MILLION BAHT. NOW  
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8399 (THAI).**

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MAURICE.PHUKET  
@GMAIL.COM

**25% OFF KAMALA  
VILLA**

It has 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, a studio apartment, 2 car garages, and a pool. Land: 700sqm. House: 380sqm. Price: 12.8 million baht. Tel: 084-850 0568.

**Looking for land to buy?**

See more classified ads  
at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)



## Property Wanted

### POOL VILLA WANTED

Chock Chai property in Nai Ham looking for investors from Sweden for pool villas with 2-3 bedrooms. Price: from 5 to 10 million baht. Please send email to offers. Email: info@chokechai.property.com

## Accommodation Available

### 500 BAHT PER DAY 10,000 BAHT PER MONHT



On Rawai Beach. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, with aircon, WiFi and cable TV. Cheap rent. Car and motorbike also available for rent. For more information. Tel: 086-940 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

### HOUSE NEAR CHALONG

Fully furnished house with 2-bed, 2 bath. Long-term rent (min 1 year): 15,000 baht per month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-026 1362. Or send email : cjijsomboon@hotmail.com

### BEDROOM IN LARGE HOUSE

Kitchen, laundry, WiFi, TV. Expat male or female, long term. Secure and safe. Chalong. For futher details please contact at tel: 087-077 9816. Or send email to: williet98248@hotmail.com

### CONDO FOR SALE / RENT, RAWAI



Best price on the island. Quiet, 300m from the beach, 8 units. Tel: 080-078 0931, 086-112 1477. Email: rawaireservation@yahoo.com

### PATONG CONDO

Fully furnished - 700 meters from Patong Beach. Tel: 081-817 7886 (English & Thai). Email: wintin2007@yahoo.com

### LUXURY KATA APARTMENT

Central location, pool, Internet, etc. One bedroom. For rent weekly or monthly. Tel: 084-063 9223, 086-941 7733 (English). Fax: 076-384385. Email: eburneday@gmail.com

### LIVING IN PHUKET TOWN

1 and 2 bedrooms for rent. Fully furnished with spatial and chic design. Email: zhunaumann@gmail.com

### APARTMENT PATONG

140sqm, fully furnished. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, plus storage room. Spacious living / dining area with full western kitchen and large balcony. Full aircon. Includes free WiFi. UBC ready. Quiet location. Tel: 084-185 8536.

### 2 HUGE SEAVIEW CONDOS

35/210sqm. In Rawai with a pool and 24-hour security. Short-or-long-term rent from 500 baht a day. Tel: 087-054 3034. Email: moretian@hotmail.com

### ROOMS IN KATHU: 6,000 BAHT

Large modern rooms with their own bathroom, satellite TV and Internet connection. At a great location with mountain views, near Loch Palm Golf Club. Tel: 083-593 6955. Email: cssmyth@hotmail.com

### LUXURY APARTMENT IN PATONG

Room for rent with swimming pool. Daily and monthly. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: mori@phuket.ksc.co.th Website: www.nanaivilla.com

### 3-BEDROOM POOL CONDO YAMU

Luxury 3-bedroom condo with private pool for rent at Cape Yamu. Fully furnished. Brand-new, sea views, onsite manager, all facilities. Prefer long term. 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-894 1530 (English). Email: andrew@leemarine.net

### LUXURY HOUSE FOR RENT



The tropical modern Thai design is pleasing to the eye and so are the classy furniture, fixtures and fittings which compliment the overall environment of luxury. 3 bedrooms, 1 maid's room, swimming pool and garden. Long term: 100,000 baht per month. Short term: 140,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-289121, 086-276 2785, 084-848 7474. Send email to: vgyorkshire@yahoo.com

### APARTMENT & ROOM IN PATONG

Apartment for long term rent. 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Room from 600-1,500 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151, 089-290 9567. Email: info@brommathaihouse.com See our website at www.brommathaihouse.com

### KATA BEACH

High- and peak-season last-minute promotional prices for daily rent from 700 baht to 1,200 (in peak season) and 600 baht to 1,000 baht (in high season). Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com Website: southernfriedrice.com

### HOUSE FOR SALE OR RENT



2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, big kitchen, 2 aircons, big garden, cable and internet. Fully furnished. Just move in. Sales price: 2.5 million baht. Rental price: 14,000 baht per month. Located on bypass road behind the SoHo Roast Duck restaurant. Call for more details. Tel: 084-848 7474 (English & Thai). Email: kasina888@gmail.com

