

# Phuket Gazette

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Tourists and residents evacuate Patong for the second time in two weeks after a 4.3 Richter quake struck in Thalang on Wednesday. Photo: Sampawat Wannasangkam

## Tremors could continue for a month: expert

A SERIES of small earthquakes starting on Monday has put Phuket in the global seismologic spotlight – and the unusual subterranean activity could continue for a month before the situation returns to normal, experts say.

The unprecedented earthquake activity in Phuket got underway at 4:44pm on Monday, when a 4.3-Richter tremor centered in Srisoonthorn District was felt all over the island. At the time of going to press, 13 much smaller tremors had been recorded by the Thai Meteorological Center.

Many of the tremors have followed much larger quakes off the North coast of Sumatra, leading seismologists to believe that the stability along the Klong Marui fault zone that runs northeast near Phuket has been affected in the short term.

# Disaster insurance makes a comeback

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

INSURANCE coverage for homes and businesses damaged by natural disasters, including floods, storms, landslides, earthquakes and even tumbling boulders is now available in Thailand again following the government's creation of the National Catastrophe Insurance Fund (NCIF).

The fund, launched on March 28 with a government budget of 5 billion baht, offers coverage through a unified National Disaster Insurance Policy recognized by 54 registered insurance companies operating in the country.

"The insurance companies will now cover floods, geological disasters and storm damage," Phuket Provincial Office of Insurance Commission Chief Suwimon Saelim told the *Gazette* this week.

The government's move to create the fund comes in the wake of the devastating floods in October last year, after which all insurance companies in Thailand stopped issuing insurance policies to cover natural disasters.

"All insurance companies operating in Thailand are underwritten



A resident in Kamala keeps an eye on a landslide that pummeled his house following heavy rains in September last year. Photo: Royal Thai Army

by larger international insurance companies, and after the floods last year those insurance companies abroad lost confidence in offering insurance policies for natural disasters.

"The premiums were simply far too high for anyone to want to

take out a policy, so they stopped offering them," Ms Suwimon explained.

"This is why the government along with the private sector have developed the National Catastrophe Insurance Fund," said Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on

March 28, the day plans were made available to the public.

The NCIF policies now available are the only policies in Thailand that offer insurance coverage against natural disasters, said Ms Suwimon.

However, the new policies are limited and come with a slew of preconditions that must be met before insurance companies will be obliged to pay out, she added.

The insurance coverage now available was being offered through "sublimit" policies, which set a maximum payout for claims made, she explained.

Homeowners covered under the scheme have only one policy available covering up to 100,000 baht damage at a cost of 500 baht a year, Ms Suwimon said.

Depending on the insurance company involved, small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can take out multiple packages of up to 50 million baht at an annual premium of one per cent of their policy coverage.

"However, right now it seems insurance companies are willing to offer businesses full coverage for

*Continued on page 3*

## Reverse-osmosis plant planned for Patong

PATONG Municipality has announced a plan to build a 300-million-baht reverse-osmosis (RO) water treatment plant to increase municipal water supply and cut down on the volume of wastewater released into Patong Bay.

Although still in the initial study stages, a decision to provide Bangkok-based firm ITR Water Solution Co Ltd with 800sqm of municipal land to construct the plant was agreed to at the last Patong Municipality budget meeting held on April 5.

The land, behind the existing wastewater treatment plant on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road, will be consigned to ITR under the terms of a 30-year "build-operate-transfer" agreement if the project gains final approval.

The land, as well as the plant, would revert back to municipal ownership after the 30-year agreement expires.

The plant would treat wastewater to the same quality standards as that supplied by the Provincial Water Authority (PWA). The company would then sell the treated water

to the municipality at an agreed rate, one lower than that charged by the PWA.

Mayor Pian said the project was a "win-win" proposal because the plant would increase municipal supplies while reducing the amount of wastewater discharging into Patong Bay.

Citing Interior Ministry regulations issued in 2000, he said the municipality was authorized to approve such a "public benefit" project without an open bidding process.

– *Atchaa Khamlo and Stephen Fein*

## Sultan of speed



Ironman World Champion Faris al-Sultan aims past the finish line. See exclusive story on page 47.

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# Amway China reps to deliver B2.5bn boost

THE Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) expects the 18,000 Amway sales representatives arriving from China to spend up to 2.5 billion baht during their month-long stay on Phuket.

Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak, together with Director Bangonrat Shinaprayoon of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket Office, welcomed and gave flowers to the first group of arriving Amway delegates at Phuket International Airport last Sunday.

The Amway seminars will be held daily and will continue until May 14. Overall, the seminars will be attended by 18,000 Amway delegates, with 500 arriving in Phuket daily, said an Amway China representative.

"It is such an honor that Amway has chosen Phuket for the seminar and we welcome those Amway representatives. We have been preparing for three months to welcome the group in respect to both accommodation and security arrangements," V/Gov Somkiet said.

"This is one of the biggest groups in the world so we have also arranged to assist them with



The carpet may not have been red but the treatment for the arriving Amway staff was. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

traffic control [when traveling around the island]," he added.

"The Laguna Group and Phuket FantaSea are hosting them for accommodation, seminar halls and other activities. I hope the group are impressed with our hospitality," V/Gov Somkiet said.

TAT Phuket office Director Bangonrat said, "China is our main tourism target as there are more than 340,000 Chinese tourists

coming to Phuket every year. So it is good that we have had a chance to welcome the Amway group."

"Phuket will be stepping to a bigger tourist attraction market by including business seminars. The Amway seminars, bolstered by Amway representatives' spending could possibly earn Phuket 2.5bn baht," she added.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Songkran road toll: 3 dead, 43 injured

THE "Seven Days of Danger" Songkran road-safety campaign ended in Phuket on Wednesday with no road fatalities over the final four days, resulting in a final tally of three dead and 43 injured in 44 reported accidents.

The most dangerous day during the campaign was April 13, when two people died and 10 others were injured in 11 reported accidents. Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> marked the arrival of the Thai New Year, when Thais celebrated in the streets by dousing passers-by with water and, in many cases, drinking heavily.

At police checkpoints set up around the island from April 11 to 17, a total of 38,316 vehicles were stopped for inspections, with 3,146 people arrested or fined.

The most common infraction



More than 1,000 motorbike riders were fined for not wearing a helmet. Photo: Dean Noble

was failure to produce a driver's license (1,441 people charged), followed by: failure to wear a crash helmet while riding a motorbike (1,179), failure to wear a seat belt while in the front seat of a car (349), operating an unroadworthy vehicle (115), drunk driving (24),

using a mobile phone while operating a vehicle (16), failure to observe traffic signals (15), driving on the wrong side of the road (4), and dangerous overtaking (3).

No drivers were arrested or fined for speeding in Phuket over the seven-day period.

Of the 43 injured, 67% were males and more than 95% were on motorbikes.

Drunk driving was designated as the most common cause of accidents (43.1%), followed by dangerous overtaking (15.7%), poor visibility (15.7%) and a variety of other factors.

Last year during the Songkran "Seven Days of Danger" campaign seven people died and 52 suffered serious injuries in 43 reported accidents.

— Stephen Fein

## Dane dies of head injury after tsunami evacuation

A DANISH tourist injured during the evacuation of Patong Beach on April 11 was found dead in his hotel room on Monday afternoon.

Arriving at the scene with Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation workers, officers from Kathu Police found the body of Jens Hooe, 46, lying on the floor beside the bed in his second-storey room of a resort hotel on 50 Pi Road in Patong.

Police estimated the time of death at five days previous to the body's discovery by resort-worker Sommit Suka, 38.

Ms Sommit said Mr Hooe returned to the hotel bleeding heavily from a head wound on April 11

after he crashed his motorbike on Phra Barami Road during the tsunami evacuation of Patong.

She told the *Gazette* that she advised Mr Hooe to go to Patong Hospital for medical treatment, but he appeared drunk at the time and refused. Instead, he went into his room and shut the door.

When she opened the door to check on him as a second unofficial evacuation was underway following Monday's tremors, she found his body on the floor.

There were no signs of foul play in the room and none of Mr Hooe's valuables were missing, police said.

— Wichai Witthawat



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## Khao Lak hotels hit by tsunami scare cancellations

THE tsunami alert on April 11 resulted in about 20 per cent of Thai tourists cancelling their hotel reservations in Phang Nga for the Songkran holidays out of fear of another tsunami hitting the Andaman coast, local tourism industry figures claim.

Phang Nga Tourist Association (PNTA) Vice President Prapruet Korphet told a PNTA committee meeting on April 13 that the tsunami warning sirens were not loud or clear enough, and they only added to tourists' confusion.

"Because of the earthquake on April 11, some 20 per cent of Thai tourists canceled their room reservations," Mr Prapruet said.

"The problem was that the warning was broadcast in five languages and it wasn't loud or clear enough. Tourists had difficulty understanding it," he said.

Mr Prapruet called for an immediate upgrade to the towers, and insisted that evacuation drills be held every year so hotel staff would be well-prepared for such instances and be able to reassure tourists in their care.

However, Mr Prapruet said that foreign tourists continued to visit tourist attractions in Phang Nga as usual.

# Residents seek assistance for earthquake damage

By Atchaa Khamlo

MUNICIPAL engineers on Tuesday visited homes in Baan Bangkham in Thalang to survey the damage caused by the 4.3 Richter earthquake on Monday.

Assistant village headman Somnuek Jaturacoopkullapong reported that the earthquake damaged more than 30 houses in the village, four severely.

"We were inside at about 4:30pm when we heard a loud noise and then the house shook for about four seconds. We rushed outside at the same time as our neighbors did," he said.

"After that up, until 8pm, there were another three aftershocks, but they weren't as strong as the first," he said.

"Although we stayed outside until late at night I was still nervous when I went to bed and I didn't sleep well at all," Mr Somnuek added.

Duangjai Treesuk, 58, was at home with three friends when they heard a loud noise. "It sounded like thunder and my neighbor shouted that it was an earthquake. Suddenly my house was shaking and we were being shaken too. We



Thanyakon Pornpreechai, 9-years-old, points to a large crack in the wall at his house caused by the earthquake tremors. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

immediately ran outside," she said.

"I have diabetes and I was in so much of a panic that I was pale and my hands were shaking. I tried to phone my husband but I just couldn't get through," Ms Duangjai said.

"Then, while I was standing in front of my house a piece of ce-

ment block fell from my house. I nearly went into shock," she added.

"I called the Municipality Office at about 6pm for them to come around and look at the damage to my house. They arrived at about 8pm, bringing the press and media with them to inspect the

cracks that had appeared in my house as well as other houses," she said.

Assistant Headman Somnuek said that engineering officers from Srisoonthorn Municipality, accompanied by Srisoonthorn Municipality President Worrawut Songyos and Phuket Vice Governor Somkiat Sangkaosuttirak, also visited to inspect the damaged houses.

"They can now estimate how much damage has been done so they will be able to give us the money to make repairs," Mr Somnuek said.

Manor Murikabutr, 50, offered to show *Gazette* reporters the rift in his land that appeared after the earthquake that caused the December 2004 tsunami. Villagers were more curious than worried as they speculated whether the rift would get bigger with more seismic activity.

Soon after the 2004 event the rift was some 20 meters long with a drop of nearly one meter between the two sides. Observers today noted that not much had changed save for the abundant growth of vegetation now filling the gap.

## No damage at Thalang dam after earthquake

OFFICIALS on Tuesday declared the dam at Bang Neaw Dum Reservoir in Thalang structurally sound after a series of earthquakes centered in Thalang, including a 4.3 Richter tremor on Monday.

Local residents living downstream feared the structural integrity of the dam might have been compromised, putting them at risk of flooding if it gives way.

A walking inspection along the top of the 680-meter-long dam by Phuket Vice Governor Somkiat Sangkaosuttirak, technical experts and other local officials revealed no signs of cracking at the dam.

Joining V/Gov Somkiat was San Jantharawong, chief of the Phuket office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM-Phuket), Phuket MP Raywat Areerob and Suwit Kosuwan, the director of Active Faults Research Center, Environmental Geology and Geological Hazards Office, Department of Mineral Resources.

Mr Suwit inspected a pressure-sensor cabinet at the site, which indicated that the dam and its granite core had not been affected by the recent jolts.

Sombat Puangsombat, director of the Irrigation Department office in Phuket that oversees the operation of the dam, also con-



The inspection team found no sign of the dam suffering any damage. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

firmed that no damage occurred as a result of the recent quakes.

"The overall condition of the dam is still strong. Dams are designed to be able to withstand earthquakes. The most important thing is that the core of Bang Neaw Dum dam is constructed of granite, which can absorb vibrations very well," he added.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

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## Insurance coverage for natural disasters

From page 1

some natural disasters, but only limited payouts for flood damage," Ms Suwimon said.

Another condition is that the NCIF policy can be obtained only as an add-on to one of two primary insurance policies, either Fire Insurance or an Industrial All Risks policy, Ms Suwimon explained.

"This type of disaster insurance is designed to cover only major disasters that cause massive amounts of damage and affect many people. The natural disaster area will be determined by the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

"If an event isn't declared a natural disaster by

the DDPM, people will not be able to file claims under the NCIF policy," said Ms Suwimon.

Following the damage to houses in Srisoonthorn after the 4.3 earthquake struck in Thalang this week, an officer at the NCIF contact center told the *Gazette* that damage caused by earthquakes of 7 Richters or greater in magnitude were automatically covered by the NCIF policies.

The damage caused by the quakes in Thalang on Monday would have been covered by the NCIF insurance plan, despite the quake being less than 7 Richters in strength because the DDPM declared the area a disaster zone, she said.

For details about the NCIF visit [www.ncif.or.th](http://www.ncif.or.th)



Easter Sunday, 8th of April, Evason Phuket and Bon Island is offering a special brunch buffet featuring Easter holiday treats, such as Easter baked ham, roasted stuffed lamb legs and Easter lamb pies. An Easter theme certainly prevails for dessert with chocolate Easter bunnies and hot cross buns. We welcome you with a complimentary "Mimosa" and there's also a 'make your own Bloody Mary' station. Savor this special day with your feet in the sand while listening to live Jazz.

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# Armed drug suspects busted in Good Friday police raids

POLICE arrested six drug suspects, two of them in possession of firearms, during a string of raids on April 13 – a day not only celebrated as Songkran, but also as Good Friday.

Phuket City Police Superintendent Chote Chitchai at a press conference last Saturday named the first suspect as Pramin Narksuwan, 31, from Nakhon SriThammarat. He was found in possession 0.91 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) as well as a 9mm handgun and 12 bullets.

“Mr Pramin was charged with possession of drugs with intent to sell and carrying a firearm with ammunition,” said Col Chote.

“The second suspect is Saman Inruang, 31 years old, from Petchburi. He was found in possession of 0.57g of *ya ice* and a .357 handgun with four bullets. He also has been charged with possession of drugs and carrying a firearm with ammunition,” Col Chote said.

Anurart Pothong, 29, from Phuket Town was found in possession of 0.6g of *ya ice*, while Montri Srichaem, 33, from Ras-



Two of the six drug suspects were caught with firearms and ammunition.

sada, was found in possession of 2.28g of the same drug.

Both were charged with possession drugs, said Col Chote.

Sampan Choopol, 43, from Phang Nga, was found in possession of 2.28g of *ya ice*.

“He has been charged with possession of drugs with intent to sell,” Col Chote said.

In Phuket Town, police arrested Sarut Kanjanakul, 29, from Wichit.

Police found Sarut in possession of 1,158 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills and more than 30g of *ya ice*.

“He has been charged with possession of drugs with intent to sell,” Col Chote said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Did tsunami

THE afternoon of April 11, 2012 was a true test of how well Phuket was prepared for another tsunami after an 8.9-magnitude earthquake off northern Sumatra struck at 3:38pm. In the hours after the tremors were felt in Phuket, the *Gazette* received call after call asking the same question, “Did the tsunami warning towers sound the alarm?”

The *Gazette*’s Orawin Narabal reports.

PEOPLE who felt the earthquake tremors on April 11 evacuated buildings and shopping centers, some as a precaution, others in panic. Thailand’s National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) issued a tsunami alert for the entire Andaman Coast.

The epicenter of the earthquake was near that of the even larger quake that caused the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which killed more than 230,000 people.

In the hours that followed, the *Gazette* received query after query asking the same question: Did the tsunami warning towers sound the alarm?

One Patong resident said that he heard nothing from his 13<sup>th</sup>-floor apartment.

“I spoke to a Thai friend who works at the beach chair concession near Bangla Road. He said that the tsunami siren was sounded for about 10 minutes after I left the beach at about 4:15pm, which was also after all the tourists and beachgoers had already left.

“I guess the siren is only audible along the beach, because I did not hear it as I walked back to my apartment on Rat-U-Thit Road, nor did I hear it in my apartment on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor,” he said.

William Brown, who lives in Patong, also heard nothing.

“Here in the house we did not notice the quake at all. Some of the people in the apartments said they felt a slight shaking, but nothing was broken or displaced.

“We did notice the exodus of people and vehicles pouring up the road past our house. There were a couple of policemen, but they did nothing to control the traffic.

“Same as last time [2004], the whole road was filled with vehicles fighting to go up. If an emergency vehicle had wanted to go down [the hill into Patong], it would not have been able to,” he said.

## ON THE BEACH

Sampawat Wannasangkam, who works with the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Patong branch, confirmed to the *Gazette* on April 11 that the tower’s sirens sounded the alarm, “but only for one or two minutes”.

Mr Sampawat should know, as his job was to stand on the sand at Patong Beach and keep an eye on whether the water started an unusual recession from the shoreline, the surest indicator that a tsunami is on the way.

However, his recollection of exactly when the alarm sounded is hazy. “Sometime between 4pm and 4:30pm I heard the tsunami warning sirens sound, but only for one to two minutes. Regardless, we had Patong DDPM officers and other volunteers walk and drive sound trucks through Patong and along the beachfront telling people to evacuate the area,” he said.

## PUSHING THE BUTTON

Preedee Aengseng, Communications Officer at the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Phuket office in Phuket Town (DDPM-Phuket), which is the central coordinating office for all DDPM offices in Phuket, confirmed that the NDWC activated the alarm, not the DDPM.

“The NDWC can activate the sirens by themselves, but local DDPM officers have the ability to switch them on and off in their respective areas. This stands for all 19 tsunami warning towers in Phuket.

“However, standard procedure is to wait for confirmation from the NDWC before switching the sirens on or off,” he explained.

Initial reports from DDPM officers island-wide revealed that only the siren at Kata Noi Beach failed to sound, Mr Preedee said.

However, Mr Preedee confirmed to the *Gazette* on Tuesday that after the tsunami alert was removed at 8:50pm, officers reported that warning towers at Chalong and at Nai Harn also failed to sound.

“Our officers are now looking into making those towers operational,” he said.

At the NDWC headquarters in Nonthaburi, near Bangkok, Buncha Singhasa, the officer who activated the switch for the tsunami warning towers in Phuket to sound the alarm, said, “I activated the alarm at 4:20pm because we wanted people to start evacuating risk areas just in case. However, because I was not truly convinced

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# warning towers sound the alarm?



Tsunami warning tower at the Hilton in Karon. Inset, map of the 19 tsunami warning towers on Phuket.

that a tsunami was actually coming, I played the message just once," he said.

The tsunami warning message runs for three minutes and 26 seconds. It starts with a classic wailing sound followed by a voice recording saying, "Attention, please! Attention, please! There is an earthquake in the sea. Tsunami is expected. Please leave the beach as far as possible for higher ground urgently".

The warning is played in five languages: Thai, English, German, Mandarin Chinese and Japanese. The warning is repeated as long as the towers remain activated.

In response to a staff member at Phuket Airport reporting that the warning played there for "about 10 minutes", he said this was not consistent with the fact that the alarm there was activated only once, just like all other locations in Phuket.

"It is physically possible for officers to extend the alarm at the warning towers where they are stationed, but the officers must first have permission from the NDWC to do so. We received no request to extend the alarm [on April 11]," he said.

Mr Buncha suggested that the sound of the alarm may have put her [the staff member at Phuket Airport] "in an excited state of mind that might have made it seem like that the alarm sounding for longer than it really did."

See Woody Leonhard's *Phuket Live Wire* column about the downfall of communications networks on Phuket during the tsunami scare on page 12.

See Editorial on page 8.

Additional reporting by Atchaa Khamlo and Chutharat Plerin

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## Beachgoers confused by alarm

IN MANY locations along Phuket's west coast, the sounding of the alarm resulted in a variety of confused reactions among tourists and residents: were they meant to evacuate or not?

Sami Ménty-Aho and his partner Kaise Sievéner, Finns on a two-week holiday, were told of the tsunami warning by people gathering on the hill road between Surin and Kamala.

"On our way from Patong we saw lots of people stopping here. We asked why they were here and we were told about the tsunami warning. We were a little nervous," said Mr Ménty-Aho.

Jean Francois, a 48-year-old Frenchman, operates a restaurant on Nai Yang Beach. Before leaving for higher ground told the *Gazette*, "I cannot speak Thai, but I can see everybody leaving and they seem scared, then somebody told me about a tsunami warning."

"Last time the sea level dropped before the tsunami

came... I think I have one hour to collect things and I don't think there is any risk," he said.

But Saowaluck Nambunyen, 49, who lives near Nai Yang Beach, took no chances.

"We heard the tsunami alarm from the beach tower twice. We panicked when instructed to move to higher ground, so we left the village and went to Thalang Technical College," she told the *Gazette*.

"While there [at the college] we had to wait and listen to the news on the radio. No officials came to give us any information," she said.

Ursula Lenzin, 60, from Switzerland chose to ignore police requests to evacuate Nai Yang and remained behind.

She came to Phuket about three weeks earlier and was staying near Nai Yang Beach.

"Everything will be fine. I want to continue to enjoy my view of the sea, as my flight home is tomorrow. I am not going anywhere," she said.



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## Phuket license plate auction hopes to make 25mn baht

THE annual auction of special-edition Phuket license plates this year is hoped to raise 25 million baht for the national Road Safety Fund.

A total of 301 license plates will go under the hammer at The Metropole hotel in Phuket Town on April 28-29, starting at 9am.

"License plates with the Thai characters *Gor Bor* will be up for auction. The money raised will go to the Road Safety Fund," said Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) chief Teerayut Prasertpol.

The Road Safety Fund conducts road-safety campaigns and assistance to road-accident victims.

Last year's auction of *Gor Nor* license plates went well, with 576 people taking part, he said.

"The most popular license plate [last year] was 9999. It sold at the highest bid of 1.4 million baht, followed by license plate 8888 at a 1mn baht. The auction last year raised a total of 23,504,500 baht," he added.

Many people had already registered for the auction this year, especially for license plates that have three or four repeating digits, Mr Teerayut said.

"About 60 people have already placed reserve bids for license plate numbers like these. We expect more people will bid on the day," he said.

To take part, people can register at the PLTO in Phuket Town between 8:30am and 4pm, Monday to Friday, until April 27, or at the The Metropole hotel on the auction days, April 28-29.

For more information, call the PLTO Car Registration Section at 076-211019, 076-214929, 080-6922557 or 086-4780898.

— *Khanittha Rodpasa*

# Tiger eyes Chuwit law suit

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET's Tiger Group is considering legal action against politician Chuwit Kamolvisit following the failure of a second police investigation to uncover any wrongdoing at any of the group's establishments.

MP Chuwit on March 30 claimed several casinos were open on the island, the most profitable at a Tiger Group venue in Patong. However, an inspection of the group's holdings by Patong Police just hours after the allegations were made on Thai TV Channel 3 turned up nothing.

The second investigation, by the Bangkok based Anti-Human Trafficking Division (AHTD) of the Royal Thai Police, has also failed to uncover any evidence of wrongdoing at any of the nightlife venues it investigated in Patong.

Sema Sinchai, assistant managing director for Tiger Group, spoke to the media after two Tiger Group venues, Tiger Live Bar and Tiger Discotheque on Bangla Road, were inspected on April 13 and 14 by AHTD officers dispatched from Bangkok to investigate the claims.



**TIGER TAIL:** Col Sittichai of the AHTD, accompanied by Tiger Group's Sema Sinchai, checks for evidence of a casino. Photo Atchaa Khamlo

Mr Sema said the allegations tarnished the group's reputation among potential investors. "We have tried unsuccessfully to get loans from the banks because the allegations made against us don't look good in the eyes of financial institutions. Luckily, we can prove that there are not any casinos in our places," he said.

"Mr Chuwit told the media he had video evidence of gaming at our venues, but so far he has presented nothing to back up his claims. We don't know what he is waiting for," he said.

"When he plays that video, we will prove that it wasn't one of our venues," he added.

MP Chuwit was scheduled to

join the AHTD officers in Phuket over Songkran, but reportedly canceled his trip following the tsunami scare of April 11.

In his earlier comments to the press he charged that some gambling dens were run on the island with police involvement. He charged that gambling, lewd shows, prostitution and other illicit activities were rife in Phuket, which was at risk of its status changing from the "Pearl of the Andaman" to the "Rotten Oyster of the Andaman".

Col Sittichai Lasasawad, who led the AHTD investigators, told the media, "Following our inspection of the Tiger Live Bar, we consider it unlikely that there was a casino there as the bars on the second and third floors were still under construction."

He and his team came to examine a wide range of night venues, not just those operated by Tiger Group, he said.

"We randomly checked five places, but as yet have found nothing suspicious. After two days of investigation we have not found any evidence of human trafficking or illegal casino operations in Patong," he said.

## Thieves steal 600,000 baht of electrical cable



Permanently disconnected

THIEVES broke into a recently completed municipal building in Wichit on Tuesday night and made off with cables and electrical equipment valued at 600,000 baht.

