

# Phuket Gazette

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## Racing against erosion

By Atchaa Khamlo and Chutharat Plerin

RESTAURANT owners along Rawai beachfront are racing to repair a section of the seawall and pavement that have collapsed before monsoon surf causes more damage.

The damaged section of the sea wall spreads over about 100 meters of beachfront and includes at least one privately owned restaurant.

Rawai Municipality has placed rocks along 60m of the waterfront to slow further erosion to the boardwalk.

Natawat Suksamran, 51, has run the Nong Pim 1 restaurant on the southern Rawai beachfront for seven years. He explained to

the *Gazette* this was the second time in a year that the wall had collapsed.

"I requested help from Rawai Municipality to build a permanent wall before the first time it collapsed, but they never responded. I had to spend 50,000 baht making temporary repairs in front of my restaurant [that time]," Mr Natawat said

"I have already spent 10,000 baht this time and I think it will cost about 30,000 baht in total," he added.

Mr Natawat and his landlord together are paying for the temporary repairs to Nong Pim 1's 40m of beachfront.

About 60m of wall extending north from the restaurant is also damaged, causing a large sinkhole



Local restaurant owners are moving ahead on their own to repair the eroded seawall on the Rawai beachfront.

in the boardwalk, adding to a conflict that began before the coastal erosion sank its teeth into the promenade.

"We have been unable to fix the wall because a private company has complained that the area in question belongs to them," said Somsong Sae-tang, Rawai Municipality ad-interim Engineering Director, declining to give the company's name.

The owners of the restaurant

next to Nong Pim 1 are contesting Rawai Municipality over rights to the land, Mr Natawat said.

Mr Somsong said that the issue was raised before the wall's initial collapse when the "private company" sent a written request that the lights and boardwalk tiling be removed from their land.

"There are ongoing negotiations regarding the area [in question] and we have no right to fix the wall until the issue is resolved,"

he added.

Phuket Provincial Land Office requested that Rawai Municipality inspect the area and determine who had rights over the land.

However, this was not possible due to part of the area being under the authority of the Highways Department Phuket office, Mr Somsong explained.

An officer from each department would have to be sent to assist in the inspection, he added.

## Stranded tourists fly home

TOURISTS stranded in Phuket for nearly a week following a series of cancellations and delays by Australian carrier Strategic Airlines arrived home on Wednesday.

The carrier's flights between Brisbane and Phuket were disrupted last week after a plane suffered in-flight technical difficulties, forcing the crew to land in Kuala Lumpur. On Monday, the airline announced delays to their bi-weekly flights between Melbourne and Phuket.

Although delayed in reacting, Strategic eventually managed to secure accommodation and transportation for its customers while working with other airlines to organize flights back to Australia.

"They did fly one lot of people out to Melbourne,

people with children or medical emergencies," Steve Smith, 48, from Brisbane, said on Monday.

The size of the stranded group reached about 300 after delays to Melbourne flights were announced, Mr Smith said.

Despite the inconveniences and one failed trip to the airport, the group remained positive. They cited comfortable accommodations arranged by the carrier at the Naithonburi Resort, near Phuket International Airport, as a reason.

"It's a nice resort at a nice location and staff are lovely. Everyone is a little more relaxed now that we've got a bed to sleep in and some good food... I'm actually happy to stay another day," said Chris O'Shea, a 43-year-old from Brisbane.

## Planking in Phuket

NEW craze "planking" has made its way to Phuket, and youngsters all over the island are getting kicks from – well – lying down.

The fad involves people lying face-down in bizarre locations while being photographed and then uploading the images to the Internet. Despite being branded a "waste of time" by people around the globe, planking made national headlines in Thailand this week.

See pages 14 and 15 for our full report.



Photo: Thakesina Senkeaw

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## This Week

### MoU to end port blockades



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### Live Wire



Woody explains how TOT have stepped up to the plate. **Page 12**

### Film



*Super 8* sees the return of traditional cinematic suspense. **Page 16**

### People



The *Gazette* meets Gill Dalley, Asia's first Canine Hero. **Page 18**

### Education



Eric Haeg talks shop with ECC head teacher Michael Wall. **Page 19**

### Sport



Pros and amateurs club together for golf invitational. **Page 42**

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# Patong roadwork to start after election

By Chutharat Plerin

PLANS to resurface the the 2.9-kilometer road behind Jungceylon in Patong are finally moving forward, with road work expected to be given a green light after the July 3 election.

Unlike previous repairs, the semi-permanent fix planned for Phang Muang Sai Khor Road will be covered by a budget of 250 million baht.

The resurfacing completion target is set in 2013.

"We will sign the contract with the construction company from Bangkok within a month after the election. Construction will begin after that because we already have the budget," Teeraporn Jirattanakorn, director of the Department of Rural Roads Phuket office, told the *Gazette*.

"The quality will be as same as Sirirat road [from Patong to Karon]," he added.

Sompol Khwanyuen, director



Work on resurfacing the road behind Jungceylon to start after July 3.

of Patong Municipality Public Works Division, has long been anticipating permanent repairs to the road.

"Previously, only temporary repairs were made to facilitate traffic flow until construction was ready to begin," he said.

The budget for the resurfacing project will come from the Department of Rural Roads. The

bidding to choose a contractor was completed on June 17, Mr Sompol explained.

"In the meantime, the municipality doesn't want to spend money on more temporary repairs," he said.

As soon as the construction is complete, responsibility for the road will be handed over to Patong Municipality, he added.

## Swiss son discovers mum's suicide note

ROMAN Balzan, 36, flew to Phuket from Switzerland last Sunday after his mother was found dead last Thursday floating off Koh Maphrao, off Phuket's east coast.

He stayed overnight at the same bungalow where his mother lived, only to find a handwritten suicide note under her computer monitor.

He verified the handwriting as that of his mother, 61-year-old Ursula Balzan.

The letter revealed that Ms Balzan intended to commit suicide at sea after taking sleeping pills, said Phuket City Police duty inspector Sien Keawthong.

"Citing a cardiac disease, she wrote that she didn't want be a burden on her sister and sons," he added.

Considering the new evidence, officers suspect the broken neck



One the beaches on Koh Maphrao where Mrs Balzan liked to swim.

and bruises to her body were sustained after she had already died. They were probably the result of waves crashing the body into the rocky coastline, he said.

Mrs Balzan's other son, Kevin, flew to Phuket from Taiwan on Wednesday, he said.

Both sons asked for police to not conduct an autopsy.

### Luciano Butti killing

## Kavatassi denied bail

THE Italian man who allegedly hired a hit squad to assassinate a business partner in March has been denied bail by Phuket Provincial Court.

Lt Col Weerayut Sittirattanakul of the Thalang Police told the *Gazette* that a bail request lodged by Denis Kavatassi was rejected and that the Italian remains in custody at Phuket Provincial Prison on charges of conspiracy to commit murder.

Mr Kavatassi was arrested for allegedly hiring six Thai men to kill 61-year-old resort owner resort owner Luciano Butti, 61, in Paklok on March 15.

Also arrested and still in custody are three members of the alleged hit squad: Prasong Yongkit, Ratchanon Sawaree and Somchai Klasuk.

## Russian found hanged in solitary police cell

POLICE are investigating the apparent suicide of 26-year-old Russian tourist Evgeny Otrubyanikov while in a holding cell at Patong Police Station last Saturday night.

Mr Evgeny died at about 10pm after apparently hanging himself using his shirt tied to an iron bar in the cell where he was being held in solitary confinement.

"We do not yet know what caused him to commit suicide. We intended to question him the following day, after he calmed down," said Duty Officer Pattapee Srichay.

Mr Otrubyanikov's detain-

ment followed a report earlier the same day by a motorbike rental operator on the beach road.

"He walked up and poured the gasoline onto my motorbikes and himself, while holding a lighter. I pushed him away, and some tuk-tuk drivers helped me grab him and seize the lighter.

"He seemed quite drunk and smelled of alcohol. Meanwhile, he said something about his passport that I didn't understand very well," said the operator.

He denied having rented a vehicle to the Russian, who was in possession of his passport when taken into custody by police.



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HOLIDAY INN PHUKET MAI KHAO BEACH RESORT





Xiao Ming Hao is loaded onto the helicopter as her husband looks on.  
Photo: Courtesy of Channel 5 TV

## Chinese tourist airlifted from Racha boat tour

ROYAL Thai Navy medevac officers scrambled this afternoon after receiving a call to airlift a Chinese tourist from Koh Racha Yai back to Phuket.

Cdr Jongjaroen Jangjun, Duty Officer at the Third Naval Area Command Operations Center, told the *Gazette* that Xiao Ming Hao, 53, was on a boat trip to Koh Racha Yai, about 25 kilometers south of Phuket, when she started experiencing severe back pain.

"She suffers from a spinal condition and high blood pressure. During the boat trip to the island there were big waves and the wind was blowing very strong, which triggered severe spasms," he said. "The conditions were so rough that she was rendered immovable," he added.

Tour organizers on Koh Racha Yai called the Narenthorn Center hotline 1669.

Officers there called the Third Naval Area Command, requesting a helicopter be sent to pick her up, he said.

"We received the call for help about midday," said Cdr Jongjaroen.

Accompanied by her husband, Ms Xiao was transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital to receive treatment, said Cdr Jongjaroen.

— *Pimwara Choksakulpun*

# Three held over street kills

By Chutharat Plerin

POLICE have charged three men for gunning down two alleged adversaries in Patong early last Sunday morning.

Nat "Chit" Nakpetch, 31, from Kathu, Somnuek "Wae" Suwanthanoo and Poochit "Max" Pookham, both 29 and from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, were charged with planning and carrying out premeditated murder, said Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pekad Tantipong.

However, he explained that the two victims were gunned down following a "misunderstanding".

"Hatchakorn Puekpol, 36, from Samut Songkram, was murdered and Somkid Klongsingkram, 32, was seriously injured in the attacks," said Maj Gen Pekad.

Quoting a police press release, Maj Gen Pekad said the victims knew their assailants before the shootings.

Mr Hatchakorn's sister, who asked not to be named, told the *Gazette*, "A few days ago two teenagers [friends of Hatchakorn] had a fight with some guys at the Isarn Lad Phrao Karaoke.



Nat 'Chit' Nakpetch re-enacts the shooting of Somkid off Nanai Rd, Patong.

"The next day Mr Nat called Hatchakorn, who went to broker a truce between Mr Nat and the teenagers," she said.

The talks did not go well.

"During the talks, one of the teenagers fired his gun into the air," she explained.

This led Mr Nat to believe that Mr Hatchakorn had asked the teenagers to frighten him, she added.

"On Saturday night, Mr Nat called my brother again, asking to

meet. I asked him not to go, but he went anyway because he said he was innocent," she said.

"I don't know Mr Somkid or why he was involved," she said.

Furious, she added, "I am so angry with one media report, which said my brother was 'mafia' and that he 'collected' money from people.

"That is not true. He was not mafia," she said.

However, Patong Police Duty Officer Lt Thanakrit Kiawyai ex-

plained that Mr Nat called Mr Hatchakorn again on Saturday, asking to meet again – this time on Nanai Soi 8.

"The three suspects were in a Chevrolet sedan waiting near the four-ways where Nanai Road joins Pracha Nukroh and Phang Muang Sai Kor Road.

"As Mr Hatchakorn and Mr Somkid rode by, both on separate motorbikes, the men in the car followed.

"Near the Nanai Car Care shop, on Nanai Road, Somnuek opened fire using an MC .45," he said.

Mr Hatchakorn was shot three times: once in the back of the head, once in the left shoulder and again in the right chest.

"Mr Somkid tried to escape, but the gunmen caught up with him in front of a Family Mart off Nanai Road.

"Somkid thought he was safe there, but the men followed him and Mr Nat shot him with an 11mm handgun and Somnuek opened fire again with the MC .45," said Lt Thanakrit.

He did not confirm the extent of Somkid's injuries, other than he was shot several times.

## Honeymoon tourist dies after surf rescue

A YOUNG Russian tourist on honeymoon in Phuket died last Thursday after she was pulled unconscious from dangerous surf at Nai Thon Beach the day before.

Irina Tsyg, 24, was swimming with her husband Alexander Ovsov, 25, when she started to flounder in the large waves, Duty Officer Lt Col Prakob Boonkhwan of Tah Chat Chai police told the *Gazette*.

"It was windy and she succumbed to the large waves," he said.

Lifeguard Natthakit Srijan, 20, nearly drowned trying to rescue her.

Fellow lifeguards on the beach saw them in trouble and rushed to the rescue.

The lifeguards reached Mr Natthakit first and pulled him ashore. He was rushed to Thalang Hospital by Kusoldham Rescue Foundation rescue workers.

Other lifeguards raced to Mrs Tsyg, but she was already unconscious by the time they got her back to the beach.

Mrs Tsyg was rushed to Thalang Hospital by ambulance and later transferred to Phuket International Hospital in Phuket Town.

Mr Natthakit regained consciousness and recovered.

However, Mrs Tsyg never regained consciousness and died the following day.

— *Wichai Wittawat and Chutharat Plerin*



Lifeguards on watch at Nai Thon Beach.

## Coast clear after bluebottle scare

THE invasion of Portuguese man o' war "jellyfish" at Phuket beaches over last weekend appears to have ended, but lifeguards are keeping a watchful eye on the situation in order to ensure the safety of swimmers and beachcombers.

Vitanya Chuayuan, publicity officer of the Phuket Lifeguard Club, confirmed this morning that there have been no reports of the pseudo-jellies since the weekend.

Nine specimens were sent to the Phuket Marine Biological Center at Cape Panwa for analysis.

PMBC director Wannakiat Thubthimsang confirmed the samples as *Physalia physalis*, also known as Portuguese man o' war, bluebottles or *mang kapoon fai* (fire jellyfish) in Thai.

Dr Wannakiat said Portuguese man o' war on Phuket beaches were fairly common early in the monsoon season, from March to July.



One of the 'jellyfish' taken from the beaches as a specimen.

The relatively high number that washed ashore over the weekend was probably due to a combination of unusual monsoon-season currents and an abundant supply of small fish offshore, he said.

The numbers were sufficiently high that the PMBC issued a warning, he said.

The stinging structures of Portuguese man o' war were still dangerous after they washed ashore, he warned.

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# Alcoholic exorcism ends hostage show

By Chutharat Plerin

THALANG Police officers and members of the Kusoldharm foundation responded to reports of a public disturbance near a place of worship in Srisoonthorn late on the night of June 14.

Arriving at a private residence behind Ban Bangjo Mosque, they found 32-year-old Pichai Plubplueng drunk, holding a knife to his own throat and threatening to bash his head against a wall if anyone approached him.

Mr Pichai, who is originally from Si Sa Ket province in north-east Thailand, was alternately singing Isarn and Cambodian songs.

Neighbors gathered to watch as the drama unfolded.

After an hour of unsuccessful negotiations, officers asked Mr Pichai's wife what led to the unfortunate situation.

She divulged that her husband had sworn to his mother that he



would stop drinking, but earlier that day he drank with friends. When he returned home, his strange behavior began without warning.

Police asked Mr Pichai's wife to speak with him. He instructed her to place five flowers, five incense sticks and five candles before him, then pay her respects.

After she had done what he asked, Mr Pichai abruptly lost consciousness.

Police rushed in to remove the knife from his hand. Volunteer rescue workers then moved in and managed to revive him about five minutes later.

Upon waking, Mr Pichai claimed to have no recollection of what had transpired and asked the crowd what they were doing there.

Individuals holding themselves hostage is a strange yet relatively common occurrence in Thailand, but the event frightened neighbors and onlookers who believed that Mr Pichai had been possessed and that the "spirit" only left his body after his wife did its bidding.

Cases of possession are quite common in Thailand.

In November 2005, pupils at the Cherng Talay Witthayakom School were given a three-day holiday following a case of mass hysteria involving about 100 students.

Some of the students suffered from shock and had to be sent to hospital for treatment.

The event followed accidental damage to a spirit house by a backhoe working on a construction project behind the school.

# Sleepwalker fights for life after fall from second floor

A MECHANIC is in hospital with severe head injuries after falling from the balcony of his second-floor apartment in Rassada on Monday night.

Police believe the man was walking in his sleep at the time.

Lt Col Sien Keawthong of the Phuket City Police identified the man as Worrawut Chaleewan.

Thought to be in his mid-30s, Mr Worrawut fell from his apartment at the Kan Keha public housing project near Rassada Pier.

A security guard at the complex told the *Gazette* that Mr Worrawut lived in the flat with his employer and a co-worker.

"They moved in less than a week ago. I didn't know them very well, but I know they were elevator technicians," the guard said.

"Mr Worrawut's employer said that they had a few drinks before sleeping and he was probably sleepwalking, as he is apparently known to do," said Lt Col Sien.

Mr Worrawut was discovered face down in a pool of blood by fellow residents of the densely-settled area.



GOING DOWN: The corner room from which Mr Worrawut suffered his tragic fall. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

It took about 30 minutes from the time of the discovery for him to be sent to the hospital, the guard said.

On Tuesday, Mr Worrawut was in the neurosurgery ward at Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he remains unconscious and is receiving respiratory assistance, a hospital official said.

— Atchaa Khamlo

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Rescue workers carry Mr Mansurov's body from his shophouse home.

# Heartbroken Estonian dies in Phuket Town

POLICE are investigating the death of an Estonian business owner found dead in his Phuket Town shophouse last Sunday night.

Phuket City Police duty officer Yingnucharee Longkaew identified the deceased as 45-year-old Artur Mansurov, who was found dead on the third floor of his shophouse at the Phuket@Town commercial housing estate on Surin Road.

According to one local media report, Mr Mansurov ran a food export company with a young Russian woman who left him without explanation in late May.

Mr Mansurov wasn't known as a serious drinker, but he recently suffered heartbreak and began drinking heavily, the report said.

When police and rescue workers entered a room on the third floor they found a great deal of blood-laden vomit, including some in plastic bags. There were several empty alcohol and soft drink containers in the room.

Mr Mansurov's body was sent to Vachira Phuket Hospital to confirm the cause of death.

Mr Mansurov is reported to have returned home by car earlier the same day. The car's front end was badly dented and Mr Mansurov was incoherent, said the report.

Finding a bag of medication in the room, police suspect that a sudden heart attack or a pre-existing medical condition may have contributed to his death.

— *Phuket Gazette*



# Tourist Police HQ opens

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

MINISTRY of Tourism and Sports Permanent Secretary Sombat Kuruphan last Friday chaired the official opening of the Tourist Police headquarters on Yaowarat Road in Phuket Town.

Mr Sombat said that Phuket's tourism industry generated about 90 to 110 billion baht a year, justifying the need for building the new headquarters.

"Tourist Police officers and volunteers help make this station a quality working network. It will be a model station for Tourist Police around the country to learn from," he said.

Mr Sombat also urged tourists in trouble to call the Tourist Police 1155 hotline, which is available 24 hours a day.

Lt Col Ekachai Pramanakul, Inspector and chief of the Phuket Tourist Police, said his officers were ready and willing to help tourists, as promoted by the hotline's slogan: "1155 Your First Friend".

"If it's your first visit to Thailand and you don't know who to call when having a problem, call 1155 anytime – we are waiting to help you," he said.

Tourists seeking contact details of Phuket's honorary consuls was



Maj Gen Adis Ngamchitsuksri (left), Commander of all Tourist Police in Thailand, with Permanent Secretary Sombat Kuruphan and Phuket Senator Thanyarat Atcharyachai unveil the sign at the Tourist Police headquarters.

identified as the top reason for calling the 1155 hotline.

From January 2010 to May 2011, the 1155 hotline received 8,512 calls, with 1,860 of those calls asking for directions to and the location of honorary consuls' offices, an officer at the Tourist Police hotline center told the *Gazette*.

Other reasons for tourists calling the hotline were logged as: seeking advice for lost property and documents (918 calls); having problems with hotels, shops and restaurants (917 calls); seeking help communicating with taxi drivers (863 calls); and asking for information about local tourist attractions (760 calls).

## Immigration volunteers launch new info hotline

THE Phuket Immigration Volunteers on Wednesday launched a new email account and hotline to contact for foreigners with general queries about visa and immigration issues.

The new hotline number is 090-1707360. Queries can be emailed to the volunteers at: [phuketimmigrationvolunteers@hotmail.com](mailto:phuketimmigrationvolunteers@hotmail.com)

"We switched the phone on this morning and the email account is already up and running. The email goes to a volunteer dedicated to checking that email account," said volunteer Kevin Moss on Wednesday.

The nine Phuket Immigration Volunteers handle queries from about 60 per cent of walk-ins at the Immigration Office in Phuket Town.

"Some people already know what they're doing, and that's fine – but a lot of people, especially tourists staying two to three months, don't know what's required by immigration to extend their stay.

"There's also a lot of bar talk



Kevin Moss with the 'hot phone'. and 7-Eleven talk, and so we get a lot of queries from people saying, 'I heard my mate did this – is this true?'

"We can answer a lot of questions like that," he said.

However, Mr Moss stressed the importance of visiting the Immigration Office in person to receive complete answers tailored to each person's situation.

"We can answer your questions to the best of the knowledge that we have, but if you want to properly know everything about your particular predicament, then please to go to the Immigration Office in Phuket Town," he said.



Permanent Secretary Sombat Kuruphan enjoys a joke with an officer.



YOUR FIRST FRIEND: Tourist Police mascot 'Sub Lt Rakchart Yingshib' ('Die Hard Patriot') joins the official opening of the new headquarters.



At "Into the Sea", the signature restaurant at the Evason Phuket & Bon Island, chef Thomas Jakobi's Modern Logical Cuisine showcases his latest innovations in the form of new, creative interpretations of a cuisine that has both visual and textural appeal. The taste and focus on fresh, wholesome and local ingredients are paramount.

The wine program, created by our sommelier, Harry Haan, has been granted the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for the second year in a row.



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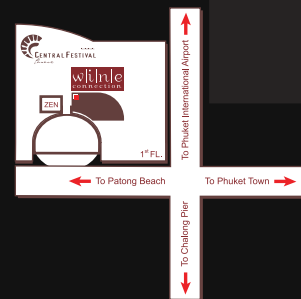
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# Meditation center in limbo

CONSTRUCTION of the International Meditation Center at Tah Chat Chai has been called off due to concerns about accessing the site on the island's northernmost tip.

Meanwhile, the World Fellowship of Buddhists (WFB) are searching for a new location in Phuket to build the center.

In an afternoon discussion held on June 16, WFB secretary Phallop Thaiarry told Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha that no progress had been made on the project since a stone-laying ceremony was held in March to mark the beginning of work.

"We have received much feedback about transport inconveniences to reach Tah Chat Chai Temple.

So, I am here to request your assistance in finding a new location in Phuket to build the meditation center," Mr Phallop explained.

"WFB still intends to construct the meditation center in Phuket. However, the lack of public transport poses difficulties for Dhamma practitioners to travel there. It would be great if the new location could be somewhere in Phuket Town," he said.