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT/SALE



Stunning luxury apartments created by an innovative new property developer, Phuket Land and House Legal Co Ltd. The Royal Palm residence is made up of new small apartments at Nai Ham Beach with various styles of units to choose from. These include studio, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom apartments plus a 3-bedroom Penthouse. Sizes range from 33-200sqm. Each unit features a unique modern design with quality custom furnishings, LCD TV, an IP Phone System with high-speed wireless Internet connection, intercom, alarm, automatic Gate, balcony / terrace, and private parking. Starting price from 2.79 million baht. Tel: 076-289122, 084-848 7474. Email: theroyalpalmresidence@yahoo.com For futher detaild, please visit our website: www.theroyalpalmresidence.com

## Accommodation Wanted

### 1 ROOM IN VILLA

I would like to rent a room in a nice villa for 1 month. Price flexible. Please email with photo and details: holtum007@gmail.com

### AFFORDABLE APT/ ROOM

I am moving to Phuket. And looking for a year-long lease on an apartment or room. It needs to be affordable and I need TV and good WiFi. Please email: jonnyhips@hotmail.com

### SEEKING APT/STD KATA/KARON

Looking for annual rental apartment/studio / house with modern furnishings and basics like aircon, internet in Kata/karon area. must have parking and maintainer for electrics/plumbing, etc. Tel: 080-268 2767. Email: dusktoday.morgan@gmail.com

### 2 BED NEEDED FOR FEB 24

Looking for a 2-bedroom, fully furnished house to rent for 3 or 4 weeks from February 24. Ideal location is the central Phuket area. Tel: 081-797 7796. Email: watandleisa@live.com

### SEEKING ROOM IN KATA

I am interested in renting a room or apartment at Kata Beach. Looking for a good price for 2-3 months with good references. I visit Phuket twice a year. Email: us@palm springs.de

### POOL VILLA LONG TERM

2 bedrooms with access to pool for retired gentleman. Aircon and internet essential. 12 months + 25,000 baht per month. Email: daoverland@gmail.com

### SEEKING CONDO RENTAL 2011

German couple, retired (ages 66 and 62), looking for vacation rental of a condo or apartment in Southern Thailand, such as Phuket, Khao Lak or Krabi, for February / March 2011. Maximum monthly rental: 25,000 baht. Email: b.damm@t-online.de

## Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

### KAMALA BEACH HOUSE OR APT

Private, quiet 2 BR apartment (2,000 baht per night) or 1 BR house (1,700 baht per night). Pool. Tel: 076-385909, 086-278 8598. Email: curlyphyl@yahoo.com

## Household Items

### FURNITURE SALE

Selling house furniture, table, washing machine, TV. Tel: 087-621 4845.

### HOUSEHOLD CLEAROUT

Weights and bench, desks and chair, dehumidifier, room air filter, kitchenware. Call or email for details. Tel: 086-992 9716. Email: desminage3@hotmail.com

### NICE SOFA

Clean, great condition, L-shaped, cranberry & mauve. New: 14,000 baht. Now only 4,000 o.b.o. Tel: 089-591 0726. Email: cheffybaby@aol.com

### INDEX WARDROBE SET

4 wardrobes in contemporary style. Each unit is 220cm high, 90cm wide, and 60cm deep. Color: white oak. Can be used built in or free standing. As new. The new price was 37,500 baht. Will sell for 18,750. I'm moving home. Tel: 089-996 2692. Email: sj.holmqvist@gmail.com

### KING-SIZE BED

Index top-of-the-line King-size bed and luxury mattress. 2 years old, holiday home item. 65,000 baht as a set when new. Will accept 25,000. Tel: 081-906 6243. Email: jonnowilko@gmail.com

### FURNITURE SALE

Selling house furniture, table, washing machine, TV. Tel: 087-621 4845.

### FRIDGE FOR SALE

220-24 oV Homax Refrigerator, 86l. 450 x 450 x 817mm, white, 1 year old and in very good condition. 3,000 baht. Email: sy.tombatu@gmail.com

## Household Services

### PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, construction workers. Fluent English-speaking boss. Free quotes given. Contact Rin. Tel: 084-193 5124. Email: phukethomemaintenance@yahoo.com

### PHUKET PRO-BUILT

Construction, renovation, eletrics, shop fitting. Tel: 089-909 8604.

### DWF HOME SERVICES

Built-in bars, counters, pools, kitchens, ponds, etc. Contact: K. Noi. Tel: 081-606 5746. Email: DWF\_homeservices@hotmail.com

## Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

\_\_\_\_\_ (heading)

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

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- Underwater lights
- Full cockpit awning
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**Trintella 49 (1999)**

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**Tayana 55 (1990)**

250,000 GBP

**Sunseeker Camargue 46 (1990)**

\$130,000 USD

**Cobalt 276 (2010)**

**BEST BUY**

2,990,000 THB

**leemarine.com**

**Dealership Office**  
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket  
Contact: Martin Holmes  
Tel: 076 238 803  
Fax: 076 273 319  
Email: info@leemarine.com

**Brokerage Office**  
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket  
Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman  
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437  
Tel/Fax: 076 239 729  
Email: andrew@leemarine.com