The thieves cut all the power cables, dismantled electrical equipment and stole three ventilation pumps from Wichit Municipality's new multipurpose building and its power-supply room, said Wichit Mayor Kreetha Chotiwithphiphat.

"The building had just been finished at a cost of 39 million baht and was being decorated," he said.

From a footprint left at the scene Mayor Kreetha presumes the thieves entered the building from the roof.

"We were going to connect the building to the Provincial Electricity Authority grid, but unfortunately the day before that thieves broke in and cut all the mains wires between the transformer and the power-supply room," Mayor Kreetha explained.

The electrical power cabling stolen was reportedly 12 NYY class electrical wiring, which con-

tains over 15kg of copper per 100 meters.

"We guess the thieves might try to sell it to a recycling store because copper wire has a high value," Mayor Kreetha said.

He added that he believes that the robbery was carried out by three or four people with a good knowledge of electrical systems.

"I have ordered municipal officers and our security guards to check more carefully from now on," he said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

## Car catches fire after trip to garage

DRIVING home on April 12 after having his car's front lights fixed at a garage, a Phuket motorist had to suddenly evacuate the vehicle when it started to fill up with smoke and then caught on fire.

Phuket City Police received a report from the Narenthorn Center and the Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation that there was a burning dark blue Nissan Cefiro in front of the Dara Hotel, about 100 meters south of the Central Festival Phuket shopping mall.

Police notified Wichit and Phuket City Municipalities, who in turn dispatched fire engines to the scene. It took firemen 20 minutes to extinguish the fire.

Phuket City Police Lt Teerawat Amnartcharoenying said that his initial investigation revealed that 28-year-old Bhuddhakorn Sawekwiharee had taken his car to a garage in Samkong to fix the front lights. After the mechanics returned the car, he tested it and everything seemed in perfect working order, so he started the



**IN THE HOT SEAT:** Mr Bhddhakorn had only seconds to exit the smoking car before it burst into flames at the side of the road.

drive home. However, as he reached the Darasamuth Intersection in front of Central Festival Phuket, he saw smoke coming from the exhaust pipe and then heard an explosion from under the hood.

He stopped outside the Dara Hotel and hurriedly exited the car.

As soon as Mr Bhuddhakorn was out of the car, it burst into flames.

Hotel security guards tried to put out the blaze using fire extinguishers, but that didn't work so he had to watch his car burn as he waited for the firemen to arrive.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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## Songkran celebrations marred by deaths, violence – and nudity

THAILAND once again played host to the world's largest water fight last week – though this year's Songkran festival was marred by a high number of road deaths and acts of violence.

National Road Safety Center Chairman and Deputy Prime Minister Yongyuth Wichaidit said there were 3,320 road accident injuries reported during the festival [see page 3], with 320 fatalities.

There were also several brutal murders during the period.

In one, a 58-year-old man in Chumphon

was clubbed to death by a drunken reveler for objecting to being drenched with water.

In Bangkok, an underage member of an motorcycle gang was shot dead and four others wounded when a rival gang opened fire after a Silom Road water fight turned deadly.

In Satun, a man knifed a drunken reveler to death for allegedly molesting his sister during a water fight.

Meanwhile, a male transvestite was issued a 500 baht fine for dancing topless at

a party in Ayutthaya, after relatives delivered him to police.

Sarawuth Sapharb, 20, was roundly criticized after video clips of him dancing were posted online.

Mr Sarawuth begged for forgiveness from the public and called on Thai youths not to follow his example.

He was drunk at the time and succumbed to the peer pressure of his cheering friends who goaded him into stripping off his t-shirt and dancing provocatively, he explained.



An officer keeps an eye on the Songkran crowd in Patong. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

## Thaksin plots to return 'My Way'

### AROUND THE nation

FUGITIVE former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra has vowed to return to Thailand "as soon as possible", raising the specter of renewed conflict between the politically polarized factions in the country.

Speaking at a rally in Cambodia attended by thousands of his red-shirt supporters, who crossed the border to meet the exiled leader, Mr Thaksin said he could return to the country within a few months.

Mr Thaksin sang a notably off-key rendition of Frank Sinatra's *My Way* at the event, part of his so-called Songkran tour that also included a rally in the Laos capital Vientiane.

Mr Thaksin lives in Dubai to escape a two-year jail-sentence for corruption dating from 2008. He maintains the conviction was politically motivated.

The ruling Pheu Thai Party, led by Mr Thaksin's youngest sister



Former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra speaks to his loyal red-shirt supporters. Photo: The Nation

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, is exploring ways to secure Mr Thaksin's return. Many believe he wants to return to Thailand without serving his

sentence.

Among the methods the party is considering are requesting a Royal Pardon for Mr Thaksin and rewriting the Constitution to in-

clude an amnesty clause that would absolve all those convicted in connection with Thailand's political crises in recent years.

Meanwhile, vocal Thaksin

supporter and deputy prime minister Chalerm Yoobamrung is championing a move to draft a specific amnesty law to secure Mr Thaksin's return.

However, analysts speculate that any move to absolve Mr Thaksin would likely be met with fierce resistance by his opponents.

In 2008, the government of Thaksin-aligned Samak Sundharavej was toppled after it made moves to amend the Constitution to aid its patron.

Speaking at the Vientiane rally, Mr Thaksin said: "Once the situation is normal, I shall return and serve, although I might not be the prime minister."

He said he was currently free to travel anywhere but Thailand and was awaiting the day he could walk among fellow countrymen on Thai soil.

Mr Thaksin said that, at the urging of the red shirts, he might have put on a mask in order to cross the border, but he wanted to arrive in style – not as an outlaw.

Some 95 per cent of Thais wanted to see reconciliation, but those benefiting from political conflict continue to oppose it, he said.

## Net cries fowl over KFC tsunami gaffe

FRIED-chicken giant KFC last week publicly apologized for posting on its Thai Facebook web page promotional comments calling for people to order KFC home delivery during the recent tsunami scare.

After an 8.6 Richter earthquake struck off the coast of Sumatra on April 11, fears rose of a tsunami inundation along Thailand's Andaman coast and residents in risk areas were instructed to evacuate to higher ground.

That afternoon, KFC posted on its Facebook page, "Let's hurry home and follow the earthquake news. And don't forget to order your favorite KFC menu."

When used among Thai speakers, the word "menu" usually translates as "dish".

The comment prompted a storm of criticism on Thai



KFC raked over grill for Facebook comments. Photo: Akira Kamikura

webboards, with angry posters denouncing the fast-food chain as insensitive and irresponsible.

By the following day, KFC had removed the offending message. The company also posted, "The KFC Thailand fanpage team... would like to apologize for an inappropriate post relating to the disaster."



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# Tsunami evacuation shortfalls resurface

THE pair of powerful earthquakes that struck off the coast of Sumatra on April 11 served as the perfect 'live test' of Thailand's preparedness to conduct emergency evacuation of tsunami risk areas, exposing, once again, serious shortcomings in the government's ability to relay important information to the public in a timely fashion.

The 8.9-magnitude quake that hit at 3:38pm was felt across the region, causing many people to panic, evacuate buildings and get on the telephone to warn loved ones in risk areas to get to the safety of higher ground because a tsunami might be on its way.

Unfortunately, the huge increase in telephone traffic quickly resulted in almost immediate regional collapse of service by all mobile phone providers, leaving users with an eerie sense of déjà vu; the last time such an across-the-board loss of service struck was in the aftermath of the 2004 disaster.

Meanwhile, efforts by the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) to get out real time information and keep the public updated as events unfolded were compromised on many fronts.

After initial reports about the earthquake were aired through terrestrial television, broadcasting across all of these channels was then automatically switched over to "TV Pool" coverage of a state event that continued until 7pm, immediately after which it declared the situation in Thailand as "back to normal".

This was not the first time the rigid workings of the "TV Pool" have been exposed, in some cases comically. Back in 1991, in the hours following the ouster by coup d'état of democratically-elected Thai premier Chatichai Choonhavan, all five state TV channels at the time displayed an image of the Thai flag as military music played in the background.

From time to time, the music would stop and one of the coup makers would appear to read aloud from a developing list of reasons explaining why the coup had to take place. However, one of these episodes happened to come at precisely 6pm, at which time the announcer was cut off in mid-syllable by the Thai National Anthem played nightly as part of Thailand's evening "time check".

Apparently not much has changed since then. As pointed out by former premier Abhisit Vejjajiva, the events of April 11 revealed the need to review the way the "TV Pool" system operates, especially in times when public safety is at risk.

Soon after the first quake, the NDWC website also failed, though the agency did provide some information through its Facebook page. Its "SMS Alert" system failed as well, due to the lack of mobile phone services, the *Gazette* receiving its warning at 6:35pm, almost two full hours after the first quake.

Fortunately, the NDWC's network of 69 warning towers got a passing grade, even though it covers only a small part of Thailand's Andaman coastline that is at risk of tsunami inundation.



# Terminally baffled

*Re: Phuket Gazette, The buses are coming, April 14*

While I agree with Chief Teerayut, the man in charge of Phuket's transport matters, that the second bus station is desperately needed, I do have concerns on the link between the two terminals. The article quotes the chief as saying, "Passengers arriving at Terminal 2 can buy tickets for tuk-tuks, taxis and motorbike taxis from booths to reach their destination." A similar system is currently in operation at Phuket International Airport and it's not cheap. I can't help but think that any concession handed over to the private transport cartels will suffer the same fate.

Furthermore, it would be interesting to know if there will be a shuttle bus in operation between the two terminals. I can't believe that any tuk-tuk or taxi driver is going to be happy to take you to Terminal 1, where you can catch the bus to Patong (or elsewhere) far cheaper than going direct in that same tuk-tuk or taxi.

*Om Neebus  
Chalong*

## Bing, on the go

Has anyone else started to notice the collaboration between Bing and Facebook. Obviously, Microsoft and Facebook teaming up against the internet giant Google is not news, but recently I have seen Bing infiltrating my daily life through Facebook.

When pondering the foreign script on Thai friends' walls there are occasionally hyperlinks that offer a "translation" of what was written. Each translation is brought to you by Bing, which is helpful, but at the same time I can't help but worry about where Bing will pop-up next.

I have always been a big supporter of Google, despite its many

## Letters to the Editor

alleged privacy infringements, I think it's the lesser of two evils.

I perceive Facebook as a far greater threat, being more intimately connected to my social life and harder to switch away from, to my personal privacy in the long term.

The amount of unique memories accounted for in photo albums and on my wall make it difficult to switch over to Google+ or a similar social-media website.

At this point, how Bing is being used in correlation with Facebook is fine, but these things can sneak up on us.

*Tony Kleinschmidt  
Chalong*

## Getting out of Dodge

I escaped Bangla Road and Patong for Songkran in hopes of finding a more "real" Thai experience in Chiang Mai. A silly-backpacker concept I know, but I couldn't help myself. I was surprised to find that everyone else had done the same. I'm not complaining, but the buses between Chiang Mai and Phuket were packed for almost a week straight.

Luckily, most of the hooligans, myself included at times, were corralled into certain frothing parts of the streets, leaving other areas a little more sociable.

It seemed as if some visitors had missed the aspect of the water splashing being a greeting and welcoming into a new year, as they went for your eyes with 5-liter water rifles. However, even those rebels were few and far between. I have never been so warmly welcomed into a new year and I must admit that Songkran in all

its childishness, kindness and joviality has become my favorite holiday, even trumping the ones where I get presents.

*Trevor Green  
Rawai*

## God's waiting room

What is it that most old people don't get about the amazingly simple concept of fast-food? No matter what nationality or language barrier, I'm convinced it's a world wide phenomena.

Stick a coffin-dodger or two at the front of a McDonald's queue and it just grinds to halt while they go through every possible combination of food offered, and then, just when you think the sale of century is about to be concluded, out comes the loose-change bag to pay the 75 baht in *satang*. Please shoot me, direct me to the nearest sit-down restaurant or care home if I become so terminally fuddled that one burger, fries and drink becomes an epic journey into the unknown.

*R Deal  
Bournemouth*

## Did the earth move for you dear?

Yesterday, [April 16] while sitting in the office there was a really loud bang that you could feel through your body.

A co-worker immediately thought that the transformer outside had exploded. I thought it was a bomb.

It wasn't until Facebook started reporting that everybody had heard or felt something did "earthquake" enter our thoughts.

Glad to have good people on Facebook to put me straight on the matter.

*Shakey  
Thalang*

## Phuket Gazette

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# Picking up tourists' costly medical bills

## FIRST PERSON

AT THE hospital we have to support many tourists who don't have the money to pay for treatments, and for the last six years the number of tourist patients has been increasing – this is a problem.

In 2008 we spent 868,554 baht on 17 foreign patients, and then in 2009 we had 22 foreign patients and it cost us 1.2 million baht. Though we only had 17 foreign patients in 2010 it costs us more than 1.3mn baht to treat them and these statistics don't account for the number of foreign out-patients we have helped.

Tourists who are travelling alone should have accident insurance, because they don't know what will happen to them, especially if they plan to stay in Phuket long term or drive motorbikes. The government should create a law requiring tourists to have insurance before getting a visa. The insurance would help cover a lot of the expenses for their treatment. [The central government allocates the hospital's budget according to the number of Thai people registered as living in Phuket, not the actual population the facility is providing care for.]

Visitors to Phuket should remember that Thais need to have insurance and the appropriate paper work when they travel



**Nara Kingkaew, 57**, has been doctor at Vachira Hospital Phuket for 27 years. His present positions are Head of the Department of Medicine, Deputy Director for Secondary and Tertiary Care and Director of the Foreign Affairs Department. Here he talks about the issues the hospital faces from foreigners who are unable to pay their hospital bills.

abroad to the West. Here, it seems like they are only looking at the number of tourists coming and what country they are coming from, without worrying about insurance and bank statements – it's quite a big hole in our laws.

Foreigners who have preexisting illnesses must bring their own medicine and a copy of their medical history when they travel. It would make it easier for our doctors to know what ailments they have and what treatment they need.

We have to treat patients first and worry about payment later, but some of them don't have enough money to pay us, so the fees end up being our responsibility.

About half of the foreign patients we treat don't have insurance and only about 10 per cent of those people can pay for the treatments themselves.

The ones who think they can

cover the costs of their treatments always go to private hospitals first. Later, after they run out of money, the private hospital transfers them to us. Some of them are very sick when they arrive at our hospital.

I would suggest that tourists never drive motorbikes, but if they really want to, then they must wear a helmet and not drive when drunk. It's extraordinarily dangerous.

Another issue we have to deal with is the bodies of foreigners who have died here, as there is often very little support from relatives. Sometimes the relatives even refuse to accept that the patient has died – it's quite a sad situation.

Many relatives of dead westerners refuse to pay for the treatment, saying they had not been in contact with the patient for years. When that happens, we pay for the funeral ceremonies and the treatment they received.

# Searching for Phuket's jing jing Muay Thai

I'VE trained and fought Muay Thai for about a year now and never had any Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) experience. I'm not large at 62 kilos and would say my strength lies in fighting "intelligently", not in brute strength.

Since coming to Phuket a month ago, I haven't had the opportunity to continue training. Here, it's more of a thing marketed at *farangs* to make a quick buck; much harder to find the real Thai experience.

It occurs to me that there are two essential differences between MMA and Muay Thai. The first is that, although Muay Thai has its own stand-up grappling in the clinch, there is no submission-style wrestling. The second, and what some might call less sportsmanlike difference, is that in MMA a fighter can be hit repeatedly while on the ground; something strictly forbidden in traditional Muay Thai.

I have been informed by a friend that MMA fighting will no longer be allowed in Thailand.

I love MMA. The "Ice Man" Chuck Lidell, Randy Couture, Rampage Jackson; all giants among men. But has MMA lost the essence of the martial arts it draws from?

Does it attract bullies that seek out fights and hurt people for no reason? Like any group, some members are bad – but most are good.

When I was training, I did so in Uttaradit province, home of the famed Thai warrior Phraya Pichai, in whose name a week-long festi-



Before each fight Muay Thai fighters move through a ceremonial dance known as *Wai khru ram muay*. Photo: B20180

## Island View

By Chris Hudon

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

val of fights is held each year.

I trained at a camp funded by prize money, with only Thais, where not a single person spoke English – real Muay Thai. The kind where you *theep* (foot jab) a tyre 300 times with each leg and the trainer hits you with a bamboo reed when you don't do it right.

It is my wish that MMA fighters who are honorable and love the sport for the same reasons I love traditional Muay Thai will preserve the respect and restraint necessary in such an intense and brutal form of competition.

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

# Private taxi parking at Jungceylon

What is the legality of the signs and the general parking situation in front of the Jungceylon Shopping Center in Patong?

There is a new sign, which has been secured to an electric-power post directly in front of Jungceylon shopping center, that basically says parking is for taxis only.

Also, why in this whole area is it only allowed for taxis and tuk-tuks to park, and not other road users?

If taxis, including illegal taxis without green plates, are allowed to park there, then why can't normal cars?

Ian Patong

**Officer of Customer Relations Department, Jungceylon, replies:**

The parking area in front of Jungceylon Shopping Center is rented by Pisona Company Ltd and generally Pisona will allow only their cars to park there. For this reason I believe it is impossible for illegal taxis to park in that area.



A sign advertising the taxi services being offered at Siray Bay, Phuket. Photo: Gazette file

**Officer of Public Relations Department, Pisona Company Ltd, replies:**

Our company has rented the area in the front of the shopping mall for the exclusive use of our cars. Other vehicles are prohibited from parking there.

Our cars have been registered with our company and have the company name on them.

We have security guards to check the cars carefully. Also, there are Jungceylon security guards to take care of that area,

so I believe that it is impossible for illegal taxis to park there.

If you see black-plate (unregistered) or non-Pisona taxis in our zone, please contact us at 076-346 888.

**The Phuket Gazette notes:**

The Pisona Group of companies is headed by Preechavude Prap Keesin, who is also the President of Patong Taxi Federation and son of Patong Mayor Pian Keesin, who established the company about 20 years ago.

Mayor Pian relinquished financial control of the company after he was elected. The area in question has been the site of numerous violent confrontations in recent years.

The *Gazette* advises caution when parking in any areas claimed by taxis, legal or otherwise, anywhere in Patong. This applies even in areas that appear to be open to public parking, at least according to municipal signs. In some cases, vehicle owners have had their cars vandalized or have been physically assaulted themselves.

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

Submit your issue at

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

# ATV Off-rovers – get off the road

The local roads around Nai Harn have become a "race track" for a large number of ATV tour companies and their customer base.

A group of up to 15 ATVs drive single file along Nai Harn lagoon and up to Laem Promthep, where they are able to access an off-road track.

I believe these ATVs have no insurance and have actually caused accidents.

Can these tour companies please find a more suitable way to access the off-road vehicles?

The noise and smoke makes exercising at the lagoon very

unpleasant.

It is a peaceful park area for exercise and off-road vehicles have no place there.

ATV, Nai Harn

**Suthum Rattanasawangwong, Inspector at the Administration and Crime Control Unit at Chalong Police Station, replies:**

Those ATVs might be coming from the many tourist attractions around Rawai, such as the elephant camps or the tourist companies that take tourists up to the viewpoint at Laem Promthep.

I will look into the situation and see if any companies are breaking the law.

If I find that they are causing problems and are dangerous to road users, I will explain to the company that it is necessary for them to change how their customers and tour leaders access the off-road tracks.

If the owners ignore our warning, they may be fined up to 10,000 baht in accordance with the Land Transportation Act, which states that unregistered vehicles are not allowed to be used on the road.



# 'Made in Phuket' assurance

An industrial benchmark for the integration of design, production, installation and service of stainless-steel kitchenware.

By Steven Layne

HOME and business owners looking to install or refurbish custom-designed, stainless steel kitchens, can now enjoy increased savings, satisfaction and confidence – with a "Made in Phuket" guarantee.

TRC Stainless Kitchen & Design Co Ltd – the island's first and only, fully-integrated, stainless steel kitchenware operation held an official grand opening ceremony last month for its factory, located on Wiset road just south of Chalong.

Speaking with the *Gazette*, factory manager and company shareholder Thanongsak Rungreang said that business is shooting through the roof.

"With locally integrated production and service, we can provide a premium offering while reducing base costs by as much as 20%."

"Demand has been difficult to keep up with and our client waiting list is getting longer," he said.

Launched ten months ago, TRC specializes in design, production, in-

stallation, repair and servicing of stainless steel kitchens for homes and places of business.

Their full product range includes stoves, ovens, sinks, cabinets, counters and ventilation systems.

Employing a humble yet skilled work force of 10, the company is comprised of two teams: one for design and production and the other for installation and servicing.

With an initial investment of about six million baht seed money, Mr Thanongsak is hoping the company, headed by three key shareholders, will break even within four years.

"With the way business is going, we will definitely need to expand and purchase more machinery in the near future," he said.

Asked to elaborate on its "pre-



**REAL STEEL:** TRC's factory in Chalong is run by Thanongsak (inset, right) and CEO Thepharid Raksa (inset, left).

mium" offering, Mr Thanongsak explained that the factory uses only high grade Thai sourced materials, as opposed to the prevailing, cheaper and lower grade materials commonly imported to Phuket from China.

"Our products are made with 304 grade Thainox Stainless steel that we source from Bangkok," he said, adding that all TRC designs and installations come with a six month service warranty.

With more than 10 years of contracting experience in Phuket, Mr Thanongsak extolled the advantages of local production and service integration.

He said that the big problem with products made in or serviced by patrons from Bangkok, or elsewhere, is the lack of installation expertise and post-installation service.

"Clients like it when they can actively participate in the process, from design all the way down to installation and servicing."

"When a problem arises, we can dispatch our team and (get) any needed parts much faster [than non-local producers and suppliers]," he said.

Some of TRC's featured jobs include kitchens at Baumanburi in Kata, Summer View Patong and the Dolphin Bar, also in Patong.

In addition to designing and producing new kitchens from scratch, TRC also specializes in installing all types of imported kitchenware, including Thai, Chinese and Europeans types.

One such installation was for TAA Company in Koh Sireh.

"The company had imported kitchenware from China, but for six months were unable to find someone in Phuket who knew how to install it correctly."

"They finally contacted us and were quite pleased with the end result," he said.

Mr Thanongsak concluded that the overall advantage of integrating production and service at the local level is threefold.

"Base costs are reduced, product delivery time is shortened, and by emphasizing service throughout the entire process, clients have more confidence in both the product and company," he said.

For inquiries, please call 076-226 683, or visit the TRC factory located at 26/11 Moo 5, T. Rawai, A. Mueang, Phuket.

# B500mn boost despite tsunami scare

THE tsunami scare last Wednesday did not have a significant effect on hotel bookings or on tourists' decision to spend the Songkran Thai New Year festival in Phuket, local officials have announced.

Commerce and tourism during the Songkran holidays is expected to have generated about 500 million baht for the province, said Bangonrat Shinaprayoon, Director of the Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

"The tsunami alert did not affect Phuket tourism much. Some Thai tourists canceled their hotel bookings, but foreign tourists understand that it was a natural disaster alert and the hotels took good care of them. The tourists were evacuated in time, which impressed them and inspired confidence," she added.

Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) President Somboon Jirayus said that by Thursday morning, the day after the tsunami scare,

business was back to normal.

"I checked with several hotels [on Thursday morning] and at that time no guests had checked out early and incoming guests had not cancelled their hotel room bookings. They only sent emails to the hotels asking about the situation," Mr Somboon said.

"After the all clear, tourists went out for dinner and took a rest, even though some restaurants were closed, but they were not scared. By Thursday morning, it was just a normal day," he said.

However, Mr Somboon said steps still needed to be taken to build up tourist confidence in the disaster alert and evacuation system.

"I think they should install more tsunami warning towers because it was not clear whether or not the towers sounded the alarm properly along Patong Beach."



**SQUIRTS DON'T HURT:** Songkran celebrations are important for the economy.

"A disaster information center for emergency situations [like this] is needed as well. We could not use our mobile phones [during the alert, most likely because of user overload], so we should have a center like this in times of emergency," Mr Somboon said.

But for now, business is looking good for Songkran, he added.

"There is no need to worry about Songkran. Hotel occupancy is at about 80%," Mr Somboon said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Oceanair selects new Thai arm

OCEANAIR, a worldwide leading supplier, designer and manufacturer of marine blinds and shading solutions, has announced the appointment of ASAP Marine as its new distributor in Thailand.

Chosen for their strong emphasis on quality customer service and consistency, Chonburi-based ASAP Marine has a large showroom and warehouse with a dedicated workforce, supported by local subcontractors providing installation, training and assistance.

ASAP's official dealer in Phuket is Andaman Electrical Marine (AEM), located in Boat Lagoon.

"We signed a deal with AEM as a result of PIMEX [Phuket International Boat Show] earlier this month," said Managing Director of ASAP Marine, Berne Lamprecht.

"For me to take on the distributorship of a brand isn't just about having a product to sell. Since the start of ASAP I've worked hard to provide quality products at a fair price to my customers. . .the Oceanair brand will add value to our offering," he added.

ASAP Marine also promotes and supports a number of leading marine brands including Hella Marine, Fusion Electronics,

Humminbird, BEP and Lewmar.

ASAP Marine's initial focus will be to develop a strong retail presence, promoting Oceanair's Retail range within chandleries across Thailand. With customized yachts continuing to grow in popularity in Thailand, ASAP Marine is also confident of a good response to future projects from local marine architects, interior designers, boat builders and owners.