WFB is also prepared to make changes to the project design to suit the new location, he added.

Governor Tri said that he would accept the request to consider a suitable relocation site for the center and would inform the WFB of any updates.

— Janpen Upatising



Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha (front, left) at the foundation stone laying ceremony on March 2. Photo: Janpen Upatising

## Dolphins in captivity is inhumane: Gazette poll

A STRONG majority of *Gazette* readers who voted in a recent online readers' poll believe that it is inhumane to keep dolphins in captivity.

Readers were asked: "Do you think it is humane to keep dolphins in captivity?"

Overall, 45.6% of respondents answered "No". The second most popular answer (22.3%) was "It depends on how they are acquired and treated."

"I don't know" received 16.4% of votes, while the remaining 15.6% said it was humane to keep dolphins in captivity.

"No" held the majority in every surveyed demographic, with 47% of local foreign residents and 47% of tourists/visitors to Phuket denouncing the practice, along with and 37% of Thais who voted.

While "It depends..." was the second-most popular response by foreign residents (24%) and tourists (23%), "I don't know" came second with 24% of Thai respondents being undecided.

# MoU to end blockades at Phuket Deep Sea Port

By Atchaa Khamlo

INTENSE negotiations last Thursday finally ended with most but not all taxi drivers and tour agencies signing an agreement to end blockades at the Deep Sea Port.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) ratified a verbal agreement following the blockade of tourists attempting to disembark the luxury cruise liner *Silver Spirit* in April.

The MoU, effective immediately, invoked the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code). By signing the MoU, all signatories agreed to not block access to the port.

Under the terms of the agreement, the taxi operators and tour agencies serving the port are to have equal access to the tourists arriving, with no more than a "10% difference in the share".

The tour companies also agreed to inform the taxi cartel which tour operators were scheduling tours to arrive in Phuket and how many



Kanjana Sae-im (left) of Sea Tour and Suwat Deejingtrakul of tour operator Regale International initially objected, but later signed the MoU.

tourists were expected to arrive – so that sufficient taxis would be available – at least one day before the cruise ship docked at the port.

A clear point was that no free bus transfer service will be allowed to serve tourists and crews arriving at the facility.

Both sides agreed that the MoU could be later amended by future

agreements and that any parties wanting to withdraw from the MoU can do so with just 30 days' written notice.

However, Suwat Deejingtrakul of tour operator Regale International, expressed his disapproval of the 50:50 split, saying he wanted to send the MoU to his company's head office in Bangkok.

Sea Tour representative Kanjana Sae-im also initially declined to sign the agreement, saying she first needed to consult her company's lawyers. Sea Tour brought the luxury cruise liner *Silver Spirit* to Phuket in April, only to have their tourists' trips ashore blockaded by local taxi and tuk-tuk drivers.

Phuket Marine Office Director Phuripat Theerakulpisut, who was instrumental in drafting the MoU, reminded Mr Suwat and Ms Kanjana that all parties had ample time to object to the MoU terms before the conference was called.

Mr Suwat then signed the agreement. Ms Kanjana later verbally confirmed to the *Gazette* that she, too, would sign.

Narong Kumban, village head of Moo 7 in Wichit, signed on behalf of local taxi drivers.

He said it was unfair to characterize the taxi drivers as "mafia". "They are local people just trying to earn a living to feed their families," Mr Narong said.

See First Person on page 9

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# Army, opposition lock horns

TENSIONS between the opposition Pheu Thai Party and Army top brass are soaring just two weeks before Thailand's hotly contested general election set for July 3.

Earlier in June, Army chief Prayuth Chan-ocha slammed the party after one of its candidates allegedly threatened troops carrying out anti-drugs activities in his constituency.

The general followed the outburst with a TV appearance broadcast nationwide on Army-owned Channels 5 and 7 on June 14. He urged the public to elect "good people" and to defend the monarchy.

"If you allow the election to repeat previous patterns you will get the same thing as before," he said, in comments widely believed to be a thinly veiled warning against voting for the Pheu Thai Party.

The last three elections were won by the party's previous incarnations, the Thai Rak Thai and People Power parties.

Gen Prayuth's comments came as polls gave Pheu Thai and its prime ministerial candidate



Yingluck Shinawatra the edge over the incumbent Democrat Party of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.

"It was a very obvious political intervention," Pavin Chachavalpongpun, a Thailand expert and fellow at the Institute of South-east Asian Studies in Singapore, told the *Wall Street Journal*.

"He was talking about good people and bad people. It was almost as if Gen Prayuth was playing his last card," Mr Pavin said.

Chaturon Chaiseng, an executive of the dissolved Thai Rak Thai Party who is under a five-year political ban, said Gen Prayuth had no justification for remarks seen as favoring one party over another during the campaign.

Gen Prayuth was one of the Army officers behind the 2006



Army Chief Prayuth Chan-ocha (left) with fellow commanders of the Thai Armed Forces, including a representative of the Royal Thai Police, announcing in May this year a guarantee there will be no coup. Photo: The Nation

coup that ousted former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The telecommunications billionaire lives in self-imposed exile in Dubai to escape a two-year jail sentence for improper conduct in a land deal, a charge he claimed was

politically motivated.

Gen Prayuth on Tuesday ruled out talks with Mr Thaksin, saying the military had no mandate to rescue him from his legal issues.

"There is nothing to clear between the military and Thaksin,"

he said in reference to Mr Thaksin's offer for talks.

Gen Prayuth said that if Mr Thaksin wanted to return to his homeland, he could do so by facing up to his conviction and serving his sentence.



Rioting inmates at the Narathiwat Prison face prison guards following a clash that left 25 officials injured. Photo: The Nation

## Officers injured in prison drugs riot

A RIOT at a prison in the Deep South province of Narathiwat last week left 25 officials injured and authorities searching for answers.

Around 7am on June 18, Narathiwat Vice Governor Dejrat Simsiri led a 150-strong team of police, military servicemen and civilians to search the male prisoners' dormitory as part of a drug-suppression operation.

The officers uncovered stashes of *ya bah* (methamphetamine), *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) and several mobile phones.

In reaction to the raids, the inmates rioted and started throwing metal pipes, lengths of timber and stones at the officials.

The officials escaped, but not before 11 sustained serious head wounds.

Narathiwat Governor Thanon Vejkornkanont set up a committee to investigate which of the prison's 999 inmates started the riot and attacked officials.

It was tough to control rioting in the jail partly because it was located in the city center, he said.

The chief coordinator of the Network of Youth Organizations in the Southernmost Provinces, Artef Sohko, urged the authorities to investigate allegations that certain officials had disrespected the Quran by tossing it on the floor.

Mr Artef, a former head of the Student Federation of Thailand, told *The Nation* that an inmate in the prison had told him that some guards had disrespected the book, provoking the riot.

## Vote canvassers executed

AT LEAST two vote canvassers were shot dead last week in violence most likely linked to Thailand's general election to be held on July 3.

On June 16, a canvasser working for the Bhumjaithai Party was executed in broad daylight on Khao San Road, Bangkok's famous backpacker haven.

A lone gunman approached and fired five bullets at Suban Jiraphanwanich, his wife Mrs Oraphin and aide Chanutphorn Phothisamphan, before fleeing on a motorcycle.

Mr Suban died instantly after being shot three times in the head. Mrs Oraphin and Mrs Chanutphorn were wounded in the shooting.

Mr Suban was canvassing for



Officers inspect the murder scene on Khao San Rd. Photo: The Nation

Bhumjaithai candidates in all three key constituencies in the Central Thailand province of Lop Buri, where Chart Thai Pattana and Pheu Thai MPs held half the seats.

Mr Suban and his father Kamol had recently changed allegiance

from Chart Thai Pattana to Bhumjaithai.

Five days later in Yala, one of Thailand's three restive Deep South provinces, a Democrat Party canvasser was shot dead.

Sophon Songkaew, also a sub-district chief in the predominantly Muslim Muang District, was shot in the head and torso by a lone gunman. His wife was also injured in the attack.

Police said they were yet to establish whether or not the killing of the 55-year-old Buddhist man was linked to the elections or the Southern insurgency.

Since the victim played a key part in campaigning ahead of the July 3 election, it was likely the murder stemmed from politics, they said.

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# Roadside signs of political awareness

AS THE general election draws near, one can only guess what tourists visiting Phuket for the first time make of it all. Such is the extent of visual pollution that many visitors will enjoy their holidays blissfully unaware as to why they are looking at colorful images of suited monkeys, salivating dogs and monitor lizards.

For many, the preponderance of roadside signage bearing images of the various contenders will just add to the kaleidoscope of attention-seeking placards that blight this "Pearl of the Andaman".

One can only hope that after the election canvassers will show the same vigor in collecting the signs as they did in putting them up, because our once-beautiful roadsides are quickly degenerating into elongated garbage tips.

This crass campaign propaganda, which has remained virtually unchanged in format for decades, is an insult to any thinking person's sensibilities. One might think the overall effect would be to push voters to the "Vote No" option, but even proponents of that choice seem to lack the creativity needed to get their message across without trashing the roadsides with crude signage.

Of course election signs are just the latest wave in a relentless tide of roadside trashing. It comes as a sad irony that many of the erected-then-neglected signs are put up by the very same people we entrust to represent us, run our communities, preserve law and order, and even dispose of our trash.

Most ironic of all is the fact that signs bearing images of local VIPs encouraging the public to take part in "Save the Planet" and "Go Green" campaign that took place over a year ago now make up a considerable fraction of the growing roadside detritus.

Canvassers (could there be a better word to describe them?) seem to observe no boundaries when it comes to putting up election signs. Even though Phuket has been divided into two constituencies, that has not stopped them from throwing up signs supporting candidates outside the areas where they are actually running.

Hopefully the Election Commission will address this issue before the next polling. Let us not forget, elections in this country tend to come in spates.

It is sad indeed that of the 40 parties contesting the election, not one has made environmental protection a key policy objective, and the current approach to campaigning affords little hope for optimism on this front.

For people fortunate enough to remember the Phuket of 20 years ago, the environmental effect of the current campaigning is every bit as depressing as the political options on offer.

— The Editor



## You get what you pay for

*Re: Gazette online, Stranded Phuket tourists get strategic in face of flight delays, June 20*

A lesson to be learnt here – you get what you pay for and I would hazard a guess that these people are on a "budget" holiday.

Let's hope they were smart enough to get insurance or perhaps that is an added expense they decided to avoid.

Jaydee  
Gazette forum

### Police putting on a show is criminal

*Re: Gazette online, Two gunned down in Phuket gangland 'misunderstanding', June 20*

Why do Thai police present an arrest like a gala showcase with the expedience neatly placed on a table with cards and all the officers taking a photo with the accused like it's going in a family album?

Sammy  
Gazette forum

### Light rail aims for the heart of Phuket

The proposed Phuket Light Rail project has its detractors but I think a mass-transit system that runs through the island's interior is just what is needed here.

The idea that they will run on coastlines seems to little more than rumor and most likely infeasible to begin with.

Phuket's infrastructure will be much better for it, but the growth that spurs from such a project also needs to be guided so that locals truly benefit in the long run.

Pro-trains  
Talang

### Letters to the Editor

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

### Karaoke kids should do it 'My Way'

*Re: Gazette online, Two gunned down in Phuket gangland 'misunderstanding', June 20*

An awful lot of trouble seems to originate at these karaoke places. They need to be seriously regulated and in many cases closed down.

They appear to operate at all hours and it is not uncommon to see bikes driven by youths zigzagging away from them in convoy.

The authorities regulate bars and the ability to buy alcohol from reputable takeaway outlets, so why are these seedy karaoke joints exempt?

Logic  
Gazette forum

### Movie Mystery

I'm a bit of a movie nut but has anyone else noticed that certain upcoming movies will be advertised in Phuket but never enter theaters?

You'll see posters, website banners (although that's nationwide) and even trailers at the cinema! Then suddenly all word of the movie disappears.

When it comes to the more independent and "creative" films, you can forget them altogether.

It's a shame and hinders creative development I think.

Movie Junkie  
Phuket Town

### Passports are not a permit to rent bikes

*Re: Gazette online, Russian found hanged in Phuket police cell, June 20*

It goes without saying that this man really needed some help as he was obviously a danger to others as well as himself. With regards to renting motorbikes, nobody should give anyone their passport when hiring a motorbike – that's just plain stupid.

Licence revoked  
Gazette forum

### How can children be gunslingers?

*Re: Gazette online, Top cops focused on Phuket gold heist, June 18*

How about a law that prohibits children from being behind the counter in a gold shop during business hours? This could have been a lot worse.

He wrestled the gun away from a child. Frightening.

Mark  
Gazette forum

### Self-health care needs more sense

*Re: Gazette online, Chinese tourist airlifted after Phuket boat tour, June 18*

So, she suffers from a spinal condition and high blood pressure, yet still books a small boat trip during monsoon season?

Personally, I'd send her the bill for the helicopter ride.

Agogohome  
Gazette forum

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# Stuck in the middle with sea port MoU

## FIRST PERSON

I HAVE read many uninformed comments on online forums, including the *Phuket Gazette* website, regarding the unfairness of the MoU. My impression is that many foreigners are quick to form an opinion but are ignorant to the full situation.

First, people complained that the government wasn't doing enough to solve the issue. As soon as we mediated a fair solution, people complained we were taking sides and not supporting free market principles.

As a neutral party who understands both sides, I drafted the MoU. It is definitely a fair agreement based on rational reasoning.

In the meetings we held, both sides had the opportunity to participate and contribute to the terms. Those who didn't come and participate had the right not to, but also have no place to complain.

While the MoU is not a "magic elixir" that will fix all problems, at the very least it is a fair set of rules clearly explained in writing. If both sides live up to it, then it will maintain harmony.

We must consider the situation from many angles. People who think that only local taxi and van drivers benefitted [from the MoU] are those people are only considering the financial side, which is not necessarily in the best interest



Phuket Marine Office Director **Phuripat Theerakulpisut**, 42, was instrumental in drafting the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on June 16 between Wichit taxi drivers and tour companies contesting control of the tourist transport market at the Deep Sea Port. Here he explains why the MoU is a fair agreement that will maintain harmony.



Tourists get back on the ship 'Silver Spirit' after being blockaded at the Deep Sea Port in May.

of society. When you consider what's best for everyone, it becomes a matter of collaboration to achieve a win-win result, instead of a draw or losing outcome as in the past.

Locals are not stupid and they were aware the blockade would have negative effects on tourism. While I do not condone blockades

– of either the airport or sea port – I understand the locals' position. This was a last resort because they were backed into a corner with nothing else to fight with.

Before building the deep sea port, investors made all kinds of verbal promises to the Wichit locals about the benefits they would receive if they approved its construction.

As soon as the port was built, the investors ignored the locals in favor of tour agencies who moved in to control the market. If you were a local in the same situation, would you just close your eyes and allow it? If business doesn't benefit locals, then what good is it for communities?

Just because a company aims to profit, it has no right to form a monopoly. No matter where you make business and no matter how "VIP" you are, locals must be given share.

If this fundamental principle is respected, there will be harmony without the need for law or government to intervene.



The Patong City sign looks good, but is it having the desired effect?

## About face, Phuket

### Island View

By Howard O'Connor

Do you have an opinion to voice?  
Email [Editor@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Editor@PhuketGazette.net)

THE new, but yet-to-open bus station on Thepkasattri Road has been a point of both focus and contention across a large cross-section of the community. Just read a story on the subject to see how local officials are involved and then browse the online comments to find vociferous arguments among readers.

Perhaps some of that focus should be turned towards the less-glamorous changes made around the island. For instance, the multicolored lights lining each side of Chalong Pier or the trees that now line the median strip of Thepkasattri Road.

These "decorations" have caused no harm, but I have been told that the light strips on the pier alone cost over 10 million baht, and each tree on Thepkasattri had a 60,000-baht price tag.

These figures could be grossly inaccurate, but the implications are food for thought. The costs were likely high, given the number of trees on the median strip and the systems and electricity required to power those pier lights.

We need not touch upon corruption or where the money

went. The simple fact is that visitors and residents will most likely remember Phuket for the quality it holds as a destination and a home, not the trees they saw while travelling to and from the airport or the lights along a pier.

So why is money put towards projects such as these? Why does it not go toward maintaining Phuket's greater appeal? Beyond that, the local education system, roads and other infrastructure are the fulcrum of this island's future, yet money still goes to faux aesthetics – if we can call the Patong City sign on Patong Hill attractive.

When the issues are laid bare, even the harshest comments about Phuket's future hold some truth, but it is not unethical conduct that needs to be singled out. The purpose of these additions was to make the island more attractive. The intention was good, but the final result wasn't.

## Issues & Answers... ...asking the questions that affect you...

### Are sex offenders welcome here?

Can a person registered as a sex offender in the United States – but *not* wanted by the authorities – enter Thailand with a tourist visa?

Sam  
New York

**Pol Col Pakpong Saiubol, Immigration Division 2 Superintendent and Deputy Spokesman of the Immigration Bureau, replies:**

If you are registered as a sex offender in your home country, but you are *not* wanted by police in your country and you are *not* on our watch list, then you will be allowed to enter Thailand.

If you have been convicted of a sex offence in Thailand and are registered as a sex offender here, then we consider your behavior dangerous to our country. We will cancel your visa and put you on our watch list. You will not be allowed to enter Thailand until this

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order is officially revoked.

If you have already entered Thailand and we find out later – no matter how much later – that you are wanted by police in your home country, then once we receive a request from police in your home country to arrest you, we will do so immediately. We will cancel your visa and deport you.

For example, there was an Israeli who was wanted for committing a crime in Israel. He fled to Thailand and married here. He had a Thai wife for 12 years.

We received a request from the Israeli police to help find him. When we found him, we deported



Paul Gadd, aka Gary Glitter, was denied entry to Thailand. Photo: AFP

him immediately.

If you are registered as a sex offender in a third country – not Thailand or your home country – and we consider your behavior dangerous to Thailand, you will be added to our watch list and you will not be allowed to enter.

One famous example is the case of English rock star Gary

Glitter, who was found guilty of sex offenses in Vietnam.

On his way back to England, he changed his mind and wanted to enter Thailand for a few days.

However, he was on our watch list and we considered his behavior to be a threat to our country's people and reputation.

So we denied him entry into

Thailand. What we could do in his case was just send him back to England.

For tourists arriving in Thailand asking for a visa on arrival, if we find out that a Thai court has issued a warrant for your arrest, you will be arrested immediately.

If a court in your home country has issued a warrant for your arrest, we will report your arrival to the police in your home country and discuss with them how to proceed. This includes cases of suspects from countries that do not have an extradition treaty with Thailand.

We keep an eye on foreign persons whose behavior may be harmful to Thai people or might damage our reputation. If we find such people, we arrest or deport them.

All this follows the policy laid down by Immigration Bureau Commissioner Lt Gen Wiboon Bangthamai, which mandates that Immigration Police must adhere to the "3 S": Security, Service Mind and Standard.



# Vespa values speedy sales

**New Vespa showroom to meet the demand of mod-squad loving scooter enthusiasts**

By Anand Singh

MORE Vespa motorcycles are likely to hit Phuket's roads following the opening of a new Vespa showroom and service center near the weekend market on Wirat Hongyok Road in Phuket Town.

Owned and operated by Drago Andaman Company, the showroom is the first Vespa dealership to operate in Phuket.

The price range for Vespa motorcycles starts from 78,500 baht up to 345,000 baht for larger models with engines of up to 300cc. Since its opening in January, the Phuket dealer has already sold more than 70 motorcycles.

"At the moment we are targeting a sales volume of about 10 motorcycles per month, which is not very ambitious considering it is the low season. But in the future we will be aiming for around 20 motorcycle sales per month," servicing

manager Supakorn Detwattanadet said.

"Since opening, we have also had customers from Satun, Haad Yai, Pattani and Surat Thani that have ordered Vespas from us. In addition to Phuket, Vespa Thailand also plans to build service centers this year in Chantaburi, Chiang Mai and possibly Haad Yai," he added.

Showroom Manager Supamat Thammakoranont said Phuket was chosen as a location for the new showroom for a number of reasons:

"There is good demand for Vespas in Phuket because consumers here have good spending power and demand for premium products. The Vespa is also suitable for Phuket's hilly roads because its engine is bigger than common motorbikes. There are also customers interested in buying Vespas for the purpose of renting them out to tourists," she said.

The Vespa appeals to many customer



OLD SCHOOL COOL: A new Vespa showroom is now open in Phuket Town.

groups who like how Vespa stands out as a scooter, Mrs Supamat noted.

"The Vespa is comparable to the Mini Cooper in some sense. It is a premium motorcycle. People who buy Vespa are unique and want to be seen as different from other people.

The Vespa is more popular with people over 30 years of age. At one point, the brand actually disappeared from the country for over 20 years. Most people who remember and love the Vespa are therefore the older generations," she said.

Compared to dominant motorcycle

brands like Yamaha and Honda, the Vespa is considered a premium brand for people who care about quality. The Vespa's structure is made of steel rather than plastic like most common motorcycles, which makes them safer, Mr Supakorn explained.

Moreover, the motorcycles are equipped with advanced anti-theft systems. The start key comprises a microchip that prevents duplicates from working. In fact, since the Vespa has been imported into Thailand there has never been a single case reported of successful theft of the motorcycle, he added.



Singapore MediaCorp Artiste, Joanne Peh

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The Phuket Pearl Industry showroom will be upgraded. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

## Pearl company to beat the heat

FEELING the pinch from global warming, Phuket Pearl Industry Co Ltd will splash out on a 10-million-baht upgrade to its facilities and internal processes.

With support from the Thailand Board of Investment (BOI), the company will double the size of its showroom at Koh Kaew and ramp up its Quality Assurance (QA) and production systems.

"The [showroom] expansion will allow for more comfort and involvement among visitors and customers, as the current showroom can get congested," said Managing Director Amorn Intaracharoen.

He also stressed the need for upgrades to the company's culturing practices and QA, citing current output yields as low as 30 per cent of what was expected, believed to be the result of rising sea temperatures.

Even though the company has raw material stock to supply operations for three years, Mr Amorn said it needs to improve [yields] within two years.

Anticipating hefty overheads, he said a solution involves moving the farm, currently located a kilometer offshore from Sapam on Phuket's east coast, to a new deep-sea site where water temperatures fluctuate less.

The company also will be the first in Thailand to implement a fully in-house pearl production cycle, known in the industry as the Farm to Consumer (F2C) model.

F2C comprises a minimum two-year culturing process of three pearl species – Akoya, Mabe and South Sea – at the company's farm, as well as the harvesting, processing and sale of finished products in the showroom.

– The Nation



# Tattooists bid for new licenses

By Atchaa Khamlo

TATTOO artists in Phuket are petitioning officials to mandate an artists' license specific to the tattoo trade to validate their profession in accordance with international standards.