**Yacht Haven Marina Office**  
The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket  
Contact: Jim Poulsen  
Mobile: 081 891 3237  
Tel/Fax: 076 206 260  
Email: jim@leemarine.com

**Pattaya Office**  
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach  
Contact: Mark Heath  
Mobile: 081 787 9408  
Tel: 038 235 061 Fax: 038 235 062  
Email: mark@leemarine.com

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Tel: 081- 895 1724 or  
Email: smuldersos@hotmail.com

**LOOKING FOR PEGASUS 8.2**

Looking for a Pegasus 8.2 fiberglass in good condition. Tel: 081-891 3095 (English). Email: norbusteahouse@gmail.com

**SWISS CATAMARAN 24 FEET**

A perfect fishing boat made of fiberglass. Comes with 2 Honda 4-stroke engines, each 50 HP. It has a hydraulic system, a Simrad navigation system and electric Ankerwisch equipment. Phuket registration. With 4-wheel aluminium trailer. Price: 600,000 baht. Contact Khun Aree. Tel: 089-474 5168.

**38FT CATAMARAN**

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

**BIG CATAMARAN FOR SALE**



65" Catamaran for sale, for details visit the website. Tel: 081-306 1150 (English & Thai). Email: rm2@food comthailand.com Website at http://u5.com/cat

**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

**SEA DOO 255 RXT JETSKI**

A few months old! just 9 hours used, new condition and modify to 280 horsepower! Price new: 625,000, NOW sale for 490,000 baht. Tel: 084-690 6304.

**REMOTE SEARCHLIGHT**

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

**£29,000 ONO**

38ft steel videos sailing yacht. Nice condition. Inspections in January ashore at Langkawi. Tel: +44-013-06640898. Email: brianralph goodwin@yahoo.com

**23M, 75" YACHT - SUPERSALE**

Very nice boat in great condition, good for snorkeling and fishing trips. Can carry 35 people + 4 crew. Urgent sale. Please email for more info. Tel: 086-010 6988 (English). Email: michaelcrona@email.com

**POWER CAT FOR SALE**

Brand-new, 35 feet, fiberglass with fly bridge. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

**SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES**

**COFFEE break**

**Crossword puzzle:**

1	M	O	S	E	S	6	S	H	A	9	L	A	T	T	E	
14	A	M	I	T	Y	15	E	O	S	16	A	L	I	B	I	
17	S	A	L	A	D	18	D	A	Y	S	19	B	A	R	O	N
20	S	R	O	21	E	T	A	T	22	O	M	E	N	S		
23	N	A	B	S	25	E	R	O	S	E						
26	M	A	S	E	R	U	23	D	A	T	E					
31	S	A	T	A	N	G	32	A	D	D	R	E	S	S		
36	S	H	O	T	37	V	I	Z	38	C	H	E	F			
40	S	P	O	U	42	S	A	L	43	S	A	L	I	N	A	
45	P	I	N	Y	46	L	E	A	N	T	O					
47	C	L	A	S	P	50	M	I	S	T						
51	M	A	O	R	I	52	I	F	A	T	54	G	A	T		
57	A	N	S	E	L	58	B	A	K	S	59	H	E	E	S	H
61	S	T	E	N	O	62	I	R	E	63	A	T	S	E	A	
64	K	O	R	A	N	65	S	E	S	66	S	E	T	A	T	

**Quiz answers:**

1. Spring Festival, 2. No, 3. The Lantern Festival, 4. Happy Prosperous New Year, 5. Xin Nian Kuai Le, 6. The Year of the Tiger, 7. Red, 8. Three, 9. To scare away bad luck, 10. Tangerine, 11. The most respected or eldest relatives, 12. Money, 13. Lunisolar

**Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!**

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 • Strong communication skills with clients  
 • Strong English language skills essential  
 • Computer literate  
 • Good personality and presentation skills  
 • Must be prepared to work six days a week  
 • Experience in Spa or sale would be advantage  
 ■ **Beautician**  
 ■ **Therapist**  
 ■ **Maid**  
 Please send CV with recent photo and expect salary to [chadasaispa@yahoo.com](mailto:chadasaispa@yahoo.com) or contact  
 Tel: 076-325 006 Mobile: 081-643 1782

**Phuket Gazette**  
 In connection with a major expansion in its Classified Advertising business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add three **Classified Advertising Administrators** to its existing team of five.  
**Qualified candidates will be:**  
 ▶ Thai nationals, aged at least 26  
 ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality  
 ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai  
**and should have:**  
 ▶ A Bachelors Degree from a recognizable university  
 ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details  
 ▶ Knowledge of basic office software  
 Knowledge of InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark Express would be a plus.  
 Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Tassanee Suwannarat, Classifieds Manager, at [Nee@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Nee@PhuketGazette.Net)  
**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**  
 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
 Tel: 076-273555, ext 205 Fax: 076-615240