For more information, see [W: oceanair.co.uk](http://W: oceanair.co.uk); [asap-marine.com](http://asap-marine.com) and [andaman-electricalmarine.com](http://andaman-electricalmarine.com)

– Phuket Gazette

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# Certified shops to 'hit the spot'

IN RESPONSE to the rising cost of living, the Ministry of Commerce has launched a new campaign to promote local grocery stores that sell and distribute daily consumer goods priced 20% lower than the market value.

Officially launched on April 11, the "Cho Huai Chuai Chaat" (groceries to help the nation) project will involve certifying small grocery stores to be "Raen Took Jai" or literally, "Hits the Spot Shops".

An officer at the Department of Internal Trade (DIT) Phuket office told the *Gazette* that the office is currently accepting applications for new shops.

"In Phuket, we plan to establish at least one for every sub district [Tambon] but it's too early to give details about the shops yet," he said.

Speaking at the DIT headquarters in Nonthaburi, Commerce Minister Boonsong Teriyaphirom said that the project is in line with the government's policy to increase wages while easing consumers' burden from daily expenses.

"These shops will promote competitiveness in the market, specifically for ready made food and necessary consumer products, allowing Blue Flag (government certified) eateries to source more affordable ingredients and reduce production base costs.

"By establishing a standard for pegging prices on ready made foods in the market, the project will support community grocery stores and Blue Flag eateries in distributing affordable consumer products under the new brand," he said.

The Ministry has been accepting applications for new shops since April 2 and has a goal of opening 10,000 shops nationwide.



**CUTTING A DEAL:** A vendor sells organic rice. Photo: Stephen Fein

The Ministry plans to open 20 shops in Bangkok from April 23 to 25, in addition to 5 to 10 shops in 15 major provinces, including Phuket.

According to the rules and guidelines, in order to become a "Raen Took Jai" the shop must be a small scale retail store, Blue Flag outlet or cooperative shop (Raen Ka Sahagorn) that sells daily consumer items.

The shop must have been open prior to the date of application; the applicant must be the owner of the business and their shop must be in a permanently fixed building.

If it is a retail shop, the product display area must be at least six square

meters, and at least three square meters for Blue Flag shops.

The shops must sell a base 20 items as follows: rice, chicken eggs, vegetable oil, granulated sugar, Monosodium glutamate, fish sauce, canned fish, instant noodles, UHT milk, flavoring sauce (ketchup), pork, chicken, soap, tooth paste, shampoo, laundry detergent, baby powder, dish soap, sanitary napkins and insect and mosquito repellent.

"These items must be of the same standard and quality of products being sold in the regular market, but must be priced about 20% cheaper," the Minister said.

Operators interested in being certified can download the application form from the DIT website: [dit.go.th](http://dit.go.th) or email: [spcenter@dit.go.th](mailto:spcenter@dit.go.th). In Phuket, contact the DIT Phuket office 076-217613 e-mail address : [phuket@dit.go.th](mailto:phuket@dit.go.th), or the DIT 24 hour hotline: 1569

– *Phuket Gazette*

# Gasohol bolstered by Benzine hike

EVEN with fuel prices already rising by more than 20% in the first quarter of the year, petrol prices took yet another jump this week.

Adjustments in State Oil Fund levy rates resulted in the Bangkok central price of Benzine 91 and 95 Octane (Regular Unleaded and Super Unleaded gasoline) increasing by one baht per liter on Monday.

The price-per-kilogram of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) also increased by 75 satang, while Natural Gas for Vehicles (NGV) rose by 50 satang.

The raise in prices was announced by Energy Minister Arak Chonlatanon following a meeting on April 10 by the Thailand Energy Policy Administration Committee (TEPAC).

The measure is slated as part of a strategy developed by the Energy Planning and Policy Office (EPPO) to promote Gasohol, which integrates the domestic production of ethanol.

As a result, Benzine 91 Octane is now 3.42 baht more expensive than Gasohol 95.

Prior to the change, the price difference between the two fuels was only 2.35 baht per liter.

A liter of Benzine 95 Octane is now 7.37 baht more expensive than Gasohol 95, up from 6.3 baht previously.

New levy rates also resulted in LPG prices jumping by 75 satang per kilogram, or 41 satang per liter up to 11.41 baht per liter.

Meanwhile the committee

agreed to reduce the 50 satang per kilogram subsidy on NGV, resulting in NGV prices rising by the same amount from 10 baht to 10.5 baht.

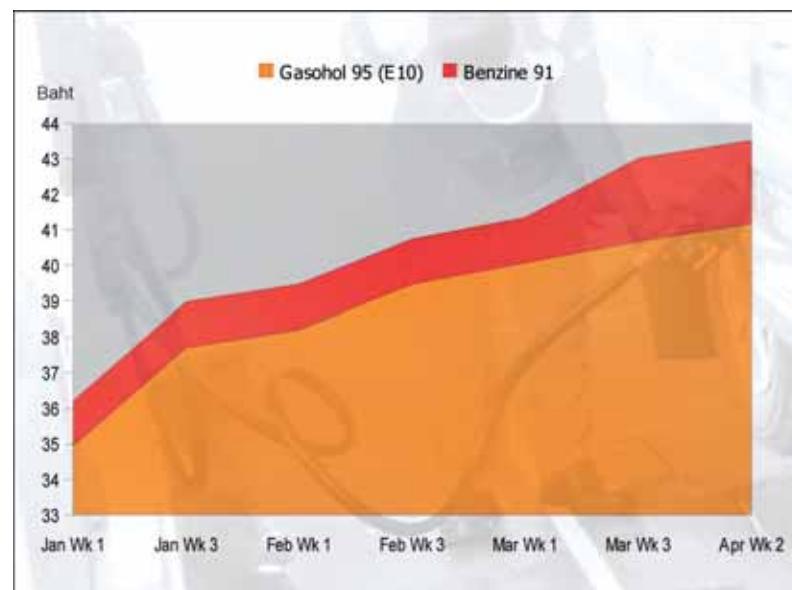
The price of diesel did not change, as the committee decided to maintain the current levy rate of the commodity at 60 satang.

"The new rates will help stabilize inflation and ease the high cost of living," said Minister Arak.

The changes will be effective for at least one month, until May 15, after which time the committee will review prices again.

With Gasohol 91 unavailable in Phuket, the liter price of Gasohol 95 at some local pumps has risen by 80 satang in the last two weeks.

– *Phuket Gazette*



**WIDENING GAP:** The price difference between the two fuels is growing.

# Commerce Minister gets hard on piracy trade ahead of 2015 AEC

IN ANTICIPATION of the integration of the Asean Economic Community (AEC), slated to take effect in 2015, Thailand's Ministry of Commerce (MoC) has vowed to reduce the number of pirated goods on the market by 80%.

The Subcommittee on Prevention and Suppression of Intellectual Property Infringement recently held a meeting to address figures stating that the piracy trade had grown by as much as 40% recently.

Deputy Minister of Commerce Phum Saraphon revealed that the meeting focused on mapping out a legislative proposal for stiffer and instant penalties to merchants or traders dealing in pirated goods.

If approved, the new legislation will allow law enforcement officials to issue instant penalties to viola-

tors on sight, based on the number and value of pirated goods seized.

It would also request that permission be granted to the Office of Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering to conduct raids and seize pirated materials from suspects who've been arrested and are suspected of continuing to sell while awaiting their court dates.

Under review by the cabinet at the time of publication, the legislation would in effect make the judicial process redundant during proposed implementation from 2012 to 2015.

The Deputy Minister insisted that the measures are necessary because the pirated goods trade is causing much harm to the economy.

"Violators will continue to violate if they are not held accountable," he said.

Beyond Thailand, the proposed legislation would aim to establish a copyright infringement database that can be integrated and utilized across the ASEAN region leading up to AEC, he added.

In Thailand as of 2011, a total of 10,453 arrests were made with 8.81 million pirated goods items seized as follows: 9,844 arrests by the Royal Thai Police, seizing 4.42 million items; Customs House



**PILE OF CASH:** Officials prepare to burn 25 tons of seized pirated goods last June in Phuket.

made 581 arrests seizing 3.08 million items; and the Department of Special Investigations made 28 arrests seizing 1.31 million items.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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# How to handle the next disaster



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

THE “tsunami” scare has come and gone, and I’m still livid. Many news organizations spread enormous layers of misinformation and scared the living daylight out of people worldwide, without the slightest regard for the facts. All they cared about was selling more newspapers or gathering more clicks.

At 5:23pm on April 11 – an hour before the “tsunami” was scheduled to roll out on our shores – one of the largest newspapers in Bangkok sent out an SMS saying, “Waters receding clearly on certain beaches on Phuket.” That was news to me. I was on Phuket, watching Patong Bay, and there wasn’t a drop receding anywhere. I guess they didn’t bother to check with anyone who’s ever seen a Phuket low tide.

Oh well. I’ll save my rant about irresponsible journalism and execrable reporting by people who should know better for the end of this article.

As you undoubtedly know, there was an earthquake – a big one – off the coast of Sumatra at 3:39pm (08:39 UTC) on April 11. We felt the quake in Phuket. There was a panic at Central Festival, with half the people in the mall running quickly to their cars and causing big traffic jams. There was another panic at Jungceylon, with people running to the exits.

I was raised in Southern California, so when I felt the quake, I shrugged and figured nobody would even notice as it’s pretty standard fare for a Californian.

By all accounts, the Patong warning system worked. Sirens on the beach blared – although visitors didn’t know exactly what to make of it at first – and all of the hotels evacuated their guests.

People in Patong took every available conveyance and headed for the top of Patong Hill (probably not realizing that tsunami waves don’t rise to 300 meters). The more prudent walked up nearby hillsides. I

just happen to live on one of the hillsides, on the north end of Patong Bay, maybe 20 meters above sea level and we had about a hundred visitors.

At 3:40pm, the National Earthquake Information Center in Colorado (W:usgs.gov) had early details posted about the quake. They pegged it at 8.9 on the Richter scale, but later lowered it to 8.6.

At 3:45pm, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) posted a detailed report on its website (ptwc.weather.gov), and issued a Tsunami Watch (not a Warning – a Watch; there’s a big difference!) for areas as far away as South Africa and Yemen.

Remarkably, PTWC calculated estimated arrival times for tsunami waves at almost a hundred ports: locations in Indonesia came first, with arrivals starting at 4:31pm (our time) in Banda Aceh; 4:37pm on the Nicobar Islands; 5:45pm on the Cocos Islands, and 6:18pm in Phuket.

Yes, that means all 600 people in Australia’s Cocos Islands would’ve been drenched a half hour before the big kahuna hit us.

Except it never did.

By 4:30pm, as best I can tell, most of the voice telephone circuits in Phuket were jammed. SMSs got through for a while, then

they stopped too. But the internet kept working. ADSL, Fiber, 3G – all of the lines I tested were running – and the internet provided the only reliable news I could get.

What about television? Funny you should ask. The international networks were just as clueless this time around as they were during the 2004 tsunami with talking heads rattling on, trying to fill the air with news of any description, with no connections at all to the affected areas.

Thai TV was even worse, according to an excellent report at asiancorrespondent.com. There were no reports on local TV throughout the afternoon, except for text crawls at the bottom of the screen. ThaiPBS was the first to run a live news story at 5:42pm,



IN A JAM: Telephone lines were not the only part of the infrastructure that became jammed. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

followed by the other major stations at 6pm.

So where did the real news come from? People on the ground, of course, using the tools we now have to report on events as they happen. There were many Facebook updates, but once again Twitter showed its mettle, as the primary source of reliable news on the tsunami, as it happened.

Of course, it must be said that there were some fear mongers and idiots tweeting, as well. The trick lies in picking sources you trust. In my case, I found solid information from @tulsathit (who reports for The Nation), @JamieMonk (who blogs about Phuket, and, yes, our own @PhuketGazette. I also participated (@PhuketLiveWire), primarily to debunk the people

who were saying that a tsunami was imminent (we would’ve heard about it an hour earlier from survivors in India and Indonesia – or two hours earlier from the early warning systems in Indonesia), that the water in Patong Bay was receding (gimme a break – we were at low tide), and to counter those who said they “observed” a small tsunami wave (more about that later in this article).

If you aren’t on Twitter yet, you should be. There’s no better source of news anywhere in the world, and considering the quality of coverage of Thailand in the international press, it’s really the only way to stay on top of breaking news – like a tsunami.

Go to twitter.com and sign up. Add a few sources like the ones I mentioned, and just go back to the Twitter site from time to time. You’ll catch on.

If you find yourself using Twitter a lot, try using one of the programs that helps you work with Twitter, such as Tweetdeck or MetroTwit. You can put Twitter on your PC, Mac, iPad, or phone – it works with just about anything and it’s 100% free, all the time.

In the end, five people reportedly died from heart attacks, there was “little damage” (according to Reuters) and absolutely no tsunami, anywhere, least of all in Phuket. According to the Washington Post, “aside from cracks in the walls of houses in Banda Aceh and structural damage to one bridge, you would hardly know anything happened.”

To be sure, it’s better to be safe and sorry. The evacuation went well, and should provide lessons for future emergency measures. The only thing that was lacking – distressingly – is the abysmal state of telephone communication. There were horrified people waiting very near my house. One distraught lady had left her family down in

Panwa, to go shopping in Patong, and had no way to contact them. Another group – I’ll never forget them – didn’t speak any English, only Russian, and they were scared out of their wits that another huge tsunami was on the way. It took a while for me to understand, but they were mostly concerned about their families back in Russia. The families must’ve been horrified, and this group had no way to contact them.

Which leads me to my rant. People have been emailing me links to photos and videos that claim to capture a “real” tsunami wave in Phuket. I’ve looked and looked, and just don’t get it. The photos and videos are of regular, simple, very small waves. One of the pictures claims it shows water being sucked out of

Patong Bay. Balderdash: on the evening of April 11 we had a low tide, and Patong Bay always looks like that at low tide.

The one that really gets me: somebody claims they saw a 50 cm tidal wave! We get 50 cm waves in Patong all the time, but on the afternoon and evening of April 11, the seas were calm. I was there.

Besides, tidal waves don’t look or act like regular waves. At least based on what I saw in Patong on Boxing Day 2004, tidal waves ride on the surface, and they come at a cross-angle from normal waves. They don’t gently lap up and run back out like regular waves. The folks who reported tsunami waves may be well-intentioned, but they’re completely wrong. There weren’t any tsunami waves anywhere in the world, not in Banda Aceh, not in Patong.

I don’t so much detest the poor reporting by individuals. But I do think the news outlets involved in scaremongering should be drawn and quartered. They’ve frightened people all over the world, for no reason whatsoever and they’ve perpetuated a lie that’s harmful to everyone living in Phuket. They should be held accountable for what they’ve done.

Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions on every-other Wednesday afternoon, from 1 to 3pm. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, drop by one of Seth’s free afternoon sessions, or come to one of our free Sunday morning round tables at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Details in the Events Calendar. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody’s Sandwich Shoppes.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard’s weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Shoot him mail at Woody@KhunWoody.com, follow him on Twitter @PhuketLiveWire, or “like” his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppes.



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# Unplanned losses recovered

## Retirement Years

By David Mayes

I VERY often come across a syndrome I refer to as “investor paralysis”.

Basically this is where a poor investment is made, the value drops suddenly, and now you are too afraid to make any decision at all for fear of making another mistake, possibly a bigger one.

Rather than possibly put yourself in that position, instead you are in fact making a default decision to essentially re-invest (via not exiting) in the investment which handed you the loss, all the while you are hoping it will “come back”.

This is exactly the opposite of what you ought to do. You should be able to look at your portfolio at any given point in time and have a very good reason why you are in each holding.

This reason should be some rational idea of why the thing will or should perform in the coming period. You should not be holding stuff because “I bought it at 100, it went down to 50 and is now at 55, and I need to hold it until it gets back to 100 before I can sell it”.

You may in fact be correct that it someday could get back to 100. The question you should be asking yourself, though, is “during the time it takes to get there, could your account value get back to what it was before more quickly and or safely through a different allocation?”

Usually the answer will be yes, it could. While you are sitting in a fog going nowhere, there is almost always something you could replace it with that would see the portfolio balance going up, and



Not knowing when to exit an investment can leave you paralyzed. (Above) A state of California ‘quick pick’ lottery ticket. Photo: Robert Couse-Baker

your money isn’t taking part of that investment because it’s tied up in a loser.

Ideally, you should have an exit strategy for every investment you make, regardless of its past performance. This could be something as simple as selling when the investment reaches a certain “stop loss” price that you made a note of at the time of purchase. Or it could be a “time stop”, whereby you give it a certain amount of time and if it has not

met certain performance criteria you chuck it out of the portfolio.

One needs to be careful about over-expectations though, obviously if a fund is performing in line with its historical performance and you sell it because it hasn’t done well enough, you are likely to be timing it wrong and will miss a period of over performance by being impatient.

The main practice which can help avoid getting to the “hop-

ing and praying” stage with your investments is to periodically review the entire portfolio and your reasons for each holding.

You should remember the reasoning when you made the allocation, and if there is still a very sound reason for a holding then you should keep it. The basic idea is you always want to forget about the past when making decisions relative to your investments, so you can avoid the very common mis-

take of compounding the negative effects of a bad allocation by trying to force it to give you your principle back before exiting.

*David Mayes has an MBA and lives in Phuket. He provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, specializing in UK pension transfers. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or via mobile at 085-335-8573.*



The intersection of stock and market streets. Photo 401k

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# Branding the future

Recently appointed General Manager of Banyan Tree Phuket, Sriram Kailasam speaks to the Gazette about his career and the hotel's new direction.



VISIONARY: A two bedroom pool villa at Banyan Tree Resort in Cherrng Talay.

By Chris Hudon

BANYAN TREE Phuket, flagship of the Laguna-owned collection of deluxe hotels and villas, has acquired new management by an old friend, as it re-positions Banyan Tree Phuket in Laguna Phuket, which is nearing 25 years of operations on the island.

Recently appointed General Manager (GM) of Banyan Tree Phuket, Sriram Kailasam studied hospitality management and culinary arts as a young man, in India, where he was born. He has since traveled the world over and still loves to cook and eat.

Speaking exclusively with the *Gazette* Mr Kailasam recounted his experiences from his formative years as a chef in India and Australia.

"As a chef I got the opportunity to travel worldwide and cook in top hotels in India, Europe and

Australia," said Mr Kailasam, "Having honed my skills and experienced in many good hotels in India; I think there is no better place to develop your cooking and management skills than in Australia. It's a real 'melting pot' of cuisine with different nationalities bringing in different skills, tastes and flavors."

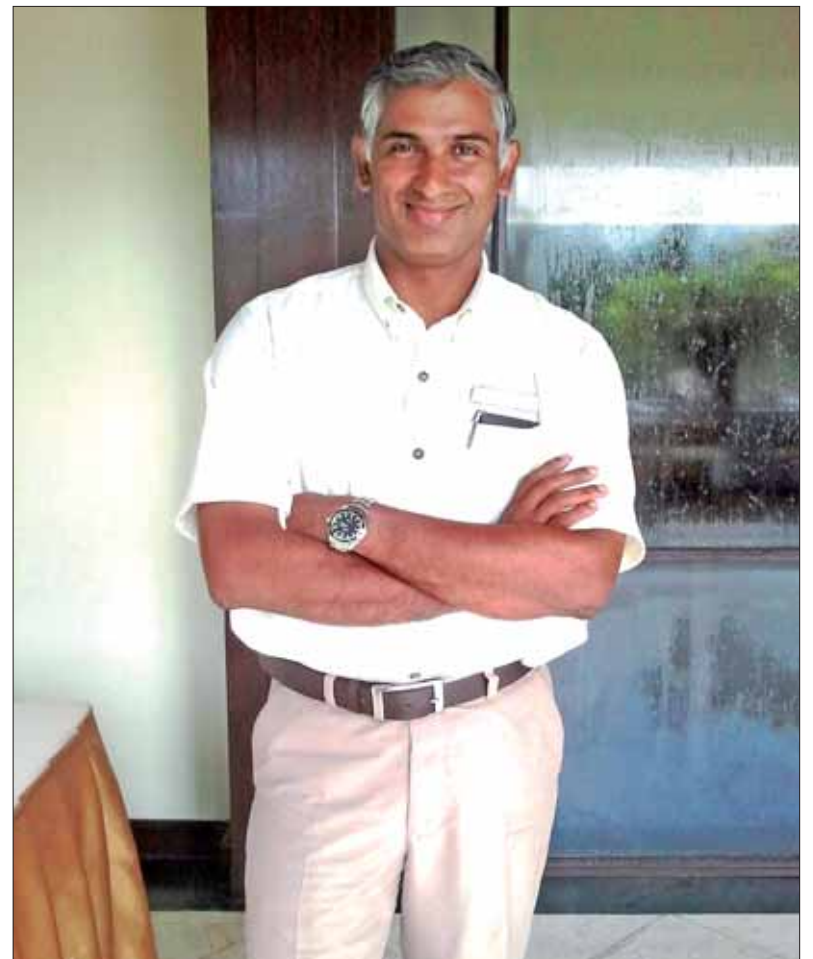
After leaving Australia, where he was an accomplished chef, he took his first management position at Banyan Tree Phuket as the resort's Executive Sous Chef.

Quickly promoted from Executive Sous Chef to Food and Beverage (F&B) Manager in 2004, he was transferred to Banyan Tree Bangkok and promoted to Director of F&B of Banyan Tree Bangkok in February 2005. In 2007 he was tasked with a corporate role as the Group F&B Manager for all Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts.

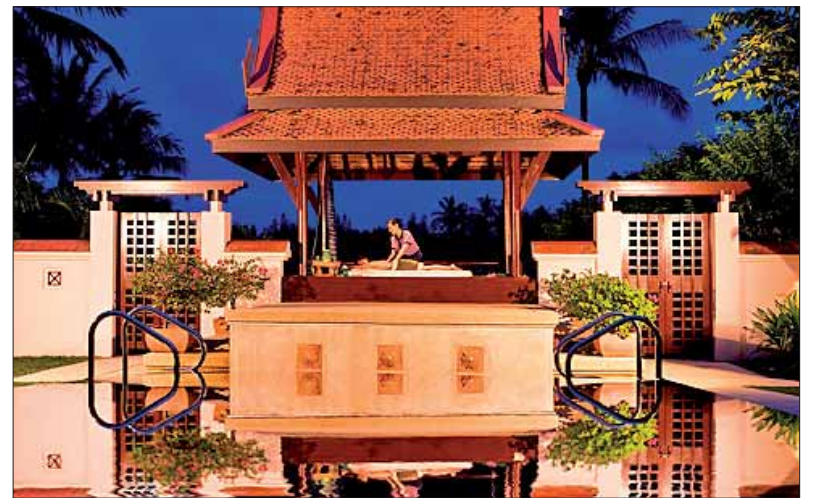
Recalling the differences between Bangkok and Phuket Mr Kailasam said, "Banyan Tree Bangkok for a long time was the only city hotel our company had until we opened in Seoul and Macau," while taking a sip of his coffee he added, "It's a city hotel, a very competitive business environment with a good mix of corporate and leisure guests, whereas Banyan Tree Phuket is an award winning luxury resort, with predominantly high-end leisure guests."

When asked why he decided to come back to Phuket Mr Kailasam replied, "Fundamentally it was an opportunity to run the flagship of the company. This is the first Banyan Tree the group had and it's one of the most beautiful Banyan Trees; everything originated from here."

Mr Kailasam said he's seen his company's brand-portfolio grow



The new General Manager of Banyan Tree Phuket Sriram Kailasam.



Spa and Wellness is one of the three resort paths.

to include 32 hotels across the world; with new resorts due to open in Shanghai and Tianjin in China as well as Banyan Tree's first resort in India this year.

"I think, to take responsibility for this hotel's performance is an opportunity that one only dreams of!" said Mr Kailasam.

Part of his task, along with the rest of Banyan Tree, is to re-position the resort into three distinct resorts catering to the specific needs of travelers. Mr Kailasam explained that this is being done primarily to market the resorts

strategically to niche markets.

"The three new resorts will be 'Banyan Tree Phuket', our main resort encompassing entry level Deluxe Villas, original Pool Villas and two bedroom Pool Villas, ideal for families and friends. Then there is 'Banyan Tree Spa Sanctuary', for those who want an idyllic holiday while focusing on health and wellness. The award winning Banyan Tree Spa ensures that any stay would be a sanctuary to the senses. The 'DoublePool Villas by Banyan Tree', is a high-end private retreat, with two pools and a 24-hour butler service included. While the resort has always been renowned as one of the best for spa and golf, it's now expanded to appeal to a wider audience while maintaining unique service," said Jittra Pornpitakul Manager of Marketing and Communications for Banyan Tree.

When asked what vice he had, if any, Mr Kailasam replied, "Apart from good food and wine, It would have to be my family, and I could add golf to that. However, unfortunately my skills do not match my enthusiasm for the game."



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



# Hair raising experiences

By Abby McMillen

BE IT a headband, scarf, hat, or feather – hair accessories are taking personal style to new levels. By giving us yet another canvas to adorn, this cute new trend is simplifying the way we think about our hair and adds the finishing touches to any ensemble while providing fresh real estate for our creative instincts.

The brilliant thing about this trend is that it translates to every occasion. Any event offers a chance to accessorize your hair – whether you're at the beach, in the office, running errands, or out for an elegant evening.

Some of the looks are extremely effortless and take only seconds to apply – just clip them in and you're ready to go.

Small touches can instantly dress up a plain ponytail or top-knot bun – perfect for the days when you skip shampooing. Or think about adding a beaded or feather headband to a simple hairstyle while running around on the weekends. It will not only

polish up your daytime look, but also revitalize your attitude and sense of style.

There are no rules with this look. Keeping it simple or going all out is up to you. Consider a metallic accessory to transform your classic look into a trendy new one. This is a great trick when going straight from the office out to an event.