Following public outcry over inappropriate religious tattoos earlier this month, which resulted in scrutiny and intervention by the Culture and Public Health Ministries, dozens of tattoo parlor representatives from across the island assembled at the Thavorn Palm Beach Resort in Karon on June 9.

The gathering was presided over by Somchai Seanglai, the Permanent Secretary for Culture, and organized by the Culture and Public Health Ministries. Its aim was to increase co-operation between tattoo businesses in maintaining cultural and hygienic standards.

As the initial province of focus, Phuket was chosen by the Culture Ministry to set the standard for a nationwide campaign.

The chief concern of those gathered was that only a generic health permit was offered to tattoo parlors. These were seen as unspecific and inadequate, as artists were unable to use them to ensure the quality of their services and products.

A secondary effect of the licensing process was that licensed parlors were subject to health inspections, while non-licensed businesses were left alone.

"We have the same type of permit as beauty salons and it's not easy to get. Many



Phuket Skin Arts tattooist Akkara Prabpairee gives Croatian tourist Bojan Pecirep his ink.

tattoo shops in Patong don't even have a permit, and meanwhile health officials check the shops that do have them," Pornchai Klawtha-nong, owner of Phuket Skin Arts tattoo parlor in Patong and president of the Phuket Tattoo Artist Club told the *Gazette* during an interview on June 14.

Mr Pornchai, who has 15 years experience in the tattoo industry, studied the trade in Australia and Germany, where the process for opening a tattoo parlor was much more restrictive.

"There aren't any standard regulations for inspecting these shops [that don't have permits]... if a tattoo artists' license was required in Thailand, shop standards, hygienic practices and equipment quality would be more easily controlled," Mr Pornchai said.

Aekachai Wanpen, a 38-year-old Phuket local and a tattoo artist for 18 years, said that he was now requesting a health permit for his business, which he has run for six years. "After the [June 9] meeting, I was in-

formed by the Public Health Division of Karon that they will come to inspect my shop," he said.

"I agree on the need for a type of license specifically for tattoo artists," he added.

Prayoon Noosuk, an officer with the Phuket Culture Ministry, said that this was the first time a tattoo artists' license has been requested and it would take time to put regulations into place.

"We can't say right now whether or not it will happen, nor when any regulations will be made. The process needs to be discussed and considered among the relevant government departments, namely the Health Office and Culture Office," Mr Prayoon said.

Phuket Public Health Officer, Ekkarin Warittikorn reinforced business owner's and official's statements.

"Creating any new regulations or certifications will require more discussion among officials. The Public Health division in each local municipality often inspect the [tattoo] operators who do have health permits, but there are no rules in place to examine the ones who don't have a license."

Following the June 9 assembly, Mr Somchai said he will include a request to move forward on the issue in a report to Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha.

According to Thai daily newspaper *Kom Chad Luek*, there are more than 300 tattoo shops in Phuket. Most are unlicensed.

# Halal expo reflects growth of Islamic tourism

REPRESENTATIVES of 70 halal organizations from 35 countries were expected to join the Phuket Halal International Forum and Andaman Muslim Expo 2011 at Phuket Graceland Resort and Spa in Patong as this newspaper went to print.

The two-day forum, which was due to begin on Wednesday, had the focus of reaching a consensus among representatives on international halal certification standards.

Following the forum will be a two-day Muslim food and culture fest at Saphan Hin in Phuket Town.

At least 100 vendors are expected to take part in the festival, which will be open from 5 to 10pm on June 24 and 25.

"Local Halal business operators from across Thailand, as well as foreign business operators from Penang, Malaysia, will participate in the expo," said Associate Professor Dr Ismae Alee, Chairman of Halal Affairs at the Central Islamic Council of Thailand (CICOT).

A series of four "Halal Food Service for Tourism" workshops and seminars have also been held in anticipation of the expo. These were intended to bolster the government's bid to make Phuket Town a UNESCO recognized world food destination as well as cement its market positioning among high-end Middle Eastern tourists.

The Muslim food industry in Phuket has seen growth for many years, said Jirasak Thortip, advisor to the president of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO). "With support from

provincial authorities, the market has potential to achieve even faster growth," he added.

"The PPAO, working closely with the Islamic Committee of Phuket, will help to inform and educate local food producers about globally accepted standards of producing Halal food," Mr Jirasak said.

According to a Mr Jirasak, there are 51 mosques on the is-

land and one third of Phuket residents are Muslim.

PPAO President Paiboon Upatising said that Halal businesses operators in Phuket are the key to the industry's success.

"If operators are able to follow the strict guidelines of Halal food preparation according to Islamic law, then the Halal industry in Phuket will most likely thrive in

coming years," Mr Paiboon said.

"In recent years the Halal food industry has been gaining a lot of interest amongst Thai food producers in general, not just from the Muslim community. Producers need to get serious about pushing the industry forward," he added.

The PPAO and the Phuket Islamic Committee are working together to have more restaurants

in Phuket certified as Halal food vendors, Mr Paiboon added.

"There are only about 10 restaurants in Phuket that have been certified as genuine halal food vendors. Currently, there are 50 to 70 restaurants in Phuket which we are training so they can get Halal certification from CICOT," he said.

— Anand Singh and Gazette reporters

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# The empire strikes back: TOT steps up

TOT have been improving their Internet services recently

LONG the whipping boy in Phuket's internet competition, TOT is finally showing signs of life and offering some real alternatives.

Some people have had good TOT lines for years, and haven't found any reason to switch. But an alarmingly large percentage of people I know with TOT lines have given up and gone with competitors – most frequently True or 3BB.

TOT earned their licks. But recent logs on our speed reporting site – phuketinternetspeed.com – show that TOT's back and fighting.

And a new product, TOT fiber, promises outstanding speeds, so long as TOT can just keep it from bobbing up and down.

Last week I was at Patong Language School, chatting with the owner, when he invited me to take a look at the download speed he was getting. We ran the speed test to Los Angeles at DSLReports.com – the one we always use for phuketinternet speed.com – and I could hardly believe my eyes. The Patong Language School's TOT Fiber 10 Mbps line was running a genuine 9.1 Mbps download speed from Los Angeles. That's one of the fastest international download speeds ever recorded in Phuket.

The Mangosteen Resort in Chalong has the same TOT Fiber 10 Mbps service, and they're reporting 7 to 9 Mbps.

All is not sweetness and light. Over the past few months, we've had repeated reports of line outages for the TOT Fiber 10 Mbps service. But when it works, it works well – and it seems to be getting more reliable.

Which is more than I can say for the new True cable service, being offered in Land & Houses Chalong, and all the way down into Rawai. Although True hasn't published any details (as far as I can tell), it looks like True's taking a very new and even exciting approach to broadband.

Based on observations from several people at the Sunday Computer Clinics, it looks like True has run fiber optic lines through Land & Houses, then put boxes on telephone poles that convert the fiber optic signal to "Cable TV" coax. They then run coax into houses and provide Internet over the coax, just like a Cable TV company would do in other parts of the world.

That leaves open all sorts of interesting possibilities, including the potential to have voice telephone service (VoIP, with free long

distance), cable TV, and very high speed internet, all over a single coax cable running into the house. I'm sure True would have to clear a minefield of legislative hurdles to offer all of those services, but for now the Internet alone is worth watching.

The problem is very spotty service. And I'm being charitable. We've had one True Cable customer posting speeds on phuketinternetspeed.com, and they're all over the map – from abysmally slow to mind-numbingly fast, over 20 Mbps in some cases. I've heard complaints about customers going to the True office and being told that the service doesn't exist. Pleas for repair go unanswered. And so on. If True ever gets their act together, this could be a real winner. For now, it's a masochistic exercise.

The moral of the story? If you need reliable internet service in Phuket, get two different lines from two different providers, and set your routers up so it's easy to switch between the ISPs. Any other approach is just begging for disaster.

INNOVATIVE: True is stringing coax cable – the kind used with Cable TV – in various parts of Phuket. But does their system work?

CALLING ALL IPHONE AND IPAD USERS

Join Sitthichai 'Mr X' Laoveerakul, director of PhuketSchool.com, for a wide-ranging discussion of iOS 5, the next version of iPhone and iPad software. Apple promises you'll be able to install iOS 5 on your iPhone 4 or iPad 2. But do you want it? What will it do? Can your current system handle it? Should you wait to buy an iPhone 5 or iPad 3, just for the software?

Mr X will hold the free seminar in English, on Saturday July 9, from 10am to noon, at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna (near the entrance to the Laguna complex). Seating is limited, and by reservation only. Reserve a seat by emailing Sitthichai@exbiz.com. Sponsored by Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes, the *Phuket Gazette*, and PhuketSchool.com.

*Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Follow him on Twitter: @PhuketPC or visit his free computer clinics at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.*

## Good night America, good morning China

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently produced a report on Asia that repeated previous claims that China will overtake the US as the world's leading economy.

This is not news, especially for the IMF. However, what is new is that for the first time they predicted a date for when China will overtake the US – and it is only five years away: 2016.

Although this transfer of power was expected, many did not think it would happen until 2025 at the earliest.

However, there is a potential problem. They are comparing apples and pears.

A look at the report in detail shows they are measuring the Gross Domestic Product of the US and China using present exchange rates.

The dilemma is that exchange rates change from one moment to the next.

On top of this there is the undeniable truth that Chinese rates are made to suit China's policies at any given time. The renminbi is

Island Investor  
By Graham Macdonald

normally undervalued at the best of times due to massive intervention in the markets.

These factors together could give cause to question the research. However, the IMF also took into account the "Purchasing Power Parities" (PPP) of both countries. This compares what people actually earn in America and China and what they spend in their own economy.

Now things start to get interesting. If you consider the PPP as the guide, then it is forecast the Chinese economy will go from just over US\$11 trillion this year to US\$19 trillion in 2016. Over the same five-year period, the US will go from US\$15 trillion to almost US\$19 trillion.

This translates into America's share of world output falling to 17.7 per cent and China's increasing to 18 per cent – and it was only 10 years ago that America's economy was three times that of China.

As regular readers of this column know, I am a great believer in lies, damned lies and statistics. It will be fascinating to see how the IMF prediction works out. There are many pitfalls ahead and unforeseen things will undoubtedly happen.

The forecast could well be out by many years, but the end will

nevertheless come for the US. It happened before to Rome, Spain, France and England.

In the 19th century, Great Britain was the world's economic leader. They passed the baton to America in the early 20th century and now it is the turn of the Chinese. Sometime in the future they will hand over to some other country.

There is a difference though. Both Britain and America are democracies. China is not and the leaders do not have to answer to the population, or the rest of the world. Whether countries around the world like it or not, China is planning for their own future, not for the welfare of anyone else. They are buying up massive amounts of land in Africa and South America. Their primary concern is themselves.

Ralph Gomory, a professor at New York University's Stern Business School, plainly stated, "They have a state-guided form of capitalism, and we have a much freer former of capitalism."

Mr Gomory goes on to say there has been "a massive shift in capability from the US to China. What we have done is traded jobs for profit. The jobs have moved to China."

"The capability erodes in the US and grows in China. That's very destructive. That is a big reason why the US is becoming more and more polarized between a small, very rich class and an eroding

middle class. The people who get the profits are very different from the people who lost the wages."

This makes it all the more mystifying that the US is trying to spend itself out of trouble, and is carrying on printing money at a rate that even Robert Mugabe would be proud of.

The situation cannot continue without something snapping.

One of the main problems that people all over the world are worried about is the fact that the US Treasury still thinks it will always be in charge of the world's reserve currency.

People living in the real world realize this is nothing more than fanciful thinking, and are buying things such as gold. These folks understand that the US dollar will not rule the world forever. No one knows yet what will replace it, but it will be replaced by either gold, a basket of currencies or the renminbi.

In terms of investment, China increases in value, but it can break easily. It certainly makes sense to have China as part of your portfolio, but take care and make sure the funds or shares you have are liquid and can be sold quickly should there be a sudden market downturn.

Graham Macdonald, MD of MBMG Group. E:graham@mbmg-international.com. MBMG Group will not accept any liability for errors or omissions in above article.



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# Facebook planking craze

People around the globe are acting like planks of wood for fun. But why would anyone want to do this, and what is planking anyway? Love it or loathe it, planking has reached Thailand.

By Fraser Morton

## PLANKING PHUKET

Indie Market, Deebuk Road, June 17, 8pm

LYING face-down on the sidewalk, his arms by his sides and legs outstretched, the boy remains motionless as the 200-strong crowd inches forward for a closer look.

The boy hasn't moved a muscle for the past five minutes.

Pushing past loitering tourists and Thai families, four more boys drop to their knees and slump over face first in unison onto the hard ground. Cameras flash, a few gasps can be heard and somewhere in the distance a Thai man is bleating into a megaphone.

Five young bodies, lined up like sardines, their fingers and toes pointing straight, now lie motionless as more cameras flash.

There is something out of place in this scene. That something is laughter, and it's what the five boys let out as they jump to their feet and dust themselves off.

This is planking, an activity where people lie down in weird places while being photographed and then post the photos to the Internet, namely Facebook.

This is the new thing for hipsters and schoolchildren to do on a Friday night in Phuket, and yes, it's borderline idiotic, but at times amusing.

The five boy plankers are now back in the crowd high-fiving their friends, rearranging their contrived haircuts and sheep-

ishly scanning the faces of the assembled crowd in search of approving looks. There is no immediate self-satisfaction in this pursuit, except pats on the back from their friends.

The Phuket Planking group is the name these boys and girls go by. Tonight's mass-planking event is an organized session, put out on Facebook.

About 30 bodies now litter the ground of the bustling market. The appeal for on-lookers is short-lived. Parents pushing prams and Singha-shirt wearing tourists pause for a moment to see the plankers. They take a photo, laugh, show their partners, share a joke at the expense of the plankers and then move on. You can see some tourists mouthing the words "Why are they doing this?"

Good question. The plankers lie on the ground, their friends take a photo and then they stand up again. The lure may be lost on most of us, but it is not the immediate appeal that people are looking for, it's the gratification of seeing their plank on the Internet later that night.

And herein lies the appeal of planking: It's conversational ammunition for people to share on Facebook. It's a talking point, something to brag about, or even a daring act to wow friends, or maybe even a means to get a girl – or boy – friend.

### WHO ARE THE PLANKERS?

Developing a demographic profile of plankers is no easy feat on a world scale: a

woman as old as 70 has been photographed planking. But here in Phuket it's a pretty fair cross-section of university and high school students.

Thakesina Senkeaw, 23, a fourth year design and technology student from Rajabhat University is one of the founding members of Phuket Planking. He helps organize events and is the group's dedicated photographer.

Thakesina and his university friends have been planking for the past two months. Meeting every day, they goad each other into pulling off ever more outlandish planks.

Thakesina doesn't believe the pursuit is a waste of time. It can alter perceptions of what otherwise might appear as mundane places in plankers' lives, he says.

"Planking adds to the memories you have of a place. Planking can make a normal place different for you. It can change the way you think of a part of town you know well."

Thakesina said there are rules to be become a Phuket Planker.

"You have to be original with your plank. It has to be safe and you have to have fun."

Despite its current surge in popularity, the planking fad is destined to be short-lived in Phuket, he predicts.

"It came about very quickly, and it will die very quickly too...something new will come up to replace planking," he says.

The "greatest plank" he has photographed so far was when a friend pulled a spontaneous plank during a conference

with more than 3,000 people in attendance.

Wattana Wattanawithee, a 16-year-old high school student from Sapan Hin, was one of the five plankers at the start of our story. He beams as he recalls his planking exploits.

"It's cool. It's different. There are about 20 of us at school who plank," he says.

The more people we speak to, the more it seems they want to promote planking. Of course, why else would they be here?

But enough from the young ones, what do the parents think?

Phuket resident and mother of two Katsama "Sai" Wandee was one of the faces in the crowd earlier. This is the first time she has seen planking. Her children, "Eyes", 10, and "Oak", 6, say they think it looks fun.

Katsama says she thinks it's a strange activity for people to do.

"I saw it on TV last night. I don't know what the meaning of it is, but as long as they don't hurt anyone or it is not dangerous, I suppose it is okay."

Another parent on the night, who refused to give his name, said planking is a "waste of time and should be treated as such."

There are a few people who agree with him on a world scale.

### FACEBOOK CONNECTION

Facebook fuels planking. It is the catalyst and medium, the gatekeeper of the craze and its owner.

Planking has no reach without Facebook, no ability to enter our conscious and con-

## Best laid planks: A brief history of planking...

### 2000: It all began with a pair of planks

A less complicated – if that's possible – version of planking is coined in Somerset, England, by Gary Clarkson and Christian Langdon. The pair of plankers start their "Lying Down Game", as it is known, by lying down in public places and being photographed.

### 2007: Planking promoted to online

A friend of the original plankers takes the craze online by launching a Facebook page. As the "likes" and "pokes" flood in,

fans begin looking for more bizarre places to plank.

### July 10, 2009: Planking goes viral – newspapers potty for planking

Reports surface in the British media about planking. The Lying Down Game Facebook page is inundated, propelling the number of fans from 8,000 to 35,000.

### Summer 2009: Plank you very much, Australia

At some point during the summer months, 25-year-old Australian carpenter Sam Weckert coins the term

"Planking". Claiming to be the original planker, he and fellow Australians soak in the new fad.

### September 2009: Hospital plank: a sick move

According to the BBC, staff at Great Western Hospital in Swindon, England, are suspended for playing the Lying Down Game.

### March 27, 2011: What a plank! Rugby star's public plank

Australian National Rugby League player David "Wolfman" Williams becomes the first star planker, pulling a quick plank

after scoring a try during the Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles versus Newcastle Knights match.

### May 13, 2011: Wash your mouth out you plank haters

An anti-planking Facebook page is created called Planking is F\*\*king Stupid. By June 22, the site has 53,000 fans.

### May 16, 2011: First planking death in Australia

A 20-year-old Australian man dies after falling from his seventh-floor balcony while having his photograph taken during an



Britain's *The Sun* newspaper latches on to the Lying Down Game on July 10, 2009.

# Nude planking photos online an offense

THE CULTURE Watch Center warned this week that posting nude planking pictures on the Internet was a legal offense.

"We will write to the National Police Office as well as the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Ministry to ask that they block [Web pages containing the pictures] and nail down the people who posted them," the center's director Ladda Tangsupachai said. She said people who posted such pictures would face legal action for violating the 2007 Computer Crimes Act.

Ladda also said that although it was not illegal to perform nude planking in private

places, she warned people against it, saying that it was "not constructive" and "inappropriate".

She was speaking after nude-planking pictures began to appear on the Internet. Ladda said, however, she agreed with *Pabpiab* (polite squat sit), or "Thailand Planking". "My praise goes to children who have done this. It's like turning a crisis into an opportunity," she said.

Planking can be dangerous and damaging to property if people attempting the act choose the wrong place for the "Lying Down Game".

Lara Louise Pland Saen, 20, a tourist from the Netherlands, climbed over the roof

of a car-rent company in Chiang Mai on Sunday night in the hope of planking, but ended up breaking many roof tiles.

The broken tiles fell and damaged a car parked below. A security guard quickly alerted police and Saen, who was clearly drunk, was arrested. She later admitted she was trying to perform planking and offered to pay compensation.

The company, however, has refused to settle the case out of court. It has insisted that she should be charged with intrusion and causing property damage.

In a related development, Mahamakut Buddhist University's assistant director for

legal affairs Songkran Atcharyasap said that after personally offering a reward of 5,000 baht for information identifying a man seen planking in a monk's robe, he had obtained pictures and "crucial information".

He plans to give the information to the National Office of Buddhism.

"It's not an appropriate thing for a monk to do. If we find that the man in the picture is really a monk, we will alert the abbot of his temple. A reprimand must be issued," said the office's director Amnaj Buasiri.

– *The Nation*



# catches Phuket lying down



**PLANK YOU FOR SHARING:** A trio of young plunkers pull a plank in Phuket Town. Photo: Michael Des Portes

versation, to leap over oceans and continents or become a part of our lives. Taking a cynical view, one could say that Facebook is the host carrier for the disease that is planking. By extension, you could say that to cure the world of planking you would have to kill the host. But with Facebook having more than 500 million users, that would be no easy task.

Every pop trend generates a backlash, and there are even "anti-planking" pages on Facebook now that harbor a predictable slew of like-minded people with like-minded comments about planking.

On the Facebook page Planking is F\*\*king Stupid, there is comment after comment of bickering between posters. Most agree with the ethos of the page, which takes a pretty clear stance.

But others visit the site to post planking links from far off places: Estonia, India, Croatia and the UK, which is not to the liking of the anti-planking ethos.

Here's an example of how silly it all gets. Abdullah Wang-Chang, looks like a pretty normal Asian guy. He adds a link on Planking is F\*\*king Stupid called "I prefer the upright version of planking, it's called standing".

At the time of press, the page had 53,000 "likes" from fans. Further down on this page, a 20-something looking girl posts the following comment: "I liked this page just so I could say, 'Why do you guys care if people waste their time planking? It might be pointless, But some people think it's fun. A lot of people do it just to follow the crowd, it'll pass. So chill.'"

About 20 minutes later, the administrator of



**PUBLIC PLANK:** A young plunker pulls a pose publicly in Phuket. Photo: Thakesina Senkeaw

Planking is F\*\*king Stupid posts the following: "You chill. I think it's s\*\*t, hence the page."

Bla, bla, bla, eight more comments roll in with predictable, equally redundant and banal points of view. And so it goes on. Post after post of youngsters squabbling over the right and wrong of planking.

Silly really. The self-perpetuating nature of their comments make them come back day after day for a slanging match about planking. This is the true nature of what planking stands for, and it isn't pretty.

This thing they call planking. It is not just an activity, it's more. It's who you are and what side of the fence you stand – or lie – on for these kids. It's a right to be heard on Facebook. A form of expression and a tool to show who they are and what they like. If you're a plunker, you belong to

a group. It's like a lazy football team.

Posting photographs of planking on Facebook is what winning sports trophies in high school once was – a way to impress the ladies and look cool in front of friends.

You could get lost in the labyrinth of Facebook page links from there. Fleeting from one page to another, the next more outlandish than the last. There are thousands, maybe a cumulative million people involved in this cycle now. Love it or hate it, the youth of today are locked into cyber-obsessions in a very big way – and planking might be the quintessential format, at least for the time being.

But in the end, to knock planking off its perch, Facebook would have to take an almighty tumble from our lives too. Not likely.

## Best laid planks: A brief history of planking...

attempted plank in Brisbane.

Later that day, Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard publicly urges an end to planking. *The Guardian* newspaper reports Gillard saying, "Everybody likes a bit of fun, but focus has to be on keeping yourself safe first."

### May 19, 2011: Plunkers charged for "stupidity"

Police in Toowoomba – a real place in Australia – charge three men in their early 20s with public nuisance after planking on a fast-moving car.

### May 20, 2011: Aussie plunkers

### sacked for planking on job

Eight employees of hypermarket Woolworths, Australia's largest employer, are reportedly sacked for planking at work. Many more are suspended.