LIMCHAROEN HUGHES & GLANVILLE  
**Senior Admin**  
 • Female, Thai  
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 • Self-Motivated, Willing to work under deadlines  
 Working Hours: Monday – Friday 09.00 – 18.00  
 If you are interested in this position, please submit your CV with covering letter in English to: [Admin\\_phuket@limcharoen.com](mailto:Admin_phuket@limcharoen.com)  
 contact Khun Fa 076 – 342 882 –4  
[www.limcharoen.com](http://www.limcharoen.com)

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 Horizon Beach Resorts and Hotels has three beautiful, luxurious accommodation properties with spa facilities to meet every traveler's needs and make their vacation memorable in Phuket.  
 We are looking for the following professionals:  
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 ■ Night Manager or Assistant Night Manager  
 ■ Guest Relations Officer  
 ■ Senior Receptionist  
 ■ Receptionist  
 ■ Night Reception  
**HUMAN RESOURCES**  
 ■ Assistant HR Manager  
 ■ Senior HR Manager  
**Qualifications:**  
 • Bachelor's degree or related field.  
 • Good command of spoken & written English.  
 • Minimum of 2-3 years experience in the same field or position.  
 • Positive attitude, problem solving skills and leadership skills.  
 Interested candidates please send a detailed CV, recent photo, current and expected salary and other related documents to:  
**HR DEPARTMENT**  
**Horizon Karon Beach Resort & Spa**  
 3 Soi Karon, Soi 2, Karon District, Muang Phuket, Phuket  
 Tel: 076-284555  
**Horizon Beach Resort Hotel**  
 64/39 Thaweewong Road, Patong Beach, Kathu, Phuket 83150  
 Tel: 076-292526-30 Email: [hr@horizonbeach.com](mailto:hr@horizonbeach.com)  
[www.horizonbeach.com](http://www.horizonbeach.com)

  
 In the frame of rapid growth, we are looking for the following candidates  
 • **Kitchen Chef (Foreigner) : 1 Position**  
 • **Bakery and Pastry Chef (Foreigner) : 1 Position**  
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 • **Good benefits for the right candidate**  
 Please send the resume to [seniorhrphuket@wineconnection.co.th](mailto:seniorhrphuket@wineconnection.co.th)  
 or call 076-282411 for further information  


  
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**Film Production Secretary**  
**Job Description**  
 Assisting the Production Manager & Coordinator  
**Job Period from**  
 February-April 2011  
**Job Environment**  
 Office-based & on location  
**Work Activities**  
 You're mainly responsible for administrative and clerical duties, like  
 • Researching travel, transport and accommodation.  
 • Filing, and answering emails and phone calls  
 • Updating important documents like contracts, script  
 • Changes and contact lists  
**Required Qualities**  
 You should be hard working, efficient and have a calm, organized nature  
 • Flexible about working hours  
 • Fluent in English/Thai in speaking and writing  
 • Excellent office skills and a good telephone manner  
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 • Attention to detail and ability to prioritize tasks  
 We offer a highly competitive salary and a very exciting work environment. If you are enthusiastic to step into film business, grab this opportunity and contact us now.  
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 Email: [siamfc.phuket@gmail.com](mailto:siamfc.phuket@gmail.com)

**SECRETARY PA WANTED**  
 Experienced Thai speaker wanted to help run small farang-managed business and assist in domestic admin of young family. Good organizational skills and common sense required. Must have reasonable command of English and own a car. 5 day week. Please email CV including expected salary. Email: [potter.ian@gmail.com](mailto:potter.ian@gmail.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.andamanlighting.com](http://www.andamanlighting.com)

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**MARKETING**  
 Small babysitting and nursing agency requires a Thai national with good English and computer skills. Must own car, nice personality, marketing experience, or ability to promote business. Contact Joy. Tel: 081-797 1497. Website: [www.phuketbabysitting&careservice.com](http://www.phuketbabysitting&careservice.com)

**HOTEL MANAGER NEEDED**  
 Female, experienced, good English skills. Thai nationals only. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: [solitude001@aol.com](mailto:solitude001@aol.com)

**BOAT BOY WANTED**  
 Looking for English-speaking Thai boy for boat crew. No experience required. Fixed salary + commision. Tel: 087-277 7395. Email: [delphine@sweetdreamers.info](mailto:delphine@sweetdreamers.info)

**SAFEWAY ASIA THALANG**  
 We have a vacancy for the position of sales and marketing manager. We are seeking a Thai national who is fluent in English with a minimum of 3 years' experience in the relevant field. Please send your CV with a photo and expected salary to: [account@safewayasia.com](mailto:account@safewayasia.com)