Keep a few jeweled headbands or fun rhinestone clips in your desk drawer or purse to add instant glamor before meeting friends after work.

This look works on all hair types, colors, and lengths. A smart way to start experimenting with hair accessories is to try them out while doing something fun like a BBQ or party on the beach. Don a beaded headpiece or scarf tied into a bow, or try incorporating multi-colored ribbons or shells into your braids for a beautiful bohemian vibe.

Accessorizing your hair definitely hails back to the hippy

trends of the 70s. Play upon that with wide headbands that lay across your forehead or a flower tucked behind your ear.

For a party, why not try a few feather hair extensions or a small strand of beads around the crown of your head?

You'll look instantly chic and no doubt turn a few heads.

Daytime parties call for flowers, fresh or artificial, to be pinned in a low rising up hairdo. What a beautiful way to up the femininity of any outfit. For more formal occasions think about a pearl encrusted barrette or a cheeky little lady hat that's pinned on an angle to any up-do.

This trend is an inexpensive investment that will end up paying off in the long run. If you're having a bad hair day, simply pop on a hair accessory to complete your look. Use this trend to incorporate feathers, jewels, and leather into your wardrobe without having to buy large, costly pieces. It's also a great way to recycle your outfits into something new.

By re-accessorizing timeless clothing in your closet, like a little black dress, you'll save money for other items. Hair accessories update your look and ensure you're fashion-forward without having to revamp your whole closet.

**"This trend is an inexpensive investment that will end up paying off in the long run."**



**CROWNING GLORY:** An elaborate floral design can be stunning. Photo: Faylyne



**SIMPLE:** A large flower behind the ear is alluring. Photo: Abby McMillen



**CHAIN REACTION:** Photo: Maegan Tintari



**FLOWER POWER:** A sweet hippy headband and a feather brings out your inner flower child. Photo: Gibson Register

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# Uncle Pitak's Phuket jewel

By Bruce Stanley

UNCLE Pitak's House is set down a small road with Phuket prison on one side and the prison's outreach massage service on the other. Uncle Pitak is the prison superintendent who agreed in 1997 to allow a child care center to operate free of charge to benefit the children of prisoners.

The program is administered by Child-Watch Phuket, who manage seven different programs around the island to help children with need.

The founder of Child-Watch is Dr Supaluck Kanchanamethakul, director of her own school, Wittaya Sathid.

"Back in the 1990s, the development of Phuket was growing rapidly and there were no resources to protect the children whose parents came to the island to work and often left their families on their own during the day. Some of these children became victims of sexual exploitation while others lost their homes when their parents were put in prison. We wanted to provide safe places for these children."

Uncle Pitak's House was initially opened to house children whose Burmese parents were in prison because they were either working illegally or got into trouble at labor camps with agents who turned them over to the police. Conditions for the



CARING HEARTS: Nalitaya Atapoktanakorn (left) with Kwanta Yalong.



CHEERS: Children voice their thanks.

Burmese have improved and the 60 children at Uncle Pitak's are now young Thais who live around Phuket. They are lovingly managed by Kwanta Yalong, who for the past 11 years, has been providing a happy place for children who often have nowhere else to go during the day.

Nalitaya Atapoktanakorn supervises all seven of the Child-Watch programs.

"We are grateful for whatever donations and assistance we can get. As the population of Phuket



HAPPY FEET: Children enjoyed a truly festive occasion.

grows, so do the number of families who are only making a survival living at best. We need to help their children so they can get an education and out of the cycle of poverty."

When Kelly Lewis, General Manager of the Indigo Pearl, heard about the programs at Uncle Pitak's House, he decided he



PEARLS OF THE ANDAMAN: Children from Uncle Pitak's House show support for Indigo Pearl's CSR efforts at the recent presentation day.



FATHER OF PEARL: Indigo Pearl's GM Kelly Lewis (green shirt), resort manager David Ippersiel (white shirt), Bastien Gianetti and Juliana Sala.

wanted the resort's Corporate Social Responsibility program involved in providing whatever assistance they could.

"I firmly believe that we have a duty to help the local community that supports the success of our operations. Giving back to those with need is important."

Recently, Kelly brought his

management team from Indigo Pearl to have a fun afternoon where children sang songs and danced for the resort managers. In exchange, they received gifts to brighten their day at Uncle Pitak's House.

For more information on Uncle Pitak's Home visit [Indigo-Pearl.com](http://Indigo-Pearl.com).

## Teeth Whitening Center



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# Yaowawit School gets ready for a new term

YAOWAWIT School in Kapong, Phang Nga is set to host a teacher training workshop from April 28 to 30.

All 11 teachers and five parent teacher will undergo training by Ajarn Ladda (Director of the private Thai Satit Pattana School in BKK) and her assistant as well as a team from Thai Teacher TV.

The objective of the workshop is to help teachers include their 10 station agricultural learning in the Thai curriculum and use Thai Teacher TV for improved teaching.

Assistant Professor Dr Kritinee from Sasin, Chula University and Ajarn Waraporn who implemented the international program in the largest school in Ranong will also be guests and act



GEARED UP: Yaowawit students prepare for an exciting start to their year.

as additional coaches for the workshop.

The new school term starts in May with new volunteers arriving at the end of the month.

A psychology graduate from Germany will conduct a behavior observation and documentation study to help leverage support from the psychological faculty of Bangkok's Assumption University.

A German Yoga teacher will run classes for one week from May 21 - 27.

There will be spine healing classes with staff and students from May 21 - 27.

A photography workshop will take place with Shutter Club (Phuket) led by Marc Emmenegger in late May or early June.

- Phuket Gazette



# L'Orfeo – A palace in the midst of madness

## On the Menu

By Sam Wilko

THE other day I was updating a website describing Nai Harn as “One of Phuket’s most tranquil beaches. The peaceful atmosphere is the key to its appeal,” or words to that effect. Well, that would ring true... about 15 years ago. Nowadays, the beach is three-rows deep in sun beds, with shouted Russian as its *lingua franca*, the ‘village’ itself is like Piccadilly Circus with loudly-barking choppers driven by orange-colored men challenged in the underpants department and at the last count there were just under 50 restaurants from the beach itself to the spot where Don’s Mall used to be. I know, because I counted them all.

It’s progress Jim, but not as we know it.

Of the afore mentioned 50 restaurants, only a handful approach fine-dining quality, but unfortunately many *think* they do and market themselves as such, with noticeable fiscal effect on diners’ wallets.

Frankly, most of the rest would be better off going back to motorcycle maintenance and laundry as a way of earning a living.

Still, there are still many good sides to Nai Harn: The beach in low season is sometimes deserted and there’s pretty saucy body and full-on surfing to be had at that time of year at the southern end.

Then there’s the wonderful L’Orfeo, a French-tinged bistro down on Soi Sai Yuan. This is the second time I’ve reviewed L’Orfeo for the *Gazette*, and with good reason: It stands head and shoulders above local competition and owners, Benoit and Stephanie are the reason why. They’re a hard-working French couple who have a clear vision and deliver the goods in style.

A well-respected Phuket restaurateur once remarked to me: “Always give restaurants another chance,” (even though he was ill with food poisoning from his meal at a new Cherng Talay restaurant he’d visited). So, for the fifth time, I dined at L’Orfeo, but I was more than willing to ‘give it another chance’ as the previous experiences had been no less than excellent.

And, once again, I can’t fault it. Hmm, let’s lower ourselves to a little bit of ridiculous nit-picking, shall we? I hate the pebble-stone arrangement in the parking area. It’s not motorbike-friendly and makes me think I’m going to fall over while parking – about as easy as making an entrance on melting ice – and that’s about all I hated. But then, most diners arriving in their 4x4 Chelsea tractors would laugh off this tiny quibble.

The rest adds up to a great



AN OASIS: L'Orfeo is nestled in an area away from the road.



Feuilleté of American sea scallops with spinach.

evening; the kids were well taken care of with pasta in a simple but scrummy tomato sauce (150 baht) and there are lots of other kiddy options.

We shared a more-than-ample Opera salad (L’Orfeo, geddit?) then turned our attention to a feuilleté of American sea scallops with spinach (480 baht) that was ridiculously scrumptious. This was accompanied by a creamy duo of salmon (490 baht).

I’m not great on sweets but Stephanie persuaded me to take home the restaurant’s signature trio of desserts which we tried the next day after our midday meal. They were superb, the lemon tart being the clear winner although the chocolate mousse was definitely classy and certainly costlier than a Magnum. And the

crème brûlée is a killer (in more ways than one...)

Nai Harn is still a ‘relatively’ tranquil place and hopefully a forward-thinking *Or Bor Tor* (community council), will keep it that way so we don’t end up with motorcycle mechanics in the kitchen, borscht takeaways and the same old overhead tangle of black spaghetti wiring that collapses every time the wind gets up. If that ever happened visionaries such as Benoit and Stephanie would have to run away to a better location.

For the time being, however, Nai Harn still has the little oasis that is L’Orfeo.

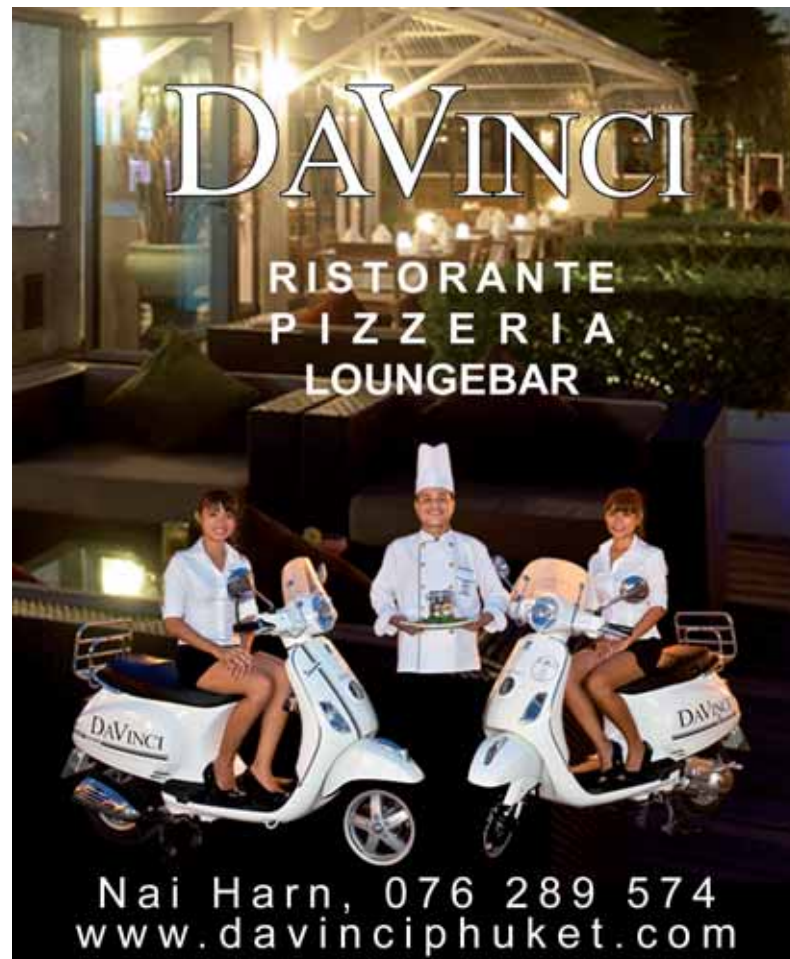
L'Orfeo Lounge Bar and Restaurant:  
95/13 Soi Sai Yuan, Nai Harn,  
Rawai. Tel: 076-288935



Lamb chops are done in the French style - just right.



The Cozy lounge is a great place to unwind before or after a meal.



Nai Harn, 076 289 574  
www.davinciphuket.com



# Chinese day of remembrance

Aside from Thai New Year, April is also the month that those with Chinese heritage on Phuket honor loved ones who have passed away. A ceremony known as Qing Ming.



**QING MING:** Once the ceremonial offerings of spirit money and paper goods have been compiled they are then burnt and firecrackers are lit to inform the dead that gifts are on the way to them. Photos: Nanthapa Pengkasem

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

THE month of April means a lot of things to many people the intense heat, the tropical storms, *khao neo mamuang* (although the latter seems to be available all year round now), and Songkran – the water festival.

For Thai people of Chinese ancestry, April is also the time of Qing Ming, a time to honor the departed at their burial grounds.

Qing Ming, or Tomb Sweeping Day, is a Chinese tradition dating

back more than 2000 years. It usually falls on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the spring equinox. Qing Ming heralds a desire to emerge after winter's confinement. This outing to commemorate the dead is far from being a sombre affair, usually involving the whole family performing the offering ceremony together. Some Chinese people even compare Qing Ming to Christmas in the West when far-spread family members return home for a reunion.

Qing Ming is faithfully observed

by the Chinese community throughout the world. Traditionally, for Bangkok Chinese, who bury their dead in the nearby province of Chonburi, Qing Ming means a short and pleasant car ride to this seaside town.

Families carry with them the usual accoutrements along with another indispensable part of the ceremony; spirit money and paper replicas material goods for comfort and appearance in the afterlife. Things like clothes, cars, homes and paper servants. At the end of the ceremony, the papers are burnt and fire crackers lit in a symbolic gesture to inform the dead that gifts are coming their way.

Lately, the scale and variety of the paper replicas has escalated so much that it includes conveniences of the modern world. Everything from televisions to refrigerators and even mobile phones and computers can be found nowadays. Lately, there is a joke circulating throughout the cyber-world about the angry and frustrated spirit of a grandfather whose relatives in this world have forgotten to send or burn the instruction manual that goes with his paper iPad.

This is also the time when Chonburi's seaside eateries wake up from the East Coast's monsoon slumber and welcomes the influx of Bangkokians with large appetites for fresh seafood. When the time comes to return home,



**DEARLY DEAPRTED:** Qing Ming is also known as Tomb Sweeping Day.



Paper replicas of material goods are offered for comfort in the afterlife.



Spirit money for ancestors.



Colorful shrines on Phuket.

the streets of Bang Saen, Nong Mon, and Sri Racha in Chonburi, will be lined with expensive European cars registered in Bangkok. Before leaving Bangkok's elite seem determined to stock up on local products like shrimp paste, dried fish and the famous *khao larm*, sweet sticky rice baked in bamboo.

Here in Phuket, the filial piety associated with Qing Ming is considered an important part of life where success doesn't depend on having business sense or on hard graft alone, but also on the blessings of those in the other worlds. The spirits of the departed ones, they believe, are forever watching over them and in return deserved to be looked after.

Every year family members of the prominent Hongyok household gather at the grave of their late patriarch Luang Anuphas Phuketkarn, on Chao Fa Road. This year around thirty relatives of Luang Anuphas, mostly his grand and great grandchildren, the youngest being only four and the oldest being in their late seventies, came to honor this once important noble man.

In his day, Luang Anupaspuketkarn or Tan Chin Hong, son of a Chinese immigrant from Fujian Province in

China who settled here in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was a highly successful businessman who built his vast empire from the mining industry. He was also a philanthropist that donated much of his wealth to communities in Phuket, building numerous schools, temples and giving land to the local college. The Hongyok clan now comprises around fifty family members.

The burial grounds of Luang Anuphas and his late wife are constructed on a hillside following the strict rules of Feng Shui applicable to any ideal home: the back must face a mountain or hill and front adjacent to water. If there is no water sources nearby, as in this case, a pond will be dug. Statues of seven mythical animals are scattered throughout the grounds. Together with the land spirits, whose shrines are also built at the site, they work as protective guardians warding off wandering evil spirits, who are said to be numerous during this time of the year.

If you drive around the suburbs of Phuket in April you can still see many decorated grave sites, some elaborate and some less so; a reminder to you of this year's Qing Ming celebration, when the living honor the dead.



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# Expect a miracle

DOCTOR John Hinwood has been called "the Miracle Man" and is soon visiting Phuket as part of the first ever "Phuket Health and Fitness Festival 2012" which will run from May 11 through 13 at the southern end of the island.

Dr Hinwood has an unusual way of changing people's lives. In a journey that has lasted more than 25 years Dr Hinwood has been handing out a small white card to almost everyone he has met. The card has just three words written on it: "Expect a Miracle".

He estimates he has handed out more than 88,000 cards to people all over the world in the last 25 years. Through this small act of kindness Dr Hinwood prompts people to think about their own miracles; the small, seemingly insignificant events and moments in people's lives that open the doors to a sense of wonderment and opportunity.

He once stood in the foyer of

the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel acting as a "miracle magnet" and handing out "Expect a Miracle" cards which instantly attracted a large queue of people. Hotel security approached him and he told them he thought they were doing a poor job welcoming hotel guests to which they said: "What you are doing is obviously working, so carry on."

Dr Hinwood himself is a great example of the power of miracles. He suffered from severe 'knock knees' as a young child, had a bad stutter and also suffered from dyslexia. His parents were told by school guidance officers that the best he should aspire to was a job as a postal clerk.

He overcame his learning difficulties, won a scholarship to study physical education at Sydney Teachers' College, taught High School in Australia, England and South Africa and then completed a Doctor of Chiropractic

degree in Canada. He went on to establish one of Australia's most successful chiropractic practices with his wife, Dr Judy Hinwood.

In his personal life he and his wife Judy adopted three older children from Chile in 1985. The children, now all in their 30s, lead wonderful productive lives. In 1998 John and Judy returned to Chile with their three children and helped them find over 120 members of their biological family including their separated parents.

Dr Hinwood is also a Fellow of the International College of Chiropractors, a Fellow of the Australasian College of Chiropractors and a Fellow of The Australian Institute of Management, one of few health professionals to gain the distinction. He has had papers published in academic journals and was once captain/coach of the Danish national rugby team.

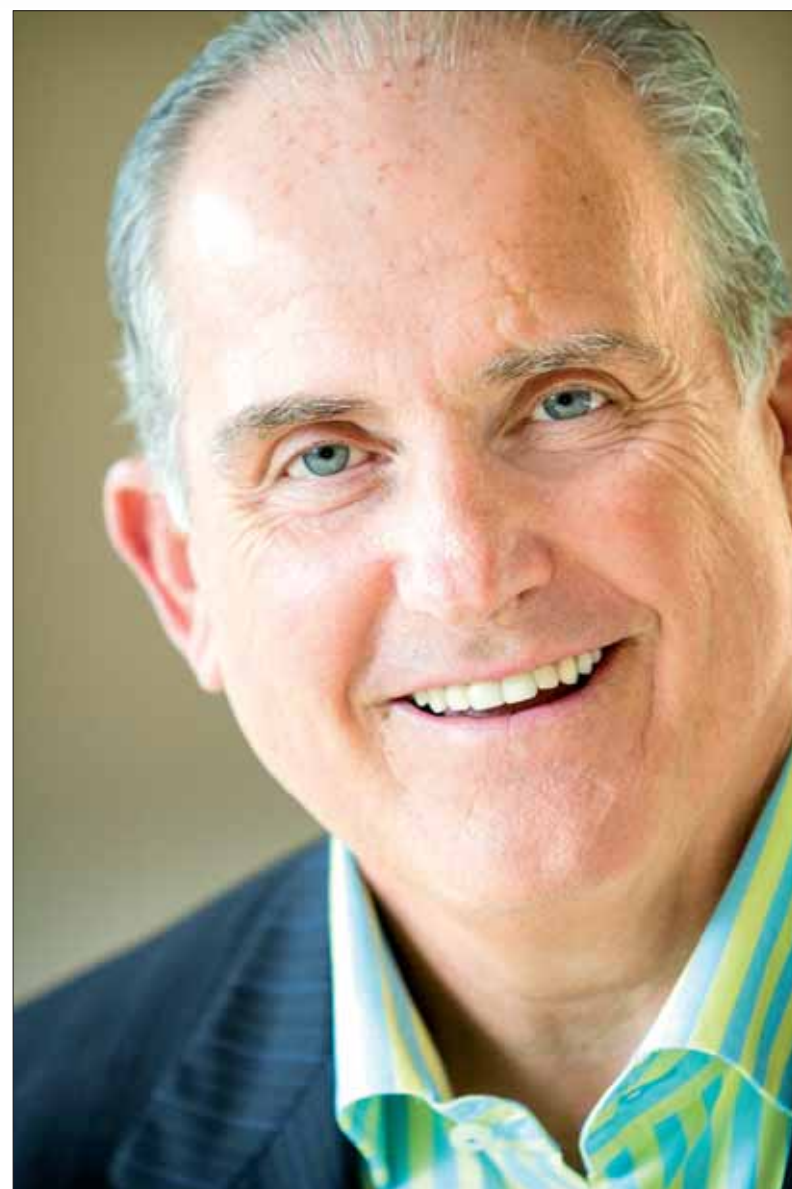
He established one of Australia's most successful chiropractic practices in Brisbane and for eight years was President of the Australian Spinal Research Foundation which has raised millions of dollars for spinal research.

Dr Hinwood and his wife Judy (also a chiropractor), in 2009 were awarded the International Humanitarian Award from the Parker Seminars of Dallas, USA for "unselfishly helping others around the world". Later that year they were awarded a second Humanitarian Award in their native Australia for "their commitment and dedication to empower the chiropractic community".

Both US and Australian editions of Dr Hinwood's best selling book, *You Can Expect A Miracle* have been released. In it are chronicled extraordinary, believe-it-or-not miracles experienced by those who have received his cards.

Henry David Thoreau once said: "Most people lead lives of quiet desperation."

Dr Hinwood says "People need to believe they are worthy of a



**LIFE CHANGER:** The doctor of miracles will be in Phuket in May.

miracle because that thought alone can change a life."

Dr Hinwood will be giving an "Expect a Miracle School" talk at Atmanjai on Sunday, May 13 as part of the "Phuket Health and Fitness Festival 2012" organized through the Rawai-Nai Harn South Coast Experience.

His wife, Dr Judy Hinwood, will also be giving a talk entitled "Fit Heart, Mind and Soul" at the same venue on the previous day.

During the festival participants will also be able to attend other seminars and activities held simultaneously at Atmanjai Wellness Center, The Golden Tulip Mangosteen Resort & Spa, Serenity Resort & Residences; The Vijitt Resort as well as Nai

Harn Lake and the Big Buddha.

A blanket ticket covers admission to all events and will cost 2200 baht (1900 baht if purchased before April 30) and includes the dinner and party held at Serenity Resort & Residences on the Saturday night.

A complimentary shuttle service will also be offered to ticket holders who can attend as many events as they wish.

*The Phuket Gazette is a media sponsor of this event.*

*For more information on Dr Hinwood visit ExpectAMiracle.com. For more information on the festival contact Michael Massey at 0814125652 or visit RawaiNaiHarn.com.*

*- Phuket Gazette*

## Dr Hinwood has developed 13 tips for making miracles happen in your life. These are:

1. Think, talk and act positively in all circumstances. No matter what!
2. Ask yourself whenever you face a challenge: "What would be the best outcome in his situation?"
3. Find time to just sit and put your brain into freewheeling mode, just let it run free...busy brains sometimes miss miracles!
4. Miracles don't necessarily come with a clap of thunder or a flash of lightning: sometimes they come on tippee-toe.
5. Go with the flow. Sometimes at first sight the miracles we get don't appear to be the ones we want.
6. Miracles come when you least expect them. Make them welcome whenever they arrive.
7. Help enough others get their miracles and it's amazing what a positive life you create.
8. Look for the miracles around you – a bird on the wing, the beauty of a rose, the smile of a child, when you see the miracles that already exist, new ones arrive.
9. It's OK to ask, miracles are for everyone and we all deserve them.
10. Abundance abounds. There are plenty of miracles for us all.
11. When you are totally open to receiving miracles, it's astounding how they find their way to you and you become a 'miracle magnet'.
12. If you continually ASK for what you really want in life, the funny thing is you will often get it.
13. Print off some Expect A Miracle cards from the ExpectAMiracle.com website and start handing them out.

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# Sympathy for the Devil

## Books

By James Eckardt

WATERGATE is a state of mind, depending on your age and your political passions. When one of the great political scandals of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was unfolding, I was in my late twenties and an ardent Nixon hater.

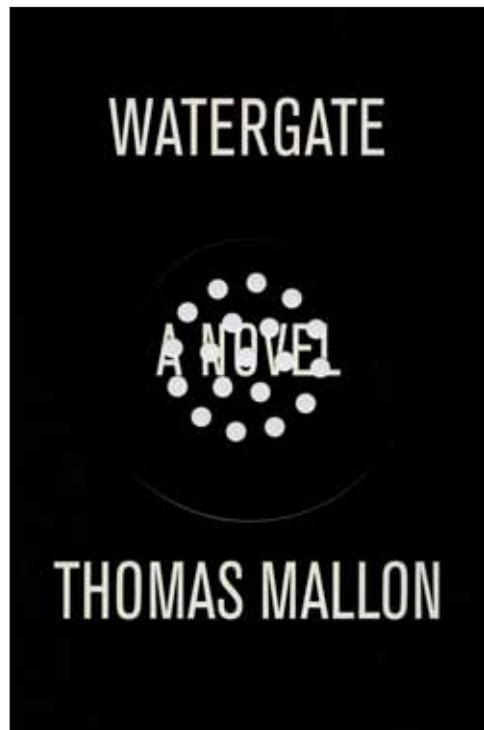
High school kids may study Watergate nowadays but most people probably have only a vague notion about the burglary that drove an American president from office.

Thomas Mallon's novel *Watergate* (Pantheon Books, New York, 2012, 432pp) is a timely remedy for such amnesia. It's also a useful corrective for us aging Nixon haters. We not only hated Nixon but all the people surrounding him – Mitchell, Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Colson, Magruder – and felt a rich sense of satisfaction when they were dispatched one by one to prison.