### June 17, 2011: The Thai plank craze begins

A senior monk in the Sangha Supreme Council calls on monks to stop Buddhist clergy members from indulging in planking, *The Nation* reports.

The monk's comments come after a picture portraying someone "planking" while dressed like a monk spread on the Internet. The

Network of Organizations for the Protection of the Nation, Religion and Monarchy condemn the offending image, saying it is harmful to Buddhism.

### June 20, 2011: Planking makes the front pages of Thai news

Both *The Nation* and *Bangkok Post* newspapers carry front page photographs of politically-motivated planking.

### July 21, 2011: Political plunks

*The Nation* again reserves its front-page photograph for planking, as students at the King Prajadhipok Institute use



Thailand's *The Nation* newspaper carried planking photos this week.

planking as part of a campaign to maximize voter turnout in the upcoming election. They appeal to TV personalities to lay face-down near the Democracy Monument. The key message is: "Will you lie still or go vote?"

### 2012: Planking prediction

We predict a new craze will have gripped the nation by 2012. Known as "walking", teenagers will take to the new trend en masse: walking to school, walking to university – just walking everywhere. But no photos please.

– Fraser Morton

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# Super 8 encounters child stars



ON-SCREEN ACTION: A group of wannabe directors shoot their own slice of life.



FINAL CUT: In a twist of fate, the young directors get more action than they bargained for.

## Super 8

**Director:** JJ Abrams

**Starring:** Joel Courtney, Riley Griffiths, Elle Fanning

**Genre:** Action/Adventure

**Gazette Rating:** 4.5/5

WITH the release of the awesomely fun and entertaining *Super 8*, director JJ Abrams seems

to have dutifully nominated himself to take over Steven Spielberg's role as master of the summer blockbuster.

As producer of *Super 8*, Spielberg is apparently okay with this. Anyone who is familiar with his trademark style of mischievous characters caught up in extraordinary events will instantly connect with the film. Fans of *The*

## Film

By Scott Phillips

*Goonies*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *Jaws* will feel nostalgic indeed.

*Super 8* is a love letter of sorts: a homage to the humor-and-thrills-style that Spielberg

employed to change cinema.

It's got that "movie magic", that panache, that hybrid of colorful kid characters and larger-than-life sci-fi stories that are frequently absent from modern summer flicks. If Abrams had one goal with *Super 8*, it was to remember the good old days.

Abrams, who also wrote the screenplay, doesn't seem to be making any effort to disguise the tribute-like nature of the film.

Set in suburban Ohio in 1979, the film focuses on a group of young aspiring filmmakers who are shooting a noir-like zombie flick on a Super 8 camera. They are the kinds of friends that would have been first in line on a Saturday afternoon to catch *Close Encounters* when it was released in 1977.

Joe and Charles, two best friends about 13 years old, are the main creative force behind the zombie film. Charles is a slightly overweight, overzealous director who micromanages his group of friends out of a sincere love of filmmaking. Joe is his loyal friend, who also enjoys making movies but is far more consumed by the idea of working with the girl who agrees to take on the role of the female lead.

As Charles excitedly yells at his close friend Cary about the best way to die like a zombie – fake blood gushing from fake bullet wounds – it becomes apparent that Abrams seems to have whatever gift Spielberg did in getting kid actors to play their roles on point.

The young actors in *Super 8* are believable in all the right ways, and act the way young teenagers do. You'd never know

this group of actors hadn't actually been friends for years.

With the help of a few other close friends, Joe and Charles sneak out at night to find ideal locations for their ambitious movie and also use it as an excuse to recruit the pretty girls in school to take on roles. While filming at an old train station, they witness a massive train accident that becomes all-too-mysterious when the US Air Force comes in to clean things up.



Don't stand and gawk – run!

Though it's apparent something was on the train that the government is trying to locate, Abrams takes a *Jaws*-like approach by keeping the mysterious presence off-screen until close to the end of the film.

This technique is used so infrequently in the age of special effects that it's easy to forget how effective it is at building tension.

Abrams was the same age as his characters during the time in which *Super 8* takes place. Kids ride bikes, get into small-time trouble, cops complain about "portable stereos" (walkmen), and homes are left with doors unlocked.

*Super 8* elevates itself beyond just a fun summer flick to a commentary on how drastically things can change in just a few short decades.

And it does this by simply allowing kids to be kids, even if they're trapped inside grown adults like Abrams.

This is a flick that almost anyone can enjoy, and perhaps one that some young and ambitious Spielberg-to-be will even be inspired by.

If you have film you would like to know more about, email Editor @PhuketGazette.Net

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# Bob Andrews

BOB ANDREWS is the Managing Director of Phuket Land. He moved to the island in 2002 after retiring as the Japan Managing Director of an institutional financial brokerage. He describes himself as having an authentic expat view of life and feels more comfortable living abroad than in his native England.

"I was born in Devon but my father, who was a barrister, went to work for Shell Oil and I spent most of my first 19 years living around the Middle East, primarily in Iraq, Iran, Syria and Jordan. I have great memories spending time with my Arab nanny and cook and surviving through two revolutions."

Bob did not go to university. After school, he took odd jobs around France. In 1981 he returned to England and became a trainee with the financial brokerage Tullet & Riley in the City. He spent the next years learning about the financial markets and brokering large funds to licensed financial institutions. His intention was to learn about the business and return to live in the Middle East.

"But at an early stage I began concentrating on Japanese banks. It was a niche market of little interest at the time. I taught myself how to count in Japanese, including fractions, by talking to Japanese people. I also cultivated relationships with young Japanese bankers, relationships which greatly helped me in later years when I went to work in Tokyo."

## EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

While his career was flourishing, Bob did not like living in the UK. He describes himself as a "failed yuppie" and preferred the business culture of the East where building good relationships with clients is considered very important.

In 1996, he was appointed Managing Director of Prebon Yamane. Based in Tokyo, the firm dealt in all financial instruments and securities. The operation was a joint venture of Prebon and Yamane, and juggling the two different cultures of the shareholders made for an interesting time. However, Bob says he learned a lot as he had to handle all aspects of running the business and deal also with the Japanese tax authorities and all the statutory requirements related to operating a company.

In 1997, Bob made his first holiday visit to Thailand, and when he left Tokyo in 2001 he decided that rather than returning to England he would move to Phuket.

"Our operations had become very political, and corporate politics does not interest me.

"I had met the owner of Phuket Land, which was a respected and

long established company on the island. It was also a very dynamic time in the development of the property market. I decided to buy the brokerage component of Phuket Land."

Bob used his talents to try to make Phuket Land the most visible property agency on the island. He initiated the Blue Book, a guide to available villas, estates and houses, which became the bible for anyone looking to buy or sell a property.

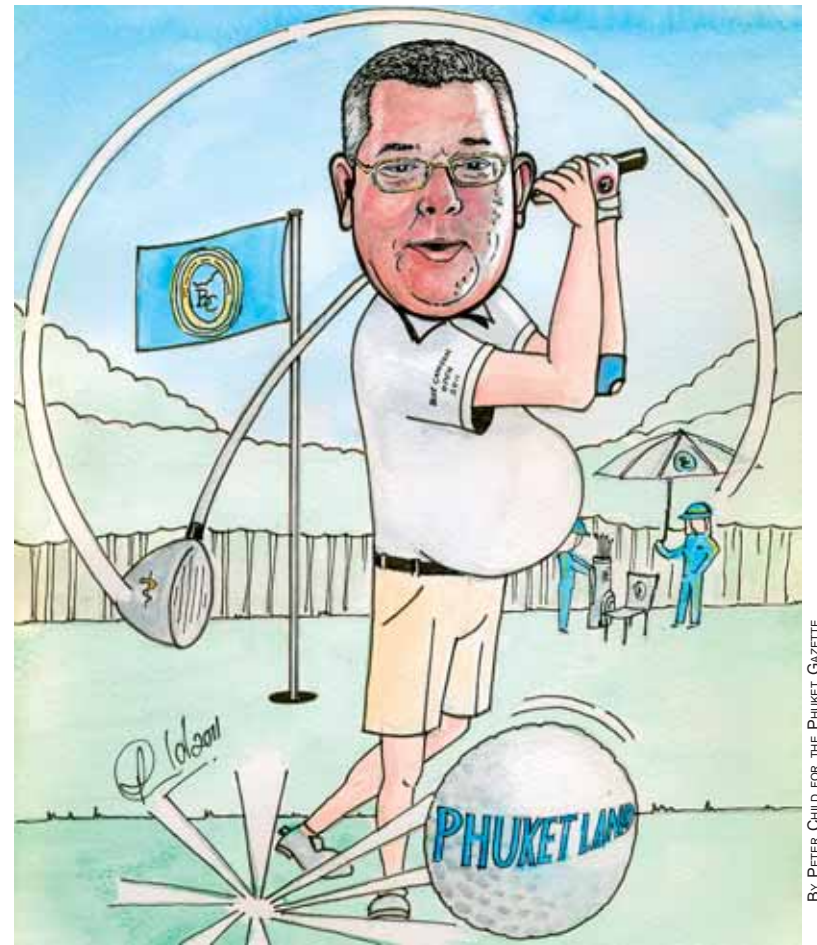
"I wanted to organize the property industry on Phuket and make it more professional. I looked at setting up the Association of Phuket Property Agents (APPA), which was to be a consumer protection body to protect buyers from developers and to create some guidelines for the industry."

This has been on hold for awhile but he's hoping to get it back on track later this year.

"If Thailand wants to stay competitive with Malaysia and other neighboring countries, they should consider property ownership and long-term resident visas as important incentives to keep the market buoyant."

Bob also became well known for his golf game and has spent many happy hours at the Blue Canyon Country Club where he was Chief Marshall for the 2007 Johnnie Walker Golf tournament.

"I've been everywhere in the world I want to go, and Thailand is where I want to stay," he says.



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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# Local dog hero wins top award

Asia's first Canine Hero: Gill Dalley of Soi Dog Foundation

By Alexandra Andersson

THE valiant efforts of Gill Dalley, co-founder of Phuket's Soi Dog Foundation (SDF), were recognized last week when she was named the first Asia Pacific Canine Hero at The SPCA Canine Welfare Awards ceremony in Chengdu, China.

The award was established to recognize significant contributions for the betterment of canine welfare in Asia. Gill was singled out among organizations and representatives from 86 countries and awarded US\$10,000 for her "tireless efforts in dog rescue, rehabilitation and adoption in Phuket," the SPCA says.

But Gill doesn't feel like a hero. "I get embarrassed by these

things because I'm just Gill, and I do what I do because I want to. I'm not one for shouting about it or blowing my own trumpet, though it is fantastic to receive," she says.

Gill, 52, and her husband John, 61, have spent the past eight years sterilizing more than 33,000 animals in Phuket and have built SDF into the largest animal welfare organization in Thailand, an effort that has required huge commitment, and sacrifice.

Holidays are not really an option for Gill, hobbies and projects have been shelved and even her mum thinks she's totally off her rocker and has run off to join a cult, Gill explains.

Gill lost both her legs to septicemia in 2004, which she contracted while rescuing a dog

from a flooded water buffalo field.

The award ceremony acknowledged the hard work of Gill and SDF, and gave her a moment of reflection in the spotlight.

"I was very nervous...it surprised me because when they handed me the award I was a little emotional, which I didn't think I would be, but when everybody was clapping I felt proud for Soi Dog and all the members who help," she recalls.

But for Gill, the greatest reward is helping animals.

"I think I have seen everything possible that a human can do to an animal: petrol poured over them and set on fire, acid, machete attacks, jaws wired so they can't eat or drink and dogs that have been shot. We have even heard of a dog being raped repeatedly by a foreigner. I have seen



TOP DOG LOVER: Gill with a rescued puppy at the SDF shelter.

a lot that man can do to an animal and it still upsets me," she says.

"Of course I have my good days and bad, but if you let yourself get too emotional then it becomes about you, but it's not about you, it's about the animals," she adds.

It's giving dogs a second chance that keeps Gill going.

She recounts the story of a dog called Pearl, who was brought to SDF recently after a violent attack where acid had been poured on it. The dog's flesh was burned off over a large part of its body, but with the help of SDF, the dog recovered and was re-homed in Denmark. The new owner sent photographs of Pearl and a letter to Gill recently.

"I cried when I saw the photos. It was beautiful. It's days like that keep you going and makes it all worthwhile because you have changed the life of an animal. In moments like that, we

[SDF] are the richest people in the world," she says.

And that's not all the work gives her. Gill explains that instead of letting her disability get her down, it was getting back to SDF that motivated her to learn to walk with

prosthetic legs.

"You can't turn back the clock. There was nobody to blame for what happened, it was just one of those things. I lost my legs, that's that and I worked very hard to walk again - it was the dogs that in-

'I have seen a lot that man can do to an animal and it still upsets me...but If you let yourself get too emotional then it becomes about you, but it's not about you, it's about the animals.'

spired me to do it."

When Gill finds time, she wants to set up a charity for disabled Thais, since prosthetics are not readily accessible to all here.

If these aren't the actions of a truly compassionate, selfless and heroic person, then it's hard to say what is, but Gill maintains she's no hero.

"I'm not a hero, I am just Gill doing what Gill wants to do."



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# Class in session with Mr TEFL

Michael Wall, head teacher at ECC Phuket, speaks to the Gazette

## In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

**Eric Haeg: How did you get into teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)?**

Michael Wall: I received a Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA) in 1998 and started working in Paris a month later. I took a short break from teaching and came to Thailand two years ago.

**How did you get your position as head teacher?**

In June of 2009, I was working for ECC when the position came up and my name was put forward by the previous manager. The timing was a stroke of luck, but I think I made a good impression.

**Do you like Phuket?**

I love it here. It's a good balance between a Western lifestyle and Thai culture. Living here isn't so much of a culture shock.

**What's the biggest difference between teaching here and in Europe?**

Obviously you have the language barriers with both, but in Thailand you also have the culture barrier. I'd say the main difference is the fact that things here often tend to be done a bit last-minute.

**ECC recently moved from Phuket Town to Central Festival. Was that a good move?**

It's been a really great move for ECC and our clients appreciate the convenience of the new location. We are definitely busier, especially in the evenings and on weekends.

**What classes does ECC offer?**

In addition to English, we offer Chinese and Japanese as well as European languages. We have conversation and grammar courses; business English courses, as well as a great new phonics course for young learners. We also do Test Of English for International Communication (TOEIC), International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and Test Of English as a

Foreign Language (TOEFL) test preparation.

**How many teachers do you have on your team?**

We have about 40 teachers on staff now, teaching either in-house or at one of the 15 schools we have contracts with on Phuket.

**What is the starting pay rate for teachers at ECC Phuket?**

For in-house classes, it's 260 baht an hour and it goes up depending on the school and how many hours the teacher has taught at ECC.

**Is this comparable to ECC's pay rate elsewhere in Thailand?**

Teachers on Phuket accept lower salaries in exchange for the lifestyle that they enjoy here. Wages are better in Bangkok.

**What kind of people apply for jobs at ECC?**

We get a full range. Some come in unshaven and wearing flip flops,



ENGLISH FIRST: Michael Wall, head teacher at ECC Phuket.

who I get the feeling wouldn't take the job seriously. But we also get people who have exactly the right attitude; their CV is prepared, they're ready to teach. These are the people we want at ECC.

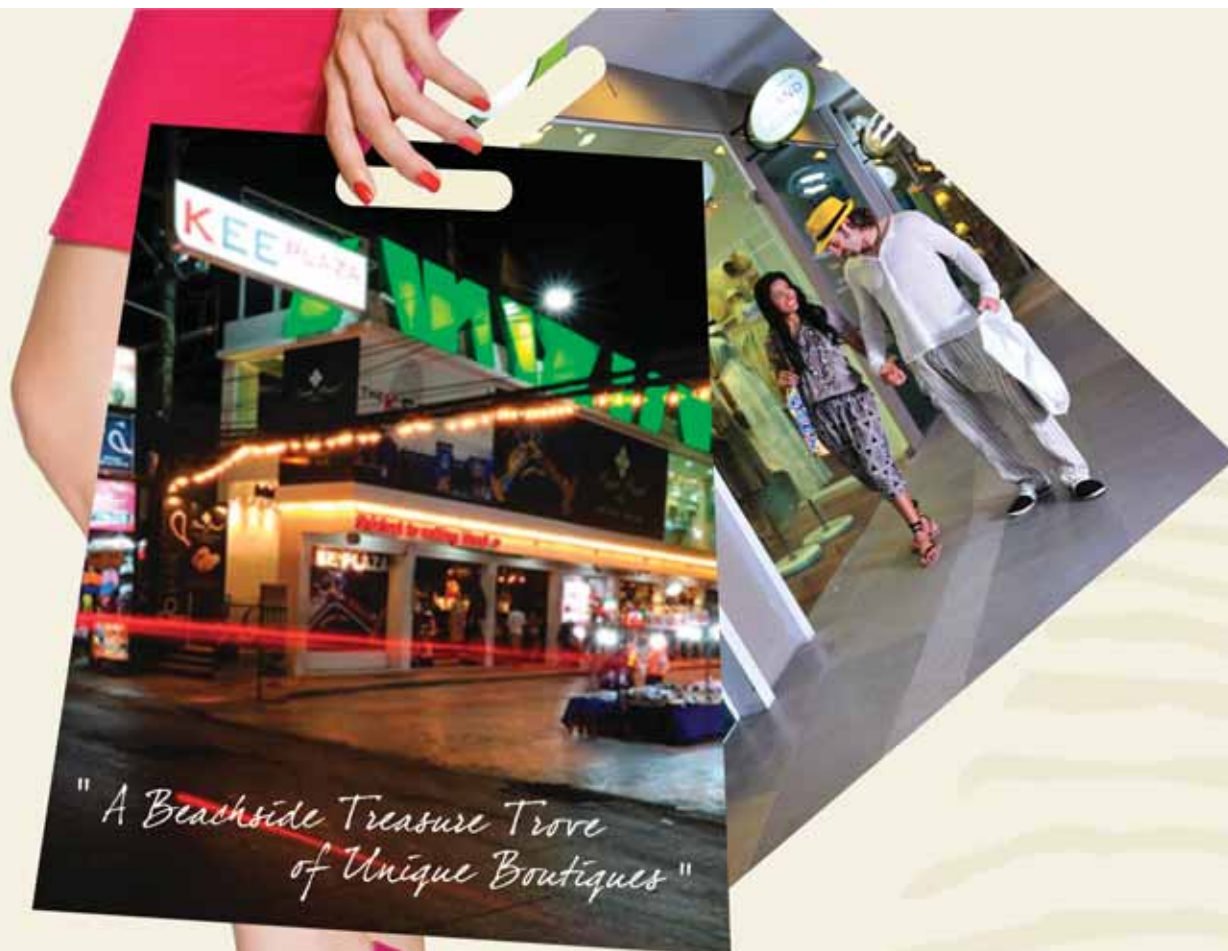
**What advice do you have for applicants?**

First impressions count. Treat

an interview here like one in the West.

**What advice do you give your teachers?**

Be calm, patient and friendly. The teachers who are successful here are patient and adapt to the local culture – despite the pressures they feel from teaching.



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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### June 20-25. Laguna Phuket Summer Family Festival

From 5pm to 11pm. Laguna Phuket's Summer Family Festival kicks off with the "Skool's Out" party to celebrate the end of the school year, starring teen rock sensation The Screaming Hypocrites of BIS. The fun will also include games from Quest Laguna Phuket Adventure, a spectacular fire show, KidzSole flying trapeze, DJ party music, face painters, a bouncy castle, a trampoline, barbecue and a happy hour bar all night. The Summer Family Festival at Canal Village runs until August 27 with daily Kidz Fun Zone and evening entertainment. Contact Robin Wilson at T:076-362300 E:robinw@lagunaphuket.com or visit W:lagunaphuket.com.

### June 23-29. Central Festival Wine and Food Festival

From 10.30am to 10pm, at the Inter Fastfood Zone on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Exclusive purveyors of wine and fine dining will be at this event. Participants will be promoting top-class cuisines and wines, vouchers, discount coupons and special offers for all who attend. Contact Siromanee at T:076-291111 E:kosiromanee@central.co.th or visit W:centralfestivalphuket.com.

### June 25. Finale of Kalim Kinetic

From 4pm to 1am. A finale event will unfold at Brush to display finished pieces along with a performance by Panatta Design. The Kalim Kinetic Art Fair kicked off on June 1 and will culminate



**June 23-26. Phuket Fun Fly 2011**

Photo: Canon Photo Contest Phuket Funfly 2010

Enjoy the competitions for best spot landing, various beach games and activities, the Canon Photo Contest and more from 8am to 5pm. Don't miss Phuket Fun Fly 2011 at Nai Harn Beach. You can even go for a flight yourself with a tandem pilot. The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are proud to sponsor this event. Contact Peter at T:089-4745253 E:peter@bmsevent.com or visit W:phuketparagliding.com.

on June 25. For more information about how to get involved, contact Able Wanamakok at T:076-340348 E:info@awprphuket.com or visit W:facebook.com/brushphuket.

### June 25. Saturday brunch at Two Chefs Kata

From noon to 3pm every Saturday Two Chefs presents brunch with a Scandinavian touch. All you can eat for only 395 baht. Add another 300 baht and you can drink as much as you want from the wide choice of free-flow drinks. During each brunch, MJ & Megan will provide the entertainment with their lovely voices. Contact Two Chefs, Kata branch at T:076-330065 E:katacenter@twochefs.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

### June 25. 360 Bar: Midsummer Mania

From 6.30 to 10pm, at 360 Bar in The Pavilions. Come and join us to celebrate the Summer Solstice in style. DJ Jay Le Shark will be headlining and we will have an open bar on the night! For just 1,000 baht per person, you will enjoy unlimited choice of all premium spirits, mixers, soft drinks, wine and many more. Try our signature lychee margaritas or pomelo caipiroskas. How can you resist? Contact The Pavilions Phuket at T:076-317600 E:fb.phuket@thepavilionsresorts.com or visit W:thepavilionsresorts.com.

### June 25. Salsa Night at RPM

Join the hugely popular Salsa Night from 8pm to 12.30am at Les Angeles restaurant in Royal Phuket Marina. Dance the Cha-cha, Bachata, Samba and Rumba to the sounds of our resident DJ Miscaro and percussionist Oy. Free entrance. Dress: Colorful. Contact Anna or Dider at T:084-3062016 or Murat at T:081-7973364 E:muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit W:royalphuketmarina.com.