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 We, Intercallservice Co Ltd, are seeking a Spanish or Portuguese speaking person, for our call center in Chalong. We offer a fixed salary for telephone data research. Tel: 089-873 9123 (English). Email: [eichinger@intercallservice.com](mailto:eichinger@intercallservice.com)

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www.erawana.com



**Erawana Co., Ltd.** has developed over 100 villas in Phuket since 2003. To support our continuously growing business, we are currently seeking individuals for **3 Sales Executive Positions** who possess the following qualifications:

**Sales Executive**

- Age 22-30 years old / Male or Female
- Good command of English both speaking and writing
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Minimum 1-2 years of working experience, any direct real estate experience will be considered favourably
- Salary 12,000-16,000 baht not including commission
- Valid car driver's license

Please e-mail your resume to: [info@erawana.com](mailto:info@erawana.com) or contact us at: 089-729 2989

## CLX ASIA

CLX Group is one of the World's leading premedia companies in Europe. The group maintains a strong international position in color management and image retouching for prepress production of catalogs, magazines, and advertising campaigns. The Phuket operations have been well established and are growing well.

With the recent expansion plan, our client would like to fill the following positions to support their Phuket operation.

**GERMAN COORDINATOR (several positions)**

**Location:** 44 Moo 3 Palai Soi 2, Chalong, Muang Phuket

**Responsibilities:**

- Support production admin activities (ie. download images, dataentry, e-mail, scan photos, etc).
- Help prepare and organize data for day-to-day operations of the production activities.
- Prepare reports and records for management.
- Coordinate and ensure effective communication between the production departments and external business partners overseas.

**Qualifications:**


- Any nationality
- Must speak fluent German and Thai
- Male/ Female, energetic.
- Experience in computer admin or related fields are an advantage.
- Solid computer skills with good experience in preparing data and reports.
- Highly self-motivated and willing to work towards tight deadlines.
- Honest, proactive and assertive to work with the team. Ability to develop effective relationships with Phuket team and business partners overseas.

CLX Asia offers excellent benefits including a highly competitive salary. The company will provide full training, but industry knowledge and experience would be an advantage.

If you are enthusiastic about computer graphic professional and desire to work in an environment where your skills can be developed and supported, please state which role you are interested in and email your CV and a covering letter to: [resumes@premediajobs.com](mailto:resumes@premediajobs.com) or call 086 475-3694.

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**Premedia JOBS**



**Bourbon Natural Dairy Co., Ltd.** is the exclusive importer & distributor in Thailand of the New Zealand Natural brand of premium quality and exceptional tasting ice creams, sorbets and low fat frozen yoghurts. Produced in New Zealand then shipped to our shops and HORECA partners across the world, our award winning flavors are made based on our own exclusive recipes, from New Zealand's world famous and freshest milk and pure cream, and contains only the finest ingredients. That is why we offer much more than just a challenging and rewarding career opportunity. It is a chance to share pure taste adventures with many, many people every single day. To support our wholesale business expansion, we are urgently looking for professional and qualified candidates to join our team in Phuket.

### Sales Manager, Sales Executive

**Qualifications:**

- Preferably 25-35 year old Thai female
- Minimum 2-3 years experience in sales and/or marketing of fine food products in Phuket
- Good negotiation and English communication skills
- Self-motivated and dynamic, service-minded and result oriented
- Pro-active and well organized
- Pleasant personality
- Computer literate
- Car driving license with own car will be an advantage

**Key responsibilities:**

- To target the key markets: hotels, restaurants, cafés and other leisure and entertainment facilities
- Finding new business opportunities with existing clients and new prospects
- Developing and maintaining a good relationship with clients
- This function requires 70% prospecting, 25% customer follow up and 5% PR work
- Reporting to the Director of Sales

**Other positions:**  
Branch Manager, Office Secretary, Driver / Delivery Man

The suitable candidate will receive a good salary and benefits

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Established in 1999, HotelTravel.com is a dynamic multi-cultural company, employing over 300 experienced, knowledgeable management and staff from six continents. In view of the company's continued rapid expansion, we seek experienced, enthusiastic candidates to join our team for long-term career opportunities in the following positions:

1. Chief Financial Officer/Financial Controller	1 position
2. Business Director Supplier Channels	1 position
3. Affiliate Marketing Manager	1 position
4. Social Media Executive/Manager	1 position
5. Business Data Analyst	1 position
6. Senior System Analyst	1 position
7. Web Developer (ASP / ASP.NET)	1 position
8. Content Process Manager	1 position
9. Revenue Manager	1 position
10. PPC Manager Assistant	1 position
11. Business Coordinator Hotel Partners	1 position
12. Business Admin Hotel Partners	3 positions
13. Marketing & Newsletter Coordinator	1 position
14. Admin Researcher	2 positions
15. Travel Writer	3 positions
16. Junior Writer	3 positions
17. German Customer Service Agent - Native Speaker	1 position
18. CMS Officer	3 positions
19. Geo Coding Officer	3 positions
20. Data Entry Officer	1 position
21. Junior SEO Coordinator	1 position