Mallon has an uncanny, and generous, ability to get inside the heads of Richard Nixon, his wife Pat, his longtime secretary Rose Mary Woods, Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt, cabinet member Eliot Richardson, and cover-up bagman Fred LaRue.

The story is told through their points of view. There are only two fictional characters. Mallon gives a lover to Fred LaRue, "Clarine Lander", a Democratic activist, and to Pat Nixon, "Tom Garahan", a New York investment banker. Providing a long-term Washington perspective is Alice Roosevelt Longworth, the acerbic 90-year-old daughter of Theodore whose couch pillow was famously embroidered "If you can't say something good about someone, sit right here by me."

To help those unfamiliar with the many participants of the Watergate saga, Mallon helpfully provides a four-page list of over a hundred characters from Spiro Agnew to Ron Ziegler labeled "The Players". Then

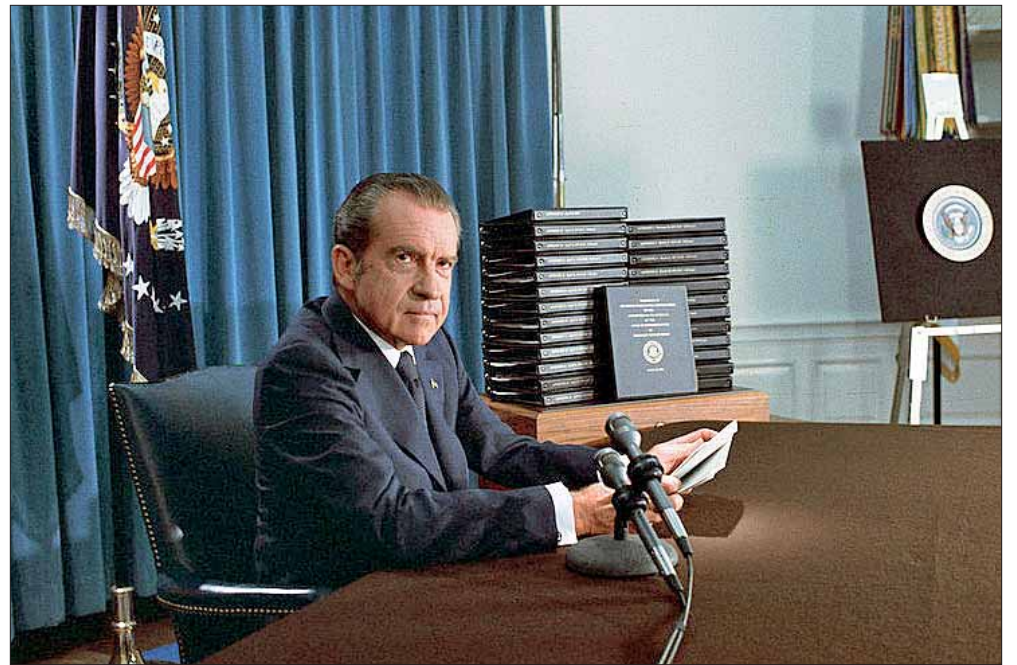


Mallon plunges into his prologue.

A week before the first Watergate break-in, on May 11, 1972, Fred LaRue, Mississippi oilman, key architect of Nixon's Southern Strategy and then deputy director of the Committee to re-elect the President, is looking out the window of his own apartment in the Watergate complex and savoring the prospects of Nixon's re-election.

At the same time, Howard Hunt is looking for lodging for his crew of Watergate burglars; and Alice Roosevelt Longworth is watching on TV her friends Dick and Pat Nixon in Moscow. Meanwhile Pat Nixon can't sleep and is thinking about her old lover in New York while her husband is on the phone with Watergate plotter Chuck Colson in Washington.

Then it's June 17, 1972, the night of the second failed break-in to the Democratic campaign headquarters and things begin to fall apart. Fred LaRue is suddenly a bagman,



President Nixon, with edited transcripts of Nixon White House Tape conversations during broadcast of his address to the Nation

delivering cover-up money to Howard Hunt's wife Dorothy. Richard Nixon feels his enemies closing in around him, even at moment of his greatest triumph as he's nominated for president in Miami.

"The goddamned Vietnam Veterans Against the War" are protesting nearby, provoking the cops into firing the occasional canister of tear gas. He's seen the news clips; half of them seem to be in wheelchairs, which he bets they need about as much as he does. Colson doubts that most of them have even been in the army, let alone Vietnam. If the Secret Service had let them get any closer as he came into the hall, he'd have flashed them the "V" sign, which drives them nuts whenever he uses it in the old Churchillian sense of victory instead of peace."

Despite his prejudices and resentment, Nixon comes off as a president dedicated to peaceful global diplomacy but as the Watergate crisis mounts, he is never given

any credit by his many foes. It's a question of giving a dog a bad name.

When he's deathly ill with pneumonia at Walter Reed Hospital, he's hiding from Watergate; when he seeks a peaceful end to Arab-Israeli hostilities after the Yom Kippur War, he's seeking to distract others from the scandal.

Conversely, a hero of Watergate like Eliot Richardson, the New England patrician and attorney general who resigned in protest when Nixon fired his special prosecutor Archibald Cox, is seen as a crafty opportunist conniving for power. With his eye on the presidency, he rages against his growing obscurity and impotence.

There are, indeed, few heroes in this tale but an assortment of flesh-and-blood characters who are equally capable of love and betrayal. Rather than satisfaction, this reader felt a sense of waste and loss as each succumbs to his/her own doom.



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# Battleship

## Film

**Lead Actors:** Alexander Skarsgard, Liam Neeson, Taylor Kitsch, Brooklyn Decker, Rihanna  
**Director:** Peter Berg  
**Genre:** Action | Sci-Fi  
**Phuket release Date:** April 12

BASED on Hasbro's classic naval combat game, *Battleship* is an epic action-adventure that unfolds across the seas, in the skies and over land as our planet fights for survival against a superior force.

Taylor Kitsch plays Hopper, a Naval officer assigned to the USS John Paul Jones; Brooklyn Decker as Sam, a physical therapist and Hopper's fiancée; Alexander Skarsgard as Hopper's older brother, Commanding Officer Stone of the USS Samson; Rihanna as Lt Raikes, Hopper's crewmate and a weapons specialist on the USS John Paul Jones, and interna-

tional superstar Liam Neeson as Hopper and Stone's superior (and Sam's father), Admiral Shane.

Many alien invasion-type movies have been released in the past year and among them stands this box office giant (it cost an estimated US\$200mn to make).

The story is set around a naval fleet that accidentally makes contact with aliens known as "The Regent." Soon, the world is thrown into chaos as these creatures have a hidden agenda which involves the total annihilation of humans.

At first sight, this seems like another brainless *Transformers*-type movie, but given the creative and complex story of *Battleship*, this action-packed blockbuster comes across with a refreshingly new twist on the genre.

Taylor Kitsch is fantastic as Lt Alex Hopper, who also wants to



**You've sunk my battleship.**

marry Samantha Shane (played by beautiful Brooklyn Decker), the daughter of Vice Admiral Shane, played by Liam Neeson who put in a powerful performance.

Rihanna is just a supporting actress who has her moments, but what makes this movie so original, is that it shows you the film through the aliens' eyes as well, and this in turn lets you in on the big secret. – *Phuket Gazette*



# Wariya Chattay

WE MET the day after the second earthquake in one week struck Phuket. For Wariya Chattay, it was business as usual, even just hours after the evacuation chaos and tsunami scare in Patong.

As Business Development Manager of Phuket Simon Cabaret, the longest running entertainment business in town, Wariya doesn't believe in the notion of the niche market. Any business, even one as successful as this, she says, needs to diversify to keep its competitive edge. Resting on one's laurels is not what she condones.

Wariya, who is in charge of publicity for this Vegas-style transvestite cabaret, explains that marketing is not just about advertising but encompasses aspects such as skillful communication, diplomacy in human relations, and a sense of time and space.

"This means being able to identify our strong points and use them to our advantage. In the case of Phuket Simon Cabaret it's the uniqueness of our productions and our own troop of ladyboy dancers. These are the two key elements that sustain our success."

While she always tries to highlight the former in any publicity materials, Wariya admits that the latter requires a little delicacy.

"Our dancers are very special and talented people. Their creative power is unsurpassable but they also require special handling. I have a lot of

**THAI**  
**gallery**  
By Nanthapa Pengkasem

respect for them but the way to their hearts is through gentle nudging. I treat them as my own family and I'd like to think that I have won them over."

Wariya is at the front line in any contact with clients, with whom she makes sure to "wrap up the deal at the first meeting" and where she tries to fulfill at least 90 per cent of their wishes. "I never say no to any proposals. I'll work it out later with our talented house choreographer who ensures that things go according to plan."

The most difficult project, she says, was one where her dancers were asked to perform an elaborate fashion catwalk on a flat rooftop wearing 10-inch-high stilettos. "Had I said no to the client, he would have gone straight for performers from Bangkok or Pattaya and I can't have that. This is my terrain, I have to protect it. But I spent the whole time worrying to death about the safety of my 'girls'. Thank goodness, nobody fell off the roof," she says with a laugh.

Each year Wariya takes her dancers to international venues such as New Zealand (Christchurch Opera

House), Dubai, Singapore, China and Russia. Her list of illustrious clients includes famous fashion designers, European millionaires and Middle-Eastern princes, to whom special entertainment numbers are shown in their private villas here.

Wariya, who is 31 years old this year, says she is driven, ambitious, and sometimes over-confident. A graduate with a degree in Business Communications from the University of Vancouver, she joined Simon Cabaret as secretary to the president before being promoted to the position of manager in 2009.

Her day starts at the Phuket Simon Cabaret office in Patong where she and her team review the sale figures of the previous night's performance and maps out plans of action. The afternoon is usually reserved for meetings with her clients and agents, or overseeing the business at the newly-opened Simon Theatre in Samkong. If she is not too tired, she stays on to watch the evening show, where she hopes to pick up some inspiration to use in future publicity materials.

"In the entertainment business, working is tantamount to playing. Although I am in the area of marketing, at the end of the day it's all about showmanship – the sparkle and glitter, the sound of the applause, and how the dancers have captivated the audience. And yes, I do love my work."



## About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Thai Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.








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# WHAT'S ON in Phuket

## April 21, 8:30-10:30pm: Count Snape and friends at Royal Phuket Marina

Royal Phuket Marina is proud to present an evening of Theatrical Entertainment. Optional Donations to the Phuket Sunshine Village Foundation Orphanage. Cast: Count Snape - Director; Tenor & Accompanist Vicky Pegram; Soprano and Comedian Josh Roxas; Baritone and Dancer Vanessa Chan. Featuring Count Snape on the piano. For all reservations & enquiries please contact Mr Murat (Events & Group Manager) on 081 797 3364.

## April 21-22, 5-9pm: Weekend Market at the Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina, Koh Kaew

Buy, sell and barter on an ever expanding extensive variety of goods, food, etc. Or simply relax and enjoy the vast assortment of other fun stuff we are putting together for all ages. Nobody has more fun than at the soon to be number one Weekend Market & Meeting Place in Phuket! Located within the conveniently situated Boat Lagoon, with easy access, Toilet facilities and lots of free parking. Individual cover boot (2x2m) with power facility available for rent in dedicated zone areas, 100 baht per day introduction rate. Contact 088-7680471.

## April 22, 6-10:30am: TSLC IronKids Phuket Triathlon at the Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club

Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club will host the next TSLC IronKids Phuket Triathlon on Sunday, April 22, 2012 for children 6 years to 15 years old. Juniors (6yrs - 8yrs) will compete in a 50m swim, 3km bike and 500m run. The intermediate age group (9yrs - 11yrs) will compete in a 150m swim, a 6km bike and a 1.5km run. The Seniors course (12yrs - 15yrs) is a 300m swim, 12km bike and 3km run.

Please find more information at [www.ironkidsphuket.com](http://www.ironkidsphuket.com). The *Phuket Gazette* is proud to sponsor this event.

## April 23, 6pm-1am: Surf-Night at Two Chefs Karon

Every Monday we are setting up a great BBQ-Buffer, with loads and loads of food.

There will be juicy steaks and meat directly from the BBQs a big variety of sauces and so much more.

There will be nice and pleasant live music performed by one member of the Two Chefs house band. The best is that it only costs 495 baht for all this.

For more info please visit us on the web [kata@twochefs.com](mailto:kata@twochefs.com).

## April 27, 7-11pm: Curry Fridays at the Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant, Karon

We present Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal India Restaurant. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet every Friday. Selections include the all-time favourite "Chicken Tikka Masala", very hot "Mutton Vindaloo", succulent Kebabs, Goan Fish Curry and much more served with Nan bread and Basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett! Draught Beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Venue: Navrang Mahal India Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Time: 7 to 11pm. For reservations, please call: 076-286464, ext 4.

## April 27-28, 6:30pm-1am: Cocktail dinner at the Bliss Beach Ball

The chic Bliss Beach Club on Bang Tao is the setting for the "Bliss Beach Ball". Sip a cocktail as you watch the sun set into the ocean, eat a sumptuous dinner then dance the night away with Bliss' resident DJ Chedi. All this and free flow wine and beer from event sponsors BB&B and Andaman Wine Club. All proceeds go to the "Phuket Has Been Good To Us". 2,500 baht includes sunset cocktails, dinner, free flow wine and entertainment. Contact David Berman, Communications Coordinator, on 076 278 146 or email [david@phukethasbeengoodtous.org](mailto:david@phukethasbeengoodtous.org)

## April 28, 8:30pm: Salsa Night at Royal Phuket Marina

After the overwhelming success of our Salsa Evening and by popular demand, we are delighted to invite you to our Salsa Event at Royal Phuket Marina. Dance the



Photo: Christian Mouchet

## Phuket Bike Week and Motorcycle Exhibition Loma Park and Football Field, Patong Beach

- April 21: Tree planting to help reduce global warming, Patong Beach area along the road to Kamala (3-4pm)
- April 22: Miss Bike Week 2012 Final (6-9pm).

This event, now in its 18 year, is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV.

For more information contact Khun Ae or Khun Orca on 076-352069 or E-mail [ridethailandeditor@gmail.com](mailto:ridethailandeditor@gmail.com)

Cha-cha, Bachata, Samba & Rumba with the sound of DJ live on the boardwalk outside "Les Anges". Entrance is free and the dress is colorful. For all reservations & enquiries please contact Anna & Didier on 084 051 7455 or Mr Murat (Events & Group Manager) on 081 797 3364.

## May 1, Labor Day Public Holiday

## May 2, 16 and 30, 6pm-1am: Tex-Mex night at Two Chefs Karon

Now we start with our very popular weekly Tex-Mex again. Every Wednesday we present for you the biggest Tex-Mex buffet on this island. This year we also have a free flow option for you. As every night, our Two Chefs house band will be there to entertain us. All this only 495 baht and for 795 baht you can drink as much as you

want from our free flow options. For more info please visit us on the web [TwoChefs.com](http://TwoChefs.com).

## May 5, Coronation Day Public Holiday

## May 5, 12-3pm: Saturday Brunch at Two Chefs Kata Center

Saturday brunch at Two Chefs Kata Center! Every Saturday we are setting up our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home made delights. In our smoke house, we smoke all of our fish and meats by ourselves, and in the bakery we we bake all our bread. With very well trained chefs and a Swedish head chef, we can promise you that you won't leave hungry or thirsty. All this for only 395 baht, and if you add an extra 300 baht you can choose to drink what you want from our free flow alternatives. For more information please visit [TwoChefs.com](http://TwoChefs.com).

## Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

Is Windows driving you nuts? Looking for a good internet connection? Need to know how and where to get your PC repaired, or your confounding questions answered? Drop by the new Afternoon Computer Clinics, hosted by Woody Leonhard and Seth Bareiss. Bring your computer. Bring your questions. Bring your sense of humor and let's see if we can solve your PC problems. Second and fourth Wednesday of every month, 1-3pm, at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

Free Computer Clinics at  
Sandwich Shoppe Chalong - April 25, May 9, 16, 1-3pm  
Sandwich Shoppe Patong - May 2, 1-3pm

Contact at 076-282403, [Woody@KhunWoody.com](mailto:Woody@KhunWoody.com) or visit [KhunWoody.com](http://KhunWoody.com)

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**SOAKING UP THE CULTURE:** The Songkran festival is celebrated in Thailand as the traditional New Year's Day from 13 to 15 April, and down in Patong things got wet and wild with the traditional water fights. The Phuket Gazette would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our readers a very happy Thai New Year. Photos: Atchaa Khamlo

# Water, water everywhere...



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NIGHT AND DAY: Having hosted New York band “Mystery Lights” (below) the night before, Hard Rock Cafe staff were up bright and early the next day to pay respects to the elderly at the Social development and Welfare for elderly persons center in Pa Khlok, where they donated new clothes to celebrate “Songkran Day” or Thai New Year (above).



HOSPITABLE: Staff from the Bangkok Hospital Phuket visited some staff at the Phuket Gazette offices during the Songkran Festival to wish them a Thai happy new year.



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**There is a single connection between all the quiz answers. Can you get it before the last question?**

1. By what stage name did William Claude Dukenfield achieve fame?
2. Who received an Oscar nomination for Best Original Song from the film *Live and Let Die*?
3. Who starred in the title role in the 1968 film *The Boston Strangler*?
4. Who narrated the children's television series *Thomas The Tank Engine And Friends*?
5. Which author's works included *The Pit And The Pendulum* and *The Raven*?
6. Who received US\$3.7 million for two weeks work for his part in the 1978 film *Superman*?
7. Who, having been an Olympic swimming champion achieved fame in a second career and was famous for his ululating yell?
8. Whose scandalous affair with Lord Alfred Douglas eventually led to imprisonment?
9. Which scientist was Time magazine's 'Person of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century'?
10. What is the connection between these nine people?

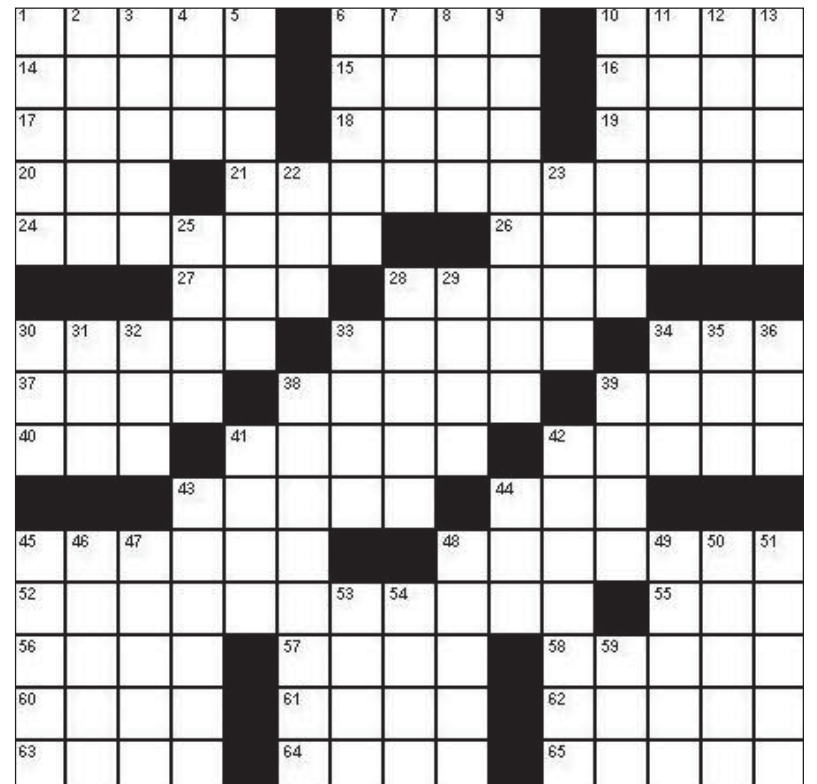
Quiz answers on page 41

#### Across

1. Maker of Pong
6. Canines
10. Matron
14. Broaden
15. Burn balm
16. Biblical garden
17. Hydrogen, carbon, e.g.
18. Aromatic fragrance
19. Firewood measure
20. Blame
21. Suitable for marketing
24. Beg
26. Don't bother
27. Make lace
28. Meager
30. Coarse wool cloth
33. Twice, a comforting comment
34. "\_\_\_ Ventura" was played by Jim Carrey
37. Imbroglio
38. Sycophant
39. Henry VIII's sixth
40. Animation frame
41. Ball girl
42. Histological stain
43. Cave-dwelling dwarf
44. Miracle \_\_\_
45. Medieval
48. Like harp seals
52. Magical incantation
55. Equinox mo.
56. Abound
57. A pitcher may take one
58. Golden Horde member
60. "\_\_\_ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto)
61. Lo cal
62. Grenoble's river
63. Cong. meeting
64. A party to
65. Swear word

#### Down

1. Alert
2. Saturn's largest moon
3. Assume
4. "Everybody Hurts" band
5. In the place of
6. Sponge gently



7. Minnesota's St \_\_\_ College
8. Ball game
9. School for the priesthood
10. Pour from one container to another
11. Maker of Photoshop
12. Blackbird
13. Broke off
22. Deserter
23. Circle at bottom, point at top
25. Numbered rds
28. Will, old style
29. Give up
30. HBO alternative
31. Itsy bitsy

32. Immigrant's subj.
33. Tribute
34. Small batteries
35. Dernier \_\_\_
36. Directional ending
38. Aztec temple
39. Wading place
41. \_\_\_ -a-brac
42. Unpredictable
43. English river
44. Needle fish
45. Entrances
46. Corpulent
47. Head lock
48. *Barnaby Jones* star
49. Aromatic compound
50. Singes
51. Carousal
53. Slay
54. About
59. Sun Devils' sch.

Provided by BestCrosswords.com

Puzzle solutions on page 41.

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



Taureans could be tempted to take on more responsibilities in the world of work this week. The stars show that financial rewards should more than compensate for the extra energy that will be demanded. Money matters are well-starred until the end of April. Those with a birthday during the coming week are forecast to be luckier in love in the year ahead. Wear the color dusky rose to enhance your charisma.

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



Spring fever could affect those born under the sign of Gemini during the last week of April. This may result in the urge to relocate and a water sign's recommendations could mean a complete change of scenery. Where a romantic disagreement is concerned, silence is golden. If you are single and seeking, a fire sign's interest is hard to ignore this weekend. Lucky days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday.

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



Haste can create waste this week. Those Cancerians who took too much on board earlier this month are likely to be rushing in order to meet deadlines. The stars suggest that it will be easier than you think

to put commitments on hold. Cupid can encourage a meeting with an earth sign this weekend for those who are single. If you are already committed, a partner's choice of friends could cause ripples in a relationship.

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



A bumpy start to the week will require careful navigation. Leos who are finding it difficult to get on with another fire sign at work could try organizing a social outing with this person. Money matters are moderately well-starred – the stars hint that an overlooked bill may cause problems. On the home front, a partner's ideas for spending a different kind of weekend remind you how important it is to recharge batteries.

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



An air sign friend's need for sympathy begins to grate on your nerves this weekend. Virgoans who feel they have listened for long enough to other people's problems should make their feelings clear to break this cycle. Concentrating on your own life is a sensible priority to have until the end of April – the stars suggest that several personal matters could use some attention. Romance with a water sign blossoms this weekend.



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



A situation at work that you did not see coming could cause Librans to doubt another air sign's ability. The stars advise that a tactful talk should encourage this person to get their act together. Your communication skills will be strongest during the second half of the week. Where romance is concerned, a broken promise could disturb harmony this weekend. Wear the color sky blue to promote more uplifting thoughts.

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



The astral atmosphere encourages Scorpions to set their sights higher this week. Where work is concerned, there are hints that a dream can come true and travel to previously unseen places is likely to be involved. A romantic relationship should also benefit from the stars' help – there is emphasis on finding ways of rekindling excitement. Lucky days for money matters are Monday and Tuesday.

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



Burying your head in the sand could be an attractive option during the last week of April. A situation that has been bubbling under at work is predicted to come to a head and some Sagittarians will want to avoid involvement. However, the stars suggest that positive input will be to your advantage. An earth sign colleague is forecast to provide unexpected support. Finances take a turn for the better towards the end of this month.

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



Your money tree is forecast to flourish as the month of April draws to a close. Capricorns who have been struggling to make ends meet should enjoy more financial security during the weeks ahead. The stars also indicate that one business opportunity will easily lead to another. There are signs that a long distance love affair will reach a make or break point, but this could come at an opportune moment.

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



Your problem-solving skills are enhanced by this week's astral atmosphere. Aquarians should put this bonus to good use, particularly in the world of work. There

are hints that an offer you make mid-week will be hard for others to turn down. Romance is light-hearted, with emphasis on another air sign showing that your doubts are unfounded. Fortunate days for finances are Tuesday and Wednesday. Your lucky color this week is ruby red.

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



An influential air sign is poised to come into your life. Pisceans who have been feeling like a fish out of water since the start of April are forecast to end this month in a more secure situation. Your luck in money matters steadily increases until the end of the month. The stars suggest that those who got cold feet about a new investment will learn that they made the right decision.

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



Some Arians are forecast to warm up to the idea of finding a different job during the last week of April. Networking that you have already done this month can result in interesting leads – an earth sign's connections are particularly well-starred. In the realm of romance, your intuition about a water sign should not be ignored. A relationship with another fire sign becomes more intense after a confession this weekend.



# PROPERTY Gazette

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## Swissôtel opens resort in Kamala

SWISSOTEL Hotels & Resorts has taken over the management of the Courtyard by Marriott Phuket at Kamala Beach, effective the first of April.

Rebranded as Swissôtel Resort Phuket, the property is the group's third Thai property and its first resort property in Asia.