### June 26-30. Learn to swim with Thanyapura

This program helps develop skills to ensure children are competent in all strokes, water safety and survival. Qualified instructors will teach classes in all six levels of our program. Group and private classes available. Monday to Fri-

day class times: 45 minute sessions from 9am to 12 noon, or from 4pm to 6pm. Cost: 200 baht per class per person. Pre-booking before June 24. Contact Anna Pirie-Jones at T:076-336000 E:aquatics@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

### June 26-30. Silverfinz

Swimmers will have ample attention paid to their technique at the Silverfinz summer training program at Thanyapura. For all levels. Training days: Monday to Friday, from 4pm to 6pm. Saturday from 9am to 11am. Cost: 300 baht per week per person. Contact Kevin Lai at T:076-336000 E:aquatics@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

### June 27-July 1. BSS Summer courses at Thanyapura

The Brazilian Soccer Camp will consist of daily training with the unique Futsal De Salao moves. Other courses will run from July 4-8, August 8-12 and August 15-

19, from 9am to 1pm. The BSS camp is suitable for children aged 6+ years. Cost: 4,000 baht per week per person, or 900 baht per day per person. BSS Bus service from south and west Phuket is available on request. Contact Martin Hill at T:076-336000 E:bss@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

### June 27-July 1. Kids Sailing Courses Topper Sail Phuket

Kids Sailing Courses organized during the summer school holidays. Two-day course: 4,000baht for 12 hours. Bronze Award four day course: 8,000 baht for 24 hours. Bronze and Silver Award or Gold Award Course fees include all equipment and insurance, course handouts and certificates. From 10am to 4:30pm at Ao Yon, Cape Panwa. Contact Katie Gooch at T:085-2159185 E:toppersailphuket@gmail.com or visit W:toppersailphuket.com.

### July 1 and 15. Curry Fridays

From 7pm to 11.30pm. Curry Friday is held every fortnight. Here is your chance to enjoy a lavish Indian curry buffet. Selections include all-time favorites chicken tikka masala, very hot mutton vindaloo, juicy kebabs, goan fish curry, chickpea curry and much more. Served with nan bread and basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett. Venue: Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Reservations call: 076-286464 ext 4.

### July 2. Boathouse Auction

The Boathouse and Oasis are closed until September 30 for renovation. There will be an auction of furniture, furnishings and kitchenware on July 2. Viewing time from 10am to 1pm at Patak Villa Estate, near Chalong Circle (on the road to Kata), and auction starting at 11am. Same day pick-up until 3pm (cash & carry only). Contact Napassaya at T:076-330015 E:napassaya@trisara.com.

## Free Computer Clinics

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

June 26 and July 17 – Chalong  
July 3 – Patong,  
July 10 – Laguna,  
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For more info contact Woody at T:076-290468

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**TRICKS OF THE TRADE:** Quality Schools International Phuket high school journalism class dropped in at the *Phuket Gazette* office in Koh Kaew. The 10 students, and their teacher Doug Haberman, tried their hands at interviewing in the PGTV studio and took part in a Q & A session with *Phuket Gazette* Features Editor Fraser Morton, Desk Editor Alexandra Andersson and Editorial Department Assistant Samaporn "Oh" Janyanon.



**LAGUNA GOES GREEN:** More than 100 Laguna Phuket staff volunteers led by Michael Ayling, Managing Director of Laguna Resorts & Hotels Plc, with representatives of Cherrng Talay Municipality and Cherrng Talay *OrBorTor*, recently planted 2,800 mangrove saplings at Baan Bangrong, Phuket. This annual tree planting event is part of Laguna Phuket's community initiative that aims to raise awareness of global warming and help build greener communities.



**DUSIT DINING:** La Trattoria Italian restaurant at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket has been voted one of Thailand's Best Restaurants for this year. The restaurant first won the accolade in 2007 and repeated the success in 2010. This year's honor was again awarded by the readers of *Thailand Tatler* magazine. Pictured is General Manager Peter Komposch (center), Executive Chef Silvano Amolini (first left) and staff from La Trattoria.

# Getting back their future with PIWC

Ladies from the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) ventured to Khao Lak earlier this month to hand out new education scholarships to children affected by the 2004 tsunami.

PIWC has helped change the lives of more than 600 children with scholarships over the past two decades. In November this year, PIWC will host its "11/11/11 Once in a lifetime: make a wish fundraiser" at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa in Karon to raise money for similar scholarship programs around Phuket and Phang Nga.

Next week, a group of the PIWC ladies are off to Krabi for a day tour of a herb garden.

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Anyone wishing to join or learn more about the education scholarships, please contact Carole Dux at E:mummydux@hotmail.com or T:085-7821332



# Geekfest 4 takes the

LAST SUNDAY'S Geekfest 4 at Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong proved a testament to its name.

More than 50 geeks – with an average age of 50, that's 2,500 years of knowledge – crammed in to celebrate four years of free weekly Computer Clinics, hosted by "Dummies" author and self-described Windows Victim Woody Leonhard.

Woody and crew fielded questions about Internet connections and reliability problems, how to use an iPad and 3G in Phuket, and much more.

Then came the fun part – lemon poppyseed birthday cake, shaped like a motherboard with "Geek 4.0" on the main chip, and a geek quiz with questions about the Commodore 64, Pong and cookies (the real ones, not computer). Winners received a box of Nerds, of course.

Ross James also launched the PCs4Kids project, which will give needy and worthy kids their own recycled PCs, along with a mentor to get them started.

Sponsors include the Rotary Club of Patong Beach, Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation, the Grumpy Old Men Society, AWPR marketing group, and the *Phuket Gazette*.

Photos: Fraser Morton



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and ba  
Sandw  
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Geek-



FULL





# cake in Chalong



Y VALUES: Mother “Add” baby Andy Leonhard with Sandwich Shoppe staff, and nurse, the specially made cake.



Woody Leonhard cuts the Geek-cake.



HOUSE: Sandwich Shoppe Chalong was packed for the event.



# Flight of the Lomas: UK tour

The Phuket Lomas rugby team took off for Manchester last Saturday to compete in the Touraid UK rugby tournament. A visit to Old Trafford and a meeting with ex-Wales rugby international Gareth Thomas and ex-South Africa international Chester Williams are part of the week-long trip. Accompanying the touring 10 are Roelien Muller (left), director of ACF, and Pat Cotter (right). Alan Cooke MBE (back row) took time out of his schedule to wish the boys good luck on their trip.



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## The Impossibly Possible Quiz

1. The Three Crowns is the national ice hockey team of what country?
2. What animals make up the Suidae family?
3. In golf, the 10 iron is known as what?
4. What did the ancient Greeks use instead of soap?
5. Which British band was involved in a United States court case over subliminal messages in the 80s?
6. In what movie did Sinatra sing *My Kind of Town*?
7. What color is the cross on the Greek Flag?
8. The name of which country's capital means good air?
9. By law, what unpopular thing must prostitutes now do in Holland?
10. Who is the presenter of British TV show *The Weakest Link*?
11. How many dots are there on a pair of dice?
12. Who played Basil Fawlty in the British TV show *Fawlty Towers*?
13. In a game of chess, what is the only piece able to jump over other pieces?
14. Who had a hit single with *Crocodile Rock* in 1972?
15. The name of which football club is an anagram of "Red Admiral"?

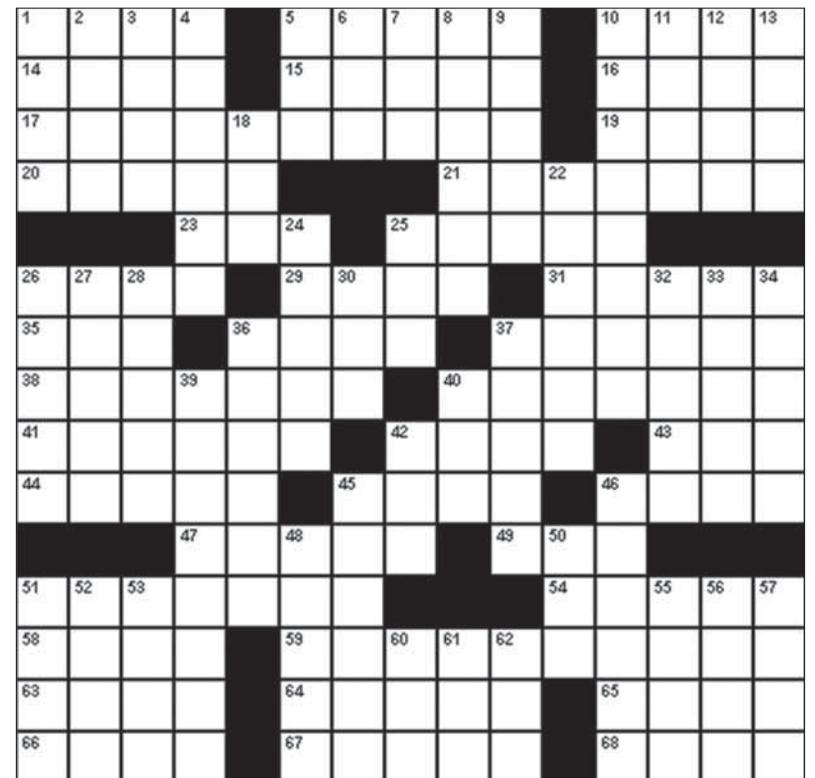
Quiz answers on page 39

### Across

1. Accent
5. Bridge positions
10. Fall
14. Asian sea
15. Square
16. Ages and ages
17. Return to one's own country
19. Baby's cry
20. Shallow circular dish
21. Young hare
23. "It's the end of an —"
25. Euripides tragedy
26. Back talk
29. Neighbor of Cambodia
31. Embed
35. Appropriate
36. Narrow ledge
37. Everett of "Citizen Kane"
38. Radio pioneer
40. Vacuum bottle
41. New World songbird
42. Tailless amphibian
43. Summer drink
44. Hackneyed
45. London jail
46. Very, in Versailles
47. Legal right
49. Beverage commonly drunk in England
51. Execute
54. Home of the Black Bears
58. "Hard —!" (sailor's yell)
59. Completely
63. Hoar
64. Little laugh
65. Med school subj.
66. — were
67. Chopin composition
68. Goes bad;

### Down

1. Diamond cover
2. Hurler Hershisier
3. California wine region
4. Thrills
5. Where It's at
6. Black bird
7. Doo-wop syllable
8. Names
9. Swiftiness



10. Deportment
11. Crowd sound
12. Treater's words
13. H.S.exam
18. Thrice, in prescriptions
22. Hidden
24. Coeur d'—
25. May honoree
26. Aegean island
27. "The covers of this book are too far—" — Bierce
28. Ridge
30. Former Bush spokesman — Fleischer
32. Truman's Missouri birthplace

33. Battery terminal
34. Approvals
36. Lively Spanish dance
37. Biblical verb
39. Lack of confidence
40. Also
42. Make lace
45. Small tool for boring holes
46. Tooth deposit
48. Declaim
50. Fair-hiring abbr.
51. Graph prefix
52. Some Ivy Leaguers
53. Do followers
55. Horrors!
56. Tidy
57. Table scraps
60. Calendar abbr.
61. British lexicon
62. "—whiz!"

Provided by BestCrosswords.com.  
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Crossword answers on page 39

### CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Creativity is strongly highlighted for those born under the sign of Cancer this week. Your ideas and propositions will be given worthwhile consideration, particularly on Monday and Tuesday. Those with a birthday in the coming days are forecast to be more focused on their goals in the year ahead. Where romance is concerned, another water sign appears to be receiving mixed messages from you. The stars advise making up your mind by the end of this month.

### LEO (July 24-August 22):



Leos are advised to develop more respect for their finances this week. The stars suggest that you may have been throwing good money after bad recently. July is predicted to be an expensive month and it would be wise to start out on a more sensible footing. In the area of romance, an earth sign could test your patience this weekend. Those seeking a soul mate will be attracted to an air sign.

### VIRGO (August 23-September 23):



A sudden stroke of financial luck allows Virgoans to splash out

this week. The stars indicate that you will end the month of June in a much better mood than you began it in. Romance also goes your way, with emphasis on reconciliations this weekend. Where work is concerned, this is an auspicious time to let others show what they are capable of.

### LIBRA (September 24-October 23):



It will be hard to persuade others to change their opinions this week. As June draws to a close, Librans are advised to keep a low profile and wait for better opportunities coming in July. Those who have been receiving an amber light when trying to make a romantic impression on an earth sign should give an ultimatum this weekend. The stars suggest that this person is playing cat and mouse.

### SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):



Boredom could be contagious for some Scorpios this week. If you spend too much time around people whose idea of having fun is complaining that they have nothing to do, this will affect you as well. Another water sign friend can encourage you to move in new social circles this weekend. Your romantic outlook is mixed; a long-

## YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

term partner may have an inconvenient change of mind at the last minute.

### SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):



The world of work is about to become more rewarding for those born under the sign of Sagittarius. A water sign who you had problems with earlier this month is forecast to be moving on in the near future and this could leave the coast clear for the progress you've been dreaming of. This week is the ideal time to prove your worth.

### CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):



Jealousy could be the cause of an uncomfortable situation at work early next week. A water sign is forecast to show their true colors and you are advised to take distance from this person. In the realm of romance, another earth sign would like to know where they stand. Capricorns who are caught in the

middle of a love triangle are advised to provide clarity soon.

### AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):



A good deed is about to be repaid. Aquarians who lent a helping hand earlier this month should be surprised at how this generously this comes back to them. The stars are shining on your attempts to see a difficult project through to the end – expect support from an earth sign this week. Where romance is concerned, it would be better to see the bigger picture.

### PISCES (February 20-March 20):



Your forgetfulness is irritating others and this could be demonstrated in a way that catches Pisceans unaware this week. If apologies are in order, make them heartfelt – a fire sign could be hard to convince. Where finances are concerned, your luck improves as June draws to a close. The stars predict gain and stability will continue to be highlights during July.

### ARIES (March 21-April 20):



If you don't make your point clear, people will jump to all sorts of conclusions this week. Arians are advised to schedule important

meetings for Wednesday and Thursday as the stars will support their efforts to be heard clearly on those days. Where romance is concerned, there are signs that you are making a situation more complicated than it needs to be.

### TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



Career matters are heating up quickly this week and many Taureans may find themselves on the receiving end of some tempting offers – another earth sign is predicted to have influence on your success. In the realm of romance, the stars suggest that your doubts about a relationship with a fire sign are unfounded. As the month of June ends your emotions are predicted to calm down.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Making waves at work could be what's necessary to stir things up. Geminis who are tiring of being taken for granted should know what to do this week. Where personal relationships are concerned, another air sign's habit of blowing hot and cold begins to get you down. Tuesday is the most auspicious day to tell this person how you feel.



# PROPERTY Gazette

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## Bangkok hospitality firm to push for 38 properties by 2013

Absolute Hotel Services Group has ambitious expansion plans in store

BANGKOK-BASED hospitality management firm Absolute Hotel Services Group plans to operate 38 multi-brand hotel properties in Thailand and overseas by 2013.

The firm currently operates two major brands: U Hotels & Resorts and Eastin Hotels & Residences (Eastin Easy), as well as non-branded hotels and resorts – some of which are owned and developed by BTS Assets Investment.

The group has opened an “Indochina office” to cover expansion in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Its Mumbai office covers India, the Maldives, Nepal, Bangladesh, Mauritius and Sri Lanka, and the office in Doha serves the Persian Gulf region.

Chief executive officer Jonathan Wigley said it planned to manage 18 properties under the U Hotels & Resorts brand in Thailand, Vietnam, India, Indonesia and Qatar.

Two properties are set to open in Indonesia and India this year, nine in Thailand, Qatar, Vietnam and India next year and seven in Thailand, Vietnam and India in 2013. It will run 20 Eastin Easy properties in Thailand, India, Vietnam, Qatar and Oman by 2013.

This year the group will operate eight properties in Thailand, Qatar, Oman, Vietnam and India, nine hotels next year in Qatar, Oman, Vietnam and India and three hotels in Vietnam and India in 2013.

Domestically, the group is op-



ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS: One of Absolute Hotel Services' properties in Bali.

erating properties in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Kanchanaburi, Khao Yai and Nakhon Ratchasima.

By December this year, it will open the 390-room, five-star Eastin Grand Hotel Sathorn in Bangkok, into which BTS Assets Investment has ploughed 2.7 billion baht.

In 2012 and 2013, it will open U Serene Phuket with 130 rooms, French Country Resort Khao Yai with 76 rooms, and the 96-room U Sathorn Bangkok, which cost 350 million baht. It will also operate 78-room U Khao Yai, with an investment in the region of 350mn baht, all by BTS Assets Investment.

Wigley said that overall the Thai hotel business would be stronger this year compared to last based

on the events of March-May 2010 and their effects on international inbound demand.

“Political unrest and natural disasters disturbed our business, but we are confident that Thailand will recover in the short term,” he said.

The group foresees hotel investors moving to locations without direct international air links and requiring passage through Bangkok, as oversupply in certain segments are limiting investment.

The group sees major challenges as being: the risk of new political unrest that could affect consumer confidence, growing supply in certain markets, rising operating costs of goods and skilled labor, higher cost of air

travel and the strength of the baht.

The group's operating results for the Thai market in the first six months this year showed a combined growth of nine per cent over the first six months of last year.

In Bangkok, Eastin Hotel Makkasan is expected to finish the year with a 77 per cent occupancy rate. Revenue and profits will show growth of 16 per cent over 2010.

It expects U Chiang Mai to end 2011 with 64 per cent occupancy and 12 per cent growth in revenue and profits year on year.

U Inchantree Kanchanaburi should have 66 per cent occupancy. This is the first year operations are forecast to exceed targets.

– *The Nation*

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PROPERTY



# Chiang Mai tourism: Same same, but gone?



**Property Watch**  
By Bill Barnett

THAILAND'S northern tourism destination Chiang Mai needs to take a cue from Donald Trump regarding brand reinvention. "The Donald", as he is known, has become renowned for the continued revitalization of his image over the years, despite going through a series of ups and downs.

There have been recent media reports that the Northern Chapter of the Thai Hotels Association (THA) has announced market-wide occupancy levels have plunged below 40 per cent, causing widespread concern throughout the industry.

To this, perhaps the most pertinent comment comes from Dusit Thani CEO Chanin Donavanik, who recently said in *The Nation*, "We have nothing new in Chiang Mai. We sell old products and activities."

Welcome to the world of destination fatigue, where an over-reliance on cultural travelers who have since fled to emerging destinations such as Bhutan, Siam Reap and Luang Prabang has hit the doldrums.

A lack of synergy between the increasing number of private-sector hotels and the absence of mega projects and government-spon-



**NORTHERN SLUMP:** Hotel occupancy rates in Chiang Mai have taken a turn for the worse. Photo:ckmck

sored infrastructure has led to the current dilemma. Supply and demand fundamentals are only becoming worse in the short term as new properties continue to hit the pipeline.

Thailand's government has fallen asleep at the wheel of the tourism industry over the past two years, resulting in a lack of critical investment and controls for overbuilding.

At the recent No Vacancy conference in Bangkok, Jonas Ogren of STR Global reported that average room rates in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai declined by over 10 per cent last year.

Meanwhile, occupancy rates for January to April this year have

dropped off nearly 15 per cent compared with last year.

Those who think Phuket is immune to the same affliction may be in for a harsh road ahead. As Thai investors continue to flock and build a series of mid-scale hotels, which some may say lack character or are "vanilla" in appeal, the government has been slow to invest in much-needed infrastructure.

A long delay over the Phuket International Convention and Exhibition Center has most local hospitality players skeptical over when construction will start.

Growing concern is increasingly being voiced about Phuket's over-reliance on "mono-mass markets", such as Russia and China. Leading Scandinavian operator TUI Nordic expressed their opinion on the matter in a recent Bangkok newspaper, in which they urged Thai hotels to diversify their client base and said that too large a share of any one par-

ticular group could make some guests from other countries uncomfortable.

Phuket needs to take these words to heart, as any Wall Street analyst can show you, no boom can be sustained indefinitely.

While Chiang Mai and Phuket have distinct separate issues, they are strange bedfellows in an industry investing in hotel rooms with little forward thinking about new demand generators and sustainable growth.

Every boom will bust and thoughtfully placed restrictions by the government on new hotels and zoning are a key priority.

Destination fatigue remains a clear and present danger for Phuket tourism, and it's high time this becomes the focal point of our industry.

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

## In brief...

### Rusedski, Lloyd caught in tiff over Millionaires Mile

ACCORDING to *The Daily Mail*, former Davis Cup Captain David Lloyd is being sued by another tennis star, Greg Rusedski, over a failed investment in Phuket.

A lawsuit has been filed with a claim for the return of 740,000 for an investment made three years ago into the luxury estate project Cape Sawan.

The project was soft launched in March last year as David Lloyd Asia acquired the remaining lots of Jomchang Phase 2.

The development has 26 lots of 1-2 rai, with two villa type options ranging from 610-square-meters up to 1,000sqm. Prices range from US\$3.3 million up to US\$7.1mn.

*The Daily Mail* reported the funds were paid by Rusedski into David Lloyds personal account in Thailand. Additional reports state that Lloyd has refuted the claims. The story is now playing out in the UK media and the courts.

### Six Senses transfer first Maldives lease

THE first leasehold residential property to be transferred on a leasehold basis by Six Senses in the Maldives has sparked interest in the island's property market.

A three-bedroom hotel-managed unit at Soneva Fushi was sold to a French national for US\$7 million, and has been officially registered.

Last year the country enacted legislation allowing foreign property ownership for a maximum of 50 years to stimulate the local economy.

### Banyan Tree eyes Sri Lanka for big resort project

ON THE heels of news that the Singapore-based Banyan Tree group have wound down their business relationship with an existing hotel in Sri Lanka, the company search is now on for a Laguna-like destination resort site.

An Angsana-managed 77-room property, Deer Park Hotel in Giritale was recently closed.

Sri Lanka has seen a huge influx of investment in the 24 months since the ending of a long civil war.

Much of this is being driven from mainland China, who are helping to build a second international airport in the south, and Hong Kong's Shangri La group, which has two large projects in the pipeline.

Banyan Tree continues to favor the large mixed-use model it has successfully developed in Phuket, Bintan and Laguna Hue in Vietnam, which is set to open next year.

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STANDING TALL: The existing villas are larger than the new ones will be.

## Life with a view at new Villa Cru

NEW pool villas are being constructed behind the original Villa Grand Cru project in Chalong as part of the project's first phase of expansion.

The new villas will be smaller than the existing ones that were finished a few years ago, Villa Grand Cru's project manager Phimphan Tantipiriyakij said.

"Expansion of the Villa Grand Cru project has been quite slow, with only a few villas being built and offered at a time. During this expansion, we will be developing approximately 670 square meters of land," Ms Phimphan said.

"The new pool villas will have 360sqm of usable area over two storeys, with two bedrooms and a private pool overlooking the scenic Chalong Bay," she added.

Developers of the project will be focusing on smaller units, with prices starting from 16 million baht. For foreigners, the luxury villas will be available to own on freehold or leasehold, according to Ms Phimphan.

"The first phase of Villa Grand Cru consisted of three bedrooms, three storey pool villas that were priced at around 29mn baht. But despite being high quality luxurious villas, they proved quite difficult to sell because of the steep prices," Ms Phimphan said.