**Qualifications:**

**Position 1:** Must be a qualified professional accountant ie ACCA, CIMA, ACA, CPA with over 5 years with an international company as a senior manager or in a similar role with an international SME

**Position 2:** Must have a successful proven track record in DMC, wholesaler, supplier contracting, senior sales and business development. Bachelor's degree with +7/10 years commercial and business development, travel experience including supplier channels

**Position 3-5:** Bachelor's Degree in marketing, management or a related field with sound knowledge of web and Internet technologies

**Position 6-7:** Bachelor's degree or higher in Computer Science or related subject

**Position 8-14:** Bachelor's degree in related field. Extensive Microsoft Excel experience with the ability to create clear and logical reports. Experience in hotel or travel industries

**Position 15-16:** English native speaker with proficiency in numerous computer programs and applications. Must be able to meet deadlines

**Position 17-21:** Must have attended college with at least +1 year work experience in related field. Extensive computer skills with the ability to think logically

All positions must be fluent in written and spoken English

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence. Please send current résumé or CV listing complete employment experience, a recent photograph, references and current remuneration package or salary expectations to [jobs@hoteltravel.com](mailto:jobs@hoteltravel.com). Or call **076-282808** and ask for HotelTravel.com's Human Resources Manager, Khun Anupab Satakorn, for further information. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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- 3 Reception staff, Thai nationality only
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- 1 Reception Supervisor
- 3 Accounting staff
- 1 IT Support person
- 1 Engineering staff
- 3 Housekeepers
- 1 Housekeeping Supervisor
- 3 Administration staff

Start immediately. Please send your resume to [benz@premierpropertyzleisure.com](mailto:benz@premierpropertyzleisure.com)

**STAFF WANTED**

English-speaking, Thais, for O'Malley's pub in Phuket Town. Day and night shifts. Contact Steve. Tel: 081-246 4481.

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Sawan Anda Property is looking for a room maid: Thai, honest, experienced, own vehicle, able to speak English. Good salary. Tel: 081-956 8611 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-620075. Email: [kirana.goy@sawananda.com](mailto:kirana.goy@sawananda.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.sawananda.com](http://www.sawananda.com)

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Seeks part-time work: 3-4 hours a day, 3 days a week. Speaks English. Tel: 089-972 3861.

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Large gas oven for sale, 3 months old, little used. 22,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-197 7438 (Thai), 088-168 8145 (English). Email: olay1@yahoo.com

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## ARE YOU SELLING?

Are you selling bar/restaurant equipment or home furniture? If so, contact me - Big Bill's New York Deli in Patong - We are coming soon and need equipment! Tel: 089-588 1754 (English & Thai). Email: thewizardofrockandroll@gmail.com

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## Bulletins

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a child. The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Please call K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948). Or email: info@phuketiwcc.com

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For Phuket info (English) call 081-8912895, 081-8954763 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

English Speaking Meetings  
Mission Hospital - Phuket City  
Wed and Sun 7 PM

Bangkok Hospital - Phuket City  
Fri 7 PM

Patong Hospital - Patong  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 7 PM

Green Man Restaurant - Chalong  
Tue 1 PM

Stereo Lab Restaurant - Surin Beachfront  
Thur 9:30 AM

Scandinavian Meeting  
Elephant Restaurant - Karon  
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April only)  
Tel: 086-9440460 Swe, 085-4647450 Swe

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

## Business Opportunities

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## BAR FOR SALE IN BANGLA

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Top location, 2 hotels in front of it, near to Robinson. Seats 28, almost all equipment and furniture will stay. Rent 15,000 baht/month, for sale at 450,000 baht. Selling due to relocation. Tel: 085-578 0456 (English), 087-031 7086 (English & Thai). Email: HLRaum@aol.com

## BEAUTY SHOP PATONG

Nail-styling and beauty shop with equipment on Bazaar Rd. Price: 390,000 baht. Tel: 089-504 8882.

## RESTAURANT PATONG

On main road. It has 70 seats. Price: 2 million baht. Good deal. Email: anchaleeinn@gmail.com

## BAR FOR SALE SOI BANGLA

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## RESTAURANT IN PATONG

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## GUESTHOUSE IN KAMALA

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On Patong Beach road. 2nd floor shop. Price: 2.8 million baht. Contact Khun Yuu. Tel: 081-428 7894.

## BAR WITH ACCOMMODATION

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## COFFEE SHOP PATONG FOR RENT

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# Avery flies high at PEGS tourney

PHUKET golfer Neal Avery, originally from South Africa, scored a low gross of 150 to take the top prize in the Phuket Expat Golf Society (PEGS) Club Championships 2011, played over two days at the Blue Canyon Country Club last weekend.