Swissôtel already operates two hotels in Bangkok, the Swissotel Nai Lert Bangkok, located in the central district of Chitlom and the Swissôtel Le Concorde, situated near the Thailand Cultural Center in the Huay Khwang district.

"Phuket is one of the most visited regions in Thailand, and after operating two hotels in Bangkok for years, we (have) finally opened our first resort property in Asia. This project will strengthen our presence and complement our expansion strategies within the region," said Meinhard Huck, president of Swissôtel Hotels & Resorts.

Located on the western side of the island, Swissôtel Resort Phuket offers 180 one- to three-bedroom suites, a lagoon-inspired swimming pool, a spa and fitness centre, family

adventure club and a varying array of recreational activities for all tastes and styles of traveler.

The Swissotel Resort Phuket can also cater for MICE events, with eight function rooms spanning a total area of 450 square metres. The space is sufficient to comfortably host a corporate meeting, event or exhibition for up to 150 guests.

The resort is situated directly on the beach at Kamala and travel time from Phuket International Airport is roughly 30 minutes each way.

To mark its opening the Swissôtel Resort Phuket is offering 25 per cent off best available rates for a minimum two night stay which includes breakfast for two and a late check-out till 4pm.

Swissôtel Hotels & Resorts is owned by FRHI Holdings Limited, a leading global hotel company with 101 hotels and resorts worldwide under the Raffles, Fairmont and Swissôtel brands. The company also manages Fairmont and Raffles branded Residences, Estates and luxury private residence club properties.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Swissôtel Resort Phuket offers a choice of one, two and three-bedroom suites.



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# Just another 48 hours



**FLIGHTLESS:** The scene at Phuket airport which was temporarily closed during the aftermath of the April 11 earthquake off Sumatra. Photo: Aitcha Khamlo



## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

STANDING at Koh Samui airport I quickly glanced up to see the ominous line "flight delayed" flicking on the overhead screen. This was last Wednesday afternoon and I had suddenly started receiving calls, and a steady stream of SMSs about shaky tremors in Phuket.

Things were about to get worse. Getting onto my smart-phone brought tweets of a tsunami alert, receding shorelines and a grim

reminder of 2004 with an overloaded mobile network that worked on a sporadic basis.

Next came the news from Bangkok Airways that all flights to and from Phuket were canceled and that the airport was shut. I grabbed the next flight to the capital after learning that no seats were open from Samui to my destination until Friday so I'd better operate from the 'big smoke'.

Airport staff were harried but helpful as I booked the first flight on Thursday back to the island from Bangkok. If a wave was going to hit, it would be between 5:30

and 5:40pm according to the news, and that was all we heard as we took off on the sharp ascent North.

On touchdown I switch on the phone, risking the wrath of the flight crew and no doubt imperiling a plane-load of passengers by not adhering to the rules. Living dangerously often comes in small and comical doses at my age.

News from Phuket was that no wave had appeared and that the mood had softened. Waking early and anticipating all manner of chaos at the airport I was reminded of those stirring images of the last planes out of Vietnam. Humans falling like coconuts from an overloaded tree as they gripped on for life to the long legged helicopters.

Check-in lines at the "no bag counter" went by quickly and I glanced at the airline ticket offices expected to see something out of the ultimate cage fighting spectacles. Again I was mistaken, and had time to get a tasty *Latte* downstairs at Starbucks.

Landing back in Phuket on one of the first flights, things looked pretty normal, except for some guys in Devo-styled orange jumpsuits handing out bottles of water to cars as they exited the airport. Some nearby official-looking cameramen snapped happy so clearly this was a government photo op.

In the land of same-same, things were indeed back to normal.

I was watching a movie serial on the ill fated John McCain and Sarah Palin Presidential run the other night. One line that caught me was when, after a totally disastrous television appearance, one of the Republican media gurus just shrugged it off and said "these days no one has a memory that lasts longer than 48 hours."

Certainly the usual expat doomsday din was in full swing, clamoring away how the island straddled the thin line between Armageddon and anarchy. The funny thing is that for much of the world the same thing can be said all too often these days.

Asia remains for many Westerners a bad cliché or backwater they call "The Far East", "The Orient", "The Third World" or even worse.

**"Even Sweden, up in the pristine top of the world, isn't safe as last year's summer camp shooting bore witness."**

Don't drink the water and for God's sake it's a jungle out there.

I think I've written about it before, but for the Wildly Willing West it took

how many days to evacuate the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina? Or the careless Greek cruise ship captain who abandoned his passengers and took the first lifeboat out.

Yes, but it's different they say. Thailand could erupt in dismal self-immolation at any time. My quick counter to that is to say, well where can't that happen?

Even Sweden, up in the pristine top of the world, isn't safe as last year's summer camp shooting bore witness.

As I sit at the keyboard days after the tsunami scare and evacuation I ponder over the past few days. A wet, wild and uneventful Songkran and even stories in the news of tourists who actually thanked hotels for advising them to leave the beach areas and later assisted in their needs.

In this episode of "Survivor" the island won an immunity idol and the tribe has now spoken. Frankly speaking I'd be much more concerned about people dying in the streets in Syria, than a fleeing waiter in Patong heading to the hills.

It is after all just another 48 hours.

*Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through his website C9hotelworks.com.*

## In brief...

### New Patong headland unlocks development

READING a recent news article in the *Phuket Gazette* about the Patong Municipal Council's decision to study opening a new access road to the headland area would appear to create added value for property development in the area.

Currently access to the Tri Trang, Emerald Bay, Freedom and Paradise beaches is only possible from the oceanfront beach road going through Patong. A number of new hotel and upscale residential offerings are located in the headland area including Hong Kong's New World Development who are building a luxury mixed use project, Amari Residences, Centara Grand Moringa, Bluepoint and the Absolute Twin Sands Resort.

While the government has been quoted as saying the new road would lessen traffic in the congested main Patong area, it seems a bit illogical given a recent decision to reverse the traffic flow on the beach road. Those wishing to access the headland would have to travel to the Beach Road anyway and the quickest way would be to use the existing road. Optionally a winding trip via third road would eventually get you to the new access if it pushes through.

So is the move meant to alleviate traffic or unlock more land opportunities? Arguably construction vehicles and loaded trucks would benefit from a new road.

Meanwhile the traffic loggerhead in Patong remains a critical issue for development, especially if the headland area is going to position itself as the upscale neighborhood of the area. A tunnel is badly needed and the island's infrastructure continues to lag behind private sector investment.

### Malaysia's growing outbound market

PICK up any Asian gateway or destination visitor statistics these days and in more cases than not, Malaysia comes up in the list of top growth markets.

More importantly for the region is that Malaysians seemingly love traveling in Asia.

Viewing PATA's Asia Pacific regional data from 2011, 62% of Malaysia's outbound travel came to Southeast Asia, 32% to North-east Asia with the remains scattered to AustralPacific and South Asia.

There is little doubt that the whirlwind, which is AirAsia, has boosted the trend and, as the low cost carriers continue to rack up more destinations, that the trend will continue to show strong growth.

— Bill Barnett

## Laguna

PROPERTY RESALE

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#### 4 Laguna Cove THB 23 M



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# Absolute World Group announces Asian expansion plans for 2012



Absolute World Group CEO Bryan Lunt.

THE Absolute World Group has announced a schedule for 2012 that includes expansion into unexplored markets, development and new resorts set to launch in Asia.

One of the region's leading property developers, Absolute World Group resorts and hotels operator, shared ownership and destination club pioneer has set its sights on new horizons.

The Absolute World Group continues to deliver growth year-on-year and in-line with this, will deliver and launch a number of new developments in 2012.

Phase I of Absolute Twin Sands Resort & Spa, Phuket, Thailand will be completed this Summer, following a successful sell-out launch in 2010.

Owners will be able to enjoy their va-



Absolute World Group's 'Twin Sands Resort & Spa' Phuket, set to complete phase 1 this Summer. Exterior perspective.

cation experiences at this unique resort offering some of the best views on Phuket's west coast.

Due to popular demand, Absolute World Group will launch Phases II and III later in 2012.

On Phuket's sister resort island, Koh Samui, the Absolute World Group will deliver the exclusive private residence club, The Beach Samui. The first private residence club on Koh Samui.

The Beach Samui is designed by internationally renowned design team Yoo and is set to open later in 2012 on the idyllic south-west corner of the Island.

Building on its Samui success, the Absolute World Group is also set to launch a hip new beach club in Chaweng – the Absolute Golden Beach Club.

With a global sales force and representation across China, Europe, Hong Kong, Russia, Australia and Thailand, the Absolute World Group will open its doors to a new operation in Bali, Indonesia in April.

Bali is one of the top island resort destinations in Asia and welcomed more than 2.5 million visitors in 2011. A 5-hour flight for more than three billion holidaymakers and with new airport expansion plans underway, Bali was an obvious choice, creating new and desirable offerings for Absolute World Group clients and an exciting environment for new staff.

Absolute World Group will be located in the upmarket southern Balinese area of Seminyak, set within the resorts luxury accommodations and fashionable

high-end restaurants and bars, regularly visited by the likes of Madonna, Julia Roberts, Richard Branson and the Beckhams.

Next to the world famous Potato Head Beach Club and adjacent to the W Hotel and forthcoming Armani Hotel – the Group is certainly in good company.

Chairman of Absolute World Group, Bryan Lunt, said, "Bali is truly a fantastic destination allowing us to expand our portfolio and continue to deliver dream vacation experiences to clients from all corners of the world.

We also look forward to welcoming new and existing Absolute World team members to join us in this stunning new island location" added Lunt.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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a collection of 24 over-sized pool apartments located next door to Phuket's prestigious Laguna area - has been named Best Condo Development (Phuket) at the 2011 Thailand Property Awards. Move in tomorrow.



# Heavy-duty gardening



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

IF YOU think that the 'Phuket Gazette' is a parochial newspaper, then have a re-think. I recently received an email from Honolulu, no less, about a piece on palms.

While the writer commended my observations about growing ferns and other epiphytes on palm trunks, he took me to task for writing about, "a very tired and overplanted group," suitable for, "amateur gardeners and teams of poorly trained and hurried yardmen." The writer's letter ended by recommending a Hawaiian nursery, 'Floribunda Palms and Exotics', so I duly had a gander at their impressive website. But here's the rub. Most *Gazette* readers in Phuket are expats whose experience of tropical gardening is necessarily limited. I was the same when I first came here. That means that, initially at least, they want rugged, easy-to-grow plants that are resilient enough for life in Phuket. In general, exotics, rare species, and newer cultivars are much more fastidious about their environment, and will need more tender loving care.

It is worth adding that Hawaii is not Phuket, sits on the Tropic of Cancer, and has a winter temperature between 16 to 29 degrees Celsius; Phuket is much

nearer the equator, and is thus consistently hotter.

And as I swelter away at the computer, I am forcefully reminded that there is no real let-up. So for a while, some of the tough tropicals that flourish in Phuket's heat are going to feature here. The more fragile exotic brethren can wait their turn.

One shrub that is rarely praised, but which copes easily with conditions here is the umbrella tree or *schefflera*. It is essentially a foliage shrub with glossy leaves arranged in palmate fashion like the spokes of a wheel.

The evergreen foliage grows in dense clumps, and sometimes the leaflets droop like a parasol – hence the common name of umbrella tree. It will take shady conditions and provides good cover, especially next to a wall.

In Europe it is sometimes grown as a house plant, a fact which gives an indication of its durability. In fact, I have one in a pot which sits outside in full sunlight, requires little watering, and is now about six feet wide and six feet tall.

*Scheffleras* can often produce unusual inflorescences – spikes of flowers which go

from green to pink and finally to dark red. I say "can" because it does not always flower, and in any case, it is the foliage and especially the variegated form which is the main attraction. In the right conditions, it



Umbrella Tree clipping.  
Photo: Alex Popovkin



Northern Queensland's *Schefflera actinophyll* also known as the "umbrella Tree". Photo: mauroguanandi

can reach 10 feet in height, but it would need to be planted in open ground to achieve those dimensions.

It takes slowly from cuttings, but is, in any case, readily available in garden centers.

Unspectacular maybe, but a personal favorite.

There is nothing unspectacular about the *bougainvillea*. *Spectabilis* is even part of the botanical name. And this vine has nothing in

common with the umbrella tree except that it is a survivor and will take anything Phuket can throw at it. Right now, at the end of the dry season, it is vying for visual prominence with cassias and flame trees.

Left to its own rugged devices and clinging to a tree, it can grow to forty feet or more. Placed next to a wall, it will soon cover the entire surface with its red, salmon-pink, orange or white

bracts. Moreover, it looks magnificent in a pot, especially container specimens, which have several different colors grafted on to a single rootstock.

For instant impact, put a row of these on your patio or balcony.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: [drpaccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:drpaccampbell@gmail.com).



*Bougainvillea spectabilis*. Photo Joao Medeiros

## Tip of the Week

### Planting bare-root plants

IN the days before containerization, plants were bought with bare roots, sometimes and if you were lucky – enclosed in burlap or sacking.

These plants had a lower rate of survival, but at least they only had one kind of soil to cope with. If your new plant has been soil-less for some time, soak it in a bucket of water for at least four hours.

Cut away damaged roots and position in a hole at least twice

the size of the root system, which should be spread out over a cone of soil in the middle of the hole.

Carefully hold the plant upright, and backfill to the soil level. Add water to settle the roots and add a circular ridge of soil that will aid future retention.

If you are transplanting your own plants, try to preserve as much of the root system and its attendant lump of soil as possible.



An Epiphyte, or tree in a tree.  
Photo: Jonathan Celede

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### Properties For Sale

#### CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



for sale. Near Seng Ho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio 30sqm, floor 15, seaview, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in July 2012. Tel: 089-472 9118.

#### UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

A 2-bed villa in Royal Estate offering the security of a small, private, gated community complete with club house and swimming pool all beautifully maintained and well managed. Tel: 076-288560, 085-021 9536 (English). Email: mike.rossiter@ol-i.co.uk

#### 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.

#### HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

#### 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

#### 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

#### TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

#### NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 111sqm. From 4.5 million baht. Must see. For further details, please see our website at www.amphaiseabreeze.com Tel: 084-993 7308.

#### ONE-BEDROOM SEAVIEW CONDO



Unity 2 on the hill, 500m from beach, 4.35 million baht, 1.1 million baht down, take over construction progress payments. Email: keithb025@gmail.com

#### LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

Great location, road access, 5 mins to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (Eng & German).

#### HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Good for stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saetan@gmail.com

#### BEAUTIFUL RAWAI VILLA

Luxury two-bedroom, two-bathroom pool villa in quiet inland retreat near Rawai and Nai Ham. Discounted from 9.5 million to 8.25 million baht for quick sale. Available for rent at 55,000 per month including high-speed internet. Tel: 084-837 9403. Email: Craighoy@hotmail.com

#### CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

Close to Phuket International Airport. 4 rai, Chanote title. 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-868 7676. Email: phuketann@gmail.com

#### 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.

#### VIEW POINT

29 rai, Chanote, view point land on Lone Island, Phuket for sale. Seaview to Chalong, Ao Makham, Nai Thon, Phi Phi, Coral and Racha Islands. Tel: 090-493 8719.

#### RAWAI POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, 8x4m pool, 400sqm land, furnished. Price: 5.5 million baht. Contact Hockey (owner). Tel: 084-852 4091.

#### 4.9 MILLION POOL HOUSE

with 2 bedrooms, located Rawai. Land 272sqm, 2 storey, modern style, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, high wall camera. Email: gm@thenetworkproperty.com

#### LARGE SEAVIEW PROPERTY



for sale. Location at Layan. Tel: 081-787 4383.

#### LAND PLOT FOR SALE



Starting 6 million baht per rai. Location at Layan. Tel: 081-787 4383.

#### MODERN POOL VILLA



Stunning 3-bedroom pool villa, 5 mins from Laguna. 600sqm plot in peaceful location. Finished to a very high specification. Must see. Selling price: 12.9 million baht. Tel: 084-994 9303. Email: phuketpoolvilla.info@gmail.com

#### PHUKET VILLA SUAN LUANG

Urgent sale. 65/474, 67.5sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, car park. Price: 4.9 million baht. Tel: 081-536 5755, 089-729 6244.

#### HOUSE FOR SALE AT CHERNG TALAY

Permsap Villa, 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Fully furnished with big lawn and sports club. Price 8.9 million baht. Tel: 02-585 5086, 085-515 6714 (English & Thai), 082-457 4051 (English & Thai). Email: roxern@yahoo.com

#### URGENT SALE

Bang Tao house, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. Nice location. Only 2.5 million baht. Tel: 084-851 6121.

#### LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60m wide. Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@hotmail.com

#### CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 089-469 1813, 086-476 9612.

#### SEAVIEW HOUSES WITH POOL

Luxurious 600sqm build, 250 internal, 3 storeys with lift. From 12.5 million baht. Tel: 081-968 4230 (English & Thai), 081-968 4807 (English & Thai). Email: johan@phuket-properties.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.chalongresidences.com

#### CHARMING HOME AND POOL

Private hillside, 15m pool, lush garden, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathroom, office, full kitchen. New condition with quality furniture. Freehold, secure and nice. Tel: 076-388 236, 089-727 5407 (English). Email: cosmocampbell@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.villa-sale-phuket.com

#### POOL VILLAS RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished. Price: 4.5 million baht. 100% finance. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

#### NAI HARN FOR SALE

2 bedrooms with pool, walking distance to beach. Great location, quick sale 6 million obo. Tel: 088-168 5032 for pic's.

#### KRABI LAND AND HOUSE

1 rai, 2 bedrooms good location for 3.2 million baht. Tel: 084-056 6067.

#### VILLA PATONG

Super seaview villa in Patong with 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. Freehold. Comes with Chanote title. 23.5 million baht or rent US\$500 per night. Tel: 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-374882. Email: prim\_purdue@yahoo.com Website: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RS1z9EB7i0

#### KATA 3-LEVEL HOUSE

4 bedrooms or more, 2 bathrooms. Must sell fast, must sell cheap. Price: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-303 2202.

#### HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



46sq wah, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, carpark. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-787 7675.

#### HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly built 40sqwah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

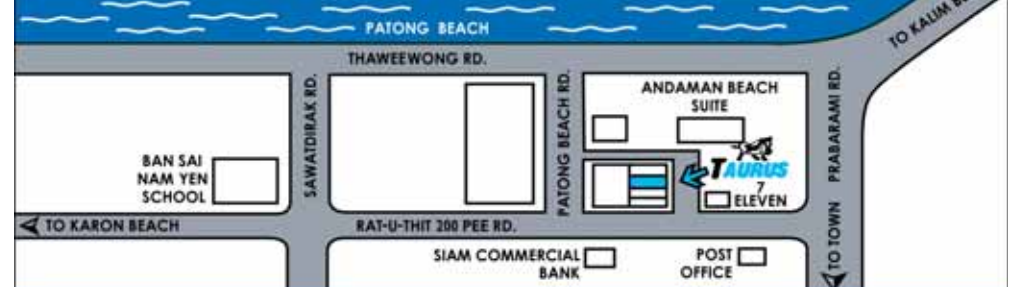
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gotiable. Tel: 081-719 1041.  
Email: teddykong0222@  
hotmail.com

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms  
on 1 rai land in Phang  
Nga, 20km from Khao Lak.  
Price: 7.5 million baht. Tel:  
083-180 2143. Email:  
nana1225@gmail.com

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, 084-119 4262, 081-356 9754. Email: pee cho74@hotmail.com

Chao Fah Garden Home 3  
in Koh Kaew near BIS, 10  
mins to Lotus. 2 beds, 2  
baths, 2 aircons. Nice living  
& kitchen room, car park,  
fully furnished. Ready to  
move in. 2.85 million baht  
near Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-  
541 2025. Email: c.junlarat  
@gmail.com

1 rai with Chanote title. 5 minutes to Rawai Beach in secure area. Contact owner directly. Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: dchaibut@gmail.com

Walled level, plot 620sqm. 4.3 million baht. 100m from Nai Harn Rd. Tel: 085-782 7551.

19 years left on lease. No kitchen, 2 pools, jacuzzi. Monthly fees 2,700 baht. Price reduced to 800,000 baht. Tel: 084-716 0502.

3 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, private pool, big sala on the beach. Great price. Tel: 088-168 5032.

Sale 2.2 million baht or rent  
12,000 baht/month. Contact  
Jai on 089-817 4864.

620,000 baht. Fully furnished, ready to move in, Chao Fa Road, only 15 minute to Central Festival, 10 minutes to Chalong and Rawai. Tel: 086-329 0705. Email: pisceanmark@hotmail.com

Sea view land, Chanote, 1.35  
rai. Price: 4.5 million baht per rai.  
Reply to nokzeb@gmail.com

3 level, 4 or more bedrooms  
must sell, quick moving. 3.3  
million baht. Tel: 081-3032202

2 bedrooms to each bungalow and all bedrooms ensuite, Pool, fully secured electrified wall. Viewing strictly by appointment. Tel: 076-315216, 081-187 6940 (English). Email: roybeattie63@hotmail.co.uk

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Foreign freehold, 80sqm. 4.25  
million baht. Tel: 086-075 6715.  
Email: chalky@netvigator.com  
For further details, please see  
our website at [http://bjpark  
condo.weebly.com/](http://bjparkcondo.weebly.com/)

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2989. Email: talayjan@  
yahoo.com

For sale. 2.2 million baht, 2 bedrooms. Soi Jasmin, 5 minutes from beach. Tel: 084-852 8457.

11rai 78sq wah, waterfront, unobstructed seaview, Chanote. Tel: 080-144 7801. Email: kohyaonoi999@yahoo.com

3 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, private pool, big sala on the beach. Great price. Tel: 088-168 5032.

Beautiful, 58sqm 1-bedroom apartment. Western kitchen, spacious living room. Sai Yuan, Nai Harn. 50sqm roof garden with panoramic sea view, communal pool. 2.8 million baht. Payment plan possible. Tel: 084-855 7803. Email: shellycyder@yahoo.com

Yamu 0.75 rai (x2) Mission Hills  
1 Rai. Offers invited. Tel: 081-  
087 9237 (English & Thai), 086-  
270 8727 (English). Email:  
crob58@gmail.com For more  
info visit <http://phuketlandforsale.net>

New condo. 1km to beach, near Bangla Rd and Jungceylon, 1 bed, 1 bath, fully furnished. 3.9million baht for 42sqm and 3.8 million baht for 44.5sqm Tel:081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

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

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### 2-BEDROOM HOUSE, BANG TAO



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, living room, parking, fully furnished, cable TV, internet, aircons, hot water. Only 5 mins to Surin Beach, Bang Tao Beach and Lotus Cherng Talay. Tel: 089-470 7488. Email: nattamon.m@gmail.com

### ONE UNIT PATONG

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### THAI VILLA AND POOL

Nai Harn, low season. 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

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### HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

### BEAUTIFUL RAWAI VILLA

Luxury two bedroom, two bathroom pool villa in quiet inland retreat near Rawai and Nai Harn. Discounted from 9.5 million to 8.25 million baht for quick sale. Available for rent at 55,000 per month includes hi-speed internet. Tel: 084-837 9403. Email: Craighoy@hotmail.com

### CHEAP KAMALA

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, fully furnished, free cable TV and internet, 2 aircons. Long-term rent: 15,000 baht/month. Email: sak.shetthong@gmail.com

### BUNGALOW, RAWAI

9,000 baht, fully furnished, kitchen, WiFi, TV. Tel: 086-279 0837. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

### LAYAN 4-BEDROOM POOL VILLA

Furnished, modern-style villa on 900sqm plot, available April, long term only. Tel: 076-391445, 084-305 4333 (English), 087-386 3388 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-391445. Email: shanya.arman@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at [www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.137135652995390.12164.137133126328976&type=1](http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.137135652995390.12164.137133126328976&type=1)

### TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

### FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE



2-storey house 3 bed, 3 bath near Ao Makham. Tel: 081-892 4311. 20,000 baht/month. For further details, please see our website at <http://panwagreen.weebly.com>

### NICE POOL VILLA FOR RENT

Beautiful 4-bed, 4-bath home (Inc 1 office, 1 maid room) located in Baan Suan Loch Palm, 5 mins to golf courses, 10 mins to International schools. 65,000 baht/month including pool & gardening service. Tel: +61-8-6161 2691, +61-46-831 5377 (English & Thai), +61-43-592 2900 (English). Email: jenjira5@hotmail.com

### LUXURY POOL VILLA

Designed for comfort, has everything. Near Laguna. Lease 22,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

### LUXURY 1 BEDROOM

Apartment 65sqm, ground floor. Fully furnished, Central Patong. Now available, great location. For details Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

### POOL VILLA RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, internet, cable TV. Available now. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG



Longterm 6,000 baht per month. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, carpark. Contact Nina. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

### HOUSE PHUKET TOWN



Dowroong Villa, Chao Fa East Rd. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, Western-style kitchen, air conditioning, furnished, internet, sala, parking. Clubhouse with pool and tennis, garden for children. Security guard. 12,500 baht per month. 1 year minimum rental. 2 months deposit required. Tel: 086-271 0557. Email: poca.tevaroj@gmail.com

### APARTMENT ON THE BEACH

Paradise location, 1-bedroom, ground floor, Thai style with mod cons, just south of airport. Even has a real tree in the livingroom. Can be yours from 11 April to end December. Think sunrise walks/sunset strolls/swimming/seafood restaurants with your feet in the sand. All for 20,000 baht per month. Call now 087-267 5376 (English). Email: w.gabrielle@gmail.com

### ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Stylish serviced apartments. Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Rooftop pool, Free WiFi. Also beachfront condo. Tel: 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at [www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com](http://www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com)

### HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



near Heroine Monument. furnished, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

### HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG



Longterm 10,000 baht per month. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, carpark. Contact Nina. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

### LUXURY 3-BEDROOM POOL VILLA



with seaview for rent. Luxury pool villa, fully furnished. Only 5 minutes drive to Nai Harn Beach. Start price 65,000 baht/month. Tel: 087-804 4014 (Thai & Eng), 087-885 5765 (Thai & DK) Email: info@kb-realestate.com Website: [www.kb-realestate.com](http://www.kb-realestate.com)

### PATONG 1+2 BEDROOM APTS

Luxury apartments with free WiFi, maid, big pool, security, cable TV. Close to town. 22,000 baht per month and up. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

### KATA HILL HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully-furnished 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, living, dining, kitchen, car park, internet and cable TV. Price 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

### VILLA: 25,000 BAHT A MONTH



6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms. Sale 90% finance. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: [www.thaidreamvilla.com](http://www.thaidreamvilla.com)

### LUXURY PHUKET



Chalong Residence. 5 bedrooms, all ensuite, 10-13 guests, pool, seaview. 20,000 baht/night. Incl. excellent service with breakfast, lunch, chauffeur and van. Tel: 085-654 4011, 089-404 0737. Email: schulz.th@gmx.de

### THALANG LUXURY POOL HOUSE

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Near PIA School and Laguna and 15 mins to western beaches (Layan, Nai Thon). Price for long-term 45,000 baht/month or short term (minimum 1 month) 75,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

### KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, internet, cable TV, kitchen, fully furnished. Tel: 087-266 7191, 086-739 3220.