"It was hard to find buyers, especially after the real estate slump in Phuket a couple of years ago. Therefore, we will be focusing on smaller units this time, which should be easier to sell. We are expecting good feedback from buyers now that Phuket's real estate market is showing signs of recovery," she added.

A model pool villa should be finished within four months. Expansion of the first phase will see four new villas built, bringing the total number to seven.

"The four new pool villas will put the finishing touches on the first phase of this project. How-



Construction has begun.

ever, we do not know when we will be able to make a start with the second phase. It all depends on local real estate market conditions and customer demand," Ms Phimphan explained.

Despite Villa Grand Cru's initial plan of 17 villas spread across over 15 rai of land, Ms Phimphan reiterated that the development's direction now depended on market trends.

Mom Luang Tri Devakul, owner and developer of the Villa Grand Cru project is one of Phuket's iconic businessmen. A successful real estate developer and architect, he has also developed the Number1 Baan Kata Villas, a luxury real estate project consisting of 13 villas on the road to Kata Noi Beach.

— Anand Singh

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# Village vamped

THE Village Coconut Island has been included in a list of "South East Asia's Top 20 Resort Properties" by *Property Report South East Asia*.

The annual list is in its second year and was published in the magazine's June issue. Properties are chosen based on their location, design, dedicated services, and investment potential.

The Village was also included in the "Hot List", which featured seven developments from the Top 20. Among these were Six Senses, Karma Kandara, W Samui Residences, Malaiwana, Banyan Tree Residences and Nexus Residences.

"The resort properties featured in the Top 20 list are all top notch, full-service vacation homes, each with its own special character and exclusive benefits for residents," Jules Kay, editor of *Property Report South East Asia*, said.

Marketed to second-home buyers, The Village Coconut Island opened in December 2010 and comprises 236 villas set on 33 acres of a private island off Phuket's east coast. Owners enjoy lavish facilities and 500 meters of beach front.



TOP 20 IN ASIA: The Village Coconut Island is now listed.

"The accessibility of South East Asian destinations has grown significantly in recent years to the point where wealthy Asian residents or relaxation seeking expatriates see nothing unusual in flying from their homes in commercial hubs like Hong Kong or Singapore to resorts like Phuket, Samui and Bali for the weekend," Mr Kay added.

Thus far, 39 villas have been

sold and "Lifestyle Property Developer" Absolute World Group have been brought in to manage the property's second sales phase.

"Even with the global economy struggling, the number of people choosing retirement to warmer climes is on the rise, so the trend of owning property and retiring overseas is predicted to grow," Mr Kay said.

— Phuket Gazette

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RAPACIOUS GROWTH RATE: Bougainvilleas thrive in Phuket and will overgrow without pruning. Photo: Ana Ulin



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

WHEN enthusiastic gardeners who have lived in Europe or North America first come to Phuket, they need to understand the very different requirements that plants have in this habitat.

Because it is much hotter and, during the monsoon, much wetter, few temperate plants can survive these conditions. They may be able to endure several degrees of frost but, on the other hand, may be unable to handle direct tropical sun or the saturated ground that is the norm at this time of year.

Tropical plants however, and especially those native to zones 9, 10 or 11 on the horticultural scale, will not only survive here, but will grow at a rate of knots not seen in temperate climates.

Some plants introduced from less congenial climates have become invasive in South East Asia,

Northern Australia and the South Pacific archipelago.

*Lantana camara*, for example, having escaped from South America, has become a weed in many tropical countries, the Indian rubber vine has colonized large tracts of land in Queensland and the water lettuce has clogged up waterways in the Floridian Everglades.

Take the bougainvillea (*fuang faa*). Although it is cherished, and is a feature of gardens in many Mediterranean coastal regions, it is not that easy to grow in, say, southern Spain or France.

Many attempts were made in my Andalusian garden before two *fuang faa* became really established. Here in Phuket, the experience has been quite different.

Not only are Thai bougainvilleas available in a glorious range of colors – often grafted onto the same shrub – but they grow with a vigor that is extraordinary.

I just had to cut down a specimen that had grown nine meters high in a little over three years. It

## Tip of the week

### Cool Coriander

THE final herb tip is about coriander. Easy-to-grow and frequently used herbs and spices have been chosen for this feature, and coriander is definitely in this category. It is one of the world's most widely used seasonings. Both the fresh leaves (the herb), and the seeds (the spice) are used in Asian cuisine.

In Thailand, where the leaves are called Chinese parsley, the

roots are also brought into service in cooking. Coriander is easy to grow in your kitchen garden. It can also be cultivated in pots if space is limited.

You can try using a few of the seeds bought as a culinary spice: if they do not germinate, packets of seeds are available. Best results come from plants grown in fertile soil which is not allowed to dry out completely.

possessed a trunk the thickness of a man's thigh and an armory of long spines that rendered the whole process of removal quite painful.

But it was painful in another way, since the shrub had been a beauty to behold, in constant flower with both white and pink bracts. A real feature of the garden. But it had to go: it was impeding the growth of other plants, was threatening to fracture the garden wall, and was beginning to spread across the narrow soi.

The point is this. Plants here not

only grow far more rapidly than in Europe, they also grow much bigger. A massive generalization, but one that is more-or-less true. And since most tropical plants are unfamiliar to the newly arrived *farang*, he does not know what to expect when he pops them into his pristine flower beds.

What he might recall as a small pot plant struggling to survive in an English drawing room, can assume the proportions of a tree in this fecund climate. Take the so-called "rubber plant" or *figus elastica*. A

member of the fig family and originally cultivated as the primary source of rubber, it was superseded by *hevea Brasiliensis* in tropical plantations everywhere. Just look around Phuket to see the evidence.

Subsequently, and no longer a commercial proposition, *figus elastica* became a popular indoor pot plant. And this new popularity has spawned a number of attractive new varieties: now there are a number of ornamental cultivars with purple leaves (*burgundy*), or with variegated or gray-green foliage. Despite the fact they're all houseplants, they may grow to 30 meters or more outdoors here!

To a less spectacular extent, the same is true of variegated crotons or the many varieties of *cordyline*, including the *dracaenas*.

Again, many of these have been grown as house plants in northern drawing rooms since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, but here, *Dracaena fragrans* is a common yard plant that may reach six meters in height.

And, what's more, it thrives on neglect, unlike most of us.

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



CITY HANGIN': Adding color to the city. Photo: Mike Cogh

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## Properties For Sale

### KATA SHOP HOUSE



For sale in Kata Beach center. 3 floors, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 aircons, 3 kitchens, 1 living room. Price: 7.3 million baht. Tel: 084-850 6722.

### POOL VILLA FOR SALE

In Bang Tao area, 2-4 bedrooms. Fully furnished. Automatic gate. Tel: 084-851 6121. For more information please see our website at [www.phukethome.ws](http://www.phukethome.ws)

### LAND 700SQM KAMALA 3.9 MB

Nice area, chanote title, road, electricity, water, 900 meters from Kamala Beach. Tel: 080-528 1536 (English & Thai). Email: [nc.residence@gmail.com](mailto:nc.residence@gmail.com)

### BEACHFRONT & SEA VIEW LAND

50 rai of stunning beachfront and sea view land. Approx 125 meters of beach frontage. Excellent for a high end resort and/or residential development. Priced to sell at 5 million baht/rai. Tel: 089-839 8255 (English & Thai). Email: [info@lantaestate.net](mailto:info@lantaestate.net)

### 30 RAI IN TOWN

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

### PATONG TOWER FOR SALE

Modern, 1-bedroom 70sqm condo, refitted and furnished. Price: 4.95 million baht. Tel: 081-088 8099.

### EVERYTHING GOES

Land plots on eastern side of Phuket. Some have seaview. Price: 500,000 baht and above. Reasonable offers are considered. Financing is possible. Contact Chris. Tel: 086-942 1930. Email: [chrisfisherii@gmail.com](mailto:chrisfisherii@gmail.com)

### 2 RAI OF FRUIT PLANTATION



Near Chalong Temple. Price: 7.5 million baht per rai, with Chanote title. Situated among nice villas in tranquil area. Has road and electricity. Good size for housing projects. Tel: 080-520 2989.

### KATA SEAVIEW CONDO

Modern, fully furnished, 72sqm, 2-bedroom condo. Contact Peter for more information. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: [notley.peter@gmail.com](mailto:notley.peter@gmail.com)

### CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

Several cheap plots of land for sale from half rai to 3 rai. Located close to Layan Beach or Mission Hills. Tel: 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238940. Email: [kevinq@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:kevinq@loxinfo.co.th)

### HOUSE FOR SALE IN KATA



Price 5.4 million baht. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 081-476 4476.

### LAND FOR SALE

At Pasak Soi 8, Cherno Talay. Land plot is in front of villa project and hotel. 135sq wah with Chanote title. Price: 3.5 million baht. Call owner. Tel: 080-698 3028.

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

62sq wah, 2 bathrooms, Villa Dowroong. 4.5 million baht. Contact Khun Tar. Tel: 076-377052, 089-971 1268.

### SALE CONDO KATHU

1 bedroom 25sqm, with balcony, 1 bathroom, fully furnished, freehold, Price 400,000 baht. Tel: 081-367 0991.

### 180 SEAVIEW LAND



in a perfect location. At Leelawadee hill. 270sq wah. Price: 18.9 million baht. With Chanote title. Behind The Outlet village on bypass road. Secure gated community. Underground electrical lines, 8m wide road. 5 minutes to central, BIS, RPM & Phuket Town. Call now for a unique offer. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-7821200.

## HOT PROPERTIES AT BARGAIN PRICES



This lovely, 3 bedroom, private pool villa is located in a very quiet area, with a lot of privacy. The third bedroom is a stand-alone en-suite bedroom, which is perfect for any guest visits. It is just 5 minutes from the pristine Nai Harn Beach. Easy access to many delicious international and Thai restaurants. This villa must be seen...!! Former asking price was 12,000,000 baht. The villa is fully furnished, all included!

**New price: 9,900,000 baht**



Nice 1 bedroom condominium in Karon, situated on the hill side by Karon Beach. The property has one of the most spectacular views in Phuket and is only 200 meters from the Karon Beach. Next to your doorstep you have 2 big common swimming pools. There is also a very nice common fitness center with an amazing sea view! All furniture is included!

**Bargain Price: 8,900,000 baht**



**KB REALESTATE**  
Property for sales & rentals

28/46, Moo 1, BZENTER, T. Rawai, A. Muang 83130  
Thailand (Next to Davinci restaurant)  
Tel: +66 (0) 87 885 5765  
Email: [info@kb-realestate.com](mailto:info@kb-realestate.com)

[www.kb-realestate.com](http://www.kb-realestate.com)

### 4-BEDROOM HOUSE



For sale. Due to owner's relocation. Price: 9.8 million baht with Chanote title. Located at Manik Baan Permsap Villas. For viewing, please call 080-520 2989.

### LAND AT PA KHLOK

1 rai 13.6sq wah with Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd 11km from Heroines' Monument, near Mission Hills. Price: 3.9 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

### VILLA FOR SALE OR RENT

Villa for sale or rent. 2-storey with pool, 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, western kitchen, sala, electric gate, CCTV, security system and tropical garden on one rai (1,606sqm) of land. Email: [nisaya@hotmail.com](mailto:nisaya@hotmail.com)

### BIG HOUSE + 1 RAI

Large 3-bedroom house on 1 rai. 3 bathrooms, 1 en-suite. 5 mins to PIA in Thalung. Large garage and extra storage room. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 076-621200, 085-789 5092 (Thai), 080-141 8292 (English). Email: [daves tacey16@hotmail.com](mailto:daves tacey16@hotmail.com)

### NICE AND SPACIOUS HOUSE



In Heritage project, Kathu. 2 floors, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 1 maid room. 234sq wah. 18 million baht. Tel: 081-892 0190 (Warit), 089-646 4823 (Rattana). Email: [prayoon\\_jp@hotmail.com](mailto:prayoon_jp@hotmail.com)

### NICE PLOT



Urgent sale. Behind Layan Hill Estate (Manik-Bangjo Area). 1,364sqm. Original price: 7.2 million baht. Now: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 080-520 2989.

### PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

### HOUSE & FURNITURE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaiyapruet Village at Land & House, Chalong. Good location and entrance from bypass road. Built 2 years ago. Tel: 084-627 7001.

### SURIN BEACH

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

### LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sq wah, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118, 086-709 2933.

### LAND FOR SALE

Near the main road to Baan Don-Cherng Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: [honda.1437@yahoo.co.th](mailto:honda.1437@yahoo.co.th)

### BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms on top floor. Freehold. North Patong. Price: 9.7 million baht. Also available for rent. Tel: 086-2765117. For photos please email to [jihshand@gmail.com](mailto:jihshand@gmail.com)

### TWIN VILLAS AT NAI YANG



Only 600 meters from beautiful Nai Yang beach, this modern pool villa is perfectly located. Featuring a chic, clean-cut design coupled with a choice selection of quality materials and furniture, this villa is a promising investment for holiday seekers and permanent residents. Price: 10.2 million baht. Contact Khun Penprapa. Tel: 087-898 9646. Email: [penprapa2526@gmail.com](mailto:penprapa2526@gmail.com)

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**POOL VILLA FOR SALE**

In Land & Houses Park Phuket. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished. Price: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 081-606 2284.

**BEACH RESORT LOTS**

Lots: 1 million baht. Cottages: 2.5 million baht. Contact Wayne for more information. Tel: 076-238732, 081-797 0358. Or send email to: wayne redgraham@gmail.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE IN KATA**

2 floors, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big area downstairs. Price: 5 million baht, including furniture. Tel: 082-776 3865.

**2-BEDROOM HOUSE NEAR LAGUNA**

Modern. Walled, electric gate, swimming pool, aircon. Financing available from owner. 5.9 million baht. Tel: 086-267 0157. Fax: 076-325294. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

**SUPER CHEAP, PATONG**

Now only 4.7 million baht. New pool villa with seaview. 3 storeys, 6 rooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, 4 aircons. Tel: 087-053 6016.

**SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE**

Near Supalai Resort on the east coast of Phuket slope. A 3-rai plot with road and electricity access. Price: 3.6 million baht per rai. No agents please. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakaporns@yahoo.com

**BEST PRICE POOL VILLA**

Thai-Balinese style with L-shaped design. 2 garden view bedrooms with open-plan living and modern kitchen, 2 en-suite bathrooms. Located near BIS. Premium quality. Land size 144sqm. Price from 3.7 million baht. Tel: 084-293 7923, 080-648 9622 (English). Must visit us: www.phuket-aurasia.com

**HOUSE IN KAMALA**

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

**THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION**

Thai-style modern townhouse with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m by 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. Tel: 081-535 7585, 084-1194262, 081-356 9754. Email: peecho74@hotmail.com

**KOH YAO YAI LAND FOR SALE**

A small plot of land for sale: 3 rai and 22sq wah (4,888sqm) near Klong Son Beach. Asking Price: 4.5 million baht. Nor Sor 3 Gor access document included. Tel: 087-887 7133, 084-848 7474. Email: kasina\_navamachiti@yahoo.com

**SEA VIEW LAND RAWAI**

Beautiful land plot with stunning sea view, adjacent to Mangos-teen Resort, 864sqm, ideal for private villa. Price: 8 million baht only. Several other options, larger or smaller plots for urgent sale available. Tel: 076-289399, 081-536 5846 (English), 081-539 5373 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-289389. Email: phuketresorts@gmail.com

**CHUAN CHUEN LAGOON**

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, fully furnished. In Chuan Chuen Lagoon, Koh Kaew. Price: 3.95 million baht. Contact Scott. Tel: 081-866 8716.

**PATONG APT**

2-bedroom apartment for rent or sale. 87sqm unit on the 5th floor with sea view. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-891 6502. Email: andrea.capucci@gmail.com

**HOUSE IN THALANG**

House for sale or rent in Thalang (Baan Suan Yau Charoen 3). 1-storey, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 5 aircons, 1 kitchen in Thai and European style. Includes garage and tropical garden on 140.70sq wah. Contact Khun Somsak. Tel: 081-895 2355.

**4 RAI 2 NGAN 64SQ WAH**

For sale. In Rawai, near Shell Museum, with 80m front. Price: 7.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-731 0283. Email: namjai land@csloxinfo.com

**POOL VILLA FOR SALE**

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, located in secure estate in Rawai. Price: 5 million baht. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

**3-BEDROOM HOUSE**

3-bedroom house (53sq wah) near the Heroines' Monument. 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, telephone & internet, curtains, kitchen and full landscaping. Price: 2.95 million baht (negotiable). Contact owner. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakaporns@yahoo.com

**VILLA IN CHERNG TALAY**

New villa at Cherng Talay for sale, near laguna. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, on 500sqm land with Chanote title, freehold or leasehold. Price: 12.9 million baht. Directly from owner. Tel: 080-698 3028. Email: suchada\_villas@hotmail.com

**NEW VILLA FOR SALE**

3 bedrooms, office/laundry room, 3 bathrooms, 2 of which are en-suite. Open-plan living area with western kitchen, garden, car parking, pool, sala. Price: 12 million baht. Tel: 087-265 0118. Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk

**LAND 9 RAI FOR SALE**

Land with seaview of the main road to Promthep Cape. With Chanote title. 15 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-693 9571.

**KATA BEACH POOL VILLA**

Large, Thai-designed, high quality villa. Price: 16 million baht, finance available. Tel: 081-091 8908 (English). Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

**4 RAI LAYAN 4 MILLION BAHT**

By owner Nor Sor 3 Gor, concrete road house for sale off. Just 2 min by beach. Tel: 084-714 8391. Email: andrea.paoletti1@hotmail.it

**4 BEDS, 4 BATHS IN KATA**

350sqm. With Chanote. In a quiet soi. 1km from beach, with mountain view. Living space: 200sqm. Price: 9.9 million baht. Tel: 087-466 6566, 089-908 9993.

**2 BED SEAVIEW POOL-PENTHOUSE**

Furnished, great rental income, on exclusive estate. Few minutes walk to the two beaches in Kata. Low price! Email: resortgm@gmail.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE**

Executive family pool villa near British International School. Tel: 084-185 4746. Email: idwian@hotmail.com

**GREAT LOCATION, GREAT PRICE**

4 bedrooms, pool, newly refurbished in Boat Lagoon for only 17 million baht. Tel: 076-023 8948, 081-968 9046 (English & Thai). Email: pen@phuketboatlagoon.com

**LAND FOR SALE**

Over 12 rai, with Chanote title and a view of golf course for sale to the highest bidder. Ends July 2011. Minimum offer 45 million baht. Tel: 081-893 3462, 081-956 3166. Email: voute.a@gmail.com

**TRADE-IN-OFFER**

Want to sell my villa in Kata. From 19 million baht. Now only 14.5 million baht or trade for.

Trade-in options:

- (1) 2 engines motor yacht between 9 and 11 meter (25 and 30ft)
- (2) Recent luxury car, such as Porsche, Audi or Mercedes
- (3) 2-bedroom apartment with sea view
- (4) You can get 75% mortgage/financing

**FOR THIS VILLA**

With 3-bedroom, 1 office room, large American-kitchen, pool, jacuzzi, garden and parking. Freehold chanote and free transfer. Tel: 081-788 8280. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

**SEAVIEW LAND BANG TAO, SURIN**

Amazing views, private upscale community, underground utilities, 3-phase electricity. Ready to build. Plots starting at 4 million baht. Tel: 086-267 0157. Fax: 076-325294. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

**LUXURY 1-BEDROOM**

Apartment. 63sqm. Ensuite bathroom, kitchen, dining area, lounge, balcony. In central Patong. Price: 4.9 million baht only. Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

**SALE NAI HARN RESORT**

21 small villas, 8x4m pool jacuzzi, sauna. 3 bedrooms, owner's house. Up to 2 million baht return per year. Prime location. Set on 2 rai. Price: 27.5 million baht. Financing is possible. Contact Vincent. Tel: 087-892 6204.

**NEW GUESTHOUSE PATONG**

New guesthouse in Patong. 12 rooms, kitchen and more. Must see. Tel: 080-603 2949.

**LAND IN PATONG**

Nice plot of land for sale in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach in a very quiet, natural setting, ready to build, with access road, water and power. Cheap price for quick sale. Tel: 081-891 3466 (English). Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

**3 BEDROOMS FOR 3.2 MB**

Land and house. 240sqm land freehold. With furniture. In a secure area. Built in 2006. Enough space for a pool. Price: 3.2 million baht. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

**RAWAI SAIYUAN FOR SALE-RENT**

In a quiet area. Land: 624sqm. 3 bedrooms, office, open living area, nice kitchen and bathroom. Has cable and ADSL, Wifi, aircon and carparking. Includes tropical garden and nice pool with jacuzzi. Must see for urgent sale. Original price: 12.5 million baht. Now: 10.5 million baht. Tel: 089-731 0283. Email: harrij@loxinfo.co.th

Live in Cherng Talay?  
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Property  
Wanted**RAWAI/NAI HARN**

Looking for a 3 bed house. Needing work is ok, to a max of 7.5 million baht. Must be on at least a 450+ sqm plot, ideally 600 sqm. Must be in a safe location, very close to, if not on, a concrete road. Email: patrick@mancity.net

**LOOKING FOR HOUSE**

Looking for small house in Chalong, Rawai, or Naiharn. Max: 2.5 million baht. Email: bengtjansson@hotmail.com

**LAND OR RESORT  
WANTED**

We are looking for a piece of elevated land around 5 rai or a resort with a seaview and 40-50 rooms in the Patong area. Price upon negotiation. Tel: 081-901 4801, 081-803 5830. Email: noreekattiyaree@hotmail.com

**50-100 RAI,  
50 YEAR LEASE**

For horse business, Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga. Qualifies under the new zoning restrictions as recreation and/or agriculture. Bi-annual payment only. Commercial 50-year lease. Developers: Add Incentive with first-class horse riding facility. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-842 4581. Or send email: christyksweet@gmail.com

**2 BEDROOMS  
4 PERSON**

4 person: 3 adult & child (10 years). We're need 2 bedrooms, kitchen, swimming pool and security. Email: margaret.adv@gmail.com

Property  
Services**VILLA AND  
APARTMENT  
MANAGEMENT**

Personalized management and rental services, for individual homes or estates. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

Accommodation  
Available**SEAVIEW  
APARTMENT**

For long-term rent from 20,000 baht per month. Contact Sally at 081-326 2542, or Judy at 083-182 8914. Website: www.oceanic-global.com

**NAI HARN BEACH  
APARTMENT**

At The Sands Resort, 2-bedrooms, 126sqm, WiFi, cable TV, fully equipped. 12,000 baht/week 40,000 baht/month. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-396639, 083-648 8820 (English). Email: rtmeakin@samart.co.th

**PATONG LUXURY**

At a very quiet place. 60sqm apartment with jacuzzi. Daily rent from 2,500 baht. Monthly rent: 35,000 baht. 4 minutes' walk to beach, 2 minutes to entertainment venues. Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com See: www.banglasuites.com

**KARON BEACH**

Now special offers available. For further details, please see our website at www.karoncliff.com

**400 B/DAY,  
9,000 B/MONTH**

Rawai pool guesthouse. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, aircon, WiFi, cable TV. Car and motor-bike for cheap rent. 300 meter from beach. Tel: 080-328 9986. Email: phuket7@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 Website at www.brommathaihouse.com

**KATA SEA FRONT  
LUXURY VILLA**

3-bedroom luxury villa on the tip of Kata Beach headland. Built up area: 3400sq.ft, 15m above sea level, spectacular Andaman sea views. 15m x 6m infinity pool on edge of rocks overlooking sea. Villa surrounded by dense foliage, spacious balconies, outdoor showers in natural settings, very private and secluded. Thai, Japanese and Balinese design influences and artifacts. Excellent cook and maid provided. Tel: +65-9-621 0254 (English). Email: seavest@singnet.com.sg Website at www.housephuket.com

**KATA ROOM  
FOR RENT-PRIVATE**

6k WiFi, maid, laundry, cable. Must be quiet & no bringing bar girls/boys home. Tel: 087-888 9089. Email: jaisabai@gmail.com

**1-BEDAPT AT  
SURIN BEACH**

15,000 baht per month only, plus electricity. 50 sqm. Fully furnished, satellite TV, intern, pool. Great restaurant. Tel: 083-280 9100 (English), 086-746 4012 (Thai). Email: johanhultner@me.com Website at www.suringate.com

**LUXURY HOUSE  
IN NAI HARN**

Fully-furnished, 3 bedrooms, maid's room, western kitchen, private swimming pool, quiet location, 24hrs security, IP camera, wireless internet, big TVs. Rental price long term: 85,000 baht per month. Short-term: 90,000 baht per month. Sale price: 19 million baht. Tel: 086-276 2785 (English), 087-887 7133 (English & Thai). Email: kasina\_navamachiti@yahoo.com

**NEW APARTMENTS  
CLOSE TO LAGUNA**

New apartments close to Laguna for rent. Start from 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-615944, 081-866 2055 (English & Thai). Email: info@sivanaplace.com Website: www.sivanaplace.com

**FREEDOM APARTMENT**

Patong European style, aircon, wireless internet, cable TV, safe area, bathroom with hot water. Price 7,500 baht/month. Tel: 084-845 0541, 083-380 6744.