Avery, who plays off a zero handicap, carded 74 gross on the Lakes Course and 76 gross on the Canyon Course to win the "black tees" competition for handicaps zero to 10.

Patrick Holland fired 153 (77, 76) off an 11-handicap to win the black tees low net prize. Danielle Grospiron was the winner of the ladies lowest nett score competition.

Rising in popularity, the annual event this year drew a record 76 entries from a variety of nationalities, among them Thai, English, American, Belgian, Australian, Dutch, German, French, Canadian, Chinese, New Zealanders,

Swedish and Norwegian.

PEGS players, renowned for their "play serious if you want" approach to the game, got a serious surprise on the first day of play when a meter-plus-long monitor lizard meandered into the clubhouse, knocking over chairs and sending players and club staff running out of the building.

Excitement over, players focused on winning the large porcelain trophies.

Also up for grabs were a variety of prizes for longest drive and nearest the pin.

Other prizes were donated by local businesses, including vouchers of up to 3,000 baht donated by Tai Pan nightclub in Patong.

Money raised from the tournament will go towards two organizations: The Social Development and Welfare for Elderly Persons Center and the special school in Pa Khlok.

- Phuket Gazette



PURPLE REIGN: Low nett score winner Danielle Grospiron all smiles after receiving her cup from Lindsey Wallace (PEGS President) and Frank De Punder (PEGS Tournament organizer).

## Inaugural Phuket Cup kicks off

BRITISH International School (BIS) will host the first staging of the Phuket International Cup on Saturday.

Organized by Brazilian Soccer Schools (BSS), the event will see 20 teams battle it out for top honors at Under-10, Under-12 and Under-14 age levels. It is due to start at midday.

Soccer clubs from Phuket and overseas will take part in the six-hour tournament, including a number of teams from the Brazilian Soccer School in Hong Kong.

Two teams set to represent Phuket and hoping for success will be the Thalang Tigers and Patong FBS, while Youth Football Home will also have a team competing at Under-14 level.

All players taking part will receive a medal after the tournament, while trophies will be awarded to the winning team in each age section.

"This is the first year of the Phuket Cup but we're hoping it will become an annual competition and expand to include more teams," said Martin Hill, BSS organizer.

- Andrew Jennings

# Sailing Squadron's dingy dozen

By Andrew Jennings

CHINESE New Year celebrations came early last weekend for the Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron when firecrackers greeted the arrival of 12 new optimist boats from China.

The new dinghies bring the Squadron's fleet to 15 - the same number of children from the Phuket Sunshine Village home taking part in their racing program.

It means all the young sailors can compete and practice, while at the same time allowing them to develop their sailing skills and become more competitive.

Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron held a well-attended barbeque last Sunday to celebrate the launch of the Chinese boats. When the children eventually got out on the water, people at the event got the chance to see the children showing off their skills with some formation sailing, before stretching their sea legs for a race around the bay.

The Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron is a non-profit organization offering local underprivileged children the opportunity to learn how to sail, while also encouraging others to take up the sport.

The Squadron is based in Ao Yon where they get the kind support of Topper Sail Phuket, who



Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron dinghies.

provide them with a premises and coaching, while also helping with the majority of fundraising.

"Seven boats out of 12 have already been sponsored and we hope to find other like-minded companies and individuals willing to sponsor the other five boats," said Katy

Gooch from Topper Sail Phuket, who has been overwhelmed by the great support.

The Sponsorship Experts are proud to be supporting such a worthwhile organization, as it continues its effort to encourage and educate young people in the art of teamwork and sailing.

"I look forward to seeing the Squadron compete in the coming months and I'm so pleased that we are able to give a little back and help disadvantaged children to get involved in something so rewarding," said Paul Poole of The Sponsorship Experts.

At last Sunday's event, two further organizations who help underprivileged children in Phuket also declared their interest in their children joining the Squadron. With more young sailors taking to the water, the Squadron is looking for support boats and volunteers to help with the development of sailing within the community.

Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron would like to thank all its sponsors, supporters and volunteers.