### LOW SEASON PRICE NAI HARN



3 bedrooms, com pool, for rent: 25,000 baht. Tel: 083-388 8036. Website: [www.phuketqualityhouse.com](http://www.phuketqualityhouse.com)

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Mail: [AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net)







**Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd.**

A luxury project construction management company is seeking

**Accounting Officer****Qualifications**

- Thai Nationality
- Age between 25 – 35 years old
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting or related field
- At least 3 years working experience in Accounting
- Experience in property development and construction management will be advantage
- Able to work under pressure
- Experience of working Quickbooks Accounting Program
- Good command with of both spoken and written English

We offer an attractive remuneration package and career development opportunities

Please send current resume or CV to [annie@campbellkane.com](mailto:annie@campbellkane.com)  
Or call HR department at **089-4741268** Fax: 076-529673

**Campbell Kane (Thailand) Ltd.**

222 Moo 7, Paklock Sub-district, Talang District, Phuket Province 83110 Thailand

campbell kane

**ADMIN OFFICE**

- Male or female 25 or older
- Fluent in English
- Computer literate with good knowledge of Microsoft
- Bookkeeping and office management required
- Self motivated, proactive, flexible and well organized
- Service minded and must have attention to detail
- Experience in trading business welcome
- Able to drive a car
- Willing to travel around the world to attend several fairs

The successful candidate will be offered attractive working condition and benefits.

Interested persons, please submit your CV with photos and expected salary to [info@taurus-asia.com](mailto:info@taurus-asia.com)

**the Villas overlooking layan**

High end, mid-size Villa development with panoramic views of the Phuket West coast THE VILLAS OVERLOOKING LAYAN, is seeking a qualified professional to join its hands-on team.

**PROPERTY SERVICE / SALES EXECUTIVE**

Looking after all aspects of property management, customer service, related administrative work as well as assisting the directors in property sales.

Highly-motivated, outgoing personality with good command of the English language, directly reporting to the Directors of the company:

- Good command of English language
- Property sales experience in luxury residential project
- Strong administrative background
- Able to interact with foreign villa owners
- Thai National, female

Attractive remuneration package will be offered to the right candidate

Send your resume with recent photo to e-mail: [office@thevillasoverlookinglayan.com](mailto:office@thevillasoverlookinglayan.com)  
[www.thevillasoverlookinglayan.com](http://www.thevillasoverlookinglayan.com)

**Phuket Gazette**

As the result of a major expansion in its **Classified Advertising** business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add a **Receptionist** to its existing team of five.

**Qualified candidates will be:**

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged at least 24
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

**and should have:**

- ▶ A Bachelor's Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software

Knowledge of InDesign, PageMaker or Quark Express would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Porntiwa, Assistant Manager-Classifieds, at [Jeab@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Jeab@PhuketGazette.Net)

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555, ext 207 Fax: 076-615240

**MYSTORAGE**  
Secure, Clean & Cost Effective Self Storage

MY STORAGE – Thailand's No.1 Self Storage facility located at Jungceylon Shopping Center, Patong, Phuket – is seeking a well organised and enthusiastic Facility Administrator / PA.

**Facility Administrator / PA**

- Bachelor's degree or related field
- Thai national 25 years old or older, fluent in English (written and spoken)
- Minimum of 3-5 years experience in the related field
- Computer literate with good knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Excellent administrative and communication skills required
- Bookkeeping and office management skills required
- Self-motivated, proactive, flexible and well organized
- Service-minded and must have attention to detail
- Experience in property management an advantage.

Submit your CV with recent photo and a covering letter in English to [hr@mystorageasia.com](mailto:hr@mystorageasia.com) or call 076 29 29 09 for further information.

Want to know more about MY STORAGE? Visit [mystorageasia.com](http://mystorageasia.com)

**ACCOUNTANT**

Elite Yachting in Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket is looking for a Thai accountant with a bachelor degree and min 3-5 years experience. Good knowledge of Quickbooks, well organized and fluent in spoken & written English. Responsible for invoicing, payments, VAT, w/t, salaries, income/expense statements for yacht accounts etc. Interested. Tel: 081-978 6086 (English). Please send your CV to [jurg@phuket-yachts.com](mailto:jurg@phuket-yachts.com)

**FEMALE AND MALE CREW WANTED**

on live-aboard 60ft yacht based at Phi Phi. Tel: 081-891 9726 (Thai), 082-839 7701 (Eng).

**SALES MANAGER**

Property Sales Consultant. Thai national, 3-5 years experience. Good Thai and English, proactive and organized. Computer literate, have own car and laptop. The Charm residence. Tel: 076-344499. Email: [info@thecharmphuket.com](mailto:info@thecharmphuket.com)

**ENGLISH / GERMAN**

Chatbox Entertainment Ltd. is urgently looking for self-motivated employees to work in our branch in Phuket.

Position: Call Center Agent

**Qualifications:**

- Fluent in English (Preferred British English) / German
- Computer literate
- Able to work in shifts (irregular hours, European time)
- Able to work independently

**Compensation:**

- Dependent on experience

Interested candidate are invited to send their resume to the following: [hr@k-and-b-ltd.com](mailto:hr@k-and-b-ltd.com)

**ARE YOU WORLD CLASS?**

Do you enjoy working in a positive, progressive, and professional work environment?  
Do you enjoy working with people in a team?  
Do you enjoy being recognized for your work?

**Collection Officer 3 positions****Qualifications:**

- Thai, Singaporean, Malay, Indonesian or Filipino are welcome
- Experience in Member Services and advantage
- Good computer literacy is required.
- Fluent in English.
- Salary and great benefits

Please contact: Eve - Tel: 081-2719340 or 076-344161#4302  
Email: [eve@patongbayvacationclub.com](mailto:eve@patongbayvacationclub.com)

**RESTAURANT STAFF WANTED**

Kitchen Manager/Sous Chef: Hotel experience preferred. Must speak and write English. Kitchen Staff: Thai/European food. Hotel experience preferred. Cold Kitchen, Hotline, Dishwasher, Counter/Wait Staff: English speaking. Tel: 076-367071, 081-832 2519 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-367071. Email: [jude@tigermuaythai.com](mailto:jude@tigermuaythai.com)

**SALES OFFICER**

Required: bachelor's degree, female, good written and spoken English. Computer literate. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-244491. Email: [don1719@hotmail.com](mailto:don1719@hotmail.com) Website: [www.layantara.com](http://www.layantara.com)

**FLORISTS AND SHOP STAFF**

Florists and shop staff needed. Please send CV and pic. Email: [boutiqueflowersphuket@hotmail.com](mailto:boutiqueflowersphuket@hotmail.com)

**RUSSIAN MANAGER**

Russian staff with good English needed for restaurant manager position. Experience in same or similar position is required. Tel: 082-329 3207 (Russian).

**WANTED: PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Person or company with experience in project management. Good salary for a person. A company can give a quotation. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: [cc@baysshoreprojects.com](mailto:cc@baysshoreprojects.com)

**SENIOR ACCOUNTANT KAMALA**

For trading company in Kamala. We seek an experienced Senior Accountant. Must know Express software, English, and understand the import business. Salary starts at 25,000 baht + transportation+ accommodation+ BUPA health insurance. Work 6 days a week. Tel: 076-322663, 086-773 4538 (English). Fax: 076-322664. Email: [skgf@skgf.asia](mailto:skgf@skgf.asia)

**MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER**

Seeking more bike guides to join our growing team. Must speak good English, be passionate about biking, and be a Thai national. Tel: 087-263 2031. Email: [info@amazingbiketoursthailand.asia](mailto:info@amazingbiketoursthailand.asia)

**Looking for a job?**  
**Looking for a better candidate?**  
**Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.PhuketGazette.Net/](http://www.PhuketGazette.Net/)!**



# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

## Administration Assistant

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality. Experience in business administration combined with good management and organizational skills is essential. A good command of written and spoken English is also important. Knowledge of PageMaker/InDesign and Office software would be an advantage.

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

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

## Ocean Resort Group

is currently seeking for the following positions:

- Bakery Chef
- Assistant Resort Manager

Contact Human Resources Department

Phone: +66 (0) 76-314263-69 ext 7732 or

email your CV to [hrrsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net](mailto:hrrsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net),  
[www.sunwingphuket.com](http://www.sunwingphuket.com)

## ASSISTANT MANAGER IN PHUKET

- Bachelor's degree
- Good English
- Thai National
- Female 25-28 years old

Please send resume, photo & expected salary to  
[svcp@svensonhaircenter.com](mailto:svcp@svensonhaircenter.com) or call 076-249657-8

## Grace Garden Management Ltd.

Grace Garden Management Co., Ltd. is going to launch a top class dining restaurant on the east coast of Phuket, The Breeze @ Cape Yamu

We are looking for competent, enthusiastic and highly qualified individuals for the following vacancies to join our business:

### Cook 1 Position

- at least 3-4 years experience, fusion cooking, international cuisine.
- be able to manage of supplies and inventory

### Bar Manager 1 Position

- 1 year experience in beverage section, control the bar system, mix drinks and create cocktails

### Waiters or Waitresses 3 Positions

All above position should be able to communicate in English  
Please send your CV to Human Resources Department

222 Moo 7, Paklok Sub-district, Thalang District, Phuket 83110  
Email: [annie@campbellkane.com](mailto:annie@campbellkane.com)  
Tel: 089 4741268, Fax 076 529673

### PLAY GROUP

English-speaking Russian person wanted for playgroup. Must enjoy working with young kids. Tel: 084-442 3671.

### RECEPTIONIST KATA

Hotel needs reliable Thai female. Salary: 12,000 baht per month. 2 days off a week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

### KINDERGARTEN TEACHER WANTED

We are looking for a native English kindergarten teacher to join our team to teach 10 -12 children aged 3-6 years. Must have a minimum Bachelor's Degree or equivalent. Tel: 076-383150, 084-520 4978. Fax: 076-383150. Email: [info@cravensnurseryphuket.com](mailto:info@cravensnurseryphuket.com)

### COPYWRITER

Need a great communicator who can understand complex issues and explain them in well written, fluent English. Must have excellent communication and organizational skills. E-mail your CV to [truepedia.org@gmail.com](mailto:truepedia.org@gmail.com)

### E-COMMERCE MANAGER



Serenity Resort & Residences in Rawai is an up-scale private resort with 62 suites and residences. We are now looking for a qualified e-commerce manager to be part of our management team. Candidates must be fluent in English and have experience in on-line marketing, PPC campaigns and possibly SEO. This position enjoys a very attractive salary with benefits. Candidates should currently hold a similar position in another hotel or in the on-line travel industry. Please email CV with photo. Only short-listed candidates will be notified. Tel: 081-8469981 (English). Email: [ursaebi@gmx.net](mailto:ursaebi@gmx.net) For further details, please see our website at [www.serenityphuket.com](http://www.serenityphuket.com)

### JUNIOR DESIGNER/ WEB DEVELOPER

Photoshop, Dreamweaver, InDesign, html coding experience - Php a plus. Must have good command of English (Thai national only). Tel: 076-324184, 082-255 7507. Please send CV to [orn@imarketingonly.com](mailto:orn@imarketingonly.com)

### SALES MANAGER & SALES EXECUTIVE

A reputable tourist magazines looking for 24-45 yrs. old, male or female, good personality. Applicants should have relevant experience and be able to speak English

Send resume to  
[ajapply@yahoo.com](mailto:ajapply@yahoo.com)  
086-490 3101, 081-806 2946

### THAI MASSAGE NEEDED

Only Thai nationals with good English needed for position of Thai Manager for Thai staff management. Salary from 20,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-734 0122 (English).

### MANAGER- SWIMMING POOL CO

Service Manager, Thai national, required by Phuket's leading swimming pool management & maintenance service company. Experienced in swimming pool maintenance & installation, ability to manage 30 plus staff. Spoken and written English with a dynamic personality are all essential. A rewarding opportunity. Salary is not a factor for the successful applicant. Tel: 076-620193, 081-7975545 (English & Thai), 081-958 6754 (English). Fax: 076-620194. Email: [info@mobilepooldoctor.com](mailto:info@mobilepooldoctor.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
- iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: 076-255425

### CHERNG TALAY

- Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

### RAWAI

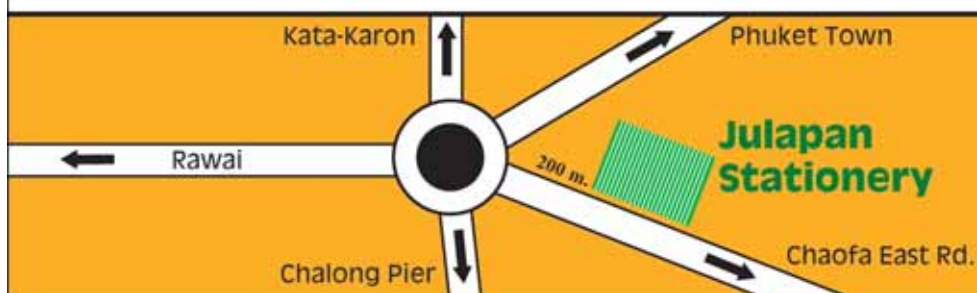
- The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

### KARON

- EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

## Live in Chalong?

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## Articles For Sale

### FREEZER, FUGE TABLE

Sanden freezer, excl cond, 8,500 baht. Fugeball soccer table, as new, 10 baht per game, 35,000 baht. Tel: 086-283 9100.

### NEW INVICTA WATCH FOR SALE

Very large Invicta Men's 6913 Corduba Collection Interceptor Chronograph Blue Polyurethane watch, comes with box and guarantee. Tel: 076-319699. Email: sun parasol@gmail.com

### FURNITURE AND MORE

Furniture, sofa, TV and bookcase, chairs, lamps and more. All in good condition. Please call or email for photos. Khun Arno. Tel: 087-827 4991 (English). Email: arnyfirst@hotmail.com

### COFFEE TABLE

Bamboo coffee table for sale. Excellent condition. 110cm square with inset in center (for flower decoration, etc). 10,000 baht ono. Email: beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

### FURNITURE AND OTHER ITEMS

Wooden frame "L" sofa with mustard color upholstery. 16k. Modern glass chandelier 5k. Huge silver candelabra 5k. All in excellent condition. Standard Lamp 1,500. All reduced for quick sale. Email for photos at beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

### 7KW. 3-PHASE WATER PUMP



Barely used (10 hours). Have 2 units for sale. Price: 15,000 baht each. Contact Margo on 089-908 7486.

### HIX HEAT PRESS DUAL PADS

I am selling my Heat Press Made in USA, very little used (about 60 t-shirts), like new. I bought it in Bangkok. Paid 125,000 baht, selling 60,000 baht. Tel: 076-283004, 086-742 3437. Email: joelvdo@hotmail.com

### CHINESE TEA

Quality Chinese tea for sale. Contact Peter to arrange a free tea tasting. Tel: 082-278 1575.

## Articles Wanted

### FULL-SIZED USED BATH WANTED

Looking to find an old plastic or stone full-sized bath to use in a pet washing parlor - something large enough to put big dogs in the wash them. Please email gone2thedoggies@gmail.com with photo

### EXTENSION LADDER WANTED

Used 20 to 24 foot (6 to 7 meter) ladder wanted to either rent or purchase. Tel: 081-797 2110. Email: iolare@yahoo.com

## Audio/Video Equipment

### HI-DEFINITION MEDIA PLAYER

Digital home entertainment just took a giant leap forward. Internet, Android and a Media Streamer on your TV. Bursting with features that allow you to engage with social media, Android apps, online streaming, and casual games, movies and music. Tel: 076-248698, 081-895 7097 (English & Thai). Email: hdmedia.phuket@gmail.com

### STAGE-SOUND / LIVE MUSIC

Stage-Sound system (Live Music) for sale Incl. All audio components, made by Behringer. Tel: 076-486118, 086-942 5244. Fax: 076-443137. Email: info@siam-interact.com Website: www.siam-interact.com/soundsystem/

### GERMAN STEREO SYSTEM

Soken AMP & 5 Speaker Surround Sound, Solid Bass. Cost 16, sell 8000. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.Web@gmail.com

### SOKEN SURROUND SYSTEM

Amp + 5 powerful speakers, crisp treble & solid bass. Paid 15,000 baht, sell 7,500 baht. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.Web@gmail.com

## Bulletins

### Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business  
If you want to stop that is ours  
Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon & Cape Panwa

081-895 4763  
081-956 4031  
email: phuketaa@yahoo.com  
Google AA Phuket

### 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 contact K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948). Email: info@phuketiwcc.com

## Business Opportunities

### BAR FOR SALE OTOP

Brand-new bar for sale in OTOP market. Fully furnished to very high standard, 2 40" TV's, fridge, freezers, stock, sound system, etc. Great location with huge potential. Genuine reason for sale. Tel: 084-445 2042. Email: ian\_843@hotmail.com

### OWNER PLANS FOR RETIREMENT

Well established tourist magazines for sale. Owner planning for retirement. Interested? Tel: 081-806 2946.

### OFFICE, BUSINESS SPACE

for rent on 5th floor of Patong Tower. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-341370. Email: i\_am\_krittapak@hotmail.com

### RESTAURANT FOR SALE, CHALONG AREA

on Chao Fa Road, 700m north of Chalong Circle. Low price for quick sale. Tel: 080-711 5265.

### PATONG BANGLA ROAD

XL shophouse for sale. Phar Lap bar building. Have a look, make an offer. Email: coco.diorster@gmail.com

### BIG BAR FOR RENT

Big bar for rent on main street in Patong. Contact for details. Tel: 076-341718, 086-943 4447 (English). Email: hollywoodbeach@hotmail.com

### TIGER BAR AND CONDO HOTEL FOR SALE

2.7 million baht. 2 year, 6 months. Please contact Rony. Tel: 081-773 3249. Email: ronybun@windowslive.com

### GOLF BUSINESS-PARTNER

Unique opp, 15 years trade, repeat customers, unlimited potential in Asia. Looking for partner. Tel: 087-078 9707.

### BAR/RESTAURANT IN PATONG

for sale. Nanai Rd 231, fully furnished. Price: 180,000 baht or rent 13,000 baht/month. Tel: 085-477 5935.

### SOUVENIR SHOP FOR SALE

In Patong, good location, area 5x750sqm. Contact Natawut on 084-244 1100.

## BEACH RESTAURANT BUSINESS

Due to owner's ill health we reluctantly have for sale a successful beach restaurant located on one of Phuket's most scenic beaches. Serving Thai & Euro cuisine we have seating for 100 persons (inside 50, outside 50). Plenty of scope for chef/owner to exploit this unique location nestled amongst some of the best 5-star resorts on the Island. Own website and good TripAdvisor comments. Although the beach is seasonal, we believe with the right owner (Chef Owner) all-year-round business can be generated. Good turnover and well equipped. Lease and restaurant furnishings and fittings included in the package. Extendable lease period by negotiation. Priced to sell. For further details send your initial inquiry to: sundownersphuket@yahoo.com Immediate Response/Reply

## RESORT FOR SALE



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## SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:

1	A	2	T	3	A	4	R	5	I	6	D	7	O	8	G	9	S	10	D	11	A	12	M	13	E
14	W	I	D	E	N					15	A	L	O	E				16	E	D	E	N			
17	A	T	O	M	S					18	B	A	L	M				19	C	O	R	D			
20	R	A	P			21	T	22	R	A	F	F	I	23	C	A	B	L	E						
24	E	N	T			25	R	E	A	T				26	N	O	N	E	E	D					
						27	T	A	T				28	S	29	C	A	N	T						
30	T	W	E	E	D					33	T	H	E	R	E			34	A	35	C	36	E		
37	M	E	S	S						38	T	O	A	D	Y			39	P	A	R	R			
40	C	E	L			41	B	E	L	L	E			42	E	O	S	I	N						
						43	T	R	O	L	L			44	G	R	O								
45	G	46	O	47	T	H	I	C					48	E	A	R	L	49	E	50	S	51	S		
52	A	B	R	A	C	A	D	A	B	R	A			55	S	E	P								
56	T	E	E	M						57	L	O	S	S				58	T	A	T	A	R		
60	E	S	S	E						61	L	I	T	E				62	I	S	E	R	E		
63	S	E	S	S						64	I	N	O	N				65	C	U	R	S	E		

Gazette Connect Quiz answers: From page 26

1. W. C. Fields 2. Paul McCartney 3. Tony Curtis 4. Ringo Starr 5. Edgar Allan Poe 6. Marlon Brando 7. Johnny Weissmuller 8. Oscar Wilde 9. Albert Einstein 10. They are all featured on the cover of the Beatles album *Sgt Pepper*.

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-Year of Manufacture: 2002  
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Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email: tom@thaiflyingclub, Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

*Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.*

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Empty Weight: 2094 lbs  
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# International Sport

## F1 bhadurs take battle to Bahrain

By The Digby

MASS entertainment sports can provide a soapbox to deliver a political message. Suffragette Emily Davison died on Pathé Newsreel of the 1913 Derby, and a swimmer recently sabotaged the Oxford-Cambridge boat race on TV.

Bahrain's political activists threaten disruptions, seeing F1 in that light. However, the Bahraini major shareholders in McLaren were unlikely to let anyone cancel the event.

For Shanghai we forecasted two McLarens on the podium, with a Mercedes and Mark Webber making the top four. That was right, but the Mercedes was not Michael Schumacher's as expected but Nico Rosberg's, and he led practically from the off to the finish. Schumie retired with a loose wheel nut, and a pit crewman had a bad week.

F1 mantra says always bring the slower driver into the pits first to let the crew practice. That would be Schumie, and that makes for delicious Silver Arrows politics.

Lewis Hamilton lost five places because his gearbox was replaced, and finished third only because of sheer talented aggression. Jensen Button in the other McLaren might

have had a crack at beating Rosberg, but the pit crew's six second delay ended his hopes. Sebastian Vettel answered some of his critics by starting eleventh and ending fifth.

Shanghai looked like a dodgem track in the last ten laps, with drivers gaining and losing multiple places. But in front was a serene Rosberg. We said with 111 F1 starts, it was time for Rosberg to show he could be a champion. He did and in style with his maiden F1 win and the first Mercedes win since 1955. Tellingly, he used a two stop strategy. Most others stopped three times because of tyre wear.



Fangio in a Mercedes W196.

Both Williams got some points for Frank's birthday. So did Romain Grosjean's Lotus, and Alonso's Ferrari. Felipe Massa in the other 'Prancing Horse' was again mediocre with his seat looks ever less secure.

McLaren is sitting pretty; Hamilton on 45 points narrowly leads team-mate Button. They are followed by Ferrari's Alonso and Red Bull's Mark Webber. Then an eight point gap to Webber's team-mate, Vettel, with Rosberg just behind him. So Vettel is in an unhappy place, and Rosberg is in a blissful one.

Bahrain is one of the safest circuits. With no challenging corners, drivers push hard most of the time, ride over the easy kerbs,



AT LAST: Nico Rosberg (bottom left) claims his first Formula One victory at the Chinese Grand Prix after 111 attempts, and Mercedes first win since 1955. PHOTO: AFP / Peter PARKS

with wide runoffs tolerating driver sloppiness. Grip improves dramatically as the track rubbers-in. So lap times drop fast, qualifying is critical to benefit from track improvement, and expect late qualifying runs.

Once again McLaren can get two podium places. We favor Mercedes to be there too. If McLaren sorts out its pits they can push Rosberg to third. Schumacher will yearn to prove the torch has not been passed to a new generation, but it looks as if it has. Vettel

will, I suspect, qualify well but fall behind in the race, so Webber could pull further ahead of his erstwhile senior partner. Williams and Lotus should also pick up points. And Ferrari? I suspect Alonso could come in around 6th, but Massa is in a dark pit where it looks difficult to achieve anything.

On Sunday at 7pm glue yourself to Star Sports and see if the predictions work.

A word of caution, with the continuing seismic activity, stay calm and drive slowly.

## Still plenty to play for

THIS weekend's fascinating fixture is the visit to the Emirates by Chelsea, which will determine, at least for the Blues, their contention for the vital fourth spot finish.

Arsenal presently hold the advantage, though their unexpected home defeat to Wigan one-nil will certainly encourage their rivals.