**96,000 BAHT/YEARLY  
OR 9,000 BAHT/MONTH**

Studio room, full fur, aircon, fridge, hot water, cable TV, Internet, maid, quiet place in Nai Harn Beach. Tel: 089-728 6242. Email: purimas\_re@yahoo.com

**BEDROOM IN  
LARGE HOUSE**

Shared house in a gated secure community. All amenities, long-term, non-smoker. Tel: 087-077 9816. Email: williet98248@hotmail.com

**THE HEIGHTS  
KATA BEACH**

Great rent for great tenant. 5-star luxury living. Panoramic ocean view. Massive deck. Amazing pool and gym. 2 bedrooms, 170sqm. Price: 65,000 baht/month. Dates negotiable. Contact Lillian. Tel: 083-833 6863 (English). Or send email: lilliancornell8@hotmail.com

**ROOM IN KATA FOR  
6,000 BAHT**

Room with aircon, modern furniture, hot water, Internet and a nice rooftop terrace with sea view. Available now. Tel: 081-968 5904. Email: sujira\_sk@yahoo.com

**PATONG GRAND  
CONDO**

Apartment for sale in Patong. 1 big room, bathroom, balcony. Fully furnished. Community pool. Low rent. I also have 3 rooms on the beach road. Tel: 087-882 1445. Email: peter\_bloom77@hotmail.com

**QUIET 2-BEDROOM  
HOUSE**

Located on walled-in 1,500sqm garden on Soi Kok Yang, 150m from Da Vinci restaurant. Price: 13,000 baht/month. Tel: 085-4748726, 087-9860165. Email: markandjinda@hotmail.com

Accommodation  
Wanted**LOOKING FOR  
AUG-DEC**

1 bedroom or studio, Kata, Kamala, or Surin. Furnished + ADSL. Aug to November or December. Email: shortstop61@hotmail.com

**VILLA NEEDED  
JAN-JUN 2012**

Need a villa with private pool, 3+ bedrooms, furnished, near beach in Kata or Karon (maybe Rawai/Nai Harn) from Jan to June 2012. 40-45,000 baht per month range. Email: cocteau30@yahoo.com

**WANTED: HOUSE FOR  
6 WEEKS**

Fully furnished, kitchen. Short term contract: 1.5 month lease. Start date: end of December. Rent: less than 20,000 baht per month. Email: retal9650@gmail.com

**KARON RENT**

I am looking for accommodation for the months of August and September. I would prefer a place with a separate living room and bedroom. With a Pool OR close to the beach. Email: dianz\_p@hotmail.com

**VILLA IN PHUKET  
AUGUST**

Looking for accommodation in Phuket for 2 weeks from around 9 August (4 adults and 3 children - 4 bedrooms). Ideally a villa with pool. Send with information, photos and prices. Email: lallenthai@yahoo.co.uk

**PROPERTY  
WANTED FOR  
PURCHASE**

House wanted in Nai Harn area, for 500,000 baht or less. Contact Shaun. Email: leprechaun27@hotmail.co.uk

Holiday  
Homes & Villa  
Rentals**SUPERB 1 & 2-BED  
APARTMENTS**

Penthouses with rooftop plunge pools, a terrace and kitchen also available for short or longterm rent. Email: info@katagardens.net

**STUNNING 5  
BEDROOM VILLA**

Beautiful villa built to the highest standard for rent or sale. For further details. Please send email: paahlman@gmail.com

**1 & 2 BED APT & POOL  
PENTHOUSE**

115-180sqm, fully furnished, kitchen, minutes walk to two different beaches. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

Household  
Items**GARAGE SALE -  
FURNITURE**

Almost brand new rattan furniture: beds, sofas, coffee tables, dining tables, chairs, benches, lamps. Tel: 081-584 8502 (English & Thai). Email: admin@philkade.com

**LIVING ROOM &  
DINING ROOM**

Huge living room set, brought from China, features a large sofa (230 cm), love seat, and chair with coffee table and corner table. The dining room set seats six. Tel: 085-884 1840 (English & Thai). Email: bilyams@gmail.com Website at http://sites.google.com/site/phuketmove/

**DISHWASHER AND POS  
SYSTEM**

Dishwasher under counter, good condition, new price 94,000 baht now sell for 47,000 baht, POS system hardware and license, new price 84,000- now sell for 42,000 baht. Tel: 081-956 9903 (English & Thai). Email: minaoka\_nui@hotmail.com

**BOTTOM FREEZER  
FRIDGE**

Panasonic Fridge (bottom freezer) for sale. Bought in Sept 2010, as-new condition, only used for cooling drinks. 185-litre storage volume. 55cm (wide) x 60 (deep) x 140 (high). Original price: 7,830 baht. Asking 5,500 baht. Tel: 081-273 0677 (English). Email: jhorr2000@yahoo.de

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

**DWF HOME  
SERVICES**

Built-in bars, counters, pools, kitchens, ponds, etc.

Contact: K. Noi.

Tel: 081-606 5746.  
Email: DWF\_home  
services@hotmail.com

**Live in Patong?**  
**Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at**  
**The Deli Supermarket**

**Simply write out  
your ad, pay  
and leave it with  
Khun Damrong  
(076-342275)**

**GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!**  
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously - and FREE - in the Gazette Online!

**The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!**

**Looking for land to buy?**

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



**Project Manager (Phuket)****Responsibilities:**

- Manage and coordinate ongoing projects, estimate construction costs and prepare budget, quality control management

**Required Qualifications:**

- Male, not over 45 years old. Southerner is preferred
- 7 years experience in construction management, or project management
- Strong planning and leadership skills, systematic thinking, and interpersonal skills

**Senior Property Consultant / Property Consultant (Phuket)****Responsibilities:**

- Responsible for property resale and leasing and other work assigned from the supervisor.

**Required Qualifications:**

- 1-5 years experience in property resale or leasing.

**All position required:**

- Thai Nationality
- Fluent in English
- Own car and driving license will be an advantage.
- Able to work 6 days a week.



**Plus Property Company Limited.**

Please send resume to [nattha@sansiri.com](mailto:nattha@sansiri.com), [chuthamas@sansiri.com](mailto:chuthamas@sansiri.com)

For more information please contact 0 2201 3173, 0 2201 3072

# wine connection

In the frame of rapid growth, we are looking for candidates for the following position

**Retail Area Manager**

- Thai National
- Minimum 3 years in managing of retail store/operation
- Sales, detail and results-oriented with systematic reports
- Ability to demonstrate business skills, especially good administrative management
- Excellent English and computer literature

Please send the resume to [assishrmgrphuket@wineconnection.co.th](mailto:assishrmgrphuket@wineconnection.co.th) or call 076-282411#13 for further information

**WEB DEVELOPER REQUIRED**

Fast-growing Internet-based company is looking to hire a full time website programmer to do the following tasks: wordpress HTML coding, PHP coding, server administration, simple application development, business process automation. We require that you speak basic English. Tel: 087-387 4771 (English & Thai). Email: [dada@phuket-tours.org](mailto:dada@phuket-tours.org)

**MAID**

Maid to work mainly in Kamala, need own motorbike. Tel: 083-634 5772. Email: [info@husiphuket.se](mailto:info@husiphuket.se)

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Thai national. Excellent written and spoken English, smart appearance, good organizational skills. Experience in property rentals. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: [solitude001@aol.com](mailto:solitude001@aol.com)

**KINDERGARTEN TEACHER**

ELT is looking for a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced kindergarten teacher to start at Ban Mairab school ASAP. We offer 38,000-40,000 baht per month plus benefits. Email: [amydavyes13@hotmail.com](mailto:amydavyes13@hotmail.com)

**NEED ASSISTANT MANAGER**

Looking for assistant manager (female) for international restaurant in Jungceylon, Patong. Good experience in F&B needed. Please contact Alain 084-758 7468 (English). Email: [alain@cafe101.co.th](mailto:alain@cafe101.co.th)

**PRIVATE VILLA ATTENDANT**

Mom Tri's Villa Royale is set atop the headland of Kata Bay between two of the most beautiful sandy beaches on Phuket: Kata Noi and Kata Yai. We are currently seeking energetic and dynamic people to join our team. Three villa attendants required for the 'ocean wing' of our private 5-bedroom villa. Candidates should preferably be young, male & dynamic. Apply in writing with full CV stating present and expected salaries, enclosed with a recent photo. Tel: 076-333568. Fax: 076-333001. Email: [hr@villaroyalephuket.com](mailto:hr@villaroyalephuket.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.villaroyalephuket.com](http://www.villaroyalephuket.com)

**TIMESHARE SALES & MARKETING**

Our new project is opening in Patong very soon. It's a well-funded, secure, and great product with a great location. We're looking for admin, sales and marketing people who want to work in a positive, progressive and professional work culture. If you have experience that's a plus, but not a pre-requisite. This is an amazing opportunity to join a world-class team. Tel: 083-105 5001 (English). Email: [pypconnect@gmail.com](mailto:pypconnect@gmail.com)

**LOOKING FOR A PROGRAMMER**

We are looking for a programmer with good experience in PH, JavaScript/Ajax, CSS3, HTML5 and MySQL for our web project. Good experience of Google maps v3 appreciated. You can work in our office at Boat Lagoon, Phuket, or from home and meet once a week for achievements and planning. You should be self-motivated, reliable and deadline-oriented. We are building modules for the functionality in our site for easy future upgrade by anyone from our team. Contact Khun Bee. Tel: 076-239820, 089-473 9019. Email: [bee@latitude1maritime.com](mailto:bee@latitude1maritime.com)

**ASSISTANT REQUIRED**

Fast-growing Internet-based company is looking to hire a full time staff member to do all general online marketing tasks. We require that you speak basic English. Tel: 087-387 4771. Email: [dada@phuket-tours.org](mailto:dada@phuket-tours.org)

**EVENT MANAGER**

Part-time PR and event organizer required for a well-established event held in Phuket every December. Excellent English skills and a desire to learn are required. Email: [gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com](mailto:gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com)

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER REQUIRED**

Fast-growing Internet-based company is looking to hire a full time graphic designer to do the following tasks: website mock ups, logo design, book cover design and banner advertising design. We require that you speak basic English. Tel: 087-387 4771 (English & Thai). Email: [dada@phuket-tours.org](mailto:dada@phuket-tours.org)

**NEED STAFF**

Need Thai sales person for a shop in Bang Tao area – the shopping Plaza near the Dalar Resort. Good conditions. Tel: 080-717 1900 (English). Email: [iriyad@mail.ru](mailto:iriyad@mail.ru)

**WORK RECRUITER**

Construction company seeking work recruiter. Candidate should be Thai with 10 or more years experience in the construction industry. Good salary and incentives. Tel: 076-384691, 089-736 8310 (English & Thai). Email: [giannilarustica@yahoo.it](mailto:giannilarustica@yahoo.it)

**ENGINEER SUPERVISOR**

Engineer - salary 11,000 - 12,000 baht per month plus service charge - available now - shift 8am to 7pm - work 6 day shifts - skilled in electrical & plumbing systems, wood work and swimming pool - Thai national, fluent in English. Tel: 076-333222, 086-604 1333 (English). Email: [sales@ccblosshotel.com](mailto:sales@ccblosshotel.com)

**PR, OPC AND SALES POSITIONS**

PR, OPC and sales people wanted. Must speak English. Very good pay. Tel: 076-325195, 080-145 2854 (English). Email: [opc\\_simon@yahoo.com](mailto:opc_simon@yahoo.com)

**HOUSE MAID RAWAI**

To look after pool villas. For more details. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: [RawaiPoolVillas@hotmail.com](mailto:RawaiPoolVillas@hotmail.com)

**ADMIN ASSISTANT**

Limcharoen, Hughes and Glanville International Lawfirm is looking for an Administrative Assistant. Must be a Thai Female, have good organizational and secretarial skills, good command of spoken and written English, good command of Microsoft Office, strong ability to translate documents from Thai to English, work well in team environment and under deadline tasks, flexible and willing to learn new tasks. Please send CV and cover letter to above email. Email: [admin\\_phuket@limcharoen.com](mailto:admin_phuket@limcharoen.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.limchaloen.com](http://www.limchaloen.com)

**Chief Accountant (1 position)**

for Restaurant Group (4 venues), based in Kathu, Phuket

**Duties and responsibilities**

- Manage day-to-day accounting, bookkeeping
- Manage intercompany transactions (4 restaurants)
- Maintain fixed assets registration and depreciation
- All taxes, VAT, withholding tax, social security, etc...
- General ledger, P&L, Balance Sheet
- HR tasks for employees, company

**Skills & background**

- Accounting bachelor's degree or MBA
- Minimum 5 years experience as senior accountant
- Computer literate and fluent English is necessary
- Positive thinking and flexible attitude

**Position available immediately.**  
Please email resume and application letter to [jean@willsee.com](mailto:jean@willsee.com)

## SALES EXECUTIVE PMI CONSULTANT

**PHUKET BRANCH****Key Responsibilities:**

- To agree individual and team sales targets with Southern Regional Manager.
- Follow up leads from telemarketing and in house leads.
- To convert leads to sale in accordance with Thai insurance sales legislation and in accordance with the company's rules.
- Ensure that all-sales activity and sales are recorded on the prospect database.
- Liaise with Assistant Branch Manager about the process with the policy administration, underwriting and accounts departments to ensure that all applications and payments are processed correctly before the policy is issued.
- Produce daily and weekly team sales reports.
- To carry out any other duties which may be required from time to time.

**Key Requirements:**

- Bachelor's degree with at least 3 years experience on sales.
- Able to use Microsoft office and databases.
- On-track behavior and Can Do attitude.
- Well organized and good interpersonal skills.
- Passionate about people, customer and result.
- Good command of English.

**The Human Resources Manager,  
Bupa Health Insurance (Thailand) Ltd.**  
38 Q House Convent Building, 9th Floor,  
Convent road, Silom, Bangkok, Bangkok 10500  
Tel: 02-234 7755 Ext. 508, 715  
[www.bupa.co.th](http://www.bupa.co.th), Email: [hr@bupa.co.th](mailto:hr@bupa.co.th)





## HOTEL GROUP IN PHUKET WHICH HAS TWO FOUR STAR RESORTS, ONE IN PATONG AND ONE IN KARON HAS THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO CEO / GENERAL MANAGER

- Prior experience and good English language skills essential
- Salary 30,000 to 40,000 baht \*\* Plus service charge

### ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO CEO / GENERAL MANAGER

- Good English language skills essential
- Salary 20,000 to 30,000 baht \*\* Plus service charge

### SALES MANAGER ( THAILAND )

- Prior experience and good English language skill essential
- Salary 30,000 to 40,000 baht \*\* Plus service charge

### ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER ( THAILAND )

- Prior experience and good English language skills essential
- Salary 20,000 to 30,000 baht \*\* Plus service charge

### REVENUE MANAGER

- Prior experience and good English language skills essential
- Salary negotiable based on experience

Single accommodation will be provided for suitable candidate.

\*\*\*If you are confident, please send your full details with recent photograph to  
Email: [jps@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:jps@loxinfo.co.th)



### Anantara Si Kao Resort & Spa, Trang

If you enjoy being the best, delivering the highest of standards and are a technical expert in your area then you may want to come and be part of the Anantara Story.....We are looking for the following professionals to join us.

#### Front Office

- Assistant FO Manager
- Guest Relations Supervisor
- Senior GRA / Shift Leader x 2
- Guest Relations Attendant x 2
- Bell Man

#### Food & Beverage

- Beverage/Bar Manager
- F&B Supervisor x 2
- Bar Supervisor x 3
- Bartender x 3
- F&B Service Attendant x 5

#### Kitchen

- Sous Chef (Western)
- Chef De Partie (Western)
- Chef De Partie (Bakery)
- Commis II x 7
- Commis III (Western) x 3
- Commis III (Thai Kitchen) x 4
- Steward x 7

#### Human Resources

- Training Manager

#### Housekeeping

- Assistant Executive Housekeeper
- Housekeeping Supervisor x 2

#### Engineering

- Assistant Chief Engineer
- Engineering Supervisor

#### Diversion

- Diversion Supervisor
- Diversion Attendant - Sport x 2
- Diversion Attendant - Kid Club
- Diversion Attendant - Excursion

#### Accounting

- Income Auditor

#### Spa

- Spa Supervisor
- Spa Therapist

We enjoy a 5.5 day work week (average 44 hours per week), free Accommodation and free van to Trang Town 2 times a week.

As part of our recruitment process you will be assessed on your level of English - this is a key skill for all of our team.

Please email your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying to  
[recruit\\_sikao@anantara.com](mailto:recruit_sikao@anantara.com)

Contact Human Resources Department, Anantara Si Kao Resort & Spa  
Phone + 66 (0) 75 205888 | Fax + 66 (0) 75 205899

Good Luck with your application!

## Phuket Gazette

As part of its continued expansion, the Phuket Gazette seeks two advertising sales representatives.

### Advertising Sales

- Thai, age at least 26, with an outgoing personality
- Bachelor's degree in marketing or related fields
- Experience in sales and marketing
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Must have own transportation and driver's license
- Alert, self motivated and goal driven

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to [Anna@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Anna@PhuketGazette.Net)

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

### NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Female Caucasian to teach class of 10-12 students aged 3 to 5 years. In Chaleng. Mon-Fri between 8am to 4pm. Can start immediately. Tel: 080-624 7060. Or send email to: [phuketpreschool@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketpreschool@yahoo.com)

### TIMESHARE SALES & MARKETING

Our new project is opening in Patong very soon. It's a well-funded, secure, and great product with a great location. We're looking for admin, sales and marketing people who want to work in a positive, progressive and professional work culture. If you have experience that's a plus, but not a pre-requisite. This is an amazing opportunity to join a world-class team. Tel: 083-105 5001 (English). Email: [pypconnect@gmail.com](mailto:pypconnect@gmail.com)

### ESL SUMMER CAMP TEACHERS

Wanted. British International School requires additional English Summer Camp teachers for July. Degree & TEFL qualification required. Contract from July 3 to 30 with boarding duties. Excellent salary. Tel: 076-238711. Please submit your resume to [ppreez@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:ppreez@bisphuket.ac.th) or [cespouy@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:cespouy@bisphuket.ac.th)

### MAID AND GARDENER (THAI)

Wanted, with hotel experience for farang-owned house in Rawai. For more info. Tel: 081-797 7898.

### WANTED FEMALE HEADCHEF

New restaurant looking for chef experienced in cooking Thai food, grill-bbq and pasta. Tel: 089-045 7847 (English). Email: [jonathan@urbanfood.biz](mailto:jonathan@urbanfood.biz)

### TEACHER WANTED

Charlempakiatsomdet-prasinakarin School Phuket is looking for a native English speaker to teach computer and English classes. Please email a cover letter and CV to [swpk\\_mlp@yahoo.com](mailto:swpk_mlp@yahoo.com) Contact Clarke for more details at tel: 084-446 3049.

### LOOKING FOR NANNY

Thai family is seeking a nanny who can speak Chinese to our kids. Full or part time. Live out. Good salary. Tel: 089-159 3239.

### STAFF NEEDED

One maid for cleaning and one motorbike mechanic/repairman. Experience needed. Tel: 083-634 5772 (English & Thai). Email: [info@husiphuket.se](mailto:info@husiphuket.se)

### STAFF NEEDED

Thai staff needed for a smaller hotel (20 rooms) in Patong for work in Reception and Bar. Good salary. Tel: 076-349655, 085-691 7196 (English), 088-444 7840 (English & Thai). Email: [kim\\_partanen@hotmail.com](mailto:kim_partanen@hotmail.com)

### LOOKING FOR LAWYER

Paralegal and accountant work. Requirements: fluent in English, both written and spoken; good attitude; ability to work well under pressure. Tel: 081-893 3212, 081-968 0230. Email: [Rodriguez.l@scp-lawassistance.com](mailto:Rodriguez.l@scp-lawassistance.com)

### TEACHER NEEDED

Female caucasian teachers needed to teach children age 3-5 years old. Tel: 084-847 0732 (English). Email: [Info@smiley-kidz.com](mailto:Info@smiley-kidz.com)

### SALES CONSULTANTS REQUIRED

Club Asia Fitness requires Sales Consultants. Thai national - English speaking an advantage. Earn 20,000 baht ++. Tel: 076-354027, 087-275 3614 (English). Email: [info@clubasiaphuket.com](mailto:info@clubasiaphuket.com) Website: [www.clubasia.phuket.com](http://www.clubasia.phuket.com)

### TEACHERS NEEDED

Earth Language Training Centre requires native English speakers with teaching experience. Tel: 076-232398. Email: [siripanyaschool@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:siripanyaschool@yahoo.co.uk)

### WEB DESIGNER

Experienced web designer required in Ao Nang, Krabi. Thai national only. Tel: 081-077 5698. Please send email to: [rbysouth@hotmail.com](mailto:rbysouth@hotmail.com)

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Thai National Office Administrator required. Excellent written and spoken English, smart appearance, good organizational skills are essential. Tel: 082-277 9490.