For further information visit [W:phuket.youthsailing.org](http://W:phuket.youthsailing.org)

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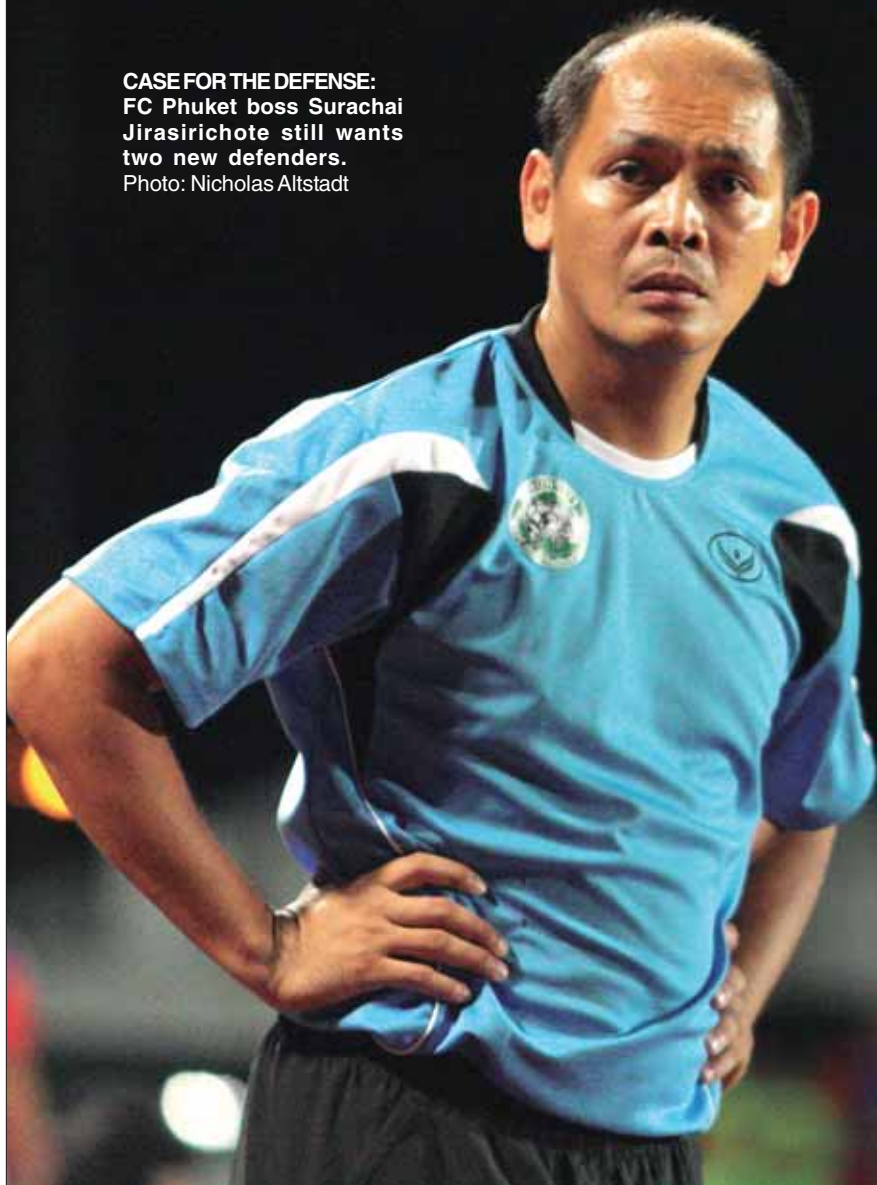


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# Searching for defensive steel

**CASE FOR THE DEFENSE:**  
FC Phuket boss Surachai Jirasirichote still wants two new defenders.  
Photo: Nicholas Altstadt



**By Andrew Jennings**

DESPITE a complete overhaul of the FC Phuket team during the off-season, manager Surachai Jirasirichote is intent on adding two new defenders to his squad before the start of Thai League Division 1 next weekend.

Phuket begin their 2011 league campaign with an away trip to Suphanburi FC on Sunday February 13, before hosting Rajpracha FC in their first home encounter the following Saturday at Surakul Stadium.

Two recent friendly games against Premier League champions Muang Thong United last week exposed frailties in the Phuket defense, and provided enough evidence for boss Surachai that defensive cover is required before the big kickoff.

In the first match against Muang Thong, Phuket conceded three first-half goals, all from headers, in the space of 10 minutes. It exposed a soft center at the heart of their back-four, which Surachai is now working hard to toughen up with the recruitment of two new faces.

New recruits are expected at Surakul

during the coming week to take part in trial games, looking to earn a contract with the club for the coming season.

Another player hoping to again pull on the green Phuket jersey is one of the stars from last year's promotion success, and fan's favorite, Nene Bi Tra Sylvestre.

The club confirmed two weeks ago they expected the talented midfielder to return before the start of the league.

However, the player from the Ivory Coast has run into visa difficulties and it remains to be seen when he will join up with the rest of the squad, as Phuket officials try to sort out the situation before next Sunday.

Hopes are high that Phuket can finish in the top four in Division 1 to make the play-offs for a chance of yet another promotion – to the Thai Premier League – later in the year.

Phuket's 2011 fixtures include two trips to Bangkok for clashes against Bangkok United and Bangkok FC, and finishes with a home game against Chainat FC.

For a full list of FC Phuket's fixtures for the season, go to [W:phuketgazette.net](http://W:phuketgazette.net)

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