Tottenham and Newcastle United are still very much in the mixed, though five points behind the Gunners, both have a game in hand and will, bizarrely, want a Chelsea victory.

Should Chelsea take all three points they would leapfrog into fourth, at least for a few hours.

Tottenham have a tough match away to relegation threatened QPR as they continue their fight to avoid the drop. Mark Hughes is frustrated

with his players and their inconsistent performances, after recently beating both Liverpool and Arsenal yet losing 1-0 to WBA.

Newcastle should take maximum points with Stoke visiting this weekend. Stoke only need a point from their remaining games to guarantee another year of Premiership action.



Reading's hero Leighton Baines.

Manchester City have finally found their scoring boots again with ten goals in their last two outings, though will cause the old enemy little concern.

Manchester United bagged four themselves against Aston Villa last

Sunday, assisted by a controversial penalty award as Ashley Young went to ground, easily and not for the first time.

Everton will provide the entertainment for the Old Trafford

faithful who will be expecting nothing less than victory.

Perhaps their meeting on April 30, as Roberto Mancini predicted, will truly decide the champions, however even a lost for Alex Ferguson's team will still leave the title destiny very much in their hands.

Liverpool have fallen by the wayside, however adding another piece of silverware in the form of the FA Cup, to the League Cup already in the trophy cabinet, will ease the disappointment.

The Reds beat the Toffees 2-1, with a late headed goal from Andy Carroll after the sides were level following defensive errors capitalized upon by excellent finishing.

Reading secured promotion to the top-flight with a one-nil victory over Nottingham thanks to Mikele Leighton 80th minute strike.

Southampton will join them if they take at least a point in either of their two remaining games.

- Dean Noble

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE			
TEAM	P	GD	PTS
1 Man Utd	34	54	82
2 Man City	34	58	77
3 Arsenal	34	24	64
4 Tottenham	33	19	59
5 Newcastle	33	8	59
6 Chelsea	33	18	57
7 Everton	33	4	47
8 Liverpool	33	4	46
9 Sunderland	34	1	43
10 Fulham	33	0	43
11 Norwich	34	-11	43
12 Swansea	34	-6	42
13 West Brom	34	-7	42
14 Stoke	33	-13	42
15 Aston Villa	33	-13	35
16 Wigan	34	-25	34
17 QPR	34	-19	31
18 Bolton	32	-29	29
19 Blackburn	34	-28	28
20 Wolves	34	-39	23

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES	
<b>ARSENAL vs CHELSEA</b>	SATURDAY, 21 APRIL 2012 19:45
Aston Villa vs Sunderland	SATURDAY, 21 APRIL 2012 22:00
Blackburn vs Norwich	
Bolton vs Swansea	
Fulham vs Wigan	
Newcastle vs Stoke	
<b>QPR vs TOTTENHAM</b>	SATURDAY, 21 APRIL 2012 00:30
<b>MAN UTD vs EVERTON</b>	SUNDAY, 22 APRIL 2012 19:30
Liverpool vs West Brom	SATURDAY, 21 APRIL 2012 23:00
<b>WOLVES vs MAN CITY</b>	SUNDAY, 22 APRIL 2012 23:00
Aston Villa vs Bolton	TUESDAY, 24 APRIL 2012 02:45

THE FA CUP FIXTURES	
<b>CHELSEA vs LIVERPOOL</b>	SATURDAY, 5 MAY 2012, 00:15

## SPORTS briefs...

**SAILING:** This year's Top of the Gulf Regatta is shaping up to be something very special.

The entry list already includes 65 names. Add to the mix a huge fleet of Optimist contesting the Thai Nationals, plus the beach cat fleet.

There will be 20-30 world class windsurfers in the Neil Pryde Racing Series, a one-design windsurfing class world tour, racing the Olympic-standard.

The regatta also promises an exhibition night race with LED sails. It has been mentioned that Bill Gasson will be feeling very pleased.

**STRANGE SPORTS:** The British Lawnmower Championships of 2012 will commence the first weekend of May, with Glyn Saunders looking to defend his group 3 title.

The points structure is similar to Formula 1, with 13 races held during the season, plus a final Grand Prix in October.

Racers can choose one of four classes. Often sighted as the most exciting, group 3 mowers are originally designed as sit-on wheel-driven mowers with a maximum 18 brake horse power output, enabling speeds of 50 miles per hour (80kph).

**NBA:** The Los Angeles Clippers secured a play-off spot for the first time in six years this week, even before tip-off as their nearest rivals, the Houston Rockets, were defeated by the Denver Nuggets.

The Clippers defeated the Thunder, 92-77, scoring six from 11 shots at the three-point range, while being highly effective in defense, particularly in the second half. The Thunder are the second highest scoring team though failed to make any second half three-pointer, and less than a third of other scoring attempts.

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## Sport

# Buriram Utd cling on for AFC title

By Steven Layne

THAI Premiere League champions Buriram United still have a fighting chance to advance from the group stages of the 2012 AFC Champions League, despite back-to-back losses this month to Korean league champions Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors.

Now level with the Koreans on six points in Group H – the pot of death, Buriram's good start in March was highlighted by upsets over J-league champions Kashiwa Reysol (3-2) and Chinese champions Guangzhou Evergrande (1-2).

Even though Buriram have a better goal difference than Jeonbuk (-1 to -5), the K League champs prevail in 2<sup>nd</sup> due to their better head-to-head record, as

dictated by AFC Champions League regulations.

In their latest bout on Tuesday, the Thai Thunder Castle were determined to earn an away-match draw point with two brilliant goals by Cameroonian import Frank Ohandza (20, 55 minutes) to match the double score from Jeonbuk's Lee Dong Gook (25, 27).

However, a strike by Jeonbuk's Park Won-jae with only 10 minutes left in regulation ensured that the Koreans would be due the final cheer, complementing their two goal shutout at Buriram a few weeks earlier.

To conclude group stage play, Buriram travels to Japan next to play their final away leg against Kashiwa Reysol on May 1 (5pm in Thailand, 7pm in Japan) in what

will no doubt be a tough contest.

Following their devastating 3-1 loss on Tuesday at Guangzhou, the J-league champs are yearning for vengeance against Buriram, and will have the backing of nearly 16,000 fans in what is expected to be a packed Hitachi Kashiwa Stadium.

The "Sun Kings" may have had a slow start this stage, but if they play anything like they did on March 21 when they humiliated Jeonbuk five goals to one, then Buriram is cut out for a difficult task to gain any points for this meet.

On the same day, group leaders Guangzhou will host Jeonbuk, with advancing stakes equally high for each contender.

The final matches will be on May 15 with Buriram to host Guangzhou, and Jeonbuk to host Kashiwa.



Buriram United's Frank Acheampong (right) contends for possession against Kashiwa Reysol's Hiroki Sakai in their match back in March. Photo: AFP

## PYSC set to host National Youth Games sailing event

PHUKET Youth Sailing Club (PYSC) in partnership with Phuket Aquarium are organizing and hosting the the 2012 National Youth Games Sailing event at Ao Yon, Phuket from May 28 – June 5.

Congratulations to four PYSC sailors who have been selected to represent Phuket at this prestigious event.

Akapoj 'Tik' Kankeaw – Laser Class.

Teerapong 'New' Tohratoak – Optimist Boys.

Nattapong 'Max' Yoangngam – Optimist Boys.

Thanaporn 'May' Budgrim – Optimist Girls.

Phuket Youth Sailing Club

sailor, Akapoj Kankeaw, has been invited to join top Laser sailors in Sattahip for training this month in preparation for the TOG Regatta.

In addition, Aqua Lund and Aqua Master have donated 100 Rash Guard lycra shirts for underprivileged sailors.

Individuals are invited to join the PYSC "Group of Friends" for 500 baht per year which helps the club provide young sailors in the club with essentials like countdown watches, wet boots, sailing gloves, sunglasses, sunscreen, and weekly training costs.

For more information visit [PhuketYouthSailing.org](http://PhuketYouthSailing.org).



New shirts for the kids.



New (above) in his Optimist.



Tik (above) in his Laser.

## Windstar claims race three

A GREAT day of racing was had on April 15 when Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) hosted the third of their seven race series, sponsored by the Irish Times Pub.

Although there were only five boats in the race there was still a great turn out of people, armed with all important supplies of beverages and sunscreen to help survive a sweltering heat.

The weather was constant with a decent breeze all day and with the rain not starting until all were safely back at the club house, some would say it had been the perfect day for sailing.

Scott Duncason Captain of *Som Tam Express* was the fastest boat of the day being first over the start line with what seemed to be perfect sailing from him and his crew, and was first over the finishing line, but placed third overall on adjusted time.

Peter Wood was next to follow on *Windstar*. Even with a little mishap putting up the spinnaker half way round. Tim Willis on foredeck, claimed he was completely innocent and blamed the incident on faulty equipment. Still, for the day *Windstar* received overall



GREAT CRAIC: Crews enjoying the post race socializing at ACYC.

first with a little help from the very much discussed handicap system, and gained invaluable points.



Peter Wood's Windstar

*Astraeus* with Captain Bill Sax, winner of the last race was super keen to get a fast start. So eager to get ahead, that he was one minute before the starting signal. Quickly having to do a short loop to guide *Astraeus* back to the starting line, gave the other yachts a chance

to get away and get the gap they kept throughout the race. *Astraeus* receiving second overall.

*Muoy Hin*, in her first race with the club, was third over the line, receiving overall joint third with *Som Tam Express*.

All in all, it was a short course from starting point (Longtail – Port outer channel) to the first yellow mark, around the safe water mark (Baan Nit), Post outer channel (Gate), Baan Nit, yellow mark, finish. All marks rounded to port.

– Phuket Gazette

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# Sport

## Laguna Phuket Marathon prepares for record entries



**CHARGE:** More than 5,000 entrants are expected for this year's Laguna Phuket International Marathon that is set for June 10.

HUNDREDS of runners from around the world will 'Run Paradise' in the seventh annual Laguna Phuket International Marathon on Sunday, June 10, to help stamp its status as Asia's fastest growing family-friendly destination marathon.

International registrations opened in October and since then entries have surged ahead of the same period last year, with total international entries now close to 1,000.

Event Director, Roman Floesser, of organiser Go Adventure Asia, said: "We encourage runners to enjoy the scenery and have a fantastic race experience instead of pushing themselves to achieve personal best times," he said.

"It's all about participation and having fun in a great atmosphere," Roman added.

Local entries opened on April 1 to great enthusiasm and the final number is expected to exceed last year's record of nearly 5,000 participants from 45 countries.

The biggest international group so far is Japan, with more than 200 runners, followed by Singapore (96) and Hong Kong (78).

The phenomenal Year-on-year growth since its inaugural event in 2006, which had less than 2,000 runners, makes Laguna Phuket International Marathon Asia's biggest and fastest growing destination marathon.

Its 'Run Paradise' tagline is an apt description, with runners of all ages and abilities on a mainly flat course that takes in rubber and pineapple plantations, beach views, local villages and the tropical lagoons of Laguna Phuket. In essence – a family-friendly carnival atmosphere.

As well as the full marathon there's a 21.1km half marathon and 10.5km run, with families catered for with the 91.5FM 5km community walk and 2km children's race.

A two-day expo with sponsor booths and fun activities around Laguna Phuket will stoke the carnival atmosphere.

Runners are encouraged to take part in fundraising for Laguna Phuket's commu-



**DONE IT:** The LPIT is all about enjoyment and personal achievement.

nity initiative to support local schools with a new Mobile Library Learning Centre to bring much needed reading and educational resources to remote rural schools on a routine basis.

Online registration can be completed until June 2 with accommodation deals at Laguna Phuket hotels also available.

For more information on registration visit [PhuketMarathon.com](http://PhuketMarathon.com) or [LagunaPhuket.com](http://LagunaPhuket.com). The Phuket Gazette is a sponsor of the Laguna Phuket International Marathon.

## The brothers Grimes



**KART ATTACK:** Sam (left) and Ben (right) at a recent race event.



**LEADER OF THE PACK:** Sam, 12, (above no. 160) is racing in Cadet class (7 - 12 years old, 60cc engines) and Ben, 13, is racing in the KF3 and Junior 125 classes (12 - 16 years old with 125cc engines) in the Thai National Karting Championship. Pick up a copy of the Phuket Gazette April 28 edition for a full report on Ben and Sam's karting exploits.



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# Culpan century sinks Patong

By Neil Quail

PATONG CC's hopes of reaching the 2012 Island Furniture Cricket League 40 over final at the ACG next month came to a grinding halt in spectacular fashion on Sunday after losing to a Liquid Lounge Lizard's team that could muster only seven players.

The indignation of Patong's defeat was made greater by game's end with the scorebook showing that even with the minimum of seven players required to play the match, Lizards in fact needed only three to rip the soul from their opponent's innings.

Neill Culpan carried his bat to score 115 not out for what must be described as the innings of the season so far in a majestic, fluid and flawless performance. Salm Syed suffered in the stifling heat, but held on doggedly for two hours to score 28 in support of Culpan.

The third Lizard's hero was Tim Lenton who carved through the Patong batting lineup like a man on holiday called up for duty, hastily trying to get back to family time – which in fact he was. Lizard's skipper Ian Lenton dragged his brother from the sun lounger to make up the numbers and Tim repaid his sibling with six Patong wickets for a paltry 29 runs.

Before the game started, Patong needed, and were determined to secure a maximum of seven points. Their task seemed more than feasible when the Lizards turned up



**SIXES AND SEVENS:** Tim Lenton's six-wicket haul was an outstanding contribution.

with just six players, while Patong had a full strength team warmed up and ready for the job at hand.

Requiring a better run rate in addition to the seven points to overtake the Village, Patong decided to bat first and sent Dean Noble and Seemant Raju in to take advantage of the open field. However, it was Patong who were exposed as early as the first over with Noble clean bowled for a duck by a swinging Culpan delivery. Raju fared slightly better scoring eight runs before his stumps were skittled by Syed. Danny Hyams (32) lifted Patong's spirits with a determined innings, but lacked support from the middle order as he endured the collapse of Neil Quail (23), Rishi

Sadarangani (7) and Richard Folds (6). Anthony Van Blerk (1) and Anil Rawat (3) couldn't improve the score with Lenton and Lizard's wicketkeeper Nifty Catts working in harmony to snare three batsmen caught behind and a couple of clean bowled for good measure.

With the score at 102 for 9, Patong looked washed out and Village supporters in the clubhouse were wringing their hands in anticipation of a major upset in their favor.

But as with many teams in the league this season, there was fight left in the tail-end. Maneesh Sadarangani (21) and Mike Khan (34) were going to make Lizards work for a result and raised the score to 169 all out in the 31<sup>st</sup> over with a swashbuckling display of batting.

Would that be enough for Patong? With just six wickets to get, it seemed possible. And when Ian Lenton was caught off the bowling of Kishor Jhagta in the second over of the Lizard's innings, the game looked to be back in Patong's hands. But, how cruel the gods of cricketing fortune can be.

After an energy sapping session with the bat, Khan went from hero to villain by dropping Syed twice at slip in the space of two overs and the advantage was back with the Lizard's as Culpan and Syed anchored themselves for a two-hour spirit breaking stand.

However, Khan's heroism and energy were momentarily revived late in the innings when he was brought on to bowl and took



**MY HERO:** Man of the Match Neill Culpan with his son Fred. Photos: Dean Noble

the wickets of Lenton and Johnson. With the score on 167 and two wickets remaining, Nifty Catts arrived to the crease and faced an attacking Patong field ready to pounce on anything that came off the bat. Unfortunately two wide balls from Khan leveled the scores and a wayward third enabled Catts to edge the winning run.

The result lifts Lizards above Thanyapura Tigers and all but ensures a Village versus Laguna final in May.

*The Phuket Gazette is the local media partner of the ACG.*

## The Golf Guru: Oosthuizen bounces back



**MASTERFUL:** Louis Oosthuizen put the Master's loss behind him quickly.

THE European tour this week was in Malaysian at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club for a co-sanctioned event with the Asian tour. The top 60 players in Asia and the top 60 players in Europe plus a few sponsor's invitations thrown in challenged and created a good quality field.

Louis Oosthuizen continued his good form at 13-under and Stephen Gallacher at 12-under going into the last round, while Martin Kaymer and Charl Schwarzel lagged just behind. Gallacher, who finished second in Dubai, could do no better playing

well from tee to green, but struggled on the greens for a last round 70 to finish second. South Africa's Oosthuizen showed his mental toughness after losing the Masters in a play-off last week, reminiscent of the time when Bernhard Langer missed his putt to lose the Ryder Cup in 1991 and then went on to win the week after. The only time Louis looked like he was in trouble was at the 18<sup>th</sup> hole where he got caught short and had to go to the rest room. Apart from that, a solid score of 68 brought him the title. This moves him to number 12 in the world rankings, with Rory McIlroy going back to number one.

Bubba Watson was getting used to his new celebrity status after winning the 2012 Masters. Bubba made the rounds on all the US TV chat shows and was even congratulated by President Obama. 'Tweeting' seems to be the thing to do, and before the Masters Bubba had 200,000 or so followers. After this week his followers number over half a million.

Last week it was the turn of the 'big boys' to shine on the PGA tour. The line up included Carl Pettersson (195pounds), Boo Weekley (210 pounds) and Colt Knost (215pounds) – mind you I'm not sure when these boys last weighed in! The Venue: Harbour Town Golf Links, Hilton head, North Carolina. It's not easy to follow on after the Masters tournament, but Harbour town did a great job as always. It was no

surprise to see Boo Weekley right up there probably running on inspiration from his old college buddy, Bubba.

Sweden's Carl Pettersson has had a steady season so far and having been on tour for 12 years has amassed US\$20 million in earnings. Knost, with a very strong pedigree, has won the US Amateur Open and was a Walker Cup winner in 2007. He then decided to forfeit his invites as Amateur Champion to play in Majors Championships turning pro instead. Knost had three rounds in the 60s, but unfortunately on this tight layout was totally inconsistent with his play – shooting 74 on the last round to finish third.

Boo went from tied second on the last day to posting a 73 to finish sixth. Pettersen, who was well clear of the field at 12 under par, blew everybody away with three birdies in the first five holes to cruise home in 69 to win by five shots from Zach Johnson, who finished second. This was Pettersen's fifth win on the PGA Tour and attributed his win to opening his stance a bit more and turning his left hip faster through impact. On close inspection I noticed that he averaged 10-under putts each round. Confidence from his golf swing must have created confidence in his putting. Carl now equals his fellow countryman from Sweden Jasper Parnevik, who also has five tour wins.

*by Martin Platts  
TheGolfGuru.com*

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# Take no prisoners

Winner of the 2005 Ford Ironman World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii Faris al-Sultan speaks to the Gazette on a recent visit to Phuket about his career as a professional triathlete and the enjoyment he still gets from his beloved sport.

By Neil Quail

FARIS al-Sultan is an athlete that has reached the pinnacle of his chosen sport. He is a rare and exceptional breed of athlete that thrives on endurance and pushes the limits of mental toughness. Here is a man that took on the fastest and fittest triathletes of his day, on the most demanding triathlon course in the world... and won.

In preparation for the Koh Samui triathlon, Faris recently used the high-class training facilities at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club and while there, presented his cycling vest as memorabilia to the club's Hall of Fame.

The 2005 World Ironman Champion was due to meet with other triathletes for a two-hour bike ride before the ceremony, but kindly made time especially for an interview with the *Phuket Gazette*.

However, the *Gazette* had learned that Faris was due to compete in the 200 meter butterfly for men at TSLC's Long Course Swimming Championship the next day against fellow triathlete and compatriot Juergen Zack, so we were interested to learn about the 'big race'.

**Phuket Gazette:** Are you looking forward to the big race tomorrow, Faris?

**FaS al-Sultan:** Ha, ha! It's been almost 10 years since I swam 200 fly. I saw that Frederick and Juergen were involved so I said 'yeah, I want to race'. But I didn't know it was a proper competition with electronic timing.

**PG:** And you'll be racing against a 12 year-old?

**FaS:** Ha, ha! And I'll probably get beaten.

**PG:** Weren't you originally a swimmer before you took to triathlon?

**FaS:** I started late with competitive swimming. The sports system is different in Germany to the US. In the US, everything is based on a school, in Germany everything is based on the club. I was already too late when I joined the club and was never really that good compared to the guys who started at eight or nine years of age. But swimming was my background.

**PG:** Do you favor the swim discipline during a triathlon competition?

**FaS:** No, not really. To be successful you have to be equal in all three disciplines. You can't have a weakness nowadays. I really enjoy all aspects of the sport there's not one part I prefer or dislike.

**PG:** With the likes of yourself, Juergen and last year's Asia Pacific Ironman 70.3 champion Michael Raelert all from Germany, is there a reason why top



**THE SULTAN OF SWIM:** Faris al-Sultan on his way to winning the 200 meter butterfly challenge at the TSLC Long Course Swimming Championship.

triathletes emerge from your country?

**FaS:** Probably due to early successes in the sport. Always if you have a figurehead that is successful then kids pick it up and want to be like that. We had that in Germany when Boris Becker and Steffi Graff were so successful in tennis. When tennis as a focus faded, I think triathlon really suited many Germans, and they all enjoyed the adventure it offered.

**PG:** Triathlete Thomas Hellriegel is one of your role models. What characteristics of his inspired you?

**FaS:** He had a 'take no prisoners approach' to almost killing himself when he was cycling. He was the personification of pure pain and sacrifice when he was racing. I admired that and when I saw him on TV at the Hawaii Ironman, I said this is my thing – I want to be as tough as him.

**PG:** Did those early memories go through your mind when you won in Hawaii in 2005?

**FaS:** Of course, especially in the months afterward. It's weird because you've dreamed about it and then you've actually achieved it. It's an amazing feeling. On the other hand of course, it puts weight on you because you did it, now what's next? Even if I won it again a second time, it would never compare with that first victory.

**PG:** You've reached the peak of your sport and apart from repeating that 2005 win, what is there to strive for now?

**FaS:** After 2006 I had a few not so good years. I struggled to get back to peak fitness, your body changes, you can't train as much as you could before, so you have to overcome new obstacles. In the past two years I have achieved a

reasonable level of fitness, not as good as I used to be, but I want to have that fitness to be able to win a Kona race. I don't actually have to win, it would be nice of course, but just to have that fitness again. I also wanted to win major German races like Frankfurt. They were some of my goals – you simply look for new goals. I think I have three, maybe five years on the professional scene and then it's time to retire.

**PG:** Any plans for your retirement?

**FaS:** Nothing concrete yet. I have so many interests I certainly won't be bored. Once it's done,



**BACK ON TRACK:** Faris hopes to regain his fitness to compete for the Ford Ironman World Championships one more time. Photos: Neil Quail

it's done. I might race smaller races for charity, but I won't enter triathlons on a professional basis.

**PG:** Speaking of triathlon goals before you retire does the Laguna Phuket Triathlon and the Asia Pacific Ironman 70.3 figure in your radar?



**FaS:** With Laguna it has changed. In former times it used to be either the first race or the last race of an athletes season. Actually, you came for the party. Now with the 70.3 race there's points and prize money, so it has changed a bit. But it's at that time when you are not fit and not

prepared for Kona – you have the race, then a break and start to build up again. The race doesn't have to have me focus on winning it. I'm just very happy to help advertise the race, and Phuket as a cool destination!

**PG:** Any forecast on the swim race in the morning?

**FaS:** Sure. Any chance I get to embarrass myself in a competition like this, I love to take!


For the record, Faris placed first in the 200 meter butterfly the next day. We look forward to welcoming Faris back for the Laguna Tri-fest later this year.





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# Masters of the trail

By Neil Quail



**YOU CAN DO IT: A young trail runner encourages Mum.**

YOUNG athletes on Phuket are being given a golden opportunity to take part in a brand new event coming to the island next month in the form of trail running.

Following last week's announcement that Phuket will host episode two of the 2012 Thailand Trail Running Championship at the Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) on May 6, organizers are offering children under the age of 14 years the chance to enter the 3km Fun Run for free.

Columbia Trail Masters and Active Management Asia are striving to promote a greater awareness and enjoyment of sports for children in Thailand, and as such the 3km Fun Run (or walk) will herald the inaugural event on Phuket.

Combining the scenic characteristics of a good nature hike and the health benefits of distance running, trail running is a unique addition to the many novel fitness regimes available on Phuket. And this type of sport particularly suits youngsters. Courses through nature areas such as Khao Phra Taew National Park, where this event will be held, have a less damaging effect on the developing limbs and joints of children where hard road and track running is known to cause



**RUN THROUGH THE FOREST, RUN: Children bolting from the start of a recent 3km Fun Run.**

impact related injuries over time.

"This is a great way to see children running and enjoying the sport. Kids take it very seriously and are very proud of themselves when they cross the finish line. It has proven very successful at our other AMA events in Koh Samui and Kanchanaburi," said organizer Serge Henkens.

"As everyone is welcome for this family event, do not hesitate to come and run with your children. This is a festive and not too serious event," added Serge.

To promote the opening as a genuinely fun occasion and to involve local communities, all Phuket schools are invited to

participate. Over 200 children are expected to take part in this unique event that promises to be a highlight of an active sports day.

Every participant will receive a medal and breakfast at the finish line.

The May 6 event at TSLC will also include a 21.5km Off Road Half Marathon and a 10km Trail Run.

For more information visit [AMA-Events.com](http://AMA-Events.com) or [Active-Asia.com](http://Active-Asia.com). E: [Serge@active-asia.com](mailto:Serge@active-asia.com) T: 027 189581-2.

The Phuket Gazette is a sponsor of the Phuket episode of the 2012 Thailand Trail Running Championship.

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