### VIDEO PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Travel video production assistants wanted by Internet Travel TV station based on Phuket. Open training opportunities for beginners with knowledge of Photoshop or basic video cutting software. Flexible working hours and a good learning attitude is important for the internet multimedia work. Tel: 082-323 9315 (English), 082-784 7271 (Thai). Email: [andre@web62.com](mailto:andre@web62.com) Website at [www.web62.com](http://www.web62.com)



DESIGNED BY WOULFE  
BESPOKE INTERIOR DESIGN

We are looking for candidates for the following roles

- Architect
- Interior Designer/Interior Architect
- Secretary/Admin

- Monday-Friday, based in Phuket
- Salary based on experience
- Good written and spoken English required
- Able to work in a team
- Fluent use of Microsoft Office
- Autocad, 3D Max and Sketch-Up are an advantage

Interested candidates should submit their resume in English and salary expectations to [hr@designedbywoulfe.com](mailto:hr@designedbywoulfe.com)

Looking for a job?  
Looking for a better candidate?  
Find more Recruitment Classifieds  
at [www.PhuketGazette.Net!](http://www.PhuketGazette.Net!)



Articles  
For SaleSWEDISH CANDY SALE  
LAST DAY

Stock clearance. Gott & Blandat, Bilar, Djungelvrål, Snoren, etc. Tel: 076-246427, 087-2746602 (English), 085-885 6798. Fax: 076-246180. Email: info@scansnax.nu For further details, please see our website at www.scansnax.nu

## JACUZZI FOR SALE

Mobile spa in good condition, used only for 1 year. Price: 70,000 baht. Tel: 081-667 1637 (English & Thai).

EQUIPMENT  
FOR SALE 2

30 glass shelves, brackets, scrub, bed, cashier table, nail table, 2 massage chairs, auto machine, electric paraffin machine, many other items for massage and beauty parlor. Tel: 086-281 8883.

## PEPPER SPRAY

Large (60g) 600 baht. Lipstick size 400 baht. Tel: 089-896 5600. Email: enquiry@saenyim.com

## IPAD1 WIFI 32GB

Good condition. Only 10,000 baht. Tel: 087-026 1362. Email: chumapkt@gmail.com

MOVING! ITEMS  
FOR SALE

- Electrolux coffee machine, auto-drip coffee (includes filters): 500 baht  
- Hanabashi electric stovetop cooker: 500 baht  
- Royal Phuket Marina Health Club one month membership: 6,000 baht value, open to any offers!  
Tel: 082-804 5506. Email: brettssouth@gmail.com

WASHING MACHINE  
2,000 BAHT

Washing machine: 5kg, front loader, hot water, 6 years old, for 2,000 baht. It works. Call me from 1pm to 6pm. You can see it in Phuket Town and I have pickup for delivery. Tel: 083-525 8914 (English & Thai). Email: adihousedj@hotmail.com

## EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Stainless-steel water filter, 35 liters. Nano 750-liter water tank. Samsung security system with 4 cameras. 22-inch monitor, 24-inch Sanyo TV, 3.1 clinch fridge and many other items. Tel: 086-281 8883.

## CAKE MIXER

Tomex TM-951 cake mixer with dough hooks. Converts to hand held for mixing sauces or drinks. Two high-quality cake pans (heart shaped). 1,950 baht. Tel: 089-896 5600. Email: enquiry@aenyim.com

Bar &  
Restaurant  
Equipment

## CAFE SHOP ITEMS

For sale. Tables, chairs, counter, meat slicer machine, Thai cooking gas stove, working table, glasses. Contact for details. Email: maxi-phuket@hotmail.com

## Bulletins

## SKIPPERS PUB QUIZ

At Royal Phuket Marina. Last Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm. Happy hour and prizes. Tel: 076-360890-3.

## ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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 17 PM

Green Man Restaurant - Chalong  
Tue 1 PM

Stereo Lab Restaurant - Surin Beachfront  
Mon and Thur 9:30 AM

Scandinavian Meeting - Karon  
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April)  
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

## SPONSOR 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

Business  
OpportunitiesBIG BILL AND IRA  
LOOKING FOR

Former RockHard managers looking for partner in new food venture. Tel: 081-086 2772 (English). Email: bigbillsdeli@gmail.com

## BAR IN BANGLA

Urgent! Big bar for sale under Seduction Disco. Price: 1.6 million baht, payable over 2 years. Tel: 083-391 2695 (English & Thai). Email: holgione2004@yahoo.de

## PATONG BEACH BAR

Apple bar is located on the beach side of the beach road in Patong. Big long bar, great location. Price: 900,000 baht. Tel: 088-178 4759. Email: iankershaw57@yahoo.com

GUESTHOUSE-BAR-  
RESTUARANT

Good location in thaina Rd. 5 minutes to beach. All AC/TV/WIFI. 10 rooms. Newly renovated for takeover. Leaving because of illness. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-387 0677 (English). Email: erccbuchanan@msn.com

## BAR FOR SALE

Under boxing stadium. Fully furnished; fridge, TV and staff included. A good investment. Email: fasa6075@hotmail.fr

## BAR BANGLA ROAD

Soi Gonzo. Top Ten. Rent at 8,700 baht per month. 3 years + 1 month. 1.6 million baht. Tel: 089-875 8187 (English). Email: topbergren@hotmail.com

MASSAGE SHOP  
FOR SALE

6 beds, 3 chairs. In Kata. Available for viewing. Tel: 082-646 1698.

RAWAI/POOL  
GUESTHOUSE

5-year lease. 1.4 million baht or 480,000 baht yearly rent. 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, furnished, with WiFi, cable TV, 5 motos. 300 meters from beach. No key money. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

INVESTMENT  
OPPORTUNITY

15-room boutique hotel, within 5 minutes walking distance of Patong Beach and Jungceylon shopping mall. On a 9-year lease. Owner is relocating. Price: 3.5 million baht. Tel: +97-150-244 2441. Email: aahmed244@gmail.com

MINI MART  
FOR SALE

At Royal Phuket Marina. 50sqm. 3-year lease. 1.5 million baht. Email: business@worrall.info

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT  
FOR RENT

On the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket Town. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

16 ROOMS PLUS 3  
SHOPS

Lease one of the best money-making guest houses in Patong. Great location, with 16 rooms and 3 shops. Pay only 70,000 baht rent per month. Call today. Tel: 076-345238, 084-078 2753 (English & Thai). Email: info.realprophuket.com Website at http://www.realprorealestatephuket.com

## BAR/RESTAURANT

145sqm, large kitchen and storage room, air conditioned living quarters & large toilet/shower, fully decked out bar including stock, 42" plasma TV, coffee machine, speakers & amp, licensed 24/7 and security, 4-year contract. Price: 2 million baht inclusive of key money. Contact Jen. Thai & English speaking. Tel: 083-690 9921 (English & Thai). Email: fr.jen@hotmail.com

PHARMACY FOR  
SALE

This is a new pharmacy in Phuket Town, very good location near Nai Inn Book Store on Phuket Road. Fully furnished with aircon and built-in shelves Tel: 089-866 2310, 086-509 2673 (English & Thai). Email: ounesuna@hotmail.com

PATONG GUESTHOUSE  
WITH LIFT

16 rooms, lift, restaurant area and kitchen. Key money is only 1.7 million baht. Contact Gonsasi. Tel: 089-648 1739 (English & Thai). Email: annyouchou@hotmail.com

## Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

## CHALONG

- Julapan Stationery (Chao Fa East Rd) Tel: 076-282254
- KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282403

## PATONG

- Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

## PHUKET CITY

- Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369

## CHERNG TALAY

- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (main entrance road to Laguna Phuket) Tel: 076-324313
- Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

## RAWAI

- The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

## KARON

- EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

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

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd  
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

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### SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

#### Crossword puzzle:

1	T	O	N	E	5	E	A	S	T	9	10	D	R	O	P	13
14	A	R	A	L	15	U	N	H	I	P	16	E	O	N	S	
17	R	E	P	A	T	R	I	A	T	E	19	M	A	M	A	
20	P	L	A	T	E	21	L	E	V	E	R	E	T			
23	E	R	A	24	M	E	D	E	A							
26	S	A	S	28	L	A	O	S	31	I	N	L	A	Y		
35	A	P	T	36	B	E	R	M	37	S	L	O	A	N	E	
38	M	A	R	C	O	N	I	40	T	H	E	R	M	O	S	
41	O	R	I	O	L	E	42	T	O	A	D	43	A	D	E	
44	S	T	A	L	E	45	G	A	O	L	46	T	R	E	S	
47	D	R	O	I	T	48	T	E	A							
51	P	E	R	F	O	R	M	54	O	R	O	N	O			
58	A	L	E	E	59	A	L	T	O	G	E	T	H	E	R	
63	R	I	M	E	64	T	E	H	E	E	65	A	N	A	T	
66	A	S	I	T	67	E	T	U	D	E	68	R	O	T	S	

#### Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:

- Sweden
- Pigs
- Wedge
- Olive Oil
- Judas Priest
- Robin and the 7 Hoods
- White
- Argentina, Buenos Aires
- Pay Income Tax
- Anne Robinson
- 42
- John Cleese
- Knight
- Elton John
- Real Madrid



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## EUROFOX 'HS-FOX'



COM Becker; Transponder C Becker; GPS Moving Map; Intercom 2 seats; Electric Attitude Indicator; Electric Heading Indicator. Engine: Rotax 912S, 80 hrs. Airframe: 80 hrs. Exterior: new aircraft; Interior: new aircraft. For sale at 1.9 million baht. Email: fly@nokaviation.com

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## Sport

# FC Phuket double cup win

By Neil Quail and Michael Des Portes

**ASPECTACULAR** thirty-five yard strike from the trusted right foot of Sarach Yooyen last Saturday was enough to advance FC Phuket in to the second round of Toyota League Cup.

Thanyaburi Rose Asia United FC hosted Phuket at their ground in Pathum Thani aware that their visitors had not won away all season nor kept a clean sheet since their 4-0 home win over Chiang Mai FC on April 17.

But confidence was high in the Phuket camp having beaten Bangkok Christian College FC (BCC) 7-3 on the previous Wednesday at Surakul Stadium. Thanyaburi languish in tenth within the same AIS Bangkok Regional Metro League as BCC, a division below the Thai Premier League (Division One) in which Phuket play.

On nine minutes, the visitors were awarded a free-kick from a seemingly harmless position in the middle of the park, thirty five yards out. Sarach Yooyen clearly knew his range as he confidently stroked the ball, and watched as it swung then dipped under the crossbar, away from the despairing dive of Thanyaburi's goalkeeper Aekbadin Nobnom.

The home side had a good opportunity in the 16<sup>th</sup> minute as Wacharin Phosa-aad aimed for Kim Bohna unmarked in the pen-



**BABY BOOM:** A young supporter drums up support. Photos: Apinun Saithong

alty area, but Leuchar intercepted.

In the 44<sup>th</sup> minute, Niwes Phetjumrat pulled the ball back to Paulo Renato positioned near the penalty spot. Aekbadin got down well to save the point-blank shot and Thanyaburi went in at half-time only a goal down.

Four minutes after the restart, Thanyaburi came tantalizingly close to scoring an equalizer. Wacharin passed to Bonha whose 25-yard missile left Leuchar standing, but his effort rebounded off the left upright, out of harm's way.

The following 30 minutes saw chances for both teams go astray. It would take something special to outclass Sarach's first half goal, but outclassed it was by a save from Aekbadin on 75 minutes.

One of the greatest saves ever witnessed on the world stage came

at the 1970 World Cup in Mexico when holders England faced Brazil. Ten minutes into the game Jairzinho crossed from the right for Pele to head down and away from England's goalkeeper Gordon Banks. Incredibly, Banks got his hand underneath the ball to deflect it up and over the bar.

Instead of Jairzinho, it was Phuket's Sarach and in place of Pele stood Adama. Banks was wonderfully played by Thanyaburi's Aekbadin. The only difference was that Sarach delivered from the left.

Aekbadin took the praise from his teammates as Adama walked away, hands clasped over his head in disbelief.

Extra-time beckoned on 84 minutes when Wacharin pulled the trigger from 35 yards. Leuchar spilled the save into the path of



**BRAZILLIANT:** Phuket's South American import Paulo Renato.

Bonha, but the keeper reacted quickly to smother the follow-up.

Phuket's coach Sompong Wattana now with three wins from three games said before the game that he was not daunted by the away fixture, but his post-match comments offered an element of humility.

"The physical condition of our players in today's heat prevented us from playing to our full poten-

tial. We were lucky to score the winning goal," he said.

Phuket resume league duties on Saturday, June 25 when they face Songkhla FC at Surakul Stadium.

The "Hulks" will need to be in fine fettle when their team locks horns with the "Fighting Bulls" as Songkhla's support has seen the best average match attendance in the league to date. Kickoff is at 6pm.

## Christians thrown to the lions at Surakul stadium

**KONE** Adama tormented Bangkok Christian College Football Club (BCC) with a fantastic four goals in Wednesday's Thailand FA Cup second round at Surakul Stadium.

The inquisition began 13 minutes into the match when Adama's run forced three defenders to retreat and a premature movement from the BCC goalkeeper opened a route to the net for him to slot the ball home.

Minutes later, Adama's pass from the BCC end-line rebounded

off a defender, but he reacted quickly and his second attempt found Seksit Srisai in support who volleyed home for Phuket's second goal.

BCC offered some spirited resistance in the 36<sup>th</sup> minute when Narakhorn Khana latched on to a beautifully weighted through-ball and his faultless chip over the advancing Leuchar opened BCC's account.

Nene Bi Tre Sylvestre added Phuket's third goal with a header

from a 44<sup>th</sup> minute corner, leaving the score at 3-1 going into the break.

A wild ricochet off Phuket's Wiratoj Janteng from a Narakhorn shot in the 54<sup>th</sup> minute sent Phuket's goalkeeper Leuchar in the wrong direction, but reduced the deficit for BCC.

Phuket kept their ruthless stranglehold on the game with another Adama goal in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute and Seksit added his second in the 64<sup>th</sup> minute, pushing the scoreline to 5-2.



**DIVINE RIGHT:** Phuket's Sarach Yooyen against Bangkok Christians.

Adama's hat-trick came in the 73<sup>rd</sup> minute with an easy tap-in and then hammered home his fourth on 79 minutes, boosting

Phuket's tally to seven goals.

Kiratikorn Nilama scored a consolation penalty for the visitors in the dying seconds of the game.

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## Sport

# Pro-Am chips in for local charity

By Neil Quail

PHUKET golf aficionados enjoyed a phenomenal weekend with the US Open and Phuket Property Dot Com Pro-Am Invitational presenting new champions.

Held at the award-winning Laguna Phuket Golf Club, more than 20 professionals and 70 amateurs competed for several honors in challenging playing conditions due to gusting winds, albeit in lustrous sunshine.

The overall team stableford competition was a close affair with only three points separating the top three places.

Lee Westwood was quoted last week as saying "they don't give out trophies on Friday or Saturday." Well, they do in Phuket, Lee. On Friday night at the gala dinner held at the B-Lay Tong Resort, Gerry Norquist and his team received their trophy and 2011 Phuket Property Dot Com Pro-Am Invitational title.

Gerry is an American-born pro and current head coach of the Thailand National Golf Team. His



THAILAND PRO: Chayuda Singsawan

coaching skills were instrumental in his team's consistent play over 18 holes to post a score of 90 points.

Andy Leadbetter, son of legendary golf teaching professional David Leadbetter, and his team turned in a good performance, but had to make do with 88 points and second place.

Third position was won by Blake Ellison and his team with a total of 87 points. Blake also recorded the best gross score for a local pro.

Addy Brehm recorded the women's lowest-net score with 66 while Danny Brown scored 76, the lowest gross overall score for an amateur.

Rory McIlroy might be pleased to hear his namesake Rory (Byrne) scored 69 to earn the mens lowest-net honor.

Professionals from the Asian Tour and OneAsia Tour gave their time to this event, not just to enjoy the sport, but to give a little something back.

Pros came from around the world, even rescheduling UK dates to be at the Pro-Am, and amateurs came from around Thailand and the South East Asian region.

"The turnout was fantastic. So many Pros gave up their time to take part in the charity Pro-Am, and there was great support from the amateur golfers, which together made the whole event a huge success. We're really pleased how this, the second Phuket Property Dot Com Pro-Am Invitational went, and everybody's efforts are appreciated," said Peter Bolton, Co-Founder of Phuket Property



SWING IF YOU'RE WINNING: US-born professional golfer Gerry Norquist en route to claiming the 2011 overall team title. Photos Christian Mouchet

Dot Com, the Title Sponsor of the event.

A highlight this year was the huge prize purse, totaling five million baht. A Sessa 19 Key Largo boat, courtesy of Max-Marine Asia and a Mini Cooper S, courtesy of Auto Express were up for grabs for a hole-in-one. One hundred and

eighty shots peppered the par three greens, but sadly there were winners.

Organizers announced at the gala dinner that over 1mn baht had been raised to support English language programs for Thai children offered by the Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation.

## Victron race six and RYA courses

COMPETITORS in the Victron Energy Series organized by Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) endured searing sun and wild winds in a challenging race six on June 19.

Four boats broke from the fleet of seven and reached for the lead position after the noon start. *Minx*, with Kevin Gillow and Mick Kealy onboard crossed first at the pin-end of the line with *Ni a*, skippered by Grenville Fordham, in close pursuit.

*Linda*, skippered by Jack Christensen, and *Chetak*, skippered by Jim Kane, were being tailed by Roger Kingdon's *Moto Inzi*, while *Silk Purse*, skippered by Merv Owen, soon fell away. *Moya Hin*, skippered by Peter Jones was sailing without battens in the main and brought up the rear of the field.

*Moto Inzi* soon found her line and raced ahead taking line honors and victory in the Multihull class. However, the win was not without cost. The Firefly's prow broke under spinnaker on the leg from Koh Bon to the finish, and later engine failure meant a tricky and nerve-racking sail through the anchorage to pick up the mooring.

*Linda* took first in Racing class with *Minx* and *Moya Hin* finishing second and third respectively.

### ACYC News:

ACYC is now an officially recognized RYA (Royal Yachting Association) Shore Based Training Center and will be running theory courses at the club in Chalong.

Courses are open to members and non-members and apply equally to sailboats and powerboats. Being shore-based, the courses are invaluable to people who have their own powerboat, but have never received any formal navigation and safety training.

There are currently three courses being offered:

Essential Navigation and Seamanship July 2 - 3 (2 days) and August 6 - 7 (2 days).

Day Skipper (Theory) July 10 - 14 (5 days).

Coastal Skipper /Yachtmaster Offshore (Theory) August 15 - 20 (6 days).

For more information email: [courses@acyc-phuket.com](mailto:courses@acyc-phuket.com)

*Ni a* placed second behind *Moto Inzi* in Multihull. *Silk Purse* had retired early from the race fearing breakage in the harsh conditions. *Chetak*, being the sole vessel in Cruising, placed first.

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# Cricket bowled over by mystery donation

By Neil Quail

PHUKET'S cricket fraternity got a "two-for" this month with the announcement that an anonymous benefactor had donated one million baht to help develop the new Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) in Thalang.

Members of the Phuket Cricket Group (PCG) were delighted with the news, but are completely stumped as to who their mystery supporter could be.

One man who does know the identity of the donor is of course Mr Alan Cooke MBE.

"I was tapped on the shoulder one evening while out with friends and our new benefactor suggested that the ACG was an undertaking too much for one man, and offered financial assistance. That is as much as I will say on the matter," a smiling Mr Cooke told the *Gazette*.

"PCG members are giving their time, knowledge and expertise, and at no cost. This becomes a significant multiplier in terms of the benefit that can be derived from the donation," Mr Cooke added.

ACG facilities will primarily focus on cricket, but with the help of this contribution, other facets such as squash courts and a swimming pool can now be immedi-



**QUICK DELIVERY:** PCG received a new ground and a 1mn baht donation in one month.

ately considered, which will benefit the community and help bolster Phuket as one of the region's finest sports destinations.

# Smashing tennis



**HOLDING COURT:** Peter Komposch with the doubles general category winners.

DUSIT Thani Laguna Phuket served up its ninth annual tennis doubles tournament to resounding applause from organizers and participants.

The general category was won by Chatri Mahudthanadol and his tennis partner Kornkrit Chatwongwiwat with a final score of 8 games to 2.

The hotel category was won by Venice Sighakarn and Suwit Kuruwong (tennis pro at the Amanphuri Resort, Phuket), securing the title by 8 games to 4.

General Manager of Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, Peter Komposch offered

his congratulations to players and officials at the presentation ceremony.

"I am very proud of all the players. Sport is not just about winning, but what you learn and all the great moments shared together.

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our recreations team who made it happen," said Peter.

Proceeds from the tournament go towards buying essential items for students affected by recent flooding in neighboring Krabi province.

– Neil Quail

# Sambo boys wrestle Russian martial arts

FIVE Sambo practitioners from Phuket travelled to Vladivostok in Russia recently to participate in the second 2011 Sambo World Cup ranking tournament held in Vladivostok from June 12 to 13.

The first tournament was held at Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and the third will be held in Kazakhstan. Moscow will stage the final tournament later this year.

Sambo is a combat sport which originated in Russia around 90 years ago. Implemented by the Soviet Red Army to improve hand-to-hand fighting abilities, the sport is influenced by karate, judo and wrestling. Some 34 countries now compete for its world championship.

Coach Chone who participated in the 2009 Sambo World Cup and finished as fourth runner-up said "Though most ended their run in

the last-16 round I was very pleased with everyone's performances. We did very well, and as a result the Korean Sambo Federation invited us to participate at the Sambo Asian Championship to be held in Seoul this December.

Thapanapong Renunuan was the most successful Phuket Sambist by qualifying for the last-eight round.

The five Phuket Sambists who travelled were: Trong Jirakamolstutthikul, 17, Phuket Technical College; Tharadon Singthongyam, 16, Chalermprakiat School; Teerasak Phothonghkhamphan, 23, Prince of Songkla University; Thapanapong Renunuan, 19, Srinakarindravirot University and Chone Changkol, 32, Judo and Sambo coach in Phuket.

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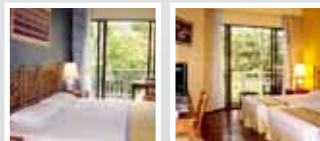
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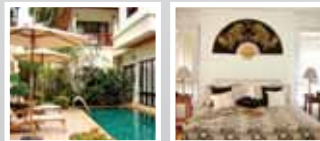
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